

The Transport Plane Series Air Post Stamps 1941 – 1944



The United States Transport Plane Series of 1941 consisted initially of six different values from six through fifty cents. An eight cent value was issued in 1944 when the domestic air mail rate was raised from six to eight cents per ounce. This new series of airmail stamps was the culmination of efforts beginning around 1936 to replace a variety of older airmail stamps still in use. Differing only in color and denomination, each stamp featured an identical twin engine airplane design. All were perforated 11X10.5 except the booklet pane perforated 11 horizontally and imperforate vertically.

The Six Cent Carmine



- The 6 cent carmine, Scott Catalog #C25, issued June 25th 1941 in Washington, D.C., covered the domestic airmail service rate. Prior to this series airplanes appearing on United States stamps included the Curtiss Jenny, deHaviland DH 4m, Ryan NYP "Spirit of Saint Louis" and Martin M-130 China Clipper.

The Ten Cent Violet



- The ten cent violet, Scott #C27, covered airmail service to the West Indies, Central and South America. It was first issued on August 15th 1941 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Fifteen Cent Brown Carmine



- The fifteen cent brown carmine , Scott #C28, also covered airmail service to areas in the West Indies, Central and South America. It's first day of issue was held in Baltimore, Maryland on August 19th, 1941.

The Twenty Cent Bright Green



- The twenty cent bright green, Scott #C29, was intended to replace 1937's #C21, shown here,



- for use on trans-oceanic airmail. C29 was first issued in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 27th 1941.

The Thirty Cent Blue



- The thirty cent blue transport plane stamp, Scott #C30, was also used for trans-oceanic airmail. Kansas City, Missouri, it's first place of issue, heralded it's release on September 25th 1941.

The Fifty Cent Orange



- The fifty cent orange, Scott #C31, like the twenty cent bright green issue, replaced the red 1937 Trans-Pacific airmail issue, Scott #C22, of the same denomination.
- The fifty cent orange was first issued in Saint Louis, Missouri on October 29th 1941.



The Eight Cent Olive Green



- The eight cent olive green, Scott #C26, was required when postage rates were increased to help finance World War II, was first issued on March 12th 1944 in Washington, D.C.
- It was the last stamp of the Transport Plane Series.

Fact vs. Fiction

- The airplane shown on the transport plane series is fictional. The postal bulletin of May 27th 1941 described the design prior to the stamps release as “...a representation of a modern transport plane in flight.”



- Much of it resembles this Douglas DC-3, the most widely used airliner of its time.

The Three Tail Fins



- It's tail, which consists of three vertical fins, is a product of the stamp designers imagination. Moreover, it appears that the bottoms of the two outboard fins extend below the airplanes tail wheel. If so, they would have been torn off as the airplane taxied down the runway.

Stamp vs Lockheed Constellation



- The Lockheed Constellation had similar tail fins, but its tricycle landing gear kept the tail high off the ground.

America's Philatelic Societies Honor The Airmail Series of 1941



- Along with the first day ceremony for the fifty cent C31 orange, the 1941 stamps were represented on this Crosby cachet at the World Wide Philatelic Convention in Saint Louis. The eight cent had not been issued. Missing lozenges in the upper right corner.

The Souvenir Convention Cancel



- All 1941 Transport Plane Series are represented and canceled diagonally and horizontally with a World Wide Philatelic Convention Doan-type four bar circular date souvenir cancel, October 29th 1941.

The Philatelic Societies Cachet



- The Philatelic Societies in attendance are represented within the cachet. All first day cities are represented.

Washington D.C.



- Washington D.C. was the location of the June 25th first day issue of the red carmine six cent stamp. The frame is carmine red, the color of the stamp.

The Air Mail Society



The Air Mail Society, in attendance for the World Philatelic event, held their convention in August of 1941 and they're represented on the cachet on the dark violet frame, the color of the 10 cent stamp, along with a picture of the China Clipper. The stamp's first day of issue was held in Atlantic City during the August convention.

The American Philatelic Society



- Also in attendance at the World Philatelic Convention was The American Philatelic Society, a DC-3 shown in flight. in the Crosby cachet, framed by the 15 cent brown carmine color, Scott #C28, issued in Baltimore on August 19th during the APS convention held there that year.

