

FIRST DAYS

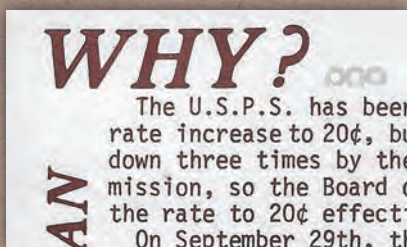
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021 — NO. 456



A LINDBERGH SURPRISE

A unique cover with a cachet that wasn't the basic Colorano design.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



Modern Controversy

Why did the USPS issue the 20¢ James Hoban stamp? Find out beginning on page 56.



Brave New World

Explore tokens, digital wallets and the Ethereum blockchain beginning on page 34.

the journal of the



American First Day Cover Society

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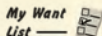


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GEORGE ROST

IT ALL STARTED WITH SOME CTC ISSUES ON SPORTS. I MADE A FEW EVENT COVERS AND THEN STARTED ON FDCS. MY MAIN FOCUS HAS BEEN BASEBALL AND ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITIES. THIS WAS A NATURAL SINCE I WAS GOING TO FDC CEREMONIES WITH THE RIES CHAPTER. I NOW ENJOY MAKING FAMILY AND FRIEND EVENT COVERS . . . AND OF COURSE A FEW FDCS!



Email me at grost6@gmail.com

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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

FDC Exhibitionism

Nearly every time I have visited with a stamp collector, he or she pulled out a prized item to show me. We all take pride in our collections, whether it is earliest documented uses or our own hand-painted cachets, or something else. We want to show them to other collectors.

First day covers are among the most visual of philatelic collectibles, and lend themselves well to exhibiting, including the formal competitive exhibiting overseen by the American Philatelic Society. There should be more FDC exhibits at World Series of Philately shows and others.

Todd Ronnei has agreed to coordinate the AFDCS's exhibiting activities. The Society offers specialty awards for exhibits at its conventions and a general FDC award for other shows. Alan Warren, on his own, has been tracking how FDC exhibits do at major shows in the US, and asks past exhibitors to compete at Americover. Now we will have someone coordinating these efforts, as well as advocating for more of us to join in the fun.

And it is fun. I have been thrilled with the attention my "Weird Stuff" exhibit gets; the medal levels are secondary. At one APS StampShow, the very-valuable Z Grill exhibit was sitting in its secure display with no one looking at it. One hundred feet away, a cluster of people were looking at "Weird Stuff." Never mind the silver-bronze the judges awarded me, I felt as if I had won the show's Grand Award!

Other exhibitors are more serious than I, and strive to present their FDCs *and* win top awards at the same time. We are seeing more gold medal winning FDC exhibits now than ever before. In fact, an effort is under way to have a first day cover class at the next international show held in the US, Boston 2026.

By then, the coronavirus pandemic should be over. However, as I write this, we are still not sure whether the 2021 Great American Stamp Show, which includes our Americover, will be held this summer. The pandemic is taking longer to eradicate than expected, and the show-or-no decision will be based largely on health considerations.

If the in-person show is not held, rest assured that the AFDCS will be a major part of the virtual (online) show that will be held in its place, in mid-August. That will be our official convention. We will hand out our annual awards for service, writing and cachet-making. We will hold our official meetings, seminars and social events, and we will have a good time.

Even if we are convening in the Chicago area (*specifically*, Rosemont, Illinois) August 12-15, I am certain a virtual option will be available for many events. While nothing beats an in-person gathering, some members cannot attend one, because of health, work or family obligations. Now we know there are alternatives.

One way or the other, I hope to see all of you this summer. ☺

✉ president@afdc.org

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A New Experience

In *Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare tells his audience not to fear greatness: “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon ‘em.” And so, following two of the bard’s examples (appropriating other’s work for my own purposes and edifying an audience), I encourage you not to fear — some are born to change, some achieve change, and some have change thrust upon ‘em. You just happen to fall in to the latter category.

By now, you’ve figured out that I am making some changes to *First Days*. You probably didn’t need my witty introduction to notice that this edition of the journal is different from the ones you’ve been receiving over the last few years. I also suspect you fell into one of two camps in reacting to the change. You either said, “Wow!” Or you said, “Why?” Naturally, I hope it was the former, but if you’re questioning the wisdom of redesigning the magazine, allow me to explain and grant me some latitude.

In my experience, editors lean toward either a design focus or an editorial concentration. Good editors balance the disciplines, but almost all have a discernable emphasis. My inclination is toward design and visual composition. I come by this partiality by means of personality and education as a classical artist. I justify the preference by reminding us all that we are participants in a particularly visual hobby. While I strive for excellent scholarship and content, the impact of the visuals is often what pulls us into the stories that we read from these pages. A picture truly can paint a thousand words.

The world around us has changed. I know, no one needs me to restate the obvious. However, the oft overlooked impact of that statement is that a lot of that change has resulted in good. Most of us have spent more time with the hobby over the last year. Many of us have discovered how to improve our collection (and production) through better use of technology. Some of us have noticed an even more meaningful transformation — there are more people interested and involved in the hobby.

So what does all of this have to do with me redesigning *First Days*?

If you’ve ever heard me speak or read one of my columns, you may have recognized my philatelic mantra: it’s all about the experience. For some, the experience is finding a surprise cachet (see page 46), for others it is about being Cachetmaker of the Year (see the insert between pages 40-41), and still others are driven to exhibit (see the announcement on page 12). But whatever the interesting being pursued, the responsibility of *First Days* is to support, encourage and enrich the experience. Hopefully, by me redesigning some aspects and refining other details, the magazine will motivate seasoned philatelists and cachetmakers while inspiring a new generation of collectors and exhibitors. Yes, it’s a lofty goal but our worth is only as great as our ambition.

I hope you’ll take time to explore, consider and absorb the changes you will find in this issue. I look forward to constructive feedback on how we can all deepen our enjoyment through this new experience. ☺

✉ editor@afdc.org

US Issue Collectors!

Autographed FDC's and Covers

The bulk of our stock is FDC's signed by the designers and engravers. They have proved to be very popular among exhibitors of FDC's and US issue collectors! Also included on this list are covers signed by other notable individuals that are associated with issue such as Governors, dignitaries, other statesmen, Postmasters, heads of organizations as well as Artists, Athletes, Nobel Prize winners and Aviators.

Price list available on request

Cachet Artwork

Artmaster Archives: Amazing stock from 1948-2001 that has both the original Artwork used for the cachets and the metal plates.

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Colorano Silk Cachets: The Artwork is absolutely stunning! A price list is underway!

Jack Davis: Original Artwork from the 1970's and 1980's.

Kolor Kover: These cachets are on colored envelopes, and the artwork is lovely. *Ask for your free price list!*

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Photo Essays and Autographed PB's

A significant portion of this material is from the estate of Sol Glass. Most of his material is extremely scarce.

Photo Essays - Photo essays were photographed proposed designs of stamps that were never issued and often contain topical elements not found in the issued stamp. Approved photo designs are also listed and some are signed by the designer.

Autographed Plate Blocks - These are mint plate blocks generally autographed by the designer, lettering and frame engravers. Also there are plate blocks that are signed by the famous individuals who inspired the issue.

And Much More!

Including: Photographs used for design, Souvenir Programs, Press Releases, Letters relating to the issue, USPS sheet pad and box issue labels, 20th century Fancy Cancels, Postal History, Errors and the unusual!

Now Available! Enormous stock of better and unusual FDC's organized by Scott # Want lists invited! Let us know what interests you!

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These specially prepared albums were given to dignitaries, prominent legislators, and high postal officials and were produced in very small quantities. Presented by postal authorities, each contains a sheet of the newly released stamps or postal stationery. Earlier issues (the 1950's into the 1960's) were autographed by the PMG. In addition, the name of the recipient is inscribed in gold or silver on the cover. Many contain an accompanying letter specially related to the issue which will be noted. Most for 1988-2009 were presented to (Ret) Congressman, Gary Ackerman

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Great American Stamp Show Update

by Scott English

Planning, Waiting, and Hoping

Writer and cartoonist Allen Saunders said, “Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.” The quote is wrongly attributed to musician and stamp collector John Lennon, who helped make the line famous in the song, *Beautiful Boy*. It’s an appropriate line when planning for the Great American Stamp Show in 2021. We’re making plans, but life is happening.

The Great American Stamp Show will be held August 12-15, 2021, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. We’re proud to partner with the AFDCS and the American Topical Association (ATA) again this year. Since 2018, the APS and ATA have jointly-sponsored the show, with the AFDCS joining in 2020. The partnership has been an overwhelming success. Although the pandemic forced us to cancel GASS in 2020, the APS, ATA, and AFDCS put together the Virtual Stamp Show.

Our APS/ATA/AFDCS partnership continues in 2021 and beyond for the Great American Stamp Show. GASS is not just any stamp show; it’s the largest annual show in the United States. We expect between 3,000 to 5,000 attendees over four days with more than 120 dealers and 1,000 exhibit frames for this show. Coordinating setup, scheduling events, and all the show preparation is a significant undertaking and requires months of planning. The pandemic adds an element of uncertainty, further complicating our plans.

Our Obligation

Stamp shows are an excellent opportunity to learn, buy, and socialize, and the Great American Stamp Show is one of the best occasions for all of these elements. For the show to be successful, we have to organize a financially viable show for dealers and our respective organizations. Travel restrictions, group size restrictions, slow vaccine rollout, and overall confidence in attending the show. By the time we decided not to hold GASS 2020 in Hartford, 40 percent of our registered attendees had canceled their hotel reservations.

What Don’t We Know?

At the time of this writing, we continue to see high case rates around the country. Two vaccines have been approved, and at least one more is on the horizon. Distribution has

SHOW INFO



Great American Stamp Show

DATES:

August 12-15, 2021

*pending Covid-19
Restrictions*

LOCATION:

**Donald E. Stephens
Convention Center
Rosemont, Illinois**

INFORMATION:

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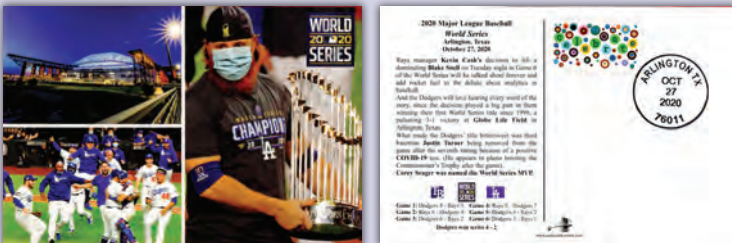
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PANDEMIC - USNHS COMFORT ARRIVES



Under the watchful eye of Lady Liberty the U.S. Hospital Ship COMFORT enters New York Harbor to begin treating victims of the dreaded COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Cover Card is Hand Cancelled March 30th, 2020 NYC (morning of arrival) with corresponding NY Times front page\$10

MEMBER DISCOUNTS: Your membership in the AFDCS entitles you to a 10% discount on any purchase, any size. Spending \$50 or more entitles you to a 20% discount. And yes, you may combine for a whopping 30%. Don't delay. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

been slower than projected. Recent announcements to increase distribution show promise, but the target vaccination rate is 300 million Americans, and that will take time. There are also now confirmed cases of variants from South Africa, Brazil, and the United Kingdom in the United States, and experts are not clear how that will affect vaccine success. We expect the picture will be more apparent in the coming weeks and months.

What We Do Know

In late January, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker extended group size restrictions of 50 or less statewide through early June. The state is currently under a “Resurgence Mitigation Plan” comprised of three tiers. Once each area exits Tier 1, they return to the “Restore Illinois” Phase 4. According to Illinois’ plan, convention centers cannot operate until Phase 5. The operators of the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center hope to see operations resuming “sometime in the summer.” At this point, there is no way to be sure of how things will go. We continue to communicate with local officials and convention center staff for updates and planning requirements.

When Will We Know?

Right now, all three organizations meet on a biweekly basis to plan and assess the latest updates. We will continue to proceed with all planning possible through March when we will make a decision. We must be confident we can move ahead at that point for the show to be successful.

If we’re unable to proceed with an in-person show, we will return to another Virtual Stamp Show for 2021. Over the past year, we have all waited patiently for things to return to normal. While we’re not there yet, we will not allow the pandemic to keep us at home. All three organizations have risen to the occasion to offer great chats, live learning events, and a virtual stamp show to keep the hobby vibrant in these challenging times. We will continue to serve collectors safely and with great energy. Adversity has strengthened our collecting community’s bonds, and the future is brighter than ever as a result.

Scott English is the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society. He is also a proud member of the American First Day Cover Society. You can contact Scott at scott@stamps.org.



Lawrence Wins AFDCS 2019 FDC Writing Award

Well-known philatelic writer Ken Lawrence is the winner of the American First Day Cover Society’s Philip H. Ward Award for excellence in writing about first day covers. His *American Philatelist* article, “Which Items Franked with 1913 Parcel Post Stamps Are Authentic U.S. First Day Covers?” in the August 2019 issue, was the unanimous choice of the judges for the 2019 calendar year.

The article also won the 2019 Barbara Mueller Award sponsored by the U.S. Stamp Society for the best article published that year in *American Philatelist*.

The first runner-up was Ralph Nafziger, for “Wisconsin Tercentenary Issue” in the May-June issue of *First Days*, the official journal of the AFDCS.



Ken Lawrence



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Anthony Dewey was second runner-up, for “On the Trail of Grant and Lyon” in the March-April of *First Days*.

The award is named in honor of Philip H. Ward (1890-1963), the distinguished Philadelphia stamp collector, dealer and journalist who was a pioneer in the field of first day covers. The award was instituted by the AFDCS in 1964. All articles appearing in *First Days* are automatically considered for the award; articles in other publications may be submitted for consideration.

This is the third time Lawrence has won the Ward Award. In 1989, he was one of five authors contributing to a symposium on FDCs in *The United States Specialist*. He also won for his 1996 three-part series “First Day Covers in Earliest Usages,” which also was published in *American Philatelist*. His monograph *First Day Covers of 1918 Air Post Stamps — Or Are They?* was published by the AFDCS in 2018, and is available for sale on its website in its Marketplace/Handbooks section.



Todd Ronnei

Exhibiting Chair Appointed

The American First Day Cover Society has chosen Todd Ronnei, a gold-medal exhibitor himself, to coordinate its exhibiting programs and promote FDC exhibiting.

Ronnei was awarded the Reserve Grand and a Large Gold medal for his U.S. Winston Churchill (Scott #1264) exhibit at the AFDCS's Americover 2018 and at Minnesota Stamp Expo in 2018. He has a number of other FDC exhibits, including the 1967 Urban Planning stamp (Scott #1333) and 1970 Fort Snelling stamp (Scott #1409), and is the Exhibit Chair for Minnesota Stamp Expo, a World Series of Philately show.

Ronnei and his family live in a Minneapolis suburb. He has been the AFDCS.org webmaster for a number of years and also served on its board of directors, five years as its chairman. He is employed as a paralegal.

The AFDCS presents unique awards in special categories at its Americover shows, created by Kerry Hefner, and Randy Smith distributes a general AFDCS award to shows upon request. “Todd will pull together these efforts, while adding others and encouraging more FDC collectors to try their hand at exhibiting,” said AFDCS president Lloyd A. de Vries.

The exhibiting chair is a new position for the AFDCS. Kerry Hefner will continue in his role handling exhibits and awards for exhibiting.

New Column in Linn's

Beginning in the Feb 1, 2021 issue, Linn's Stamp News will begin a new column, “Exploring Astrophilately.” The column will be published six times per year and is a reflection of the renewed interest in Astrophilately since the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing. The initial focus will be the basics of astrophilately, but the scope will expand to include current news and specialty topics. The column is written by Charles “Chuck” Vukotich, a noted specialist on Space Craft Covers, and many other aspects of astrophilately. Mr. Vukotich is a director of the space topics study group, as well as associate editor of *The Astrophile*.



