

# ***Pederson Postscripts***

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## ***Pederson Patter by Richard Pederson***



This is the first edition of the Pederson Stamps newsletter, Pederson Postscripts. This section of our newsletter will be used to provide an overview of what is in the current issue and will allow us to make editorial comments about anything pertaining to philately. We intend to include articles of general interest, information about shows and events we will be attending, letters from customers, contributions from guest authors, tips for beginning collectors, and advertisements for specials we are offering. In this issue, we will also introduce Ann and Richard Pederson, the proprietors of Pederson Stamps. If there is some particular topic you would like discussed in a future issue, please drop us a note or send us an email and we will do our best to cover your subject.

Starting with this issue, we are commencing a series of articles by Richard Pederson discussing the Presidential issue of 1938, commonly called the "Prexies". These articles will provide an indepth examination of each Prexie issue, showing examples of postal history usages, first day covers, errors, and other items of interest.

Now that we have dispensed with the introduction of our newsletter, let's move on to our editorial comment for the month. A subject near and dear to our hearts is the introduction of new stamp and cover collectors to our wonderful hobby. I have frequently written and talked about the many benefits of stamp collecting. Those that collect stamps are more likely to be successful, literate, enjoy a longer life, and have an appreciation for the world's geography, history, and arts. You would think those facts alone would be sufficient to make every parent want to make their child a stamp collector. Who doesn't want their child to have an edge, any

edge, over the other children they will be competing against in school and in life. Unfortunately, we, as a hobby, have not done a very good job of communicating those benefits beyond the circle of people who are already fully aware of them.

There has been a great deal written and said within the hobby about the need to bring more young (as opposed to new) collectors into the hobby. Ideally, that is a wonderful concept, but I question whether it is realistic. Most of today's youth have their spare time occupied by the internet, video games, television, and organized sports. Furthermore, unlike when I was a child, most children do not have a role model who is either a hobby participant or is at least aware enough of the hobby to advocate its many benefits. There is no longer a stamp collecting President, and the prominent individuals that collect stamps, to whom children might relate, do so much more privately than Franklin Delano Roosevelt did when he was President.

Perhaps we need to alter our approach somewhat. There is certainly nothing wrong with attempting to introduce stamp collecting to today's youth. Even if not successful, the attempt may plant seeds that germinate much later in life. Children, as they grow into adults, are likely to remember a fun-filled trip to a stamp show with their elementary school class or the time spent looking at a favorite relative's stamp collection. Then, as they get older, they may want to recapture those fond memories and look into collecting stamps themselves. I have tried to impart my love of stamp collecting to each of my children and will make the same effort with my grandchildren. Hopefully, one or more of them will someday share the same passion I have for the hobby. Nevertheless, I believe the emphasis on bringing new collectors into the hobby needs to be placed on adults who are in their mid-forties and older. Not only have many of those adults already been exposed to philately, but they are more likely to have the time and resources to pursue the hobby and have a need to develop interests to keep them active as they reach or approach retirement age. Middle-aged and senior adults are also more likely to be interested in activities that require reading, patience, and organizational skills.

As H. E. Harris did with the youth of my day, companies like Mystic Stamp Company can do with the adults of today. Pictured below are some of the items H. E. Harris and Kenmore Stamp Company used to draw new stamp collectors to the hobby. Advertisements and announcements about stamps and philatelic events in non-philatelic media, including television and the internet, might arouse the curiosity of those adults to the point where they are ready to either give stamp collecting a try or to return to the hobby of their youth. Once that curiosity is aroused, us old timers need to realize we need to help those people connect (or re-connect) with the hobby not dictate to them how they should pursue it.



Some new collectors may be interested in more traditional worldwide or country collecting, but many will be much more receptive to approaches such as topical collecting or postal history. It is easy for someone to transition to a hobby that provides a connection to another active interest. For instance, a lawyer may be interested in collecting lawyers on stamps or postal history items such as covers containing corner cards of law firms. Although it is sometimes difficult for those of us who love stamp collecting to not push our way of doing things on newcomers to the hobby, we need to make a concerted effort to allow each one of those newcomers to find the way that is right for them.

