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## Taxonomy of Postal Indicia

### 1. Introduction

The scientific novelty of the chapter is determined by the fact that the problem of the comprehensive study of the introduced postage stamps for the first time has become the subject of a special historical study. The paper provides a thorough analysis of the problem from 1840 to 2020, which allows to create a holistic picture of the functioning of postage stamps in the world. Based on the analysis of a wide range of sources, namely catalogues of postage stamps of the member states of the Universal Postal Union, it was possible to investigate the process of diversification of types of postal items. The historical development of various special postage stamps as a sign of statehood as well as a symbol of power is analysed.

After all, a postage stamp is not only a payment for services but also a miniature thing that has become a symbol of state identification, a sign of postage of the issuer's state as well as a subject of collecting. Its history is the object of research, which attracts the attention of historians, art critics, culturologists, philosophers, which indicates the multi-vector nature of the subject field in scientific discourse. Thus, this topic is very

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relevant and according to the famous historian, Professor O. Gukovsky: «Stamps are very significant support for source studies»<sup>2</sup>.

Due to the relevance of the chosen topic the purpose of the study is to determine the complex hierarchical systems of postage stamps of the member states of the Universal Postal Union. To meet the goal, it is necessary to solve the following tasks:

- to determine and theoretically substantiate the classification units of postage stamps, their systems, subordination;
- in accordance with the taxonomic scheme to establish groups to classify postage stamps;
- to analyse the issues and volumes of postage stamps of the world for the period from the date of implementation in 1840 to the present.

The methodology of the research includes the principles of historicism, the principle of objective reality, dialectical principals, chronological, analytical-logical, and comparative methods, as well as quantitative analysis.

## 2. Taxa of postage stamps

One of the difficult issues for philately and stamp publishing is the classification of postage stamps. Existing classifications of postage stamps differ significantly, and sometimes they can contradict each other, as they are carried out on different grounds. However, the world's postage stamps are still classified according to the principle of hierarchy by specialists. Based on investigations made by such philatelists as O. Kaczynski<sup>3</sup>, M.P. Sokolov and L.M. Niselevich<sup>4</sup>, M.I. Vladinets and I. Ya. Levitas<sup>5</sup>, the following classification is presented. The classification system

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<sup>2</sup> Rejn, L. (1967). *Istoriya i marki* [History and stamps]. Moskow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

<sup>3</sup> Kachinskij, A. (1973). *Klassifikaciya marok* [Stamp classification]. Moskow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

<sup>4</sup> Sokolov, M.P., Niselevich, L. M., Smyslov, A.M. (1971). *Sputnik filatelista* [Philatelist companion]. Moskow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

<sup>5</sup> Vladinets, N.I., Ilichyov, L.I., Levitas, I. Ya. (1988). *Marki (pochtovye). Bolshoj filatelisticheskiy slovar* [Stamps (postage). Great philatelic dictionary]. Moskow: Radio i svyaz. (in Russian)

is based on the emissions of the world states during the period 1840–2020.

All existing, cataloged postage stamps are divided into two defining sections according to: the policy of the issuer's state; technological purpose.

The first section is divided into three categories:

1. official, issued by the state postal administration or, with its permission, local postal institutions;
2. semi-official, issued by non-postal institutions with the permission of the postal administration or local post offices without the permission of the higher postal authority, which, however, did not object to their issue);
3. unofficial, issued by individuals (companies, firms) and non-postal institutions without permission or in direct violation of the prohibition of the postal administration. Another name for this division of stamps is private mail stamps.

The following classification units and historical prerequisites for the introduction of certain technological purposes of postage stamps are considered further (Fig. 1).

The first category. Stamps of the «official» category can be divided into three groups:

1. Stamps coming for free sale and used to pay for postal items.
2. Stamps intended for the internal needs of the post office or the needs of certain institutions. Such brands are not for sale.
3. Stamps intended for payment of certain taxes or admission of items for special shipment.

The first group is the most extensive. All brands in this category can be divided into: standard and special (charity, commemorative, thematic).

