

Collecting Poster Stamps

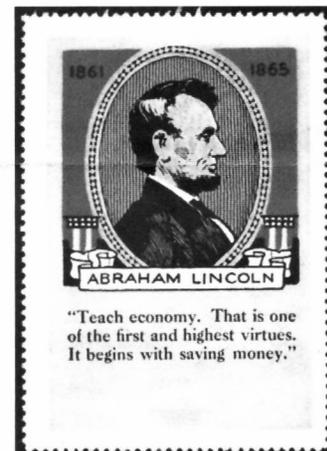
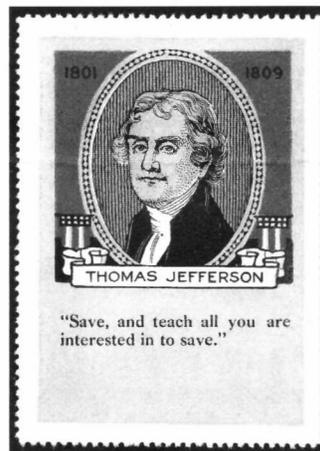
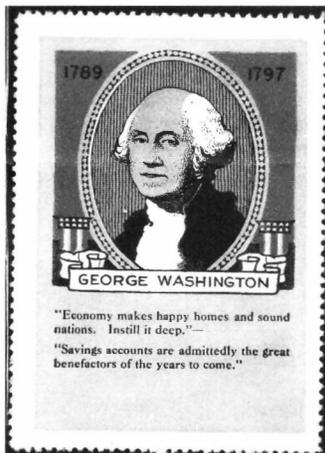
An occasional periodical dedicated to the study of United States poster stamps

Number 32

February 2018

Presidents of the United States

United States Presidents are a popular focus of book, ephemera and autograph collectors. Our focus here is Presidents on poster stamps. We present three sets of classic era (1912 – 1915) poster stamps featuring Presidents. Harvey Blodgett Company of St. Paul, Minnesota published a set of Presidential stamps that have a space for the imprint of the advertising company. Franklin Bittner of New York City was the artist and publisher of another set. The International Posterstamp Company of New York City, which used the Postaco imprint, also published a set. Several poster stamps featuring Presidents as part of their product advertising are also shown. Not addressed here are the hundreds of Presidential political campaign stamps, for a comprehensive listing of these see Warda, Mark. *Political Campaign Stamps*. Iola, WI: Krause, 1998.



Harvey Blodgett Company stock set

Harvey Blodgett Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, was one of the most prolific publishers of poster stamps during the classics period. Blodgett issued a set of 28 poster stamps that includes 27 stamps with portraits of Presidents along with texts promoting banks and saving, plus one stamp showing the Executive Mansion (White House). The publisher information is printed on the back of each stamp. These are stock stamps with a space for the imprint of a bank. I have seen only one such imprint, the German American Trust of Denver, Colorado.

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Franklin Bittner set

Franklin Bittner, of New York City, was an accomplished artist perhaps best known to poster stamp collectors for his set of six stamps promoting his own services and a set of 24 New York City views. The Bittner Presidential set has 29 stamps including two for Grover Cleveland who was elected to two terms sandwiching Benjamin Harrison. I have only seen these stamps in a booklet with short biographies of each President but they may also have been available separately.



Postaco set

Postaco is the abbreviation used by the International Posterstamp Company of New York City. Postaco issued a poster stamp promoting its services and proclaiming “advertising stamps a specialty.” (not shown). I have not seen any other Postaco poster stamps advertising another company. There are, however, a great many set of poster stamps featuring major league baseball players, Native Americans, airplanes, soldiers, birds, animals, and so forth. The 12 Presidential poster stamps shown here are likely part of a larger set but these are all I have encountered.



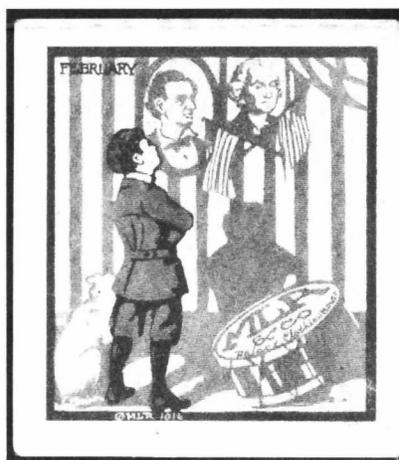
First National Bank,
Minneapolis



Lincoln Safe Deposit Company,
New York City



Great Northern Railway (also
also used as a stock stamp as shown)



Rothschild, Maurice L., & Co., Chicago

Advertising poster stamps showing Presidents

Only a few advertising poster stamps from the classic period include the image of a President. Four examples are shown above.