## ***Introducing Pederson Stamps***

Although Pederson Stamps is a new firm, having been organized in May of this year, its owner, Richard Pederson, has over 50 years of experience collecting stamps and postal history having started at the age of 7. From the time the philatelic bug bit him as a youth, he has actively pursued his interest in stamps, even during his years in college. Richard collects all U.S. emissions, including back-of-the-book and postal history, although he is primarily focused on stamps and postal history for the Presidential Series of 1938 (i.e., the Prexies). He also maintains a collection of Allied Military Government (AMG) stamps and postal history. Richard writes articles for the philatelic press, including MeKeel's and Stamps Magazine, and plans to continue to do more writing in the future. Over the years, he has been involved with a number of stamp clubs and societies and is currently a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS), United States Stamp Society (USSS), United States Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS), and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE).

## The Prexies by Richard Pederson

This is the first in a series of articles about the Presidential series of 1938, which is popularly called the “Prexies” by many stamp collectors. This article provides general information about the series and serves as an introduction to those interested in collecting and studying this fascinating group of stamps. Following articles will provide in depth discussion of the individual stamps in the series, including information about the subjects and how the individual stamps were actually employed during their period of usage, dating from April 1938 until well after the Liberty series was introduced in 1954.

The Presidential series of regular issues is one of the more popular issues for collectors of twentieth century United States stamps. The Presidentials were the fifth series of regular issue stamps produced by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving within the U.S. Treasury Department. The series consists of thirty-two different stamp designs and forty-five major Scott catalog numbers with many other minor numbers beneath the major listings. Figure 1, \$5 Calvin Coolidge, shows an enlarged picture of the high value of the Presidential set of stamps. Table 1, Presidential Series Summary, lists all of the major items in the Presidential series, along with summary information about the stamps and their subjects.



Figure 1. \$5 Calvin Coolidge

Table 1. Presidential Series Summary

President (born-deceased)/Subject	Stamp Value	Dates in Office	Scott #(s)	Issue Date
1. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)	½¢	N/A	803	05/19/1938
2. George Washington (1732-1799)	1¢	1789-1797	804	04/25/1938
	1¢ H. Coil		839	01/20/1939
	1¢ V. Coil		848	01/27/1939
3. Martha Washington (1731-1802)	1½¢	N/A	805	05/05/1938
	1½¢ H. Coil		840	01/20/1939
	1½¢ V. Coil		849	01/27/1939
4. John Adams (1735-1826)	2¢	1797-1801	806	06/03/1938
	2¢ H. Coil		841	01/20/1939
	2¢ V. Coil		850	01/27/1939
5. Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)	3¢	1801-1809	807	06/16/1938
	3¢ H. Coil		842	01/20/1939
	3¢ V. Coil		851	01/27/1939

President (born-deceased)/Subject	Stamp Value	Dates in Office	Scott #(s)	Issue Date
6. James Madison (1751-1836)	4¢	1809-1817	808	07/01/1938
	4¢ H. Coil		843	01/20/1939
7. The White House	4½¢	N/A	809	07/11/1938
	4½¢ H. Coil		844	01/20/1939
8. James Monroe (1758-1831)	5¢	1817-1825	810	07/21/1938
	5¢ H. Coil		845	01/20/1939
9. John Quincy Adams (1767-1848)	6¢	1825-1829	811	07/28/1938
	6¢ H. Coil		846	01/20/1939
10. Andrew Jackson (1867-1845)	7¢	1829-1837	812	08/04/1938
11. Martin Van Buren (1782-1862)	8¢	1837-1841	813	08/11/1938
12. William Henry Harrison (1773-1841)	9¢	1841	814	08/18/1938
13. John Tyler (1790-1862)	10¢	1841-1845	815	09/02/1938
	10¢ H. Coil		847	01/20/1939
14. James Knox Polk (1795-1849)	11¢	1845-1849	816	09/08/1938
15. Zachary Taylor (1784-1850)	12¢	1849-1850	817	09/14/1938
16. Millard Fillmore (1800-1874)	13¢	1850-1853	818	09/22/1938
17. Franklin Pierce (1804-1869)	14¢	1853-1857	819	10/06/1938
18. James Buchanan (1791-1868)	15¢	1857-1861	820	10/13/1938
19. Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)	16¢	1861-1865	821	10/20/1938
20. Andrew Johnson (1808-1875)	17¢	1865-1869	822	10/27/1938
21. Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822-1885)	18¢	1869-1877	823	11/03/1938
22. Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1822-1893)	19¢	1877-1881	824	11/10/1938
23. James Abram Garfield (1831-1881)	20¢	1881	825	11/10/1938
24. Chester Alan Arthur (1829-1886)	21¢	1881-1885	826	11/22/1938
25. (Stephen) Grover Cleveland (1837-1908)	22¢	1885-1889, 1893-1897	827	11/22/1938
26. Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901)	24¢	1889-1893	828	12/02/1938
27. William McKinley (1843-1901)	25¢	1897-1901	829	12/02/1938
28. Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)	30¢	1901-1909	830	12/08/1938
29. William Howard Taft (1857-1930)	50¢	1909-1913	831	12/08/1938
30. (Thomas) Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)	\$1	1913-1921	832	08/29/1938
31. Warren Gamaliel Harding (1865-1923)	\$2	1921-1923	833	09/29/1938
32. (John) Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)	\$5	1923-1929	834	11/17/1938

