

# Jamestown 1907



**Objective:** This exhibit is a study of the development, production and use of the three stamp issue celebrating the tercentenary of the 1607 English settlement of Jamestown, Virginia.

**Background:** In early in 1903 the Virginia Historical Society petitioned the Post Office Department to issue special stamps to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Jamestown founding in conjunction with the 1907 Tercentennial Exposition at Sewell's Point, on the shores of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Unlike previous fairs, the exposition had a strong military presence and international naval participation.

In October, 1906, the Post Office Department agreed to issue 1¢ and 2¢ Jamestown commemorative stamps to meet the domestic postcard and letter rates, respectively. In March, 1907, a month before the Exposition opening, with the expected assemblage of foreign war ships in Hampton Roads, postal officials saw the need for a 5¢ stamp to meet the foreign postage letter rate.

**Development:** After an introduction of the stamps and the Tercentennial Exhibition, design creation is examined with a display of essay drawings, progressive die proofs, approval die proofs and posthumous die proofs. Stamp production is illustrated with plate layout & markings, paper, ink, perforation varieties, the stamp forgery, and a display of post office panes, and plate numbers.

The 3rd section highlights the Designated First Day use of the three Jamestown stamps at the Exposition, the sending, receiving and registry postmarks used at the fairgrounds Post Office Station and the POD promotional slogan cancellations used at the surrounding cities of Portsmouth, Newport News and Norfolk.

In three sections, Domestic, UPU, and Possession & Treaty, postal use of the stamps is examined by rate and fee classifications.

The POD's departmental structure and penchant for responsibility is studied in the Transport, Handling and Accountability section covering Rural Free Delivery, Railway Mail Service, Mail matter and Auxiliary Markings. Punctuality in mail handling, evidenced by Postmarks, and Revenue Protection, by cancellation is depicted in a display of hand stamping to machine application. A study of post-Exhibition use of the Jamestown issue concludes the exhibit.

## Exhibit Organization

### Section 1. Essays & Proofs

Essays Drawings  
Progressive Proofs  
Approval Proofs  
Posthumous Proofs

### Section 2. Production

Plate Markings, Varieties, Forgery  
Post Office Half-sheets  
Plate Numbers

### Section 3. Jamestown Exposition

Designated First Day Use  
Exposition Post Marks & Cancellations  
POD Exposition Slogan Cancellations

### Section 4. Postal Rates & Fees – Domestic

First-class  
Third & Fourth-class  
Service Fees

### Section 5. Postal Rates & Fees – UPU

Letter, Post Card  
Printed Matter, Samples  
Service Fees

### Section 6. Postal Rates – Possessions & Treaty

Possession  
Territories  
Treaty

### Section 7. Mail Transport, Handling & Accountability

Rural Free Delivery  
Railway Mail Service  
Mail Matter & Auxiliary Markings

### Section 8. Postmark & Revenue Protection

Fancy Cancels, Doane  
4-Bar & Duplex handstamps  
Station & Sub-Station, Precancels  
Machine Postmarks & Cancels  
Post Exhibition Use

(e) Denotes Certificate

## Jamestown Stamps, Commemorative Issue of 1907

### Office of the Third Assistant. P.M. General, Daily Postal Bulletin No.8254, March 28, 1907

"Postmasters are notified that a special series of stamps in three denomination, to commemorate the Founding of Jamestown in 1607, and known as the Commemorative Series of 1907, will be issued, beginning April 15, for sale to the public during the term of the Jamestown Exposition, from April 25 to November 30, 1907. *They must not be sold to the public before or after this period.*"



Issued: April 26, 1907  
Designer: C.A. Huston

Printed: 100,000,000

Portrait of Capt. John Smith, with oval medallions of Pocahontas & Powhatan, shields with numeral "1", legend "Founding of Jamestown, 1607," base "Capt. John Smith," with birth and death years 1580-1631, above head "United States of America," across top "Commemorative Series 1907," across bottom "Postage One Cent."