Printer's Devil on United States Poster Stamps

The printer's devil is the low person on the printshop totem pole—duties include sweeping the floor, cleaning ink off presses and type, putting type and spacing material away. Here are six circa 1915 U.S. poster stamps showing printer's devils, the only ones I have encountered.

The Webb-Biddle Co. poster stamp shows a smiling printer's devil and an executive examining the product that incidentally depicts the same scene as the stamp. (1) The "Give the Devil His Due" caption on the C. W. Knowles stamp is the only U. S. example I have seen that explicitly refers to a printer's devil. (2) The Independent Pressrooms stamp shows an older printer's devil, perhaps an apprentice. (3)

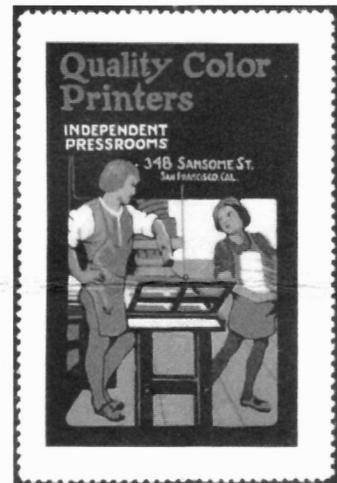
The Kelley-Davis Co. stamp shows a printer's devil with two pieces of giant type. (4) Such exaggeration is an effective attention getter. The Blair-Murdock stamp depicts a printer's devil with an ink bucket in a fanciful scene with him painting with ink on a wall. (5) The Samuel Jones & Co. manufactured paper so this stamp showing a printer's devil is surprising. There is a bookbinders' press in the background. These poster stamps bring back fond memories of my high school years as a printer's devil in my father's printshop in Orange, Massachusetts.



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2



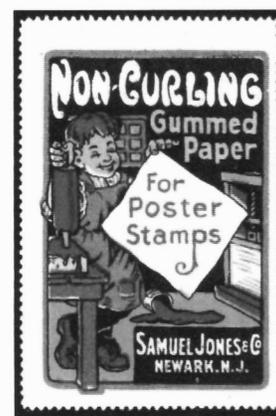
3



4



5

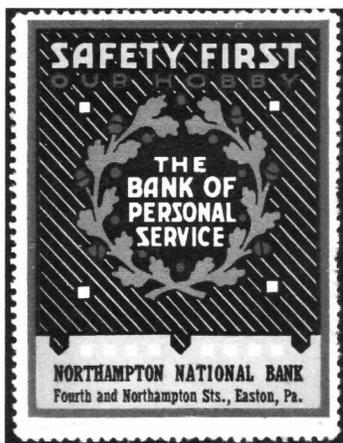


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Author's note: this article appeared in the *Poster Stamp Collectors Club Journal*, no. 35 (January 2015).

Auction #23

The following poster stamps will be sold to the highest bidder providing minimum bid listed is met. All stamps are in very good condition with no tears, creases, scuffs or thins. Returnable within 14 days for full refund. Return postage not reimbursed. Auction ends on February 28, 2018. Bid increments must be \$0.50. Tie bids will go to the earliest bid received. Bids may be submitted by email (rbposterstamps@gmail.com) or regular mail. No telephone bids please. Postage is free within the United States. **No shipments will be made outside the United States.** Payment due when winning bidder receives stamps in mail with invoice. Payment by check or money order only. Numbers: Bradbury, *U. S. Advertising Poster Stamps, 1912-1915.* revised ed. 2014.