The Prexies have caught the interest of stamp collectors for a variety of reasons. Many of today's collectors were introduced to stamp collecting during the period of time when the Presidential series was still in use. For those collectors, it was only natural to take on the challenge of attempting to locate used examples of each stamp in the series for their collections. For the stamps that were difficult to locate on incoming mail, there were many inexpensive options available to the young collectors of the day. You could purchase missing values from approval dealers, such as H. E. Harris, buy stamp packets at one of the numerous hobby and variety stores (e.g., Woolworth's 5¢ and 10¢ store), or trade with one of the many friends who collected

stamps. The Prexies have also interested collectors because of the attractiveness of the engraved designs, all captured in different colors. Because of the quality of the designs and the variety of colors, the Prexies have always made a striking presentation on an album page.

For those interested in challenges, or in expanding their collecting interests, there are many other reasons to be attracted to the Prexies. There are first day covers (see Figure 2, 18¢ Prexie First Day Cover) produced by numerous cachet artists, coil and booklet varieties, plate blocks, shade varieties, partial perforates (stamp multiples where one or more perforation holes are not present due to broken pins on the perforating device), imperforate errors, and the \$1 Wilson that was printed on revenue paper that contains an USIR watermark. In addition, many of the Prexies are difficult to locate on single use covers (i.e., covers where a single stamp pays a current rate during the period of use), presenting a significant challenge to postal history collectors. At the conclusion of our series of articles on the Prexies, we will publish a table summarizing the information in the articles pertaining to the typical usages and known solo or single usages for each item in the series. This table will also be updated with any changes resulting from comments, corrections, and additions received on the articles.



Figure 2. 18¢ Prexie First Day Cover

The thirty-two different designs include portraits of the first twenty-nine Presidents, from George Washington through Calvin Coolidge. The ½¢ value includes a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, the first Postmaster General of the United States. The 1½¢ value includes a portrait of Martha Washington, who, as George Washington's wife, was the initial First Lady. The 4½¢ value pictures the White House, the official residence of American Presidents from the time when it was first occupied by John Adams in November of 1800 (except when being rebuilt after being burned by the British during the War of 1812). For those stamps containing Presidents, the 1¢ through 25¢ values, with one exception, correspond with the order in which the pictured President served.

For example, the 1¢ pictures George Washington, the first President, and the 25¢ portrays William McKinley, the 25th President. Since Grover Cleveland served two nonconsecutive terms and was the 22nd and 24th President, he is only pictured on the 22¢ value. The single exception is Benjamin Harrison, who was the 23rd President to serve, yet is on the 24¢ value instead of on a 23¢ value, which does not exist. The values from the 30¢ (Theodore Roosevelt) to the \$5 (Calvin Coolidge) do not correspond with the number (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President, not the 30th) in which the President served in office, but do follow the proper sequence (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt followed Coolidge and was before Taft).

The next article will discuss the ½¢ Presidential stamp picturing Benjamin Franklin. In following articles, if there is more than one major Scott catalog number assigned to a particular value (e.g., 804 represents the 1¢ sheet stamp, 839 represents the 1¢ horizontal coil, and 848 represents the 1¢ vertical coil), those catalog entries will be discussed together as the background information about the stamp's subject and many of the usages are the same.

## Events

Richard Pederson spent two days at the APS StampShow 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut. On Friday, he visited booths for societies to which he belongs (APS, USSS, and USPCS), made some purchases, and had the opportunity to talk to a number of other dealers and collectors. He also took the time to stop by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) booth and submitted a membership application. Later, Richard met Elaine and John Dunn, publishers of MeKeel's and Stamps Magazine, and had the opportunity to have an enjoyable lunch talking with John. Both Elaine and John have been a tremendous help in getting our business up and running and provided some advice on the content to incorporate in the web site. Richard also had a chance to talk with Donna and Irv Miller of Miller's Stamp Company, Bob Friedman of Friedman's Cover Corner, and Confederate States and Civil War postal history dealer Patricia Kaufman, all of whom have helped us out with advice and/or references. Late in the afternoon, there was time to ride the antique carousel in the park in front of the old state capital. Friday night Richard joined other members of the United States Stamp Society (USSS) for a very enjoyable dinner and conversation at the Hot Tomato, a restaurant that was conveniently located right next door to the Holiday Inn Express where he was staying.