Issued: April 26, 1907  
Designer: C.A. Huston

Printed: 200,000,000

Picture depicting the landing at Jamestown, tobacco plant at left, stalk of Indian corn at right, bottom scroll "Founding of Jamestown, 1607," curved panel over vignette "United States of America," on top "Commemorative Series 1907," on bottom "Postage Two Cents, corner shields with numeral "2."



Issued: May 10, 1907  
Designer: C.A. Huston

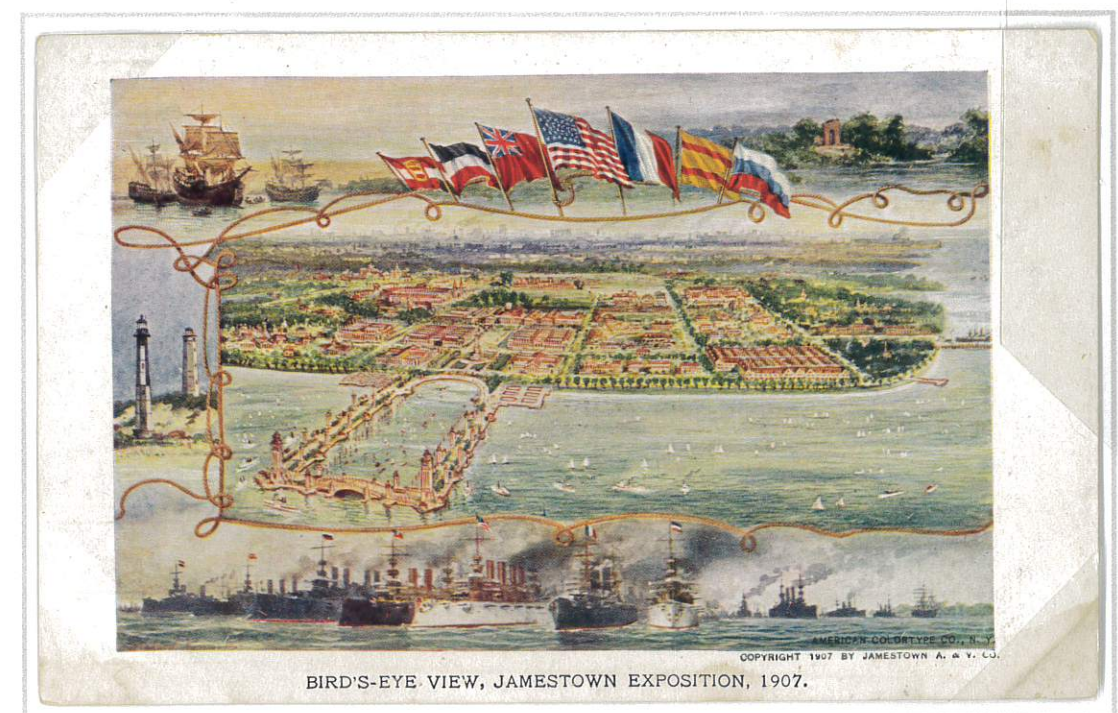
Printed: 8,000,000

Portrait of Pocahontas, top panel "United States of America, bottom panel "Postage Five Cents, scroll under vignette "Pocahontas," shields on either side containing numeral "5," scrolls on either side, above shields "Founding of Jamestown, 1907," vertical panels on either side "Commemorative Series 1907."