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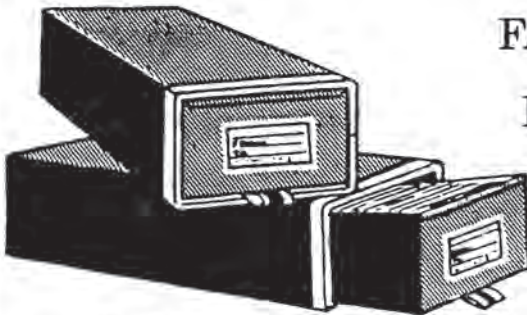


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AFDCS 2020 Cachetmakers Contest Announced

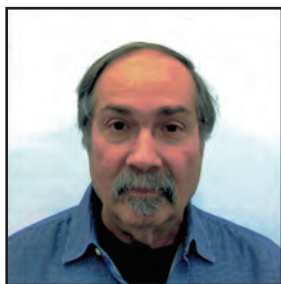
The 2020 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest rules and entry form have been released by the Society. An insert with all pertinent details is available in the centerfold of this issue of *First Days*.

The deadline for entry is April 16, 2021 and the competition is open to members of the AFDCS. Youth cachetmakers need only be related to an AFDCS member. The entry fee for adults is \$5 if the cover is donated to the Society, or \$10 if the cachetmaker wants the FDC returned.

The categories include hand-painted with no mass production of any kind; hand-colored; computer-produced; one-color; event (not first-day) covers; Rookie of the Year and two age groups for young cachetmakers. There is also the top award, which cites what the three judges feel is the best cachet submitted in the entire contest, regardless of the media used.

Winning cachets from past years can be viewed online at www.afdcs.org/contest/cachetcontest.html.

Fluegel the Subject of Awarding-Winning Article



Steven A. Altman

Steven A. Altman's article, "Al Fluegel and the Missing '68s" has been selected to receive the Walter W. Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award, and both the Collectors Club of Sarasota Award for Treatment and a Large Vermeil in the Sarasota National Stamp Expo literature competition.

The Walter W. Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award is presented for the best article or series of articles published in *The United States Specialist*. The award is presented annually and consists of an engraved plaque and honorarium. This year, the award will be presented during the Society's annual meeting at

NOJEX in October 2021.

"Al Fluegel and the Missing '68s" appeared in the June edition of *The United States Specialist* and in the May-June issue of *First Days*. Congratulations to Steven on these recognitions of his work.

Closed Albums

Former APS vice president Alan Parsons of Elmira, New York, died of COVID-19 at age 92. He was a collector and exhibitor of United States first day covers and postal history. Al often shared rides to major shows with Elwyn and Anne Doubleday, and helped at their table. He gave a presentation at the 2012 Postal History Symposium in Bellefonte on postal history of the infamous Elmira ("Hellmira") Union prison camp in the Civil War.

Although not a member at the time of his death, Alan was a long-time AFDCS member, a regular donor to the AFDCS (usually \$500 a year), and a regular attendee at Ameri-cover (as recently as 2017 in Independence, Ohio). I remember driving Alan and his wife (along with Pete McClure) to the Sunday night post-convention dinner. Alan was a close friend of our late editor Al Starkweather; I suspect the two are now having a LENGTHY conversation together.



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Birds of a Feather



Figure 1. 1966 British Birds.

I thought I would present something a little different in this edition of The Great Britain Covers Corner. A selection of covers with a theme, a topical selection. And, as you will see, the theme is birds. I believe this is a very popular topical subject and one Great Britain and Royal Mail provide ample opportunity for collectors to enjoy and collect. This not only includes the stamps, but also the postmarks. While throughout I mention and show a few of the special postmarks for the first day of issue covers, there are usually far more that can be collected. Readers wishing to learn more can refer to the Royal Mail *British Postmark Bulletin*. The bulletin provides postmark information such as the April 7, 2017 edition which includes the Songbirds postmarks referred to later in this article.

My first set of stamps is from the 1966 British Birds issue (Figure 1). This was a set of four stamps issued tenant in blocks of four. A rather lovely selection and, as far as I know, the first Great Britain stamps on the subject of birds. But it was just the beginning of a trend. The issue presents more than just one FDC opportunity as there was a special handstamp (postmark) from the Philatelic Bureau, as well as private collector covers with other local postmarks, including Manchester, Liverpool and Bournemouth.



Figure 2. The Royal Mail British Postmark Bulletin.

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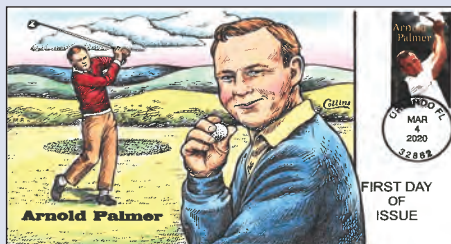
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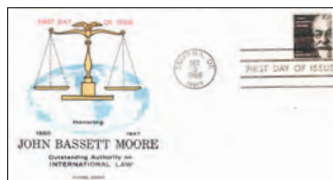
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The next birds issue came 14 years later in 1980 with the Centenary of Wild Bird Protection Act issue. This was again just four stamps and, perhaps in the eyes of many, one of the most beautiful of any bird stamp issues. With issues from many nations, there are thousands of bird stamps from which to choose. This issue had the official postmark from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh this time although once again collectors can find various local postmarks created by private collectors as in the example in Figure 3 from Hounslow, a suburb of London.



Figure 3. 1980 Centenary of Wild Bird Protection Act.

Of course, by now other privately produced covers were starting to appear on the philatelic scene as the interest in first day covers was increasing.

This is one I thought worth showing from the Wildlife Trust (Figure 4). If you do some research you are likely to find in excess of 20 different covers and postmarks for this issue alone.



Figure 4. 1980, The Wildfowl Trust.

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When was the next birds on stamps issue? Well, this time nine years later in 1989 with the Centenary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds issue. Another four-stamp issue and again a rather stunning design with some beautiful images of four not so common birds.

This issue has two special Royal Mail First Day of Issue postmarks recorded in the *Stanley Gibbons Concise Catalogue*. The regular Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh postmark and a Sandy Bedfordshire postmark (Figure 5). For the future issues I will show, I will generally only refer to the postmarks included in the *SG Concise Catalogue*, although there are many more to be collected.



Figure 5. The Centenary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds issue with the “Sandy Beds” postmark.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many privately produced covers and as the years go by it seems more are created. In Figure 6 is a cover from the Outer Hebrides and the beautiful island of Benbecula in Scotland — one that I simply must show.



Figure 6. Centenary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds with the Benbecula cancel.

The next Great Britain issue I can find that shows birds is the 1993 anniversary of the Abbotbury Swannery issue. A set of five stamps with four showing various images of swans. Actually, a lovely place that I know quite well as it is very close to where my brother lives in the UK. But I will pass on showing image of this issue as I am trying to keep to specific bird issues.

We can find the next issue in the 1996 50th Anniversary of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust issue. This issue has paintings of birds by C. F. Tuncliffe, an internationally-renowned naturalist painter of British birds and other wildlife.

There were five stamps in the issues and again two special postmarks referenced in the *SG Concise*. The regular Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau cancel and also a Slimbridge Gloucester cancel (Figure 7). I might add here, if you have never been to Slimbridge it should be on your bucket list as it is a rather lovely place to visit.



Figure 7. Slimbridge cancel with the 50th Anniversary of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust issue.

Now the collector can start to be challenged with various printings of the many first day covers that were produced, not only by Royal Mail but also by other specialist cover producers like Benhams for the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (Figure 6) and many others. There are far too many to show here, so let us move on to the next birds issue.

With only seven years between issues, the 2003 Birds of Prey stamps were released as a set of ten stamps, up from the previous five. The se-tenant design is interesting with five stamps showing birds in flight at night and then five stamps showing the birds in daylight. One stamp to look out for in this issue is the Barn Owl (Scott #2087) which was also printed in brownish grey and with missing phosphor. It has a rather nice *SG Catalogue* value of £2250, although it is not listed in my Scott Volume 3.

There are again two special cancels from Royal Mail in the *SG Concise Catalogue* al-

though many more from both the established first day cover producers and private organizations and collectors are available.

The Royal Mail covers (Figure 8) were canceled from the Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau at Tallents House as it was then known, and there was also a special handstamp from Hawkshead, Ambleside in the UK Lake District.



Figure 8. The 2003 Bird of Prey issue with an Ambleside postmark.

By 2007, Royal Mail had another bird-themed issue. This time the Action for Species (1st Series) issue. The topical collector was certainly not short of bird issues to enhance their collection. This issue again had ten stamps but this time the issue came in a block of ten, and there were again two special postmarks referenced in the *SG Concise Catalogue*. The first was the usual Tallents House postmark and the other, a Dartford postmark (Figure 9).



Figure 9. 2007 Action for Species (1st Issue) canceled in Dartford.

You may be wondering why a Dartford cancel.

The Dartford warbler is one of the UK's rarest birds and is one of the birds shown in the issue. The stamps are presented to help examine how the UK's endangered species are on the road to recovery after years of serious decline. The warbler was recognised as a British bird in Dartford in 1773, but there had been none there for more than a century since the area was developed.

The collector of birds on stamps now has to wait another ten years before the next GB issue to add to their collection. This time, the 2017 Songbirds issue, Figure 10, and again a series of ten stamps issued in two se-tenant strips of five stamps with two special Royal Mail postmarks, one from Tallents House and the other from Warbleton, Heathfield in East Essex. The stamps were designed by Osborne Ross, a London-based design company, and illustrated by Italian wildlife artist Federico Gemma, who is well-known for her bird-themed watercolors.



Figure 10. The 2017 Songbirds issue with a Warbleton postmark.

Only one year passes and we have another set of ten stamps and again in two se-tenant strips of five. This is the owls issue of 2018 issued to commemorate, as Royal Mail described them, “Owls are among our most iconic bird species, with their soundless flight and eerie calls, and our new stamps celebrate their beauty.”

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Figure 11. The 2018 Owls issue with the especially appropriate Hooton postmark (inset).

The images are in fact photographs. Each of the photographs features either a juvenile or fully-grown owl pictured in its natural UK habitat and facing into the camera. With more than 200 species of this nocturnal bird of prey in existence, there were certainly plenty of owls from which to choose. The five featured species each live in the UK for at least part of the year and, despite being a largely solitary and nocturnal bird, are easily recognized by their distinctive features.



Figure 12. The 2019 Bird of Prey issue.

Why the Hooton postmark? Your guess is as good as mine, perhaps! Because they “hoot,” of course.

Finally, we have the 2019 issue for the Birds of Prey shown in Figure 12. This is another set of ten stamps in two se-tenant strips of five. Royal Mail again use photographs for this issue and, like the 2003 Birds of Prey issue, they show five birds in flight and five close-up. Each of the ten birds was individually photographed by well-known, leading British animal photographer Tim Flach, at the International Centre for Birds of Prey in Gloucestershire.

I think towards the end even the most dedicated collectors of birds on stamps could be forgiven for thinking, what next? During the 30 years from 1966 to 1996, there were four issues with 17 stamps. From then until 2019, that is 23 years, we have seen 50 stamps in five issues, and 30 of those in the three years 2017 through 2019. One may wonder if this is too much.

For the record, I have only included the regular commemorative stamp issues. I have excluded the Post and Go Birds of Britain issues of 2010 (1st series, eight stamps), 2011 (2nd series, eight stamps), 2011 (3rd series, eight stamps), 2011 (4th Series, eight stamps), and the 2012 Christmas Robin issue (ten stamps, excluding type differences). From all that I have read, there are not, at the moment, any plans for a birds issue in 2021.


I hope you have found this examination helpful. If there are topics you would like to see covered in The Great Britain Covers Corner, please email me at the address below.

For 2021 postmark details available, you can visit Royal Mail here: www.royalmail.com/sites/royalmail.com/files/2021-01/rm07652-postmark-bulletin-jan.pdf. 📧

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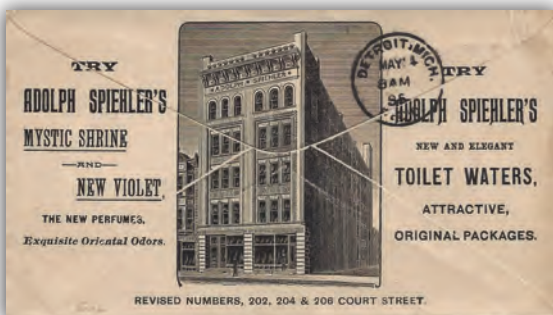
This is the fourth in a series of columns devoted to the websites of AFDCS chapters.

As one of the oldest philatelic clubs in the United States, the Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA) was formed by thirteen stamp collectors on March 12, 1913 in the spirit of sharing their common interest in philately. Current membership has grown to 98, with members residing in nine states and Canada. The RPA is American Philatelic Society Chapter #0207-019273, American

Topical Association Chapter #84, and American First Day Cover Society Chapter #69.

I began my viewing of the RPA website (www.rpastamps.org) by selecting RPA History & Archives from the site's home page main menu expecting to find only brief and cursory information about the club. But I remained on that page for over an hour immersed in the rich and extensive history of the club, complete with links to hundreds of newspaper articles, photos, and related ephemera from the RPA archives. And that history extends well beyond basic "club news." The RPA has had an admirable association and partnership with numerous national shows, anniversaries, and stamp releases. The club's archive material was a true joy to view.

The site's home page menu offers twenty-three selections, each with a jump to a well-designed, colorful, easy-to-use page. The club's website earned a Silver award in the American Philatelic Society's annual website competition in 2012 and 2013. And the reason for the high awards is obvious. Expected pages for membership details, meeting information, and RPA Officers are complemented with pages presenting some of the most extensive and fascinating philatelic material I have seen on a philatelic club's website.



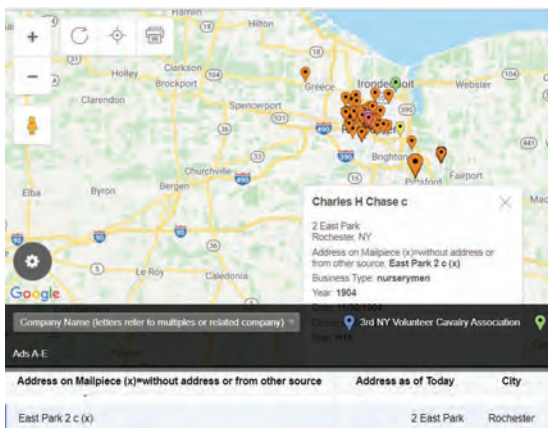
The club has a group of members who produce first day and commemorative covers and it is on the RPA Covers page that you will find hundreds of high-resolution images of such covers — some are for sale. The Rochester Postal History page is titled Rochester Postal History Sampler providing a "way to introduce you to Rochester related philately."

Quite the contrary. The page is much more than a "sampler." As with the RPA Covers page, the postal history offering has images of hundreds of covers encompassing a full range of postal history topics, from stampless covers to auxiliary markings to private carriers to event covers. Click on any image to be presented with an enlargement of that cover or a special cover element.

Also for the postal history enthusiast, the Rochester Advertising Covers page commendably satisfies its description as being dedicated to demonstrating Rochester as a “city of business” that transformed the area into New York’s third largest metropolis between 1850 and 1925. Simply scroll down the page to view the 953 covers, many with multi-color, expertly designed cachets, and some of the “all over” variety. Alternatively, click an alphabet letter at the top of the page to jump to the group of covers having that as the first letter in the advertising company’s name. If you are looking for a collection check list, the page allows you to download an Excel file presenting information about the covers: Company’s address on the cover, current day address, business type, year, and additional notes, if any.

A clever, additional page feature utilizing Google Maps is selecting a group of company names for the advertising covers, e.g., A-E, and being taken to a map where you can click on a current address symbol for the company. You then use your cursor to expand the map to see the precise current day location for the company.

Choosing Member Presentations, Exhibits, Articles from the site’s main menu will present 121 offerings accessed via a web link or downloaded in PowerPoint or Adobe PDF formats. View RPA member submissions in categories such as US, Worldwide, Thematic, Hobby Interest, and Postcards. I had fun with Quizzes where you can test your philatelic knowledge viewing several quiz presentations created by RPA members.



