

Eagles
on
United States
Postage

Part 1

Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles have appeared on the stamps of the United States since 1869, when they made their debut as part of the first series of U.S. stamps having designs other than portraits.

The eagle is represented on the majority of the stamps shown here as a symbol of the United States, being our national bird. It also represents the postal service, governmental agencies and their official mail and United States military forces. As a symbol of flight as well as government service, it is featured on the issues dedicated to speedy delivery, such as air and express mail. State seals, foreign governments and private organizations have also incorporated the eagle in their symbols, and these are shown as well where they appear on United States stamps. Several issues are included whose primary subject is the bird itself, and these stamps generally focus on environmental or conservation issues. All of the above appear in their own categories herein, though there is some overlap.

Postal stationery with eagles is integrated into the above categories as seems appropriate.

Eagles on United States Postage



The postal items shown here are broken down into a number of separate categories and appear chronologically within those categories.

They are:

1. Eagles as symbol of the United States Government
2. Eagles as a symbol of the United States Postal Service
3. Eagles on stamps for special postal services
4. Eagles in a military context
5. Eagles on state seals and state flags
6. Eagles as symbols of foreign governments
7. Eagles as symbols of non-governmental organizations
8. Eagles as the primary subject of the issue
9. Eagle namesakes on postage
10. Eagles on official postage

Stationery and such items as computer-vended postage and meter labels are included in the appropriate categories.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The eagle was adopted very early in the history of the United States as the national symbol, despite Benjamin Franklin's proposal of the turkey instead. Although it appeared on coinage as early as 1786, it wasn't until twenty-two years after the introduction of United States postage stamps in 1847 that one appeared on a stamp, in 1869. This set of ten definitive issues was the nation's first departure from the sole use of portraits on its stamps, with seven of the ten values being pictorial. The 10¢ value depicts a spread-winged eagle perched on a shield.

Public displeasure with the pictorial issues as "frivolous" caused the return of the Post Office Department to portraits until the appearance of eagles on the stationery for the Columbian Exposition in 1893 and on a special purpose stamp for registered mail in 1911, which had a large eagle in its central vignette.



The 30¢ value depicts the same eagle and shield as the 10¢ stamp, but with the addition of blue flags flanking the red shield. This stamp is one of four values in the 1869 series printed in more than one color, the first use of this technique on United States stamps.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

CANADA 82



TORONTO, CANADA Du 20 au 24 mai 1982

L'administration postale des Etats-Unis est fière d'émettre cette carte-souvenir pour marquer "CANADA 82," l'exposition philatélique mondiale de la jeunesse. Elle la dédie aux jeunes du monde entier qui ont déjà découvert les plaisirs de la philatélie, passe-temps merveilleux auquel on peut s'adonner durant toute une vie, seul ou avec des compagnons, peu importe sa formation, sa vigueur ou ses revenus. La philatélie favorise la compréhension des autres cultures; c'est pourquoi l'administration postale de mon pays a choisi de reproduire des timbres représentant les symboles des Etats-Unis et du Canada, les deux pays qui ont la plus longue frontière non gardée du monde. Le timbre canadien, représentant un castor, a été émis en 1859, et le timbre américain, sur lequel figurent un aigle et l'écu des Etats-Unis, en 1869.



TORONTO, CANADA May 20-24, 1982

The U. S. Postal Service is pleased to honor CANADA 82, an international philatelic youth exhibition, by issuing this souvenir card. The card is dedicated to young people everywhere who already have discovered the joys of stamp collecting . . . a hobby that can last a lifetime . . . one that does not depend on age, education, stamina, or income . . . one that can be enjoyed in solitude or shared with companions. Stamp collecting promotes understanding of other cultures, and it is in recognition of this that we have chosen for reproduction on this card stamps that bear emblems of the United States and Canada, two countries that share the longest unguarded border in the world. The Canadian Beaver stamp was issued in 1859, and the United States Shield and Eagle stamp in 1869.



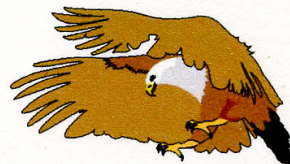
© UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE 1982

William F. Bolger
Postmaster General

The eagle used as the vignette on the 10¢ value of the 1869 issue was chosen to represent the United States on this souvenir card issued in Toronto, Ontario on the occasion of the Canada 82 philatelic exhibition.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The eagle was adopted very early in the history of the United States as the national symbol, despite Benjamin Franklin's proposal of the turkey instead. Although it appeared on coinage as early as 1786, it wasn't until twelve years after the introduction of United States postage stamps in 1847 that one appeared on a stamp, in 1869. The 1869 set of pictorial definitive issues was the nation's first departure from the use of portraits on its stamps. Both the 10¢ and 30¢ values depicted a spread-winged eagle perched on a shield, the 30¢ being in two colors. Public displeasure with the pictorials as "frivolous" caused the return of the Post Office Department to portraits until the appearance of the Columbian Exposition stationery in 1893 and a special purpose stamp for registered mail in 1911, which had a large eagle in its central vignette.



The Steel Industry, Saint Lawrence Seaway, and Franklin Credo commemoratives used eagles as major design elements in 1957, 1959 and 1960 respectively. They are the first examples of eagles on first class rate U.S. postage stamps since the 1869 issues.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The first instance of an eagle on United States postal stationery, and only the third on U.S. postage of any kind, was the set of four envelopes issued in conjunction with the Columbian Exposition in 1893.

The envelopes also came in a number of sizes. Two of the cut squares above display varieties discussed on succeeding pages, periods on the 2¢ copy but not on the 1¢ example.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



Four identifiable dies were used in their production. On the above example, periods be be seen after the words AMERICA and CENT, while on the next example they do not appear.



Periods after
AMERICA and CENT.
(Die 1A1)



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



This example, in a smaller size, does not have the periods shown on the previous page. Only the 1¢ and 2¢ denominations come with both with and without the periods.



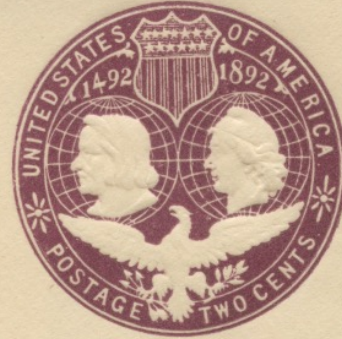
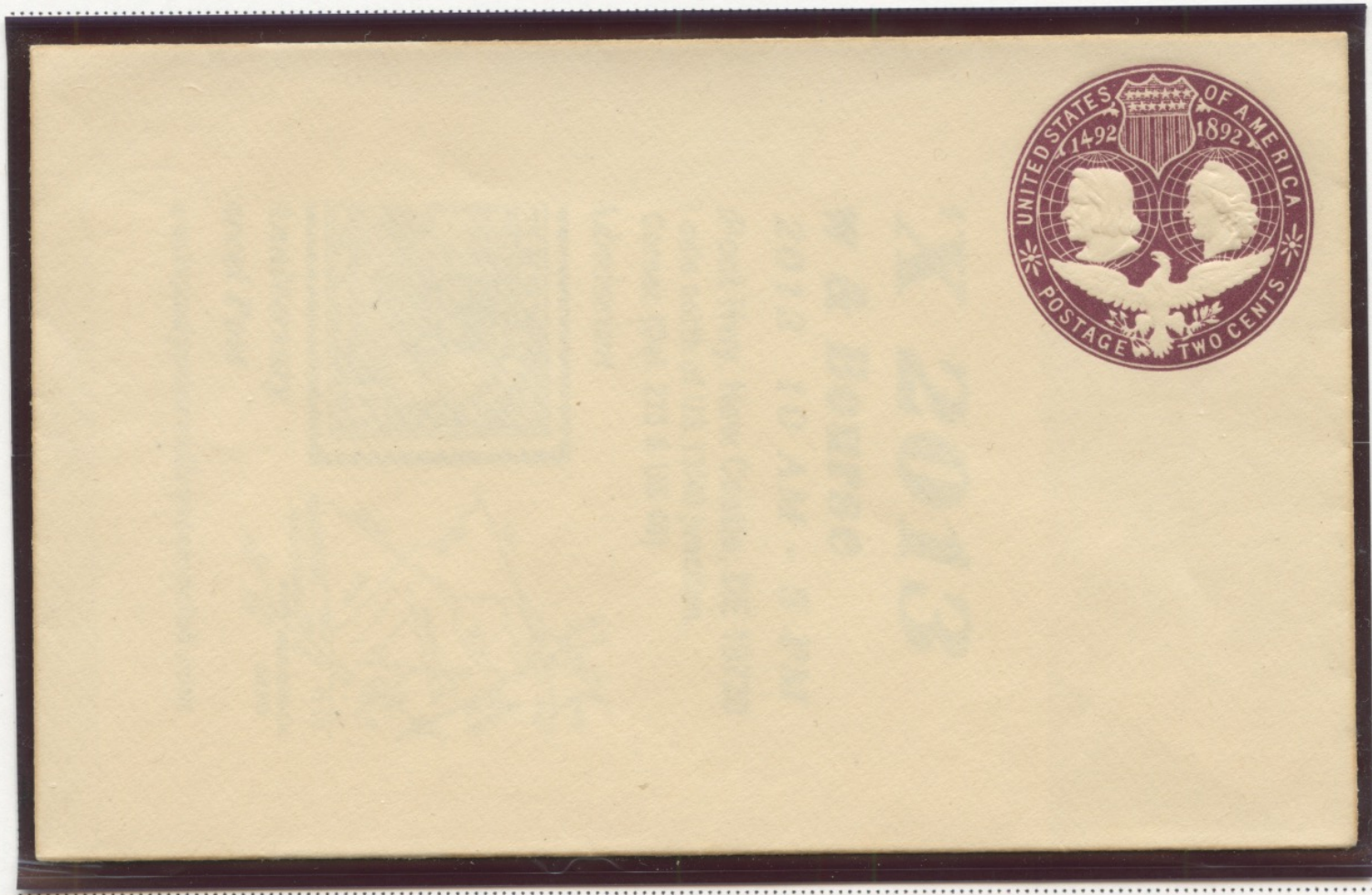
No periods after
AMERICA and CENT.
(Die 1C1)



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



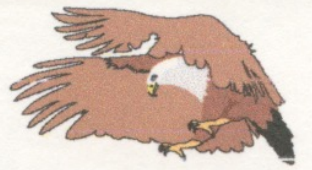
The 2¢ violet was intended for the first class letter rate and therefore is the most commonly seen example of the set. This example has the two periods.



