Stamps<br>UDLS<br>Jan Pilzer<br>2017-10-20

## Components of a Stamp

1. Design
2. Separation
3. Denomination
4. Country Name (Except UK)


Postage Stamp Design

## Design Categories

- Portrait bust - profile or full-face
- Emblem - coat of arms, flag, national symbol, posthorn, etc.
- Numeric - a design built around the numeral of value
- Pictorial



## Shape and Size

- Mostly rectangular
- Usual size 10 to 30 mm
- Other shapes possible



## Design Failures



- Wrong music sheet
- Wrong statue (Las Vegas instead of New York)
- Insulting to recipient


## Propaganda Design



Postage Stamp Separation

## Imperforate

- 1840 to 1850
- Cut from sheet by user
- Time-consuming
- Error-prone



## Rouletting

Small cuts along the edge, different angles


## Perforation

- Most often used method
- Defining the shape of stamps
- Measured by number of holes per 2 cm (usually 11-14)



## Die Cutting

- Used for self-adhesive stamps
- Often imitating perforations



## Denomination

## Overprint

- Changing value due to monetary system, inflation, or external influence



## Non-Denominated Postage

- Also called non-value indicator (NVI) postage
- Used to keep stamps valid after rate increases


Notable Stamps

## Penny Black

- World's first postage stamp
- Invented by Sir Roland Hill as part of postal system reform
- Beginning of prepaid postage
- Letter up to $1 / 2$ ounce ( 14 grams) regardless of distance

| Country | United Kingdom |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 1 May 1840 |
| Face value | 1 penny |
| Current value | $\$ 6,000$ |



## Bull's Eye

- First stamp issued by Brazil
- Brazil as second country to issue nation wide postage


| Country | Brazil |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 1 August 1843 |
| Face value | 30,60 and 90 réis |
| Current value | $\$ 400$ |



## Basel Dove

- World's first tricolor stamp

| Country | Switzerland |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 1 July 1845 |
| Face value | $2 ½$ rappen |
| Current value | $\$ 30,000$ |



## Mauritius "Post Office" stamps

- About 27 remaining
- Later changed to "Post Paid"

| Country | Mauritius |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 21 Sep 1847 |
| Face value | 1 penny / 2 pence |
| Current value | $\$ 4,000,000$ |



## Treskilling Yellow

- "three schilling banco error of color"
- Only one copy is known to exist
- Printed in the wrong color, normally blue-green

| Country | Sweden |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 1855 |
| Face value | 3 Swedish skillings |
| Current value | $\$ 2,300,000$ |



## British Guiana 1c magenta

- World's most famous rare stamp
- Only one copy is known to exist

| Country | British Guiana |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date | 1856 |
| Face value | 1 c |
| Current value | $\$ 9,480,000$ |

## Inverted Jenny

- 100 stamps exist
- Rare because of invert error


Thanks