Society of Philatelic Americans



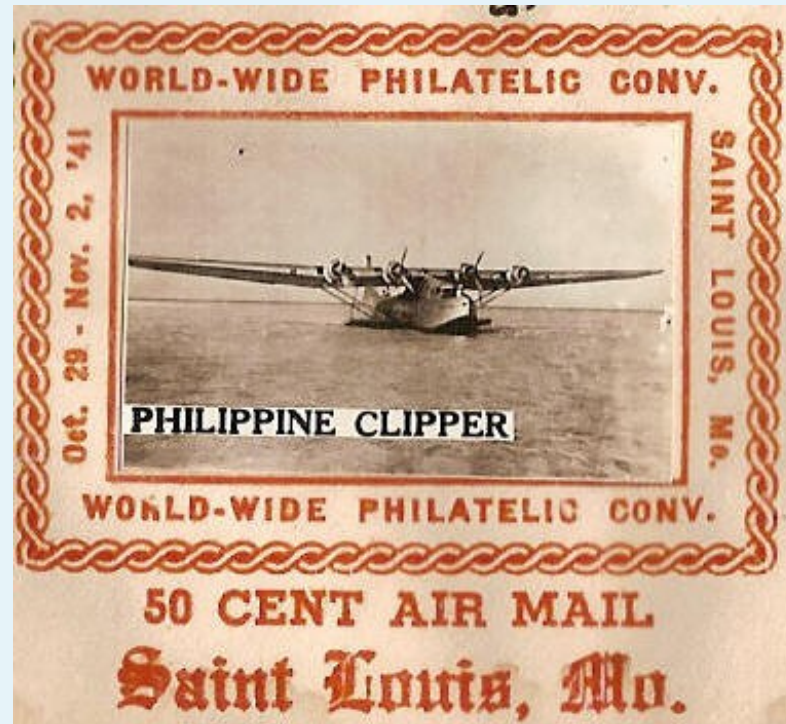
- The location of the first day of issue of the 20 cent green, Scott #C29, was Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 27th 1941, held at the convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans. The frame, in the color of the stamp, features a picture of a seaplane and the date of SPA's convention.

Midwest Philatelic Society



- The thirty cent blue transport plane stamp, Scott #C30 was first issued at the annual meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society on September 25th 1941 in Kansas City, Missouri. The vignette is a Crosby photo of the seaplane "Yankee Clipper".

World-Wide Philatelic Convention



- The fifty cent orange was first issued at the World-Wide Philatelic Convention held in Saint Louis, Missouri on October 29th 1941. The orange cachet frame, the color of Scott #C31, includes a Crosby micro-picture of the "Philippine Clipper" seaplane.

Hawaii & The Postage Due



- This censor war-time cover was sent from Hawaii, to San Francisco, to Florida. Although the trans pacific rate was 50 cents, the combined 3 cent postage due to make the additional 6 cents was applied for domestic delivery to Florida. Staff Sergeant Odom was stationed in the Hawaiian Pacific with the 106 Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company. A.P.O. mail was discounted for servicemen. Now let's look at the amazing Hawaii State Motto cachet.

Ua Mau ke Ea O ka Aina i ka Pono

“The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness”



The cachet with the inscription of the Hawaiian State motto, examiner #03229 and 3 cent postage due pair.

The A.P.O. Circular Date Stamp



- The six cent transport plane stamp is tied to this war-time cover by the U.S. Army Post Office (A.P.O.) Doan-type four bar circular postmark, the day after Christmas, December 26th 1942.

Purple & Pencil



- The purple postage due hand stamp, with the number “6” (see red arrow) inscribed in pencil, announces the additional amount needed along with the pair of light oval canceled 3 cent postage due stamps, stamps in use since the first day of issue on April 13th 1925, seventeen years.

Six Cent First Day Block of Four



- Plate numbered block of four struck with the Washington D.C. four bar circular first day postmark. Pearle Koonce was the postmistress of Cross County, Arkansas, stamp collector and great church organist. The Crosby thermo pictures the Alaska Clipper.