## Jamestown Tercentennial and Naval and Marine Exhibition, 1907

### Special Notice: Post Office Department, March 27, 1907

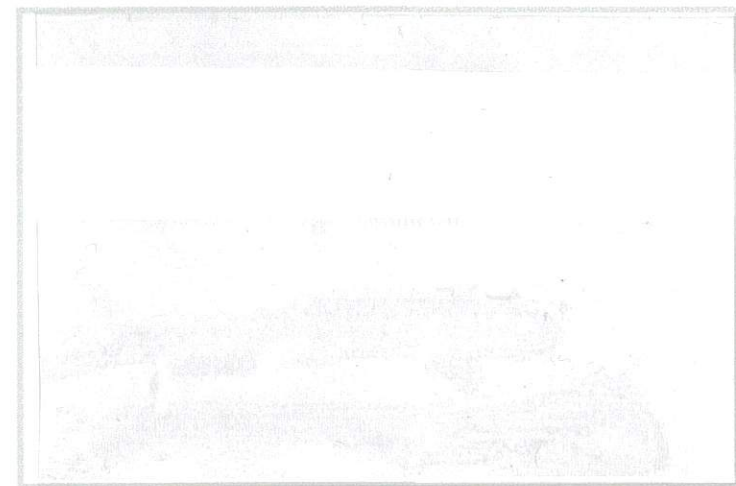
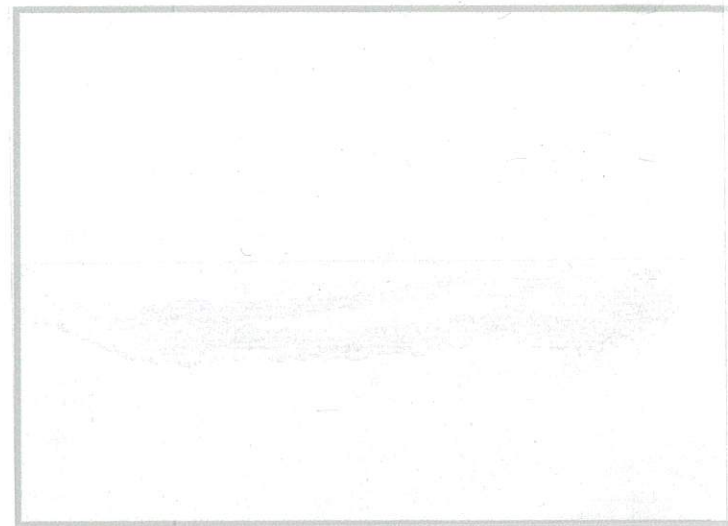
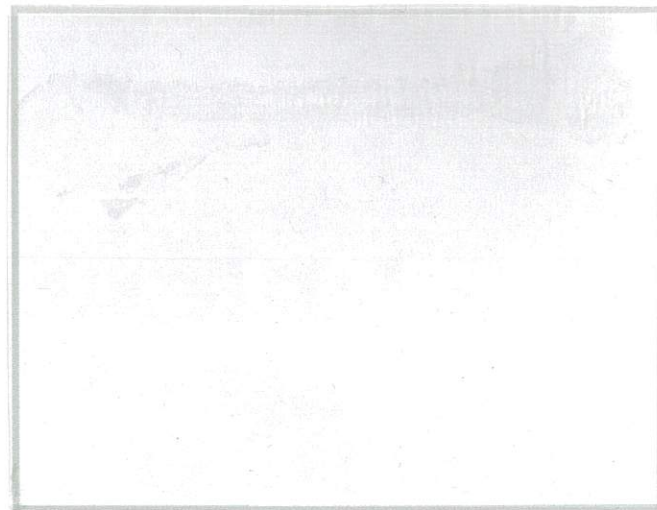
"The Department calls the attention of all postmasters and RMS officials to the anticipated presence in Hampton Roads, in connection with the Jamestown Exposition, of **ships of war representing many countries of the Universal Postal Union**, Closed mails will be exchanged between the postal administrations of the various countries and the ships of war and special attention shall be given with a view to their prompt handling and transmission."



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW, JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION, 1907.



**“1933 Hugh M. Southgate”  
Die Proofs**



(e)

