

**GHSS  
Foundation,  
Inc.**

# THE PERFORATOR



**January  
February  
March  
2019**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
GHSS  
FOUNDATION,  
INC.**

**EDITOR - JAY STOTTS**

Copies of this newsletter are distributed to all Houston Philatelic Society members. Send articles for publication, classified advertising (Free !), news of members, exhibit award information or anything else of general interest to GHSS, Inc. members to:

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## **First Day Ceremony for Year of the Boar Stamps in Houston, January 17**

The United States Postal Service has announced that the 2019 Year of the Boar stamp, the 12th and final stamp in the U.S. Postal Service's Celebrating Lunar New Year series will have the first-day-of-issue event here in Houston. The event is free and open to the public. It will be on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, at 11 a.m. at the Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive, Houston, TX, 77036.

Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at [usps.com/lunarnewyear](https://usps.com/lunarnewyear) prior to attending. The Year of the Boar begins Feb. 5, 2019, and ends on Jan. 24, 2020.

The stamp design features original artwork by Kam Mak with elements from the previous series of Lunar New Year stamps - Clarence Lee's intricate cut-paper design of a boar and the Chinese character for "boar" drawn in grass-style calligraphy by Lau Bun. Ethel Kessler was the art director for this stamp.

In China, peach trees typically bloom in early February, just in time for the new year. The striking pink blossoms mark the beginning of spring in Chinese culture.

The Year of the Boar stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp in self-adhesive souvenir sheets of 12. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

**Houston Philatelic Web Site:  
<http://www.houstonstampclub.org/>**

## Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses ....

### January 4-5, 2019

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### January 17, 2019

**First Day of Issue.** USPS 2019 Year of the Boar first day of issue ceremony. Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park Drive, Houston, TX, 77036. The ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at [usps.com/lunarnewyear](http://usps.com/lunarnewyear) prior to attending. See the cover story for more details.

### January 18-19, 2019

**NOLAPEX Stamp & Postcard Show 2019.** Sponsored by the Crescent City Stamp Club. Venue is the DoubleTree New Orleans Airport Hotel by Hilton, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner, LA 70062. Hotel phone 504-467-3111. Dates are Friday and Saturday, Jan. 18th (10-6pm) and Jan. 19th Saturday 10-5pm). Admission is free. Bourse will include approximately 16 to 18 dealers. For more information, contact the club web site at: <http://ccscno.org/>

### March 22-23, 2019

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### May 31 - June 1, 2019

**Houston TSDA Bourse.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: [www.tsdastamps.com](http://www.tsdastamps.com).

### June 28-20, 2019

**OKPEX 2019.** Oklahoma City, OK. At the Reed Conference Center, Sheraton Midwest City Hotel, 5750 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, OK. 73110. This is a Friday and Saturday 2-day APS WSP show.

## Upcoming Meetings ....

### January 7 ...

#### Railway and Highway Post Office of Texas

John Germann, HPS member and a specialist in Texas postal markings, will talk about the railway and highway post office cancels.

### January 21 ...

#### My Experience Selling Stamps

Bob Lebow will relate some of his various experiences in disposing of his duplicates and some of his collections.

### February 4 ...

#### First Annual Called Floor Auction

Sellers may bring up to two lots to sell. Sale sheets are available on the HPS web site. Sellers and Buyers must be HPS club members. Bring your cash and buy as many lots as you wish.

### February 18 ...

#### Literature Night

Tom Herbert will moderate a round table discussion on philatelic literature. Everyone is invited to bring a couple of pieces of their favorite philatelic literature (journals, handbooks, catalogues, anthologies, etc.). We'll go around the table and let each person present their literature.

### March 4 ...

#### Stamp Quiz

We all have bad days - a dental visit, a traffic accident, etc. Well, tonight is the dreaded annual stamp quiz presented by quizmaster Ron Strawser. For all our new members, its actually quite fun because we're all in the same boat (aka sinking ship). Come tonight and enjoy the spectacle and don't bother trying to study in advance.

### March 18 ...

#### FDR on Stamps

Greg Cain will present this talk on our former stamp collecting President and his presence on stamps from around the world.

# An Overview of France's Early Ceres Issues

by Jay Stotts

France ranks 9th in the order of stamp issuing entities of the world, introducing their first stamps on the first of January, 1849. The list is topped by the Penny Black of Great Britain (May, 1840) followed in order by Canton Zurich, Brazil, Canton Geneva, Canton Basel, the United States, Mauritius and Bermuda.

France chose Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture for their first issue. Jacques-Jean Barre, general engraver of the Paris Mint, did the initial drawing and the gravure work. The printer was Anatole Hulot of Paris. Hulot had mastered printing by electroplating.

The premier of the stamps on January 1, 1849 coincided with postal reform in France, just as the Penny Black had done in Great Britain.

