Tecentenary of Swedish Press issue to Faroes (above) with P.C. 90 tape type 2 and Toornhavn arrival 24 June. Cover below to USA censored at New York with cellophane tape T 2.6.1. New York registry division 10 June and San Francisco registry station 15 June.
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Lafayette, IN 47903
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Editor
Albert W. Starkweather
5668 Tranquility Oaks Dr., Unit 208
Tampa, FL 33624-5849
editor@afdcs.org; 813-962-7964

Contributing Editors
Gary Denis
Michael Litvak
Ralph Nafziger
Todd Ronnei
Gerald H. Strauss
Alan Warren

Advertising Manager
Mark Thompson
POB 60335
Nashville, TN 37206
markrobbin@bellsouth.net

Executive Secretary
Doug Kelsey
POB 16277
Tucson, AZ 85732
AFDCS@AFDCS.org; 520-321-0880

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Contents

Covering the Past.......................................................... 12
Basil L. Copeland, Jr.: Wartime Airmail FDCs on Patriotic Covers...... 14
David S. Zubatsky: First Day Cover Collections
Sold at Auction or Mail Sales Bibliography III........... 25
Foster Miller: Most Important Recruiting Tool.......... 30
Gary Denis: Attack of the Martian FDCs ............. 32
Alan Warren: Denmark Birth Certificates Part 2...... 36
Gerald H. Strauss: Hooked on First Days......... 42
Dick Brown: Pilgrim Fathers FDC Nearly Wasn’t.... 50
First Cachets Update 155................................. 52
Clifford C. Gilmour — 1921–2015............. 74
AMERICOVER Live Fund Raising Auction .............. 77
AMERICOVER Seminar Slots Available............... 78

Departments & Columns

President’s Message: Behind The Scenes........... 4
Editor’s Opinion: More Surprises for the Readers.... 6
Letters: Readers Respond to the Redesign........... 8
First Days In-Sites Virtual Exhibits on EXPONET... 10
Covering the Youth Field: A Display Module........ 11

Auction News:
New Donors Join Our Regulars ......................... 60
AMERICOVER 2015 Silent Auction Preview.......... 61
Question Box: Is This First Day Cover Unique?..... 64
Canadian Cachets: 1976 Franklin Joint Issue....... 65

Book Reviews:
Seasons of the Maple on First Day Covers...... 70
Overseas Mailers First Day Covers of Canada .... 71

Chapter News............................................................... 72

Awards & Honors......................................................... 75

Executive Secretary’s Report.......................... 76

About the Cover
A page from Alan Warren’s Censored First Day Covers of Nordic Countries exemplifies the virtual exhibits that may be viewed on the EXPONET website. See article on page 10.
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Executive Secretary
Doug Kelsey
afdcs@afdcs.org
First Days Editor
Albert W. Starkweather
editor@afdcs.org
Advertising Manager
Mark Thompson
markrobin@bellsouth.net
First Days Back Issue Sales
Jeff Bennett
agr8view@gmail.com
Cover Sales
Foster E. Miller III
fmillerfdc@yahoo.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President
Lloyd de Vries
stamps@pobox.com
Executive Vice President
Mark Goodson
bgdsn@comcast.net
Recording Secretary
Ralph Nafziger
nafziger@peak.org
Treasurer
Ed Mendlowitz
emendlowitz@withum.com
Past President
Chris L. Lazaroff
czlazfdc@yahoo.com
General Counsel
Tris Fall
tfall3@gmail.com
Education
Gary Denis
garycdenis@comcast.net
Membership
Foster E. Miller III
fmillerfdc@yahoo.com
Executive Secretary
Doug Kelsey
Editor
Albert W. Starkweather
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chairman & Members
Todd Ronnei (2016)
tronnei@gmail.com
Allison Cusick (2015)
awcusick20@gmail.com
Gary Denis (2017)
garycdenis@comcast.net
Lloyd de Vries (2016)
Tris Fall (Counsel)
Rick Gibson (2017)
smokeynav@comcast.net
Mark Goodson (2016)
Jim Hogg (2017)
bossfgang55@yahoo.com
Doug Kelsey (2015)

ABOUT THE AFDCS
The American First Day Cover Society was founded in 1955 and is devoted to the advancement of first day cover collecting.

The AFDCS has been recognized as a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. It is APS Unit 33. Facebook site: www.afdcs.org/facebook.

Contributing to First Days

This journal depends on its readers for articles. All submissions will be considered. Quality illustrations are a key element. Please submit 300dpi or better JPEG or PNG file scans on a CD or crisp color photo copies on a contrasting background — usually black — or via email.

Handwritten and print outs of text cannot be accepted as typing these into a word processor or using optical character recognition (OCR) is time consuming and often introduces errors.

Contributors should be aware that the normal deadline for First Days submissions is sixty days before the magazine’s first cover date. If you have submitted an article and have gotten no response, please let me know.

Send your articles and illustrations to Albert W. Starkweather, 5668 Tranquility Oaks Drive, Unit 208, Tampa, FL 33624-5849; editor@afdcs.org.

Time To Renew
If your journal has a brightly colored label on the front cover, your membership has expired. Renew by mail or on the AFDCS website at: www.AFDCS.org/renewal.
Lloyd A. de Vries: President’s Message

Behind The Scenes

Because you don’t see the quarter in the magician’s hand just before he pulls it out of your son’s ear does not mean it wasn’t in his hand. Because you don’t see something in particular happening in the AFDCS doesn’t mean it is not happening.

I will pull back the curtain to reveal to you some of the things you may not know about, because they do not directly affect you or they are underway and unfinished.

Our bylaws were adopted in the mid 1980s, well before most of us had heard of the internet, much less used it.

A revision a few years later added the executive director to the Executive Committee. We no longer have an executive director, but an executive secretary — same person, slightly different role. He now consults with the president and other officers on policy decisions.

A group of AFDCS members, including myself, have started the ball rolling to update both these issues in our bylaws with a petition.

In particular, the Board of Directors at this time cannot vote on anything except at in-person meetings or via regular mail with a paper ballot. The proposed amendment would allow voting via email, as well as conference calls and online conferences.

Several other housekeeping issues are also ad-dressed, such as the dates of our fiscal year.

Something else you might not have seen is that, with the help of Tris Fall, our general counsel, the dealer contract for Americover was extensively rewritten.

There have been many changes since the first Americover show in 1992. Stamp shows have changed, and over time, the dealer contract had eroded somewhat, too.

The cachetmakers bourse application was also revised somewhat.

In the previous issue, I told you that, for lack of six-room nights — the equivalent of two three-night stays at the DoubleTree Somerset at the Americover room rate — the AFDCS lost $3,000.

Now, both the dealers’ contract and cachetmakers bourse application stipulate staying in the show hotel using the Americover rate code in order to earn discounts.

Fund-Raising Letter

Each year, the AFDCS sends out a fund-raising letter to past donors, enclosed in a special #10 first day cover. This has become one of our major sources of revenue. Most nonprofit organizations do something similar — many several times a year.

Most years, membership chair Foster Miller foots the bill for its production.
and does all the labor of affixing the stamps and folding and inserting the letters. This year, he had help from Rollin Berger, who took care of printing the envelopes. We thank both these long-time loyal members.

Occasionally, we have some extra copies of these limited-edition FDCs for sale, but not always. It is pretty simple to make sure you get one of next year’s covers: Donate! Throughout this issue, there are a number of opportunities mentioned, or go to our website and click on the cleverly named Donate button.

**More Ceremonies**

One more “hidden change” coupled with a thanks to a volunteer: You will be seeing more first day ceremonies at stamp shows this year, as the result of the efforts of immediate past president Chris Lazaroff. Not all APS World Series of Philately shows will host them. Believe it or not, some don’t want them, or only want the right kind of issues!

Most, however, recognize a first day ceremony as another hook for publicity and community participation. They also provide an opportunity for better relations between show organizers and their local postal people.

Chris won’t tell me which shows are getting ceremonies, but I have a good feeling that Americover 2015 will be among them.

I hope to see you there.

---

*Contact the President*

Lloyd A. de Vries
stamps@pobox.com

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More Surprises for the Readers

By now the shock of the new design for First Days may have passed, but readers will find more surprises in this issue. See what AFDCS members are saying in the letters to the editor column on page 8.

New Columns

A pair of new columns has been added to the lineup. The first — “First Days In-Sites” — explores online resources and areas of interest for collectors of first days. The author is Steve Swain, a new member of AFDCS, who writes a similar general interest column for philatelists in the Stamp Insider — “Stamp In-Sites” (www.stampinsider.org). His first column is on page 10.

The second — “Covering the Youth Field” — is by the well-known Mary-Ann Bowman, who suggested: “I think a regular column to promote the use of FDCs with youth, as well as ideas for activities and projects, might be a good step for the society to take.” Her first column is on page 11.

A Request to Authors

I have several requests to authors that will benefit them, First Days, and the editor. When you submit an article, include your full name, email, telephone number, and date of the submission so that I know when an article was submitted.

I have no idea of the age of articles forwarded by the former editor. If you have an article that has not appeared, send me an email to ensure that I have it and include the date you submitted it.

Articles should also include Scott numbers as these provide guideposts for the readers.

While I can scan good quality color copies, do not fold them for mailing. The creases will be plainly visible in the scans.

My Bad

In Bob Parkin's Berlin Airlift article in the March-April issue, the caption at the top of page 12 incorrectly identifies the Douglas C-54 as a “tail dragger.” It had a tricycle landing gear, as shown in the photo at the bottom of the page. The error was mine, not Parkin’s.

Watch the Hand

Winston Churchill, known for his V for Victory sign (page 16), sometimes reversed his hand from palm out to flash a much more earthy sign, known as the V-sign. It reminds me of a familiar bumper sticker: “Horn Broken — Watch for Finger.”

Contact the Editor

Albert W. Starkweather
editor@afdcs.org
Before you turn to the next page, let us whet your cover appetite by asking you to request a sampler selection of our ever-popular Commemorative Postal Cover Cards on approval. Absolutely no obligation. Free postage and we’ll even include a complimentary card (value to $10) just for requesting. What are you waiting for? Let the fun begin.

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YOU MAY NOW TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE
Letters to the Editor

Readers Respond to the Redesign

Congratulations
Congratulations on your new position and your new layout of the magazine.

The article by Bob Parkin about the fiftieth anniversary of the Berlin Airlift was very thorough and extremely well done. I collect joint issue FDCs and have two additional covers (right). The one from Britain is a special cancellation only, but the Marshall Islands is a true joint issue, canceled on the same day at the US.

CHARLES FEINGERSH, BOCA RATON, FL

Easy to Read
I liked the new look of First Days and do find the type easy to read.

WILLIAM F. DUFFY, WESTFIELD, MA

Enjoying
Enjoying the new improved format.

RICHARD HERMAN, LIDO BEACH, NY

Off to a Good Start
Congratulations (I think) on becoming the editor. You’re off to a good start.

A. FRANCIS KOHUT, AFKOHUT@AOL.COM

Cleaner, More Modern
Thanks for all the work you have done to give our magazine a cleaner, modern look.

ALBERT RADDI, ALRADDI@AOL.COM

Distressed
I was distressed to see that you have ditched the masthead created by the late Bernard Goldberg. I hope the change is only temporary as the masthead by Bernard is far superior.

ROLLIN BERGER, ROLLINELIA@GMAIL.COM

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The new nameplate, will remain. See previous all the previous versions on page 12.]

Sane Changes
Very nice job with many sane layout changes. The only quibble I would make is that the bylines seem to be a bit large.

JOHN A. LUTZ, RANDOLPH, VT

Modified Cachets
Referencing Leo August’s Cachets (Question Box, March–April, page 66, Figures 3 and 4): … not only is the top of the frame missing on the second image but the cachet has been enlarged. … Stamps of the same relative size in the two figures means they are printed at the same scale. I see that the portion of the original cachet that was used for the second is larger and has been recentered. This would indicate that it isn’t an error or misprinted cachet, but rather resized and relocated on purpose. Why? Who knows! Could be with fewer stamps this time he felt the cachet could/should be larger and looked better and possibly that the missing copy wasn’t needed.

BOB EMRICK, EMRICK CACHETS

Bob Parkin

20th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift
26th June 1948

The Heroes of the Berlin Airlift
50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift
26th June 1948

To the Heroes of the Berlin Airlift
50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift
26th June 1948

First Days • May / June 2015
We produced 100 covers for the 70th anniversary of V-E Day. All covers are franked with a 20 cent Harry Truman (Sc. 1862) and either the 29 cent Allies Free Rome, Paris (Sc. 2838f); the 29 cent Battle of the Bulge (Sc. 2838j) (illus.); the 32 cent U.S. and Soviets Link Up at Elbe River (Sc. 2981d); or the 32 cent Germany Surrenders at Reims (Sc. 2981f) from the World War II issue. All covers are $9.00 each. Since some varieties may be in short supply please provide an alternate choice.

Maya Angelou

FDoI (please specify machine or hand cancel) -- $4.00, FDoI (DCP) -- $5.00, FDoI combo Paul Laurence Dunbar (Sc. 1554) (hand cancel) -- $5.00, FDoI combo Dunbar (Sc. 1554), Martin Luther King (Sc. 1771), Malcolm X (Sc. 3273), James Baldwin (Sc. 3871) (illus.) -- $8.00

Medal of Honor - Vietnam: We are preparing four different cachets on this issue honoring individuals from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines who received the Medal of Honor for their heroism in the Viet Nam war.
Having neither the time nor the resources to travel to shows, expos, and exhibitions I routinely attend first day cover exhibits virtually.