*Standard postage stamps* are postage stamps issued in mass-circulation for long-term postal use, so they received another name – «mass». Denominations of standard stamps correspond to the main postal tariffs of the country. As a rule, standard brands are one-color and small format, which reduces the cost of their production and meets their purpose. The purpose is purely technological, i.e. to ensure the production process, so all post offices in the country must be provided with them fully (in quantitative and nominal terms). The difference between mass

and commemorative stamps is that «standard» ones, as a rule, contain from 1 to 3 plots with different denominations, the analogy is close to the presence of standard issue banknotes. In many countries around the world, the drawings of standard brands have hardly changed for decades. Thus, in Norway, standard postage stamps with the image of the number in the postal horn are issued since 1872. In the total volume of issues, standard occupies 16%.

In fact, from the point of view of the modern system of classification of postage stamps on the first postage stamp «Penny Black», it was from the class of standard issue, but this is a somewhat offensive idea concerning the Royal Post Office and in general to the discoverer of stamp culture. The first stamp of the Russian Empire in 1857 was also a standard issue. Standard stamps of the RSFSR were introduced in August 1921. In the USSR, the first issue of standard stamps was made on October 11, 1923. During the twenty-nine years of independence, the Post of Ukraine as of May 2020 introduced the ninth standard issue.

For any collector to collect standard stamps is not an easy task, because each issue has differences, features that are not noticeable to an average user, but very important for the philatelist. Performing a technological function, standard brands suppress the collecting function. There is an imbalance between the two functions of brands – technological and collectible.

*Charity postage stamps* are postage stamps with a face value and an additional certain amount, which is charged additionally to the fund of the organization for charitable purposes. Surcharge figures were indicated next to the face value, and sometimes not. The reasons for the issuance of postage stamps are due to economic and social factors that developed in the state. With the help of postage and charity stamps, fundraising was started for certain social needs to help the unemployed, sick and disabled, to improve the lives of children and pensioners, the population affected by natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.).

In 1897, the post office first used double-denomination stamps. In Australia, in the states of New South Wales and Victoria, stamps came into circulation, the cost of which included, in addition to the usual postage, an additional amount for the maintenance of hospitals. The amount of surcharge exceeded the face value by 11 and 16 times. Charity stamps

in the Russian Empire were first introduced in favour of orphans of soldiers of the active army in 1905 during the Russo-Japanese War. The first Soviet postage and charity stamps were introduced in 1921 with denominations of 2250 rubles (the Russian Empire official of currency), of which 2000 rubles were counted to support the population of the Volga region.

For international postal items, such stamps were approved by the Universal Postal Union in 1920. In the world there are stamps with a surcharge for the benefit of the unemployed, TB patients, the disabled, to improve the lives and education of children and adolescents, etc. For example, Luxembourg stamps in favour of the intelligentsia assistance fund (1935); Since 1966, the German Democratic Republic has issued annual stamps, «Invincible Vietnam», as a surcharge to the Vietnam Solidarity Committee of Asia and Africa. The highest surcharge of 3000% was set at the face value of the Belgian stamp (1945). Since then, stamps on which substantially exceeds its face value, the International Federation of Philately does not approve such an issue and does not allow cataloguing.

In 1977, the USSR Post introduced a series of «Tourism on the Golden Ring» with a surcharge in favour of the fund of the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (1980) in Moscow<sup>6</sup>. The collection of Ukrainian issues also includes stamps of this type. The first was introduced on June 25, 1923, a series of four stamps «To help the victims of crop failure in Ukraine.» Subsequent issues took place in 1995 (the Mercy and Health Fund of Ukraine) and in 1999 (to facilitate the organization and holding of the III National Philatelic Exhibition in Lviv)<sup>7</sup>.

*Commemorative stamps* (from the French *comme* – «how» and *memoria* – «memory») – the general name of art special (commemorative, anniversary and other) postage stamps, which are often printed on a significant date, anniversary, to honour or celebrate place, event, person or object. The term «commemorative stamp» also means thematic stamps (drawings devoted to a particular topic of collecting). They serve

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<sup>6</sup> Zagorsky, B., Kirzhner, I. (2009). Katalog pochtovykh marok Rossii 1857–1991. Rossii, RSFSR, SSSR: katalog-spravochnik [Catalogue of Russian Postage Stamps 1857–1991. Russia, RSFSR, USSR: Directory-Directory]. St. Petersburg: Standard Collection. (in Russian)

<sup>7</sup> Kramarenko, M. (2011). Ukrayna. Katalog hpochtovikh marok 1866–2010 [Ukraine. Stamp catalogue 1866–2010]. Donetsk: «The New World». (in Ukrainian)

as unique historical and cultural monuments: they not only remind of significant dates, events in the history and culture of each country, directions and achievements of world art but also materialize them with portraits and plot images.