Hinges & Tongs

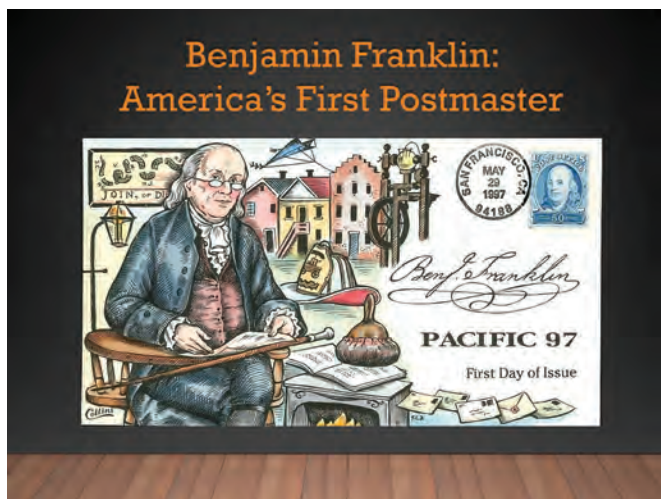
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Whether or not you are interested in Rochester philately, I encourage you to spend some time with the RPA website. I am confident that the site’s numerous philatelic avenues and offerings will afford you hours of enjoyment and education. Kudos to the RPA for an exceptional club website. 🐼

Lastly, but certainly significantly, the superior RPA Newsletter, *Hinges and Tongs*, is available for viewing via Newsletters (Hinges and Tongs) from the site’s main menu. There you will find newsletter issues beginning in 1967 through the current January 2021 issue. The PDF files you open will show the newsletter in its black and white format until the second issue of 2007 when the newsletter adopted a full-color scheme. The image-rich articles encompassing a wide range of topics are fascinating and educational.

✉ steve.swain9@gmail.com

A Simply Divine Presentation



David Devine, creator of the Benjamin Franklin PowerPoint presentation.

David Devine, 15, of Janesville, Wisconsin, created a PowerPoint presentation as a part of a school honors history class project. The topic was “Communication in the United States.” Initially, it was written as a paper, but he then created a presentation to go along with it. Almost 40 slides in length, it explores Ben Franklin as America’s first postmaster using a combination of stamps and mostly covers to tell the story.

The title page begins with a first day cover by Collins for the 2016 Classic US Stamps issue portraying Ben Franklin. The next slide features the US block of four 39-cent stamps depicting Franklin as states-

men, scientist, printer and postmaster.

The story continues with an illustration of a 1-cent Franklin news wrapper dating to the early 1900s. It is addressed to the Chief Post Office Inspector in Washington DC, a position originally created by Franklin.

The remaining slides show a variety of both first day and commemorative covers that move the Franklin story forward. For example, slide 4 is a FDC for the 1985 Official Mail stamps (Figure 1). The cachet depicts three houses on Market Street in



Figure 1. David's project is based on covers like this one from slide four of his PowerPoint presentation.

Philadelphia that were designed and built by Franklin. The house on the left of the archway was used by Franklin as a post office. Today it is the site of the B. Free Franklin Museum and Post Office. Another rendition of the same structure as the cachet has a commemorative B Free Franklin cancel tying the 7-cent Franklin stamp and an 11-cent printing press stamp to the cover.

Covers are then used to detail improvements that Franklin made to the postal service: extended and improved post roads, extended mail service to and from Canada, started mail service between Philadelphia and New York City, introduced the penny post and home mail delivery, reduced prices and expanded mail service for all colonists, and introduced a uniform system for postmasters to keep precise accounting of the revenues and receipts.

In 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Franklin as Postmaster General of the United Colonies. This was to become the basis of what was to become known as the United States Postal Service.

The remaining portions of the presentation feature a variety of colorful and interesting covers honoring Franklin as Postmaster General of the United States. Among the items

is a 1932 event cover (Figure 2) honoring National Post Office Day and canceled in Franklin, Illinois.

A hand-drawn cover from 1938 has a block of six 1 1/2-cent Franklin Prexie stamps. There are several more Prexie covers honoring Franklin. Still another hand-drawn cachet has a replica of Franklin's signature and cancel.

A 1938 airmail cover has a Crosby cachet showing both Independence Hall and Franklin. A 1947 Dorothy Knapp cachet for the US Stamp Centenary recognizes the

honor bestowed upon Franklin for his role as postmaster and for his image on our country's first postage stamps.

There are covers for postal stationery items depicting Franklin as well as other covers for both definitive and commemorative stamps that feature his likeness. A variety of cachetmakers are included as well as two combination covers.

The presentation concludes with the Pacific '97 souvenir sheet honoring Franklin and a rainbow of Franklin definitive stamps. The final slide uses two high-value Franklin stamps to introduce the annotated bibliography. And as any one who has ever written a report will tell you, the references list is a must for school and scholarly publications.

Those interested in viewing the presentation can visit it on the website of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. The program has scripted notes on each slide and can act as a stand-alone program for club meetings or to reinforce school curriculum concepts. You can view the presentation on the Club Resources page of the Federation's website. Go to: www.wfscstamps.org/Resources. ☛

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Figure 2. A slide depicting a 1932 event cover for National Post Office Day.

Scott #1950 - FDR Library Honors Centennial of His Birth

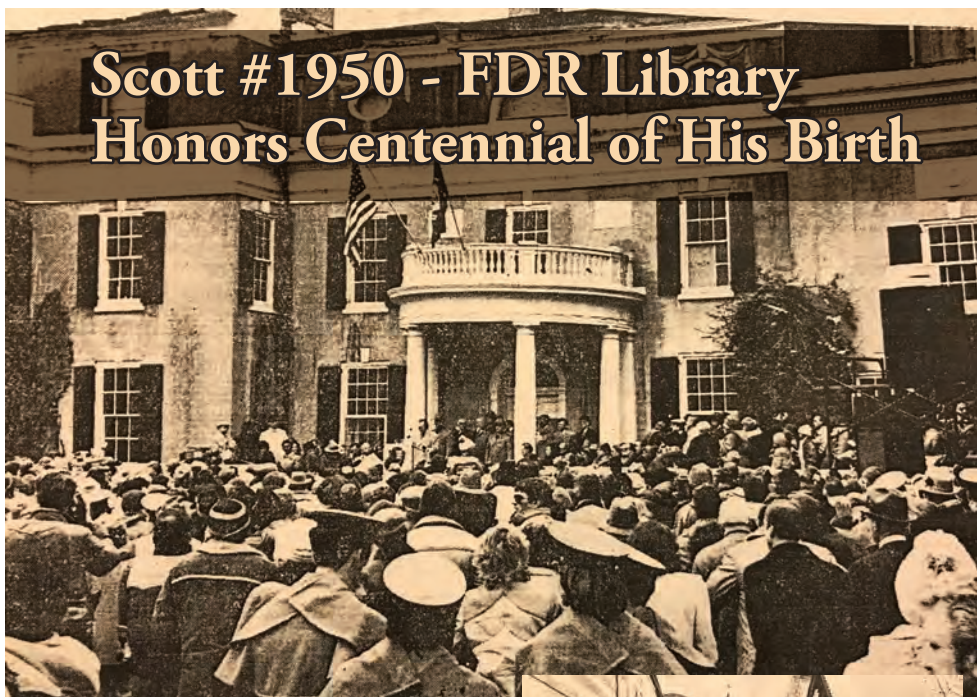


Figure 1. On January 30, 1982 crowds gathered at the FDR Library for the first day ceremony.

The year 1982 marked the centennial of the birth of the nation's 32nd president and fellow philatelist, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Though an occasion of historical significance, it almost passed without recognition. Even a 1981 headline in *The Wall Street Journal* proclaimed, "All of Us Are Busy, But Is This Any Way to Honor FDR?"

Fortunately, it did wind up receiving significant acknowledgment, thanks in large part to the efforts of Peter Kovler, a then 29-year-old admirer of the former President who shared his birthday with FDR. Kovler connected with his former boss, Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL), mere months prior to the anniversary. Congressman Yates worked to get support in Washington, resulting in \$200,000 of government funding, as well as multiple congressmen and other significant figures to join the Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Centennial Committee chaired by Peter Kovler. (Kernan)



Figure 2. The long line for stamps at the postal substation set up for the stamp release.

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A variety of programs were quickly planned nationwide that included multiple exhibitions at the Smithsonian museums, symposiums at well-known colleges and universities, as well as books and television specials. And of course, with some albeit last-minute planning for philatelic recognition, a 20-cent commemorative postage stamp came to fruition.

As a part of its all-day anniversary event, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, at the site of the former President's home in Hyde Park, New York, hosted the first day ceremony for the new stamp on January 30, 1982. Hundreds attended the centennial gathering, as seen in photographs from the following day's *The Poughkeepsie Journal* in front of FDR's home and lined up at the postal substation outside (Figures 1 and 2 respectively).



Figure 3. The general market ArtCraft cachet for 1982 FDR stamp (Scott #1950).

The general market Art-Craft cachet SEV#1 (Figure 3) featured a picture of FDR along with an inset photo of his Springwood home. The Library sponsored a special ArtCraft cachet SEV#2 that solely featured an artistic rendering of Springwood. The original art for this cachet, by ArtCraft artist Hal Bailey, is shown in Figure 4. The final cacheted cover with its accompanying text is shown in Figure 5. Note that the sponsorship by the FDR Library is engraved



Figure 4. The original artwork for the cachet shown in Figure 5.

in the upper left. These covers are generally seen with just the standard FDOI cancellation, though some bear a 4-bar killer from the "FDR Library Station," as the one shown in Figure 5. This 4-bar handstamp was only available on-site at the temporary postal station set up in the basement of the FDR Library on January 30. Stamps and the regular FDOI slogan cancel were also available from a postal substation outside on the Library grounds (seen at left in the Figure 2 photograph) as well as the Hyde Park, New York post office.

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The photos from the event and the sales figures speak for themselves as to the success of this recognition of the nation's 32nd commander in chief. Local media reports indicated that many people waited in line much of the day to get the new stamps, some purchasing as many as 30 panes. The library commissioned 10,000 of the special cachets shown in Figure 5, of which more than half sold on the first day. The manager of the museum shop was quoted by *The New York Times* on the sales figures of the day: "Last year on January 30th, we made \$17.50. This year, we made \$6,142.00." (Radomsky) ☛

✉ mlake7@gmail.com

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First Day Cover Collecting in a Brave New World

by Steve Swain

Tokens. Digital wallets. Ethereum blockchain. Crypto stamps. George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*? Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*? Possibly echoing both, it is 21st century philatelic terminology and stamp collecting most recently promoted by the United Nations Postal Administration.

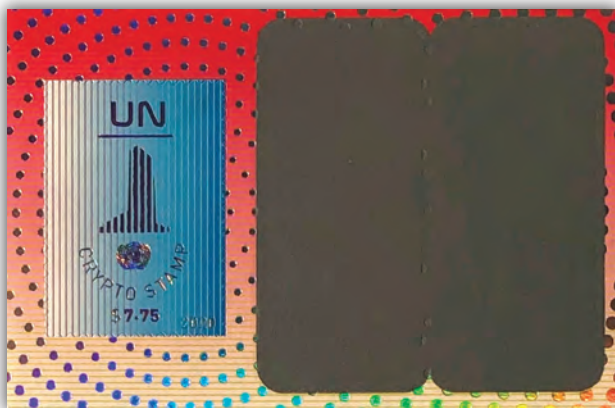


Figure 1. United Nations Crypto stamp miniature sheet.



Figure 2. Digital codes revealed behind scratch fields.

Figure 1 is a crypto stamp miniature sheet issued November 24, 2020 by the UN. The \$7.75 blue stamp can be detached and used for postage. Two “scratch fields” are to the right of the stamp. Behind these scratch fields, Figure 2, are codes that provide access to the stamp’s virtual counterpart, or twin, stored in a digital wallet within the Ethereum blockchain. A crypto wallet is a

small program that enables your computer’s browser to securely communicate with the Ethereum blockchain on your behalf.

Without being too detailed about the Ethereum blockchain technology, it is essentially a virtual database, i.e., a computer network data management and storage method. A blockchain is a continuously growing list of records, called blocks, which are linked and secured using cryptography. Thus, “crypto” stamps.

A crypto stamp can be used not only as an ordinary postage stamp for sending items in the mail, but it functions simultaneously as a virtual collectible image if you choose to do so. The creation of the digital stamp image and your ownership, collecting, exchanging and trading of the digital stamps are recorded and managed virtually.

The United Nations was not the first to issue crypto stamps. On June 11, 2019, the Austrian Post released the world's first blockchain crypto stamps with a unicorn as the primary image on a set of five stamps (Figure 3).



Figure 3. 2019 Austrian crypto stamps. The world's first crypto stamps.

That issue was followed on June 25, 2020 with a set of four Austrian crypto stamps, two of which are shown in Figure 4. Each stamp in the set shows the head of an animal: a honey badger on a red background, llama on a green background, panda on a brown background, and dog on a blue background. The “700” to the right of each animal represents the denomination of €7 (700 euro cents).

Croatia was the third postal administration issuing crypto stamps with its September 9, 2020 offering of six sheetlets, one seen in Figure 5. One of the crypto stamps after removal from the sheetlet is shown in Figure 6.

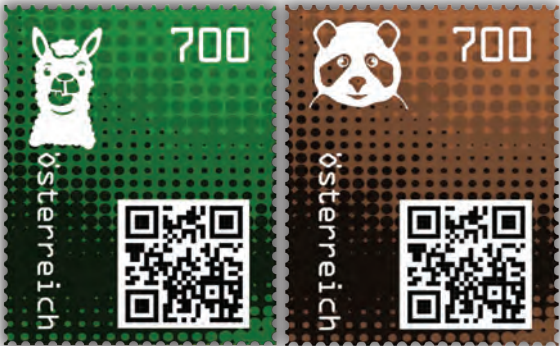


Figure 4. 2020 Austrian llama and panda crypto stamps.

Do crypto stamps provide a collecting avenue for first day cover enthusiasts? Definitely. The stamps can indeed function as legitimate postage. Forgo the virtual platform for crypto stamps and continue to em-



Figure 5. 2020 Croatia crypto stamp sheetlet.



Figure 6. Croatian crypto stamp.

brace the “classic” first day cover collecting strategy of covers offered by postal administrations, cachet makers, and other collectors.

The FDCs shown below were recently offered on eBay. Figure 7 is an unaddressed June 25, 2020 Austrian “Panda” crypto stamp first day cover.

Figures 8 and 9 are June 11, 2019 Austrian “Unicorn” crypto stamp first day covers. Figure 9 is also a registered mailing.

The first day cover in Figure 10 is an example franked with the 2020 Croatian crypto stamp issue.

A challenge with crypto stamp FDC collecting, at least for now, is the limited quantity of crypto stamps being issued. Only three postal entities have offered such stamps and in limited amounts. For example, the total print quantity for the 2020 UN issue is 90,000 stamps, 30,000 per each issuing office for New York, Geneva and Vienna.



Figure 7. June 25, 2020 Austrian “Panda” FDC.



Figure 8. June 11, 2019 Austrian “Unicorn” FDC.



Figure 9. June 11, 2019 Austrian “Unicorn” registered FDC.



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Figure 10. 2020 Croatian crypto stamp FDC.

Moreover, it seems that many of the crypto stamps have been purchased for investment and resale potential and, thus, will not make their way into the first day cover market. This could certainly change if and when additional postal administrations choose to join the crypto stamp arena.

Tokens. Digital wallets. Ethereum blockchain. Crypto stamps. Happy first day collecting in a brave new world! 🌐

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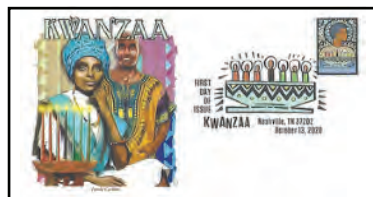
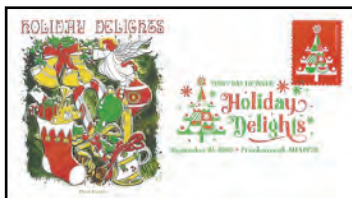
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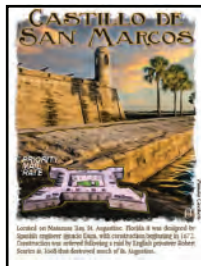
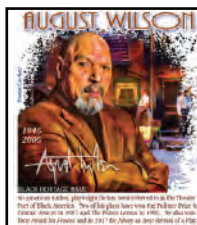


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ALL PRICES POSTPAID

Finland Birth Certificates

by Alan Warren



Figure 1. A first day cover with the 1937 stamp honoring Finnish President Gustaf Mannerheim.