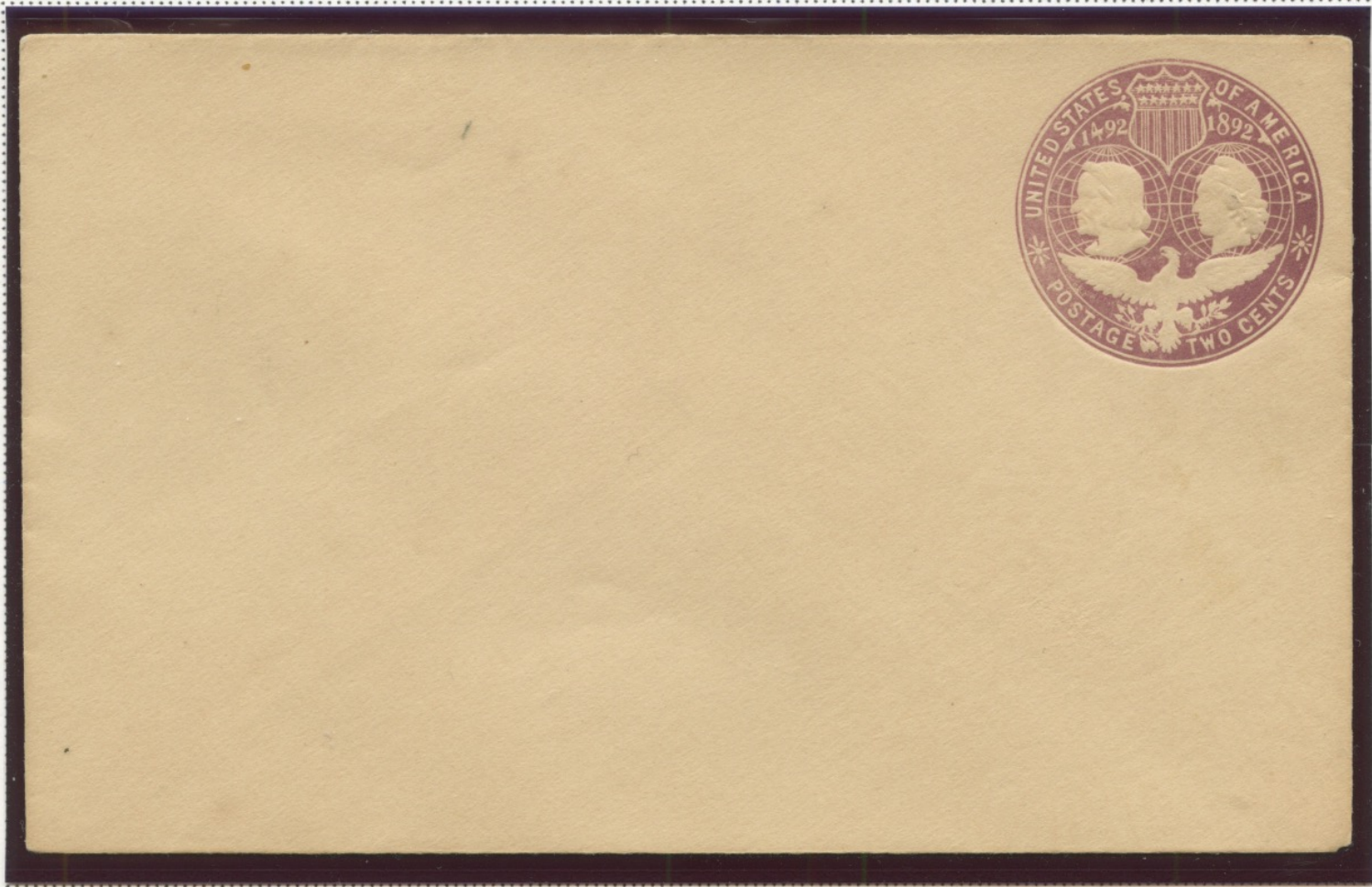
Periods after
AMERICA and CENT.



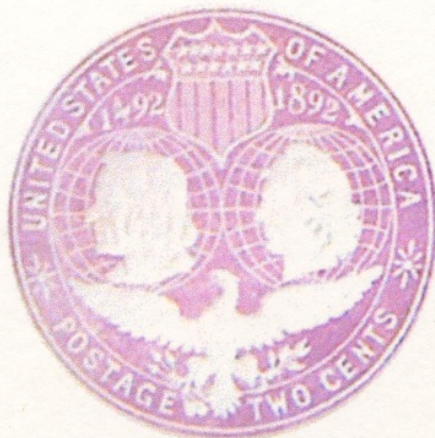
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



This example of the 2¢ denomination envelope has no periods after the words, unlike the previous page.



No periods after
AMERICA and CENT.



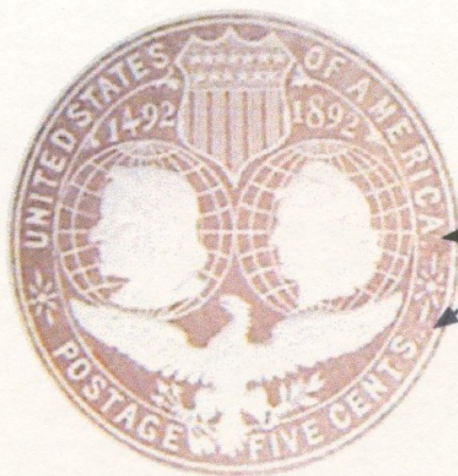
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The 5¢ chocolate denomination was issued to cover the international postage rate. All varieties of the 5¢ have the periods after the words AMERICA and CENT.



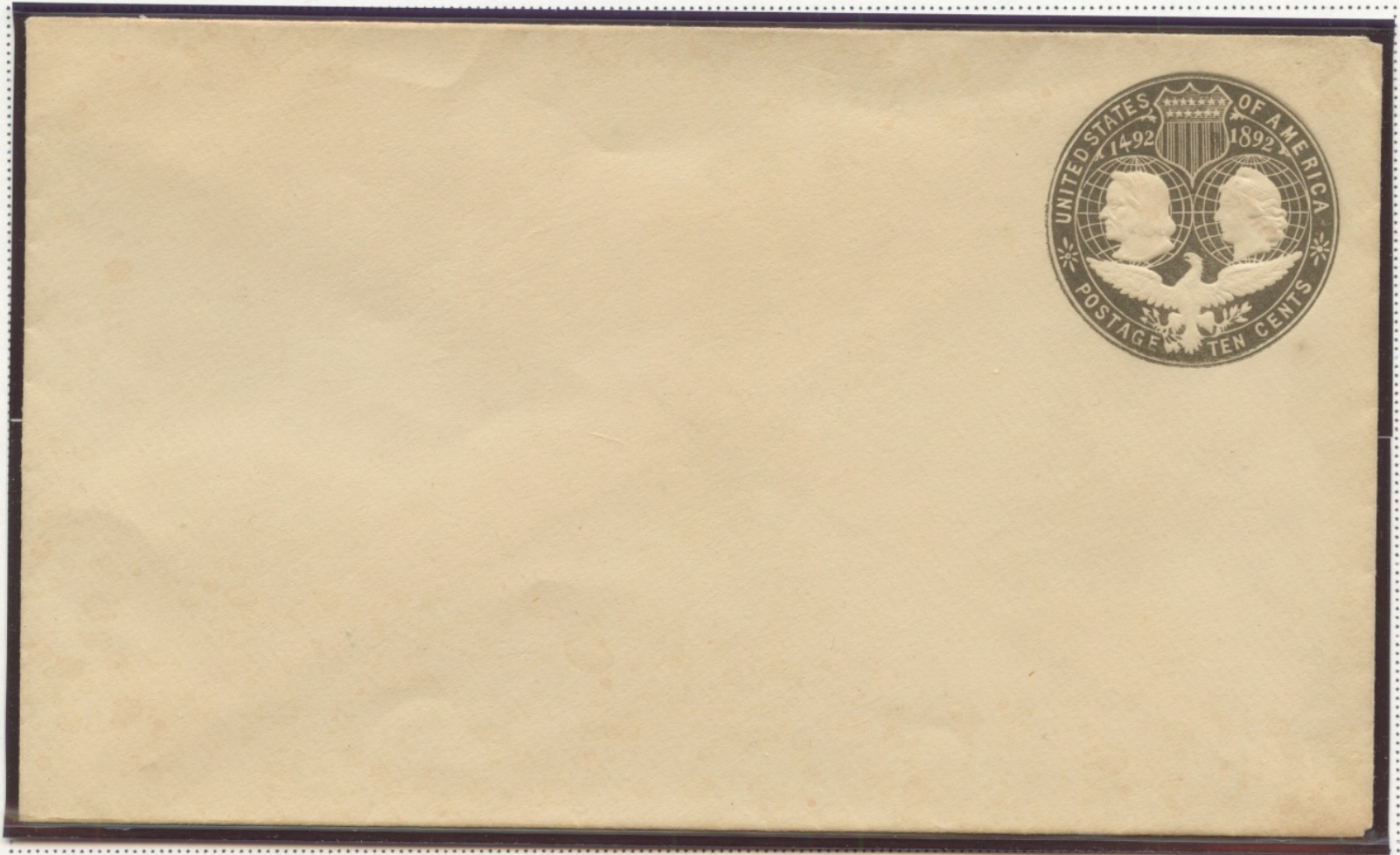
Periods after
AMERICA and CENT.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The 10¢ slate brown denomination was the high value of the set and covered several rates, including the international double rate and five ounces first class mail. None of the varieties of the 10¢ have the periods after the words AMERICA and CENT.



No periods after
AMERICA and CENT.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The \$5.00 value of the 1923 definitive series shows a close-up view of the Statue of Freedom which is mounted atop the United States Capitol dome. Her headpiece consists of an eagle, with its head just above the stars



The same statue is shown on the 1950 issue for the National Capitol Centennial, while the 1957 Steel Industry stamp has a stylized eagle on it.



The opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 was the occasion for the issuance of this stamp, which has a common design with the Canadian stamp for the same event. The two linked national symbols are also indicative of the first joint postal issue for both nations.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A set of four stamps showing quotations by famous Americans was issued in 1960. This example shows a sentence by Benjamin Franklin next to an eagle.



The Statue of Freedom appears again in 1962 on a commemorative issued to honor Sam Rayburn, long-time Speaker of the House of Representatives



The Malaria Eradication stamp of 1962 has an eagle whose design is derived from the national seal of the United States.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The Homemakers stamp of 1964 displays a small eagle grasping a flag in each claw at the top center, above the house.



This 1965 issue commemorates the Battle of New Orleans. The round seal in the lower left corner contains a tiny eagle.



The 1968 Register and Vote stamp shows a large and somewhat stylized eagle atop a weathervane.



A lifelike eagle's head is on the Organized Labor issue of 1980.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



In 1958, a rate increase to 4¢ brought forth this green eagle surcharge on the then-current 3¢ envelope.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The same surcharge was used in 1962 when the first class rate rose to 5¢.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

DUEBER AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH
645 Dueber Ave. S. W.
CANTON, OHIO 44706



It wasn't until 1965 that a new envelope with the 5¢ rate was printed, a white eagle's head against a red-violet background.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A rise of a penny in the postage rate in 1968 brought the green eagle back, for two eagles on the same envelope.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A whole new design appeared on the 8¢ envelope of 1971. It's interesting to note that this design is exactly the same eagle that the newly formed United States Postal Service chose for its official logo.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A new 10¢ first class postage rate gave us the 8¢ eagle with a 2¢ surcharge in 1973.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The eagle appeared as a main part of the design on a first-class rate definitive stamp in 1975 for the first time since 1869, and again it is an eagle and shield. As it was multicolored and on the first class rate stamp, it was sure to be in the public's eye.



In 1975, The Banking and Commerce issue appeared in a twin stamp format with an uninterrupted design crossing the gutter. Lathework from currency is in the background while four classic U.S. coins fill the foreground. The rightmost of these is a \$20 gold "double eagle", and the reverse side is shown with the eagle in its center.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



Almost a decade passed and the cost of postage doubled before another eagle appeared on a first class envelope. This one shows the Great Seal of the United States. It was issued in 1982.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



1987 was the bicentennial of the United States Constitution, and its adoption was commemorated with a booklet pane of five se-tenant stamps, each one displaying an eagle. The text on four of these consists of quotations from the Preamble to the Constitution.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



America's eagle joined Australia's koala in a salute to that nation's 1988 bicentennial. This was a joint issue, and both countries used the same design for their stamps.



A four-stamp issue in 1989, part of the Bicentennial celebration, had designs for the Executive and Judicial branches of the government as well as both houses of the Legislature. The Senate stamp was the only one to include an eagle.

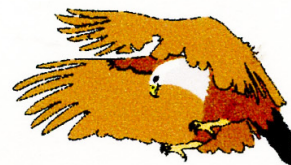
The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, had its bicentennial honored in 1989 as well.



