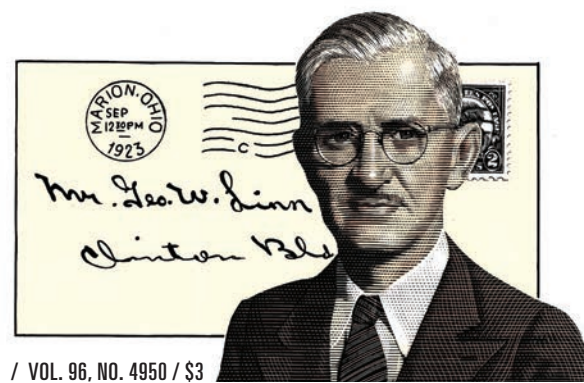


# LINN'S STAMP NEWS

World's Largest Weekly Stamp News and Marketplace

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## USPS to shake things up with four stamps picturing snow globes Sept. 19

BY CHARLES SNEE

On Sept. 19 in Breckenridge, Colo., the United States Postal Service will shake up the holiday mailing season with four forever stamps illustrating snow globes.

In an Aug. 18 press release, the USPS announced that the new nondenominated (66¢) Snow Globes stamps will be issued during a first-day ceremony to be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time at the Stephen C. West Ice Arena, 189 Boreas Pass Road, in Breckenridge.

Participating in the ceremony will be Sheila Holman, vice president of marketing for the Postal Service, as the dedicating official; Harry Rinker, a member of the Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee; and artist Gregory Manchess of Portland, Ore., whose oil paintings appear on the stamps.

Ceremony attendees are encouraged to register online with the USPS at [usps.com/snowglobes](https://usps.com/snowglobes).

The indoor arena has plenty of seating, so the Postal Service is allowing each attendee to invite a maximum of 98 additional guests.

As shown on the Postal Service's preliminary artwork of a block of four,



Portland, Ore., artist Gregory Manchess created original oil paintings for the four United States nondenominated (66¢) forever stamps celebrating snow globes. The stamps will be issued Sept. 19 in Breckenridge, Colo.

the scenes Manchess painted for the snow globes feature a cheerful snowman wearing a red and white scarf; Santa Claus, his pack of toys slung over his shoulder, about to descend into a chimney; a male deer with an

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This rare 1877 registered cover featuring a six-color franking of Italian offices abroad stamps from the 1874-78 general issue is among many gems of postal history that will tempt bidders during Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers' Sept. 12-13 sale of rare worldwide stamps and covers.

## Spectacular 1877 Italian offices abroad registered cover with six-color franking highlights Sept. 12-13 Cherrystone auction

BY CHARLES SNEE

Exactly 1,500 lots will be up for bids when Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers in Teaneck, N.J., presents its Sept. 12-13 sale of rare stamps and postal history of the world.

The two-day auction will take place over four sessions, with sessions each day at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Eastern Time.

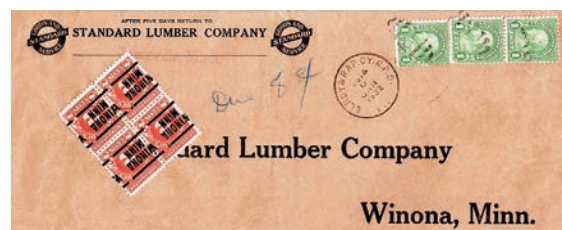
Collectors of the postal history of Italian offices

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KENNEDY SPACE CENTER POST  
OFFICE IN FLORIDA TO CLOSE

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL PENALTY  
DID NOT APPLY TO AIRMAIL

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INCREASING DEMAND FOR  
PARCEL POST POSTAGE DUE SET

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# Kennedy Space Center post office in Florida to close in late September

BY CHARLES J. VUKOTICH JR.

The contractor for the Kennedy Space Center post office in Florida recently reported that it "will close permanently near the end of the fiscal year," which concludes Sept. 30, 2023.

Notice of the closure came through an undated announcement from Thomas A Spaur, the post office's supervisor. Kennedy Space Center is a substation of the Orlando, Fla., post office operated under contract from NASA.

The closure means there will no longer be a postmark from Kennedy Space Center. Collectors have until Sept. 15 to submit covers for a Kennedy Space Center cancel. The exact final date for Kennedy Space Center cancellations will depend on when the station is actually closed.

Figure 1 shows a cacheted June 5, 2023, launch cover

canceled at Kennedy Space Center.

The center reports that philatelic requests will be processed at Titusville, Fla. Requests should be sent to: Titusville PO, Attn: Supervisor, 2503 S. Washington Ave., Titusville FL 32780. Submitted covers will receive a Titusville postmark.

Paul Folsom, the Titusville postmaster, verified all the foregoing information.

Folsom said, "I am interested to see how this unwinds." He said he has "no problem doing this whatsoever" and is "interested to see how many requests we get."

Spaur reports that the Titusville post office receives around 5,000 postmark requests each year.