Part 8

Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim (1867-1951) was a Finnish statesman and military leader. He was born in Finland and educated in Helsinki and St. Petersburg, Russia. He volunteered in the Russo-Japanese War (1904) and achieved the rank of colonel.

He fell out of favor in Russia as a result of the revolution and returned to his native land where he was appointed commander-in-chief of the newly independent country. In 1919, he ran for president but was defeated and so he withdrew from public life and became involved with the Finnish Red Cross and founded a child welfare agency.

Mannerheim received the title of Field Marshal, and in 1939 withdrew his resignation and once again became commander-in-chief of the armed forces. In 1944, at the age of 77, he was elected president of Finland. However, he stepped down two years later due to failing health. In retirement he wrote his memoirs, which were published after his death in 1951.

Mannerheim was born on June 4, 1867. In honor of his 70th birthday, Finland issued a 2 mark stamp on June 4, 1937. Figure 1 shows a Helsinki first day hand cancel. It exists in two varieties—with outside diameter of 27 and 29 mm. Figure 2 is a roller cancel marking



Figure 2. A cover bearing a roller cancel marking the 1937 World Shooting Championship.



Figure 3. An unofficial first day cancel from Mikkeli.



Figures 4-7. A variety of unofficial first day cancels, including a simple paste-on cachet in Figure 7 (bottom).



Figures 8. An unusual second day cancel mailed aboard ship.

the World Shooting (rifle) Championship held in 1937 in Helsinki, used on the day of issue of the Mannerheim stamp.

Unofficial first day cancels of this issue include Mikkeli (Figure 3), Sortavalla (Figure 4), Lahti (Figure 5), and Niuvanniemi (Figure 6). The Figure 7 cancel at Hanko uses a simple paste-on cachet with the Finnish coat of arms and the 70th anniversary dates.

Figure 8 is an unusual second day cancel. The cover was mailed on the issue date of June 4 aboard the ship *S/S Wellamo* with a transit mark at Stockholm on June 5, before going on to Berlin. ☛

✉ alanwar@comcast.net

By the way...

In October 1960, The US Post Office Department also issued two stamps honoring Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim. The 4-cent and 8-cent stamps (Scott #1165 and #1166, respectively) featured the “Liberator of Finland” as the eighth subject of the “Champions of Liberty” series.





A Surprise Colorano Lindbergh FDC

by Tris Fall



Figure 1. The surprise FDC found on eBay for 79¢.

I've been collecting FDCs for quite a long time. One of my favorite collections consists of FDCs for Scott #1710, the Lindbergh stamp issued on May 20, 1977. Unfortunately, after accumulating more than 600 different Lindbergh FDCs, it has become quite a challenge to find new covers to add to my collection.

So imagine my surprise when I recently saw the cover shown in Figure 1 listed on eBay – for a measly 79¢ (plus 85¢ for shipping)! I was the only bidder. The cover was pretty clearly produced by Colorano “Silk” Cachets. It features Lindbergh at the top of the cachet, wearing his famous flying gear, within a circle, on a yellow background, plus the *Spirit of St. Louis* flying above the clouds at the bottom of the cachet. It features black text that reads “Charles A. Lindbergh / 50th Anniversary” in two lines at the top, the words “Colorano ‘Silk’ Cachets” sideways at the left, and “First Day of Issue” at the bottom. The cover bears two cancels, each on a copy of Scott #1710 – a pictorial unofficial first day cancel from Air Mail Field, St. Louis, Missouri 63145 at the top, plus a pictorial second day cancel from Lindbergh Station, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 at the bottom.



Figure 2. Lindbergh's arrival in Paris.

To understand why I consider this find to be rather remarkable, a little background is required.

On May 20-21, 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh, at the age of 25, became the first person to make a non-stop solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean. His flight began at Roosevelt Field, on Long Island, New York, took him over Nova Scotia and

Newfoundland in Canada, and then across the Atlantic to Ireland, finally landing at Le Bourget Aerodrome, outside Paris, France, after a flight of 33½ hours.

Lindbergh was certainly not the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. In fact, at least 80 others had done so before him. However, Lindbergh's flight was the first solo, non-stop transatlantic flight of a fixed-wing aircraft from New York to Paris. Lindbergh achieved an exceptional (and largely unwanted) level of fame as a direct result of this achievement. Among many other honors, Lindbergh, as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve, received the United States' highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Scott #1710 was issued on the 50th anniversary of the date on which Lindbergh took off for Paris.

An astounding number of cachets are known to exist for this issue. Hal Ansink was a dogged collector of Lindbergh FDCs. He began distributing listings of the FDCs produced for this issue shortly after the stamp was issued. His efforts culminated in a privately printed catalog – *Charles A. Lindbergh 50th Anniversary Transatlantic Flight: An Illustrated Listing of All Known First Day Covers for this Issue* of more than 300 pages [Ansink]. This catalog illustrates nearly 1000 cachets, identifying the cachetmaker (where known) and providing additional information about each cachet.

Remarkably, however, Ansink's Lindbergh catalog does **not** include a listing for the FDC shown in Figure 1. It does, of course, include images of quite a number of Lindbergh FDCs produced by Colorano.

Most experienced FDC collectors are familiar with the FDCs produced by Colorano "Silk" Cachets. Begun in 1971 by Ray Novak, these FDCs typically feature a colorful image printed on "silk" affixed within a gold frame, plus some text, usually in black but sometimes in blue or (originally) in gold. These FDCs are quite popular with collectors, but most of them tend to be rather common. During its heyday, most cachets were reportedly printed in quantities of about 10,000 [Monty, 1981].

Various Colorano FDCs can frequently be found at stamp shows of all sizes, and, as of this writing, eBay hosts more than 8,000 listings for Colorano FDCs of all types. For most issues, Colorano produced but a single cachet. Se-tenant stamps usually had a cachet for each stamp plus one for the block. However, that was not always the case. Colorano also produced variations for certain issues, and, in addition, produced cachets for other organizations, including the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and the National Organization of Women, to name just two.

I knew immediately that the FDC shown in Figure 1 was **not** the "basic" Colorano cachet produced for Scott #1710, but I initially assumed that it must be one of the various show or event cover cachets produced by Colorano in 1977, just re-purposed as an FDC. But when I looked more carefully at those covers, I realized that that was not the case.

The "basic" cachet produced by Colorano for this issue is shown in Figure 3. It features a famous image of Lindbergh in an oval, looking to the left, with his goggles pushed up on his forehead. His aircraft, the *Spirit of St. Louis*, is perched above the oval, facing right. All text is in black. The positioning of the text is typical of most Colorano cachets of this period: two lines of informative text at the top (in this case, "Charles A. Lindbergh / 50th Anniversary"), the words "Colorano 'Silk' Cachets" sideways at the left, and "First Day of Issue" at the bottom. Note that all of the text uses "initial caps;" none of it appears in all capital letters.



Figure 3. The “basic” Colorano cachet for the Lindbergh issue (Scott #1710).

At the time, Colorano was also producing vertical maximum cards (referred to by Colorano as “Souvenir Cards”) for virtually all stamps [Monty, 1981]. The Colorano “Souvenir Card” FDC produced for the Lindbergh issue is shown in Figure 4. As is typical, the image is identical to that used on the “basic” cachet, but the positioning of the text is somewhat different. In particular, the words “First Day of Issue” have been shifted to the

right of the image in order to make room for the stamp and cancel at the bottom. Far fewer of these FDCs were produced. Typically, about 1000 were made per issue [Monty, 1981].

Colorano also produced two varieties of an international cover honoring Lindbergh’s flight across the Atlantic. The cover shown in Figure 5 was initially canceled at Roosevelt Field, New York, on the first day of issue – May 20, 1977. It was then flown across the Atlantic Ocean and canceled on May 21, 1977 at Le Bourget Airport, outside Paris, where Lindbergh landed in 1927, with a special pictorial French anniversary cancel that depicts the *Spirit of St. Louis*, with the caption “du Spirit of St. Louis & Concorde / Homage à Lindbergh” around the top.

The cover shown in Figure 6 bears the same “silk” cachet as does the one in Figure 5, but was canceled on June 4, 1977, as an FDC for the French stamp issued in honor of Lindbergh’s achievement (France Scott #C49). The French cancel on this



Figure 4. Colorano’s Souvenir Card for the Lindbergh stamp.

cover, also a pictorial, features the *Spirit of St. Louis* flying over waves and a seagull, with a globe in the background.

Although the central “silk” cachet used on both covers is identical, the text is somewhat different. The flown cover in Figure 5 has “Charles A. Lindbergh / New York - Paris” print-

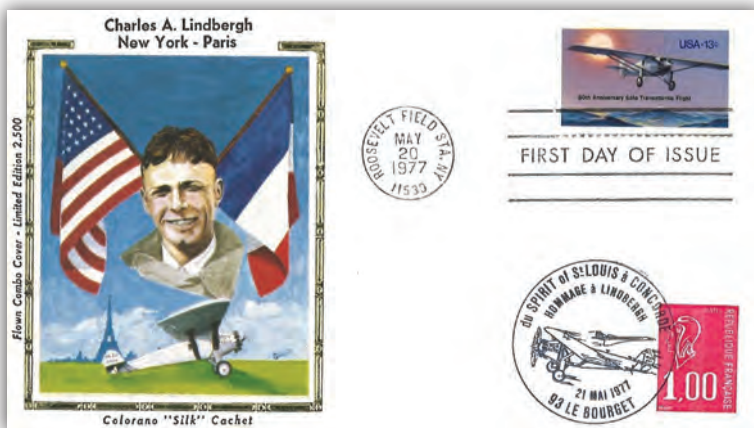


Figure 5. One of two international Lindbergh issue covers from Colorano.



Figure 6. Colorano's second international Lindbergh cover with France's stamp honoring the pilot's achievement (France Scott #C49).

ed at the top of the cachet, while the dual FDC in Figure 6 reads “Charles A. Lindbergh / 50th Anniversary.” In addition, the Figure 5 cover is signed “Colorano ‘Silk’ Cachets” at the bottom, while the Figure 6 cover is signed at the left (as is common on most FDCs produced by Colorano during this period). Finally, the cover in Figure 5 has “Flown Combo Cover – Limited Edition 2,500” printed sideways at the left, while the cover in Figure 6 has “First Day of Issue” at the bottom.

In addition, the flown cover in Figure 5 features the following statement on the back (with the blank line filled in by hand on each FDC):

**NO. _____ OF 2,500 UNITED STATES
LINDBERGH FIRST DAY COVERS FLOWN MAY
20TH, 1977, ON AIR FRANCE FLIGHT #070
TO PARIS AND AGAIN POSTMARKED ON
ARRIVAL AT LEBOURGET, MAY 21ST, 1977.**

As if that were not enough, Colorano produced a set of five “Pioneers of American Aviation” FDCs for this issue. The set honored the following pioneers (listed chronologically):

1. December 17, 1903 – The Wright Brothers, who completed the first powered, sustained, controlled flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (Figure 7).

2. May 2-3, 1923 – Lt. Oakley G. Kelly and Lt. John A. Macready, who completed the first non-stop flight across the U.S. in a Fokker T-2, flying from New York to San Diego in 26 hours, 50 minutes, 3 seconds (Figure 8).

3. April 6 – September 28, 1924 – The crews of four Douglas DCW biplanes, who set out from Seattle, Washington, on a westward flight around the world; two crews completed the flight after 57 stops; the other two biplanes crashed (but the crews survived) (Figure 9).

4. May 20-21, 1927 – Charles A. Lindbergh, whose non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean took 33 hours, 30 minutes (Figure 10).

5. May 20-21-1932 – Amelia Earhart, who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, doing so in a Lockheed Vega aircraft, flying from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Northern Ireland (Figure 11).

In 1977, Colorano was also producing FDCs for other organizations. The cachet produced for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York is shown in Figure 12. It is identical to the “basic” Lindbergh cachet, except in two respects. First, all text is in blue instead of black, and, second, seven lines of text and a small Masonic insignia were added in the lower right.

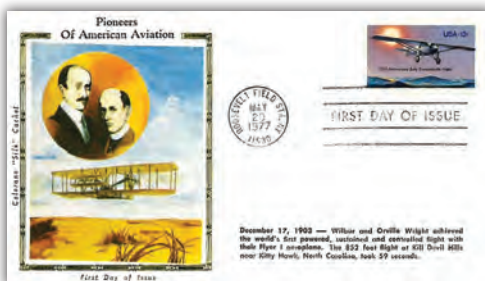


Figure 7.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.

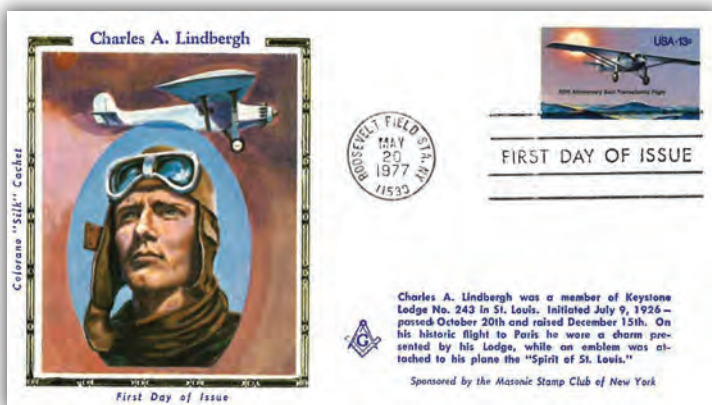


Figure 12. The cover produced by Colorano for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Figure 13 shows the cachet produced by Colorano for Judith Kaplan on behalf of the New York Chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW-NY) as part of its “Women’s History Series” [Monty, 1998; Newton, 2001]. This FDC is No. 19 in the Series. It features a completely different design, with a portrait of Amelia Earhart over her famous plane, a Lockheed Vega, flown by Earhart on her solo flight across the Atlantic in 1932. (Earhart’s plane now resides in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.) The design appears on a yellow background. The cachet also includes five lines of text in the lower right plus a female symbol with two vertical bars inside it. Like most other Colorano cachets from this period, all text is in black.

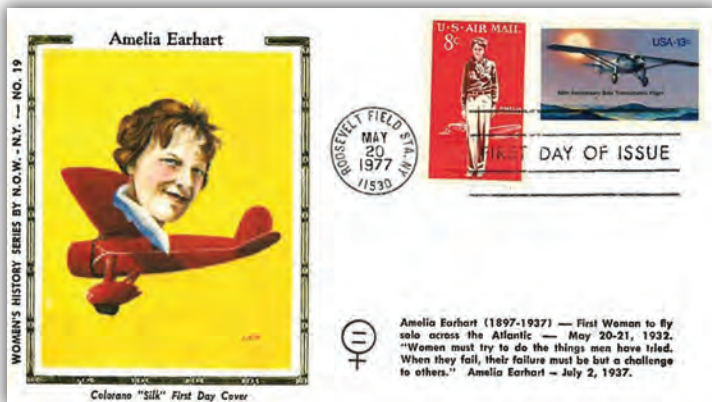


Figure 13. Commissioned by Judith Kaplan, this Colorano cover was produced for the New York Chapter of the National Organization of Women.

To top it off, Colorano produced at least 16 stamp show and event covers in 1977 that feature or honor Lindbergh, his plane or his famous flight. Table 1 includes a chronological list of these covers, including images. They started with the Pan American Exhibition, sponsored by the Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas in Brookfield, Illinois, in February 1977, and continued through the REDPEX ‘77 stamp show, held in September 1977.

Most of these covers were produced in conjunction with stamp shows, although one was produced for a stop on the 50th anniversary re-enactment of the Lindbergh Good-

will Tour. On the original Lindbergh Goodwill Tour, Lindbergh flew the *Spirit of St. Louis* around the country, starting at Mitchel Field, Long Island, on July 20, 1927. The Goodwill Tour lasted 95 days, with Lindbergh visiting 82 cities. At each stop, he gave a short speech about aviation's potential as a commercial enterprise. In 1977, the Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) sponsored a re-enactment of that flight, the EAA Lindbergh Commemorative Tour. It involved a reproduction of the *Spirit of St. Louis* flying around the US, making stops at over 80 locations. A significant number of pictorial cancels honoring Lindbergh were used along the route of the 1977 Lindbergh Commemorative Tour. Why Colorano chose to prepare a cachet for only one of these cancels – the one used at Spirit of St. Louis Station in Lubbock, Texas – is a mystery for another day.

