

# The Smithsonian Institution

Fran Adams

The Smithsonian Institution was established in 1846 “for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men” by James Smithson, a British scientist, through a grant from his estate in 1836. Originally known as the “United States National Museum,” the museum’s name was officially changed to the Smithsonian Institution in 1967 although it had been known by that name almost since the beginning.

U.S. postage stamps have commemorated the Smithsonian Institution on three occasions. Each of the stamp designs depicts the main building, known as ‘The Castle’, from the same perspective.

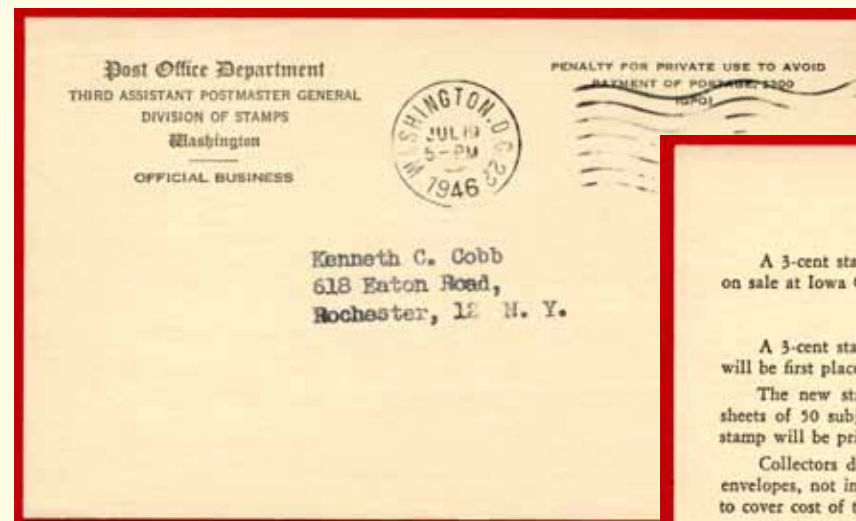


Los Angeles, CA (Jan 28, 1947) to Bennington, VT (Jan 30/31, 1947), used nine copies of the 1946 U.S. commemorative issue and a supplemental two cent stamp to pay the airmail postage (5¢), plus the registration (20¢) and return receipt (4¢) service fees. The cover was returned undelivered to the sender (Feb 4/8, 1947) as the recipient was deceased.



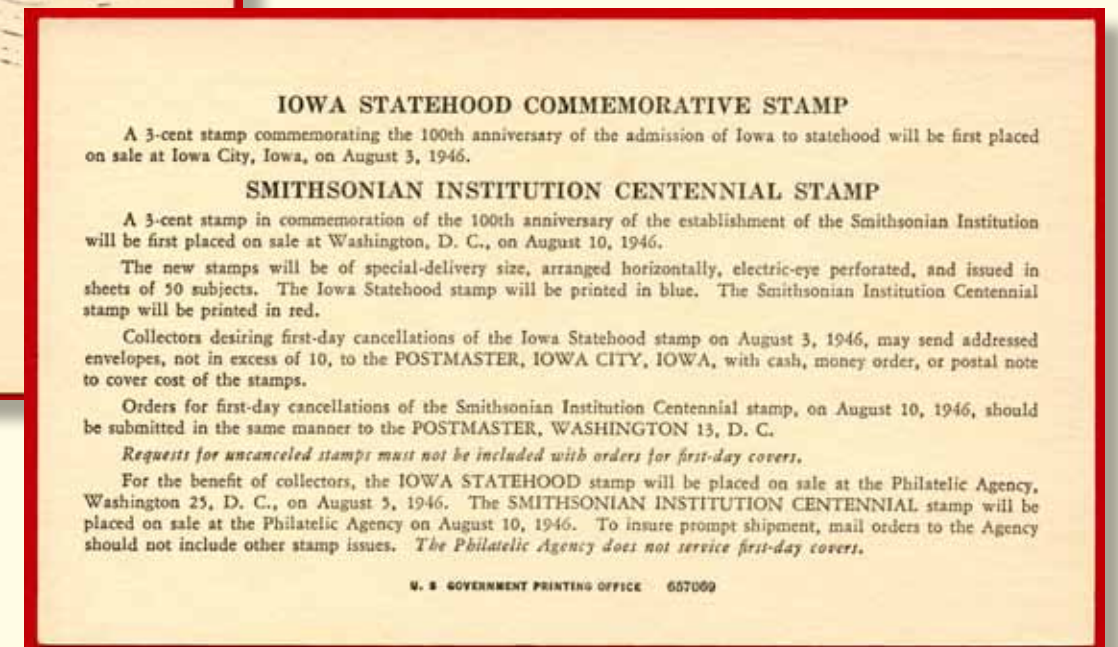
**The Castle**  
Three cent  
Commemorative  
Issue

The first issue of August 10, 1946 (domestic first class letter rate of 3 cents) commemorated the 100th anniversary of the museum and the stamp design is from an official photograph taken by F.B. Kestner, Smithsonian photographer.



Announcement of  
Commemorative stamp issue  
using Post Office card  
with penalty indicia

80% Original size



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 657069