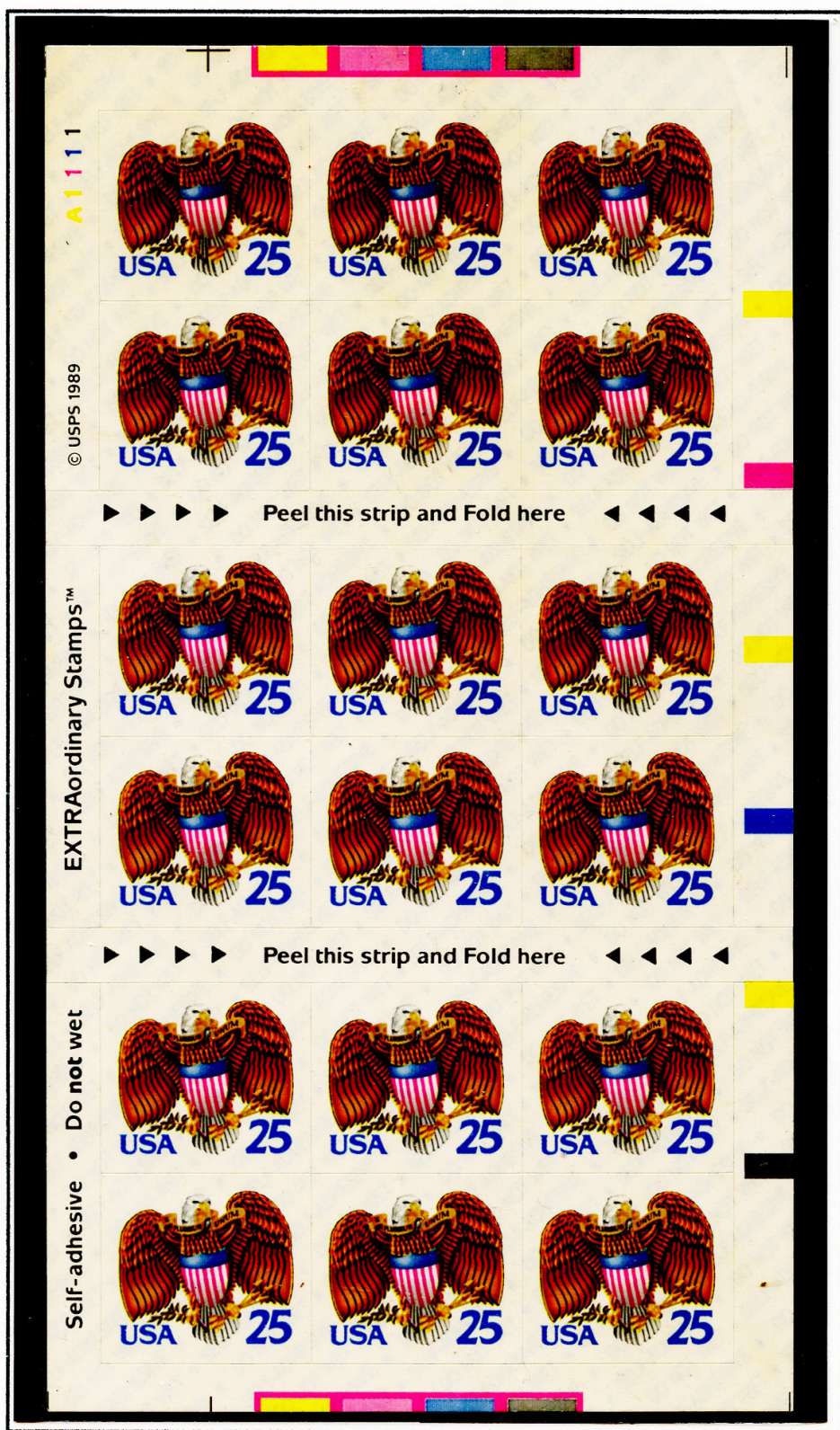
The stamp honoring the 700th anniversary of Switzerland's independence shows the Capitol buildings of both countries, an eagle being the topmost detail on the United States Capitol dome.



Eagles on United States Postage



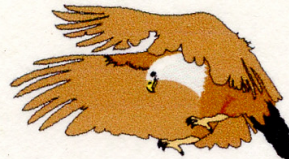
The Eagle as Our National Symbol



In 1989, the shield and eagle design was presented again, this time in two new formats – coil stamps designed for use with affixing machines and a self-adhesive pane of eighteen 25¢ stamps which had borders that could be peeled off so it would fold up into a booklet. The “booklet” price was \$5.00, a fifty cent premium over face value for the “convenience.”



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



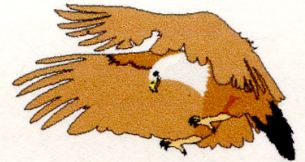
Savings bonds were promoted on a 1991 stamp with a large eagle, and 1992 saw coin collectors honored with a stamp showing the Flying Eagle Cent of 1858.



Self-adhesive stamps for stamp-affixing machines appeared again in 1992. Note the brown text for "USA" and "29". A booklet of seventeen 29¢ stamps also was issued in a new format with the cover size the same as U.S. currency, with an eye toward vending them from automatic teller machines.



Eagles on United States Postage



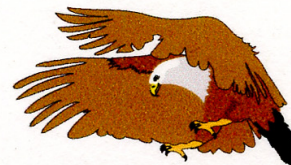
The Eagle as Our National Symbol



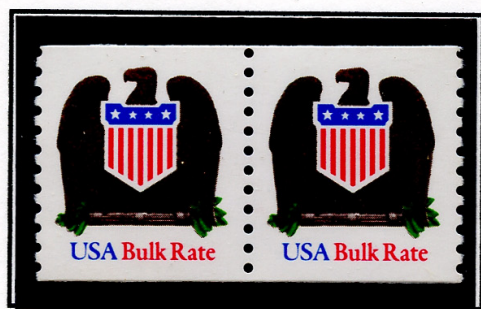
Look familiar? Only the color of the text is different, to identify which of three different printers produced these stamps.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The first stamp of this quartet, issued in 1991, has the letters "USA" at the right side of the text, while the next two, issued in 1993, have them at the left. The 1993 issues are in two distinct shades of gold. The last is a 1998 issue and it was issued in self-adhesive strip form for machine application. All four are denominated 10¢.



The two stamps above are from the *Celebrate the Century* series, the left one from the 1910's sheet showing a detail from the Federal Reserve Building. The right hand stamp is from the 1930's sheet and shows two eagles, the emblem of the National Recovery Administration, which was created in the Roosevelt administration, and another larger multi-colored one.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



Eighteen 29¢ stamps were supplied in this self-adhesive booklet, issued in 1994.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



This postcard, issued in 1995, shows a painting of a typical 19th century clipper ship in a frame of stars and stripes. At the top is a vignette with a flying eagle inside it.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



In 1995, an eagle in flight against a mountainous background graced this post card issued for the international rate.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The eagle seems to be an endangered species on postal stationery, as the next one on an envelope was the stylized eagle on the 2001 34¢ envelope.



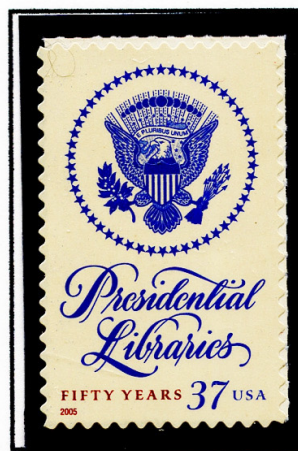
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



This stamp from the Stars and Stripes pane of 20 historic U.S. flag stamps produced in 2000 shows an unusual design called the Indian Peace Flag.



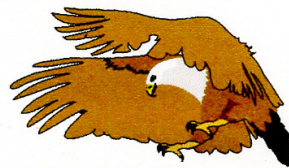
What looks like a medal on the left stamp is actually a political campaign badge, part of a booklet from 2003, and the right stamp, issued in 2005, shows the Presidential Seal.



The 2005 pane of stamps honoring Jim Henson's Muppets contains one featuring our national symbol, Sam the Eagle, holding a miniature flag.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



These two stamps were issued to meet the need for a single stamp for a two ounce letter, each being 23¢ more than the current single ounce rate. They use the same design and were both issued in 2001.

The increase to 60¢ for two ounce letters in 2002 required the issue of a new stamp, this time in horizontal format.



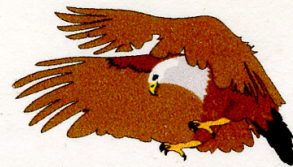
The 10¢ definitive stamp on the left was issued in 2003 with all-over tagging as one of the low values in the definitive series illustrating American designs. It was re-issued in 2013 on pre-phosphored paper with different die cutting, with plate number 6.



The same design was issued as a coil stamp in 2006, having the clock face in of gray, and the eagle on top of the clock is fairly small. It has overall tagging. It was re-issued in 2008 with the year date changed, a plain beige clock face and the middle "I" of VIII on the clock replaced by a microprinted "USPS". The eagles are also noticeably larger. It is printed on pre-phosphored paper. In 2013, another variety appeared, which retained all the changes and date 2008, but does not have phosphor tagging. The changes appear with plate number 2.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The 2002 Antique Toys issue came in a variety of formats: Booklets of 4, 6, and 20 stamps were issued in both 37¢ denominated and non-denominated versions, all having the toys in blocks of four. A coil type was issued denominated only. The eagle is on top of the pressure dome on the fire engine.



Similar in design to the 1991-93 Bulk rate stamps, these coils issued in 1998 are marked "Presorted Std" and were denominated 10¢. The difference is that one is on gummed paper, the other self-adhesive. Both come in varieties with large and small dates.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

In 2003, an unusual strip of coil stamps was issued for use in stamp affixing machines. It consisted of ten stamps of the same design, but in five different color combinations. Half of the stamps have the inverse combination of the other five, giving ten distinctly different stamps.



This initial version has a serpentine 11-3/4 perforation and the backing paper is not much wider than the stamps.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



In 2004, the same design was re-issued, but with a $11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation. The backing paper strip is also somewhat wider.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The 2005 issue is a traditional coil design, with the stamps printed on perforated adhesive-backed paper rather than the self-adhesive backing of the previous two versions.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

Distinguished American Diplomats



Six persons who performed exceptionally well in the Diplomatic Service, part of the State Department, were honored on this souvenir sheet issued in May 2006. The lower left stamp, for Philip Habib, has an eagle in its background.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



In July 2006, a pane of 16 stamps was issued showing eight illustrations of comic book Super Heroes and eight covers of the comic books in which they appeared. Wonder Woman was one of these and the cover shows her in her uniform with an eagle on its front. This same uniform also appears on the 2016 Wonder Woman stamp issue.



