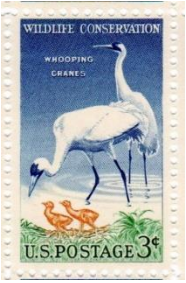


Synopsis: The 3-cent 'Whooping Crane' Stamp of 1957

Chicagopex 2025



Purpose and Scope. This is a traditional six-frame First Day Cover exhibit of the fourth stamp in the U.S. Wildlife Conservation Series (Scott #1098).

Treatment. The exhibit includes all components of a traditional FDC exhibit: stamp design and production, first day activities, issue-specific and general-purpose cachets, and domestic/foreign postal uses. However, treatment deviates in two ways from the sequence suggested in the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting, 7th edition, Appendix 2.1.7.

1. There is no separate cancellation study. The Post Office Department (POD) approved ten cancellations: one hand and one machine cancellation for each of the four first-day-of-sale locations (and two that were never used). The two for each location are shown on the same page as the first-day ceremony programs or ephemera for Corpus Christi, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA) Show, New York City; and the New York City General Post Office.

2. There is no separate section for first cachets (outlined in red dashes); the eight covers are integrated into the exhibit where they fit the story.

Annotated Exhibit Outline

1.0 The Stamp discusses selection of the whooping crane for the fourth wildlife conservation stamp; includes POD announcements, stamp design and production.

Noteworthy

- Setoff affecting two bottom rows of pane printed from plate No. 25867
- Freaks and oddities

2.0 The First Day: November 22, 1957 includes cancellations, ceremony programs, other ephemera for each of the four official first-day sites, and unofficial cancellations. **The cancellation study is integrated into this section.**

Noteworthy

- Pre-date cover (November 21, 1957)
- Poster stamps designed by Ralph Dyer; published by John W. Nicklin, pioneering aerophilatelist
- Collection of covers, cancellations and ephemera for the American Stamp Dealers Association Show (ASDA Show), largest of the four first-day sites
- First cachet and ceremony program designed by Hiram I. Swindall for the Sea Gull Stamp Club, organizers of the Corpus Christi first-day ceremony
- Original cachet art for The Aristocrats by Day Lowry

3.0 Issue-specific Cachets: pre-date; hand-crafted cachets; cachets based on known sources; cachets with conservation themes; general purpose & add-on cachets; domestic & foreign destinations.

Noteworthy

- Mini study of Ralph Dyer cachets with two cachet templates
- Original Saskatchewan Government Photograph of rare sighting of three whooping crane taken by F.W. Lahrman; from Saskatchewan Department of Industry & Information, Canada
- Original Artmaster cachet art plus printing plate

Synopsis: The 3-cent 'Whooping Crane' Stamp of 1957 (continued)

4.0 Period of General Sale (November 22, 1957 - June 26, 1959): second-day use; military mail; mail to/from U.S. territories & possessions; foreign destinations; various rates & auxiliary markings; original cachet art; post August 1, 1958 rate-change uses.

Noteworthy

- Second day of sale cover (November 23, 1957)
- Difficult-to-find Elmer W. Carey 'EWC' first cachet
- Unusual origin military mail – Tehran, Iran
- Postage due paid with Netherlands postage due stamps

5.0 Epilog

Thematic Importance: Post-World War II conservation and preservation ideas were transforming into widespread social and political movements. Concerns for the environment and actions to preserve endangered species were relatively new concepts among the American public the 1950s. After President Dwight D. Eisenhower endorsed a proposed wildlife series of stamps in 1955, the POD responded with the first three stamps in 1956 (wild turkey, pronghorn and king salmon). The POD issued its series of four wildlife conservation stamps to **introduce the concept of wildlife conservation to postal patrons.**

The POD chose the whooping crane for its 1957 stamp because the species was **on the brink of extinction.** Scientists estimated that only thirty-one whooping cranes were left, making it a logical choice for the fourth wildlife conservation stamp.

Philatelic Importance

The fourth stamp – the whooping crane – **was the first stamp printed in a single run using the three-color capability of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's new Giori press** (Brett, p.51).

Philatelic/Subject Knowledge / Personal Study and Research

The exhibit results from a **personal challenge** undertaken in 2019 to learn the fundamentals of FDC collecting through a focused effort using Appendix APP.2.1.7 of the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting - Seventh Edition (August 2016) as a study guide. Although I have knowledge and experience relative to other types of exhibits, this exhibit required personal study in two new (to me) areas of philately - stamp production and rates/uses.

Condition

The covers shown in this exhibit are of the best quality possible. Covers that passed through the mail may show signs of age and wear.

Readily Available References

- American Philatelic Research Library file for Scott 1098, The Whooping Crane Stamp of 1957. (News articles, Post Office Department Bulletins, first day ceremony program.)
- Brett, George W. 1961. *The Giori Press: A Comprehensive Study of Current Stamp Production at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 3¢ Whooping Crane*. Bureau Issues Associates, Inc., pp. 51-54.
- Juriga, John D. 2012. *Bob Hines, National Wildlife Artist*. Beaver's Pond Press, Edina, Minnesota, pp.91-100.
- Posner, Charles. 2023. '3c Wildlife Conservation Issue: The Whooping Crane' in *The American Philatelist*, Volume 137, No. 8, pp.732-739.

The 3-cent 'Whooping Crane' Stamp of 1957

A traditional First Day Cover (FDC) exhibit
of the fourth stamp in the U.S. Wildlife Conservation Series.

"Apparently a doomed species"

So declared the *National Geographic* in 1937 when only seventeen whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) remained in the wild. By 1957, when the United States issued this stamp, the wild population of whoopers had barely risen to thirty-one. The stamp helped introduce the concept of conservation to the American public and make whooping cranes an international symbol of conservation.

Stamp Facts

- Issued on **November 22, 1957** at **three official first-day cities**: New York, New York (two locations); Corpus Christi, Texas; and New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Paid the **first-class domestic rate** of 3 cents per ounce.
- **First** to use the capability of the Post Office Department's new Giori press to **print three colors simultaneously**.

Plan

1.0 The Stamp: announcements, production, freaks & oddities.

2.0 The First Day: cancellations, ceremony programs, other ephemera for each of the four official first-day sites; unofficial cancellations.

3.0 Issue-specific Cachets: pre-date; hand-crafted cachets; cachets based on known sources; cachets with conservation themes; general purpose & add-on cachets; domestic & foreign destinations.

4.0 Period of Sale (November 22, 1957 - June 26, 1959): second-day use; military mail; mail to/from U.S. territories & possessions; foreign destinations; various rates & auxiliary markings; original cachet art; post August 1, 1958 rate-change uses.

5.0 Epilog

Noteworthy Items
e.g., one-of-a-kind items,
unusual cancellations.

FIRST CACHETS
appear throughout the exhibit
(not in a separate first cachet section).



Chromart Maximum Card
based on the *National Geographic* illustration.

1937 *National Geographic* illustration,
source of the "doomed species" quote. >>>

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



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TO THE ILL-FATED WHOOPING CRANE—HAIL AND FAREWELL!

Apparently a doomed species, the towering **Whooping Crane** (right) is seldom observed today even in regions where, a century ago, its legions flew past by the hour. The ranks of the smaller **Sandhill Crane** (left, adult and young) have also been so seriously depleted that extinction threatens that species, too. Two subspecies, the northern **Little Brown Crane** (flying above) and the Florida crane, have been persecuted less than the true sandhills.

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