1 B3601 \$7.



2 B2775 \$8.



✓ 3 B3805 \$8. ✓



4 B3822 \$7.



5 B3610 \$9.



6 B4424 \$6.



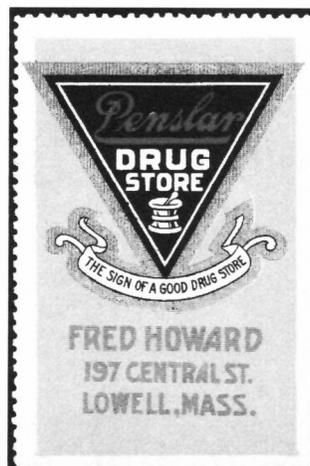
7 B2335 \$6.



✓ 8 B3920 \$8. ✓



9 B3924 \$15.



10 B3917 \$6.



11 B4372 \$6.



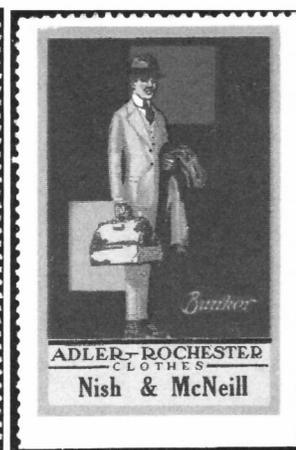
12 B4864 \$8.



13 B2839 \$7.



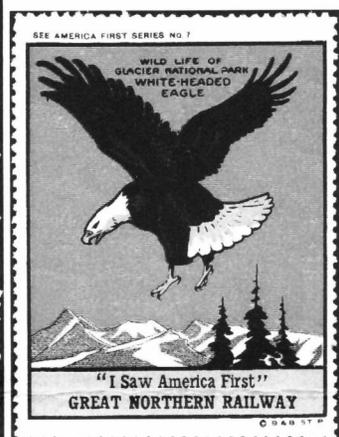
14 B5581 \$7.



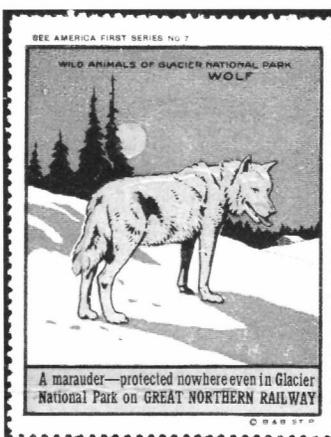
15 B34 \$6.



16 B2900 \$7.



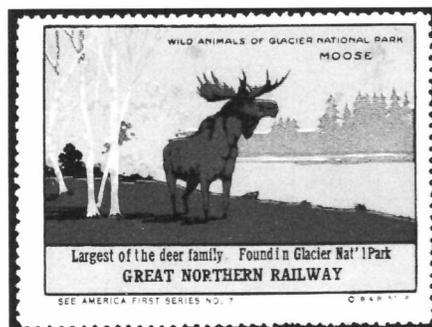
17 B2169 \$7.



18 B2171 \$7.



19 B35 \$6.



20 B2172 \$7.



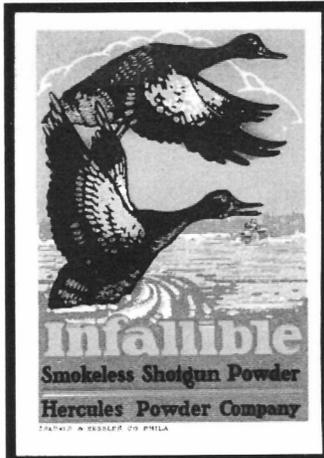
21 B4514 \$6.



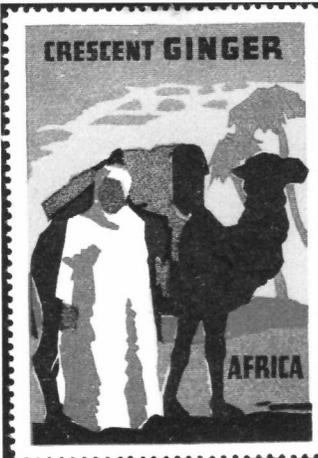
22 B4527 \$6.



