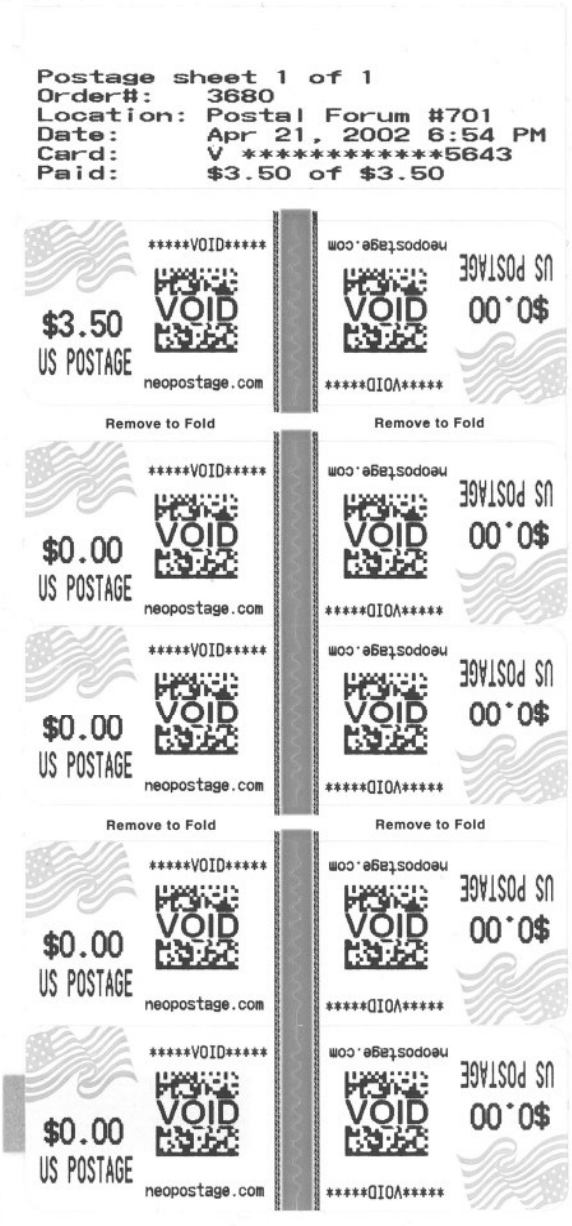


# Neopost Computer Vended Postage First Day Stamps and Covers

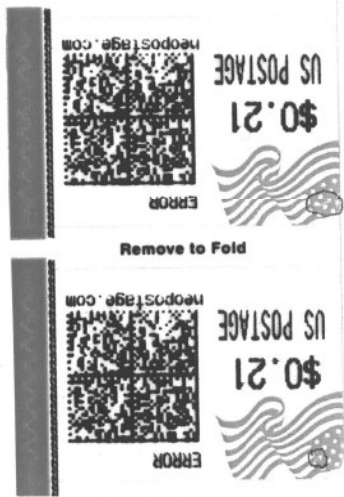
The United States Postal Service, seeking to reduce costs associated with accountable paper and stocking stamp machines, sponsored a competition—including beta testing (sales to the public at a few locations)—for machines to dispense thermal-printed stamps. Shown here is first day material of one of the contestants, Neopost. IBM ultimately was awarded the contract, and its kiosks are now located in about 2500 post offices nationwide. The kiosks are known as Automated Postal Centers (APC). Neopost released two beta test issues. Its first issue—a sheet of four 34-cent stamps (Scott CVP39-42)—did not produce any known first day stamps or covers, but its second issue—ten-stamp sheets for several values (CVP43-53)—did. This exhibit is the story of those items. We are fortunate in the case of the Neopost stamps because—as in the case of the first computer vended postage (CVPI-20)—dates of issuance are printed either on the stamps or on the selvage. This makes first day stamps a collectable category (first day stamps, as well as covers, are listed as subheadings under CVPI-20). All research presented in this exhibit is original. In order to increase collector interest in the Neopost stamps, and in computer vended postage generally, the research in this exhibit was first published in *Linn's*, the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, and *U.S. Stamp News*. Where published, items are so identified. Highlights include the \$12.45 stamp—the only confirmed unique, regular, nonerror, fixed value U.S. stamp—and major additions to and corrections of the Neopost Scott catalogue listing. This is the first time any of the material in this exhibit has been shown.