In early January 2012, the previous strip of ten different eagle stamps for the pre-sorted first class rate was replaced by a new design. This was issued in se-tenant strips of six in different colors and had a denomination of 25¢.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



January 2012 saw the issuance of another eagle, this time as one of a set of five weathervanes. The remaining four designs, a bull, hen, rooster and centaur are shown in the strip below.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



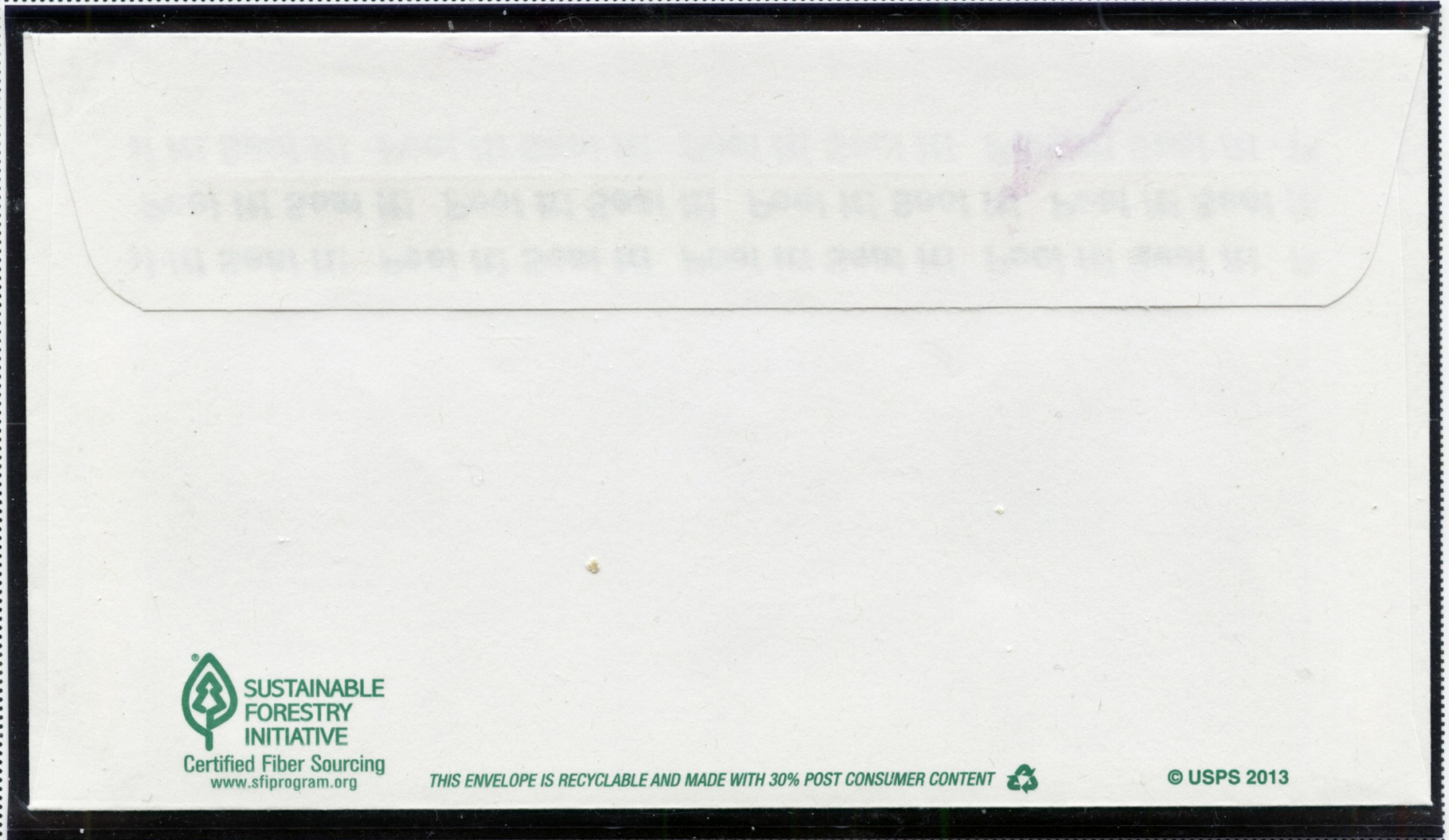
In August 2013, the Folk Eagle envelope was released, picturing a spread-winged eagle above a shield flanked by crossed flags. It was issued in six varieties; # 6-3/4, #9 and #10 sizes, each of which came with gummed or self-adhesive flaps



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

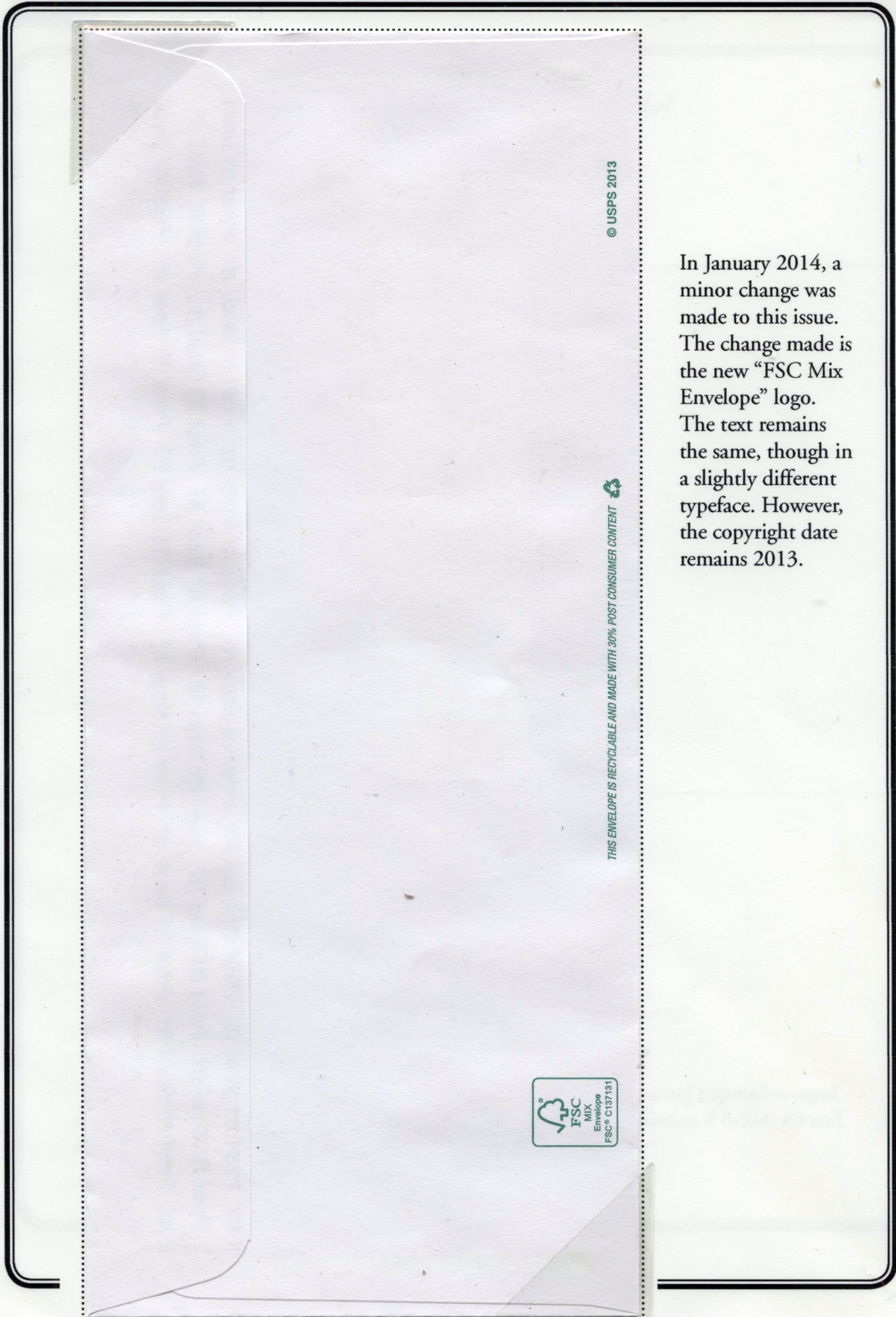


The reverse side of the envelope originally had a logo labeled “SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE” and the words “Certified Fiber Sourcing” on it. This was changed in 2015. The inside of the flap also has two varieties; plain gummed and with a strip over the self-adhesive gum with the words, **Peel It! Seal It!** printed on it.



Eagles on United States Postage

The Eagle as Our National Symbol



© USPS 2013

THIS ENVELOPE IS RECYCLABLE AND MADE WITH 30% POST CONSUMER CONTENT



In January 2014, a minor change was made to this issue. The change made is the new “FSC Mix Envelope” logo. The text remains the same, though in a slightly different typeface. However, the copyright date remains 2013.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



January 2015 saw the Spectrum Eagle set of 6 coil stamps for pre-sorted mail at the 25¢ rate replaced by another set of almost identical design. The only easily distinguishable difference is the “2012” date at the right of “FIRST CLASS” has been replaced by “2015” at the right of the row of stars at the top.



In September 2016, the comic book character Wonder Woman appeared on a pane of stamps. The designs showed her in uniforms as she appeared in different time periods. The initial design, the *Golden Age*, clearly has an eagle on the front of the uniform and the later ones show how it evolved through the years.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A new set of dollar-value stamps appeared in June 2018 featuring a single design, an engraved image showing the head and shoulders of the statue of Freedom which is mounted on top of the United States Capitol's dome. The image is very similar to the one on the \$5.00 definitive stamp issued in 1923. All three designs have microprinting beneath the letters "USA" on the stamp, which repeats the denomination of the stamp five times. For example, on the \$2.00 stamp this appears as "TWOTWOTWOTWOTWO".

An innovation for United States stamps is employed on all three of these stamps: the numeral denoting the value is printed with an optically variable ink. As one's viewpoint is changed, so does the apparent color of the ink. This technique has been used on some recent currency, but never before on U.S. postage.



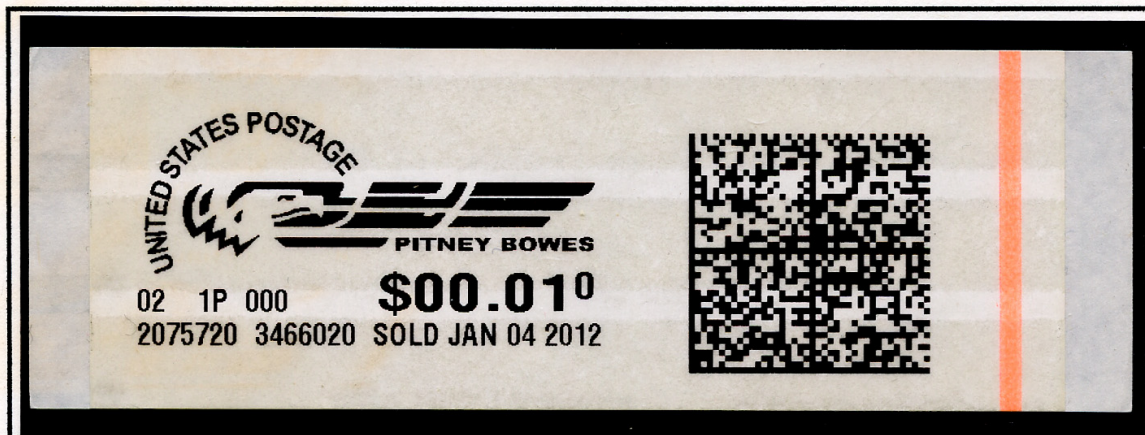
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

Computer Vended Postage

Pink Stripe at Right



Orange Stripe at Right



Beginning in 1989, Stamps were available from computerized kiosks, and the purchaser could enter the type of service desired and any denomination. The stamps were printed on paper tape and vended individually. Unlike meters, they could be used from any location on any date. A few of these strips had eagles on them as part of their designs.

The examples above are a 2011 design from Pitney-Bowes machines, which were usually located at large companies and universities and not available to the general public. They were also available at "Mail and Go" postal stations at Super Target stores in the Dallas, Texas area. The strip with the orange stripe at the rate is a scarce variety.

Some other types are shown with the Postal Service section of this collection.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

Personal Computer Postage (Net Stamps)



In 2002, postage stamps produced on personal computers were approved by the Postal Service. The self-adhesive blank labels with tagging were ordered by subscription through stamps.com, and the user printed the franking on a computer with an internet connection, the postage being charged to his account. These items are usually referred to as "net stamps".

Stamps with the "First-Class" inscription could be imprinted with denominations of 2¢, 52¢, 63¢, 87¢, \$1.11, \$1.35, \$1.59, \$1.83, \$2.07, \$2.31, \$2.55, \$2.79, \$3.03 and \$3.27 as well as the then-current 39¢ rate. They were produced by stamps.com.



Another net stamp was issued in 2008. It was denominated 42¢ and shows a frontal view of a bald eagle in flight against a background of an American flag.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

Personal Computer Postage (Net Stamps)



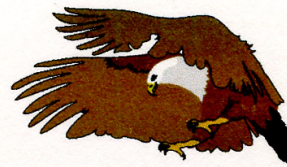
In 2009 another set of net stamps with a patriotic theme was released, including this picture of a bald eagle in front of our flag. The new rate was 44¢.