Thus, in 1871 there was a significant event in the history of the postage stamp. The first commemorative stamp was introduced in Peru (South America) on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the opening of the railway between the capital of the Republic of Lima and the cities of Callao and Chorrillos. The postal miniature was without perforation, with the appropriate inscription for the event, face value – 5 Peruvian centavos.

The first commemorative postage stamp of the Russian Empire was introduced on January 1, 1913, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Romanov family. The series is represented by 17 stamps. Stamps of the RSFSR (1918) can be considered memorable, as their issue was timed to the First Anniversary of the October Revolution. The USSR Post began to issue commemorative stamps in August 1923 on the occasion of the opening of the First All-Union Agricultural and Handicraft Exhibition in Moscow<sup>8</sup>.

The postal administration of independent Ukraine began commemorative issues in March 1992. The plots of the stamps reflected the historical themes of the Ukrainian people: «500th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Cossacks» and «100th Anniversary of the first settlement of Ukrainians in Canada»<sup>9</sup>.

In the early twentieth century, commemorative art issues became the main, predominant type of postage stamps. In the total volume of issues by subject areas, they account for more than 65% (Table 1). The number of commemorative stamps in circulation is usually smaller than standard, but there are exceptions. Commemorative postage stamps began to be issued in all countries of the world, and their numerous issues became popular among philatelists – fans of thematic collecting.

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<sup>8</sup> Zagorsky, B., Kirzhner, I. (2009). Katalog pochtovykh marok Rossii 1857–1991. Rossii, RSFSR, SSSR: katalog-spravochnik [Catalogue of Russian Postage Stamps 1857–1991. Russia, RSFSR, USSR: Directory-Directory]. St. Petersburg: Standard Collection. (in Russian)

<sup>9</sup> Bekhtir, V.H. (1997). Katalog poshtovykh marok Ukrainy: [Catalog of postage stamps of Ukraine]. Kyiv: Ukrposhta (in Ukrainian).

*Thematic (topical) postage stamps* are stamps that cannot be taken into the category of commemorative or standard. These include stamps depicting plants, animals, landscapes, architectural monuments, samples of equipment, etc. However, it is worth noting that they are also classified in the series, for example: «Flora and Fauna», «Architecture», «Painting», «Sports». Many of them are memorable, anniversary, and this attitude to this category of stamps depends on the stamp publishing policy of the issuing state. Thus, the Post of Ukraine issues stamps on the subject of «Treasures of Museums of Ukraine», «Holidays and Rites», «Children's Themes» and others.

In addition to postage stamps intended for ordinary correspondence, the post offices of some countries issue stamps for special postal items. Thus, the types of stamps are catalogued and known for: parcels, postal transfers and ship mail, newspapers, express mail (modern name «express mail»), airmail, pneumatic mail, telegrams, registered letters, parcels, notices of delivery, valuable letters. In the XXI century a new type of stamps was established. This type became popular among users, the so-called «personal brand», where the main plot belongs exclusively to the owner.

On some classic stamps there is an inscription “franco”. There is also the term “franco” stamp. However, this is an obsolete name for a universal stamp that was used to pay postage in advance, as opposed to a proto-stamp used to receive postage from the recipient<sup>10</sup>. Some countries placed text on franco-stamps, for example, “Franco-Market” on stamps of Bremen (1855–1863), “Franco-Bollo” and stamps of Sardinia (1851–1861), Tuscany (1851–1860), Modena (1859) and Romagna (1859), “Francobollo” on universal stamps (1861–1867) and service stamps (1857–1877), “Franco” on stamps of Bavaria (1849–1862), Hanover (1850–1859), Saxony (1850), and Switzerland (1854–1907). These stamps are «franco» stamps, i.e. stamps certifying that the postage has been paid by the sender.

In the second half of the twentieth century. postal administrations of the world actively introduced the process of self-service, where all postal operations are automated. In this case, «automatic stamps» (also called roll) and special stamps for registered letters, which are custom labels with an indication of cost, were put into circulation.

