

## Conclusion

In this book, we have offered the reader a few of the stories behind the United States postage stamps that are most popular among collectors. These have included the Regular Issue Type Series of 1847-55 and several early commemorative issue sets celebrating expositions: The Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Trans-Mississippi Exposition of 1898, The Pan-American Exposition of 1901, and the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915 (1913 issue and 1915 reissue). From the “back of book”, we have also covered the early Airmail stamps, as well as the Parcel Post issue of 1913, and the Special Delivery stamps in use from 1885 until 1997. We hope that, from this brief overview of a limited portion of the philatelic repertoire, we have kindled or heightened your interest in collecting United States postage stamps.

We encourage you to consider this brief text only a beginning place for learning more about stamps. Many other wonderful issues and sets not covered here await your discovery, including the National Parks Issue of 1934 and the Famous Americans Issue of 1940. If opportunities permit, these and other later commemoratives and regular issues may be the subject of a book we will offer in the future. Meanwhile, we direct you to a couple of our favorite books and a few of our favorite websites for learning more about U.S. postage stamp collecting, philatelic history, and the history of the United States Postal Service:

### Books

**Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting**, edited by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod. Published by Kirk House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN, 2006. This book offers a rich, colorful overview of every facet of U.S. stamp production

and collection. This compendium is weighty (literally) yet clearly written, complemented with excellent and abundant photographs.

**100 Greatest American Stamps** by Janet Klug and Donald J. Sundman. Published by Whitman Publishing, Atlanta, GA, 2007. This profusely illustrated book provides the stories beyond the top 100 U.S. stamps, as chosen by a panel of expert philatelists.

## Web Sites

**Arago: People and the Post.** The website of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, it includes detailed information and images pertaining to both philately and postal operations in the United States and throughout the world.

<http://www.arago.si.edu/>

**United States Postal Service: Postal History.** This section of the United States Postal Service website provides excellent overviews of aspects of postal history.

<http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/welcome.htm>

**1847USA.** This is an identification site for all United States postage stamps, with detailed information about each postage stamp issue, along with an extensive glossary of philatelic terms. <http://www.1847usa.com/>

**American Air Mail Society.** An excellent resource on the identification and history of United States Air Mail stamps.

<http://www.americanairmailsociety.org/index.htm>

**U. S. Special Delivery.com.** This website specifically covers United States special service stamp history. <http://usspecialdelivery.com/index.html>