

WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB'S SOUVENIR SHEETS

This is part of the legacy of a Passed Philatelist named Robert Kinney. The Family brought it to me for evaluation and it is too wonderful to keep to myself. With the permission of the Family, I present it to you along with information that is found on the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club (WSC) website as well as some commentary. The items in this display only go up until 1976 but the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club still produces these Philatelic "stamps" pretty much every year. The following stamps on these Souvenir Sheets are considered "Cinderella Stamps. (see note at end)



History of Their Satirical Souvenir Sheets

This all started when the Government, in 1960, issued such an abundance of commemoratives that it caused humorous comments from the tongues of collectors and the pens of Philatelic Publications. We thought we should join the fun and issue a sheet of stamps of the uncommemorated events of 1960, expecting to sell them at our exhibit to help defray expenses. Copies were sent to Philatelic Publications and they were so well received that all publications pictured them and commented on them. People seemed to enjoy them so much, that we decided to annually issue for our exhibit a sheet of stamps depicting satirically Philatelic stamps and events of the previous year. The demand has become so great for a number of the earlier sheets that they are entirely sold out and others are beginning to get short in supply. (We will not reprint any sheets which are sold out.) Below is a description of the sheets to date.

1961 - We added stamps to series' already issued. The Credo Stamp issued for P. T. Barnum bears his famous quotation. Castro (A Chumpion of Liberty) and Al Capone (A fameless American) add to these sets and we'll have to leave the "Wildlife Conservation" to your imagination.



That first Souvenir Sheet (**SS**) offered by the **WSC** in 1961, poked fun at the high proliferation of new stamps to existing series by the Post Office, (apparently in order to tempt collectors into buying more and using less as postage.) What a concept! And for the Wilkesburg Stamp Club, What an opportunity!

For their 1962 **SS** issue, the **WSC** profiled the international antics of a foreign stamp issuing authorities by introducing us to Upper Slobbovia, a stamp issuing country under the authority of ADA Soviet Verboten, Precedent General.

1962 - This was the first year for 'Europa' stamps and almost every country issued them, whether in the Europa Organization or not. So we thought our "Upper Slobbovia" should honor 'Europa'. Our stamp shows the nineteen doves flying in a dove pattern as shown of Europa stamps of that year, the U-ROPE-A inscription and an American cowboy who ropes the doves. Marginal inscriptions on all sheets are always humorous.

In 1963 **WSC** again turned to Upper Slobbovia for their stamp issues. (And in 1963 there were a LOT of ISSUES going on in the world!)

Combining current events and a VERY POPULAR stamp from 1930 that was coveted by certain Philatelists and found in many collections of the time, the club managed to combine an intriguing concoction of politics, sex, and an important world wide concern, WSC brought attention to the World Health Organization and also created what I believe to be Upper Slobbovia's first Air Mail Stamp!





The Naked Maja (Spanish: *La maja desnuda*) is a philatelic name for three postage stamps of Spain of 1930 depicting the *La maja desnuda* painting (1800) by Francisco de Goya (1746–1828).^[1] They are part of a set marking the anniversary of the death of this Spanish artist, and are considered the world's first postage stamp with nudes. Source: Wikipedia

With the issuance of their 2nd year of Souvenir sheets, the **WSC** added an external charitable aspect to their offering...a 3c surcharge going help the fight against Malaria which was a major threat worldwide. I believe that this might be considered the first U.S. Semi-Postal Stamp issue sold in the United States...

1963 - The World Health Organization had a campaign against malaria that year and all countries issued stamps to honor it; most picturing the Anopheles mosquito. This year also saw the 8c capitol dome stamp and the news media blasted away at Kruschew's removing his shoe to rap for order. We just had to issue a sheet for "Hilaria" with the Spanish "Goya Nude", a prime target for the mosquito. This we issued as a pair of semi- postal stamps with the 3c surcharge for the world Health Organization and we proudly hold a letter from them thanking us for this 3c surcharge and a few dollars we added to make two hundred dollars. This year also saw Postmaster-General Day authorize the Dag Hammarskjold stamp reprinting with one color inverted, so we issued some of the sheets with one stamp inverted and an appropriate explanation of why.

