BASEBALL CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, May 15, 1939,

Postmasters and employees of the Postal Service are hereby notified of the issuance of a special postage stamp in the 3-cent denomination in commemoration of the Centennial of Baseball. The stamp will be first placed on sale at the Cooperstown, N. Y., post office on June 12, 1939. It will be available at other post offices as soon after that date as stocks can be printed and distributed.

The new stamp is $8\frac{1}{100}$ by $14\frac{4}{100}$ inches in dimensions, arranged horizontally. It is printed in purple by the rotary process and issued in sheets of 50.

The central subject depicts a game of baseball by a group of youthful players. In the background are a house, barn, schoolhouse, and church. Beneath the central subject in a narrow white panel is the wording “Centennial of Baseball” in dark gothic. In a wider panel with dark ground at the lower edge of the stamp is the inscription “United States Postage” in white gothic. In an upright panel with dark ground at the left are crossed bats, over which are superimposed at the center a catcher’s mitt and ball, surrounded by laurel sprays. Between the ends of the bats are the dates, “1839” at the top and “1939” below, in white. At the base of the panel, in white lettering, is a large numeral “3” with the word “Cents” below.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancelations of the new stamp on June 12 may send a limited number of addressed covers, not in excess of 10, to the postmaster at Cooperstown, N. Y., with a cash or postal money order remittance to cover only the cost of the stamps required for affixing. Postage stamps will positively not be accepted in payment. Each cover should bear a pencil endorsement in the upper right corner to show the number of stamps to be attached thereto. Envelopes should not be smaller than 3 by 6 inches.

Requests for uncanceled stamps must not be included with orders for first-day covers to the postmaster at the above office.

For the benefit of collectors desiring stamps of selected quality for philatelic use, the new stamp will be placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency on June 13, 1939. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the Agency must exclude other varieties of stamps.

Postmasters at direct- and central-accounting post offices may submit requisition for a limited supply only of the new stamp on Form 3201-A, endorsed “Baseball.” These initial requisitions shall exclude other varieties of stamps. Postmasters at district-accounting post offices may obtain small quantities of the new postage stamp by requisition on the central-accounting postmaster.

Postmasters receiving advance shipments of the new stamp are hereby cautioned not to allow any of the stamps to be sold before June 13.

RAMSEY S. BLACK,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.