The ten-stamp sheet was designed to be a booklet which could be folded in thirds. The test sheet on the left (for CVP 51) was prepared at Neopost's U.S. headquarters in Hayward, California, and there made into a demonstration booklet by removing two selvage strips and folding along the exposed backing paper (five extant). Just prior to the issuance of the new ten-stamp sheets on June 21, 2002, Neopost produced the final version of the test sheets, including the unique test sheet for CVP 51 on the right. This sheet was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, April 2007, 28.



**CVP 43: 21 cents (95 mint examples extant)**

CVP43 was authorized beginning June 21 through June 29, 2002. The Scott first day of June 2003, is an error. The first day was June 24, 2002, at the Hayward, California, kiosk, one of—ultimately—six beta test kiosks selling the ten-stamp sheets. This stamp was available in a set of 2 sheets of 10 stamps per sheet. 4 complete sets are known, 1 from the Rosslyn, Virginia, kiosk, and 3 from the Hayward kiosk. There are 20 first day stamps (all mint, no first day covers) and each of these bears the “ERROR” error in place of a control number. This error—the only one in philately which identifies itself—is unexplained. On the second sheet of the set shown here, the upper right stamp bears a small constant variety “line in stars.” The stamp below it bears another small constant variety, “dented start.” The selvaige bears two varieties. One is the “fast clock” variety (1:15 PM instead of the actual time of production, 11:15 AM). The other variety is that the “M” is missing in “PM.” The first sheet of this set was published in the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, Fall 2004, 23.

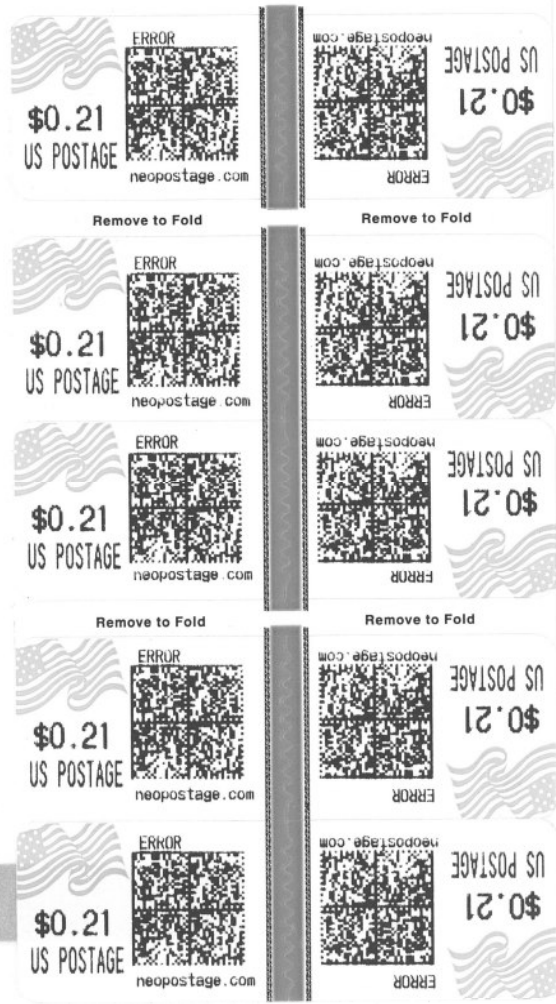
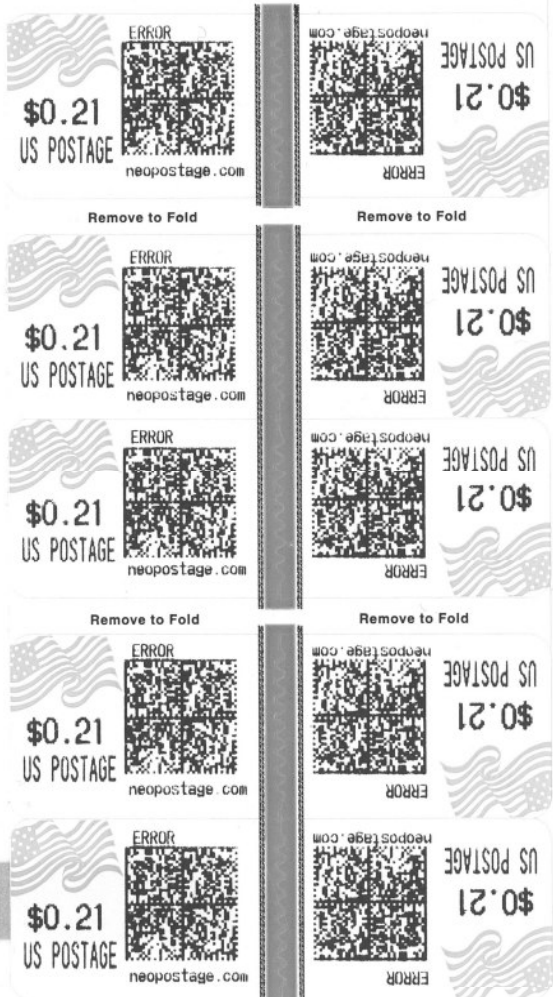