There is quite a bit of variety among the cachets used on these stamp show and event covers. The same image is used and re-used on a number of them, but no two cachets are exactly the same. Each features a change in design, background color, or text. The text on all of these covers is black. However, a few of them put Lindbergh's name (at the top of the cachet) in all capital letters. This includes the cachets produced for the Pan American Exhibition (No. 1 in Table 1), CALPEX (No. 2), TWINPEX (No. 5), and LISDA (No. 12).

Amazingly, although ten of these event covers were prepared for shows that were held prior to May 20, 1977 – the date of issue of Scott #1710 – I have only seen four of them dual canceled as FDCs for this issue. (Figures 14 and 15 show examples of such dual canceled covers. These covers were produced for INTERPEX '77 and HUNTSPEX '77.) This contrasts with Lindbergh-related covers produced in conjunction with most other stamp shows held in early 1977, most of which ARE known to exist dual canceled as Lindbergh FDCs.

Rather surprisingly, although the Ansink catalog includes listings for the Colorano FDCs shown in Figures 3 through 13, it does not include listings for *any* of Colorano's Lindbergh show or event covers dual canceled as FDCs.

With the foregoing in mind, let's take a closer look at the Lindbergh FDC shown in Figure 1. This cachet is quite similar to two of Colorano's other Lindbergh cachets. First, it features the same "silk" cachet in the center – with Lindbergh and the *Spirit* – as does the "Pioneers of Aviation" FDC shown in Figure 10 and the Dayton AIRPEX II show cover shown in Table 1 (No. 11), but the text is somewhat different from either of them.



Figure 14. A dual-canceled cover from INTERPEX '77.



Figure 15. Another dual-canceled cover, this one from from HUNTSPEX '77.

The *Pioneers of Aviation* cachet features five lines of text in the lower right that are missing from this new FDC. In addition, the text at the top of each cachet is different. One reads “Pioneers / Of American Aviation,” while the other reads “Charles A. Lindbergh / 50th Anniversary.”

Comparing this new FDC to the Dayton AIRPEX II cachet, it’s immediately evident that, although the text at the top is the same, the words “Colorano ‘Silk’ Cachet” have been shifted to the bottom and the words “First Day of Issue” are completely missing from the Dayton AIRPEX II cover.

Numerous cachets are known to exist with the pictorial St. Louis AMF unofficial first day cancel that was used on this new Colorano FDC, so the use of that cancel on this cover is not particularly surprising. However, I am not aware of any other Colorano “Silk” Lindbergh FDCs that bear this cancel.



Figure 16. An unofficial FDC produced by the Wyoming Postal History Association.

The presence of the Wyoming cancel on this cover is also not a huge surprise. The Wyoming Postal History Association produced two cachets honoring Lindbergh, and had stamps flown in for the express purpose of creating unofficial FDCs (Figure 16). Many of their covers were also canceled on the Second Day, May 21, with the same pictorial cancel as is shown in Figure 16. (Only the date was changed.) It seems likely that some enterprising individual (perhaps Colorano, perhaps not) managed to get some covers shipped from St. Louis to Cheyenne the night of May 20, 1977, in time for the second day cancel to be applied. (Unless, of course, the second cancel was applied during a grace period.)

The existence of the FDC shown in Figure 1 raises numerous questions. Was it designed for use with the St. Louis pictorial cancel? How many were made? Who got it to Cheyenne in time for the second day cancel to be applied? Where has it been all these years? And how is it that Hal Ansink – with his vast collection of Lindbergh FDCs – never found one of these FDCs? We may never know the answers to any of these questions, but that doesn’t stop me from wondering!

If any AFDCSer can shed any light on this mystery, or if you have any *other* FDCs (or show or event covers) produced by Colorano “Silk” Cachets in 1977 that honor Charles Lindbergh and/or his transatlantic flight, please contact me with the details. ☺

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References

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Monty, Richard A., "The Kaplan Era: History in the Making: TIPEX and the NOW-NY Women's History Series," *First Days*, Vol. 43, No. 3, Apr. 15. 1998, pp. 200-203.

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TABLE 1. 1977 Colorano Show & Event Covers Honoring Lindbergh

	Date	Show / Event / Cancel	Known to Exist Dual Canceled as FDC	Cachet
1.	2/17/1977	Pan American Sta., Brookfield, IL 60513	No	
2.	3/5/1977	CALPEX '77, Calumet Stamp Club Ex. Sta., Hammond, IN 46320	No	
3.	3/11/1977	INTERPEX '77 Sta., New York, NY 10001	Yes	
4.	3/12/1977	SOPEX '77, SOPEX '77 Sta., Andover, MA 01810	No	

TABLE 1. 1977 Colorano Show & Event Covers Honoring Lindbergh (con't.)

	Date	Show / Event / Cancel	Known to Exist Dual Canceled as FDC	Cachet
5.	3/12/1977	TWINPEX '77, TWINPEX Sta., Minneapolis, MN 55401	Yes	
6.	3/26/1977	Rockford '77, Exhibition Station, Rockford, IL 611	No	
7.	4/3/1977	IEPEX '77, I.E.P.S. Station, Spokane, WA 99201	Yes	
8.	4/3/1977	NOPEX '77, NOPEX-APS Station, New Orleans, LA 71030	No	
9.	4/30/1977	Saginaw Valley Stamp Soc. Sta., Saginaw, MI 48605	No	

TABLE 1. 1977 Colorano Show & Event Covers Honoring Lindbergh (con't.)


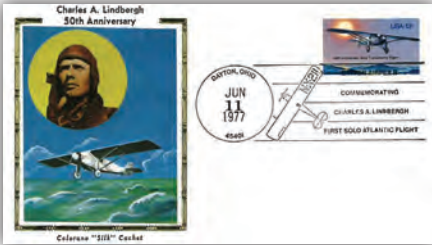





	Date	Show / Event / Cancel	Known to Exist Dual Canceled as FDC	Cachet
10.	5/14/1977	HUNTSPEX '77, Huntsville, AL 35801	Yes	
11.	6/11/1977	Dayton AIR-PEX II, Dayton, OH 45401	No	
12.	9/9/1977	LISDA '77, Uniondale, NY	No	
13.	9/16/1977	Midwest Postage Stamp & Coin Show Station, Chicago, IL 60607	No	
14.	9/19/1977	Spirit of St. Louis Station, Lubbock, TX 79408	No	

TABLE 1. 1977 Colorano Show & Event Covers Honoring Lindbergh (con't.)

	Date	Show / Event / Cancel	Known to Exist Dual Canceled as FDC	Cachet
15.	9/25/1977	waUSAu pex Sta., Wausau, WI 54401	No	
16.	9/29/1977	REDPEX '77, REDPEX Station, Reading, PA 19603	No	

July/August, 1970

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More – Turning Back the Pages

By Herman Herst, Jr.

Clarence Chamberlin
One of the stories in *FIRST DAYS* in the past year mentioned this pioneer aviator. We were buying a collection in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. a year ago and the seller mentioned to us that her neighbor was Clarence Chamberlin himself. We expressed a desire to meet him, and this was easily arranged.

By a coincidence, we had with us some flight covers, some of which he had carried, and we showed them to him. We did not wish to presume on his hospitality by asking that they be autographed, but we did ask him to give us some recollections of his early flying days. Mr. Chamberlin is almost totally deaf so a normal conversation was out of the question, but we were content to listen. In the course of things, the name of Lindbergh had come up.

A month before, an organization in New York had sponsored a dinner at which as many of the old-time pilots as could be contacted were invited to be guests. Mr. Chamberlin accepted, and attended. The invitation was also extended to Col. Lindbergh, as we recall it was ignored.

"Lindbergh and I were both out for that big cash prize for the first non-stop flight to Paris," Chamberlin recalled. "Our planes were at the same field on Long Island waiting for the weather to clear. The weather did not look promising. Neither of us had had too much sleep — most of it in catnaps for if the weather cleared suddenly, we wanted to be ready to go."

Chamberlin continued that he and Lindbergh made a gentlemen's agreement that even if the weather were to clear that night, neither of them would take off without notifying the other. With this arrangement each could safely be assured of a good night's sleep, and Chamberlin went to bed without leaving instructions to be

awakened.
"They woke me though to tell me that Lindbergh had taken off, and was on his way. The weather cleared in again and I could only sit there waiting for the chance that never came. Lindbergh landed in Paris, and I was still on Long Island."

Chamberlin was sure that he would have been as successful as Lindbergh was.

We could not help but think as we sat talking to this fine old gentleman, left alone now with his memories, on how little trifles can sometimes change the course of one's existence.

O. W. Lamp

Lamp's initials made the acronym OWL, and this is the name under which he did business.

In the 1930's, philatelists had illustration troubles. Stamp catalogs could only illustrate stamps if they had white lines drawn across them. The Secret Service frowned on stamp illustrations of any sort, and when a dealer dared to illustrate some of his stamps in his price list or his auction catalog he could never be sure that he would not find himself in the toils of the law.

Lamp was an amateur printer as well as stamp dealer, and he believed that he could circumvent the illustration law by making line sketches of U.S. stamps. He himself used these to illustrate his own list. Whether he ever got into trouble as a result we cannot say. Towards the close of his life, he advertised printing services and the came themselves rather than stamps. There is little doubt that he

Turning Back the Pages, Again

In the July/August, 1970 issue of *First Days* (page 20), legendary philatelic author Herman Herst Jr. wrote of his experience meeting Clarence Chamberlin. A pilot contemporary to Charles Lindbergh, Chamberlin shared (and Herst relayed) the story of how he and Lindbergh were both waiting for the weather to clear on the night when Lindbergh set off on his famous flight. According to Chamberlin, the two pilots had agreed not to take off without notifying each other. Maybe Lindbergh didn't share Chamberlin's understanding of their conversation — or maybe he did.

Chamberlin achieved many firsts in aviation but failed to win the \$25,000 prize taken by Lindbergh with his transatlantic flight.

A quick search of eBay turned up a few Chamberlin-related covers.

Clarence Chamberlin (right) and German acrobatic pilot Thea Rasche.



The Controversial 20¢ 1981 James Hoban US Stamp

by Liam Malone

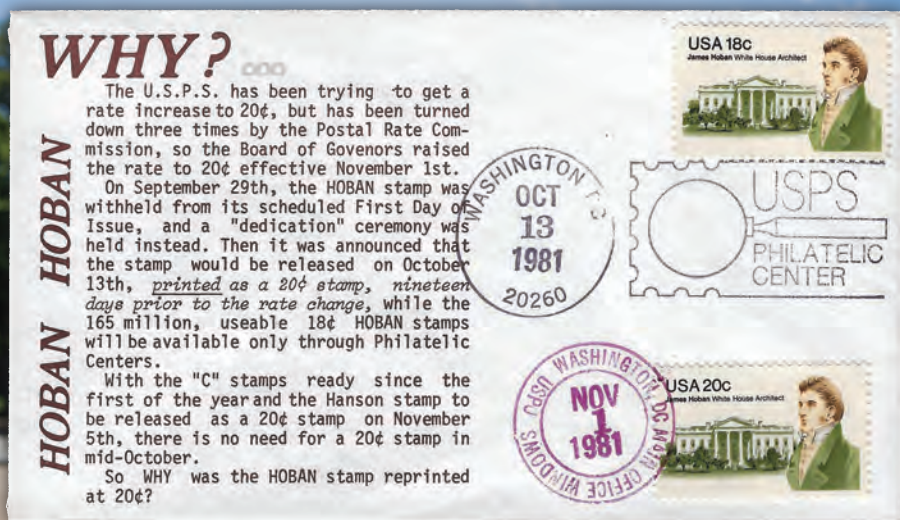


Figure 1. WHY? This Len Sautter cachet with summary of 2 stamps clearly shows cachet maker's annoyed with dual US issues. But an 18¢ stamp would be useless without a 2¢ make-up rate stamp issued. The 20¢ Hoban was postmarked on November 1, 1981, the day of the first-class rate change to 20¢ to express aggravation.

Why did the USPS also issue the 20¢ value when the proposed first day of issue for the 18¢ value was going to be September 29, five weeks or more before a postal rate increase to 20¢ on November 1? The 18¢ stamps were printed and ready for sale on September 29, but then the date of issue changed. Because of the newly approved postal rate increase from 18¢ to 20¢, the 18¢ value was recalled, apparently to be destroyed. But word circulated of a post office in Virginia selling an 18¢ sheet prior to September 29. That sale may have convinced the USPS to release the 18¢ value; otherwise, that sheet would have become a rarity. The year 2021 is the 40th anniversary of the Hoban joint issue and the simple answer as to why a 20¢ value was also issued is that Nancy Reagan wanted to use this stamp on the envelopes of the White House holiday greeting cards. Much was written about this stamp in 1981, but no one comes right out to state the real reason for the 20¢ being printed. Capturing the sentiment of earlier stamp writers, Don Schilling wrote in 2006, “the Postal Service simply wanted to have a stamp [the 20¢] that would be around awhile.”

The 1981 US commemorative program did not include a James Hoban stamp. But on April 3, US Postmaster General Bolger alluded to a joint issue later that year without citing any details. Behind the scenes, the US and Irish were thrilled by a joint issue and both nations worked hard to develop a mutually agreeable design and color scheme. The US seems to have wanted to move forward secretly, an odd practice for a US stamp. Generally, the USPS seeks as much press as possible to generate interest and sales for a stamp.

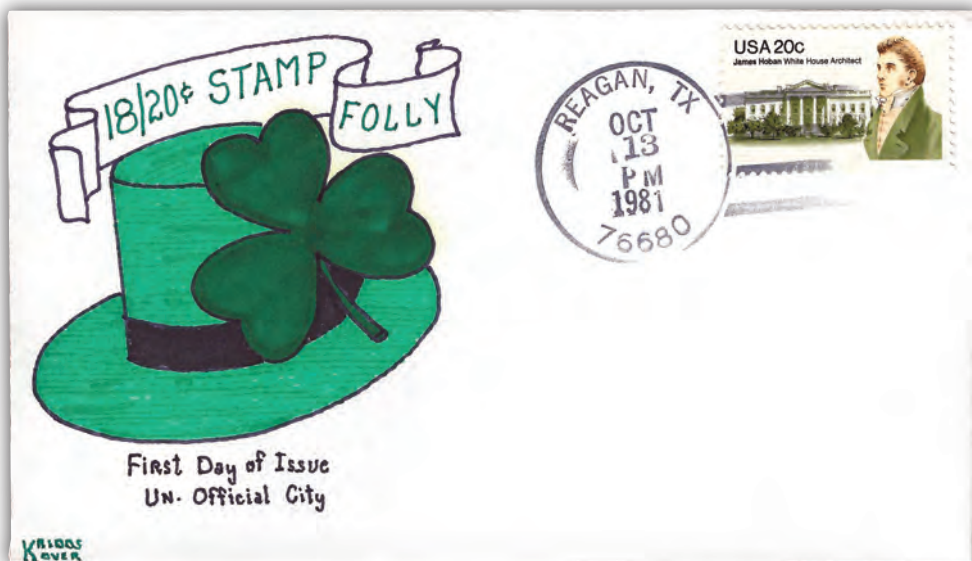


Figure 2. 18¢ Kribbs' Folly cover shows more annoyance or was it just annoyance from some philatelists? Did the general American public really care? Notice the postmark: Reagan, Texas - a jab at the Reagans.

Bolger's cryptic remarks intrigued stamp writer James H. Bruns. Bruns reviewed the revised program for 1981 and noticed a newly announced James Hoban joint issue for the Fall. He called the Irish embassy in Washington, DC, which cheerfully confirmed the joint issue with artists from both nations combining talents. Bruns called across the pond to the GPO which described a common stamp with noted Irish stamp designer and artist Ron Mercer adapting John Christian Rauscher's circa 1800 bas relief *Portrait of James Hoban*. Thus, detailed information sat on people's tongues, with one Irish government official describing the joint issue as "a major achievement in international philately." But news did not readily filter out to the philatelic world. It simply seems odd that both countries downplayed this first-ever US-Irish joint issue.