Celebrating its eleventh anniversary, EXPONET (www.exponent.info) has fulfilled its promise of supporting and promoting philately with a no-fee, online venue for noncompetitive exhibits created by amateurs and seasoned collectors. Milan Černík, EXPONET organizing committee vice president, reports that 960 exhibits — representing more than 65,000 pages — are now available.

EXPONET’s strength lies in its exhibit selection and search functionality that allows you to choose just one basic criterion: selection of exhibits by territory, by subject, by time period, by EXPONET class, or by combining all four criteria simultaneously. Using any of these functions will display pull-down menus for each basic criterion and its three menu levels for further refinements. Shown here are some of the selections for first day cover exhibits.


Czech, English, or German are offered as the language visitors wish to use while exploring the site. Readily noticeable, EXPONET is lean, but tight. Its singular purpose of providing an easy to use, quality experience for posting and viewing philatelic exhibits translates into a design that does not present competing pages for sales, swaps, auctions, articles, and numerous other offerings.

EXPONET has a blog, called the Forum, but it is not promoted as a primary feature. There you will find many interesting posts highlighting new issues, stamp engravers, postal ephemera and more. However, the majority of the Forum content is most surely related to exhibits.

Expect a professional appearance, a distinct visual theme, clutter-free pages and all links and images to load as expected. Visit EXPONET for a truly enjoyable and educational first day cover exhibits experience.

The Author
Steve Swain, a new AFDCS member, is a Stamp Insider contributing editor. His articles have appeared in the American Philatelist, Philatelic Communicator, and other philatelic publications.
Promoting FDCs — A Display Module

The AFDCS website has a resource in the Fun for Kids section that makes it easy to create a colorful display promoting first day cover collecting.

Whether producing the module for youth and beginner areas at stamp shows or to promote the hobby at libraries or community events, the easy-to-follow directions and free downloads will allow anyone with computer access the ability to produce a useful promotional and educational tool that is simple to create and easy to tote from place to place.

The example serves as a sample that can be modified to fit your own collecting interests or changed to complement a particular topic, theme or holiday.

To get started you will need a computer, color printer, scissors, double-sided tape, paper, and a three-sided display board such as those used for science fair projects. These come in various sizes and colored backgrounds and are typically found in office supply, craft or hobby stores, and sometimes at dollar and discount stores.

Optional use of preprinted colored borders or colored construction paper to mat/frame the individual items will make the display more attractive and make the material stand out a little more.

Can’t find a display board? Mount the individual pages on a heavier stock card board slightly larger than each of the individual pieces and tape together. Fold in accordion style and the pages when displayed will stand on their own, although this will take up more table space.

Page Elements

Downloadable items that are part of the display include a two-page heading featuring the American First Day Cover Society logo and title “Cover Corner.”

One page explains what a first day cover is and shows the major elements of modern first day covers.

Another depicts how some people collect: by stamp, topic, or cachetmaker.

A third page gives ideas about how collectors can go about creating and designing their own cachets for first day covers.

Still another page contains the information needed to contact the AFDCS but could be modified to include information about your own local stamp club.

If there is still more room on a display board, you can add pages relating to activities in your youth/beginner area or to promote contests or even to display additional first day covers and terminology.

You, too, can create a professional looking display board in minutes. Send photos of your finished product and youth activities area to youth@afdcs.org. Have an interesting activity using first day covers? Send your ideas and perhaps they will be used in a future article.
By Todd Ronnei’s reckoning *First Days* has had 12 different styles of nameplates. As the compiler of the digital archive, he should know.

“Change was pretty frequent for the first twenty-two years, But for the last thirty-eight years we’ve only had three. The new one was long overdue.”


All of the earlier nameplates were created when the covers were being printed in monochrome.
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Wartime Airmail FDCs on Patriotic Covers
Cachetmakers Adopted ‘Win the War’ Themes

By Basil L. Copeland, Jr.

Patriotic covers have a history nearly as long as the study of philately itself. While patriotism is not limited to wartime, patriotic covers are most often associated with times of war and conflict.

I collect US airmail and aviation-themed stamps and covers. The obvious intersection between that interest and patriotic covers is World War II. During the war only two new airmail stamps were issued — Scott C25a and C26. This article explores how patriotic sentiment influenced FDCs of these two issues.

Some cachets were designed for a specific issue, while others were generic patriots. Mellone catalogued forty-five cachets for C25a and thirty-three for C26.1 Others are known, but these numbers suffice to illustrate the point.

Most cachets intended specifically for the two stamps show little or no influence from the patriotic fervor of the time. Rather, these two stamps were most often just seen as part of “The Transports” and the cachets on them are similar to cachets on the other stamps in the Transport series (C25–C31). Those catalogued by Mellone that are patriotic need to be recognized and included in any collection of wartime airmail FDCs on patriotic covers (Mellone’s Specialized Cachet Catalog of first day covers of the 1940’s).

Scott C25a Issued March 18, 1943

It is perhaps surprising, then, to learn that C25a was issued for a specific wartime purpose that is only recognized in a handful of the forty-five cachets catalogued by Mellone. Following the entry of the United States into the war, on December 23, 1941, by Order No. 16604:

The rate of postage on matter carried by airplane to and from the personnel of the armed forces of the United States stationed outside of the continental United States, including transportation of the mail to and from the air-mail routes, shall be six cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.2

By an Act of Congress in March 1942 service personnel were given free franking privileges.3 However, service personnel overseas often preferred airmail because it was faster, and the six-cent Transport Plane stamp issued on June 25, 1941, (C25) was popular with service personnel for this reason.

C25 was not convenient for service personnel on the move, being issued in panes of fifty. In February 1943 the US
Post Office Department announced that it would issue the six-cent Transport stamp in booklet format on March 18, 1943. No mention was made in the announcement of it being “issued chiefly” for personnel of the armed forces, but G. H. Davis, in *The Transports*, mentions a letter from Ramsey S. Black, third assistant postmaster general, to the director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing which indicated that:

... demand was especially strong by members of the armed services who used air mail stamps in large quantities and who were situated in localities where weather conditions cause the premature adhesion of ordinary air mail stamps.

Moreover, its use for this must have been common knowledge because a handful of the cachets prepared for the first day of issue of C25a mention this purpose.

Mellone 27 (Grandy, Figure 1), Mellone 33 (Sadworth, Figure 2), Mellone 35 (Staeblehle, Figure 3), Mellone 39 (Sanders, Figure 4), and Mellone 44 (unknown, Figure 5) all make some mention of C25a being issued for the convenience of armed forces personnel. Mellone 21 (Figure 6), one of eleven Crosby cachets catalogued for this issue, is a text only Crosby cachet which succinctly described the background to this issue:

*The Post Office Department of the United States early after entering World War II announced that ordinary mail for its soldiers and sailors would be carried “free” to any US post office whether domestic or foreign. Next it developed a microphotographic process for postally transmitting service men messages by Airmail.*

But neither soldier nor his correspondents seems satisfied with the “Free” mail processes when they require longer time. So the P. O. is putting the 6c carrying on [sic] Airmail letter to or from a U. S. service man under arms anywhere on earth.

While patriotic in the sense of their support of American service personnel, only Mellone 27, the Grandy cover, has

Continued on Page 16
Patriotic FDCs — Continued from Page 15

what could be considered a traditional patriotic cachet. Inside the large V is a smaller V formed by small images of aircraft launching from an aircraft carrier, and beneath the large V is the Morse code — dit-dit-dit-dah — for V.

V was an iconic image on many patriotic covers of World War II, encouraging the war effort on to victory, as well as the 1942 US Win the War stamp (Scott 905), with its eagle wings forming a V. The V for Victory sign was epitomized by British prime minister Winston Churchill.

Mellone 40 (unknown, Figure 7) is commonly described on eBay as a patriotic. Is it? The colors do not distinguish it as patriotic, as a red and blue color scheme was common to early air mail. The plane in the cachet is a generic transport plane, not a bomber or fighter.

The only possible attribute to justify calling these patriotic is the “Keep ’em Flying” slogan. The slogan was created by Lt. Col. (later Maj. Gen.) Harold N. Gilbert in early 1941 for a recruiting poster for the Aviation Cadet program. It was heavily promoted by the War Department prior to the US’s entry into the war in December. The slogan was even the title of an Abbott and Costello movie released in November 1941.

After America’s entry into the war, it became a popular slogan for patriotic covers, featured on covers by Richardson, Cachet Craft, Dime Stores, Quigley, Risinger, and Advertisers Press. How is it used here? Is it referring to keeping the war planes or the mail planes flying? Perhaps it does not matter. Looking at patriotic covers for C26, keeping the mail planes flying was also considered essential to the war effort.

Why did Mellone catalogue this as designer unknown? Figures 8 and 9 show First Days excerpts from the early 1980s.

Continued on Page 18
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Patriotic FDCs — Continued from Page 16

It was attributed to John Coulthard for Cachet Craft in the October 1, 1982, and January 1, 1983, issues, showing similar attribution.

The second edition of Mellone’s catalogue was published in 1984. The attribution information was available, but Mellone was apparently unaware of it. Incidentally, it is catalogued in Lawrence Sherman’s United States Patriotic Covers of World War II (3747) as a patriotic cover and is attributed to Cachet Craft.

The two covers shown in Figure 7 illustrate a couple of noteworthy points. The colors are reversed, meaning that this cachet exists in two different color schemes. The first has the full pane and first day handstamp used to cancel most C25a covers. The USPOD did not consider this to be a new issue, so the First Day of Issue slogan between the killer bars was omitted. Nevertheless, to get this official cancel, the POD specified that full panes had to be used on the covers.

This did not stop some collectors from submitting covers with a single stamp for first day service. Since a single stamp met the rate for domestic air mail at the time, such covers received a normal cancellation, such as the Buy War Savings Bonds and Stamps example on the second cover. Covers with a single C25a make a nice addition to a collection.

FDCs not in Mellone turn up all the time, so it is possible that there are other FDCs created specifically for the C25a booklet issue having a patriotic flavor.

Also interesting are C25a FDCs that utilized existing envelopes imprinted with patriotic cachets. An excerpt from Sherman’s book captures the fervor of the time:

Overriding wartime concerns caused a resurgence of patriotic covers, inducing more than 600 artists and printers to publish approximately 12,000 “patriotic” designs on envelopes that were sent around the world during the war. Sending a patriotic cover allowed a mailer to add a public message outside the private message inside the envelope, uniting sender and receiver at a time of mutual concern.

In fact, patriotic covers became a wartime rage. They were sold in dime stores around the country. Matching envelopes and stationery were available in major department stores. Gimbels Department Store devoted an entire Broadway window to a display of patriotic covers published by Jacques Minkus, manager of the Gimbels Stamp Department, over the Fourth of July weekend in 1942. Everyone...
wanted to express his feelings and opinions about the war, and patriotic covers — personally made or printed by others — helped to do just that.⁷

It is no wonder that some would use patriotic covers for wartime FDCs.

Minkus covers were widely marketed and very popular. Figure 10 shows two Minkus covers used for the first day of issue of C25a. Sherman 6336 is a caricature of the three leaders of the Axis nations. It is much less common as a C25a first day cover. Sherman 7683 is less jingoistic, featuring a V for victory cachet.

Patriotic covers were produced by cachet makers familiar to FDC collectors. Figure 11 illustrates two examples. The top cover Sherman 7763 is a Crosby cover with caricatures of the Axis leaders being bombed by “United States Air Forces,” which include an eagle with a bomb in its talons. Sherman 3641 is a Dorothy Knapp cachet produced by Fleetwood inscribed “Join The Air Force And See Tokio.”

Two more C25a FDCs on patriotic covers are illustrated in Figure 12. Sherman 3743 is by Cachet Craft featuring a globe and the flags of the Allied Nations, with the caption “Keep ‘Em Flying,” a play on the familiar slogan. The other cover, apparently produced by Michael Kosko, Jr., appears to be a generic “God Bless America” cachet superimposed on a generic “First Day of Issue” envelope. It is not catalogued in Sherman, although he recognized Kosko as a producer of

Continued on Page 20
Patriotic FDCs — Continued from Page 19

patiotic covers and catalogues a number of them. Was this cover prepared and used only for C25a? I do not know, but it is possible and illustrates the open-endedness of the collecting niche. Given the number of patriotic covers produced during the war, you never know when you will find a C25a FDC on a different cover.

**Scott C26 Issued March 21, 1944**

The eight-cent stamp was issued to reflect an increase in the domestic air mail rate. I believe C26 FDCs on patriotic covers may be even more common than C25a.

At least one C26 FDC is catalogued by both Mellone and Sherman. The Fleetwood/Knapp cachet (Figure 13, top) is catalogued Mellone 13 and Sherman 284. Also illustrated (center) is a Crosby photo cachet catalogued Mellone 8 that is not catalogued by Sherman.

At least one other cachet catalogued by Mellone should be considered patriotic. A Knapp signed handpainted cover, with a banner saying “In Peace or in War / Keep Em Flying,” and a legend identifying it as “1944 8¢ Airmail” is Mellone 17.