line in stars

dented star

Postage sheet 1 of 2  
 Order#: 5061  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 24, 2002 -1:15 P  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$2.10 of \$4.20

Postage sheet 2 of 2  
 Order#: 5061  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 24, 2002 -1:15 P  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$2.10 of \$4.20



**CVP 44: 23 cents (1180 mint examples extant)**

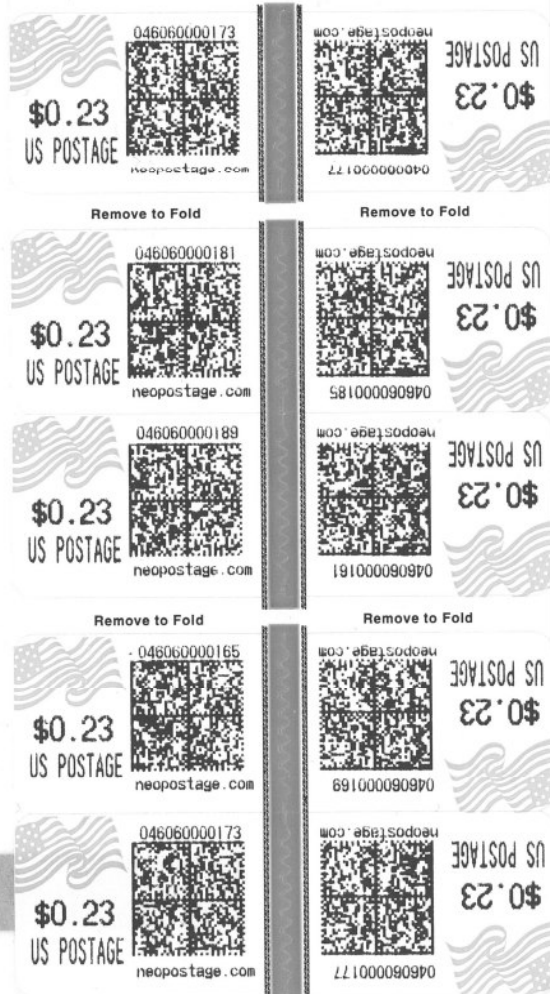
**The 23-cent second ounce stamp**

CVP 44 is of two types, designated on the kiosk and encrypted on the stamp. One is the 23-cent stamp for the second ounce of a first-class letter. It was issued in 1- and 2-sheet sets. It was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through approximately the end of August 2003 when the Neopost beta test ended. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error for the 23-cent second ounce stamp. The first day was June 25, 2002. There are 29 complete sets extant of the 1-sheet sets. There are 10 first day stamps (no first day covers). This sheet contains stamps bearing the "line in stars," "dented star," "fast clock" and "M missing" varieties.