The story relates that in November 1980 at a typical DC diplomatic social gathering which Bolger and Mark Killilea, the Irish minister of state, attended, they conceived of the idea of honoring James Hoban. After all, Hoban was Irish, spent time in the American capital, and designed the White House. 1981 would be the 150th anniversary of his death. It all seemed fitting—the stamp a natural! James Hoban, born in County Kilkenny, Ireland in 1762, emigrated to Philadelphia after the American Revolutionary War. Thomas Jefferson advertised in major newspapers a competition for the design of a presidential palace in the new capital on the Potomac River. Hoban read the ad while living in South Carolina where he was designing the State House. President George Washington selected



Figure 3. John Christian Rauscher's bas relief *Portrait of James Hoban*. (Image: White House Collection).

the young Hoban's design, so he moved to Washington, DC to oversee construction from 1793 to 1800. Later, he added the North and South Porticoes to the White House and worked on the US Capitol building as a supervising architect. He became a freemason and headed a lodge, served on the District City Council, and died there on December 8, 1831. He married Susanna Sewall of Georgetown in the District and owned three slaves.

If Ireland and US expressed such excitement about this issue, why wasn't more made of it? Not until August 17, 1981, did the USPS announce the release of the Hoban stamp in America and Ireland on September 29. The first day ceremony would occur that day at the White House with First Lady Nancy Reagan presiding. It mentioned on the same day a similar ceremony occurring in Dublin for the Irish version of the stamp.

After August 17, Mrs. Reagan mailed invitations to the September 29 ceremony. While delivering her invitations, the USPS was authorized to announce the rate increase to 20¢, effective November 1. The Hoban is-

Figure 4. Irish post office pamphlet announcing the joint issue on September 29.



Figure 5. Irish Post Unofficial Cover canceled in Kells and beautifully hand-addressed to England.

sue was at stake because sales were expected to last several months in the US. Several have written agreeing that issuing a joint commemorative stamp at the 18¢ rate that would only be able to pay for first class mail for a few weeks was impractical. But behind the scenes, the first lady liked the stamp and what it symbolized so much that she planned to use it for the White House holiday greeting cards. If the 18¢ stamp were used, a 2¢ make-up rate would also be affixed making the elegant envelope too busy, even ugly. As shown in the picture, the addresses were perfectly printed and the return address was only “The White House.” Such simple elegance necessitated a beautiful stamp and a perfect cancellation.



Figure 6. Scarce entire envelope with the 20¢ Hoban stamp showing some brown foxing (inset), which is common to this issue affixed to covers. By coincidence the address in Fairfax, Virginia is a mere few miles from where I live in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of DC.

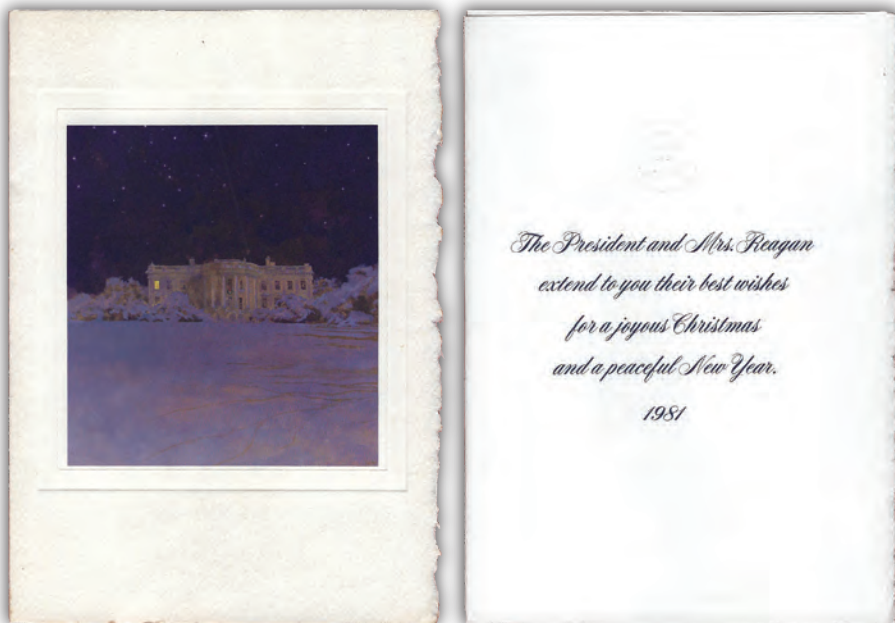


Figure 7. White House Christmas Card front (left) and inside.

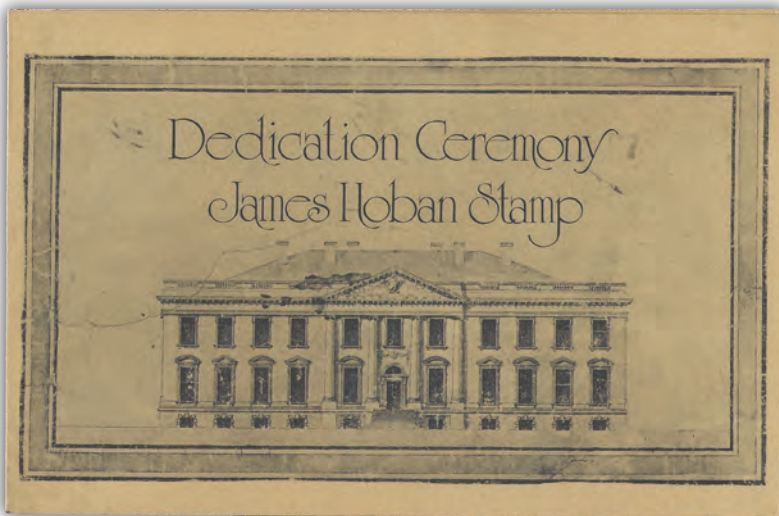


Figure 8. Dedication Ceremony card front (top) and inside.

Dedication Ceremony
James Hoban Stamp
September 29, 1981
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Ronald Reagan
The First Lady of the United States

His Excellency Sean Donlon
Ambassador of Ireland

Honorable William F. Bolger
Postmaster General of the United States

The Hoban issue had too much riding on it. To save face, the USPS announced the Hoban stamp would be released in 18¢ and 20¢ denominations with a first day ceremony scheduled on October 13, the anniversary of the laying of the White House cornerstone. So as not embarrass the First Lady, the USPS held her dedication and announcement ceremony on September 29 as planned. This ceremony included a poster-size image of the stamp without any denomination. Naturally, no first day cancellations were available because the stamps were not released yet. How many times has a US stamp been announced formally and then later released in a first day ceremony? The answer is difficult to conclude, but I say it is negligible. Had Nancy Reagan not been behind this stamp, the USPS would simply have announced that the September 29 ceremony was postponed until October 13, but the first lady wanted her way and got it. Her actions have led to an interesting story and to my building a collection of several hundred different first day covers with varying combinations of the 3 Hoban stamps. Some covers have all 3 stamps, some have only one stamp. Some just the two US stamps. The cachets are just as varied. ☛

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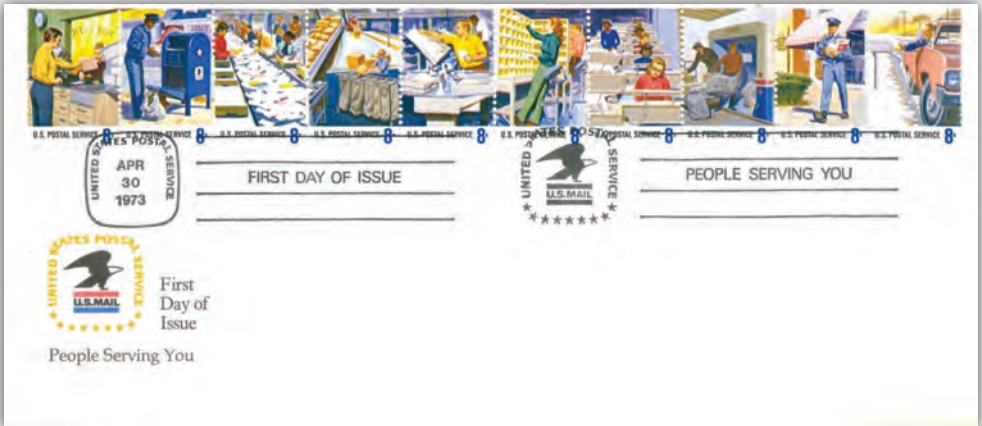


Figure 1

Carry On, Letter Carriers

The United States and Canada honored the workers who carry the mail by issuing commemorative stamps in the early 1970s.

The US tribute consisted of ten stamps (Scott #1489-1498). The day of issue was April 30, 1973 and it was titled “Postal Service Employees Issue.” The Canadian set (Scott #634-639) consisted of six stamps issued on June 11, 1974. It is referred to as the “Centenary of Letter Carrier Delivery Service.”

The themes of the US and Canada stamps overlap, and all the topics covered by the Canadian set are also included on the American stamps.

By using a #10 envelope, the US Postal Service managed to fit all ten stamps in its issue onto a single FDC as illustrated in Figure 1. ArtCraft used a double row with five stamps in each to accommodate the ten stamps on one envelope (Figure 2), although its cachet is narrow for the text “A Salute to United States Postal People.”



Figure 2

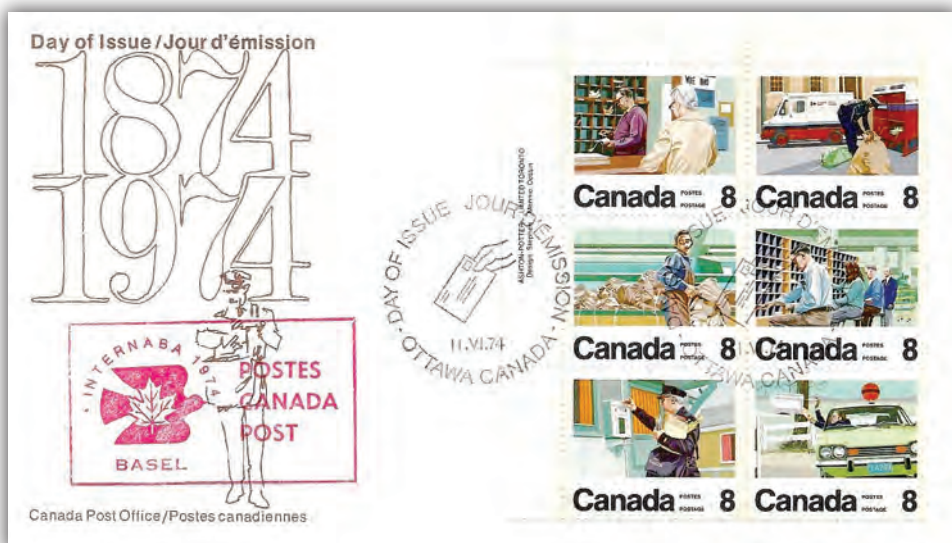


Figure 3

The official Canada Post Office FDC cachet (Figure 3) includes the 1874-1974 dates and a line drawing of a letter carrier. The example illustrated here has the special day of issue cancellation as well as a rubber-stamped cachet applied at an international postal exhibition held in Basel, Switzerland.

Although the ArtCraft cachet for the US set was a special purpose design, the Canadian stamps appeared on one of the ten general purpose cachets that the firm used for that country's issues for some two decades. The example shown here (Figure 4) is the ArtCraft Type A general purpose cachet which barely accommodates a plate block of six stamps.



Figure 4



Figure 5

The Canadian confederation of 1867 led to the establishment of the Canada Post Office which took over postal services from the provinces. This included home delivery of the mail, but it was a paid service as the carriers had to collect from the recipients two



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

CENTENARY OF LETTER CARRIERS



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8

Figure 6

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

JOUR D'ÉMISSION

CENTENARY
of
LETTER
CARRIER
SERVICE

1874 - 1974



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8



Canada 8

Figure 7

cents for each letter and one cent for each newspaper, until 1874 when free delivery was instituted.

The NR Covers cachet (Figure 5) marking the centenary of free letter carrier delivery service shows a trio of uniformed workers as they were in 1874. An unknown cachet maker produced the cover in Figure 6 which shows a single letter carrier against the backdrop of a log cabin. His uniform is similar to that of the trio in the previous photograph.

Contemporary letter carriers in 1974 are illustrated in Figure 7 on a cachet by Victoria, B.C. native Brickley Jones, and in the Figure 8 FDC published by Colorano. Colorano is the only cachet maker known to produce separate cachets for each of the six stamps in this set.

Cartoon-like figures represented letter carriers in the David “C” cachet viewed in Figure 9 which includes the motto “People Serving You.” A similar type of letter carrier is depicted in the cachet by an unknown maker illustrated in Figure 10. This is one of the few bilingual



Figure 8

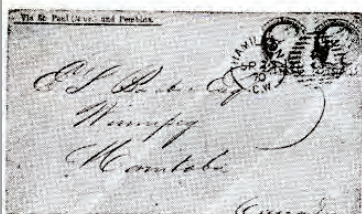


Figure 9



Figure 10

Centenary of Letter Carrier Delivery Service



First Day of Issue
June 11, 1974



Figure 11

English and French texts noted on FDCs for this issue.

A letter postmarked in 1870 and sent to a Winnipeg, Manitoba addressee (Figure 11) is featured on the cachet for an envelope carrying a single stamp from the set of six. The FDC is self-addressed by maker Ray Smith, and the postmark and address are also those of Winnipeg.

The final cachet from this set to be illustrated here is an Artopages creation (Figure 12). It has their customary format with the letters in the name Canada spelled out on six envelopes, matching the number of stamps in the issue. ☞

✉ gandbdickinson@shaw.ca

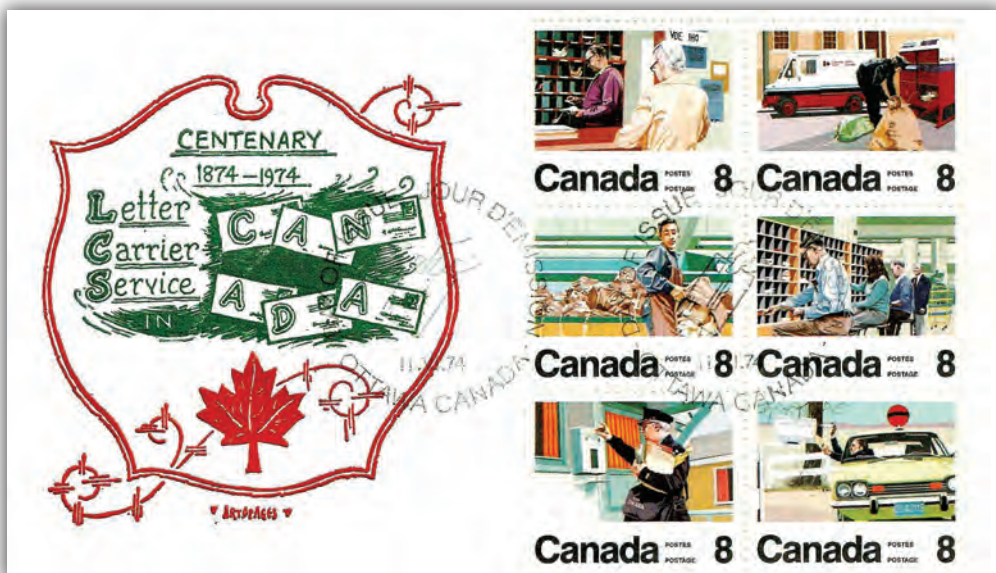


Figure 12

A Sneaky Predate...



FDC collectors love to find predated covers — those canceled before the date of issue. Sometimes they are accidental, such as when a clerk forgot to forward the date stamp to the current day. Another example results from a clerk unknowingly (or *knowingly*) selling the stamps before the issue date. However they were created, they are very desirable items to own.

A bit unusual is the Swedish predate shown above. In 1936, Sweden marked the 300th anniversary of its postal service with a set of twelve stamps issued February 20. The highest value of the set, the 1 krona, depicts a Junkers aircraft used to carry mail.