1963 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 WILKINSBURG, PA.
 APRIL 20-21, 1963
 AUTHORIZATION FOR PERVERTED STAMP IS DAZE.

UNDER AUTHORITY OF
 MISS QUITO ANN OPEHELES, PEST-MASTER GENERAL

PRINTED BY THE
 BUREAU OF RANTING AND DEPRAVING

THE U.S. SEMI-POSTAL STAMPS
 COMMEMORATING THE
 "WORLD UNITED FOR HILARIA"

WHO GETS THE THREE CENTS SURCHARGED
 ON EACH SHEET?

TO AID THE UNITED FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA THE
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB WILL GIVE THREE CENTS
 FROM THE SALE OF EACH SHEET TO THE **WORLD**
HEA**L**TH **O**R**G**ANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
W.H.O. — THAT'S WHO

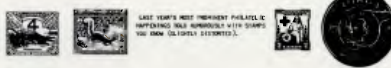
1964 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 WILKINSBURG, PA.
 APRIL 18-19, 1964



COMMEMORATING UPPER SLOBOVIA'S FIRST CORRODING COPPER COINS



UPPER SLOBOVIA'S COMPOSITE STAMP FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS



THE RARE COLOR ERROR AND INVERTED SCENTER

1964 - All countries this year issued "Freedom From Hunger" and "International Red Cross" stamps. Our sheet shows a composite stamp featuring the North Borneo Crocodile stamp and the nurse from our 1931 Red Cross Stamp as she frees Little Sambo from the crocodile's hunger. This year also saw the Tonga Gold Coin stamps, so Upper Slobbovia, not to be outdone, issued two stamps for their corroding copper coins.

Stamps reflect the topics and the bias of their times and sometimes the people or images on them reflect what was considered "socially acceptable" or "socially relevant" at the time. This collection is satire and it is history and some material is offensive... find a way to make the world a better, more accepting place free of the tropes and stereotypes of the past.

1965 - From the abstract to the concrete is quite a jump, but the U.S. Abstract art stamp of this year needed such a jump and we issued a Concrete Art stamp, taking a familiar Greek statue stamp, about as abstract as concrete can be made. The "Homewreckers" stamp is also an improvement over the original.

1965 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 WILKINSBURG, PA.
 APRIL 24-25, 1965



ISSUED TO HONOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY ECCENTRIC TO APPRECIATE ABSTRACT ART.



ISSUED TO HONOR THE NEGLECTED HOMEWRECKERS. WHO NOW OUTNUMBER HOMEMAKERS SIX TO ONE.

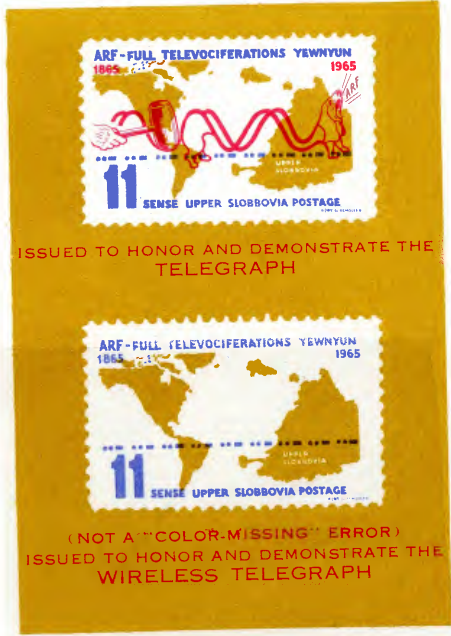


BY AUTHORITY OF
 A. WAKIROOLR, GRAND SLOB. UPPER SLOBOVIA

IN COMPLIMENT TO
 NOTHING CONCRETE OR ABSTRACT
 (ONLY THE COLORS ARE COMPLEMENTARY)

1966 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 APRIL 16-17, 1966

IN COMPLIMENT TO THE
 INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION
 BY ORDER OF THE UNION STEWARDS



ISSUED TO HONOR AND DEMONSTRATE THE
 TELEGRAPH

(NOT A "COLOR-MISSING" ERROR)
 ISSUED TO HONOR AND DEMONSTRATE THE
 WIRELESS TELEGRAPH

CELEBRATING THE FOUR METHODS OF SPREADING GOSSIP INTERNATIONALLY
 TELEPHONE — TELEGRAPH — TELEVISION — TELEWOMAN

HONORING OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH
 (THE HONOR WHICH HAS OTHERS HONOR BACK)

As usual, the WSC disseminated a lot of digs in the Upper Slobbovian designs of the Telecommunications stamp, including labor unions and philatelists looking for missing color errors....