FDC 10c AAMS Society



- The American Air Mail Society convention was the site for the FDC ceremony for the new 10c transport plane airmail stamp. The single stamp is canceled with the four bar AAMS convention station cancel August 15th 1941, the photo of the “Yankee Clipper” the subject of the AAMS cachet. Lozenges missing upper right.

Ten Cent First Day Block of Four



- Atlantic City, New Jersey, site of the annual convention of the American Air Mail Society, was the site for the first day of issue ceremony for this new 10 cent denomination block of four featuring the "Yankee Clipper" seaplane pictured in this great Crosby thermo AAMS Convention cachet postmarked with the convention souvenir cancel.

FDC 15c Air Mail APS Convention



- The official cachet and first day cover for the American Philatelic Society, held in Baltimore, heralds the new 15c brown carmine air mail issue. A DC-3 twin engine appears in the photo cachet. The official APS convention four bar circular date postmark ties the new stamp to the convention cover.

Fifteen Cent FDC Block of Four



- This FDC plate numbered block of four was issued in Baltimore during the American Philatelic Society Convention and struck with the convention souvenir cancel.

Convention FDC SPA



- This cachet and first day cover of the Society of Philatelic Americans convention, held in Philadelphia, PA,, heralded the arrival of the 20c bright green airmail issue. The "China Clipper" seaplane is featured in the cachet photo, The official SPA circular date August 27th 1941 postmarks the cover. A missing lozenge cover from the upper right.

SPA 20c Block of Four



- This first day cover for the Society of Philatelic Americans convention, held August 25-31 in Philadelphia, PA, has an electric eye-guided plate numbered block of four with the photo of the “China Clipper” seaplane in the cachet photo. The official convention circular date postmark is applied to the block.

FDC 30c Trans-Miss Convention



- FDC of the blue 30c Transport Plane issue held at the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society Convention in Kansas City, Missouri on September 25th 1941. American Airlines "Yankee Clipper" is featured in the Crosby cachet. The official convention cancellation postmarks the stamp. Notice the missing lozenges in the upper right corner.

Block of Four TMPS Convention



- A plate numbered block of four on this first day cover with an official Trans-Mississippi Convention circular date cancel marks the arrival of the new 30c blue transport plane airmail stamp on September 25th 1941