It is not in Sherman's catalogue, although he illustrates a number of Knapp's handpainted covers. I have yet to see one come up for sale or auction. If one does, I hope that I can afford it!

As with C25a, my main interest is in patriotic covers that were not produced specifically for the C26 FDC, but were otherwise available and used to service C26. I have only recently begun focusing on this area, but already have acquired quite a few.

Four Minkus covers are illustrated. In Figure 14 the top cover is Sherman 2602 and the bottom cover is Sherman 4197. In Figure 15 the top cover is Sher-
man 5078 and the bottom cover is Sherman 1807. Are there more? Sherman catalogued fifty-two Minkus patriotic covers, so others were likely used for C25a and C26 FDCs.

Figure 16 illustrates two Poppenger covers used to service C26 FDCs. Walter “Pop” Poppenger was a popular producer of WW II patriotic cachets. An article in the August 13, 1942, issue of *Linn’s Stamp News* was cleverly titled “Pop’s Popular Patriotic Covers, Cover Countless Clever Cachet Cartoons.” George Linn, who was cataloguing the patriotic covers of WW II was frustrated by Pop’s habit of printing his cachets on envelopes of different colors, making it difficult to discern just how many varieties there were.

The top cover, Sherman 9228, is representative of these cartoon cachets printed on colored envelopes. “YES ADOLPH, WE’RE COMING!” says a US soldier in red striped pants making his way from Sicily to Italy over the Alps.

The bottom cover, Sherman 287, is more muted. “AMERICAN SPEEDS AMERICA TO VICTORY” it reads under a red eagle, reflecting the sentiment that airmail itself was associated with the patriotic endeavor. While Sherman records these as having been printed on colored envelopes, this example is on an uncolored envelope.

The top cover in Figure 17 illustrates a cover with a beautiful and intricately designed and embossed cachet by Edwin E. Puls. The cover is endorsed “air mail special del,” and has a received backstamp on March 24, 1944, fifteen days later. If it was actually flown, it must have sat in the Washington, D.C., post office for some time or was not actually serviced on March 9, but sometime later.

The bottom cover is not catalogued in Sherman, although the creator, Ted Harrington, is listed as a producer of patriotic covers. On the back is an advertisement offering to sell “200 of these envelopes complete with the Patriotic design and YOUR 3 line return card” for the price of $1.

*Continued on Page 22*
Patriotic FDCs — Continued from Page 21

In Figure 18, the top cover is Sherman #7217, produced by The Advertisers Press, and the bottom cover is a Crosby cover honoring the US Coast Guard, Sherman #7793.

Figure 19 illustrates perhaps the most unusual C26 FDC in my collection. The cover was produced by Richard P. Boone, a prolific producer of patriotic cachets, surpassed only by Linto in the number of covers catalogued by Sherman. He catalogued 1,621 covers by Linto, and 529 covers by Boone. Crosby came in third with 453 patriotic covers.

My cover is Sherman 8455. The text inside the “V” reads “VICTORY OVER HITLERISM” in the left diagonal and “IN NINETEEN AND FORTY-FOUR” in the right arm. At the bottom of the cachet is the “dit-dit-dit-dah” Morse code for V often found on patriotic victory covers.

It is franked with the eight-cent C26 Transport stamp, as well as a five-cent Overrun Countries stamp (Yugoslavia, Scott 917), and has “BY AIR MAIL OVER U.S. / Domestic Routes Only.”

It was addressed to Capt. J. S. Gonzalves in Mazagon, Bombay, India. It is backstamped twice, once in Miami, on March 26, 1944, by the “Air Mail Sec.” and then again when it reached Mazagon on May 8, 1944. The eight-cent stamp secured the FDOI cancellation and air mail over domestic US routes, so the five-cent stamp was added for.

Continued on Page 24
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Patriotic FDCs — Continued from Page 22
international surface mail to India. It was double-censored, first in the US and then again in Bombay. Thus the cover has features of being “postally used” though clearly philatelic in origin.

The contents are missing, but it is slit on one end as if opened carefully to remove the contents, and presumably the censors had a reason for opening it as well. It is an interesting specimen of the tim
[EDITOR’S NOTE: The international air mail rate to India was seventy cents per half ounce.]

Conclusion
Collecting wartime patriotic airmail FDCs is a rewarding pastime. These are an interesting part of the history of the war effort. They demonstrate a broad range of creativity and sentiment and capture the imagination, fears, and concerns of the time.

Their sheer number would make an attempt to collect them all a daunting, and impossible task. Having catalogued so many of them, as Sherman did, is incredible.

There are any number of ways to narrow the focus of a collection. One could focus on the covers of a particular cachet producer, covers with cachets of a particular theme (such as the “V for Victory” or the “Keep ‘Em Flying”), or those franked with a specific stamp (such as the “Win the War” issue). I chose a variation on the latter.

Since I collect airmail FDCs, when I first came across a distinctive wartime FDC on a patriotic cover, I was hooked. It was the Crosby cover in Figure 11 that prompted this collecting interest.

A drawback to this collecting interest is I will never know if I have collected an example of every possible wartime FDC on a patriotic cover. No one knows how many there are. So the hunt continues.

End Notes
1 Mellone, Michael, Specialized Cachet Catalog of first day covers of the 1940’s, Volume II, 2nd Ed., ©1984 FDC Publishing Co.
3 The Postal Bulletin, Vol. LXIII, Wednesday, April 1, 1942, No. 18418.
5 Linn, George, Catalogue of Patriotic Covers of World War II, ©2005 FDC Publishing Co.
6 Sherman, Lawrence, United States Patriotic Covers of World War II, ©1999 Collectors Club of Chicago.
7 Sherman, Ibid., pp. 1, 2.

About the Author
Basil Copeland is a mostly retired economic consultant, who takes a consulting job now and then to support his stamp collecting. Like many, he collected a bit in his youth, and then life took over. He resumed collecting in 2002, focusing on airmail and aviation topical stamps and covers.
A Bibliography of First Day Cover Collections Sold at Auction or Through Mail Sales: Third Supplement

By David S. Zubatsky

This compilation is an addition to the first edition of the bibliography that appeared in the March 1, 2004 *First Days*, the first supplement in the June 1, 2008 issue, and the second supplement in the April 15, 2010 issue.

The goals of this series continue to be to spur a number of research projects, increase awareness for the need by dealers and auction firms to include previous ownership information in their catalogs, and serve as an educational tool for the FDC collector.

The specific auction or sales catalogue is listed under the collector’s last name. Additions or corrections are most welcome. Most of these catalogues are available from the American Philatelic Society’s Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

**Beller, Jeffrey**

In May 2013, Jeffrey Beller donated his personal collection of first day covers, event covers, historical correspondence, and postally used covers (765 items) to the AFDCS. The topics included World Refugee Year, 350th Anniversary of Pilgrims Landing, International Red Cross, City of Refuge/Hawaii, Statue of Liberty, Raoul Wallenberg, Fiorello LaGuardia, and Ralph Bunche. Some of the covers first appeared in the AFDCS’ Auction 77, with others appearing in later auctions.

**Berkun, Alan M.**


**Cole, Ezra D.**

Regency-Superior Auctions No. 100, *APS StampShow* auction, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 20–21, 2013. Lots 3027–3029, 3031–3034, 3072, 3075–3077 include FDCs “from long buried Ezra D. Cole stock.”

**Cook, Charles J.**


**Eiserman, Monte**


**Elms, Richard**


Continued on Page 26
Bibliography — Continued from Page 25

Finger, Marge

Lot 902 contains the Marge Finger EFO collection exhibit. There were cachet printing errors, cachets printed diagonally, misprints, missing colors, bisects, partial plate numbers, color shifts on stamps, tagged and untagged combos, predares, etc.

Goldberg, Bernard

Hamm, Arthur C.

Johnson, Kathleen
Regency-Superior Auctions 94, APS StampShow, Sacramento, CA, August 18–19, 2012. Lot 2587 contains the award winning exhibit of Johnson’s Scott 736 first day cover collection. The collection was composed of 82 FDCs and another 37 covers illustrating noteworthy events in the early history of Maryland. The exhibit won the Grand Award at the 1983 AFDCS convention as well as a number of other awards including the Graebner Chapter Award and the Winfred M. Grandy Award.

Kletter, Dr. Miles A.


Langford, Frederick

Continued on Page 28
HNLP Supercachet

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Bibliography — Continued from Page 26

**Lewin, Robert**

**Meisels, Herbert**

**Moe, Ronald Chesney**
Kupersmit Philatelic Auctions, A Division of Andrew Kupersmit Philatelic Enterprises, Metuchen, NJ, Sale No. 1: The Chesney Collection of Earliest Documented Uses and a Portion of the Maslow Collection of First Day Covers and Postal History, Somerset, NJ, August 16, 2014. There was no printed catalogue available for this sale.

**Nettles, Elizabeth Jane**

**Nussenbaum, Seymour**

**Seacrest, Joe R.**

**Schiller, Elten**

Harmer-Schau Auctions. Auction 104: APS AMERISTAMP EXPO, Riverside, CA, Feb. 13–15, 2015. Petaluma, CA, 2015. Lot 1372 is from the personal collection of Elten Schiller: “Banker box with several hundred FDCs of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and other baseball issues, many different cachets, some signed by players plus Pittsburgh box with hundreds of baseball events, many with corner card of various baseball teams, several unique items.”

**Spooner, Robert B.**
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC. Public Auction New York City, ASDA NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP SHOW, Continued on Page 30
# 1062, Event Leonard Nimoy “Spock” passing set of 2. Limited edition of 60. Cost $15.50


# 1064, Ireland, St Patrick’s Day. Limited edition of 40. Cost $8.95

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Members: Our Most Important Recruiting Tool

By Foster Miller
CHAIRMAN, AFDCS MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

We, the members of the AFDCS, are our own best recruiting tool. Why? Because we already know the benefits of membership — six eighty-page issues of our gold medal winning First Days journal a year with online access now available to all members, two annual first days auctions where one can add interesting and rare covers to their collections, Americancover, our three day convention full of first day cover activities from early morning through midnight, an award winning website that is the envy of other societies, publication and first day cover sales program, the AFDCS archives at the American Philatelic Research Library, and most of all, the friendship of 1,500 fellow first day cover collectors.

Who can you recruit? If you are a dealer or cachetmaker, recruit your customers. If you are a collector, recruit the dealers and cachetmakers that you buy from. If you are a member of a stamp club or society, recruit your fellow members (and give a presentation on first day cover collecting to your local club to get others interested).

How to recruit? There is a membership application on page 80 in each issue that can be reproduced or printed from the online edition. Or visit the “Join the AFDCS” section of our website at www.afdcs.org/join.html, where one can enroll online. Take membership applications to stamp club meetings, stamp shows and bourses, and first day ceremonies. And remember, for each new member recruited, you will receive a $2 certificate good on AFDCS purchases, including membership dues.

Think about it. If each of us recruited one new member, we would have 3,000 members instead of 1,500.

Bibliography — Continued from Page 28


Turner, George

George Turner’s extensive collection of Transportation Coil FDCs was donated to the AFDCS by his widow, Connie Turner. The collection was first placed in the AFDCS’ Auction 70 (June 2010). Other covers were sold in successive auctions.

White, Oliver E.

James T. McCusker’s Mail/Phone Auction 35 (April 13, 1992) contained “A Selection of Outstanding First Day Covers from Various Con-signors Including the Estate of Oliver E. White.”

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The Attack of the Martian FDCs!

By Gary Denis

“N o one would have believed in the middle of the 20th Century that human affairs were being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than Man’s. Yet, across the gulf of space on the planet Mars, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic regarded our Earth with envious eyes, slowly and surely drawing their plans against us …”

PARAMOUNT PICTURES 1953

One of my all-time favorite movies has always been the 1953 science fiction classic The War of the Worlds, which starred Gene Barry as Dr. Clayton Forrester and Ann Robinson as Sylvia Van Buren. It is the story of mankind’s seemingly futile efforts to repel an invasion from the planet Mars.

The movie was an adaptation of a book of the same title by British author H. G. Wells (1866–1946), which was published in 1898. For the movie, the action was transplanted from the English countryside to southern California.

A War of the Worlds single was included in a set of four science fiction postage stamps issued by Great Britain’s Royal Mail on June 6, 1995 (Scott 1616–1619), to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the publication of Wells’ The Time Machine. The year 1995 also marked the fiftieth anniversary of Wells’ death. The other two stamps in the set commemorated Wells’ The First Men in the Moon (1901) and The Shape of Things to Come (1933).

All four titles have been adapted for movies and television.
Although I primarily collect US FDCs, I thought it might be a fun project to try to assemble a collection of British War of the Worlds first day covers.

I soon learned that single stamp FDCs were not readily available. Unlike the US, where a set of four stamps would typically be serviced as four separate FDCs — although often sold only as a complete set, the norm for British FDC servicers is to affix all the stamps in a set to a single cover.

There are also not nearly as many different cachets as are to be found in the US, but what our British counterparts lack in number of cachets, they more than make up for in first day postmark varieties. The Royal Mail allows individuals as well as companies to sponsor postmarks — often termed handstamps — of their own design, subject to Royal Mail approval. These are often available for only one day.