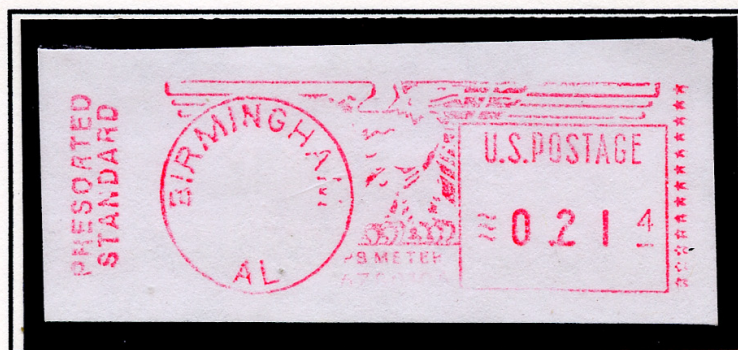
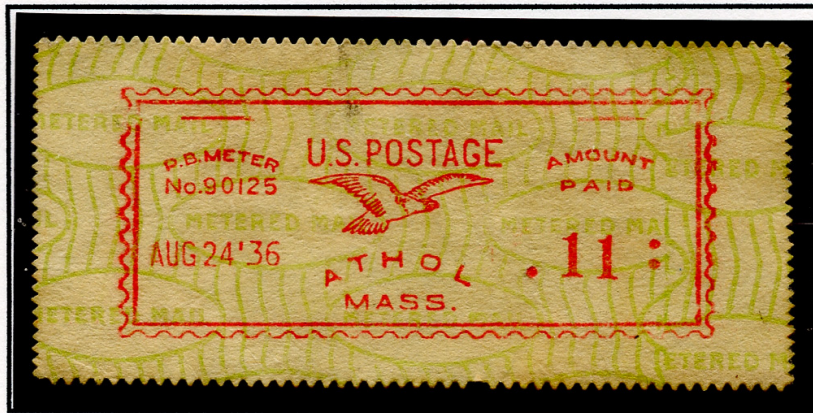
Another 44¢ net stamp was issued in 2010 as part of a set of four, this time showing the full body of a bald eagle.



Eagles on United States Postage



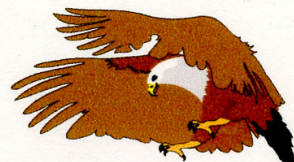
The Eagle as Our National Symbol



No collection of eagles on U.S. postage would be complete without examples of the ones we see most frequently... meter imprints. On this page are three of the older types, ranging from the classic Pitney-Bowes type on adhesive tape with the eagle centered, to newer types with the eagle overlapped by the date stamp and rate blocks.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



A newer Pitney-Bowes meter imprint shows a stylized eagle's head with extended wing in the upper right corner. A code rectangle is at the left. A similar design has a larger similar graphic, and a large United States flag makes up the entire left end of the design. The current Pitney-Bowes style has cropped the wing and comes with two varieties of the code rectangle. It's usually printed in gray rather than the traditional red.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol



The eagle isn't exclusive to Pitney-Bowes meters: examples of designs by other manufacturers are shown above. In fact, it is hard to find a meter impression without one.



Eagles on United States Postage



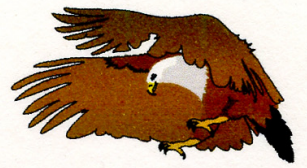
The Eagle as Our National Symbol



More examples from other vendors are shown here.

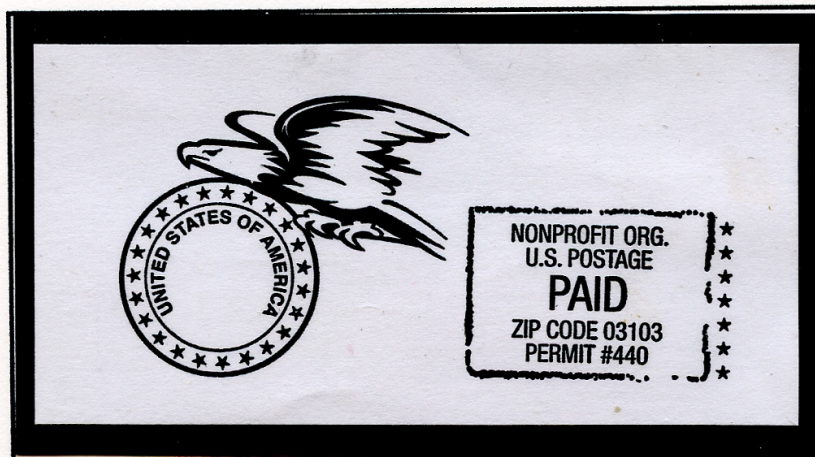


Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as Our National Symbol

In contrast to meters, eagles on pre-printed envelopes are the norm for presorted mail. Examples are shown here.



Two more examples of printed permit envelopes are above. A multitude of other types exist.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



When the United States Postal Service superseded the Post Office department, its new logo featuring a stylized eagle supplanted the former post rider on horseback. The new logo's first appearance on stamps was on the 1971 small definitive format eight cent issue honoring the creation of the USPS.



The new eagle logo later put in a cameo appearance on the hats and shoulder patches on the Letter Carriers issue of 1989.



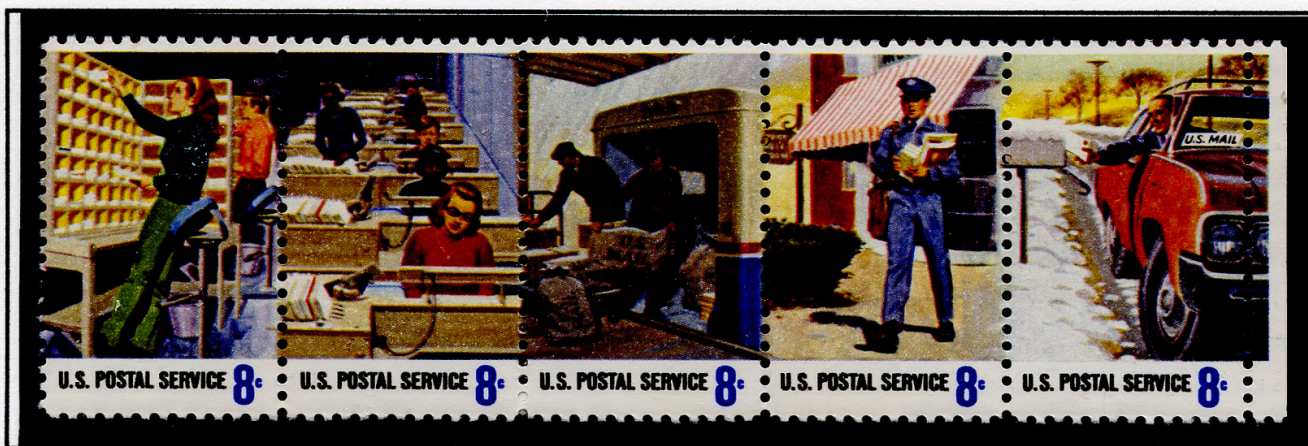
In 1992, the logo was simplified in design and prominently featured on the \$1.00 stamp honoring the USPS as a sponsor of the United States Olympic Team.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The new USPS eagle logo is also shown on a mailbox on one of the ten different designs of the Postal People issue of 1973. It also appears on the back of each stamp in the strip.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol

Thousands of machines, buildings, and vehicles must be operated and maintained to keep your mail moving.	The People in your Postal Service handle and deliver more than 500 million packages yearly.	More than 87 billion letters and packages are handled yearly—almost 300 million every delivery day.	Mail is picked up from nearly a third of a million local collection boxes, as well as your mailbox.	Nearly 27 billion U.S. stamps are sold yearly to carry your letters to every corner of the world.
				
People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You

Employees cover 4 million miles each delivery day to bring mail to your home or business.	Our customers include 54 million urban and 12 million rural families, plus 9 million businesses.	Thirteen billion pounds of mail are handled yearly by postal employees as they speed your letters and packages.	Employees use modern, high-speed equipment to sort and process huge volumes of mail in central locations.	The skill of sorting mail manually is still vital to delivery of your mail.
				
People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You	People Serving You

In addition to the eagles included in the designs on the stamp faces, each of the ten designs of the Postal People issue has the eagle logo of the Postal Service on the gum side. Each stamp also has a different sentence or two about the services provided by USPS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
COMMERCIAL INQUIRY SERVICE
First Day of Issue



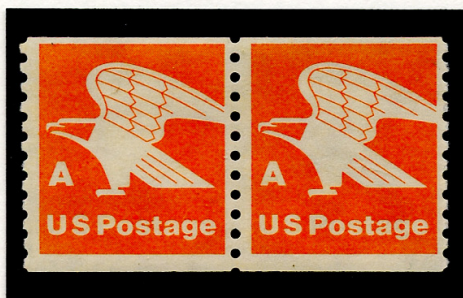
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



In 1978, the Postal Service came up with an innovative solution to the shortage of stamps in a new denomination when postal rates changed. Their answer was to prepare and store non-denominated stamps which could be placed on sale at the new rate as soon as the higher rates took effect. The only limitation to this practice was that the non-denominated issues were only to be used on domestic mail. The orange "A" issue of 1978 was followed in 1981 by the violet "B" and brown "C" stamps, then the green "D" issue in 1985. The confusion over use on international mail was resolved first on the "B" postal card with the addition of "Domestic Rate", and later "Domestic Mail", which appeared on all formats of the "C" and "D" issues.



In addition to the usual panes of 100 sheet stamps, the non-denominated eagle issues were also sold as coil stamps, booklets and envelopes to cover the needs of postal patrons.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The "A" booklet of twenty-four stamps appeared in a horizontal format, while the "B" booklet of twenty-four appeared in a smaller cover in a vertical format designed to fit vending machines.





Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The "C" and "D" booklets of twenty stamps reverted to a horizontal format, but the two panes of ten stamps were a much smaller size than the sheet and coil stamps. This size stamp, also tried on the Indian Head Cent and Dolly Madison sheet stamps, was apparently not very popular with the public, and has been discontinued.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The non-denominated eagle indicia was applied to envelopes as well as stamps in the "A", "B", "C" and "D" series.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The non-denominated "B" rate envelope covered the rate increase from 15¢ to 18¢



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The change of the first class rate to 20¢ brought about the issue of the "C" rate envelope