23 B2351 \$13.



24 B2352 \$10.



25 Ginger \$7.



26 Caraway \$7.



27 B2333 \$6.



28 B1394 \$6.



29 B1410 \$6.



30 B1411 \$6.



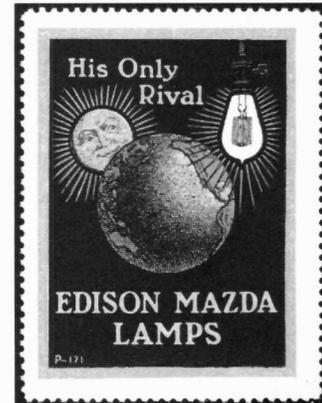
31 B2479 \$6.



32 B496 \$6.



33 Gas Coke, not in Bradbury \$7.



34 B1442 \$7.



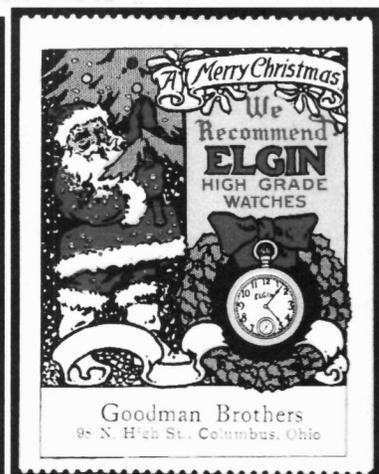
35 B836 \$6.



36 B1354 \$9.



37 B1462 \$8.



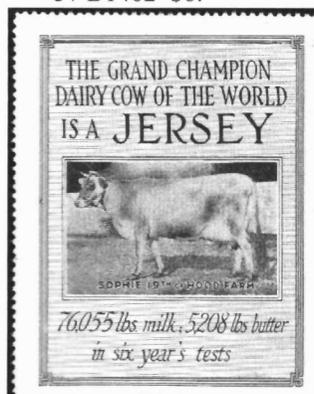
38 B1468 \$12.



38 B1800 \$9.



39 B1797 \$9.



40 B134 \$8.



41 B4590 \$9.



42 B1853 \$10.



43 B1854 \$10.



44 B2355 \$9.



45 B1209 \$6.



46 B2064 \$7.



47 B2065 \$7.



48 B2066 \$7.



49 B5728 \$7.



50 B3577 \$10.



51 B3589 \$7.



✓ 52 B3598 \$8.



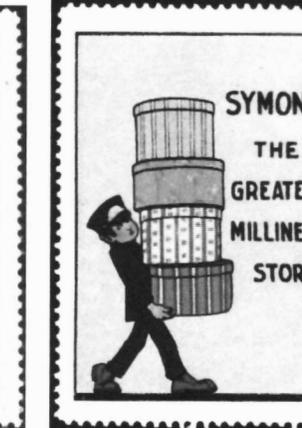
53 B4986 \$7.



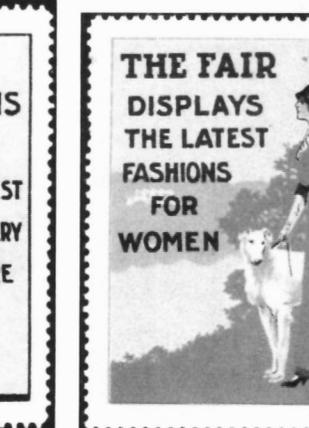
54 B4964 \$6.



55 B4967 \$8.



56 B4968 \$8.



57 B4977 \$8.



58 B5003 \$8.



59 B5618 \$7.



60 B5642 \$12.



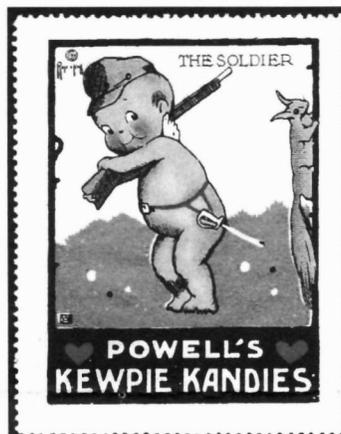
61 B5719 \$7.



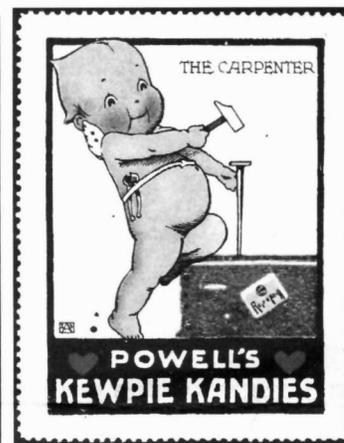
62 B558 \$12.