World Wide Philatelic 50c FDC



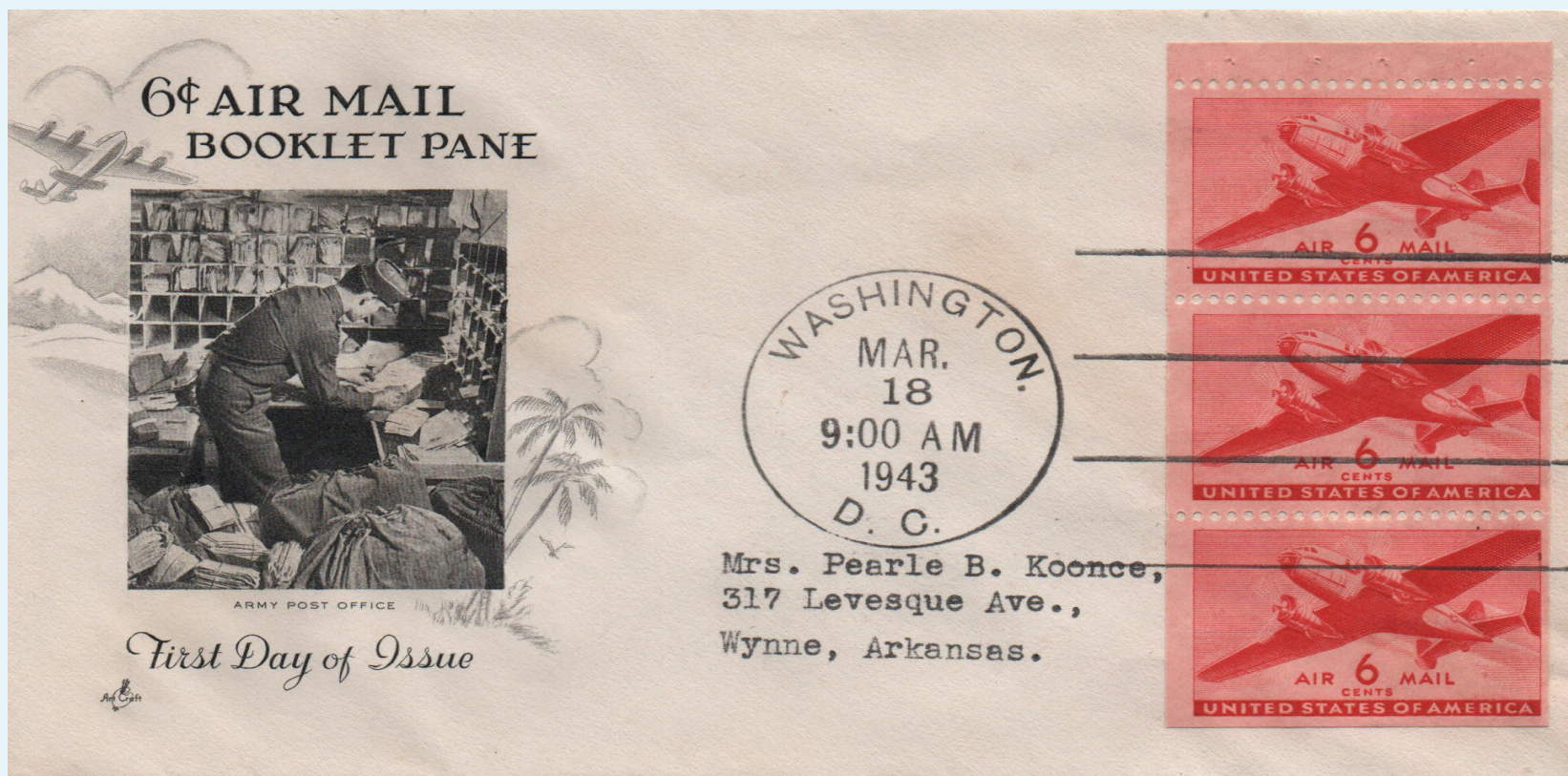
- This fdc, bearing the orange 50c transport plane airmail stamp, was struck with the official convention cancel at the World Wide Philatelic Convention in Saint Louis, Missouri on October 29th, 1941. Pan American Airlines' "Philippine Clipper" seaplane is featured in the cachet. Notice the missing lozenges, upper right, on the envelope.