1966 - All countries issued an International Telecommunications Union stamp this year, but none are as educational as the Upper Slobbovian issue which depicts how the telegraph and wireless telegraph work.

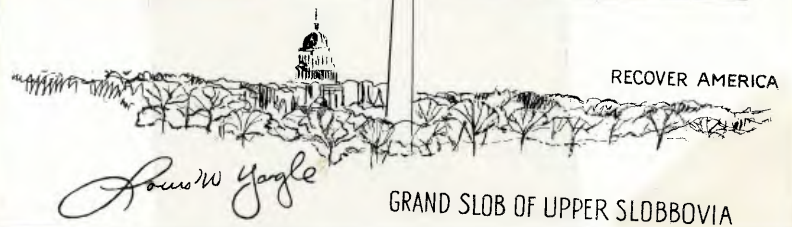
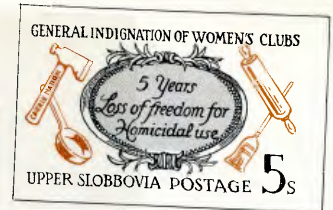
As well as poking fun at the President and Women's Clubs...

1967 - This was the year when a stamp was issued for "Humane Treatment of Animals" and also the year when President Johnson got much newspaper publicity for picking up his pet beagle by the ears during a news conference, so we combined the two. A stamp for the general indignation of Women's Clubs, from tolling pins to Carrie Nation's Hatchet was issued by Upper Slobbovia. The entire Sheet is printed on a format of the "Sipex" sheet which appeared that year.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, WASHINGTON D.C. 1966



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB EXHIBITION SOUVENIR WILKINSBURG APRIL 15-16, 1967



1968 - WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB EXHIBITION SOUVENIR - 1968

WILKINSBURG, PA. 15221 - APRIL 20-21 1968



Approved By Losers of Design Competition

1968 - Many unnecessary issues appeared this year, including the "Plan for Better Cities" issue. With arson being so prevalent, we suggested stone and steel as being fireproof. The stamp issued for the Canadian World's Fair by U.S. is the worst display of art found on U.S. stamps for many years and the Upper Slobbovian stamp pictures the losers in the design competition picketing with signs "World's Unfair". Lion's International "Search for Peace" stamp reads, "Unternational Lyin' ". The sheet also shows how Washington lost his whiskers on the redesigned 8c blue definitive and the "Space Twins" stamps show how, when the stamps are parted, the lifeline breaks and the astronaut falls out of the stamp.

WSC called out the Post Office and still identified major US and World events!

1969 - "Human Rights Year" is remembered by Upper Slobbovia and we ask to "Leave Us a Loan". After our Law and Order issue, we discover what the rush was, on the Cherokee Strip.



INFLATION IS FILLING A PENNY BALLOON WITH HALF A CENTS WORTH OF GAS AND SELLING IT FOR A QUARTER. AGGRAVATE IT WITH A PIN AND INFLATION IS OUT OF CONTROL.

1972 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
WILKINSBURG, PA.
APRIL 22-23, 1972

STAMPS REACT TO INFLATION



INFLATION IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRICE YOU TELL A PROSPECTIVE BUYER YOUR COLLECTION IS WORTH AND THE TOTAL THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF THE AMOUNTS YOU HAVE BEEN TELLING YOUR WIFE YOU WERE PAYING FOR THE STAMPS.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR INFLATION YOUR AUTOMOBILE WOULD BE JUST PLAIN TIRED.

1972 - Inflation caused another postal hike in May of this year and Upper Slobbovia commemorated it by showing how the six cent flag stamp was made smaller by the Huck Press and the denominational increase to eight cents. Another stamp projected for 1974 with still smaller size and denomination of ten cents. An envelope stamp with an additional surcharge of 1c has space added for future additional surcharges. A new stamp is shown to be added to the ecology series and "Save Our Dollar" tells the story. A deflating blow-viper changes the denomination from 6c to 8c.