One of the few War of the Worlds single FDCs I was able to find was produced by Benham Silk Cachets (Figure 1). This was one of a set of four covers reproducing movie posters of the film versions of Wells’ stories. The first day postmark from the village of World’s End, Berkshire, pictures one of the Martian flying machines from the 1953 movie.

A larger Benham Silk FDC serviced with the complete set of four stamps is shown in Figure 2. The cachet pictures a different War of the Worlds poster, which was apparently the source of the artwork used for the postmark.

The Figure 3 cover is the official Royal Mail FDC. This is the most commonly seen cachet, and may be found with a wide variety of postmarks. This cover features an Edinburgh, Scotland, FDOI cancellation.

The cover in Figure 4 was produced by cachetmaker A. G. Bradbury for the UK-based H. G. Wells Society. http://hgwellssociety.com.

The overall cachet design picturing a Martian machine, which continues onto Continued on-Page 34
Martians — Continued from Page 33
the back flap of the envelope, reproduces a painting by well-known British fantasy and science fiction illustrator Wayne Anderson. The War of the Worlds postmark from Bromley, Kent, shows a portrait of Wells.

The same Wells portrait postmark was used on the Cotswold FDC in Figure 5. Cotswold Covers, based in Marshfield, Wiltshire, has been in business since 1970. They are easily identified by their trademark large stylized gold “C” which appears as a three-quarter frame around the cachet image.

A different Bromley postmark picturing a spaceship was used for the Stuart FDC in Figure 6. Stuart Covers began in 1965, but has since merged with Cotswold Covers.

The Figure 7 cover was produced by CoverCraft of Beckenham, Kent (which is not the same Cover Craft Cachets we know in the US). The cachet pictures a warship battling a pair of Martian tripods in a scene from the book. The artwork is based on a painting by British space and science fiction artist David A. Hardy. Hardy has illustrated hundreds of book covers, and his work appears regularly in various astronomy and science fiction magazines.

The FDC shown in Figure 8 could also be classified as a flight cover, as it was flown in a British Harrier aircraft assigned to the Number 4 squadron of the Royal Air Force. It was canceled with a British Forces Postal Services postmark, and signed by the wing commander.

The only hand-painted War of the Worlds single FDC I have found so far was created by W. E. Kington of Haxby, Yorkshire. The watercolor cachet pictures a futuristic spaceship flying above an English farmhouse (Figure 9).
Finally, Figure 10 shows a first day cover serviced using a business envelope from Mars Confectioners, the British branch of the US-based candy manufacturer Mars, Inc. Mars produces a large variety of candy, including M&Ms, Snickers, and, of course, Mars chocolate bars (although it should be noted that the British Mars bar is not the same as the American version, but is closer to our Milky Way bar).

The Mars Confectioners corner card ties in well with the *War of the Worlds* “invaders from Mars” theme. Part of the slogan in the postmark reads “A Message Received from Mars.”

My quest for *War of the Worlds* FDCs led me to join the Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors, and I recently placed a free want ad in their journal, *First Day Coverage*. Hopefully this will turn up some interesting covers, maybe even a few with a *War of the Worlds* single stamp.

While I’m at it, maybe I can find a few covers featuring another favorite sci-fi classic movie, H. G. Wells’ *The Time Machine* (1960), which starred Rod Taylor and Yvette Mimieux, but that’s a topic for another article … ■

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Starting Point

Benham Silks’ first day cover for one of the author’s favorite movies would be a good starting point for a collection of *The Time Machine* FDCs. Benham also created single stamp covers for *The First Men in the Moon* and *The Shape of Things to Come*, as well as covers with all four stamps in the issue.
Denmark Birth Certificates
Hans Christian Andersen Commemorative FDCs

By Alan Warren

Part 3

Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875), the poet, novelist, and travel writer, was best known for his children's stories.

Denmark honored him with a set of six stamps released on October 1, 1935, to mark the centennial of the first publication of his fairy tales. The stamps depict a bust of Andersen, and two of his tales — The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid.

By this time the Danish postal service had established an office in Copenhagen specifically to serve stamp collectors, Postvæsenets Salgskontor for Frimærkesamlere.

Figure 1 shows a corner card envelope — not a true cachet — used for the first day of issue of the new stamps. The registered cover was sent to Rome, Italy. The letter rate abroad at this time was thirty øre and the registry fee was twenty-five øre. The entire set of stamps paid in excess of the required fees.

Figure 2 is part of the back of the cover showing a Brennero-Bologna transit mark October 2 and a Rome arrival marking October 3. The Danish postal service also used a handstamp of the collectors’ sales office to seal the registered envelope flap.

Figure 3 shows first day use of the Andersen set to Paris, forwarded to Loiret, France. Even with the airmail supplement of twenty øre in effect at that time, the entire set, totaling eighty-seven øre, overpays the rate. This cover is backstamped Paris and Loiret on October 4, 1935.

Figure 4 is an unofficial cancel at Brønshøj, Denmark, and figure 5 is a UO at Kolding. The latter has typewritten information at the lower left that is not really a cachet in the usual sense,
but merely states “canceled on the stamps’ first day” in Danish, and “first day cover” in English.

Reformation Issue

The following year Denmark issued a set of five values marking the four hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The stamps were released on three different dates in August and October.

The first two values, ten and fifteen øre issued August 10, depict Hans Tausen, a monk who preached the Lutheran doctrines and was a proponent of the Reformation movement.

Other values depict the Nikolai church in Copenhagen where Tausen delivered his first Lutheran sermon in 1530.

Figure 6 is a first day cover of the two stamps, accompanied by a 1934 ten øre airmail stamp, sent by air to Sweden. They are tied with a Copenhagen airmail cancel and on the reverse is a Stockholm airmail arrival mark.

The cover is correctly rated for fifteen øre to Sweden plus an airmail supplement of twenty øre.

Continued on Page 38
Continued from Page 37

The cover also bears the first *cachet* of a handstamp marking stamped twice in red with a pointing hand and the words “Første Dag (first day) / *Hans Tausen*.”

Figure 7 is an unofficial FDC at Jelling and mailed locally.

The sender, Gunnar Gjerulff, was an active servicer of Denmark first day covers at the time. He was proprietor of a manor house in Jelling that provided health care and education.

In the middle of the envelope, where the address area is, one can see what appears to be a faint watermark of a crown above the overlapping letters “DG.”

By examining the inside of the envelope it can be seen that this image is actually printed lightly surrounded by a continuous lattice work in light blue, much as our modern security envelopes that prevent one from examining the contents. This is actually a printed logo, most likely that of the envelope printer.

The Jelling cover bears a block of four ten øre Tausen stamps. Danish collectors often prepared FDCs with blocks of four of new issues, usually resulting in overpaid rates, as is the case here.

The next column will address the remaining stamps in the Reformation set and their use on first day covers.

References


Cachetmaker Series First Day Covers

Make orders payable to AFDCS and send to AFDCS Sales, Box 44, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0044

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Please see our other ad on the inside front cover.
Hooked on First Days
Philatelic Memories of an AFDCS Founder

By Gerald H. Strauss

On January 15, 1955, I attended the first day ceremony in Philadelphia for the three-cent Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts stamp (Scott 1064), and I was hooked (Figure 1).

The formal part of the event, with speeches that weren’t interesting, lasted too long, but then came my chance to be among the first to buy the new stamp, affix copies to envelopes and a ceremony program, and have everything canceled to my specifications. This was a heady experience for a teenager.

In July 1956, also in Philadelphia, I visited a hotel room where cover servicer and cachetmaker Gladys Jackson had a crew of women affixing copies of the ten-cent Independence Hall regular stamp (Scott 1044) to thousands of envelopes, which she or an aide periodically took to a nearby post office for postmarking.

I was there to solicit advertising for First Days, but getting Jackson’s commitment for a half page ad became less important than observing this big-time operation.

Two years later, on August 1, 1958, I was at the unveiling of the three-cent Statue of Liberty postal card (Scott UX46) during the American First Day Cover Society convention at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia.

Because I was convention chairman and editor of First Days, I was so busy hosting postal officials and other dignitaries, that I did not prepare souvenirs of this first day for myself. ArtCraft offered two cachets, a standard version with a machine first day postmark and one with an AFDCS convention cachet and a first day handstamp (Figure 2).

I recalled these experiences recently when I found an envelope that Leo August had sent to me more than twenty-five years ago. On the front he wrote: “Do not lose — more coming —.” Inside were clippings of Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News articles about first days between 1926 and 1932.

Continued on Page 44
AFDCS 1958 Convention, Philadelphia

**TOP LEFT:** Philadelphia Postmaster Raymond A. Thomas selling first copy of 3-cent Statue of Liberty postal card to AFDCS President Bernard Ring; left to right: Mr. Thomas; Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Director, Division of Philately, U.S. Post Office Department; Jack M. Pomerantz, Immediate Past President AFDCS; Norman H. Lee, Secretary-Treasurer AFDCS; Mr. Ring; Gerald H. Strauss, Editor “First Days”; Bernard Davis, founder-director, National Philatelic Museum. **TOP RIGHT:** Skipper Amoroson and Lee Ring at AFDCS Museum sales table. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Post Office area at Museum. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** L. Robe Walter, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, addressing AFDCS banquet. **BOTTOM LEFT:** National Philatelic Museum. **BOTTOM CENTER:** The AFDCS Official Family—Jack M. Pomerantz, Gerald H. Strauss, Bernard Ring, Norman H. Lee, Frank J. Amoroson. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mr. Walter accepting the first honorary membership in the AFDCS from Mr. Ring.
Hooked — Continued from Page 42

Obviously, I didn’t lose the items, but so far as I know Leo never sent any more to me. Nor do I recall how he intended us to use them. They’re from the period when the popularity of first day covers was increasing, along with collector enthusiasm, and they remain interesting and informative. Here are excerpts from the articles.

Excerpts

The earliest clipping, “New 10¢ Air-mail Stamp,” is from the May 1, 1926, Mekeel’s and is unsigned (Scott C7). It reads, in part:

We are indebted to Albert E. Gorham for a set of five first day covers showing the new 10¢ airmail stamp doing service between Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago. … (Figure 3)

There are various interesting markings on this set of envelopes and the set constitutes one of the most unique lots of first day covers we have seen. For instance, one of the covers has a large circular marking upon the face in which is the inscription: ‘First Flight Inaugurating Contract Airmail Service in the U.S.’ …

A little confusion has existed in regard to the date of appearance of the new 10¢ airmail stamp. A correspondent, Thomas A Kraus, calls our attention to the mix-up and suggests that our advertisers should exercise a little more care in their announcements. We may say in justice to them that the Department made a postponement of the flight, which doubtless complicated the situation.

The 1926 two-cent White Plains stamp (Scott 629–630) is the subject of three articles that Leo sent to me. An unsigned one appeared in the November 1, 1926, Mekeel’s:

When the branch Philatelic Agency at the International Philatelic Exhibition in New York opened for business on the morning of October 18th and offered for the first time the 2¢ stamp issued to commemorate the Battle of White Plains, there had already formed a double line one-half square long awaiting the privilege of buying these varieties. Those in attendance at the Exhibition continued to purchase so that the line was constant from the opening hour until the office closed at 9:30 P.M. During this time stamps having a face value of $9,000.00 were sold—the largest amount by far ever taken in by the Philatelic Agency. …

The branch of the New York post office kindly postmarked all first-day covers quite clearly and there is no doubt but what a larger number of these have gone through the mail than possibly any other first-day issue.
The mail from other cities was so large that it was necessary for the postmaster, Mr. Leroy Smith, together with his wife and children, to spend two evenings working well into the night in order to get the first-day covers ready for mailing on the 18th.

In another article (the clipping is undated) about White Plains first day covers that Mekeel’s readers sent to him, editor Willard O. Wylie says:

There are some features in this group of covers worth noting. Two of them contained a circular exploiting the advantages of White Plains. It included a fine map of the city and surrounding country and also a story of the battle...

It is of especial interest to note that another envelope and one mailed by Miss Wylie to our Beverly office are postmarked in red and circular in shape. (Figure 4) The former cover, singularly enough, is postmarked Oct. 16, 10 P.M. in error, and is the only cover bearing this date, that of the opening of the Exhibition. …

The (undated) third White Plains article is by Philip H. Ward, Jr., and its first paragraph reads:

“While the 2¢ White Plains stamp was first placed on sale on Monday, October 18th, at both the International Philatelic Exhibition in New York, as well as the post office in White Plains, nevertheless, covers may be found canceled at the International Exhibition dated October 16th. This is due to the fact that the hand canceling stamp used at the Exhibition was applied to ordinary mail on the opening day, Saturday the 16th. While the Exhibition was open on Sunday, the post office was closed and when it opened Monday morning, the clerk in charge canceled some letters before he discovered that he had overlooked changing the date. These covers, however, bearing the earlier date, were posted on the 18th.

Ward also is the author of an article in the July 4, 1927, issue about the June 18 (Figure 5) release of the ten-cent blue Lindbergh stamp (Scott C10). He thanks a Detroit collector for reporting:

… that eighty thousand stamps were sold on the first day, and that 2,852
Hooked — Continued from Page 45

Air covers were sent East, and 2,883 West, via Chicago. He further states, that many of the covers were addressed to Colonel Lindbergh. …

I appreciate a cover mailed on day of issue, by Hon. Ernest R. Ackerman from his home town of Plainfield, N. J. Mr. Ackerman evidently obtained a supply from Washington in time to send out on the day of issue.