Collectors might now question if Titusville is the appropriate cancel to obtain for fu-

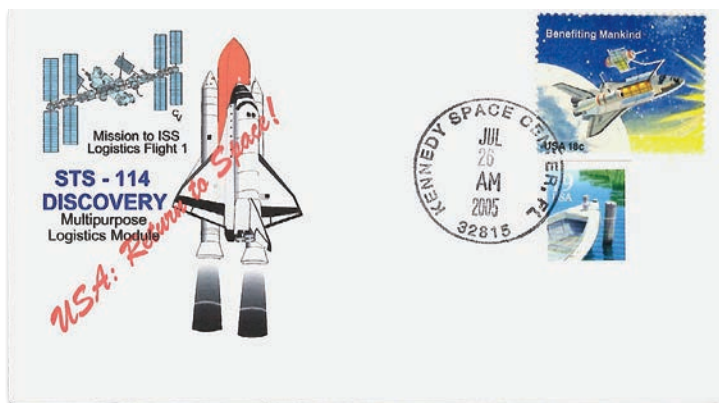


Figure 2. The Kennedy Space Center postmark on this launch cover was provided through the Titusville, Fla., post office for the July 26, 2005, launch of space shuttle mission STS-114. The author created the cachet for the cover, which is franked with a 1981 18c Space Shuttle Columbia stamp (Scott 1914) and a 1991 19c type II Fishing Boat coil stamp (2529a).

ture Kennedy Space Center launches. The United States Postal Service lists Titusville as the closest post office, approximately 6.9 miles from Kennedy Space Center. It is just across the Indian River from Kennedy Space Center.

Based on longstanding asrophilatelic tradition, a cancel for space launches is from the post office closest to or with a tie to the launch facility.

Based on those criteria, Titusville should be the place to get covers serviced for Kennedy Space Center launches.

Alternative arguments might include using Cape Canaveral, but that location has only a sentimental connection to Kennedy Space Center.

Kennedy Space Center mail will go through Cocoa Beach, Fla., on its way to Orlando, Fla., for processing. The physical address for Kennedy Space Center is Merritt Island, Fla.

Cocoa Beach, Orlando and Merritt Island are approximately the same distance from Kennedy Space Center.

Some collectors will remember that Titusville used to supply Kennedy Space Center cancels during the space shuttle program, but this ceased years ago. A July 26, 2005, space shuttle launch cover postmarked at Kennedy Space Center is shown in Figure 2.

In response to a query from *Linn's Stamp News*, Jim McKean, senior media relations representative for the USPS, said a Kennedy Space Center postmark will not be available through the Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas City, Kennedy Space Center and Titusville postal representatives I contacted all agree that the Kennedy Space Center postmark will disappear with the closing of that contract station.

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Figure 1. This June 5, 2023, launch cover from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., celebrates the Cargo Dragon CRS-28 resupply mission to the International Space Station. The cachet is by the author. The cover is franked with a United States 18c Skylab stamp (Scott 1915) from the 1981 Space Achievement issue (1912-1919) and a 2019 nondenominated (35c) Coral Reefs stamp (5363).



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## U.S. STAMP NOTES

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championships through 1967-68 when his teams won the first two Super Bowls.

I began to pay attention to him when he left Green Bay to take on the jobs of head coach and general manager of the woeful Washington Redskins in 1969. In his first season there (and, as it turned out, his last), the team compiled a winning record.

During the season, Lombardi was diagnosed with colon cancer, and tragically died in 1970, at the age of only 57.

His genius was part football and part his understanding of how to motivate his players.

The U.S. Postal Service issued a set of four stamps honoring football coaches on July 25, 1997 (Scott 3143-3146). The 32¢ Vince Lombardi stamp from that set (3145) is the cartoon contest stamp for September.

(The Football Coaches stamps also were issued separately on different dates during August 1997 with a red line above the name of the coach, Scott 3147-3150.)

As we start off the 2023 football season, try to think like a coach and come up with one or more lines that Lombardi might be saying about any element of his story or football in general.

You can also use the stamp to make observations about philately, politics or any other theme that occurs to you.

Entries with a touch of humor or irony stand the best chance of winning the contest.

There will be two prizes given to the winners: one for the best philatelic line and one for the best nonphilatelic line.

Put your entry (or entries) on a postcard if possible and send it to me, John Hotchner, Cartoon Contest, Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125; or email it to jmhstamp@verizon.net. If you send an email, it is essential that you include your postal mailing address.

For each winner, the prize will be a 13-week subscription to *Linn's* (a new subscription or an extension). Entries must reach me no later than Sept. 22. ■

Kennedy continued from page 6

The post office at Kennedy Space Center was founded July 1, 1965, as a contract station of Orlando. Because the center was in a restricted area, only postal employees could visit the Kennedy Space Center post office. At that time, the Kennedy Space Center post office would accept only mail requests, with a limit of five addressed covers per person.

On Nov. 14, 1969, with the launch of *Apollo 12*, that policy changed. A drop box was established at the visitors' information center for the deposit of mail. Bulk requests for postmarks from dealers also began to be honored. It is unclear when the drop box ceased to exist, but it has not been available for some time.

The Kennedy Space Center contract station had been operated since Oct. 1, 2013, by Post Masters Mail and Print Services, a part of the Anthony Wayne Rehabilitation Center, a nonprofit company that provides high quality services with exceptional customer care, while also providing job opportunities for people with disabilities, including service-disabled veterans.

In my experience, Spaur and his staff have always been very helpful.

When submitting a request for a postmark, please consider including a thank-you note to the Kennedy Space Center post office staff for their long service to astrophilately. Spaur reported to me that he and his staff will be looking for jobs. ■