1973 - This year we made a composite stamp from the "Historical Preservation", "National Parks Centennial" and "Tom Sawyer" stamps with inscriptions as we believe they should read. "Lover's Lane" showing a car with occupants rationally parked and its counterpart of a hundred years ago in a horse-drawn buggy. Sorry

we couldn't add the 'Family Planning' suggestion. Humorous inscriptions around the stamp and the derivation of the word "Philatelist" cannot be ignored. **NOTE: Read that inscription!!!**

1973 Exhibition Souvenir
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
Wilkinsburg, Pa.
April 28-29, 1973

USE ZIP CODE TO END IT ALL.

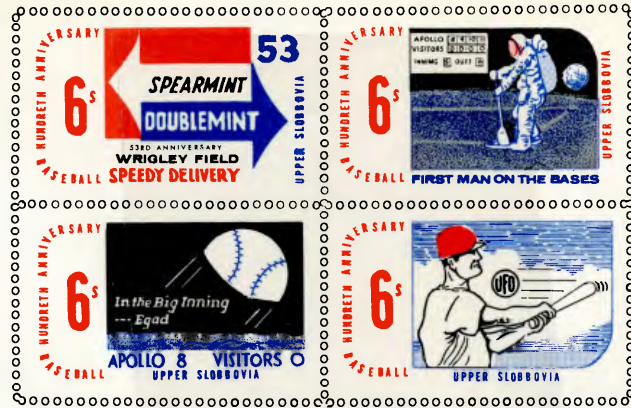
"...TIS BETTER TO LOVE YOUR HOBBY THAN LOVE FOR A HOBBY."
— TOMMY MANVILLE

UPPER SLOBOVIA'S COMPOSITE STAMP FOR 1972

THROUGH RESEARCH WE LEARN THE WORD "PHILATELIST" IS DERIVED IN SYLLABLES FROM THREE COMMON ENGLISH WORDS: "PHIL", FROM FILBERT (A NUT); "LATE", MEANING RECENTLY DECEASED AND "LIST", MEANING UNBALANCED TO ONE SIDE. HENCE, A PHILATELIST IS A DEAD UNBALANCED NUT.

1970 - The "Beautification of America" and "Botanical Congress" issues started something new in the way of "Quads", four different stamps with the same motif issued se-tenant. Only the 1964 Christmas stamps shared this honor. Upper Slobbovia through the hundredth anniversary of baseball should also have been commemorated with quads and

ENCOURAGE YOUNG COLLECTORS
YOU'LL NEED THEM TO BUY YOUR COLLECTION
WHEN YOU'RE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



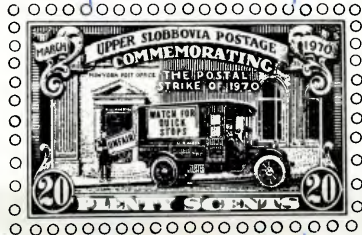
THE BASEBALL QUADS OF '69

REPORT OF A STOLEN BASE WAS A FOUL TIP

and distorted the 1969 Baseball, Apollo 8, Apollo 11c airmail and the new special delivery stamps to the baseball motif. When we placed "Peppermint" and "Spearmint" on the arrows of the special delivery stamp, we didn't realize we were infringing on the Wrigley trademark until it was called to our attention by the Wrigley Company. They were kind enough to permit us to sell them until the end of the year, but we had to destroy all remainders. We therefore cannot supply this sheet. Several dealers, however, knew there would be a demand for them in future years and bought fair quantities.

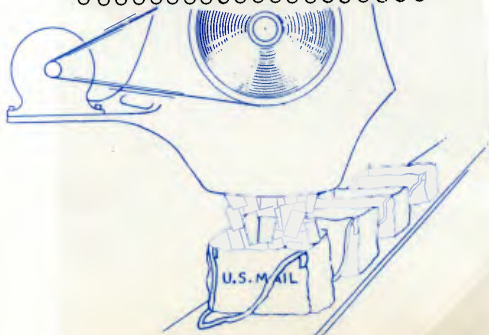
1971 - Who, but Upper Slobbovia, would think of issuing a stamp commemorating the postal strike of 1970? The sheet bears only one stamp, the 20c Black Special Delivery stamp transformed to commemorate this never-to-be-forgotten event. A background drawing depicts mail going through the postal corporation machinery and several inscriptions add to the humor.

