THREE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINTING IN COLONIAL AMERICA

COMMENORATIVE STAMP

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, August 28, 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 three-hundredth anniversary of the introduction of printing in Colonial America. The stamp will be first placed on sale at the New York, N. Y., post office on September 25, 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\% by 14\% inches in dimensions, arranged vertically. It is printed in purple by the rotary process and issued in sheets of 50.

The central design is a reproduction of the first printing press used in Colonial America, underneath which is the inscription “Stephen Dave Press” in dark lettering on white ground. Above, and to the right of the press, in two lines are the dates “1639” and “1939.” In two horizontal lines at the top of the stamp is the wording: “300th anniversary of printing in Colonial America,” in dark lettering. “United States Postage Three Cents” is shown in three lines in dark letters at the bottom of the stamp. In each lower corner is the numeral “3” in like lettering. All inscriptions and titles are printed in Colonial style as used in that period.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancelations of the new stamp on September 25 may send a limited number of addressed covers, not in excess of 10, to the postmaster at New York, 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. At first-day sales in the past, many covers have been undelivered because the sender has failed to properly address the same. Each cover must be addressed and should bear a pencil endorsement in the upper right corner to show the number of stamps to be attached thereto. It is also necessary to allow sufficient space to affix the stamps and the postmark. Envelopes should not be smaller than 3 by 6 inches. The use of large and irregularly shaped envelopes should be avoided. All cover envelopes should either be sealed or sent with the flaps turned in. Better cancelations will be provided if the envelopes contain medium-weight enclosures.

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 September 26, 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 “Printing.” 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 of 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 September 26.

RAMSEY S. BLACK,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.