Ackerman, a US Congressman from New Jersey, was an avid philatelist. Read more about him in Alan Warren’s Question Box column on page 64.

The August 3, 1927, Vermont Sesquicentennial and Saratoga commemoratives are the subject of an August 29, 1927, Mekeel’s article. Editor Wylie introduces the piece as follows:

We are indebted to Mr. Gerow for a very interesting novelty, which is really a double first day cover. It was mailed at Bennington, Vt., August 3, and bears a 7:00 A.M. marking. The cover was addressed to Albany, N. Y., with a 5:00 P.M. date, August 3. Both the Bennington and Saratoga stamps give evidence of having done postal duty on August 3, the day of issue. …

What follows is the letter J. R. Gerow, Jr., enclosed with his cover: Enclosed you will find what I consider a wonderful first day cover. This double first day cover traveled entirely by mail, and without any special favors being asked for or received by the offices through which it passed.

I mailed the covers at Bennington, at 7:20 A. M., Aug. 3, received them at Albany general delivery about 2:30 P. M., restamped them with the Saratoga stamp and readressed them to Liberty, N. Y., point of final destination.

Many dealers were taking their covers by automobile between the two cities so as to get both first day stamps on the same cover, but such covers will not check up with either the mails or general delivery date stamps.

I am also enclosing a statement from the P. M. at Bennington, Vt., relative to the first purchaser—George W. Patterson, a lad of 15 years. He arrived at the stamp window four-thirty in the morning. The Hon. Walter H. Berry, Bennington, Vt., was the largest purchaser. [Berry at the time was a member of the Vermont state senate, representing Bennington County.]

The Bennington office mailed about 150,000 first day covers. The whole force worked all night and met you the next morning with a smile, one fine lot of fellows.

The release on January 1, 1932, of
the George Washington Bicentennial set of twelve stamps in the nation’s capital occasioned a “great demonstration,” according to Mekeel’s, and its January 18, 1932, issue has a lengthy report by Ward:

When the Washington baseball team won the American League pennant and played the World Series games, the enormous crowd present did not begin to compare with the number that visited the Washington post office on January 1, 1932, in order to purchase the new series of Washington Bicentenary stamps on the first day of issue. It is estimated that during the day fifty to sixty-five thousand people were on hand, including not only Cabinet officials, foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, Senators and Members of Congress, but thousands of others. Many came from all over the East, from Maine, Florida, and even from Illinois and Ohio (See Figure 6).

“Nine windows, including the Philatelic Agency, were opened at 7:30 A.M. …

By 10 o’clock, it was found advisable to open three more windows, followed by three additional ones, fifteen in all. There were times when the lobby of the main post office was so crowded that it was difficult to enter the building. A detachment of policemen was necessary, in addition to the regular watch force of the Department. The Traffic Bureau was called in around 2 o’clock to stretch ropes and keep lines. Normally, two to four windows are opened at the Washington office. The Department intended closing around noon, but the office remained open until midnight when announcement was made that philatelic covers handed in on the following day, Saturday, would receive the first day postmark. One o’clock Saturday was placed as the dead line. This was later expanded to 4 o’clock, and the crowd at that time still continued so great that philatelic covers were received up until midnight on Saturday for first day postmarks. The canceling machines showed first day covers totaling in excess of one million, one hundred thousand, with large quantities still to be canceled….
Hooked — Continued from Page 45

The event has shown the post office two things: the demands of the stamp collecting fraternity are most substantial and that the Agency and their activities are more than justified. They further show that they were correct in ruling that the Department could not take care of first day covers, for it would have taken a force of one to two hundred clerks to take care of the demand.

In an accompanying article in the same issue, Ward says:

We are informed that in the case of first day covers, most of them showed the complete series.

A set of twelve stamps cost a total of fifty-seven cents. (Figure 7).

Three months later, on April 11, 1932, Philip Ward filed the first of two Mekeel’s articles about the two-cent Arbor Day stamp, scheduled for release April 22 at Nebraska City, Nebraska. He reports that the Post Office Department:

has arranged to make up special dies for the canceling machine, so that the date will not be put in by means of slugs, but will be part of the die. This will result in a clearer cancellation. The time will be 8 A. M., and all covers received for first-day postmark will be dated at this hour. The hand cancellation will be similarly made in one piece rather than with a removable date.

A special canceling machine expert will be on hand all day to see that the machine performs in a satisfactory way. Mrs. Shaughnessy and Mrs. Shawen will be sent from the P. O. at Washington to be present several days in advance, in order to take care of the requests for first-day covers.

In the case of the canceling die, they are so arranging it in the machine that it will be just a little lower than normal, so that blocks of four will be canceled across the center (Figure 8). The P.O. seems to be studying the situation from every angle in order to handle the numerous requests. In return it is not asking too much to suggest to collectors that their covers must reach Nebraska City by April 18, the envelopes should be tightly sealed with enclosure and no freak combination, such as splits and the like, presented for cancellation. The Department suggests that no registered letters be sent, if the special cancellation is desired, as there are no postmarks on the front of registered communications other than the killer cancellation.
This suggestion or request was not universally heeded, as the illustrated airmail, special delivery first day cover shows (Figure 9).

Three weeks later Ward reported in Mekeel’s that:

The demand for first-day covers was the greatest we have ever had with the exception of the Bicentennial issue.

**A Cold & Stormy Night**

My discovery of these articles from Leo August also led me to recall a story from H. M. Brehm, a collector in the midwest, that I included in a 1956 issue of *First Days*:

*The night of February 24, 1929, was stormy and bitter cold, but Joseph H. Zix of Indianapolis, Indiana, had a plan, and he was going to carry it out. “The postmaster at Vincennes had promised to open his post office at one minute after midnight to sell the Rogers Clark stamps. So Joe was there when the window opened, got his stamps and drove back to Indianapolis.*

Joe was mail dispatcher at the Indianapolis post office and a stamp collector too. He had worked out a schedule so fine and sent out his covers on night-time trains, that on February 26 they were all back, canceled the first day, February 25, 1929, from the six capitals of the States comprising the old Northwest Territory — Madison, Wisconsin; Springfield, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; Lansing, Michigan, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Indianapolis, Indiana.

According to Brehm, Zix produced only five such sets of Northwest Territory first day covers.

So these are some stories from the good old days. There surely are many others worth telling, not only from decades ago, but also from more recently, because many collectors have their own memorable day of issue experiences. All of these help make the first day cover specialty so singular.

---

The author thanks Peter Balner, Tim Devaney, John Dunn, and Alan Warren for providing covers and/or other assistance in the preparation of this article.
I live in Norwich, Norfolk, England. Having just moved, I was sorting through some old papers and came across a bundle of the Pilgrim Fathers official FDC (Scott 615), which I had completely forgotten about in the past forty-five years since they were issued on April 1, 1970.

I have several of them, as pictured above, plus another which is unique. It has the same cachet and postmark, but carrying all issue general anniversary stamps which came out that day.

The stamps in the set are 5d Declaration of Arbroath, 9d Florence Nightingale, 1s Co-operative Alliance, 1s 6d Mayflower, and 1s 9d Royal Astronomical Society (Scott 612–616).

The FDC was advertised at the time in several philatelic magazines, and we had interest from mainly UK and the United States. The limited edition of two thousand rapidly sold out.

There is a back story to the Pilgrim Fathers FDC, which almost failed to see the light of day. In the late 1960s and early 1970s I lived in a house next door to a cottage known locally as Brewster’s Cottage in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire.

William Brewster, who sailed on the Mayflower, was born in Scrooby, and the Brewster family certainly did live in Scrooby, although almost certainly not in that cottage.

The local pub was, and still is, called The Pilgrim Fathers, and the village has always had a small but steady flow of American visitors — more in 1970 than usual due to the 350th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. In 2001, the village had a population of three hundred and twenty-nine.

In 1970, to celebrate the anniversary, a small committee was formed to plan events in Scrooby. The committee had twin aims — to celebrate the Pilgrim Fathers and to raise funds towards a new village hall. I was working as a
teacher in the nearby town of Retford at the time. I also ran a small printing business — not much more than a money-making hobby really.

Along with an artist colleague, David Garnett, we came up with the idea of approaching the committee with a proposal to raise funds with a Scrooby limited edition FDC. The committee approved it.

We applied to the UK Post Office Philatelic Bureau, and received approval. I donated the printing of the envelopes as a contribution to the fundraising effort, and David donated the lino-cut image of William Brewster. There is no known authenticated portrait of him, and David drew the one which appears on the FDC with inspiration from several sources.

It wasn't until after they were printed that we discovered a misprint in the text on the envelope. Oops!

Scrooby had never had a post office in the village, although, curiously, William Brewster and his father had served as the village postmasters, very different roles from the modern day counterpart. With no post office, there never was a Scrooby postmark before nor since.

The UK Post Office initially insisted that only the Scrooby-produced first day covers would be stamped. However, when several people turned up with their own envelopes bearing the new stamp to obtain the rare postmark, post office staff relented!

The event very nearly did not happen. A few days before the issue date, a Royal Mail courier arrived at my front door to ask for the artwork for the postmark. Our intention had been for the Post Office Philatelic Bureau to produce it, but it seemed that there had been an option for us to do it. I had ticked the wrong box on the application form. The courier said that he would return in a couple of hours to pick up the artwork. No artwork, no FDC, as it was too late for the post office to produce it.

A quick phone call to David, and we sat down there and then to design and produce the postmark. We managed to produce some copies and picked the best. I still have the rejects, and several unstamped FDC envelopes — the printing overrun.

With no exaggeration. I can say that the ink on the art work was barely dry when the post office courier returned.

I also have, by the side of my desk as I write, my father’s old Olivetti typewriter that we used to type the names and addresses on the covers going to all the FDC buyers.

On March 31, I received a telephone call from the Head Post Office in Doncaster, the nearest big town, to say we could collect the two thousand stamps.

Duly signed for, paid for, and collected, we high-tailed it home, to spend a pleasant evening licking and sticking, lining the stamps up carefully between the small gray dots on the envelope, to assist the person who was going to apply the postmark the following day.

If you are interested in more about this unusual first day cover, contact me at dick.brown@phonecoop.coop.
First Cachets Update 155

By Norman L. Elrod, Mark W. Goodson & John H. White

The AFDCS Glossary of Terms defines a first cachet as “the initial cachet commercially produced by a cachetmaker,” which means the cachet was produced beyond the personal needs of the cachetmaker.

The purpose of this column is to report new cachetmakers' first cachet, last cachet, and important changes and corrections to Mellone’s First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets Revealed 1923–2005 by Richard Monty, Wendy Doyle, Mark Goodson, and Norman Elrod published in 2006 by F.D.C. Publishing Company, hereinafter referred to as Mellone’s First Cachets.

Please send your contributions to the contact listed at the end of this article.

New Cachets

Following is a list of newly discovered first cachets added to our listing:

✓ Charles W. Deardorff created three designs for the 1933 three-cent Byrd Antarctic issue released October 9, 1933. They are Scott numbers 733-28, 28a, and 733-D (Figure 1). Illustrations of 733-28 and 28a may be seen in Mellone’s Platy Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, Volume VI, page 24.

✓ Grant & Lyon Hobby Shop produced their only set of six first cachets for Scott 772-42a-42f, the Connecticut Tercentenary issue released April 26, 1935. All six black cachets, printed on tan envelopes, may be seen in Mellone’s Platy Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, Volume VIII, pages12–13. The cachet designs are by Francis Vaux Wilson, a New York illustrator for the Saturday Evening Post during the first decade of the 1900s.

Apollo 11

✓ Argentinian Carlos Altgelt, a major space collector, designed his first cachet for Scott C76-Z (Figure 2).

✓ Dixon-Lotus Productions produced six post cards. One of these, shown in Mellone’s Specialized Cachet Catalog of first day covers of the 1960’s, Volume III, p. 423, is identified as Scott C76-230. Images of the additional five first are seen elsewhere in this article as C76-AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC (Figures 3–7 respectively). We are also showing an example of the text side of the post cards by illustrating the obverse of C76-BC (Figure 8).

✓ GGC is the name of the first cachet for Scott C76-AM (Figure 9).

✓ Gruppo Filatelico II Piccolo was an Italian stamp club that used the headlines from an Italian newspaper to create their design for Scott C76-AR (Figure 10).

✓ The Hermann-Oberth-Society, United States Section produced their first cachet for Scott C76-AB (Figure 11).

✓ The German kwb company (Karl W. Burmeister) produced its first cachet listed as Scott C76-AK (Figure 12).

✓ F. Borden Mace created his first cachet for Scott C76-AA (Figure 13).

Continued on Page 54
Update — Continued from Page 52
✓ Mobile-Scaff, Inc. enclosed a letter signed by the company president and sales manager confirming their support for the first “Man on the Moon” venture. Their first cachet is Scott C76-AP (Figure 14).
✓ Scott C76-AN (Figure 15) identifies the first Murray cachet for the September 9, 1969, Moon Landing Issue.
✓ William E. Pierce designed his initial cachet listed as Scott C76-AL (Figure 16).
✓ Tom Stopka, Chicago, IL produced his first cachet for Scott C76-AO (Figure 17).
✓ Superia Stamp Company, a business in the United Kingdom, produced their first cacheted FDC for Scott C76-AQ (Figure 18).
✓ The logo in the lower left corner of the Wessex Covers first cachet identifies the FDC separating this cachet producer from other similar designs. Scott C76-AC (Figure 19) is the catalogue number.

