

Out of the Archives

a newsletter from the Washington State Archives

October 2017



The story behind the stamp is often more interesting than the stamp itself

by Patrick Williams, Imaging Services Manager

Those of you who are interested in collecting stamps (philatelists—pronounced *ful-AT-ə-lists*) know there are many iterations of stamps throughout history. For archivists, it is not always the content of the record that holds our interest. Some records here in the Archives include the envelopes on which they were delivered through the mail. Some were sent on the back of a wagon, or in the satchel of a Pony Express. Most of us are not old enough to remember that correspondence could take weeks or months to receive or respond.

In the age of electronic mail, texting and social media, it can be interesting to look back at what went into correspondence and historical decisions made throughout the state and country.

Here are just a few of the stamps that found their way into our collections:



U.S. #578. Issued 1923. 1¢ Ben Franklin.



U.S. #1031. Issued 1954. 1¢ George Washington Liberty Series.



U.S. #2171. Issued July 14, 1986. 4¢ Father Flanagan.

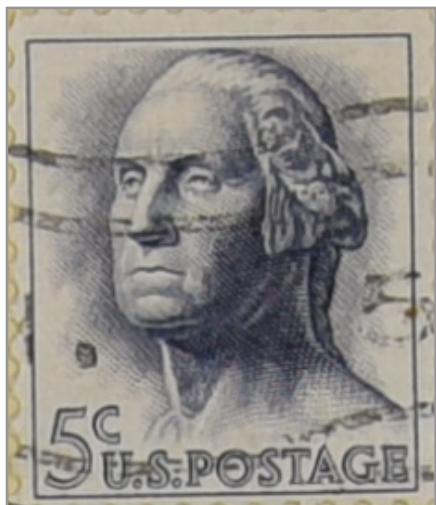
See more on the next page.



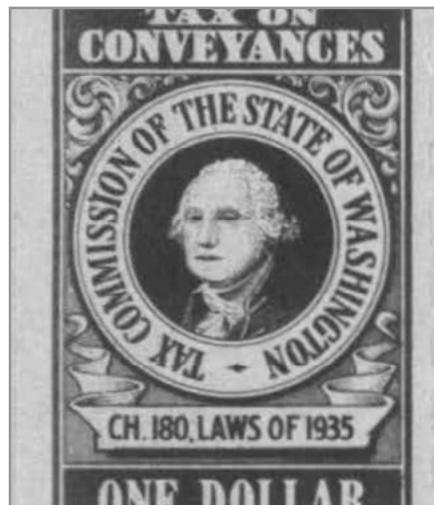
U.S. #1732. Issued 1978. 13¢ Captain James Cook commemorative.



Bayern Pfennig. Date unknown. 3¢ stamp. Bush Family collection.



US #1229. Issued 1962. 5¢ Washington bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon. King County Masonic Lodge, various.



Real Estate Excise Tax, Clark County Auditor, Deeds 1950's.



U.S. #1035. Issued 1954. 3¢ Statue of Liberty, part of the "Liberty Series."



U.S. #C76. Issued September 9, 1969. 10¢ stamp, Bureau of Engraving and Printing. First jumbo-sized commemorative issue. Dan Evans Scrapbook collection, 1969.