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
Order#: 5083  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 25, 2002 -1:31 P  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
Paid: \$2.30 of \$2.30



Postage sheet 1 of 2  
Order#: 5286  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 30, 2002 1:07 PM  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
Paid: \$2.30 of \$4.60



## The 23-cent postcard stamp

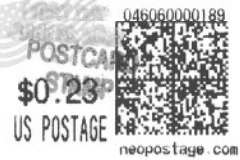
The postcard stamp was issued in sets from 2 to 5 sheets. It was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The first day was June 30, 2002. Note that since both the second ounce and postcard 23-cent stamps were issued in a set of two sheets, unless otherwise documented it will require Neopost scanning the encryption to determine the type of the stamp. Extant complete sets are given in parentheses: 2 (35), 3 (3), 4 (3), 5 (5). There are 20 first day stamps, 17 mint. USPS authorized a first day overprint for this and other stamps issued on June 21 and June 30, and 8 examples of this stamp were overprinted; there are 7 overprinted mint examples. Stamps on the first sheet of the set shown here, bear the "line in stars" and "dented star" varieties. There are 3 first day covers—the one shown here uses an overprinted stamp. The sheet with overprinted stamps was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, December 2006, 12.

Postage sheet 2 of 2  
 Order#: 5286  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 30, 2002 1:07 PM  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$2.30 of \$4.60



Remove to Fold

Remove to Fold



Remove to Fold

Remove to Fold



Cover Prepared by Chris Giles

Chris Giles  
 30955 Huntwood Ave  
 Hayward, CA 94544

**neopost**  
 Neopost Inc.  
 Corporate Headquarters  
 30955 Huntwood Avenue  
 Hayward, CA 94544-7040

POSTCARD  
 STAMP

37c First day of Issue  
 First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
 10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA

**Neopost™**

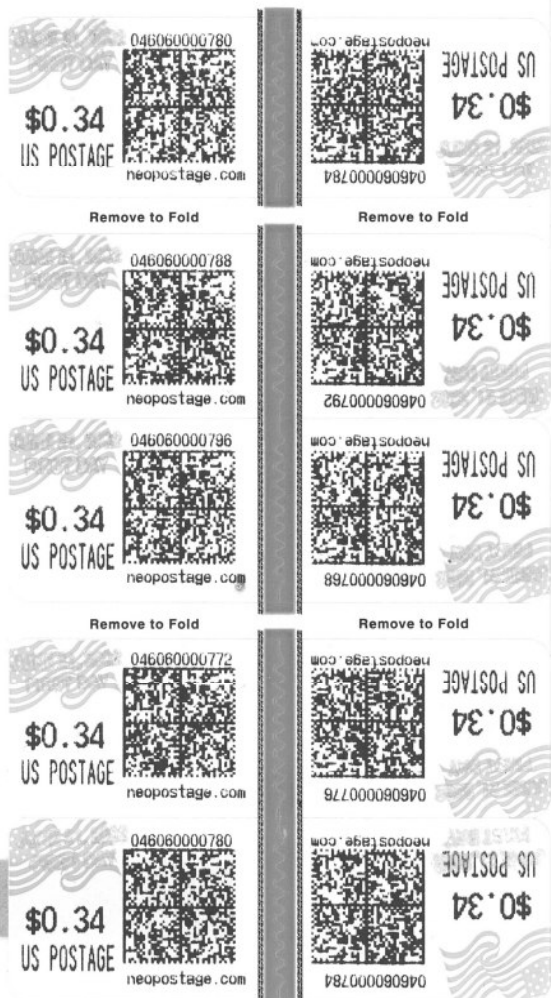


### CVP 45: 34 cents (149 mint examples extant)

This stamp was authorized beginning June 21 through June 29, 2002. The Scott first day of June 2003, is an error. The first day was June 21, 2002. This stamp was available in a set of 2 sheets. 6 complete sets are known, 5 from the Hayward kiosk, and 1 from the Rosslyn kiosk. There are 120 first day stamps, 115 mint. 19 received a first day overprint; there are 18 overprinted mint examples. There are 5 first day covers, including 1 which is a double first day cover, being also a first day cover of CVP 46—the 37-cent stamp—in combination with an overprinted example of CVP45. Two of the stamps bearing the gold overprint sheet shown here, also bear the “line in stars” and “dented star” varieties. The set was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, December 2006, 12. The second sheet of the set was published in *Linn's*, October 4, 2002, 15. The first day cover was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, November 2005, 21.