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<sup>10</sup> Grallert, V., Grushke, V. (1977). *Filatelistscheskij slovar* [Philatelic dictionary]. Moscow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

The second group includes official and postage due stamps. *Official stamps* are intended to pay for the forwarding of official correspondence of ministries, departments, international organizations, etc. These stamps can be free or discounted, or vice versa, serve to charge an additional postage. The first official stamps were introduced by the Spanish postal administration in 1864. They were not sold at the post office, but issued to state organizations for sending official correspondence<sup>11</sup> in 1875 in Luxembourg. In the Russian Empire, such stamps were intended to pay for the services of a postman (1911), in the RSFSR – stamps for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1922), in the USSR to delegates to the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The latest issues of such brands date back to May 2019. Turkey, France.

*Postage due stamps* are intended to collect postage for the delivery of unpaid or incorrectly paid correspondence. According to some catalogues, they are called «porto». In 1859 France adopted the first postage due stamp<sup>12</sup>. On the background of the stamp the denomination “10 CENTIMES” and the inscription «Timber tax» were marked and. Postal workers pasted them on the correspondence, if it was paid less than the tariff. These stamps were not sold. Postage due stamps are an extremely strange case for the necessity of their existence. The function was exclusively official, the inscription «Surcharge» confirmed this, moreover, these stamps were not sold separately, they were an auxiliary technological tool, i.e. if the sender made a mistake in paying the cost, then the postman pasted the required number of stamps and collected the missing amount in cash during the delivery process. Additional stamps (except ordinary ones) are of the following types: stamps of money orders, stamps of additional postage, stamps of parcels, stamps of rural post office.

There were additional stamps in the postal circulation of the post office of the Soviet Union (since 1925). However, their service life was short, from February 1, 1926 they were replaced by the fact that the envelope was affixed with a special stamp of surcharge. In this way, the post did not spend resources on printing the appropriate stamps, which led to signifi-

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<sup>11</sup> MICHEL-Briefmarken-Katalog. Retrieved from: <https://colnect.com/ru/stamps/list/country/199->

<sup>12</sup> MICHEL-Briefmarken-Katalog. Retrieved from: <https://colnect.com/ru/stamps/list/country/74-/1859>



cant savings in resources<sup>13</sup>. The technological life of surcharge stamps was 156 years, the latest issue belongs to the Chinese Post (2015).

There were many stamps of this category in many countries, but over time their issue became irrelevant due to the reorganization of tariff policy. Today they are part of the general collection fund of the issuer's country.

The third group includes Yugoslav stamps to the Red Cross Fund, the Olympic Committee, postal insurance stamps (Mexico), tax stamps of the Dominican Republic for letters addressed to the President's Office and other government recipients. A special group consists of labels with a note about the payment of postage. They became widespread in post-war Germany (1945) due to the lack of postage stamps. These labels are regarded as full-fledged postage stamps, as they were distributed by the postal administration, had a nominal value, and passed technological postal operations.

The second category – semi-official includes, first of all, brands issued by various aeroclubs and other organizations for the first time in the development of aviation. Demonstration flights of planes carrying mail were organized. Postal items were supplied with special stamps, which, together with state postage stamps, were cancelled with a postmark and delivered to the addressee by mail.

The third category is private mail stamps. In the XIX century in some countries there were private city post offices that issued their own stamps and whole things. Private post office stamps also include hotel post office stamps.

*Local/City private mail stamps.* This type of mail was established in England in 1860, as well as in Germany. Accordingly, postage stamps were issued for their intended purpose. Such issues are catalogued, the period of existence (1861–1900). *Zemsstvo postage stamps* were issued exclusively in the Russian Empire from 1865 to 1917 to pay for the delivery of correspondence within the counties, in settlements where the state postal service did not function. Zemstvo Poshta (post office) was founded in 31 provinces and 177 counties, which included 6 provinces

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<sup>13</sup> Orekhova, S.E., (2018). *Filosofiya kultury pochtovyh marok. Lingvofilosofskaya nauka v polikulturnom prostranstve XXI veka: problemy i resheniya* [Philosophy of Postage Stamp Culture. Linguophilosophical science in the multicultural space of the XXI century: problems and solutions]. Buhara: Durдона. (in Russian)

and 36 counties in the Ukrainian lands as part of the Russian Empire. About 3,000 different brands were issued<sup>14</sup>. Externally, the Zemstvo stamps did not resemble the stamps of the state post office, which led to a variety of their forms, designs and images.