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



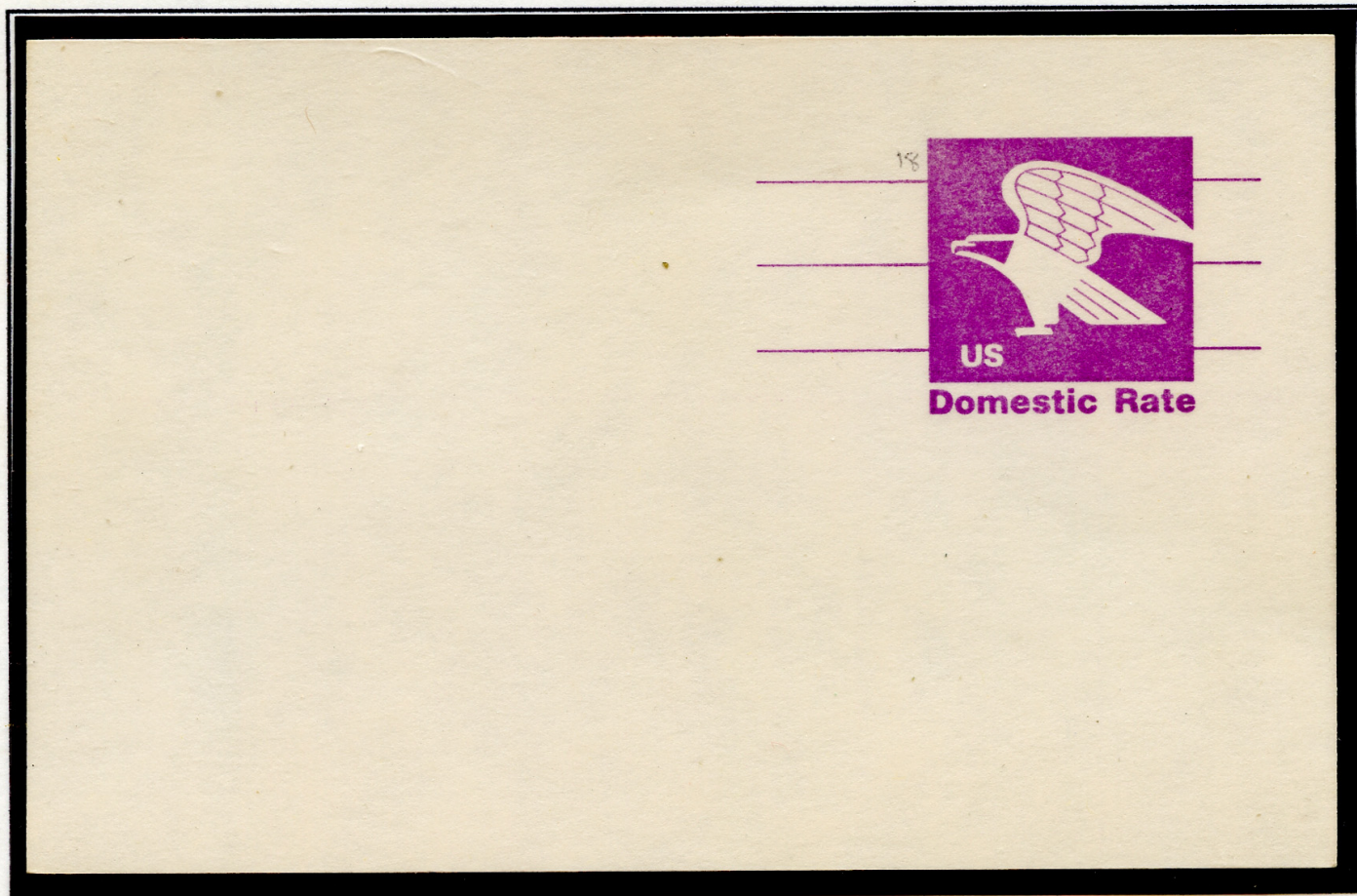
The "D" envelope for the 22¢ rate was the final issue of this design on envelopes



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



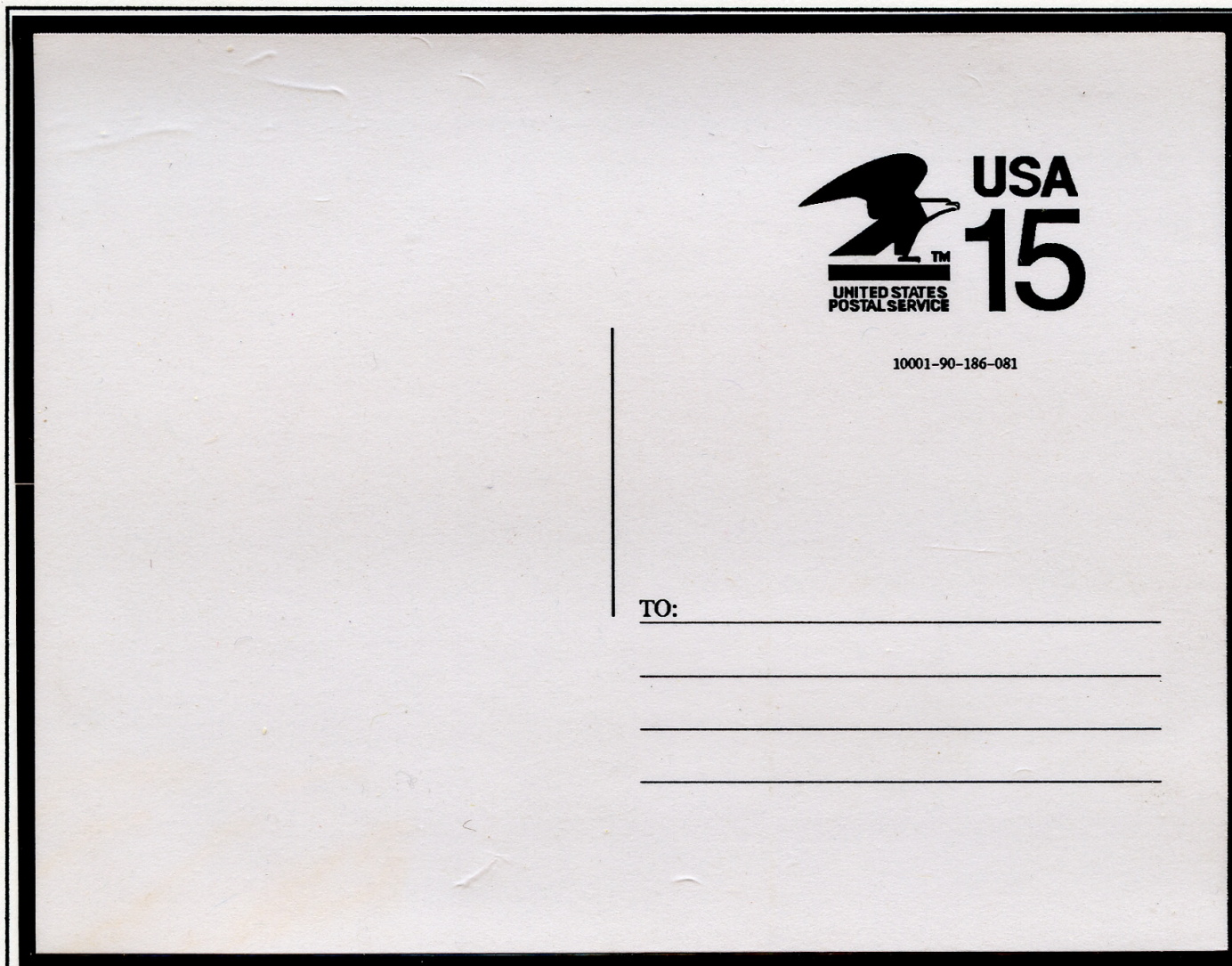
The "B" issue of 1981 was the only non-denominated postal card with the eagle design, the other rate changes being covered by postal cards of the "Patriots" series. Note that the words "Domestic Rate" appear below the indicia, an attempt to dispel improper use in the international mails. This wording differs from all the other "C" and "D" issues, which use "Domestic Mail" instead.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



In 1990, the Postal Service began experiments with computer vended postage and services through "Postal Buddy" vending machines. A total of 171 machines in the Washington, DC, San Diego, California and Denver, Colorado areas. Postcards were imprinted with the USPS eagle logo on the first two issues. This 15¢ example cost the purchaser 33¢.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



The second type, issued in 1991 for the rate increase to 19¢, also has the eagle logo. Subsequent types did not, and the "Postal Buddy" contract ended in 1993.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



Another example of the use of eagle logo is on the Postal Service's official mail. This envelope, intended for ordering stamps from the Philatelic Sales Division, has the original 1973 design for the logo.

An interesting fact is that the \$300 penalty for non-official use has not changed since official stamps first appeared in 1873!



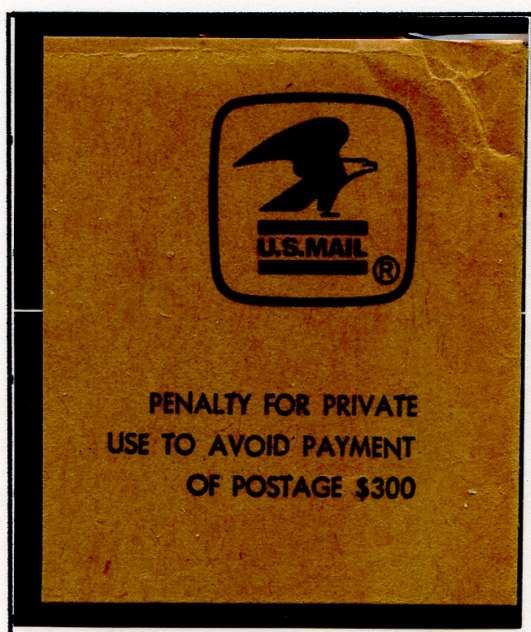
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol



Not to be outdone by the private sector when it comes to meters, the eagle logo of the Postal Service is imprinted on the tapes generated by the machines at your local post office when you mail a package. The lower item is printed on plastic tape.



The USPS logo also appears on the large manila envelopes used for its official mail.



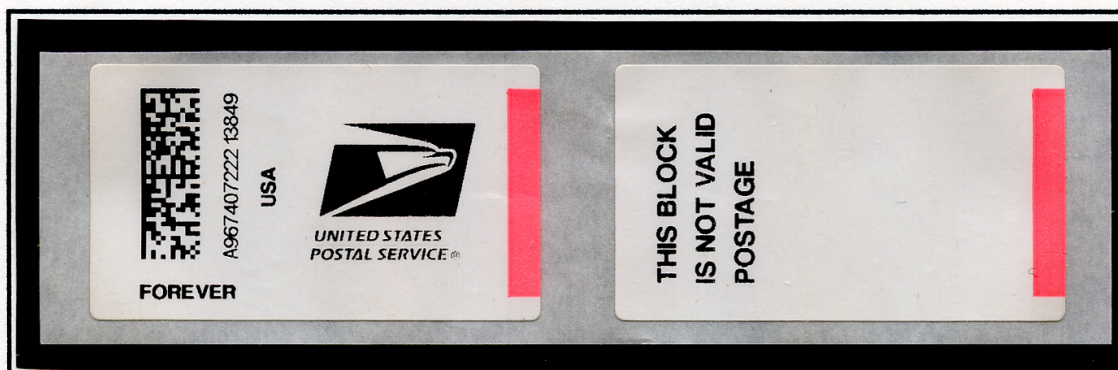
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol

Computer Vended Postage

Pink stripe at right is pink under ultraviolet light.



Pink stripe at right is orange under ultraviolet light.



Uncolored stripe at right is green under ultraviolet light.



Several types of computer vended stamps have been issued with the Postal Service logo on them. The types shown here have basically the same design but with some variations. They are available in any denomination up to ten dollars and may be used without date or location restrictions. These are 2013 issues.