Postage sheet 1 of 2  
Order#: 5033  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 21, 2002 9:57 AM  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*8194  
Paid: \$3.40 of \$6.80

Postage sheet 2 of 2  
Order#: 5033  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 21, 2002 9:57 AM  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*8194  
Paid: \$3.40 of \$6.80





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Corporate Headquarters  
30955 Huntwood Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94544-7040

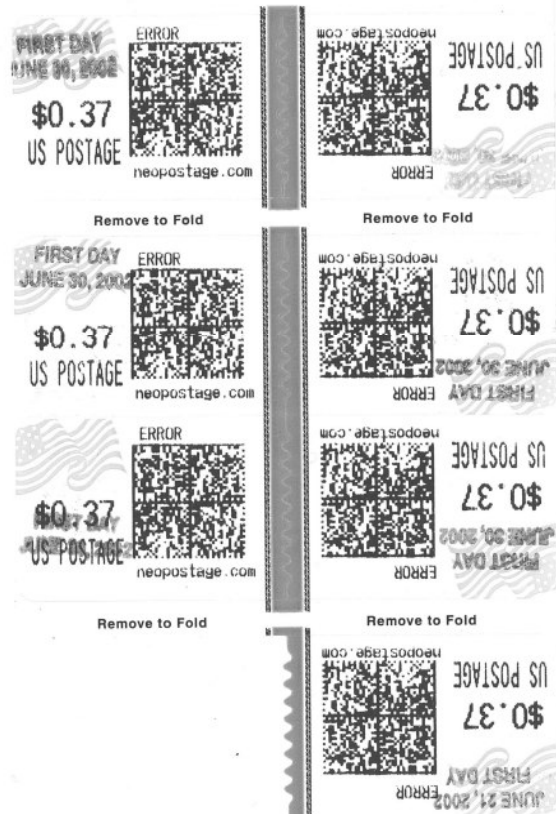
Chris Giles  
137 Beach Park Blvd  
Foster City CA 94404

First Day Cover  
10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward CA



9440442707 13

Postage sheet 1 of 2  
Order#: 5273  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 30, 2002 9:42 AM  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
Paid: \$3.40 of \$6.80

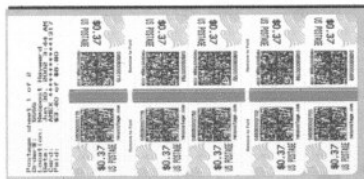






**neopost**

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Corporate Headquarters  
30955 Huntwood Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94544-7040



37c First day of issue  
First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA

**Neopost**<sup>TM</sup>

Chris Giles  
30955 Huntwood Ave  
Hayward, CA 94544



Cover Prepared by Chris Giles



**CVP 47: 50 cents (190 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error. The first day was June 25, 2002. This stamp was available in a 1-sheet set. There are 19 extant complete sets. There are 10 first day stamps, all mint (no first day covers). The first day sheet bears the "fast clock" and "M missing" varieties. This sheet was published in the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, Fall 2002, 12.

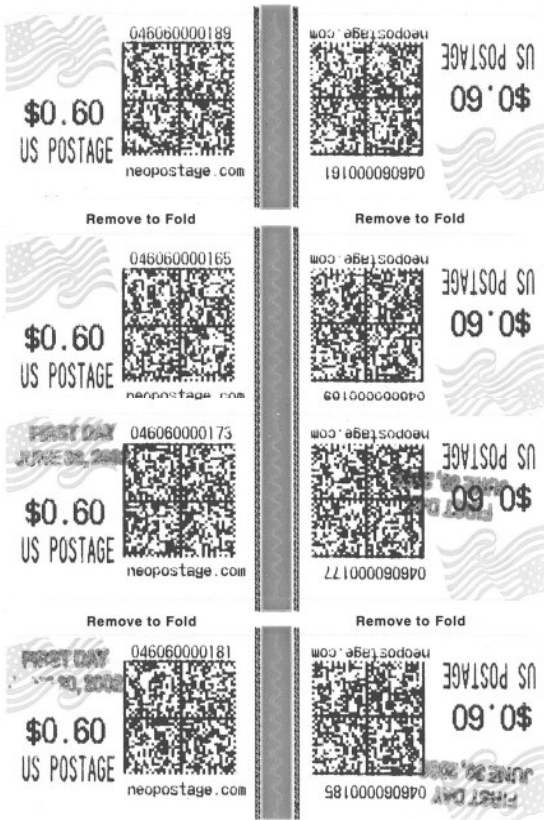
Postage sheet 1 of 1  
Order#: 5089  
Location: Neopost Hayward  
Date: Jun 25, 2002 -1:33 P  
Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
Paid: \$5.00 of \$5.00