The stamps were available at many post offices when they were released, enabling collectors to prepare unofficial cancellations. In this case, an enterprising collector in the town of Eskilstuna, about 70 miles west of Stockholm, tried to sneak through a one-day predate of the 1 krona issue on February 19. The stamp grossly overpaid the rate of 10-öre for a local letter sent within the city.

The clerk canceled the stamp and then realized it was a premature use, so he obliterated the cancel with a black ink marker and had a 10-öre definitive stamp added. It was then correctly canceled February 19. The LBR in the February 19 cancel was used for mail obtained from a letter box. ☛

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40 Years Ago



Figure 1. The cover of First Days, No. 150 from January-February 1981.



Figure 2. The cover story in No. 150 discussed FDC programs at a local school.

For this column, I'm going back 40 years and looking at the January-February 1981 issue of *First Days* (Volume 26, Number 1, overall issue 150), then edited by Sol Koved. The first thing I noticed was the issue was 156 pages in length, the biggest difference being the amount of advertising. I will highlight some things in the issue that have changed and others that have remained the same.

The issue reported on the AFDCS's 25th convention, held in conjunction with the SEPAD stamp show in Philadelphia. There were 23 exhibits totaling 86 frames. Today, Americover is required to have 125 frames to maintain World Series of Philately status. Long time Executive Secretary Marge Finger won the AFDCS Grand for her "Shower of Silver" exhibit. Our most popular exhibit award is now named in her honor. The reserve grand award went to Don Crisman (who was also exhibit awards chairman); as I write this, Don is getting ready to maintain his streak of attending every Super Bowl. One thing that surprised me was the quality of the service awards presented during the convention. Awards included a silver bread tray, armetale plates, and a Chagall lithograph presented to Marge Finger.

The cover story described how cachetmaker Doris Gold presented programs on first day covers at a local school. The program included making first day covers for the 1980 Indian Masks stamps issued the day of one of her programs. While Doris Gold retired as a cachetmaker at the end of 2017, she remains an AFDCS member and has donated much of her archives to the AFDCS Fundraising Auctions.

An article by Ralph Nafziger starting on page 35 highlighted Bob Moore, a contemporary Oregon cachet maker. At the time, Ralph lived in Burnsville, Minnesota. Today, Ralph is the AFDCS Recording Secretary, living in Albany, Oregon.

Page 50 showed a photo from the 1980 convention of Professor Earl Planty with a very young-looking Jim Hogg (now the AFDCS First Vice President), who also had an article in the issue. Planty was honored at the convention for his pioneering work developing first day cover catalogues. The issue included a large ad for Planty's *Inside Coverage* publication. Speaking of ads, an ad on page 82 by David Cairns of Simi Valley, California advertised Dorothy Knapp handpainted first day covers for \$70.00 each.

One thing that hasn't changed – members were reporting receiving damaged copies of *First Days*. A brief item on page 107 described how to obtain replacement copies. Today, a replacement copy (especially if one only receives the magazine cover) can be obtained by contacting the AFDCS Central Office, email afdc@afdc.org.

On page 123, a news item reported that Washington Press had moved into new headquarters in Florham Park, New Jersey. When Washington Press discontinued operations, the building was sold and torn down in the spring of 2019.

Finally, the membership update was three pages in length. Full addresses were provided for new members. Female members were still listed as "Miss" or "Mrs." Almost a full page of the membership update was address changes, something we no longer report. I did recognize a number of people who are still members, plus a few that sadly have passed away.



If you enjoy these looks at the past, be sure to obtain a copy of the *First Days* Archive, available as DVD or USB drive (order online at: www.afdc.org/FDarchive.html). The Archive contains every issue of *First Days* from 1955 through 2019 in PDF format and is fully searchable. ☞

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Professor Planty compares notes with cachet-maker Jim Hogg.

Figure 3. A photo on page 50 of the journal shows Professor Earl Planty and now AFDCS First Vice President Jim Hogg.

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FIRST DAYS

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by
DOROTHY W. KNAPP

All covers are \$70.00 Each

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922 - M27 - B - AME	966 - M25 - PB - B - AME
923 - M24 - B	968 - M25 - B - AME
924 - M21 - B - AME	971 - M25 - B - AME
925 - M22 - PB - B	972 - M25 - B - AME
926 - M25 - B	973 - M25 - B - AME
927 - M25 - B - AME	982 - B - AME
930 - M44C - B - AME	996 - B - AME
935 - M47 - B - AME	1001 - B - AME
937 - M53 - B - AME	1007 - B - AME
938 - M50 - B - AME	1008 - B - AME
939 - M50 - B - AME	1009 - B - AME
940 - M46 - B - AME	1011 - B - AME
942 - M57 - B - AME	1012 - B - AME
943 - M51 - B - AME	1014 - B - AME
944 - M25 - B - AME	1015 - B - AME
945 - M57 - B - AME	1016 - B - AME
946 - M57 - B - AME	C25
949 - M52	C32-UC14 - AME
950 - M50 - B - AME	C32 - B - AME
951 - M50 - B - AME	C33 - B - AME
952 - M50 - B - AME	C37 - PB - AME
954 - M50 - B - AME	C38 - B - AME
955 - M50 - B - AME	C40 - B - AME
956 - M50 - B - AME	C41 - PB - AME
957 - M50 - B - AME	C42 - B - AME
958 - M50 - B - AME	C44 - B - AME
960 - M51 - B - AME	C45 - B - AME
962 - M51 - B - AME	C47 - B - AME
963 - M27 - B - AME	UC14 - B - AME
964 - M51 - B - AME	US22

Legends: B= Block AME = Air Mail Envelope M = Melrose No.

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Figure 4. Advertising in 1981 totalled significantly more page space and included full pages like this one offering hand painted Dorothy Knapp covers.

Washington Press New Headquarters . . .

The Washington Press — producers of White Ace stamp albums and philatelic accessories, and creators of Artcraft engravings — has moved into its new headquarters in Florham Park, NJ.

All departments, with their full complement of employees, are now functioning normally in their new and larger quarters — a complex of 35,000 square feet designed by Halsey and Ryder, architects of Basking Ridge, NJ.

Included in the two-story building at

Figure 5. Issue 150 reported on the new headquarters of Washington Press.

Auction Preview: Christmases Past

With the holiday season just behind us, let's reminisce of Christmases past by looking at a few FDCs celebrating the holiday that will appear in the AFDCS Spring Auction 92.

The artistic skill of the late Linda Geerlings is obvious in two hand-painted cachets for the 1991 five-stamp Christmas combination booklet of Santa Claus in different scenes (Scott #2581b-2585a). One of these covers shows Santa Claus reading a recently received letter and is serviced with two of the stamps (Figure 1). The remaining three stamps were serviced on the other cover depicting a quiet winter country scene (Figure 2).



Figure 1

Linda's husband, Frans, is also a talented cachetmaker. For the traditional and contemporary 1989 Christmas issues (Scott #2427-28), he created the hand-painted cachet of a horse-drawn carriage from bygone days seen in Figure 3.

For the same 1989 contemporary Christmas sleigh stamp, Colorano produced two Santa Claus "Silk" cachets (Figures 4 and 5). One is serviced with a booklet pair, while the other with a sheet single.

Al "Tag" Boerger (A.B.C.) is mostly well-known for servicing FDCs with luminescent tagged stamps, all of which command a premium. Figure 6 shows his creation for the 1964 Christmas tagged se-tenant plate block of 4 (Scott #1257b).



Figure 2

In Auction 92, there will be a section of hand-painted FDCs by Kaye, an unlisted cachetmaker in *Mellone's First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets Revealed*. Figure 7 illustrates one of two similarly hand-painted FDCs for the very first Christmas stamp issued by the USPS (Scott #1205). While one of the two cachets is darker than the other, the major difference is that one was painted on cardstock and adhered to the envelope.



Figure 3

Fred Collins (Collins Cachets) produces hand-painted FDCs for every stamp issue beginning with the 1978 Quilts issue, and there are plenty of his covers in our Auction 92. His FDC for the 1982 Christmas block of four (Scott #2030a) is seen in Figure 8.



Figure 4

The 2005 AFDCS Court of Honor No. 25 FDC was designed by Dave Bennett (Bennett Cachetoon). It celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the AFDCS and is serviced with a combo of one of the Christmas Cookies stamps and the Gambia stamp which celebrates the same event (Figure 9).



Figure 5

In case you hadn't heard, the AFDCS Auction 91 set a sales record, thanks to the quality of material and the active involvement of our bidders. And let's not forget to acknowledge the hard work of John White, our Auction Manager, Todd Ronnei, our webmaster, and our Auction Committee which consists of Dave Bennett, Bob Lewin, George Rost, Don Trieschman, Michael Moticha, Michael J. Luzzi, and yours truly. ☺



Figure 6

✉ michael.litvak4@gmail.com



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

2020 Auction Donations Finish Strong

In spite of the challenges that 2020 brought (and the challenges that continue into the new year), many generous contributors made numerous donations of auction material during the last half of 2020.

Donations were received from **Allen Klein** (28 Great Britain, British Commonwealth and UN FDCs), **Alan Warren** (3¢ Gunston Hall FDC sent to Dutch New Guinea, featured in *First Days*, June 2020), **Robert Nelson** (40 FDCs from 1950s and 1960s, mint sheet of the Project Mercury 4¢ stamp), **Paul Thompson** (1600+ FDCs from 1940s to 1990s, large quantity of mint postage and postal stationery), **Denise Splan** (limited edition St. Vincent mini-album honoring Barbara Streisand, 23-karat gold stamp replica), **Foster Miller** (16 FDCs and event covers of 2020 issues with cachets by CEC and CEC/FM, four 2020 Election Day event covers), **Dr. John Batchman** (about 260 FDCs from the 1940s to the present, seven ceremony programs and Black History souvenir pages), and **Andrew Boyajian** (28 desirable FDCs from the 1920s and 1930s serviced on small Adam Bert envelopes).

Other donations were made by **Martin Severe** (about 25 very desirable FDCs mostly with ArtCraft variety cachets including an ArtCraft First Cachet with a Washington Press stuffer card, set of three 1960 Rome Olympic Games covers from Ghana and four Special Delivery covers, personally designed Poppygun Cachets on 38 large FDCs for Scouting and Batman issues of 2010 and 2014, 11 Trump Inauguration covers, 20 FDC cards for Boy Scout and Girl Scout issues), **Michael Lake** (220+ US and foreign FDCs, including the ArtCraft First Cachet, ceremony programs, philatelic/numismatic covers, and oversized items), **Elena Cornejo** (18 personally designed FDCs for US and Ecuador stamps and postal stationery with pictorial and special cancels), **Al Raddi** (36 US and UN FDCs from 1930s to 1990s), **Dick Thomas** (65 FDCs from 1930s to 1990s with nice selection of cachets including Espen-shade cachets for 1938 Presidential Series, 13 covers celebrating Utah's Centenary of Statehood, 60 uncacheted small Adam Bert FDCs from 1940s, ten maxicard FDCs for 1960s, 20 US FDCs of 1970s), **Joe Connolly** (nine personally designed JC Cachets, 50 FDCs from 1940s to 1980s with various cachets with autographs of politicians, celebrities, sports figures and stamp designers all donated in memory of Al Starkweather), **Pete Sarmiento** (eight FDCs of 1962 Project Mercury issue with his add-on cachets, nine personally designed space topical FDCs, five oversized FDCs with RCA Corp. cachets, 11 mint and/or canceled sheets of Space-Topical stamps from Equatorial Guinea and Dominica), and **Thomas Garrett** (about 400 US FDCs from 1970s to present).

Let's plan to make a successful start of 2021 for the American First Day Cover Society by continuing the influx of donations. You can support the benefits of your society by putting together a nice quantity of FDCs or other philatelic material and shipping your donation to the address shown. For large donations, please contact Dave first. ☺

✉ michael.litvak4@gmail.com

Please send your donations to
Dave Bennett, 14418 Miranda
Street, Van Nuys, CA 91401-
4232. For large donations,
please email Dave before send-
ing the materials:
bennettoons@earthlink.net.

Chapter Coordinator Transition

This will be my last column as chapter coordinator. D.A. Lux has been appointed as the new AFDCS Chapter Coordinator. Please send announcements of your chapter activities and newsletters to D.A. Lux, Box 1831, Allen, TX 75013-0062, email dalux2041@gmail.com. Newsletters from the following chapters were received before I turned over the role to D.A.



The major news in the fourth quarter 2020 issue of *The Ceremonial*, published by the **American Ceremony Program Society** (ACPS, Chapter 58) is the announcement of the publication of the *Catalogue of First Day Ceremony Programs, Events, and Souvenirs* by David M. Rosenthal, the first new ceremony program catalog since 1989. All programs in the 517-page catalog are illustrated in full color. The catalogue is available as a PDF download or a print on demand hardcopy (printed on three-hole punched paper). The PDF download is priced at \$25.00 for ACPS members or \$30.00 for non-members. The print on demand version is priced at \$35.00 for ACPS members or \$40.00 for non-members. Please make checks payable to American Ceremony Program Society (*the full name is required*)

and send orders to John Peterson, 6987 Coleshill Drive, San Diego, CA 92119-1953.

The issue also includes articles on the virtual first day ceremonies for the Thank You, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Love 2021 stamps. Michael Litvak's *Uncataloged* column describes newly discovered programs for the 1978 American Trees block of four (a combination ceremony/event program for the annual meeting of the American Forestry Association) and for the 1980 Veterans Administration (VA) stamp (a second day dedication program for a tree planting in honor of the VA). Listings of 2020 US first day ceremony and virtual ceremonies are included. Chapter information is available from Mark Gereb, 555 North Ave #20S, Fort Lee, NJ 07024-2419, email gereb@aol.com or on their website www.ceremonyprograms.org.

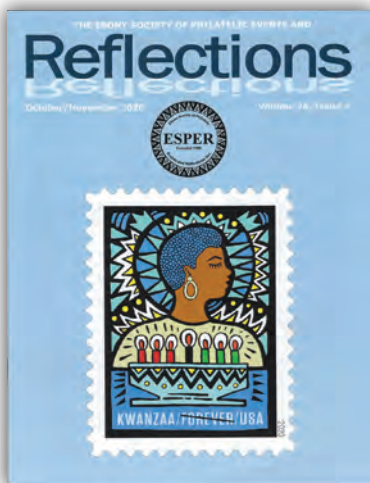
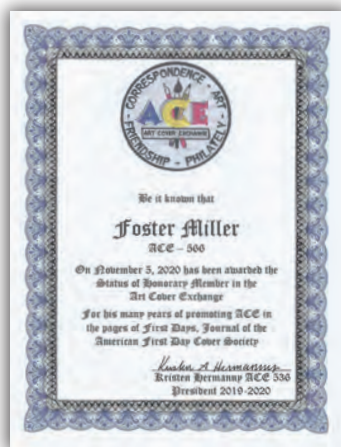
The December 2020 issue of *From Cover to Cover*, published by the **Art Cover Exchange** (ACE,



Chapter 79) includes articles on the ACE Archives, illustrations of ACE mail (covers sent by ACE members to each other), images of 2021 US stamps, and a mini auction of covers from the late Thom Eggleston (ACE 242). The Cover of the Month is holiday cover prepared by Cal Breaux (ACE 183).

The January 2021 issue solicits nominations for Cover and Member of the Year. ACE Secretary John Martin (ACE 343) shows his recent good experiences serving first day covers for the Bugs Bunny stamps. The issue includes another auction of covers donated from the estate of Thom Eggleston. The Cover of the Month is a Bugs Bunny first day cover sent by John Martin to David Evans (ACE 524).

On a personal note, I was surprised and honored in December to receive honorary membership in ACE for my efforts promoting ACE in this column and on their Facebook page. I am now proud to be ACE 566. ACE information is available from Joseph Doles, 105 Lawson Road, Rochester, NY 14616-1444, email jdoles@rochester.rr.com or on their website www.artcoverexchange.org.