Changes
We appreciate readers searching for, and reporting, FDCs by known cachetmakers that predate those already reported. Changes to previous listings are:
✓ Two additional first cachets have been reported for the cachetmaker Post Mark History. There are now a total of five first cachets for this organization, Scott C76-AW and C76-AX (Figures 20 and 21 respectively).
✓ Scott 2427-2429-R, the first cachet produced by David Whittle, is changed to delete some of the initial comments. The revised comments are seen in the table on page 58.
✓ C76-I seen in Mellone’s First Cachets has the name of the cachetmaker spelled Sokalski which is not correct. The correct spelling of the name is Sokalsky. Two additional first cachets are known by this cachetmaker and identified as Scott C76-AS and C76-AT (Figures 22 and 23).

Corrections
First cachets listed in this section of each update are presented with corrections to their listing in either Mellone’s First Cachets or a later First Cachets update article published in First Days. All corrections presented in this update are to be made to Mellone’s First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia.
✓ Scott C76-148 in Mellone’s Specialized Cachet Catalog of first day covers of the 1960’s, Volume III, page 419, is identified as a FDC produced by Limited Edition Covers. First cachet research reveals the actual maker of this cachet is American Mint Associates, Inc., and the cachet is a first for this organization.
✓ After “First Cachets Update 153” was published in the December 2012 issue of First Days it was determined the cachetmaker named Hobbyville produced their cachets for the C76 Moon Landing issue by using only post cards (Figure 24). None of their cachets were produced on envelopes. Therefore, some corrections need to be made. In “Update 153,” Figure 32, Scott C76-204 is not a Hobbyville product. Instead, it is the second cachet for American Mint Association, Inc. It is also illustrated in Mellone’s Specialized Cachet Catalog of Continued on Page 56
Artist Chris Calle has a massive display of first day covers and stamps on his website — www.chriscallefdc.com. These include stamp and cover designs by him and his late father, Paul.
Update — Continued from Page 54

*First day covers of the 1960’s, Volume III, page 422. In this same reference, page 423, Scott C76-242 is not a Hobbyville cachet. It continues to be described as *designer unknown*.

✓ Scott 736-38 has the wrong image printed in *Mellone’s First Cachets*. The correct illustration is shown on page 65 in *Mellone’s Planty Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, Volume VI*.

✓ Scott 1246-216 listed in *Mellone’s First Cachets* has the last name of the cachetmaker spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is Lichty.

✓ Scott 1732-1733-N, O, P., identified as R. L. B., illustrated in *Mellone’s First Cachets* should be deleted from the catalogue. Cachetmaker Robert L. Butkiewicz sent an email and related written information advising he has been making cacheted FDCs since the Chautauqua Stamp was released August 6, 1974. However, he has never produced a cachet commercially. All have been made “just for my collection.” We appreciate him updating information about his cachets.

✓ Scott 2246-E and G in *Mellone’s First Cachets* are the same images with different cachetmakers named. Updated information verifies the cachets shown in both listings are the product of Joe Davis,
an employee in the print department of Consumers Power Company in Michigan. All the text in the cachet describes the statue known as *The Sesquicentennial Flame* and identifies the designer and donor of the statue, not the cachet. Consumers Power Company was not a participant in the production of the cacheted FDC. Only Joe Smith designed and produced Scott 2246-G (Figure 25). Therefore, Scott 2246-E is deleted as a first cachet.

**Last Known Cachets**

It is equally important to know when a cachetmaker produced his or her last cachet. These are the latest reported last known for these seven cachetmakers:

- ✓ Alaska Stamps & Coins (Daniel C. Crevensten) — Scott 2220–2223
- ✓ Bekins (Artmaster) — Scott 1333
- ✓ Deardorff, Charles W. — Scott 753, 768a
- ✓ Leikam, John H. — Scott 739
- ✓ Lichty, Herman J. — Scott C76-132
- ✓ Sokalsky – Scott 1434-1435
- ✓ Whittle, Dave (CZ, Carleen Zimbaltti) – Scott 2841a

There is constant research by collectors and exhibitors in an effort to determine last known cachets for many earlier listed cachetmakers.

In the effort to make corrections to update our first cachet database and to report newly found last cachets, your help is needed.

If you have information about the last cachet of any of these cachetmakers or others, please use the contact information at the end of this article.

**New Cachetmakers Free Publicity**

If you have recently prepared your first commercially produced cachet (i.e., prepared for other than your own personal collection) and wish to have it listed and pictured here, contact Norman Elrod using the contact information at the end of this article.

**The Table**

See the table update on page 58.

**Acknowledgements**

Appreciation for contributions to this update goes to Arnold Agnoli, Robert L. Butkiewicz, Chuck Cooper, Anthony Dewey, Andy Doback, James Frankiewicz, Greg Miller, Richard Novo-Mesky, Bill Pry, Todd Ronnei, Alan Warren, Dave Whittle, and David Zubatsky.

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**Glossary of Terms**

Unsure of what a philatelic word means? The *Glossary of Terms*, on the AFDCS website has more than one hundred and fifty definitions.

To access these, choose *Learn About FDCs* from the main menu, and then *FDC Terms* from the drop-down menu.
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<thead>
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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
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<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-Z</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S, R/S</td>
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<td>American Mint Associates, Inc.</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-148, 204</td>
<td></td>
<td>F/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews, Arthur I. (see International Historical Cover Committee)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artmaster (see Bekins)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekins (Artmaster)</td>
<td>7/24/62</td>
<td>1199-C</td>
<td>1333</td>
<td>F/S, Artmaster Var., signed stuffer enc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burmeister, Karl W. (see kwb)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butkiewicz, R. L. (see R. L. B.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crevensten, Daniel C. (see Alaska Stamps &amp; Coins)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZ (see Dave Whitte &amp; Carleen Zimbaliatti)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Joe</td>
<td>1/26/87</td>
<td>2246-G</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixon-Lotus Productions</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-230, AY, AZ, BA-BC</td>
<td>First is 6 post cards signed on rev.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGC</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>F/S R/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant &amp; Lyon Hobby Shop (F. Vaux Wilson)</td>
<td>4/26/35</td>
<td>772-42a-42f</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gruppo Filatelico II Piccolo</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AR</td>
<td></td>
<td>F/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermann-Oberth-Society, United States Section</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AB</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbyville</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-149, 154, 155, AD, AE, AU, E304</td>
<td>First is 7 post cards signed on rev.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Historical Cover Committee (Arthur I. Andrews)</td>
<td>3/23/34</td>
<td>736-38</td>
<td>998-19</td>
<td>F/U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwb (Karl W. Burmeister)</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AK</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S on front of cvr., letter enc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leikam, John H.</td>
<td>6/17/29</td>
<td>657-17</td>
<td>739-NIM</td>
<td>G/P, F/U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lichy, Herman J.</td>
<td>5/29/64</td>
<td>1246-216</td>
<td>C76-132</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mace, F. Borden</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AA</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile-Scaff, Inc.</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AP</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S w/enc. letter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AN</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pierce, William E.</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AL</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Marked History</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-E232, E259, E260, AW, AX</td>
<td>1383-8a</td>
<td>5 signed des. for first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. L. B. (Butkiewicz, R. L.)</td>
<td>1/20/78</td>
<td>1732-1733-N, O, P</td>
<td>Occ.</td>
<td>3 signed des. for first deleted because not commercially produced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stopka, Tom</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AO</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superia Stamp Co.</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AQ</td>
<td>One-Time</td>
<td>F/S on rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wessex Covers</td>
<td>9/9/69</td>
<td>C76-AC</td>
<td></td>
<td>F/S with logo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittle, David (CZ, Carleen Zimbaliatti)</td>
<td>10/19/89</td>
<td>2427-2429-R</td>
<td>2841a</td>
<td>F/S CZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson, F. Vaux (see Grant &amp; Lyon Hobby Shop)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbaliatti, Carleen (see Whittle, David)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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www.karlscovers.com

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Beazell 707 & 713 $175
Beazell/Crosby USS Maryland $95
Beazell/Crosby USS West Virginia $95
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I am a Crosby, Battleship and FDC collector and exhibitor. I have over 150 very good Beazell and Crosby to put up on www.karlscovers.com.

The Battleship postcards and covers have very sharp cancels. They are from a collection I received from Herb Rommel before he passed away.

karlzurn@gmail.com, 1980 N. Atlantic Ave. Suite 520, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
New Donors Join Our Regular Donors

From mid-January to the end of March, Auction Central — aka my bedroom — lost a bit more space, caused by twenty generous donors who contributed a variety of FDCs to the AFDCS auctions.

Several were first timers. Marvin Cannon contributed US and foreign FDCs, including two complete sets of 2009 Lunar New Year with one set of cachets made from Chinese matchboxes of Pandas and the other made from Chinese matchboxes of a Chinese painting.

Frank Priore donated a colored Art-Craft set for the Modern Art in America issue. Ed Krohn included about seventy-five UN FDCs, along with a complete set of Wildflowers by PCS.

Other first timers included Philip and Edith Howard who contributed about 1,400 Postal Commemorative Society FDCs and Steve Altman who donated eight Hubartt handpainted FDCs.

The remaining donations came from those who have contributed in the past.

About nine hundred UN FDCs, most with inscription blocks, were sent by David Zubatsky. Foster Miller continued his annual contribution of a large quantity of “7-1-71 Affair” FDCs.

A nice batch of AFDCS generic cacheted FDCs with field cancels was donated by Mark Gereb. Ray Amoroso contributed a set of George W. Bush Inaugural covers, all serviced with a different combo of stamps.

M. Douglas Parks, who has a specialized collection of Buffalo Bill Cody, selected a nice group of FDCs and postcards from his collection for our auction. In the material donated by Alan Warren were twenty-two FDCs for the 1934 and 1935 Byrd issues, including a stuffer for P735-7.

Michael Mellone’s submissions included FDCs and event covers. Joseph Mersol sent about five hundred and fifty US, UN, foreign, and miscellaneous FDCs and covers, and Fred Fowler donated a set of six oversized 1992 Columbian souvenir sheets FDCs by an unknown cachetmaker.

Cachetmakers donated some of their personally designed cachets, including Kendal Bevil’s one-of-a-kind Hammer variety FDCs. Elena Cornejo contributed eight of her colorful and creative FDCs.

Robert Butkiewicz donated more than fifty of his RLB FDCs from 2014. Steve Wilson, who has been averaging one—two shipments of his Wilson and Vintry FDCs almost every month since 2007, sent us his most recent batch of covers.

If you have never donated to our auctions, please send it to the address below, and you will receive an acknowledgment letter, and recognition in this column. As the AFDCS has nonprofit status, remember that your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS laws.

AFDCS Auction Committee Chairman
Michael Litvak, 1866 Loma Vista St., Pasadena, CA 91104
michael.litvak4@gmail.com
AMERICOVER 2015 Silent Auction Preview

Americanover usually has three auctions. A silent auction is held in the hospitality suite from Thursday through Saturday evenings. The suite and auction are cohosted by the Graebner and Ries Chapters, with all proceeds going for Americover expenses. On Friday evening the AFDCS holds a live auction immediately after the dealers bourse closes at 5 p.m. The American Ceremony Program Society has its live auction following its Saturday afternoon meeting.

While I normally preview lots from the journal/website, I have decided to preview selected lots from the Americover 2015 silent auction. All of these were donated by generous contributors who have supported the auction in the past.

One of the lots Mark Goodson chose is a Bolton FDC for the fifteen-cent New York Skyline airmail issue of 1947 (Scott C35, Figure 1).

Another regular contributor to the silent auction, in addition to all AFDCS auctions, is Tom Peluso, who produces his own line of Therome Cachets. Of the five FDCs he donated to the silent auction, I chose to preview the cover illustrated in Figure 2, which was serviced with the five-cent Verrazano-Narrows Bridge issued in 1958 (Scott 1258). Tom added on this dramatic cachet of Giovanni da Verrazzano, the Florentine explorer for whom the bridge is named.

One can always count on Alan Warren for his yearly support of our silent auction. One of his donated covers to be included in this year’s auction is this First Cachet by Roy & Homer Hubbard for the 1935 Byrd Antarctic Expedition II reissue (Scott 768, Figure 3).

Continued on Page 62
Silent Auction — Continued from Page 61

Last year’s AMERICOVER convention tour on Thursday included a trip to the Washington Press headquarters in Florham, New Jersey. Among the gifts given to the tour participants was a set of eight ArtCraft unserviced color proofs for the 2014 Fort McHenry stamp (Scott 4921).

Don Trieschman cleverly had his set serviced with the new stamp and a digital color postmark, then asked for it to be included in this year’s silent auction. The second-to-last proof FDC — before the black ArtCraft logo and wording are added — is shown in figure 4.

Former editor Peter Martin thanked those who supported his efforts by presenting them with a specially designed Christmas FDC prepared by a well-known cachetmaker. Last year’s cover was designed by Doris Gold, and Martin contributed one of them to this year’s silent auction (Scott 4946, Figure 5).

We are all pleased that Via is stepping up production of her creative covers. Toward the end of last year, she designed a set of four different cachets for the Batman forever issue, and contributed one of the sets to our silent auction. An example of a cover from that set is illustrated in figure 6 (Scott 4935).