**CVP 48: 60 cents (370 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error. The first day was June 25, 2002. This stamp was available in 1- and 2-sheet sets. There are 24 1-sheet sets and 6 2-sheet sets extant. First day errors are shown here. Originally it was thought that June 30, 2002, was the first day of this stamp. Then, in July 2004, a June 25, 2002, 1-sheet set came to light. There are no first day covers. Five stamps on a 1-sheet set issued June 30, 2002, were overprinted. There are 4 mint examples of this overprint error. I was used on a combination first day cover including examples of CVP44, CVP46 and CVP49. Another stamp from this sheet (not overprinted) was used on a June 30 cachet cover. The sheet was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, December 2006, 13. The combination cover was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, November 2003, 13, and December 2006, 13.

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order #: 5284  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 30, 2002 1:05 PM  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$6.00 of \$6.00



**Chris Giles**  
**30955 Huntwood Ave**  
**Hayward, CA 94544**

370 First day of Issue  
 First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
 10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA

**Neopostage™**

Cover Prepared by Chris Giles



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**neopost**

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Corporate Headquarters  
30955 Huntwood Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94544-7040



37c First day of issue  
First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA



Chris Giles  
30955 Huntwood Ave  
Hayward, CA 94544



Cover Prepared by Chris Giles

**CVP 49: 70 cents (180 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of June 2003, is an error. The first day was June 30, 2002. This stamp was available in a 1-sheet set, of which 17 are extant. There are 10 first day stamps, 8 mint. All 10 bear the "ERROR" variety. 7 were overprinted. There are 2 first day covers. 1 first day stamp (not overprinted) was used on the combination cover just noted. 1 was used solo on a first day cover. 2 of the mint overprinted stamps bear "line in stars" and "dented star" varieties. There is also an error June 21 (and inverted) overprint. The sheet was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, November 2006, 27, and December 2006, 13. The solo usage was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, December 2006, 13.

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order #: 5287  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 30, 2002 1:09 PM  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$7.00 of \$7.00



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37c First day of Issue  
 First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
 10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA

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**CVP 50: 80 cents (180 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 21, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error. The first day was July 3, 2002. This is the only one of the Neopost 10-stamp sheet issues whose first day was not in Hayward, California. CVP50 was first issued at the Baltimore, Maryland, kiosk. This stamp was available in a 1-sheet set, of which 17 are extant. There are 20 first day stamps. 10 mint. 1 first day cover was made, using an entire sheet. Here we show the other first day sheet. Two of the stamps bear "line in stars" and "dented star" varieties.

**CVP 51: \$3.50 (11 mint examples extant)**

This is one of the rarest United States stamps—only 11 were issued. It was authorized beginning June 21 through June 29, 2002. Scott does not list a first day. The first day was June 26, 2002. The stamp was available in 1-sheet sets of 1, 2, 5 and 10 stamps. However, only 1 5-stamp sheet was issued, and 6 1-stamp sheets. Two of the 1-stamp sheets show the "ERROR" variety. There is 1 first day stamp (no first day covers). This sheet was published in the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, Fall 2004, 25.