1971 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE
WILKINSBURG, PA. 15221
EXHIBIT APRIL 17-18, 1971 AT WILKINSBURG MASONIC TEMPLE



IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.
IN INTERNATIONAL UNION THERE IS CHAOS.

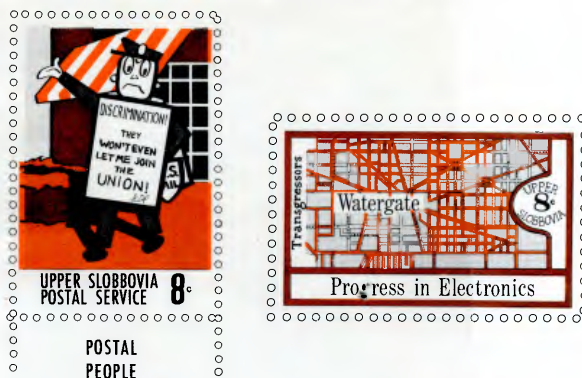
USE ZIP CODE - UNZIPPED MAIL IS IMMORAL



1974 - Our stamp shows the "Eleventh" Postal People stamp with Mr. Zip, who is irked by not being included as a Postal Worker. The 8c "Progress in Electronics" stamp has the printed circuit board changed to a map of "Watergate" and "Transistors" changed to "Transgressors".

WATERGATE DETECTORS MADE HEADLINES, BUT WATERMARK DETECTORS WILL BE KNOWN LONG AFTER WATERGATE IS FORGOTTEN.

1974 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 P. O. Box 8711, Wilkesburg, Pa. 15221
 APRIL 20-21, 1974



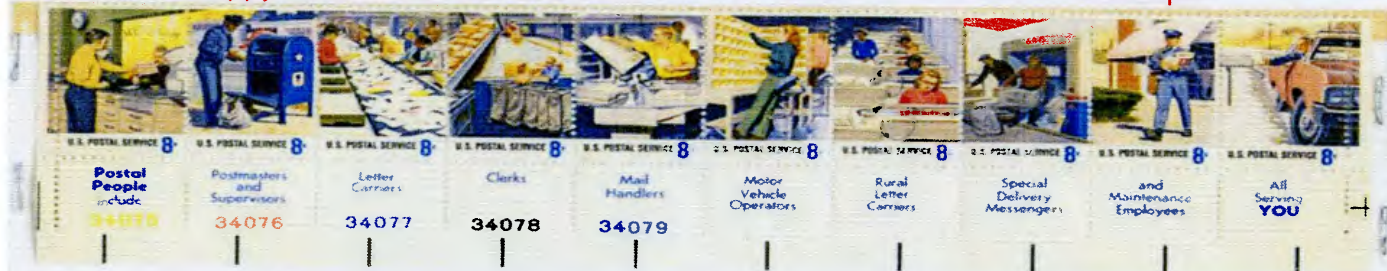
PERFORATIONS CAN'T BE TOO IMPORTANT CONSIDERING THEY'RE NOTHING WITH PAPER AROUND THEM.

22672

22673

22674 22675

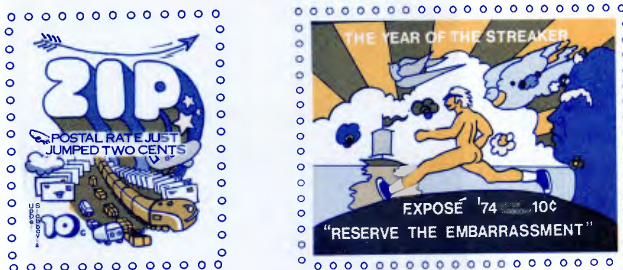
Zip codes began to be used in 1963 and Mr. Zip (aka "Zippy" at the time) came soon after. Zippy might have been unhappy because he wasn't included on the Postal Workers set of 10 stamps!