63 B602 \$8.



64 B4128 \$8.



65 B4125 \$8.



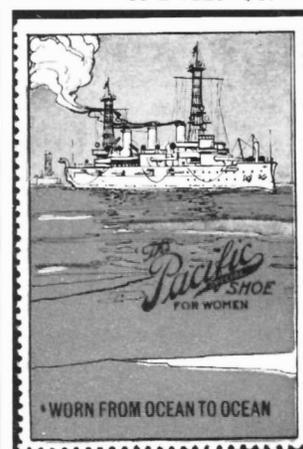
66 B643 \$10.



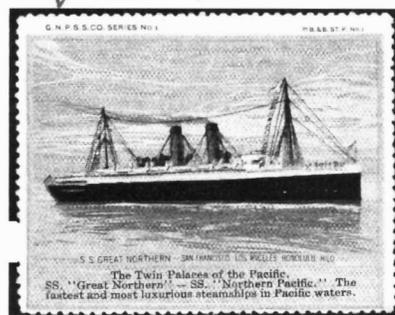
67 B684 \$10.



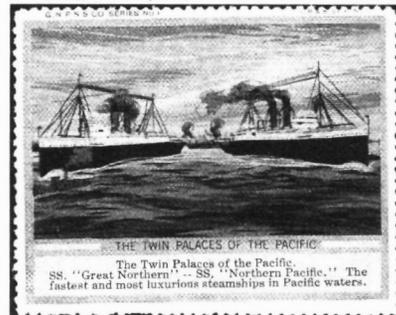
68 B687 \$10.



69 B3833 \$7.



70 nib. Great Northern Pacific Steamship Series 1, No. 1. \$9.



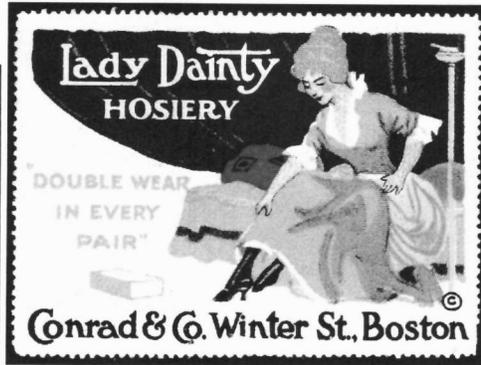
71 nib. same. Series 1 No. 12. \$9.



72 nib. same. Series 1 No. 10. \$7.



73 B1127 \$5.



74 B1156 \$9.



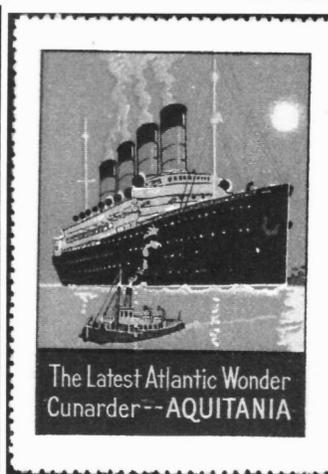
75 Sunkist, not in Bradbury. \$9.



76 B1155 \$9.



77 B1156 \$9.



78 B1241 \$9.



79 not in Bradbury \$6.



80 B382 \$7.



81 B586 \$7.



82 B3276 \$7.



83 B5451 \$15



84 B4370 \$7.



85 B5371 \$7.



86 Osram. nib. \$6.



87 Michigan Ave. Chicago. nib. \$5.



88 B4540 \$15.



89 Weiland, Chicago. not in Bradbury. green & red. \$25.



90 B977 \$10.



91 B3102 \$10.



92 Glover's. not in Bradbury. \$12.



93 B2020 \$12.



94 B1121 \$10.



95 Missouri State Fair \$9.



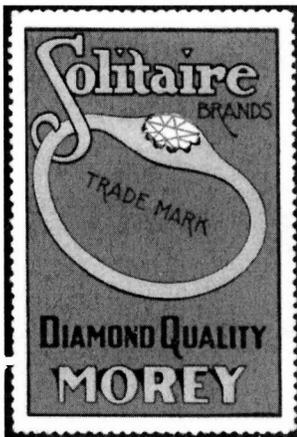
96 Kansas Poultry 1915 \$7.