*Hotel stamps* were used to deliver correspondence outside the territory served by the post office, for example, in the mountain resorts of Austria and Switzerland (such stamps have been known since 1860). Urgent stamps of hotel mail were also issued. Currently, this type of stamps is used mainly for advertising purposes by the hotels.

Thus, for the 180-year history of the postage stamp as a state attribute and technological tool of the postal industry, the states that existed, reorganized, created and exist produced 28 issues (according to the policy of the issuing state and technological purpose), numbering 900,473 types (as of April 2020). The analysis of the issue of postal issues of the countries of the world during the period of 1840–2020 is given in Table 1 (without taking into account the circulation, printing features, shades of the colour scheme of the drawing).

### 3. Taxa of postal stationery and franked labels

Postal stationery includes postcards, envelopes, airograms and other postal forms with postage stamps printed on them or inscriptions replacing them. Postal stationery can be with an additional stamp pasted on them. This is usually due to either an increase in postage or the use of postal stationery for other purposes (for example, an envelope intended for internal correspondence is sent abroad)<sup>15</sup>.

Postal items (letters, postcards) only with pasted ones are called postal stationery, even there is another type of postal items. Postal stationery

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<sup>14</sup> Orehova, S. E., (2019). Zemski poshtovi marki Ukrainy druhoi polovyny KhIKh st. – pochatku KhKh st. yak dzherelo istorychnoi pamiaty. Vykylyky ta perspektyvy rozvytku sotsialnykh nauk u Rosii Ukraina ta Krainy YeS: porivnialnyi analiz [Zemsky postage stamps of Ukraine of the second half of the XIX century. – early XX century. as a source of historical memory. Challenges and prospects for the development of social sciences in Ukraine and EU countries: comparative analysis]. Ryha: Baltija Publishing. (in English)

<sup>15</sup> Levitas, Y. Ya., Basiuk, V.M. (1975). Vse pro marki [All about stamps] Kyiv: Reklama. (in Ukrainian)

nery appeared in Austria (1869) with the introduction of the postcard – an open postal item without an envelope<sup>16</sup>.

In Russia and Finland, the first whole things – stamp envelopes – appeared in 1845, i.e. before the establishment of postage stamps. Nowadays, postal stationery has become very common. The number of types of postal stationery is very large, and in the late twentieth century they have gained great popularity.

In the following qualification of postal stationery, only the most common ones are considered (Fig. 2).

*Postcards* are sheets of paper of various thicknesses. On the front side there is a postage stamp and the inscription «postcard». In some countries, explanatory, auxiliary and propaganda inscriptions are placed on the obverse side. The message is written on the reverse side.

Postcards are standard and commemorative, for domestic and international correspondence, as well as simple, registered, paid answer and airmail. Illustrated cards are widely used, on the front of which are placed a variety of drawings in honour of various events.

A standard or commemorative stamp, as well as a stamp of the original drawing can be used as a postage stamp.

*City mail envelopes* – the name of postal stationery for local mailing in 5 (+1) kopecks in Russia (1864–1870). The city post office, for example, in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, Kazan, and Kiev, was separated from the state post office, so long-distance mail envelopes were required for long-distance letters. Envelopes were also issued in other countries, as postal stationery or with a franking stamp, for example, in the old German states of Braunschweig, Bremen, Hanover, at the post office of Turn and Taxis for Württemberg.

On the front of the envelope there is a postage stamp, sometimes a coat of arms and various inscriptions of an explanatory, auxiliary or propaganda nature. Envelopes can be standard, commemorative, simple, registered, airmail and intended for domestic and international correspondence.

World postal administrations issue illustrated envelopes with various drawings on the front. In almost all countries, airmail envelopes are pro-

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<sup>16</sup> Grallert, V., Grushke, V. (1977). *Filatelistscheskij slovar* [Philatelic dictionary]. Moscow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

vided with coloured stripes (red, blue and other colours) on the edges. Due to the development of automatic mail processing, strips of fluorescent substances are applied to envelopes.

According to chapter I, Art. 59, paragraph 3 of the Universal Postal Convention, the *aerogram* is a folded sheet of paper, respectively<sup>17</sup>. On the front side of the sheet is printed the sign of postage and the word «aerogram» in French and national languages. The sender uses the inside of a piece of paper for writing. Aerograms are ordinary and illustrated. Air programs appeared in 1941, and in 1952 they were recognized by the Universal Postal Union as full-fledged mail.