1975 - The "Zip Code" stamp pictures the speed with which the postal rate zipped from 8c to 10c. The "Expo '74" stamp shows the runner converted to a nude figure in that "Year of the Streaker".

1975 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
 WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
 P. O. Box 8711, WILKESBURG, PA. 15221
 APRIL 19-20, 1975

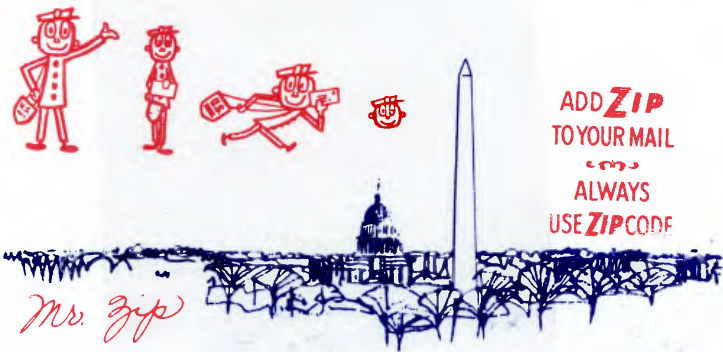
IF YOU ARE AN OLDER SEASONED COLLECTOR WE APPRECIATE THE BENEFIT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND IN RETURN OFFER VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF OUR MANY VETERAN COLLECTORS.



IF YOU ARE A BEGINNER WE CAN TEACH AND ADVISE YOU.

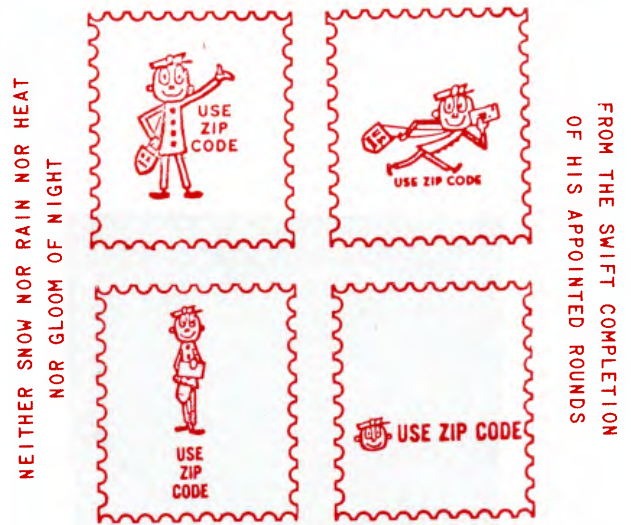
PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE LOCAL STAMP CLUB MEETS THE SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAY AFTERNOON OF EACH MONTH AT 1:30 IN THE WILKINSBURG BOROUGH BUILDING.

1964 THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MR. ZIP 1967



This set of 3 souvenir Mr. Zip sheets are not from the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club but were a part of Mr. Kinney's Collection and are added to this exhibit to give a fuller picture of what Philatelists do!

