

The U.S. Centennial and Beyond

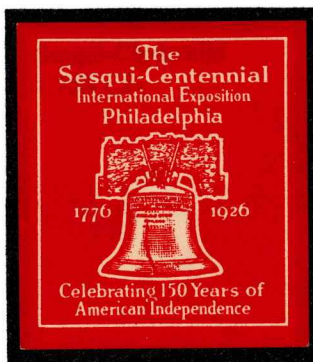
America has always celebrated her birthdays and anniversaries. The 100th celebration of the Declaration of Independence in 1876 gave testimony. While celebrated nationally, the major event was held in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia-The 1876 Philadelphia Int'l Exposition. The Expo ran from 10th May through 10th November with 30,863 vendors attracting 9.9K visitors. There was a small U.S. Post Office with a variety of services. While two items of postal stationary are included here, there was no commemorative stamp. Postmarks are collected as well as admission tickets and other ephemera such as view cards and receipts. Picture postcards and seals, however, were not yet in prominence. America and the USPS celebrated again with an Int'l Expo for the Sesquicentennial in 1926. The U.S. International Stamp Expo-*Interphil*-held in Philadelphia from 29th May thru 6th June 1976 was part of the nationwide Bicentennial celebration.



To commemorate the Expo, the USPOD issued two items of postal stationary, U218 and 219 ↑ in 1876. There is a second version (U219-20) in which there is a double line under the word "Post Office." These stamped envelopes depicted items of postal/information history through 1876 to include the Pony Express, the telegraph, and the railroad transportation of mail. They have been subsequently reproduced. →



↑ U.S. Scott# 627 commemorates the 150th Anniversary of U.S. Independence. The Int'l Expo was celebrated in Philadelphia from 1 June thru 1 December, 1926. A variety of Cinderellas and postmarks are sought after. ↓→



After months of political wrangling up to 1976, Congress decided against a single Bicentennial event in either Philadelphia or Boston. Instead, there were smaller events held across the nation for many months. Scott#1632 (upper left)↑ was created for both the Int'l Stamp Expo in Phila and The Bicentennial. From 1974 thru 1977 there were numerous Bicentennial-related U.S. stamp sets, commemoratives, and souvenir sheets. Further, there are foreign worldwide Bicentennial stamps to fill several albums, as this remains a specialty area today.