

Design, Essays, Proofs & Production

for the

The Lexington-Concord Issues of 1925



Design Basis Period Photograph for 5¢ Stamp

The Minuteman sculpture was produced for the Town of Concord by Daniel Chester French for the 100th anniversary of the first battle of the revolution in 1875. The inscription was selected from a phrase in the 'Concord Hymn' by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Lexington-Concord 1c, 2c & 5c

The Lexington-Concord stamps were issued to celebrate the **150th anniversary** of the beginning of the **Revolutionary War** for **American Independence**. Congress passed a law mandating a series of stamps for the anniversary. The **1c issue** records Washington taking command of the Continental Army. The **2c issue** recalls the first battle in Lexington on April 19, 1775. The **5c issue** honors the battle at Concord where the British were confronted by Minutemen at North Bridge. This one frame exhibit studies the stamp design, progressive die essays, die proofs and stamp production created for this notable historical event in American history.

Exhibit Plan

Stamp Introduction

- Minute Man Period photograph for the stamp design
- 1c, 2c & 5c issues introduced
- 2c issue Design Photographic Essays (2 Var)
- 5c issue Design Photographic Essay
- Key Participants
- **Frame Engraving Essay**

1¢ Washington at Cambridge

- **Progressive Die Essays**
- **Large Die Proofs:** incl. President Coolidge
- **Small Die Proof** with cracked die
- **Southgate Die Proof**
- **Stamp Production**
 - Plate Proof Diagram & Plate Report
 - Deep Green & Green printing varieties
 - Engravers, Siderographers, Plate Finishers
 - Excess Ink Variety

2¢ Birth of Liberty

- **Progressive Die Essays**
- **Large Die Proofs:** incl. President Coolidge
- **Small Die Proof**
- **Southgate Die Proof**
- **Stamp Production**
 - Plate Proof Diagram & Plate Report
 - Carmine Rose & Pale Carmine Rose varieties
 - Engravers, Siderographers, Plate Finishers
 - Preprinting Paper Crease

5¢ Minute Man

- **Large Die Proofs:** incl. President Coolidge
- **Small Die Proof**
- **Southgate Die Proof**
- **Stamp Production**
 - Plate Proof Diagram & Plate Report
 - Dark Blue & Blue printing varieties
 - Engravers, Siderographers, Plate Finishers
 - Constant Plate Flaws

Epilogue

- Popular stamps sell out (*in two months per Postal Bulletin*)

1c, 2c & 5c Stamp Introductions



1¢ Washington at Cambridge

[Period Stamp Publicity Image](#)

This view depicts **George Washington at Cambridge** Commons taking command of the Continental Army at the fabled elm tree. The design source for this stamp was a 'photoglyptic' chart provided by the Cambridge Public Library to the U.S Post Office, but it was lost at some point during its return. Historians believe a formal review of the army as depicted by this view was unlikely due to the lack of military training of the soldiers at this very early period of the revolutionary war.



2¢ Birth of Liberty

[Period Stamp Publicity Image](#)

This view depicts an idealized battle view at Lexington on April 19, 1775. The design source was a large painting (10' wide x 6' high) by Henry Sandham titled *The Dawn of Liberty*. **This was the first battle of the American Revolutionary War.** An advance party of approximately 240 British soldiers sent from Boston to capture the militia supplies when they were confronted by 70 Minutemen led by Captain John Parker at Lexington Green. It is not known who fired the first shot, clearly outnumbered, the militia retreated.



5¢ Minute Man

[Period Stamp Publicity Image](#)

This central figure on the stamp depicts the **Minute Man** sculpture by **Daniel Chester French**. A few lines of the poem: **Concord Hymn** by **Ralph Waldo Emerson** are engraved on the adjacent tablets. The bronze statue, dedicated in 1875, marks the location of the first decisive battle of the American Revolution at North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. The revolutionary war had commenced on this day.