STAYS THIS COURIER

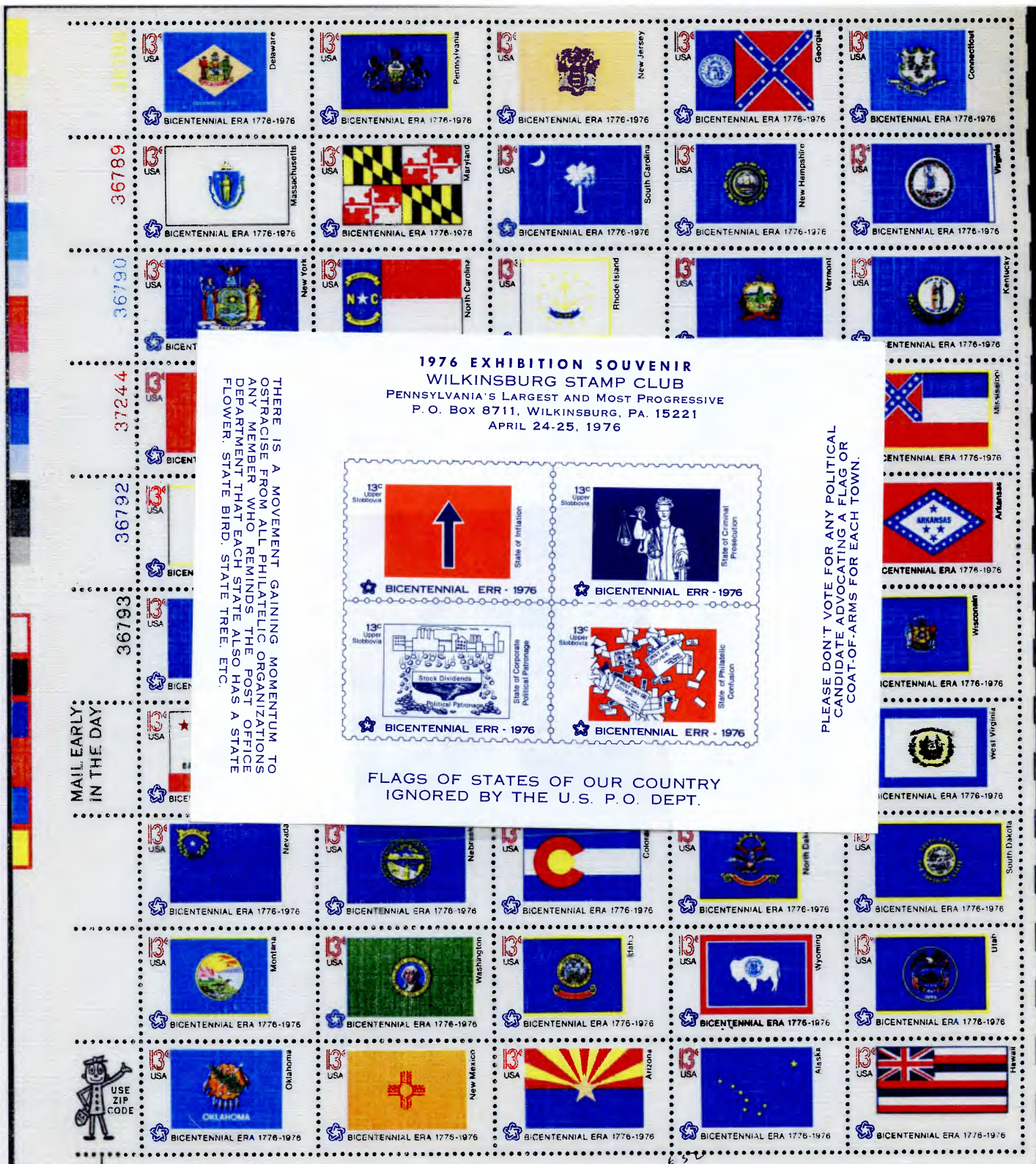


PHILATELIC FACES OF MR. ZIP

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

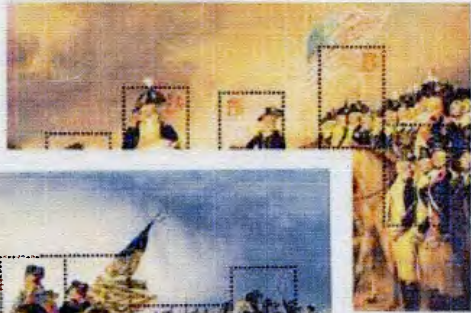


I'M MR. ZIP. THANKS FOR REMEMBERING ME!



According to the WSC, this set of State Flags was missing a few and they set out to correct the error...

1976> - We jumped the gun a little here and used the 1976 "State Flag Issue" to portray four of the 'States of our Country' not depicted in the regular flag issue.



Washington Reviewing the Dragoon's Loss at Valley Forge
Painted by Howard Chandler Christy

1977 - We felt the Bicentennial Souvenir sheets with the famous paintings of Washington didn't entirely tell the story of our Country, so we made a fifth sheet with "Custer's Last Stand" and much humor.

Below is the WSC concept of what the Last Stand, er, Last Sheet of stamps in this offering should have looked like. Notice that this might be a mixed use postage sheet because the 18c denomination stamp in the upper left corner appears to be an airmail stamp.