Postal stationery also includes parcel tapes/wrappers, letter cards, money transfer forms, accompanying parcel addresses, telegram forms and many other postal forms with stamps printed on them.

Signs of the postage payment of whole things can be printed just like regular stamps, and overprints can also be made not on the sign of the postage. In some countries, postal stationery can be made by private order, provided that the ordered circulation is not less than a certain quantity. Austrian mail, for example, previously printed any stamps in circulation on sheets of paper intended for subsequent gluing on a postal item. On these sheets, called address, senders wrote the address of the recipient.

Consequently, collecting postal stationery can be considered as a systematic collection, definition, and study of postal stationery. Recently, collecting postal stationery enjoys a new lease on life, as interest in the study of the stamp and postal stationery, which form the postage signs of a certain collection area, motivational and thematic, is growing.

*Postage payment stamps.* Close to the stamps of franking machines are special postal stamps – postage payment stamps. These stamps have an inscription saying that the postage has been paid. Such stamps are used either for processing bulk mail or in the absence of postage stamps (they were widely used in 1945–1946 in Germany).

*Postage franking / postal franks.* Business correspondence agencies and organizations need to speed up the process of preparing mail for dispatch. The use of special franking machines speeds up the process of preparing and processing mail.

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<sup>17</sup> Grallert, V., Grushke, V. (1977). *Filatelisticheskij slovar* [Philatelic dictionary]. Moscow: Svyaz. (in Russian)

Franking machines make a stamp on postal items with their stamp, which is not subsequently cancelled by the postmark and, in essence, is both a sign of postage and a postmark. The first franking machines were introduced in Norway (1903)<sup>18</sup>. Postal franks are of the following types:

*Franchise stamp* is a machine stamp used by the sender. The stamp has an image of a calendar stamp with the date, the name of the sender and the shipping cost of that sender, in addition, the stamp can contain inscriptions and drawings of an advertising and propaganda nature. The stamp is placed directly on the postal item. In the USA and a number of other countries, similar stamps are also placed on a special tape perforated on four sides, provided with an adhesive layer, which is then glued to the postal item.

*Postal franking stamp* – a stamp of franking machines used by mail for the processing of mass shipments and corporate correspondence. Consists of a calendar stamp and shipping costs.

*Postal machine stamp* – an imprint of the stamp of a machine that processes registered mail in automatic post offices. It consists of a calendar postmark, indication of the cost of the postal item, the letter «Z» (ordered) and serial number. In a number of countries, the machine can give a piece of paper proof, the cost of which corresponds to the cost of postage. This sheet is glued to the letter. Some vending machines stamp the stamp directly on the envelope.

Thus, collecting stamps of franking machines is one of the areas of philately. Stamp proofs can be collectible objects. Postmark collecting includes studying the use of postmarks (duration of use), classification, decoding of abbreviations in letter stamps and much more.

#### 4. Conclusions

In the process of the research of the stated purpose, the following conclusions can be stated.

In the history of the post office the year 1840, was marked by the issue of the British postal service brand «Penny Black». The strategic transformation has significantly affected the socio-economic life of the

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<sup>18</sup> Levitas, Y. Ya., Basiuk, V.M. (1975). Vse pro marky [All about stamps] Kyiv: Reklama. (in Ukrainian)

world. In turn, this required the administrations of postal services to further improve the provision of postal services, such as achieving speed and regularity, expanding the network of postal and later postal and telegraph offices, expanding the range of services and more. The development of foreign relations of the world countries is growing, the culture of correspondence covered a wide range of people. Thus, the postal service expanded its borders, became an accessible means of communication both inside the country and abroad. By the end of the XIX century postage stamp system had spread all over the whole world. Thus, just in Europe, by 1900, more than 3.5 thousand types of stamps were established (without reference to colour, imperforate stamps, and perforated stamps as well as the circulation of each issue), which is 23% in the structure of world stamp publishing.

At the beginning of the XX century there were more than 15.4 thousand types of postage stamps in the world postal circulation. The New World, having adopted the experience, moved forward to increase the postal service, which led to an increase in the number of types of postage stamps by 1.5 times (33%). Respectively, the states of Africa (19%), Asia (17%), Australia and Oceania (8%) also used reformed forms of postal communication. Despite technical progress, the use of new means of communication, severe military conflicts, periods after the military recovery, in European countries over the next sixty years, the number of issues increased 12.2 times, and 8.7 in the world. Over time, it has become impossible to collect all issues over the years within a single issuing state. The universe of the collection was divided on the subject of collecting. Innovations in the postal business have led to the emergence of various special postage stamps.