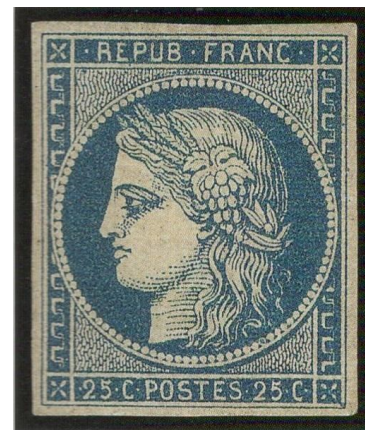
The first value printed was a blue 20 centime stamp (Scott 4), but the Paris Mint struggled with the pigment and the ink was unacceptable. These stamps were withheld from sale and the 20c color was switched to black (Scott 3). The black 20c stamps paid the domestic rate for a single sheet folded letter, or 7½ grams. The 1 franc carmine (Scott 9b) also went on sale on January 1. This was for domestic letters weighing up to 15 grams, the double weight rate.

Officials were concerned about reuse of the 20c black stamps because cancels were sometimes hard to distinguish on that color, so they ceased printing these stamps in February, 1949. Up to that time, they had printed about 41 million copies of these stamps. They returned to printing the 20c blue stamps, but these were never issued because the stock of 20c

black stamps lasted until their sale ceased on July 1, 1850 with the next rate change.

The new 7½ gram rate was 25 centimes. A new 25c blue stamp was issued (Scott 6). This rate lasted until July 1, 1854.

**25 centime blue,  
Scott 6.**



Local drop letters got their own rates effective July 1, 1850. Within Paris, the rate was set at 15 centimes and for all other locations, the rate was 10 centimes. New stamps were issued for both of these rates. The 10c (Scott 1) is bistre and the 15c (Scott 2) is green.

40 centime orange stamps (Scott 7), issued in February of 1850, served as double weight frankings during the 20c rate period.

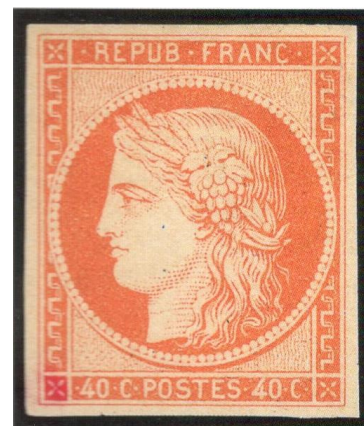
Prior to July 1, 1850, the registration rate was double the letter rate by weight, so 40c stamps were useful to pay registration fees. Effective July 1, 1850, the registration fee was set at 25c per letter.

Pale shades of the 1 franc red were easily confused with the 40c orange, so they were recalled

**20 centime black,  
Scott 3.**



**40 centime orange,  
Scott 7.**







Domestic double weight letter mailed within France in 1852 required 50 centimes franking which was paid by two copies of the blue 25 centimes stamp.

and today they are described by philatelists as “vermilion.” Scott has assigned the number 9 to this color.

After Hulot died, his nephew inherited, and later sold, a trunk to Paris stamp dealer Ernest Vervelle. The trunk contained sheets of the Ceres stamp including a single un gummed sheet of 1 franc stamps in a pale shade of vermilion that is distinctively different from any other. These are listed as Scott 8c. The sheet contained a single tete-beche pair which today catalogs at \$450,000.

For the record, Scott does not currently assign the number 5 to a French stamp, so the First Ceres issue consists of eight major listings comprised of six values. The 20c carries two listings (blue and black) and the 1 franc has two as well (vermilion and carmine).

The 20c black was heavily used as well as its successor, the 25c blue, so these are affordable, listing at \$34 and \$30 as used stamps in Scott respectively.

The first Ceres issue was without watermarks and the stamps were issued imperforate.

France experienced a coup d'état on December 2, 1851 staged by Prince Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, the nephew of Napoleon. A year later, the Prince-President reclaimed his uncle's throne as Emperor of the French under the name Napoleon III.

He preferred his image on stamps as opposed to that of Ceres, so the first Napoleon III stamp appeared in September, 1852 and continued throughout

25 centime  
Napoleon III,  
Scott 11.



the Second Empire. Ceres' image reappeared on the Bordeaux issue of 1870 during the Siege of Paris by the Prussian Army.

During the Siege, the provisional French government in Tours asked the Bordeaux Mint to print stamps for use in unoccupied France since there was no way to get stamps from Paris.

The firm prepared master dies based on the previous Ceres design. The stamps were produced by stone lithography, a technique much different than the original Ceres stamps. These stamps have unique characteristics and can be plated.

These stamps bear Scott numbers 38 through 48. They range in face value from 1c through 80c. They were issued imperforate but are known with various private perforations such as roulettes, pin perforations and gauge 14 perforations.