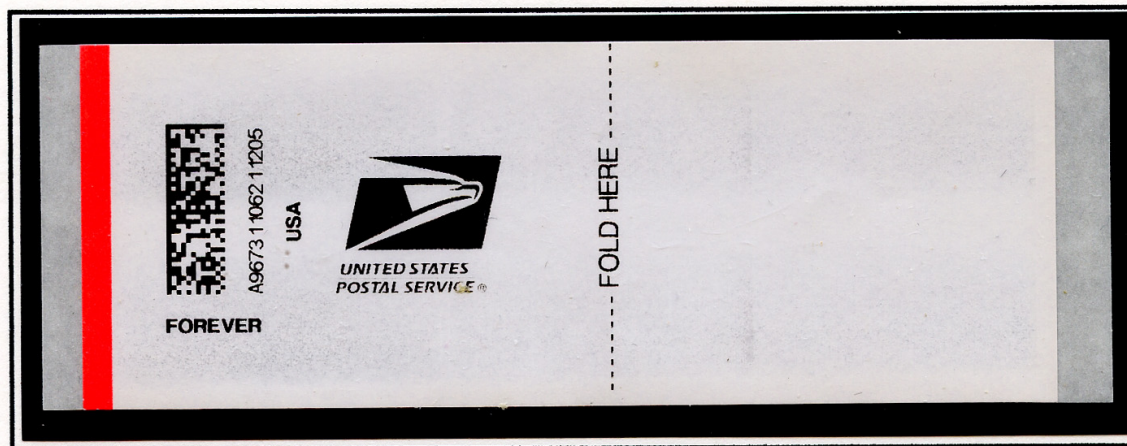


Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol

Computer Vended Postage



This issue from 2013 uses the same design as those on the previous page. However, it is printed on machines using wider tape, and the blank tab at right was to be torn off on the "FOLD HERE" line for use.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Postal Service Symbol

Computer Vended Postage

F	US POSTAGE AND FEES PAID JUN 10 2015 Mailed from ZIP 54956 4 oz First-Class Package Rate Retail Price
	 endicia.com 071V00979020
USPS FIRST-CLASS PKG	
Acoustic Ceiling Products, LLC PO Box 1581 Appleton WI 54912	C011 0004
SHIP TO:	John Graper 2624 Grendon Dr Wilmington, DE 19808-3831
USPS TRACKING #	
	
9400 1102 0088 3671 7180 77	
 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	SH0593426 
<small>SEE NOTICE ON REVERSE regarding UPS Terms, and notice of limitation of liability. Where allowed by law, shipper authorizes UPS to act as forwarding agent for export control and customs purposes. If exported from the US, shipper certifies that the commodities, technology or software were exported from the US in accordance with the Export Administration Regulations. Diversion contrary to law is prohibited. RRD R 0215</small>	

This package label is actually computer vended postage from a machine which uses wider tape. All the requisite delivery information is printed to order. It can be used in denominations up to \$99.99.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



Special stamps were issued beginning in 1865 to pay the postage on bulk shipments of newspapers and periodicals. The vignette of the above stamps first appeared in 1875 and represents "Justice". On top of her cap is a large eagle. This vignette appears in eight denominations on 37 different stamps of the 1875, 1879 and 1894 series, an example of which is shown at the left above. The same vignette also appears on four more issues of the 1895 series which has a modified border, as shown on the center example.

Similarly, another vignette showed the "Statue of Freedom", the sculpture which appears atop the dome of the United States Capitol building. Her headress is in the form of an eagle. There are 34 different stamps in nine denominations with this design, which uses the same two designs for the frames as the "Justice" type.



The next issue to feature an eagle was a special stamp for registered mail, which was issued in 1911. In 1955, a stamp appeared for certified mail with the introduction of this service. It has an eagle at the top of the badge on the carrier's hat. Both are the only stamps ever issued for these services.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



After the registry stamp, there was a hiatus until the 16¢ Air Mail Special Delivery issue of 1934. In 1935, the same design was issued ungummed and imperforate as part of the special printings known as the "Farleys" after the Postmaster General who ordered their production.



In 1936, the same design was reprinted as a bicolor issue.



The next special service to see an eagle stamp was air mail, and in 1938 we saw a bi-colored 6¢ issue with an eagle as its central theme.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



A 4¢ air mail postal card with a large flying eagle was issued in 1954.



Eagles are on these small definitive size stamps, which were intended to cover the rate for air mail post cards. The 4¢ debuted in 1954, followed in 1958 and 1963 by 5¢ and 6¢ issues.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



The FIPEX exhibition was commemorated in 1956 by this air mail envelope featuring an eagle in flight.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



The 1956 FIPEX envelope was also surcharged in 1958, as well as the Skymaster type.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



In 1958, a rate increase was the reason for the eagle surcharge on the 6¢ air mail envelope.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



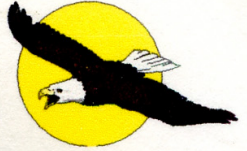
The 5¢ air mail stamp design of 1954 was used on a postal card in 1958



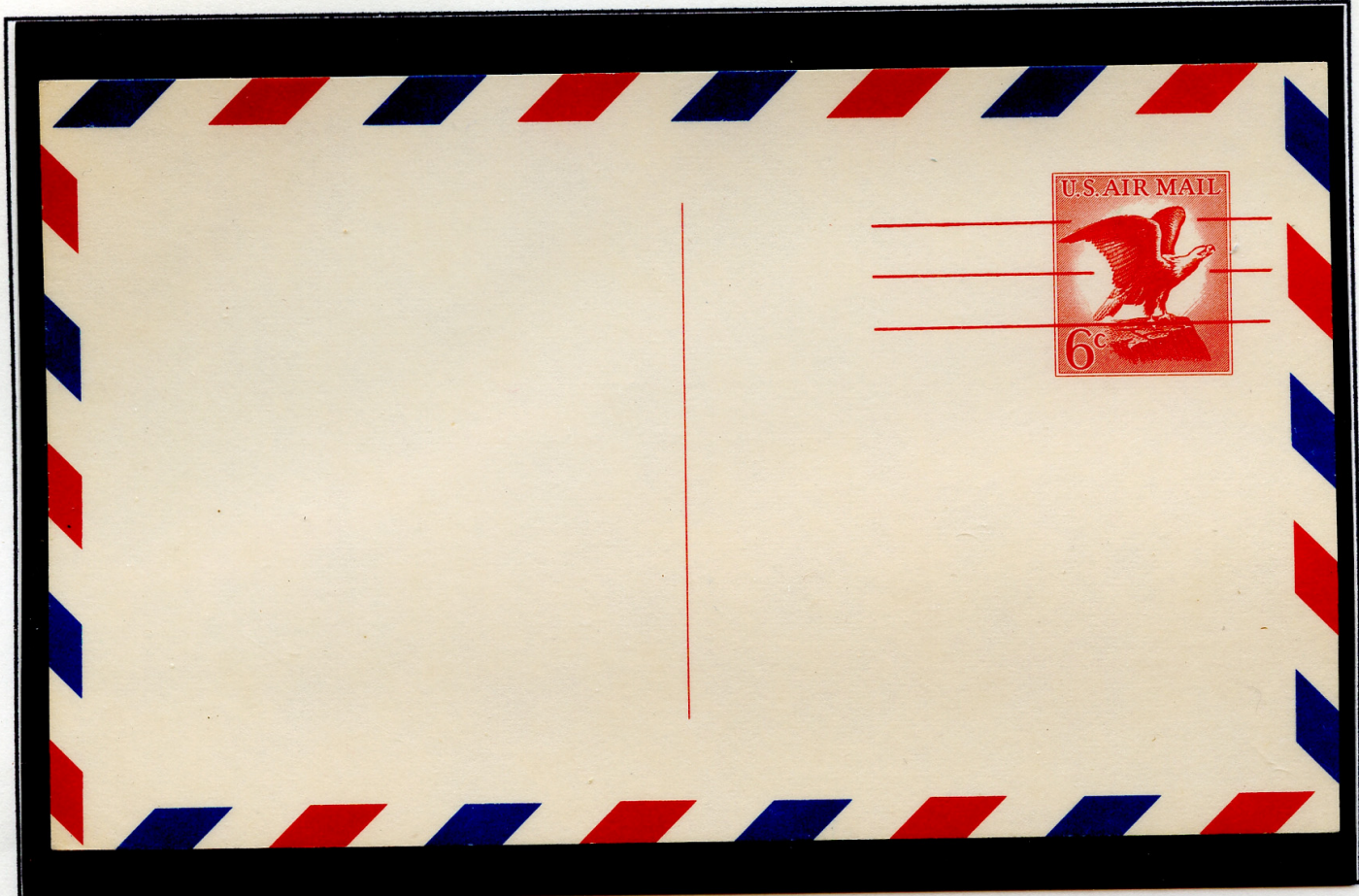
In 1960, a redrawn version of the indicia was used, a red and blue border added, the words "AIR MAIL - POSTAL CARD" deleted and a vertical line now divides the card



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



As with the previous issue, a 6¢ postal card duplicated the design of the 1963 stamp



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



Rate increases in 1968 brought forth this patriotically colored eagle card.



An increase in 1971 led to this issue in the same design, but with the colors reversed and a 9¢ rate.



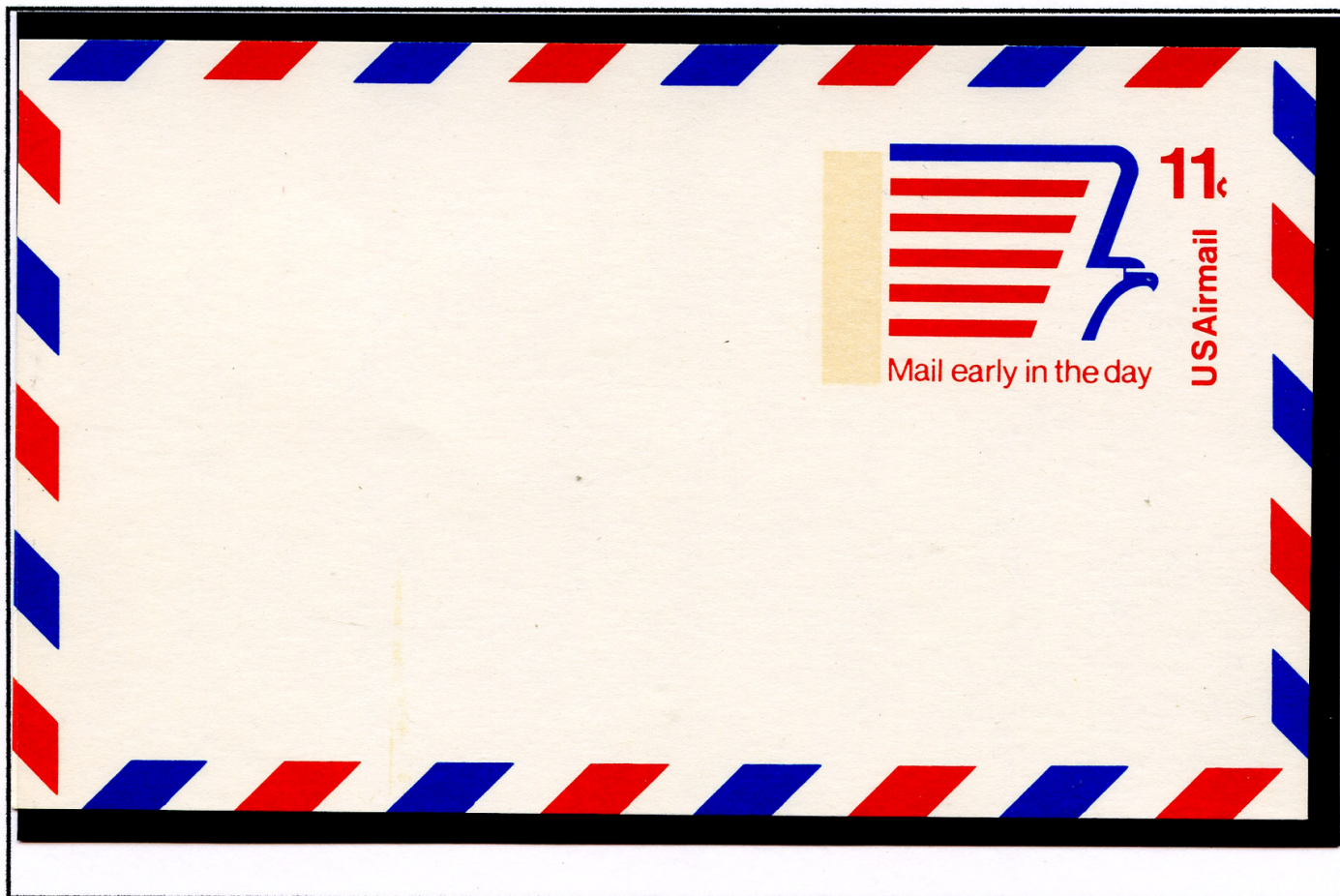
Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



The rate increase to 11¢ in 1974 was the reason for this card with a stylized eagle.



It appeared in two distinct varieties, on fluorescent and non-fluorescent stock.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



At the same time, the international rate went to 18¢, leading to this attractive eagle design.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



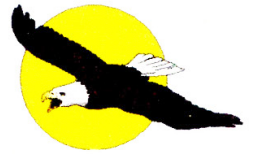
In 1968, a special "Airlift" stamp was issued to pay the \$1.00 rate for parcels sent to armed forces personnel in Viet Nam. Although it is not listed by the Scott catalog as an air mail stamp, just the wording on it arguably makes it one.