1977 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE
P. O. BOX 8711, WILKINSBURG, PA. 15221
APRIL 23-24, 1977

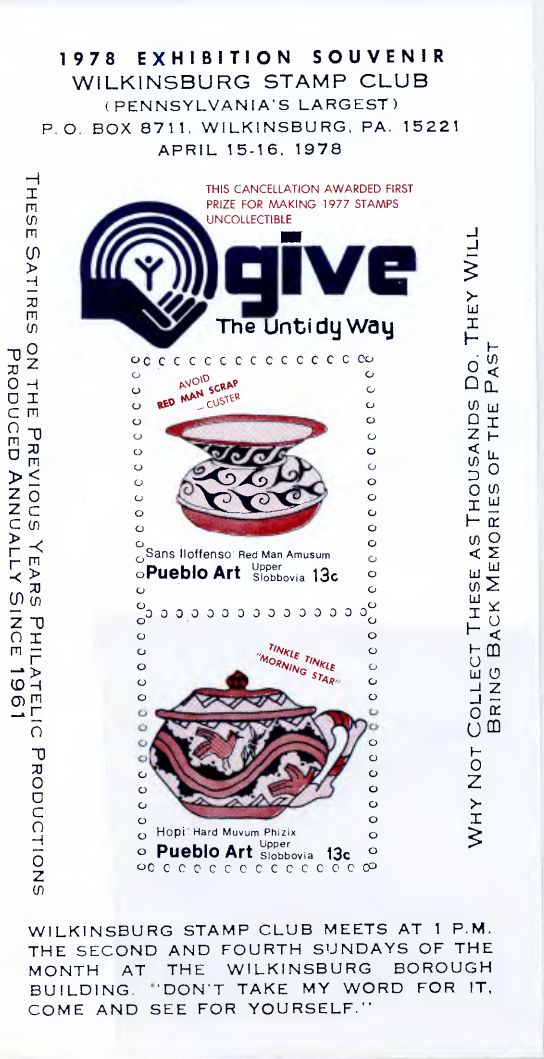


13c — VERIFYING THAT CUSTER'S LAST FIGHT WAS HIS LAST STAND.
24c — PERPETRATORS OF INDIAN SUMMER, "MAYAN" AUTUMN, "APACHE"
31c — FACSIMILE OF THE OFFICER WHO WOULD SEND SUCH A SMALL DETACHMENT OF
18c — THE ULTIMATE WINNERS, WAITING FOR THE FIGHTING TO SUBSIDE.

CUSTER'S LAST FIGHT — SMITHSONIAN

As the final offering in this collection of Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Souvenir Sheets, it seems appropriate that the

Philatelist ended his collection with a stamp that deals with the end (rear that is). Wilkinsburg Stamp Club still produces these items, but this collector has laid down his tongs. He loved his stamps and now they are bringing happy memories to the family who still miss him and can now understand some of the joy that he had in these remnants of his collection.



1978 - With Pueblo Art on so many types of pottery, we thought we should add a cuspidor and a potty (slop jar) with numerous quips to match.

“Cinderella stamps are any item that looks like a postage stamp but is not an official stamp. This often takes the form of a privately produced stamp. This could be for anything from a charity to a church”

On the **Stanley Gibbons website**, the following was posted:

What is meant by the term a ‘Cinderella’? The term was coined by early philatelists for stamp-like labels that were, like the fairy tale character downtrodden and inferior when considered to postage stamps.

In reality nothing could be further from the truth, many are beautifully designed and superbly printed, some by the very best security printers of the time.

Unlike regular postage stamps they were privately produced and had no franking power, produced as early as the latter half of the 19th Century they were most frequently produced in the inter-war period when stamp collecting was at its most popular.

They were produced for a variety of reasons:

1. As souvenirs of an event, those most commonly seen are for Philatelic Shows or Congresses which took place on an almost annual basis.
2. For promotional advertising, whether that be for a private companies products, a local authority to promote tourism in their area or even on a much smaller scale by a town or village to promote a local event.
3. To raise funds for a charitable cause, such as for a hospital, a restoration project or even to help the war effort and buy a Spitfire!

So rather than being downtrodden and inferior they are a fascinating and very interesting snap-shot of the philatelic and social history of the time, and can make a very interesting addition to any collection