Bob Lewin, a prolific collector of colorful and interesting FDCs, selected a Curtiss Poorman cover for his contribution to the silent auction. This exquisitely handdrawn and handpainted all over cachet for the Buffalo Bill Cody issue is found in figure 7 (Scott 2177).

Since February 2013, Sally Jo Reynolds has donated eleven USPS large priority mail boxes full of FDCs to our society auctions. The covers are always organized into collectible topics, which makes it easy for our auction committee members to organize much of the material into the Bundles of Fun category of our journal/website auctions.

Included in every donation is a group of miscellaneous FDCs of better quality, always neatly wrapped with a piece of colorful yarn.

One of the more exemplary FDCs in Reynolds’s latest donation is this lovely cover for the William Saroyan joint issue, handdrawn and handpainted by the late Judith Fogt (Scott 2538, Figure 8).
that it is dual serviced with the one ruble Russian stamp and cancel. American-born Saroyan was the son of Armenian immigrants.

These eight lots, along with about one hundred more, will be up for bidding in August in the AMERICOVER 2015 hospitality suite silent auction.

Unable To Attend?
If you are unable to join the fun in Columbus, Ohio, but wish to bid on any of the lots in this auction, you may request a complete listing, which will be available around the end of July, from me.

However, you will need to have someone who will be attending AMERICOVER to do your bidding.

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AquilaStamps@gate.net
Member Tim Devaney was assembling twelve-city sets of first day covers of the Casimir Pulaski commemorative (Scott 690), which was issued on January 16, 1931.

One cover that caught his eye was a free-frank of US Representative Ernest Robinson Ackerman, a Republican member for the state of New Jersey’s fifth district. Of note is the fact that he died at 83 on October 18, 1931. He was a representative from 1919 until his death.

Tim wonders if there are other covers prepared by Ackerman or possibly a member of his staff. Since the cover was intended for personal use, it required a stamp, and thus an FDC was born.

Ackerman was elected to the American Philatelic Society’s Hall of Fame in 2000. He was a noted philatelist and assembled major collections and exhibits.

We can thank the joint efforts of Ackerman and US Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen, a New Jersey Republican, that resulted in the 1923 law that permitted publication of postage stamp illustrations.

Ackerman was a famous philatelist, and had created a number of award winning exhibits of postal stamps and postal history.

Some of his advanced collections included Spain and British Guiana, although his primary interest was in United States stamps. Highlights of those collections were carriers and locals, US Department issues, and essays and proofs.

He donated part of his collections to the Library of Congress, and those eventually were moved to the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum.

So the question remains, did Ackerman arrange for other FDCs or is this the only example? And was it really prepared by him, or by a staffer who had access to the envelopes?

Send your questions to Alan Warren at alanwar@comcast.net.
The second joint Canada–United States stamp issue occurred on June 1, 1976 and marked the US bicentennial. A common design was used for Scott Canada 691 and Scott US 1690, although there were minor differences in colors, text, and printing methods.

The first joint issue (Scott US 1131 and Scott Canada 387) was on June 26, 1959, to mark the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The background of the bicentennial stamps consists of a map of the northeastern US and Canada, while a sculptured portrait of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) overlooks the map from the right. The choice of Franklin as the central figure in the joint issue derives from his lengthy period of service as the deputy postmaster general for British North America.

Franklin was first appointed postmaster for Philadelphia in 1737, and began lobbying for the larger position in 1751. He was appointed, along with William Hunter, to the position of joint deputy postmaster general in 1753 and retained that role for more than two decades. Most of the work fell to Franklin because Hunter was in ill health.

Within a few years he had increased the speed and reliability of mail delivery and made the postal service profitable. He opened post offices in Montreal, Trois-Rivières, and Quebec City, and established a courier service between Montreal and New York. He created detailed procedures for running the postal service more efficiently, established the first home-delivery system and dead letter office, and reduced to one day the delivery time for mail from New York to Philadelphia.

Franklin was fired from his position by the British in 1774 because of his rebellious political stances, but he was appointed by the Second Continental Congress as the first postmaster general of the United States on July 26, 1775.

The cachets for the joint issue FDCs were dominated by US producers which was not unexpected given that the Canadian marketplace had become almost a

Continued on Page 66
monopoly of the Canada Post, which had entered the FDC field about five years earlier. Apart from the CP’s offerings, the only documented Canadian-produced cachets were from the House of Commons (a general purpose cachet), Brickley Jones, NR Covers, and SCS (Scotia Cover Service).

The Canadian stamp appeared on at least twenty-five different cacheted FDCs. In sixteen cases it was the only stamp, while in nine both the Canadian and US stamps were on the same cover.

The US stamp is known on at least twenty-two different FDCs, although this number is probably understated significantly, given the limitations of the author’s collection. A representative sample of these various usages follows.

Figure 1 is a useful starting point for comparing the appearances of the Canadian and US issues with their differences in text and shading. The cover also has an earlier four-cent Franklin stamp (Scott US 1140), which carried the same message, “Fear to do ill and you need fear nought else,” as the cachet for the 1976 stamps. This cover also shows the official day of issue slogan cancellation from Philadelphia.

One of at least five different Fleetwood cachets used for the two Franklin stamps is shown in figure 2. Each of their cachets shows a different aspect of his career.

Figure 3 shows a FDC sponsored by the New York chapter of the AFDCS. The Franklin stamps were issued midway through Interphil 76, the Seventh International Philatelic Exhibition, which was held in Philadelphia in the midst of the American Revolution Bicentennial celebrations.

The last three cachets include two with the US stamp only and one with the Canadian stamp, however, each cachet has some significant degree of Canadian content.

Figure 4 reflects Franklin’s vision of a plan for the union of all of the British colonies in North America. It included

Continued on Page 68
Gifts of Friendship - U.S./Japan Joint Issue

Dual FDoI - all 8 joint issue designs by both countries (includes six mint U.S. stamps) - $18.00

Dual FDoI - all 8 joint issue stamps on four cachets—two designs (includes six mint U.S. stamps) - $20.00 with either a hand or machine cancel on the U.S. stamps or $25.00 with DCP cancel (illus.).

Note: See last issue of First Days for additional Gifts of Friendship offerings

FDoI combo Sc. 4651-2 - $8.00
FDoI combo Sc. 1158 & 1318 - $8.00
Franklin — Continued from Page 66

the thirteen eastern states and the four Atlantic provinces that eventually formed part of Canada. The graphic to the right of the map pictures a snake swallowing the colonies one by one, along with the picturesque slogan “join or die.” This FDC was serviced at the B. Free Franklin Post Office & Museum.

The cachet shown in Figure 5 is a Webcraft add-on printed in 2013 as noted on the envelope back flap although the US stamp was canceled on the day of issue. The cachet features Franklin’s portrait as well as the American and Canadian flags and the American Revolution Bicentennial logo.

The final cachet shown here in Figure 6 is apparently Canadian although the maker is unknown. The first day notice is bilingual and the stamp is from Canada and was postmarked at Ottawa with the official day of issue cancellation. The graphic feature shows elements of the US flag on a maple leaf representative of the Canadian flag.

In addition to numerous US stamps issued over the years to mark Franklin’s achievements, other countries with which Franklin had lengthy associations also issued commemorative stamps in and around the bicentennial year to recognize his contributions.

Most notably, Great Britain produced a June 2, 1976, issue celebrating the bicentennial of American independence while France with a May 4, 1978, stamp marked the bicentennial of treaties regarding amity and commerce to which Franklin was a signatory on behalf of the United States.

Contact Gary Dickinson at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, BC, V1W 2J1, Canada; gandbdickinson@shaw.ca.
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Seasons of the Maple on First Day Covers
by Gary Dickinson with David Hanes.
50 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, spiral bound.

Author Gary Dickinson is treasurer and editor of BNAPS’ First Day Cover Study Group. Both he and David Hanes collect FDCs of the 1971 maple leaves series that are the focus of this monograph.

It begins with the introduction of the maple leaf design, which has become a Canadian icon, on the stamps of that country beginning in 1897. The adoption of Canada’s new flag in 1965 underscored the importance of the maple leaf design.

A table lists the Scott catalogue numbers of Canadian stamps where the design is used either ornamentally, in the flag, or otherwise stylized. The maple leaf design was used on cacheted FDCs of Canada dating back to the 1930s as a decorative feature and not issue-specific.

The situation changed dramatically in 1971 when Canada Post introduced its own designs for its official first day covers. Prior to that CP provided generic designs as replacements for damaged covers. As expected, this move resulted in several cachet makers going out of business in view of the competition. The CP cachet entrance coincided with the release of a series of four stamps that showed maple leaves in each of the four seasons.

The authors illustrate some of the stamp design work by Alma Duncan. CP offered four different cachet designs for the four stamps by artist William Rueter.

Canada Post promoted its new first day covers, offering them with singles, pairs, plain blocks, and inscription blocks of four.

The maple leaf series of stamps can be found on cachets by ArtCraft, Artopages, David C. Jackson, Overseas Mailers, and many others. Most of these cachets, and a brief overview of the producers, are presented alphabetically in this book.

The work of about forty different cachetmakers is shown, including several unknown ones. Some used only one design for the four stamps while others offered four or five. The Schering pharmaceutical firm produced its own covers for promotional mailings to health care professionals.

This booklet ends with a list of references for further reading about Canada cacheted first day covers and this issue of maple leaf stamps. The color illustrations help document the known material that collectors can seek. Unfortunately, this chapter in the story of Canada FDCs spells the pending doom of cachet making in that country as a result of the entrance of Canada Post into the cachet arena.

— ALAN WARREN

Noel Almeida published Overseas Mailers FDCs of Australia in 2011. This book inspired the coauthors to create a Canadian version. Both authors are avid overseas mailers cachet collectors. This is primarily a catalogue of OM cacheted Canadian covers in chronological order.

The introductory pages provide the history and characteristics of these covers. OM cachets are typically identified by the addition of a rubber-stamped image on an already cacheted cover. The driving force behind these was John “Jay” Leach who lived in New Jersey and worked for a petroleum firm. His sideline was the production and sale of these covers, a secret he kept from his employer. His operation began in 1948 and lasted thirty years.

Many collectors of US OM covers are unaware that Leach created these for more than one hundred countries that are listed in Appendix A. At first, Leach created his own printed cachets. Sometimes he used those of other makers, enhancing them with handpainted touches. Later he used the others’ cachets and added his rubber-stamped design to emphasize the theme of the stamp and original cachet. Collectors may have difficulty in identifying the early OM cachets as they are not signed.

The only way to identify an OM cover is with a descriptive printed insert. Leach offered his covers on approval with an information page wrapped around them. Each collector cut the text to a size that could be inserted into the cover. However, some discarded the inserts. It is likely that others who obtained covers after-market discarded them. Early covers without inserts are often difficult to prove as OM items.

The bulk of the catalogue is devoted to a chronological listing, one cover to a page that shows the original cachet in color and the matching insert. If a cover has an added rubberstamp, the original cachet is shown along with the add-on version.

Each page also identifies the stamp and cover with the Scott catalogue number, date of issue, denomination and subject of the stamp, and whether the base cachet was an OM or other cachet maker.

Two other characteristics are on each page. Market level numbers from 1 to 5 indicate a relative value of C$5–100. A type letter from A to H indicates whether the base cachet is OM or other maker, is embellished with handpainted elements, and whether there is an added rubberstamp. In a few scarce cases the rubber-stamped image is hand embellished as well.

The inserts are well reproduced so that collectors can identify their covers as OM items for sure. — ALAN WARREN
This month’s column features three Chapters that meet on a monthly basis — weather permitting.

Connecticut Cover Club

How could one tell this winter when there was going to be snow and ice in Connecticut? Just check the meeting schedule of the Connecticut Cover Club (Chapter 85). Their December 2014 and January and February 2015 meetings were all canceled due to snow and ice.

Finally, the club’s meetings resumed on March 15, at which chapter member Cliff Gilmont, who died in February was remembered. (See obit on page 74.)

Also, Tony Dewey displayed United Nations first day covers with Gladys Adler cachets. At their April 19 meeting, Dewey showed Scott 772 (Connecticut) first day covers with pencil and ink cachets by Harold Culver and Silverwing (Tom Mueller) oil-painted first day covers.

The Connecticut Cover Club meets on the third Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Amity Super Stop and Shop, 112 Amity Road in New Haven.

Chapter information is available from Joseph Connolly, 571 Treat Lane, Orange, CT 06477-2739, email jccachet@optonline.net or Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Connecticut-Cover-Club/147211451982581.

[Editor’s note: Hyphens separate the words Connecticut-Cover-Club in the Facebook address.]

The club also has a regular column in the bimonthly Stamp Insider as shown at left (www.stampinsider.org).

Motor City Stamp and Cover Club

At the January 25th meeting, the Motor City Stamp and Cover Club (MCSCC, Chapter 5) mourned the death of their treasurer, Barbara Morris.

The meeting also included installation of officers and completion of meeting plans for the year. Their February 22 meeting featured their Annual Cover Scramble, the first of their new monthly mini auctions, and new member Bill Chace accepting the chapter treasurer position.
The March 29 meeting included the annual Stamp Scramble while the April 26 meeting featured a Clothesline Exhibit.

