

# SYNOPSIS

## Thomas Edison and the Bulb



During the late twenties and early 30s of the twentieth century, a group of somewhat dowdy stamps were issued that we refer to today as the “2c reds.” Among those are three of the same design, Scott 654, 655, 656, celebrating the golden anniversary of the invention of the light bulb. This monograph tells the story of that stamp.

### TREATMENT:

This unobtrusive stamp has a backstory that sets it apart from others. The monograph is separated into three parts. With minor modification, each could stand alone. Part I details the origins of the event the stamp celebrates. While this section could be considered non-philatelic it provides the rationale for the many collecting opportunities the stamp affords. Part II deals in a traditional manner with the design and production of each of the three stamps and Part III details collecting opportunities and demonstrates usages for each reviewed area.

### RESEARCH:

This was basically a ten-year project, especially to identify enough interesting usages that would hold the attention of the general reader. All available extant literature was reviewed with input sought from other collectors. While there were some field trips to Edison centers, museums, and libraries, an in-person review of some postal files was restricted by the COVID quarantine. Despite this, assistance was provided by the willing staff at the National Postal Museum and other institutions.

### SIGNIFICANCE/ORIGINALITY:

While narrow in scope, the monograph represents the most in-depth study of this stamp and should serve as an important reference for students of this period and certainly the “2c reds.” New information is reported. The usages represented for a single commemorative stamp are exemplary.

### TECHNICAL/PRODUCTION

Layout and publishing were done according to the standards of the American Philatelic Congress.