**Southgate Die Proofs**



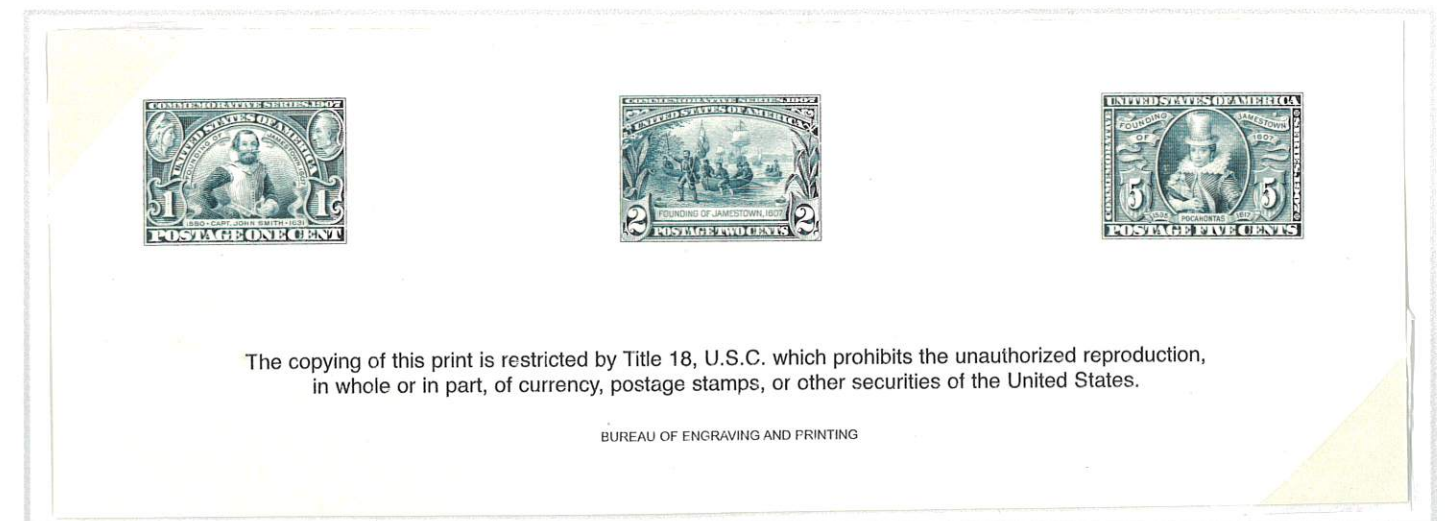
**1, 2 & 5-cent Large Die Proofs**, wove paper untrimmed, not card mounted, with Bureau control number on front. Produced in 1933 along with all commemoratives from the 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue. Two proof sets were trimmed to small die proofs with 3/16 inch margins. One of these sets went to **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (left)** and the other to a "friend." An untrimmed set wound up in the estate of Hugh M. Southgate, and hence the name. "Southgate Die Proofs"

**“1980 London International Stamp Exhibition”  
Die Proof**



A souvenir card (8" x 6") featuring the image of the 1907 2¢ stamp was prepared by the United States Postal Service for the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition held at Earls Court from the May 6 - 14, 1980. The intaglio printed stamp was 150% the size of the original stamp produced from a new engraving by pantograph or enlarged photoengraving by Edward Archer. Lettering on the card was by James Goodbody and Albert Saavedra. The use of the Jamestown stamp and text referencing the 1607 Jamestown settlement represented the common heritage of the two countries.

**“2007 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”  
Die Proofs**



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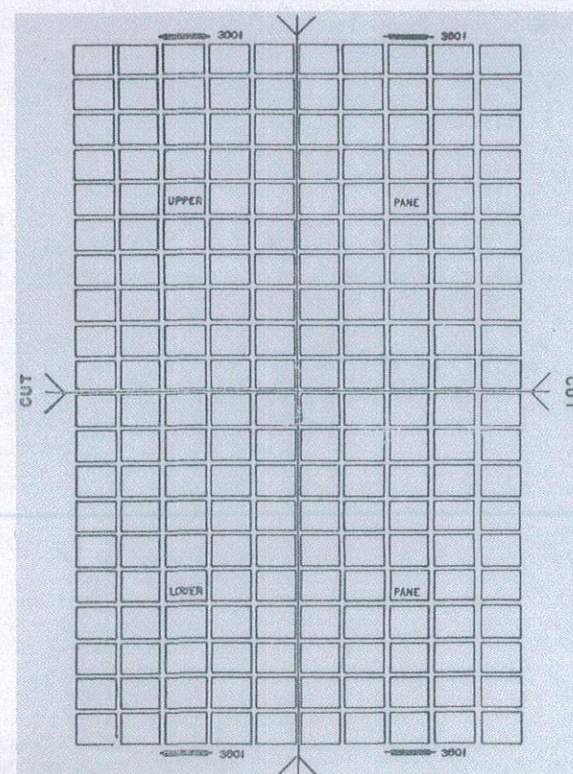
BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

A souvenir card (8" x 10") was intaglio printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2007. The card featured intaglio proofs impressions of the three 1907 original dies. The images were printed in blue-black on light beige card stock.