The October-November 2020 issue of *Reflections*, published by the **Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections** (ESPER, Chapter 91) includes articles on Andrea Pippins (designer of the 2020 Kwanzaa stamp), Shirley Chisholm, John Lewis: The Man, and the USNS *John Lewis*: the ship. Numerous first day and event covers are illustrated in these articles. John Hotchner's *The Mailing Dimension* column discusses collecting Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Black-Themed stamps. A short article on the *Mayflower* in Plymouth Harbor stamp notes that there were no Blacks on the *Mayflower* and provides information on

early mentions of Black people in the Plymouth colony. ESPER and other activities at the Virtual Stamp Show are reviewed and a Zoom screen shot of those of us attending ESPER's virtual annual meeting is shown. M. Rosina Major reviews children's books with unique connections to stamps. Worldwide topical new issues are listed and illustrated. ESPER information is available from Don Neal, Box 5245, Somerset, NJ 08875-5245, email esperdon@verizon.net or on their website www.esperstamps.org.

✉ fmillerfdc@gmail.com



New Members & Changes

New Members

Cabay, Tony (29601) Oak Brook, IL by AFDCS

Mayer, Daniel (29602) Sun Lakes, AZ by AFDCS

Ashmore, Warren (29603) Liberty, SC by AFDCS

Bresso, Michelle (29604) Bakersfield, CA by Dave Bennett

Fazio, Frank P. (29605) Norwalk, CT by AFDCS

Sobon, Paul (29606) Sanford, NC by AFDCS

Calder, Bill (29607) Plymouth, MA by AFDCS

Updegraff, David (29608) Glendale, AZ by AFDCS

Barie, Michael J. (29609) Detroit, MI by AFDCS

Carroll, John (29610) Perrineville, NJ by AFDCS

Gallaway, Ben (J29611) Kensington, MD by Allison Gallaway

Lau, Stephen K. (29612) Atlanta, GA by Foster Miller

Bowman, Paul (29613) Steubenville, OH by Jeffrey Vogel

Hay, Dar (29614) Portola Valley, CA by AFDCS

Vincent, Walter (29615) Brockton, MA by Carl Swain

Cougnat, John (29616) New Freedom, PA by AFDCS

Wiley, Chip (29617) Tampa, FL by AFDCS

Macagnone, Charles (29618) Monroe Township, NJ by AFDCS

Wilson, Michael (29619) West Des Moines, IA by Douglas Henkle

Robinett, James (29620) Tucson, AZ by Jorge Cerezo

Fury, Roger (29621) Brigantine, NJ by AFDCS

Feder, Don (29622) Framingham, MA by AFDCS

Fischgrund, Herbert (29623) Palo Alto, CA by Jorge Cerezo

Poleske, Lee (29624) Seward, AK by AFDCS

Anderson, John Scott (29625) Watseka, IL by Bob Emrick

Reinstatement

Haggas, George (08385) Cape May, NJ by AFDCS

Shenkle, Cathy (28993) Helena, MT by AFDCS

Resignations

Rominski, James (10226)

Simonds, Linda (27840)

Simonds, Steve (F27840)

Membership Upgrades

Gold

Boardman, Lyle

Dodge, Laurence

Elledge, Stan

Gallaway, Allison

McClure, Peter

Shenkle, Cathy

Wood, Neilson

Silver

Bresso, Michelle

Miller, Raymond

Nix, Larry

Place, Jackson

Von Stonum, LA

Wetson, Wendell

Unable to Locate

Hart, Keith (29439)

Kovich, Frank R. (LM295)

If you have information on either of the two above members, please contact the AFDCS Central Office (afdcs@afdcs.org).

Donation Honor Roll

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Foster Miller

In Memory of Fred Gagliardi

Connecticut Cover Club Chapter #85

In Memory of Lois Hamilton

Paul Williams

In Memory of Doug Kelsey

Allison Cusick

Endowment Fund

Lloyd de Vries

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General Fund

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Kevin Colton

James Griffin

Robert Hall

William Hong

Cliff Irving

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Kurt Laubinger

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Carmine Pullafito

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Publication Fund

Warren Ashmore

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Why should you support the American First Day Cover Society?

Like most non-profit organizations, our dues do not cover all our expenses. Rather than raise dues and lose members, we're asking those who are able to help support the AFDCS. If you've donated in the past, we hope you will not only consider donating again, but increasing the amount. For example, if you previously donated \$25, please consider raising your donation to \$50.

We have a number of donation programs listed at www.afdcs.org/donate.html. You can also donate by upgrading your membership to Gold and Silver levels.

You may make your tax-deductible donation online via credit card. Alternatively, mail a check to AFDCS, PO Box 246, Colonial Beach, VA 22443-0246. All contributions will be acknowledged in First Days. The American First Day Cover Society has been designated a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent the law allows.

Thank you for being one of many donors supporting the future of the AFDCS. Your gift is a truly invaluable investment in the hobby and the Society.

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1/2 vert.	2-3/8 x 8	\$90	\$81 (\$72)	\$72 (\$63)
1/4 horiz.	5 x 1-7/8	\$55	\$49.50 (\$44)	\$44 (\$38.50)
1/4 vert.	2-3/8 x 3-15/16	\$55	\$49.50 (\$44)	\$44 (\$38.50)
1/8 horiz.	2-3/8 x 1-7/8	\$35	\$31.50 (\$28)	\$28 (\$24.50)
1/16 horiz.	2-3/8 x 15/16	\$20	\$18 (\$16)	\$16 (\$14)

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2021 First Days Production Schedule

Issue No. & Cover Date	Articles & Columns Due	Ads Due to Ad Manager	Final Ads to Editor	Production Closed - Issue Posted Online	Projected Mailing Date	Projected Delivery Date
457 March-April	February 19th	February 15th	February 19th	March 8th	March 19th	April 2nd
458 May-June	April 2nd	March 29th	April 2nd	April 19th	April 30th	May 14th
459 July-August	June 4th	May 31st	June 4th	June 21st	July 2nd	July 19th
460 Sept-October	August 6th	August 2nd	August 6th	August 23rd	September 3rd	September 17th
461 Nov-Dec	October 1st	September 27th	October 1st	October 18th	October 29th	November 12th
462 Jan-Feb 2022	November 26th	November 22nd	November 26th	December 15th	December 24th	January 17th, 2022

Recruit New Members Today!



Current AFDCS members are our best recruiting tool. Make sure that first day cover collecting friends and dealers are members. If not, give them a copy of this application. For each new member that you propose, you will receive a \$2.00 AFDCS recruiting coupon, good toward AFDCS goods and services (including dues). **Sign up a new member today.**

This form may be reproduced in newsletters, price lists and show programs.

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☐ Reinstatement/Old AFDCS # _____

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☐ Online \$24 ☐ Silver \$60 ☐ Gold \$100 ☐ Three-Year \$100

Print the following information as you want it to appear in the AFDCS's official records.

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

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Email _____ Country _____

Age (if under 18) _____

* Additional family members: _____

Note: family memberships do not receive additional subscriptions to *First Days*.

I agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the AFDCS.

Signature: _____

Proposed by First Days or member (optional) _____ AFDCS# _____

All members, except online members, receive six issues of *First Days* per year by mail. All members have access to the online version of *First Days*. Online members have access to the online version only. Submit your dues with your application or join online at the secure AFDCS website. Make US fund checks and money orders payable to AFDCS. PayPal (preferred), Mastercard, VISA and American Express and payments are also accepted.

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2020 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Insert

Please make sure you read and follow all contest rules

1. Entries will be accepted only from American First Day Cover Society members in good standing.
2. It is assumed that all legal requirements have been met by the cachetmaker. Any cachet that has the appearance of being artwork that is not original or in the public domain must have proof of originality or licensing consent or it will not be accepted.
3. Each entry must have the actual cover submitted with an entry form. One fee, one cover, and one entry form is required for each entry. If the cover is to be donated to the AFDCS Fundraising Auction, the entry fee is \$5 for each cover entered; otherwise the fee is \$10. In the case of se-tenant and Rookie of the Year sets, one entry fee will be sufficient for the entire set. If a single from a se-tenant set is entered in another category, a separate cover, fee, and entry form is required for the second category. The junior category entry fee is \$2 and the cover will be returned. Fees can be paid by MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or by a check made payable to the AFDCS, drawn in US funds and from a US bank.
4. Any cover that has been entered in the wrong category will be disqualified and returned. The chairperson may, at his or her discretion, place it in the correct category if such category is obvious from the information provided. The chair will attempt to notify the cachetmaker of the change.
5. At least 10 identical cachets must exist for each cover entered. Smaller editions will not be accepted in any category except Noncommercial and Youth.
6. Entries will be accepted in the two junior categories if the entrant is a member of the AFDCS or is a relative (child, grandchild, niece/nephew, etc.) of an AFDCS member. In addition to the usual awards, junior category winners will receive a one year junior AFDCS membership (or a one year membership extension).
7. Entries will include only those covers postmarked during the 2020 year. All covers must bear enough postage to pay a legitimate rate and to be carried by the postal service issuing the stamp. Entries submitted for every category, except the Federal & State Duck category, are not restricted to USPS- issued stamps and can be first day covers from any legitimate postal service. Covers may include combo stamps to support the theme of the stamp or event. Except for combos, all postage must receive a cancel from the country issuing the stamp.
8. A category that receives entries from fewer than four cachetmakers for two years in a row will be put on probation the following year. If the number of entrants is fewer than four during the third year, the category will be dropped from the contest. No categories are on probation this year.
9. On the back of the entry form, cachetmakers must write a brief description of the cover, to include method of production, quantity made and type of art. This information is helpful to the judges and for writing lot descriptions for the AFDCS Fundraising Auction.
10. The Top Cachet Award will be selected by the judges from among the winners of all categories. Only category winners are eligible for this award. The Top Cachet Award cannot be won by the same cachetmaker two years in a row.
11. No cachetmaker will be eligible to win the Rookie of the Year more than once. Rookie of the Year can only be entered the first year a cachetmaker starts producing FDCs and the year following his/her first year of production. First and second place will go to different individuals. Cachetmakers are eligible to enter any of the other categories every year.
12. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at Americover, the annual AFDCS convention. Awards this year will be named First and Second place. No results will be available until that time.
13. **All entries must be postmarked by Friday, April 16, 2021.** The chairperson and/or judges shall retain the right, exercised in good faith, to disqualify any entry.
14. Entries in Categories 1–12 must be first day covers.

2020 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Categories

1. **Handdrawn/Handpainted** — A cover, strictly handdrawn and handpainted where no means of mechanical or electronic production has been used.
2. **Handpainted/Printed from Original Art** — A cover where mechanical or electronic reproduction has been used. However, each cover is individually handcolored and the design is original and executed specifically for the cover.
3. **Handpainted/Printed Nonoriginal Art** — A cover where mechanical or electronic reproduction has been used; however each cover is then individually handcolored and the design is not original to the cachetmaker.
4. **Handpainted/Mechanically Reproduced** — Artwork created by/for the cachetmaker and mechanically reproduced by any method.
5. **Single Color Printed Art (also black and white)** — A cover produced using only one color on a printing press, not on a computer or copier. Note: A single color is one color. The use of screening in the printing process is acceptable as long as there is a single pass on the press using only one color.
6. **Multicolor Printed Art** — A cover produced on a printing press, not on a computer or copier, using two colors or more.
7. **Single Color Computer or Copier Art (also black and white)** — A cover produced using only one color on a computer or copier, not on a printing press. Note: A single color is one color. The use of different transparencies to achieve the same effect as screening in offset printing is acceptable as long as only a single color is used.
8. **Two or More Colors Computer or Copier Art** — A cover with two or more colors that is produced on a computer printer or color copier.
9. **Miscellaneous Media** — A cover with a cachet made by any of several printing methods, such as wood block, silk screen, attached metallic plates, coins, medallions, photographs, printed cutouts, labels, etc. Any method of cachetmaking not described above would be acceptable.
10. **Federal and State Duck** — This category includes both federal and state Duck stamps issued during the contest year. Any method of artwork or reproduction will be accepted.
11. **Esoteric** — This category includes a broad spectrum of esoteric items, including anything unusual in design, theme, format, shape or materials used to make an unusual, out-of-the-ordinary type of cover.
12. **Se-tenant** — One or more covers bearing stamps from a se-tenant issue. This category is open to all forms of production. All the stamps must be used on one or more covers and all the covers must be submitted.
13. **Noncommercial** — A cover that was not produced for commercial sale. This category is included to highlight the talents of individuals who produce covers in limited numbers for their own purposes, as opposed to being for sale to the public. The category is open to all forms of production and is not limited to covers where 10 or more have been produced.
14. **Events** — This category is open to all forms of production and includes items such as holidays, stamp show events, military events, political covers, death covers, etc. These covers need not contain a first day date. The event and event postmark must have occurred in the year indicated by the contest title. Entries are not restricted to USPS-issued stamps and can be event covers from any legitimate postal service. Covers may include combo stamps to support the theme of the stamp or event.
15. **Foreign** — This category is open to all forms of production and may include first day and event covers cancelled in any country other than the United States.
16. **Rookie of the Year** — This category welcomes new cachetmakers (not a cachet line) who have begun commercial production within the past two calendar years. At least three different covers must be submitted.
17. **Juniors Age 10 and younger** — These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
18. **Juniors Age 11 to 17** — These covers may be one-of-a-kind.
19. **Top Cachet Award** — The judges will select the best cover from among the winning covers in the above categories and this cover will be awarded “The Top Cachet Award” (See Rule 10).

2020 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Entry Form

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, April 16, 2021

To be completed by the person entering the contest. Please photocopy this form for additional entries.

Last Name	First Name	AFDCS Number
-----------	------------	--------------

Street or PO Address

City	State	ZIP/Postal Code	Country
------	-------	-----------------	---------

Phone

E-mail

Cachetmaker information (if different from entrant).

Name of Cachet Line

Cachetmaker name if different from entrant

AFDCS Number

You must describe your cachet on the back of this entry form.

SIGNATURE — Signing this form acknowledges that you have read, understand and have followed all the rules of the contest appearing with this entry form.

Category	Scott Number and Issue Name	Retail Value
----------	-----------------------------	--------------

If your cachet or art image likeness is licensed, or is proprietary art, please indicate that you have obtained the proper licensing compliance by signing and dating here:

Entry Fee (Circle One)

\$5

\$10

\$2

Cover donated to
society auction

Cover returned
to entrant

Junior category
Cover returned

Entry fees can be paid by check, written in US funds from a US bank, made payable to AFDCS. To make payment online, go to www.afdcs.org/entryfee.

Complete this form and send with entry fee to:

Rick Gibson, AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest

432 180th Ave, Somerset, WI 54025 | email: smokeynav@comcast.net

Please do not send your entry with "Signature Required," this will delay delivery and entry.

2020 AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Entry Form

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, April 16, 2021

Complete all information on the other side.

Please photocopy this form for additional entries.

Use this side to describe your cachet. Descriptions will be used by judges and for describing your cover in the AFDCS Fundraising auction. The contest judges have requested the following information. Please check all that apply.

- ☐ The images and artwork are original to the cachetmaker.
- ☐ The images are not original to the cachetmaker and are in the public domain or written permission has been granted for their use.
- ☐ The artwork is not original to the cachetmaker and are in the public domain or written permission has been granted for their use. Number of covers produced: _____

Describe how your cachet was produced:

Official AFDCS Cachetmakers Contest Judging Criteria

Judges will approach their task with the understanding that this is a first day/event cover award. Their goal will be to select the best illustrated cover in each of the contest categories using the criteria stated below. The decision of the judges is final.

Each cover will be awarded points in each of the five criteria listed below. The cover with the highest number of points wins the category. Ties for the winning cover in a contest category will be broken by vote of the judges. The Top Cachet Award will be chosen from among the winning covers in the individual categories.

The categories will be weighted as to importance. The percentage weight given to each category's awarded points is shown after the category description.

1. Cachet's impact on enhancing the theme of the stamp or event (40%)
2. Overall Impact: The immediate reaction to the cover (25%)
3. Use of art, color and/or design to enhance the cover's impact (15%)
4. Ingenuity: Skill or cleverness in design, i.e., use of text, and/or special cancels and/or combo stamps and/or imaginative and/or creative designs. For purposes of this category, the overall submission will be considered including any additional material provided on the back of the cover or as an insert. (10%)
5. Technical details and craftsmanship of the work (10%)