Not all collectors prefer to build an early French collection, but there's certainly a great story behind these issues. Happy collecting.

# Perkins Bacon's 1861 Fall from Favor

by Jay Stotts

It is probably common knowledge to most philatelists that the Great Britain Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp, was printed by the firm of Perkins Bacon & Co.

Rowland Hill promoted postal reform in Great Britain, featuring uniform pre-paid postage. The postage stamp was a receipt of the prepayment function and, in 1840, The Penny Black went into use there. These stamps were affixed to letters and then cancelled to prevent reuse.

Perkins Bacon, in the next 20 years landed several contracts for printing postage stamps across the globe. British colonies and countries included all of the Australian states, some Canadian provinces and Chile among others. Needless to say, Perkins Bacon & Co. was a stalwart of this new industry, but they did have competition from De La Rue, who was pioneering new production methods.

In 1861, Ormond Hill, nephew of Rowland Hill, sent a letter to Joshua Butters Bacon suggesting *"Two or three of my friends who are collectors of postage stamps have asked me to procure for them specimens of new or uncommon stamps whenever I have it in my power. It seems to me that perhaps you may be able to give me a few..."*

Ormond had previous dealings with Perkins Bacon & Co. in his capacity as a Senior Civil Servant at the Inland Revenue office, so the letter seemed innocent enough. Over the next several months, Bacon provided some 75 different stamps from 20 countries and colonies in a multiple of six sets (about 450 stamps total). These specimens were cancelled with a handstamp CANCELLED as shown in the accompanying photos.

The countries involved considered this action a breach of contract. Without permission, Bacon had distributed the stamps of these countries. The action destroyed Perkins Bacon's credibility and they lost contracts to print postage stamps with the British Crown Agents.

Ormond Hill was not asked to return the stamps and they evidently did get distributed and absorbed into some collections. Reports indicate that the first Perkins Bacon hand cancelled stamps became available when the first collection was sold in 1897.

Today, these stamps occasionally are sold at auction and are pursued aggressively.



Queensland stamp with the Perkins Bacon handstamp that was featured in a Sandafayre sale.



Newfoundland 1862 issue that was originally distributed by Bacon in a block of four.



## Award Winners ...

*Editor's note: Please report your activities as an exhibitor and we'll give you the spotlight here in the Winners' column.*

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO, Nov. 9-10, 2018, Grapevine, TX:**

**Jay Stotts** - "A Natural History of the White Rhinoceros" - Gold medal and American Topical Association Single Frame Award.

**Denise Stotts** - "Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'" - Gold medal.

## It's Time to Pay Your 2018 HPS Dues Now

Your 2018 Houston Philatelic Society Dues are due now, so take a few minutes now to send them in to our treasurer, Larry Ballantyne. The annual dues remain the same as in past years. \$7 for an individual, \$10 for a family and \$1 for youths.

You can pay your dues at an upcoming meeting by giving them directly to Larry or you can drop a check in the mail to him at his post office box: Larry Ballantyne, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.

## Classified Ads:

*Members may place philatelically related Buy, Sell, or Trade ads in The Perforator free of charge. HPS Dealer-Members may place free classified or feature ads in The Perforator at no charge as well. Member ads will run indefinitely until the advertiser requests a change or cancellation. Send copy to the editor.*

**Wanted:** Mint and used stamps and post-cards from China (years 1878-1985). David Wu, Houston, TX. 832-276-2956.  
[freefoodwater@yahoo.com](mailto:freefoodwater@yahoo.com)

**Wanted:** U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large banknote issue, 10¢ through 15¢ Washington/Franklin issues. Also, U.S. 19th century green cancels. David Willig, Houston, TX. 713-201-2042. [cbhz3@hotmail.com](mailto:cbhz3@hotmail.com)

**Buy/Sell/Trade:** Texas Postal History. Email John Germann or phone him at 281-493-3938.  
[jghist@comcast.net](mailto:jghist@comcast.net)

**U.S. FACE VALUE POSTAGE** - Offered at 50% of face. Order any amount from \$25 to \$300 Face Value and receive a mixture of 5¢ to 30¢ values. Clean and fresh material. Send order with payment to: Jonathan Topper, 10480 Grant Road, Suite 117, Houston, TX 77070. Stamps can be mailed to you or delivered at the next stamp club meeting.

## A Word About The Houston Philatelic Society....

Enjoy the fun of stamp collecting by sharing your interests with fellow collectors at an upcoming HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY meeting.

When : **First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM**

Where : **West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd., Houston, TX**

Visitors and new stamp collectors are always welcome.

Officers: President: Paula Pedrick  
Vice-President: Ardy Callender  
Secretary: Jay Stotts  
Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne  
Past President: David Willig

GHSS Show Chairman: Ron Strawser  
Editor: Jay Stotts  
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