

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

To My Coworkers in the Postal Service:

With another Christmas Season now at hand, I want to take this opportunity of conveying to every employee in the Postal Service my most sincere wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

During the past year you have been burdened with one of the greatest mail-handling problems in postal history, and the splendid spirit of cooperation and assistance which you manifested at all times during this trying period of record postal volume attests to your unswerving devotion to the Postal Service, to the Government of the United States, and to the Nation at large.

Yours is an accomplishment in which you can take great pride and right now at the peak of the holiday mailing season you are playing a most important role in the spreading of Christmas cheer and good will throughout the Nation. We are at this moment partners in the task of handling the heaviest mail load which has ever moved through the United States Postal System, and once again you are meeting the test by handling the Christmas mails with celerity and certainty.

For the great assistance you have rendered to me during 1947 I shall be ever grateful. To each and every one of you I offer my heartfelt thanks for the help you have always given me in the past and to you and your loved ones I sincerely hope that the New Year will bring you an increasing abundance of prosperity, health and contentment.

Postmaster General.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

MONEY ORDER SERVICE TO AUSTRIA WILL BE RESUMED ON JANUARY 1, 1948

The issue of United States money orders for payment in Austria will be resumed on January 1, 1948.

The orders should be drawn for dollars and cents only, the order marked "canceled" and sent, with the advice and coupon fully made out, to the New York Exchange Office. See note D on page 38 and model on page 48 of Form XIV, "International List."

The Postal Administration of Austria is not prepared at present to issue money orders for payment in the United States.

POSTAL NOTES MAY BE CASHED WITHOUT PAYING OFFICE COUPONS

In view of the embarrassment and inconvenience experienced by large users of postal notes it is deemed to be in the best interest of all concerned to rescind the notice published in the *POSTAL BULLETIN* of September 25, 1947, under the heading: "Payment of Postal Notes Without Paying Office Coupons."

Postal notes, from which the paying office coupons have become detached, may be accepted for payment in accordance with the instructions appearing in *POSTAL BULLETIN* No. 18799 under date of February 20, 1945.

5-CENT AIR MAIL STAMP IN COILS

The Department will issue through the Washington, D. C., post office, on January 15, 1948, the current 5-cent air mail stamp (small size) in coils, horizontally perforated. This type coil is what would normally be considered lengthwise though due to the arrangement of the stamp the perforations parallel the longer dimension.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancelations of this stamp may send a limited number of addressed envelopes, not in excess of 10, to the Postmaster, Washington 13, D. C., with postal note or money order remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed. **Postage stamps and personal checks will not be accepted in payment.** Envelopes submitted should be of ordinary letter size and each must be properly addressed. It is recommended that **no more than two stamps be requested for affixment** to each cover as it will be practically impossible to attractively cancel a longer strip. An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope and the flap either sealed or turned in. **An outside envelope must not be sent for return of first-day covers.** The envelope to the postmaster should

be endorsed "First Day Covers". Collectors should refrain from requesting hand cancelations since covers will be machine canceled so far as practicable. Orders for first-day covers to the Postmaster, Washington, D. C., should not include requests for uncanceled stamps.

For the benefit of collectors, the 5-cent air mail coiled stamps (unselected) will be available, in any quantity desired, at the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., on January 15, 1948, and for a limited time thereafter. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the Agency should include no other stamp issues. **The Philatelic Agency does not service first-day covers.**

It is not the desire of the Department that all postmasters stock the 5-cent air mail coils, but distribution shall be limited to those serving patrons who wish to use air mail coiled stamps in their vending and affixing machines. Requisitions, Form 3201-A, should be restricted to minimum quantities until actual requirements can be determined. The stamps will be provided in coils of 500 only.

Postmasters will please post a copy of this notice on the Bulletin Board, give information to the press and notify all local stamp clubs regarding the issuance of the 5-cent air mail stamps in coils.

Postmasters are cautioned not to place the stamp herein announced on sale before January 16, 1948.

STOLEN MONEY-ORDER FORMS

Since October 1, 1947, blank domestic money-order forms printed for use at the offices named below have been reported stolen.

Annapolis, Naval Academy Branch, Md., 171001 to 171200; October 16, 1947.

Blaine, Miss.:

61201 to 61400; November 4, 1947.

62401 to 62600; November 4, 1947.

Branford, Sta. 3, Conn., 9247 to 9400; October 8, 1947.

Chiltons, Va., 8401 to 8600; April 7, 1947.

CHRISTIAN, W. VA., 48201 to 48800; December 14, 1947.

Deer Park, Tex., 27500 to 27502; October 12, 1947.

Harrogate, Tenn., 110504 to 110600; November 5, 1947.

New York, A. P. O. 859 Br., N. Y., 15598 to 15600; October 2, 1947.

Riverdale, Sta. 1, Md., 12801 to 12805; October 19, 1947.

In this connection the attention of postmasters is directed to the instructions outlined in paragraph 23, page 158, of the United States Official Postal Guide 1943, and the provisions of paragraph 2, section 1426, Postal Laws and Regulations.