Saturday offered the opportunity to ride Hartford's free Star Shuttle back to the show to view exhibits and listen to Eliot Landau's presentation of his Display class exhibit entitled "Lincoln, Slavery and the Civil War". Richard, who is assembling material for a Prexie exhibit, had the opportunity to talk with Bob Schlesinger about his wonderful exhibit on Prexie rates, "1938 Presidentials - A Rate Study".

After leaving the show, the trip was concluded by visiting the Mark Twain home prior to heading home from a very enjoyable excursion to Hartford, Connecticut.

## ***Offerings and Specials***

Anyone placing their first order with Pederson Stamps on or before December 31, 2008 will be given a one-time 20% discount off of their total order of \$10 or more. If a return is made resulting in the total order being less than \$10, an adjustment will be made as part of the return. For example, on an initial purchase of \$10, Pederson Stamps will apply the discount resulting in a purchase price of \$8. If a \$5 item is returned from this purchase, bringing the total value of the purchase to \$5, only \$3 would be refunded as the discount would no longer apply.

## ***Stamp Collecting Tips***

One of the first things to confront each newcomer to the hobby is the question “How do I store and display the items that I collect?” There is no one correct answer and the options are partially driven by your collecting interests. Storage media include pre-printed albums, blank albums, stock books and cards, glassine envelopes, and sales/display books. Figure 4, Stamp Storage Options, shows a few of the many ways you can store your stamps. There are also specialized storage containers targeted towards specific types of philatelic items, such as plate blocks, mint sheets/panes, first day covers, and press sheets. No matter what type of collection you have, there are a few important considerations that should drive your selection. We will attempt to address each of these concerns below:



Figure 4. Stamp Storage Options



1. Protection. First, does the storage medium provide adequate protection for your collection? Stamps and covers are subject to damage from handling, humidity, exposure to light, exposure to insects, and chemicals contained in non-inert storage media. You want to choose a storage medium that minimizes the risk your philatelic items will be damaged when you store and look at them. For instance, if you use a stock book or an album page with stamp mounts, make certain that they are correctly sized. If you place a stamp in a mount that is too tight (i.e., not taller and wider than the stamp), you run a significant risk of bending perforations or creasing the stamp, thus significantly reducing its value and desirability as a collectable. If your item is stored in a way that exposes it to light (e.g., it is in a picture frame or under an exposed piece of glass) it may be subject to color changes or toning due to the light. Stamps that are exposed to humidity may adhere to the storage medium or adjacent stamps (for stamps overlapped in a stock book or other medium). Humidity can also cause damage due to mold and mildew. To prevent damage from humidity, choose a storage solution that keeps moisture out and be certain to keep your collection in an area with low to moderate humidity (i.e., not a basement unless dehumidifiers are in use). Storage media must also be made of ingredients that are of archival quality (i.e., are chemically inert) so that, over an extended period of time, you do not have to worry about chemicals from the storage media interacting with and damaging your collection. Storage media should also keep out pests, such as insects (e.g., silverfish, crickets) that eat paper. If you cannot keep insect pests out, you need to make certain your home is treated to remove them.
2. Ease of Access. If your collection is not stored in a manner that allows you ready access to the contents, you are not likely to spend time working on and enjoying the collection. If it is a chore to look at your collection, what is the sense of maintaining it in the first place.
3. Organization. You need a storage medium (or media) that allows you to easily and quickly access any item(s) in your collection. This could be preprinted album pages or glassine envelopes ordered by catalog number. The important thing is that your storage is structured in such a way that you can find what you are looking for while still allowing you to enjoy looking at your collection.
4. Storage. Not only does the storage medium have to provide a place for your stamps and/or covers, but it also must be a size and shape that will fit into the spot in your residence where you keep your stamps and covers. If you have a bookcase with 12 inches between shelves, you don't want to purchase albums or stock books that are 14 inches tall. If you do, you will be forced to lay them flat rather than stand them upright. This can increase the likelihood that stamps will stick to mounts or album/stock pages, due to the pressure from other pages and lack of air flow between pages.

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