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order#: 5378  
 Location: West+Quest Lobby  
 Date: Jul 3, 2002 4:07 PM  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*0789  
 Paid: \$8.00 of \$8.00

Remove to Fold

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order#: 5201  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 26, 2002 2:06 PM  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$3.50 of \$3.50

Remove to Fold

**Not yet listed: \$12.45 (confirmed unique)**

Until the issuance of this stamp, Scott 164 was the only unique, regular, nonerror, fixed value U.S. stamp. However, Scott 164 has recently come under what Ken Lawrence has described to me as "suspicion." See his discussion in the *Scott Stamp Monthly*, February 2007, 24; he rehearses his arguments—and illustrates some candidates for Scott 164—in his and Scott Trepel's *Rarity Revealed: The Benjamin K. Miller Collection* (2006), 83. Of course, the uniqueness of Scott 164 can never be confirmed, because new examples can always come to light. That is not possible with this \$12.45 stamp. It was authorized beginning June 21 through June 29, 2002. It was available in 1-sheet sets of 1, 2, 5 and 10 stamps. The first day was June 25, 2002. There is one first day stamp (no first day covers). 5 of these stamps were issued. 4 (all from 1-stamp sheets) were used on covers of a Neopost mailing. When it was learned that only 5 had been issued, Neopost tracked down the others, only to learn that the envelopes bearing the stamps had been discarded. Thus, this is the only regular, nonerror, fixed value U.S. stamp, the uniqueness of which has been confirmed. Of course, it bears the "ERROR" error, but that is not what makes it unique. Here we also show the unique test stamp for this issue. It was produced (as was the \$3.50 test sheet shown on the first page of this exhibit) at the 2002 Postal Forum (a convention of mail handling product providers). However, since USPS had not yet approved the paper, the test stamps could not be distributed to the public. The \$12.45 stamp was published in the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, Fall 2002, 13, and Fall 2004, 25, and in *U.S. Stamp News*, November 2005, 20, May 2006, cover, and April 2007, 29. The test stamp was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, April 2007, 28.

Studied by a small but very active group of collectors. U.S. computer vended postage issues—including the APC issues which are so widely available—continually produce highly collectable rarities. These are among the classics of twenty-first century philately. The \$12.45 stamp is a perfect illustration of this phenomenon. It is an unprepossessing stamp in a little-collected area of philately, recently issued and unknown even to Scott editors. Nevertheless it is currently the monarch of U.S. philately (probably of all philately, in its category). However, its status does raise a question: how could it be unseated?

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order#: 3712  
 Location: Postal Forum #701  
 Date: Apr 22, 2002 1:05 PM  
 Card: MC \*\*\*\*\*6117  
 Paid: \$12.45 of \$12.45

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order#: 5087  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 25, 2002 -1:32 P  
 Card: V \*\*\*\*\*4898  
 Paid: \$12.45 of \$12.45

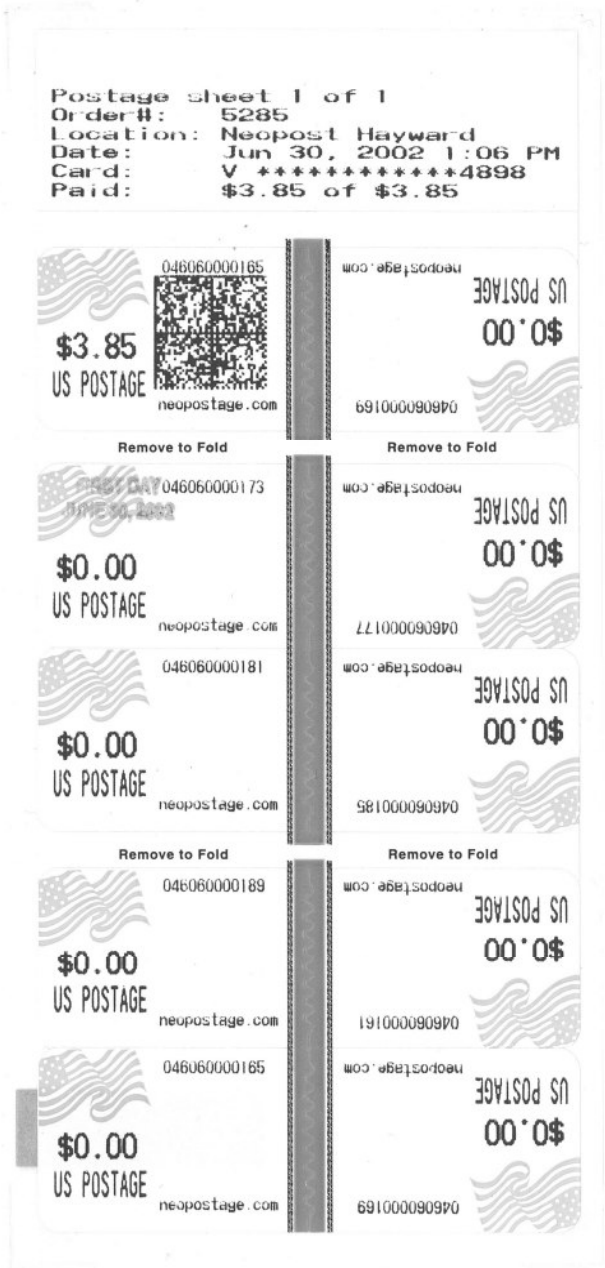
<p>****VOID****</p> <p>\$12.45 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>****VOID****</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>****VOID****</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>****VOID****</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>****VOID****</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>