Taxonomies of postage stamps and postal stationery represent the structures of stamps and other postage stamps of the world countries introduced into postal circulation. Some of them have ceased their technological «life» and passed to the category of philatelic heritage and they are stored in the general state collections, the issue of others continues today. There is a possibility of issuing new types of stamps, envelopes, postcards and franking methods in the future. The taxonomy of postage stamps determines: first, the hierarchy of its elements; secondly, the format of these elements (technological purpose, monetary values,

other brand features); third, philatelic knowledge of symbols of state identification.

Table 1. Classification of stamp issues in 1840–2020

N	Post stamps according to technological usage	Number of types	Number of issuing states	In postal circulation (years)	The date of establishment (1 figure – the beginning of issue; 2-figure – the end of issue)
1	Airmail stamps	42 893	248	103	1912 – Bavaria 2019 – France
2	Semi-official airmail stamps	911	83	55	1924 – Lithuania 2000 – Honduras
3	Airmail stamps	358	21	32	1929 – Ecuador 1980 – Tongo
4	Wrappers	2 406	50	41	1879 – Belgium 2015 – Belgium
5	ATM stamps	2 268	50	41	1978 – Norway 2020 – Israel
6	War tax stamps	857	31	64	1865 – Brazil 1990 – France
7	Newspaper stamps	859	45	69	1851 – Austria 1971 – Great Britain
8	Hunting license	1 313	2	85	1934 – USA 2019 – New Zealand
9	Postage due-stamps	9 703	254 including Ukraine 1991	147	1859 – France 2015 – Taiwan
10	Others	893	36	92	1872 – USA 2012 – Vatican
11	Memorial stamps (commemoratives)	580 208	398 including Ukraine 1992–2020	136	1869 – Serbia 2020 – Ukraine
12	Charity stamps / beneficence stamps	18 557	265 including URSR 1923 Ukraine 1994–1995, 1999	112	1897 – Australian States 06.04.2020 – Switzerland (aid to combat the pandemic COVID-19)
13	Cinderella stamps	27 972	22	124	1877 – Paraguay 2019 – Transnistria
14	Personal delivery	10	4	7	1898 – Austria 1946 – Czechoslovakia
15	Personal – private	25 357	25	22	1971 – Scotland 2020 – India

16	Personal – official	6 968	29 including 2007, 2012, 2018	18	2000 – Finland 2020 – Australia
17	War tax	255	34	14	1874 – Spain 1944 – Germany during the rule of Hitler
18	Precanceled stamps	1 118	8	97	1893 – France 2017 – Monaco
19	Postage	3 359	78	102	1853 – Italian states 2020 – Cyprus
20	Private	14 243	20	82	1857 – Ceylon 2019 – Germany
21	Regional	5 436	19 including Ukraine 1992	111	1856 – Argentina 2020 – Great Britain
22	Registered letter	336	14	42	1854 – Australian States 2019 – Netherlands
23	Registered Post letters with insurance cover	159	5	36	1865 – Colombia 1994 – Dominican Repu- blic
24	Official	9 490	142	151	1854 – Spain 2019 – France
25	Special delivery stamps	895	84	104	1885 – USA 2016 – Niuafuou (King- dom of Tonga)
26	Standard	134 109	526 including UPR (Ukra- inian People's Republic) 1918–1920 Ukraine 1992–1995, 1999–2019	178	1840 – Great Britain 2020 – Japan
27	Telegraph stamps	575	26	53	1864 – Spain 1963 – Spain
28	Revenue stamp	8 965	83	147	1850 – Austria 2019 – Egypt
	In total: 900 473				

Source: compiled by authors according to the world stamp online catalogue <https://colnect.com/ru/help/collecting/special>.



