

## CONTROVERSY!

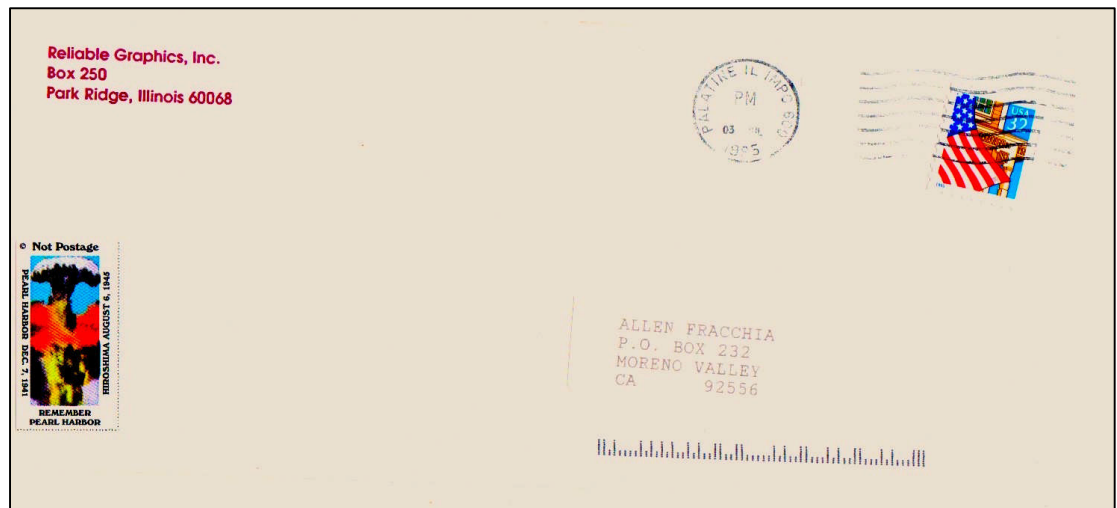
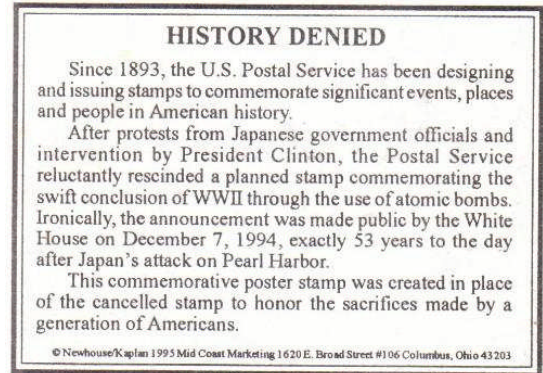
by Howard Grenzebach

From 1991 to 1995 the U.S.P.S. issued sheets of stamps that commemorated and depicted the events of World War II. The last stamp in the series showed the bombing of Hiroshima, ending the war. The Japanese were, of course, upset at a stamp of such violence bringing up memories for those who survived. The president (Clinton) agreed and, since he has no authority to demand, asked the post office to withdraw the stamp and so they did replacing it with a picture of Truman announcing the end of the war.



There are at least five different companies that printed stamps that pictured an atomic bomb scene that was rejected by the post office. The one to the left was made by Mid Coast Marketing in Columbus, Ohio as a pin and attached to the card pictured below.

The headline suggests that history has been denied.



Another stamp declares itself to be "Not Postage" and you should "Remember Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941". This stamp was used on a cover along with regular postage.

The "Not Postage" shows this to be a Cinderella stamp, as are all the variations made and were only printed in opposition to the post office decision to honor the president's request that they give in to Japanese sensibilities and not issue the original atomic bomb postage stamp.

The other side of the controversy is that the bomb should have never been dropped in the first place and the stamp is just rubbing salt in the wound.

As usual in American political discussion, there is a third side to the question. Dropping the bomb on Japan was proper as it ended the war quickly, saved lives, both Japanese and American and a stamp showing Hiroshima under a mushroom cloud (or Nagasaki, for that matter) was unnecessary and was appropriately replaced.

**Howard Grenzebach** is currently the Secretary of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.