Express Mail was created in 1983 to compete with private parcel delivery services. With a \$9.35 rate, it guaranteed overnight delivery anywhere in the country. A new issue reflected the rate increase to \$10.75 in 1985. These stamps appeared in booklets of three stamps as well as in sheet form.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



The express mail rate was reduced to \$8.75 in 1988, but escalated to \$9.95 in 1991. At the same time, a \$14.00 rate was created for international express mail and another issue was required. Priority Mail, with less stringent delivery requirements, was introduced and a \$2.90 stamp was issued for this service. All of these 1991 issues featured the Olympic logo as well as the large eagle's heads.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



An aerogram with a 45¢ denomination was also issued in 1991 to meet the new rates. It depicts an eagle in flight in our national colors.



*The Eagle
on Stamps
for Special
Services*

This 10¢ rated envelope was issued in 1995 with a stylized eagle, labeled "Bulk Rate".



*The Eagle
on Stamps
for Special
Services*

Similar to
the bulk rate
envelope, this
10¢ 2002 issue
was imprinted
“Standard Pre-
sorted” instead.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle on Stamps for Special Services



The Statue of Freedom with its eagle headress is shown atop the Capitol dome on the new 2001 Priority Mail stamp and again on a similar design in 2003 for the Express Mail rate.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles Incorporated in State Seals



The official seals of several states, unsurprisingly, incorporate an eagle in their design, and the first of these on a stamp was the Michigan seal in 1935. The design was repeated with its inclusion on the TIPEX souvenir sheet of 1936.



The stamp issued for the fiftieth anniversary of Wyoming statehood in 1940 has a vignette which shows the center of the state seal, which contains a tiny eagle just above the shield.



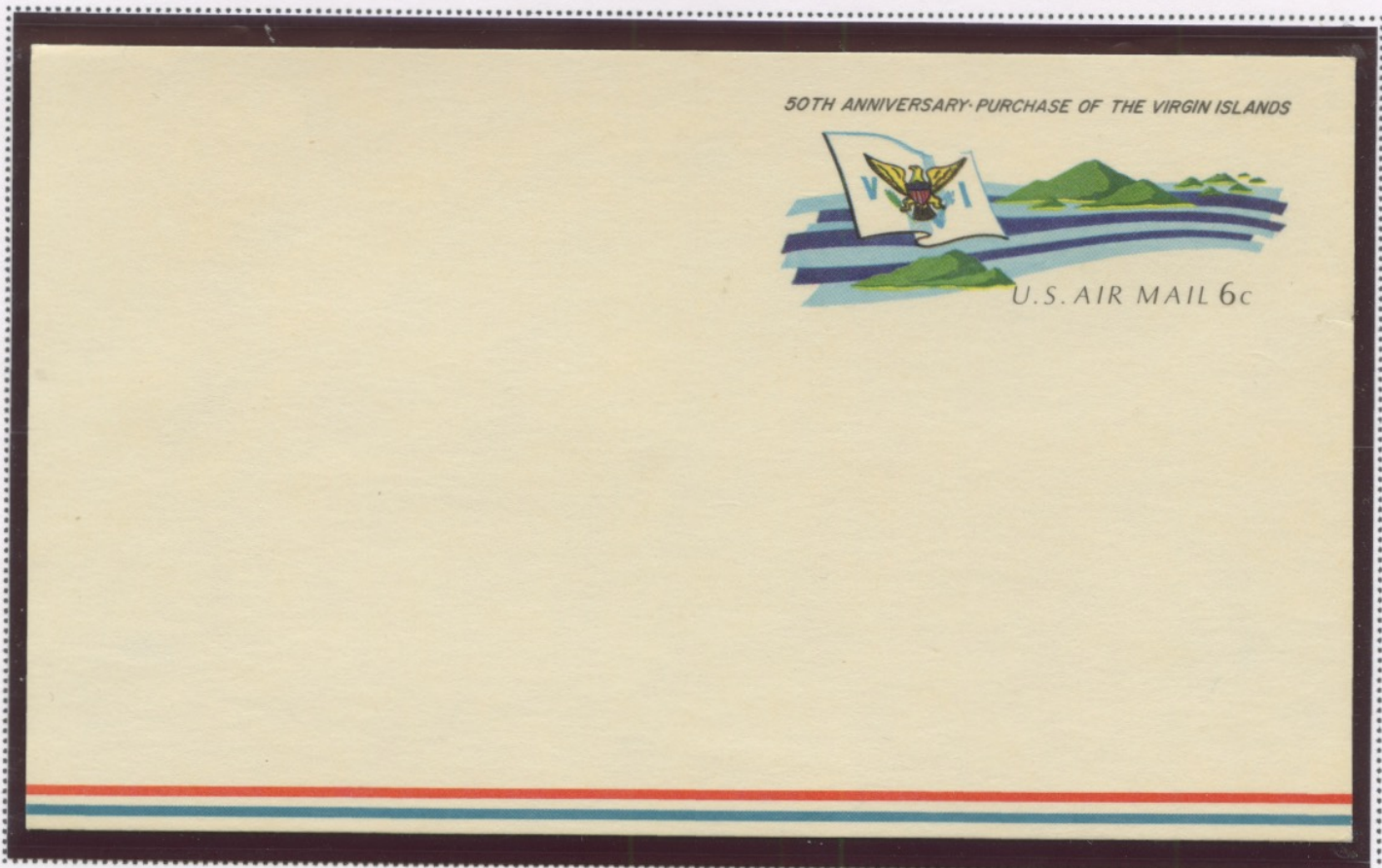
There was a hiatus during World War II, and then the Iowa flag with its eagle was issued in 1946, followed by the Mississippi territorial seal on a stamp in 1948.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles Incorporated in State Seals



In 1936 the Michigan issue of 1935 was reproduced as part of a souvenir sheet which honored the TIPEX exhibition in New York City.

An air mail post card was issued in 1967 honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. It shows the territorial flag flanked by the letters V and I.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles Incorporated in State Flags & Seals



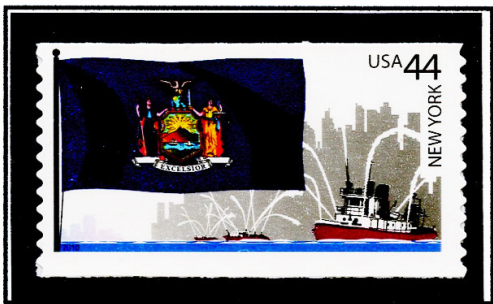
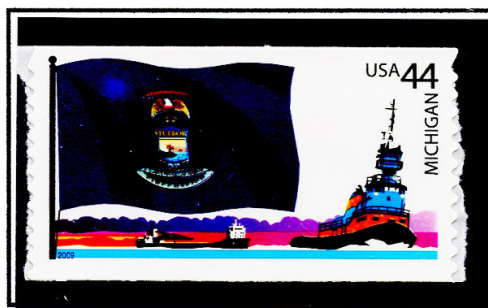
In connection with the United States Bicentennial celebration in 1976, a pane of fifty stamps was issued, each stamp showing the flag of a single state. Nine of these stamps show an eagle in their design. They are (in alphabetical order), Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wyoming.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles Incorporated in State Flags & Seals



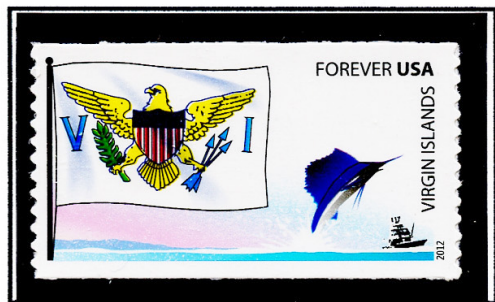
A series of stamps depicting the flags of the United States, its states, the District of Columbia and the territories was issued starting in 2008, in the form of commemorative size coil stamps. Each coil of fifty stamps contained five strips of ten different flags, in alphabetical order. The Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wyoming flags have eagles, as do the flags of the Virgin Islands and American Samoa. Each stamp shows the flag plus an illustration relating to the state or territory.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles Incorporated in State Flags & Seals



State Flag Coil Stamps



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles as Symbols of Foreign Governments



In 1943 the United States issued a series of thirteen stamps honoring the nations overrun by Axis armed forces in World War II. The double-headed eagle of Albania is shown as the central element of the flag's design.



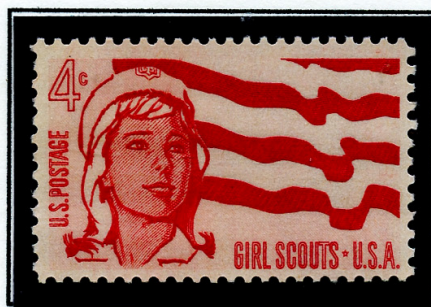
In 1966 a stamp with the historic Polish eagle was issued commemorating the 1000th anniversary of Poland as a nation.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagles on Non-Governmental Logos



An eagle comprises part of the official logo of both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, and appears on these stamps honoring those organizations.



It also forms the upper half of the seal of the American Chemical Society, as shown in this issue from 1951.



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Stamp Subject



In 1967 the bald eagle was one of the four subjects depicted on a block of oversize stamps on the subject of natural history. It was the first instance of one being the primary subject of a stamp issue rather than a symbol of something else.



In 1987 the bald eagle was again selected as the subject of a stamp, this time as part of the North American Wildlife Issue, a pane of fifty se-tenant stamps illustrating various birds and animals.



In an ongoing series of miniature sheets showing the wildlife of various regions of the country, a bald eagle appears on the 2006 issue for the South Florida Wetlands and a golden eagle on the 2008 Arctic Tundra issue shown on the next two pages. The eagles are easily seen in these vignettes from the upper right part of the sheets.



Eagles on United States Postage



SOUTHERN FLORIDA WETLAND

EIGHTH IN A SERIES



N A T U R E O F A M E R I C A



Eagles on United States Postage



ALPINE TUNDRA

NINTH IN A SERIES



USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

USA 41

N A T U R E O F A M E R I C A



Eagles on United States Postage



The Eagle as a Stamp Subject



This 2012 issue is denominated 85¢ to accommodate the new three ounce first class rate instituted in January. All the subjects are birds of prey, and the Golden Eagle is featured on the left end.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagle Namesakes



Undoubtedly the most famous eagle in United States history is the lunar lander *Eagle*, the spacecraft in which Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made the first manned landing on the Moon in 1969. The event was televised live, and Armstrong's first words after touchdown were "The *Eagle* has landed." The illustration shows him making his first step onto lunar soil, at which point he made his famous quote: "That's one small step for a man, one giant step for mankind."



In 1994, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first manned lunar landing was commemorated by two issues. The first of these, a pane of twelve 29¢ stamps, shows Neil Armstrong saluting the U.S. flag at Tranquility Base on the Moon. The other stamp is at the \$9.95 Express Mail rate, and uses the same photo as the 29¢ stamp, but it is uncropped, which reveals both Armstrong and Aldrin saluting with the *Eagle* in the background.



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagle Namesakes



The *Eagle* appeared on a souvenir sheet at World Stamp Expo 2000 in a hologram on an \$11.75 stamp, and is also shown in the background on the sheet surrounding the stamp



Eagles on United States Postage



Eagle Namesakes



US Coast Guard Eagle USA 14c

© USPS 1978

In 1978, a postal card was issued at the international rate of 14¢. The subject was the Coast Guard's training ship *Eagle*, which when not at sea can be seen from I-95 at its mooring in New London, Connecticut. It also may be seen at many Tall Ships events.



The stamp above showing a modern helicopter and the training ship *Eagle* was issued in 2015 to honor the centennial of the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was created by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1915 which combined the existing Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service into one organization. Its precursor was the Revenue Marine, created by President George Washington to enforce customs regulations. This was especially important since the only source of federal income at the time was customs duties.

The End

Part 1