97 B4994 \$8.



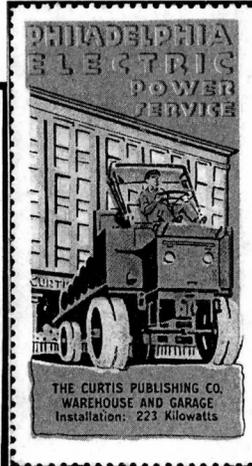
98 PPIE. Hercules. rare. \$35.



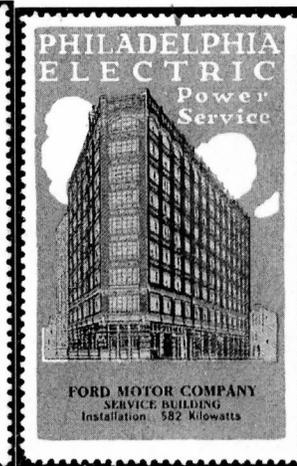
99 B3293 \$9.



100 Benjamin Plug ca. 1920s \$7.



101 Phila. Electric. Curtis Publish. not in Bradbury \$15.



102 Phil. Electric. Ford Motor. nib. \$15.



103 B2786 \$6.



104 B533 \$15.



105 B4548 \$15.



106 B4550 \$15.



107 B4549 \$15.

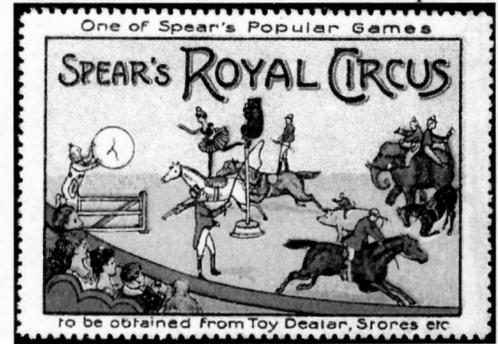
(promoting the city of San Diego, this uncommon set does not have the word "Exposition")



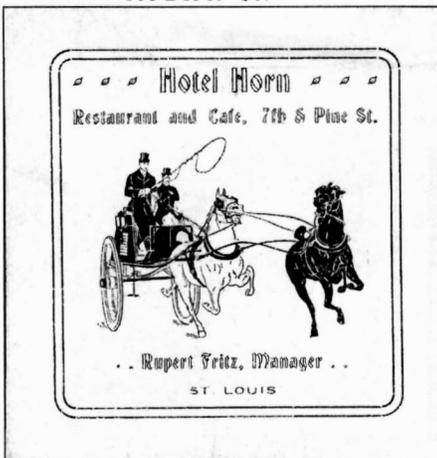
108 B1569 \$6.



109 B1570 \$6.



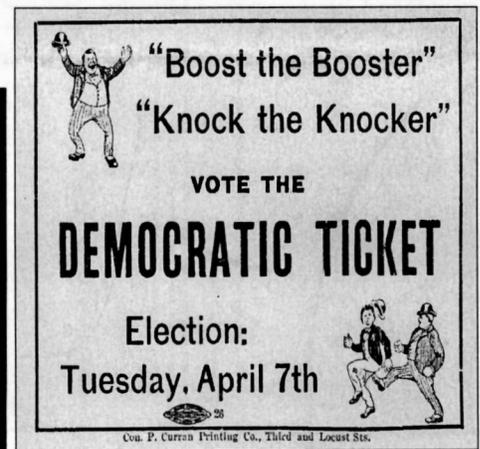
110 B4850 \$20.



✓ 111 Hotel Horn. ca 1902. 88 x 84. black on yellow. \$25. ✓



✓ 112 Industry Cigars. ca 1902. 82 x 107. black & white. \$25. ✓



✓ 113 Democratic. (1902). 82 x 105. black on white. \$20. ✓



114 S509. 65 mm circle \$12.



✓ 115 Hyatt. ca. 1902. 26 mm. circle red. \$6. ✓



116 S303 53mm. \$18. ✓



117 S307 26mm. \$10.