

Press Release

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USPCS Announces New Book on 1851 Stamps

***The 1851 Issue: A Sesquicentennial Retrospective* to be published in 2006**
Pre-publication orders will determine size of limited edition

September 20, 2005 The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society today announced the upcoming release of a new publication: *The 1851 Issue: A Sesquicentennial Retrospective*. The approximately 500 page book will contain more than twenty articles and essays on different aspects of the production, issuance, and usages of the 1, 3, and 12 cent stamps issued by the United States Government in July, 1851. The book will be printed in limited quantities with an expected release of March 2006.

Pre-publication orders are being accepted by the Society until February 14, 2006 at a price of \$80.00. After February 14, 2006, the retail price of the book will be \$125.00. The number of orders received by February 14th will determine the size of the print run. As such, anyone interested in obtaining a copy of *The 1851 Issue: A Sesquicentennial Retrospective* must place an order by the deadline to insure that they will receive a copy of the book.

"*The 1851 Issue* book represents the work of many of the most knowledgeable students of this issue," said Charlie Peterson, co-editor of the book with Hubert Skinner. "This book is the first major publication on the 1851 issue in over 40 years. We are looking to build upon the work of the previous generation of authors on this issue, including Carroll Chase, Mortimer Neinken, and Stanley Ashbrook, and provide a further body of knowledge for future generations. This book was the perfect opportunity to gather the "state-of-the-art" of our knowledge about these stamps, their background, and their use into a single publication," Peterson continued.

The postal reforms of the mid 1840s and early 1850s dramatically changed the way that people were able to communicate. Prior to 1845, mailing or receiving a letter was, in many cases, prohibitively expensive. Fees were charged based upon the distance traveled and the number of pages included. It was easy for the charges to exceed the average daily wage of the day. In 1845, postage rates were simplified and lowered to the basic rate to 5¢ for a 1 ounce letter traveling up to 300 miles. The Postal Act of 1851 continued this reform, reducing the basic rate to only 3¢ for a 1 ounce letter traveling up to 3000 miles, and only 1¢ for local mail, printed circulars, and newspapers. The book provides a scholarly look at the stamps issued in conjunction with the effective date of these 1851 reforms.

The new publication will include approximately two dozen chapters covering various aspects of the issue including:

- An introduction to the 1851 issue by Hubert Skinner
- Four studies of the 1¢ issue of 1851 by Hubert Skinner, Richard Celler and Elliot Omiya
- Five essays on the 3¢ issue of 1851 by William McDaniel, Wilson Hulme, Hubert Skinner, Richard Celler and Elliot Omiya
- An essay on the unissued 6¢ stamp by Robert Hegland
- Four articles on the 12¢ issue of 1851 by James Allen and Robert Curran

Additionally, there will be chapters on:

- Carrier stamps of the 1851 issue by Scott Trepel
- Transitions from the 1847 to 1851 issues by Frank Mandel
- Postal rates of the 1851 period by Hubert Skinner and Martin Richardson
- Usages in Indian Territory by Joe Crosby
- Fancy cancels by Hubert Skinner
- Illustrated covers by Michael Heller
- Transatlantic mails by Dwayne Littauer
- Confederate usages at Mobile by Van Koppersmith

"I am proud to say that all of the authors are members of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society," said Wilson Hulme, President of the Society and one of the contributors to the effort. "Our members have a long tradition of researching, distilling, debating, and sharing information on the U.S. classic issues. There is groundbreaking research in this book, much of which has not been published anywhere before. While our quarterly publication, *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, covers this period and others, a book such as this can both raise the bar on the information available and put it in one place where it can be easily accessed by future students," Hulme continued.

Pre-publication orders can be placed on the Society website at www.uspcs.org or by sending a check or money order for \$80.00 plus \$5.00 shipping payable to "U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc." to:

Rob Lund
USPCS - 1851 Book
2913 Fulton Street
Everett, WA 98201-3733

Additionally, go to our [Book Store](#) and use Paypal for instant pre-publication ordering. Dealers should contact [Dwayne Littauer](#), Treasurer of the Society, for ordering information as soon as possible, as this book will have a new dealer order process.

Further information on all of the USPCS, as well as copies of previously published books and periodicals are also available from the Society's bookstore, accessible from the Society's website, or directly at www.uspcs.org/store.html.

About the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society is the premier organization for the study of the postal issues and postal history from the Stampless Era up to the Bureau Issues. The society is the successor of "The Three Cent 1851-57 Unit" (Unit Number 11) of the American Philatelic Society. Our members include both collectors and students. Many have written articles that have been published in our award winning quarterly magazine, *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issue*, and in other publications. Information about the USPCS, membership, its publications, and articles of interest to collectors and students of the classic period of U.S. philately, can found at the society's website at www.uspcs.org.

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