<p>ERROR</p> <p>\$12.45 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>046060000796</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>046060000772</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>046060000780</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>
<p>046060000788</p> <p>\$0.00 US POSTAGE</p> <p>neopostage.com</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>	<p>neopostage.com</p> <p>VOID</p> <p>****VOID****</p> <p>US POSTAGE \$0.00</p> <p>Remove to Fold</p>

**CVP 52: \$3.85 (74 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 30, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error. The first day was June 30, 2002. This stamp was available in 1-sheet sets of 1, 2, 5 and 10 stamps. The following sets are extant: 1-stamp (25), 2-stamp (2), 5-stamp (2), 10-stamp (3). There is 1 first day stamp, mint (no first day covers). This stamp is not overprinted, but the dummy stamp below it is (unique example of overprint on a dummy stamp).

This stamp is an example of a new category made possible by computer vended postage: value forerunner stamps. Where USPS authorizes stamp vendors to issue fixed value stamps, the possibility exists that the vendor may issue a stamp for a value before USPS issues its own stamp for the same value. The stamp shown here is the very first value forerunner stamp ever issued, and thus the first fixed value \$3.85 stamp ever issued. USPS issued its own \$3.85 stamp (Scott 3647) on July 30, 2002.



**CVP 53: \$13.65 (72 mint examples extant)**

This stamp was authorized beginning June 30, 2002, through the end of the beta test. The Scott first day of July 1, 2003, is an error. The first day was June 30, 2002. This stamp was available in 1-sheet sets of 1, 2, 5 and 10 stamps. The following sets are extant: 1-stamp (18), 2-stamp (4), 5-stamp (3), 10-stamp (3). There are 2 first day stamps, 1 mint. Both bear the "ERROR" variety. There is 1 first day cover. The stamp on this cover bears the "line in stars" variety. These 2 stamps are, by 5 minutes, the second value forerunner stamps. The USPS' \$13.65 stamp (Scott 3648) was issued on July 30, 2002. The first day cover thus shows the first value forerunner stamp on cover, and the first fixed value \$13.65 stamp on cover. This sheet was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, December 2006, 13. The cover was published in *U.S. Stamp News*, September 2006, 28, and December 2006, 13.

Postage sheet 1 of 1  
 Order #: 5289  
 Location: Neopost Hayward  
 Date: Jun 30, 2002 1:11 PM  
 Card: V ++++++4898  
 Paid: \$27.30 of \$27.30

Remove to Fold	Remove to Fold
Remove to Fold	Remove to Fold
Remove to Fold	Remove to Fold
Remove to Fold	Remove to Fold

**Chris Giles**  
**30955 Huntwood Ave**  
**Hayward, CA 94544**

**neopost**  
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370 First day of Issue  
 First Day Cover June 30th 2002  
 10 Stamp Sheets - Hayward Kiosk CA

**Neopost™**

Cover Prepared by Chris Giles