Block of Four 50c WWPC 1941



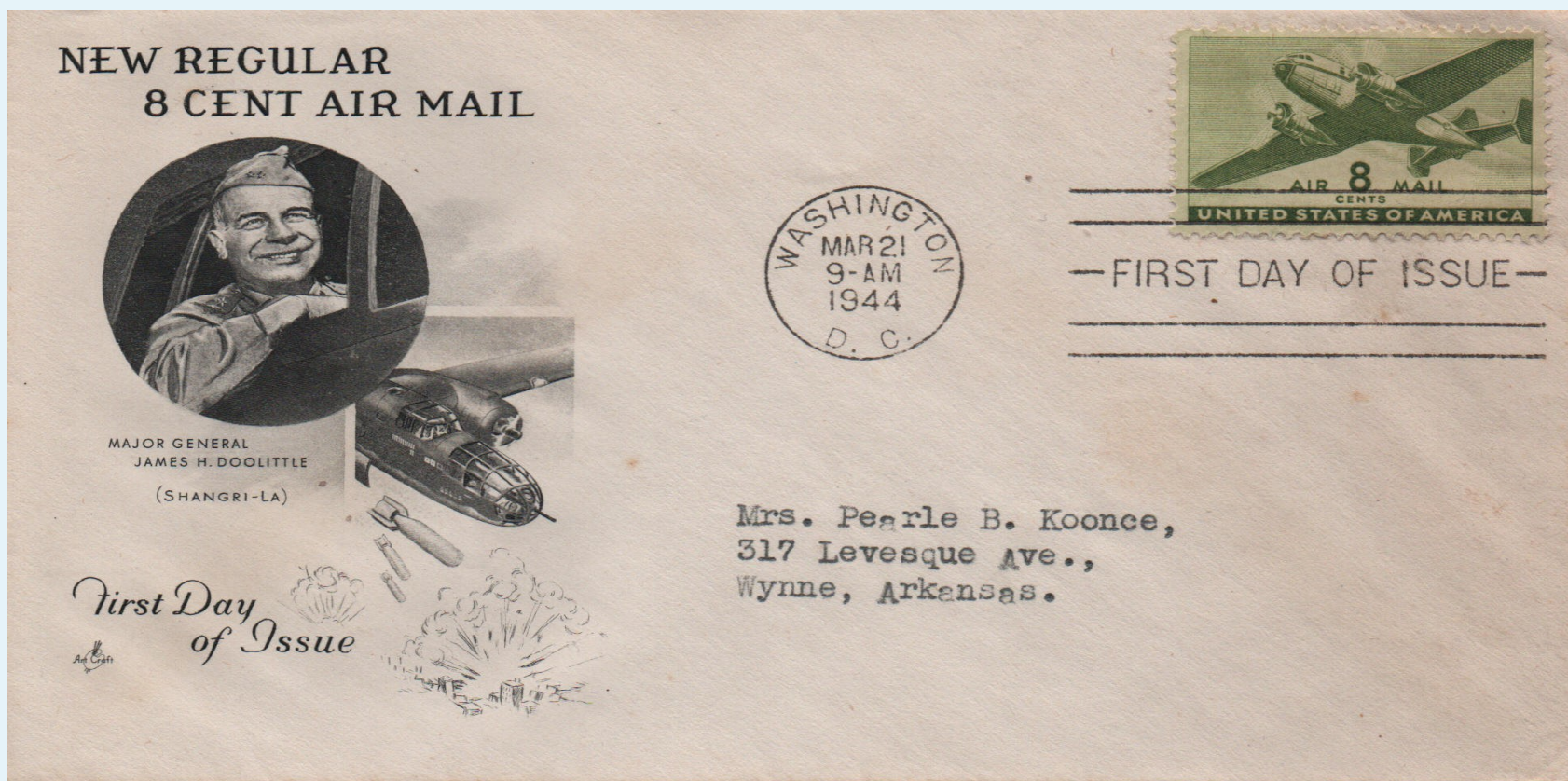
- This plate numbered block of four 50c transport plane stamps were struck at the World Wide Philatelic Convention on October 29th 1941 with the convention's official Doan-type four bar circular date cancel in Saint Louis, Missouri, the location of the official first day ceremony.

The 6c Carmine Booklet Pane



- The 6c airmail transport plane booklet pane is a vertical strip of three stamps perforated 11 horizontally and imperforate at the sides and bottom. It was issued March 18th 1943 and postmarked with a Doan four bar cancel in Washington D.C. An Army post office clerk sorting mail is featured in the intaglio cachet of this ArtCraft first day cover.

