

---

## Flags

On June 14th, we celebrate Flag Day. According to legend, Betsy Ross created the first US flag when she sewed together the Stars and Stripes in 1776. On June 14th, 1777, her design was accepted and a resolution was adopted by the Continental Congress "...that a flag of the United States by 13 stripes, alternate red and white, that the "Union" be 13 stars, within a blue field, representing a new constellation." The resolution did not, however, specify the specific arrangement of the 13 stars. After the admission of Kentucky and Vermont, another resolution was adopted in January, 1794, making the flag one of 15 stars and 15 stripes. A law was passed on April 14, 1818, though, keeping the number of stripes at 13.

With June coming up, it seems like the proper time to consider FLAGS as a category for you. This is a "small category" that will easily run into the thousands, so, if you really want to keep it small, you'll have to specialize...perhaps only those covers exhibiting the flag of pre-1914 Serbia.

...A little bigger, you say? Well, the field opens significantly: historical US flags, one flag from every country in the world [*good luck!*], bicentennial flags, military flags, state flags, Medieval pennants, Naval communication flags, and the list goes on.

FLAGS! They're colorful, historical, challenging...and yet, available! Such a collection could also be used to supplement one of your other categories. US Historical Flags, for example, could serve as an "appendix" collection to your awesome Military collection; or, Flags of the World might serve nicely as an introduction to your already impressive Foreign collection.

As usual, you're only limited by your own imagination. And, as a nice indirect result of collecting small categories such as this, many of the Nationals and 'ho-hum" covers you didn't know what to do with will now become usable.