

You've Got Andy Mail

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The blue and white 7¢ air mail postage stamp featuring the silhouette of a jet airliner was issued by the United States Post Office Department on July 31, 1958 as required to meet the new postage rate that became effective that August. It was designed by William H. Buckley with lettering by Sam Marsh. Its first day of sale took place in Philadelphia at the annual American Air Mail Society convention.

Source: *Airpost Journal*, v.29, no. 10, July 1958, pg. 288.



On August 9, 2002 the USPS issued a commemorative postage stamp depicting a portrait of Warhol designed by Richard Sheaff and based on Warhol's painting, "Self Portrait, 1964." The First Day of Issue dedication ceremony was held in Warhol's hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Andy Warhol Museum. This intersection between philately and Pop Art is an emblematic symbol of Warhol's artistic vision to elevate the ordinary.

Source: McCoy, "Andy Warhol puts stamp on the world--again," *Post-Gazette*, Aug. 10, 2002.



A carmine red version of the stamp was subsequently issued on August 12, 1960 since the blue color was often missed by mail sorters. "To solve the problem, Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield declared all airmail stamps were to be printed in 'fire red.'"

Source: Smithsonian National Postal Museum website, "The 1960 Jet Silhouette Stamp."

In 1962 the artist Andy Warhol created a series of six paintings featuring both the blue and red jet liner stamps (example reproduced at bottom left).

Source: Sotheby's website, "Contemporary Art Day Auction," 2021.



The paintings are notable because Warhol created the repeating images with a carved art-gum eraser rather than the silkscreen process that he would later become known for. At this time, Warhol was on the cusp of widespread notoriety and fame as an artist in the Pop Art movement. Today, Warhol is well-known for his instantly recognizable paintings of everyday objects, celebrities, and more that reflect and comment upon American culture.



"I just happen to like ordinary things."