The New 8c Rate



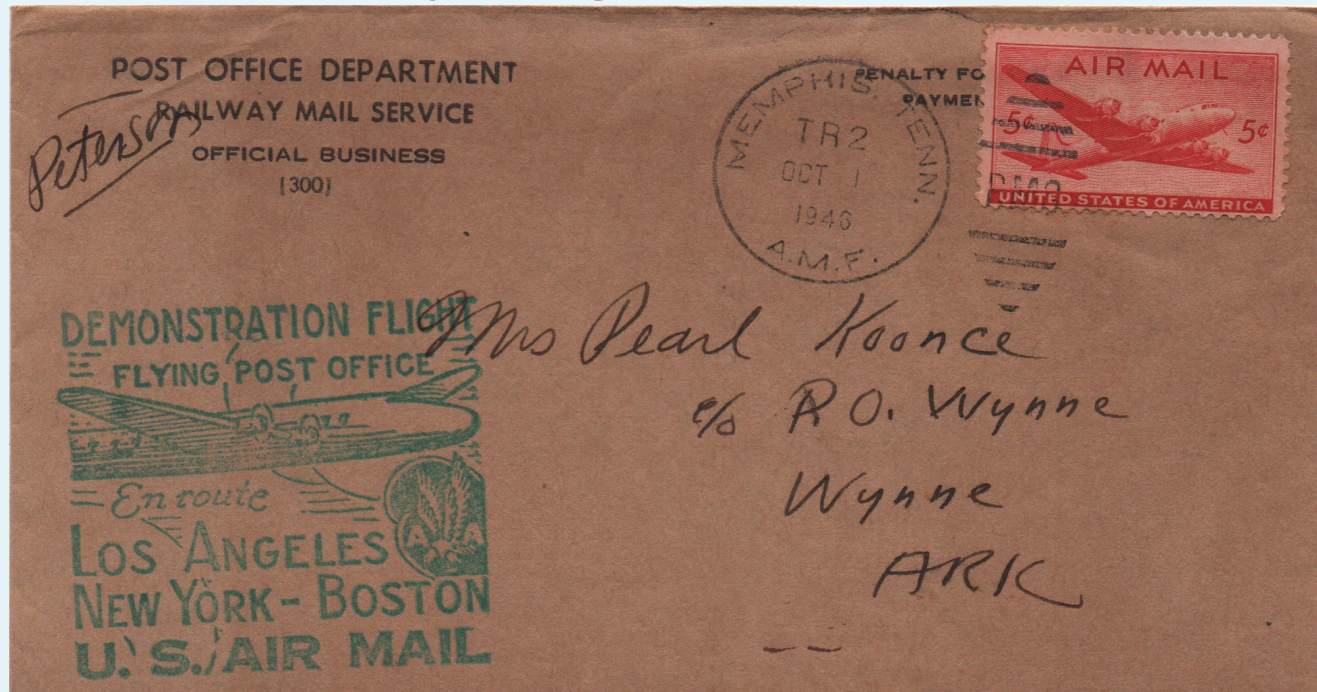
- The domestic airmail rate was raised from 6c to 8c on March 21st 1944, the first day of issue of the new 8c green transport plane airmail stamp held in Washington D.C. James “Jimmy” Doolittle (1896-1993), the United States Air Force officer who electrified the world in 1942 by leading a squadron of 16 B-25 bombers on a daylight raid over Tokyo, is honored in the cachet of this great ArtCraft first day cover.

The New Rate 8c Block of Four



- A first day of issue cancellation, Washington D.C. March 21st, 1944, postmarks an electric eye-guided block of four of the new 8c transport plane stamps representing the new domestic airmail rate. This is another ArtCraft cachet honoring war hero “Jimmy” Doolittle.

The Flying Post Office



- The airmail rate reverted from 8c to 5c per ounce on October 1st 1946. The 5c DC-4 Skymaster stamp was issued September 25th 1946 for the new rate. The green cachet illustrates the demonstration flight of the “Flying Post Office” conducted by American Airlines. The duplex October 1st 1946, first day of rate change, and Memphis A.M.F. (Air Mail Field) cancel the stamp. Memphis was a landing site along the historic route from Los Angeles to New York to Boston. Postal officials wondered if there was a way of taking the sorting expertise of the men riding the RMS trains and combining it with the speed of airplanes. The Post Office Department worked with a few airlines to put that combination in motion and the Flying Post Office was born. Flying Post Offices didn’t move beyond this experimental stage. The 5c stamp signaled the end of the transport plane series on this historic first day rate change air cover.

Proud Philatelists



- Stand proud for our great nation and our hobby.

A Final Thought



- The greatest airplane used for bombardier training during W W II was the AT-11 Kansan, otherwise known as the Beech 18 in production form 1937 until 1970. Here are the men of AAF San Angelo Field, Texas in 1942 at a worship service in front of the plane.

Thanks To All



- Please visit my web pages at <http://DavidSaks.Com> for free philatelic resources. Special thanks to all of our associate clubs throughout the mid-south, the Memphis Stamp Collectors Society <http://MSCSstamps.org> and the American Philatelic Society <https://Stamps.Org>