Finally on May 31, the MCSCC had a Birthday Bash and a video presentation by Ad Raddi on “Albert Einstein on Stamps.”

The chapter meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Sokol Hall, 23600 West Warren, Dearborn Heights, MI.

MCSCC information is available from Bob Quintero, 22608 Poplar Court, Hazel Park, MI 48030, email qover@comcast.net or on their website www.motorcitystampandcover.com.

Robert C. Graebner Chapter

The January 10 and April 11 meetings of the Robert C. Graebner Chapter (Chapter 17) featured their quarterly cover auctions as well as discussion of recent first day ceremonies.

The February 14 meeting included a presentation by new AFDCS member Richard Small on machine cancels, while the March 14 meeting featured Rick “Smokey” Gibson on Dorothy Knapp covers.

The May 9 Graebner Chapter meeting was a member show and tell. The Graebner Chapter staffed AFDCS/Graebner sales and recruiting tables at the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Norcross, Georgia, and the Springpex show in Springfield, Virginia.

The chapter meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Manning Center of the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, 6001 Western Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Graebner Chapter information is available from Otto Thamasett, 6025 Sherborn Lane, Springfield, VA 22152, email ottojt@verizon.net.

The chapter also has a presence on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_198860116804513&ref=ts.
Clifford C. Gilmond — 1921–2015

Clifford C. Gilmond, 93, died at his home in Wallingford, Connecticut, on February 8. He was a member of the Connecticut Cover Club, which is Chapter 85 of the AFDCS.

Although he had been homebound, he continued his philatelic activities. He was working on his Battle of Mobile Bay cachet a couple days before his death.

Gilmond was the first person inducted into the cover club’s Hall of Fame. At the 2008 APS StampShow in Hartford President Rich Hoffman arranged for a cake with a cake-chet on it. For the event cachet director Andy Doback designed a FDC for the 2008 Connecticut Flag stamp by modifying Gilmond’s cachet for the 1959 four-cent Lincoln Sesquicentennial stamp.

We made an insert for the FDC describing Gilmond’s life and his philatelic activities. Gilmond was born in West Haven on April 26, 1921. He graduated from Hamden High School and worked for the New Haven railroad. He served in the 102nd Infantry Division in Europe during World War II. After the war he returned to the railroad and then worked in the insurance business.

In 1964 he opened the Pinnacle Coin and Stamp Company, which he operated until health problems slowed him down.

Gilmond started collecting stamps when he was seven years old. The first FDC in his collection was for the 1934 Wisconsin Tercentenary stamp. In 1958 he and Benjamin Conley teamed up to produce Star Craft cachets. Gilmond worked on several cover projects with prominent cover designer Winfred Milton Grandy. He was a founding member of the Connecticut Postal History Society, the Connecticut Post Card Club, and the New Haven Railroad YMCA Stamp Club. He was president of the Connecticut Philatelic Society.

Gilmond did not have a computer but he learned how many modern cachet-makers use them to produce covers.

Club member John Withers and Joseph Connolly worked with him to produce his later covers. Gilmond sold his covers at his shop and at shows, but he also had a friend who posted them on eBay for him.

Gilmond was an active member of the Connecticut Cover Club. He came up with the idea of a cover for the fiftieth anniversary of the first US Christmas stamp, which was postmarked in Bethlehem, Connecticut.

He told the club that JFK had attended schools in Connecticut. Doback designed covers for the fiftieth anniversary of JFK’s assassination and we postmarked them at the appropriate towns. Gilmond always brought a box of covers from his shop so the members had an opportunity to buy his latest acquisitions.

Gilmond was our last connection to a stamp and cover world of the past that we only knew through him.

— JOSEPH CONNOLLY & ANDY DOBACK

Clifford C. Gilmond — 1921–2015
Southeastern Federation Recognizes O’Brien

**Malaysia 2014**
At Malaysia 2014 held in December in Kuala Lumpur, Nancy and Doug Clark received a silver for “Jamestown Settlement — 400th Anniversary,” in the class for Modern Philately (essentially twenty-first Century material).

**Sandical 2015**
Jeff Bennett won a gold at Sandical 2015 held in San Diego in January for his “Baseball Centennial.”

**Southeastern Stamp Expo 2015**
Veteran FDC exhibitor and grand award winner Chuck O’Brien received the 2015 Rowland Hill Award from the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs board of directors at the Southeastern Stamp Expo awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia, in January.

The honor recognizes outstanding service to philately, particularly in the Southeastern United States. O’Brien is president of the federation and has revitalized its show, finding a new location and promoting a mini first day cover gathering of speakers and exhibitors as part of the event.

In the show’s competitive exhibits there were quite a few FDC exhibits. Ronald Klimley won a gold, the AFDCS award, and the APS 1940–1980 award with his “New York World’s Fair Issue — 1964.” A gold and the AAPE creativity award went to Ed Bergen for “Walt Disney’s First Super Star: Mickey Mouse.”

O’Brien added two more golds to his record for “Panama Canal: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary,” and “Centennial of the American Institute of Architects” that also received the USSS Statue of Freedom award. Ed Bergen won a vermeil for “The Walt Disney Postal Commemoration of 1968.” Ronald Klimley took a silver for “HemisFair ’68 Issue.” A silver-bronze went to the Clarks for “Jamestown Settlement — 400th Anniversary.”

**Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**
William Kelly won a vermeil, an AAPE award of honor, and the Military Postal History Society award at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February with his “The 3¢ Iwo Jima Stamp of 1945 and its First Days.”

Report awards to Alan Warren at alanwar@comcast.net.
Douglas A. Kelsey: Executive Secretary’s Report

May 2015 New Members & Changes

Albertson, David (29080) Lake Wales, FL 33898, by AFDCS
Dougherty, Edward (29074) River Vale, NJ 07675-6253, by AFDCS
Emanuel, Richard (29081) Guilford, CT 06437, by AFDCS
Mackey, James (29069) West Hartford, CT 06107, by AFDCS
McGowan, George (29077) East Schodack, NY, 12063-0482, by AFDCS
Menon, Rammohan (29075) Riverside, CA 92506, by AFDCS
Pranglin, Roxie (29070) Corpus Christi, TX 78414, by AFDCS
Reynolds, Mark (29073) Philadelphia, PA 19149, by Eric Wile
Rosen, Les (29079) Summerville, SC 29483, by AFDCS

Trevors, Richard J. (29078) Hercules, CA 94547-1137, by AFDCS
Wainer, David (29071) Mayfield Heights, OH, 44124, by Eric Wile
Williams, Gregory (29072) Norfolk, VA 23503, by Linn’s Stamp News
Zickar, Michael (29076) Perrysburg, OH 43551, by AFDCS

Deceased
Graf, Dorothy (HLM19) Jonesborough, TN
Hogbin, James (LM341, Cherokee Village, AR

Gold Membership
Joseph D. Mish, Jr.
Silver Membership
Gregory Williams

Donation Honor Roll

Publication Fund
Sustaining ($100–$499)
Bruce Perkins

Participating ($1–$19)
Bruce Perkins

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Sam & Leo August Memorial Fund
Walter Depken
Doll Sandi
In Memory of Dottie Graf Mellone
Alan Warren

Youth Scholarship
Walter Depken
Doll Sandi
Joan Slebos

The AFDCS is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Send donations to the AFDCS Central Office, POB 16277, Tucson, AZ 85732. Make US funds checks or money orders payable to AFDCS. MasterCard, Visa, and American Express payments are also accepted.

Current Top Recruiters

AFDCS.........................................................25
Graebner Chapter 17 ......................3
Pete McClure........................................3
Eric Wile..................................................2
Gary Camolli.........................................1
John Colasanti......................................1
Linn’s Stamp News .........................1
James McCusker .........................1
Foster Miller.................................1
Barry Newton..........................1
Robert Quintero.........................1
William Snyder .........................1

Recruitment coupons worth $2 toward any payment made to the AFDCS are earned for each member recruited to the AFDCS. The AFDCS Chapter with the most members recruited wins the annual Chapter Recruitment Contest sponsored by the chapter coordinator.
Support Your Society!

**AMERICOVER Live Fund Raising Auction**

The annual AMERICOVER Live Fund Raising Auction, on August 14 at 5 p.m., will include sixty lots for the AFDCS’ sixtieth anniversary.

We already have a number of bulk lots, similar to those that were popular last year donated, through Mike Mellone.

Cachetmaker Kendal Bevil, who will be at AMERICOVER for the first time in fifteen years, has donated a number of one of a kind “AFDCS Hammer” varieties on his handpainted cachets including Janis Joplin.

However, we still need more donations and ask that they have an expected auction value of $10 or more. All donations will be acknowledged in a future issue of *First Days*. Send donations to Americover Auction, Box 44, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0044.

**AFDCS Publications**

Get Listed in the Current Cachetmakers Directory

Cachetmakers who wish to be included in the updated AFDCS Current Cachetmakers Directory should complete the online form at [www.afdcs.org/cmform.php](http://www.afdcs.org/cmform.php) or contact Ron Allen.

*Ron Allen, AFDCS Cachet Info Chairman*

POB 12229, Lexington, KY 40581

**First Days Back Issues**

Order *First Days* back issues at $4 each postpaid from:

*Jeff Bennett, AFDCS Sales*

1601 River Farm Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308

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- 1: 1–3
- 2: Reprint
- 3: 4
- 4: 1, 2, 4
- 5: 1, 3–6
- 6: 2, 4, 6
- 7: 1, 3
- 9: 2, 4
- 10: Reprint
- 11: 4, 6
- 12: 2, 3, 5–8
- 13: 1–6
- 14: 1–6
- 15: 1–6
- 16: 1–6
- 17: 1–6
- 18: 2–6
- 19: 1–6
- 20: 2–6
- 21: 1–6
- 22: 1–6
- 23: 2–6
- 24: 1, 2, 4–6
- 25: 1–6
- 26: 1–6
- 27: 1–8
- 28: 1–8
- 29: 1–8
- 30: 1–7
- 31–42: 1–8
- 43: 1–8
- 44: 1–8
- 45: 1–6, 8
- 46: 1, 2, 4–6
- 47: 2–8
- 48: 1–8
- 49: 1–8
- 50–59: 1–8
- 60: 1, 2
Each AFDCS member may insert two free ads annually to offer covers, locate elusive items, and dispose of duplicates by trading. Buying/selling ads for money or mint stamps are not accepted. Ads will be published on a space available basis. Send to: Cynthia Scott, 4505 Chapel Drive, Columbus, IN 47203

CIRCUS SOUVENIR SHEET FDCs for trade with others who made FDCs for this issue. Five different cachets made using entire sheet, individual poster stamp, and circus wagon stamp. All are on #6 size envelopes. James Frankiewicz, 534 S West, Shelbyville IN 46176-2046, jfrkwz@yahoo.com

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Advertiser Index

ABC Cachets.................. 29
Achgil, Ralph .................. 1
AFDCS .................. 13, 39, 69, 80
Amer. Topical Assoc ........ 17, 23
Appel, Will & Kathy ........ 7
Aquila Stamps ............ 63
ArtCraft .................. C4
Anon E. Mouse ........... 29
Berger, Rollin ............. 9, 67
Bevil Cachets ............ 17
Bradybaugh, H.F .......... 31
Collins FDCs .............. 17
Cover Exchange .......... 78
Curtis, David & Sabrina .. 31

Dragon Cards ............. 75
Dutch Country ............. C3
FDCs Online .............. 78
Fisher Cachets .......... 31
Gittner, Henry ........... 63
Gold, Doris ............... 31
Gold Mine ............... 31
Karl's Covers ........... 59
Marshall, L.K., Autographs .. 17
McCusker, J.T .......... C2, 40–41
Miller Investment ....... 31
Nakano, Hideaki ........ 27
One Dog Cachets ......... 68
Panda Cachets ........... 9, 67
Pittsburgh File & Box .... 5
RKA Covers .............. 1
S&T Cachets ............. 29
Scott, Cynthia .......... 29
Stamp Center ............ C3
Stamp Insider ........... 31
Washington Press ...... C4
Weisz, Douglas .......... 57
Whit's Covers .......... 57
Zurn, Karl ............... 31

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Cover Date & Ad Deadline
July–August ......................... June 29
September–October ............... September 14
November–December ............ November 9
January–February 2016 ....... December 15
March–April 2016 ............... March 9

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AFDCS membership is required to advertise. Rates are for camera-ready ads. Ads are subject to approval of the AFDCS and the editor, who reserve the right to reject or decline advertising or suspend advertising privileges for any reason for such periods of time as in their discretion they see fit.

First Days does not guarantee advertisements, but accepts copy in good faith, reserving the right to reject objectionable material. Purchasers should request authentication of valuable material.

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Mark Thompson, POB 60335, Nashville, TN 37206; 615-945-6450; markrobbin@bellsouth.net

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<td>□ Regular $30</td>
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<td>□ Silver $60</td>
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<td>□ Gold $100</td>
<td>Family memberships do not receive additional subscriptions to <em>First Days</em>.</td>
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<td>□ Three-Year $87</td>
<td><em>I agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the AFDCS.</em></td>
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All members, except online, receive six issues of *First Days* per year by mail and have access to the online version. Online members have access to the online version only. Submit dues with your application or join online at the AFDCS’ secure website. Make US funds checks or money orders payable to AFDCS. MasterCard, Visa, and American Express payments are also accepted.

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