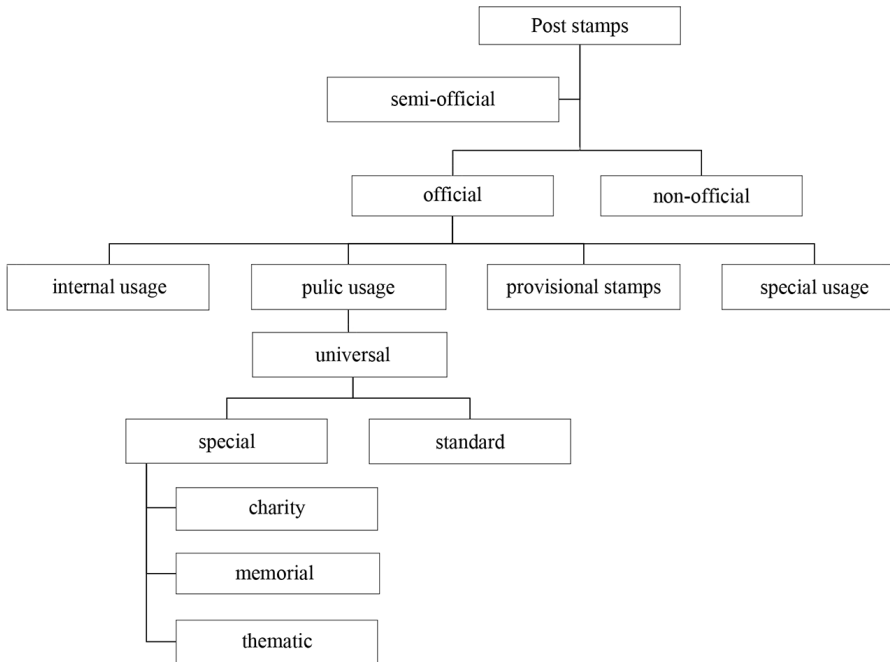


Fig. 1 Taxonomy of postage stamps

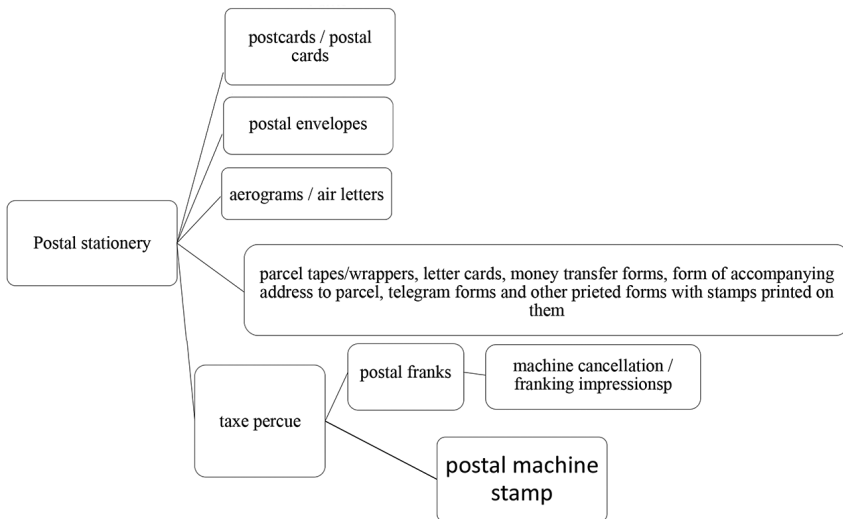


Fig. 2 Taxonomy of Postal Stationery

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## Summary

Based on the study of the principles of classification and systematization of complex hierarchically subordinated objects of philately, the author proposed a taxonomy of postage stamps. Where taxonomic units are postage stamps, postal stationery, postage stamps, and franking machines, all that is directly related to the activities of the postal service and its products.

The study is based on the study of the purpose of postage stamps of the world in 1840–2020 as an expression of public policy towards the development of national postal services, which play an important role in the process of state formation. Accordingly, the history of the postage stamp appears as a narrative about the visualization of the history and culture of each issuing state, a member of the Universal Postal Union.

It is proved that the information capabilities of postage stamps are due to their belonging to the monetary system of the state, are political and economic documents, a source of study of economic and political history, material and spiritual culture. Comprehensive research of elements of postcards as well as envelopes allows establishing the time and place, reasons and circumstances of their creation, the history of technological operation over a while, the level of artistic culture, development of technologies and methods of manufacture. Proofs of calendar postmarks on stamps and envelopes are a source that allows to track technical and technological improvements in certain activities in the field of postal services.

It is concluded that the analytical study of catalogued postage stamps is defined as a world philatelic heritage.

**Keywords:** postage stamp, envelope, postal stationery, collectibles, philately