**Production Varieties** relate to the marginal markings on the printing plate and elements surrounding stamp printing and perforating, including color shades, transfer press irregularities.

### Plate Layout & Marginal Markings



**200 Subject Plate**  
Severed horizontally into  
2 panes of 100

**3593**

**Plate Numbers**

Plate Numbers appear twice  
at top and bottom of sheet



**Bureau, Engraving & Printing**

### Bureau Imprint – Type X

Following the precedent established by the bank note companies, the Bureau adopted the practice of exhibiting their imprint in the top and bottom margins of the stamp sheet.

**USPS**

**Watermark**  
Double-Line Vertical

### Plate Printer Initials

Plate Printers hand-stamped their initials on plate edge identifying their workmanship at the printing press.



Doubling of front profile (UL) and  
center line and ball in numeral (LL)



### Double Transfer



Doubling of lower left (LL) frame  
line and portion of tablet.



### Transferer Initials

Plate Transferer impressed the stamp images from the transfer roll onto the steel plate and engraved their block initials on the lower right plate margin (left side on printed sheet).



Morris R. George



William E. Franke



John P. Perry



George L. Dant



John C. Newman

### Plate Scratch



Vertical scratch through  
Numeral (LL)





**Ink Color Shades**



Green



Dark Green



Carmine



Bright Carmine



Blue



Deep Blue

Color shades arise from variations in batches of printing ink or variations in the density of ink laid down during printing. Green, Carmine, and Blue are the primary colors though various shades are known primarily Dark Green, Bright Carmine, and Deep Blue

**Pre-print paper crease**



**Irregular perforations**

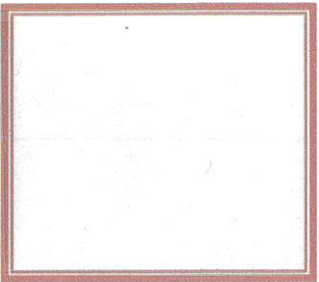


30.5mm

28.5mm

Jamestown stamps are notorious for poor centering and perforation irregularities

**1¢ Jamestown  
Counterfeit Proof Impression**



Only Known copy

**Non-Postal Imperforate forgery, printed on card**

Fake die proof discovered in California, first reported by Geo. B. Sloane in 1950. Original stamp measures 26½ x 19¼ mm, while forgery measures 26¼ x 19¼mm and Smith's head is slightly wider, his index finger holding his sword is exceptionally long, and numerous shading lines differ.



Approved Die Image



Forgery



*Robert A. Siegel*

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

siegelauctions.com

ENV  
BOX  
ALB



v1/22

Yellow and orange inks may darken if left inside this protective sleeve. We recommend removing item for long-term storage.

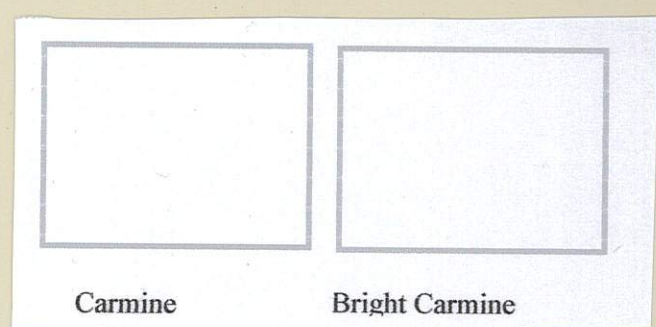
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.

Phone (212) 753-6421

Email: stamps@siegelauctions.com



INK  
STAINATION



SAFE  
dual





**SAFE**  
dual



FRENCH  
#328-3



C4 \* RC Propeller Cat. Our Price 3.25  
FAVOR CXL Price



102B











