

INDEPENDENT POSTAL SYSTEM of AMERICA — IPSA

1971



1973

Harry S. Truman

Truman stamp shows incorrect date (1973) of his death. He died December 1972



Lyndon B. Johnson



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Established 1968 in Oklahoma City

Could not handle first-class mail

Only handled third-class (junk) mail

Mail was picked up from large business mailers such as J.C. Penny and Sears

Mail was sorted at a central location

Mail trucked in IPSA vans to delivery locations

Employees wore uniforms and were bonded

Could not use existing mailboxes

Used plastic bags hung on doorknobs

Was a franchise operation

Routes sold for \$1,000

By 1971 was making deliveries in 30 states with more than 18,000 employees

Tried to expand by handling Christmas cards claiming they were not first-class mail

Sued by the U.S. Post Office and labor unions
Lost the legal battles

Sued again by the Post Office to prevent IPSA from delivering all classes of mail

Won when the courts, in 1974, ruled private delivery of non-first-class mail was legal

The 1974 court decision opened the door for others (UPS and FedEx) to handle bulk mail

Eventually went out of business due to lengthy legal challenges and expenses

Issued 17 stamps over a period of six years:
5 stamps 1971 — 6 stamps 1973 — 6 stamps 1976

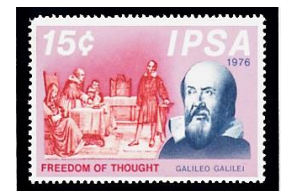
1976



Elihu Burritt



Paul Julius Reuter



Galileo



Susan B. Anthony

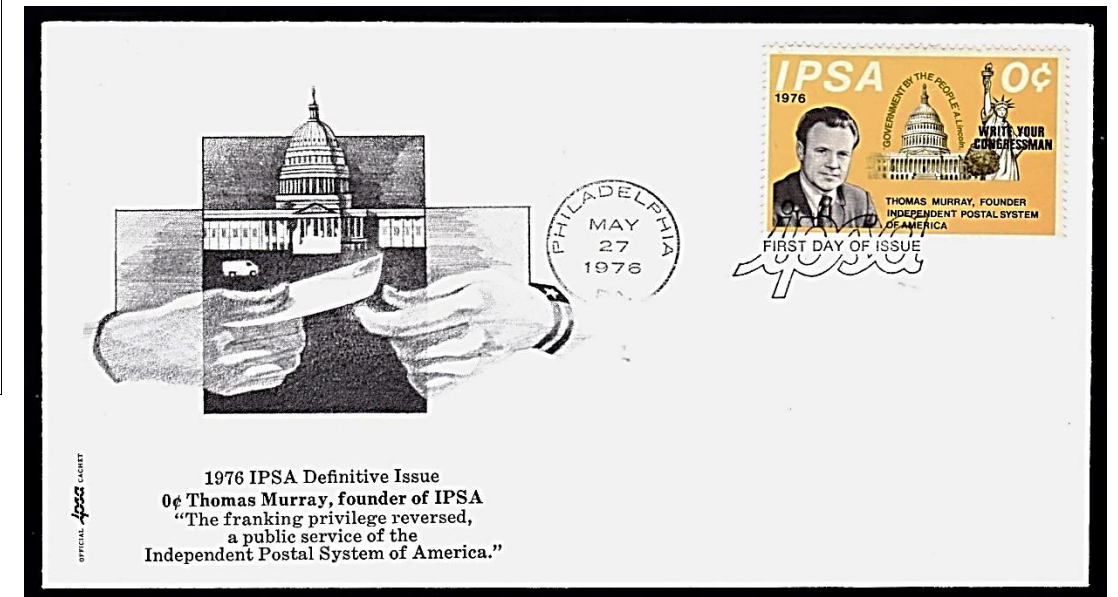


Charles A. Lindbergh

Note the stamp below has a value of "Zero" — 0¢



The stamp bears a portrait of Thomas M. Murray (1927-2003) the founder of the Independent Postal System of America. The text of this "zero-cent" stamp was to encourage customers and supporters to "Write Your Congressman" as there were several proposals before Congress that would allow IPSA to continue doing business. Letters to Congressmen would be delivered free to charge hence the "zero-cent" valuation.



1976 IPSA Definitive Issue
0¢ Thomas Murray, founder of IPSA
"The franking privilege reversed,
a public service of the
Independent Postal System of America."

*From the collection of:
David A. Kiehn
Memphis Stamp Collectors*