



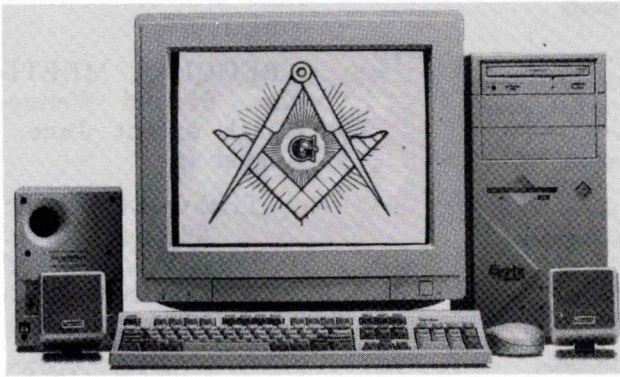
The Masonic Philatelist

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JUNE 1996

NO. 2



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The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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REGULAR MEETINGS: 2:00 p.m., Second Wednesday each month except June, July, and August at:

THE COLLECTORS CLUB
22 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016
Telephone (212) 683-0559
FAX (212) 481-1269



The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

The Editor invites all members to submit items of information and articles on the subject of Masonic Philately. Typewritten copy and/or camera ready items will result in the best possible presentation of your material if it is selected for use.

MASONIC PHILATELY NOW ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

I am pleased to announce that Masonic Philately and The Masonic Stamp Club of New York now have a significant presence on the Internet. Through the kind invitation of Ideal Solutions, Rocklin, California, we submitted an Internet presentation which has now been included in Ideal's very professional and highly informative Web site. Hats off to Allan Boudreau and Chris Murphy who created the presentation and coordinated the arrangements with Ideal Solutions - certainly a milestone in the history of our hobby and our club.

You may visit the Web site at: ><http://www.philately.com><. The Masonic presentation included in the site is shown below for your review.

Nicholas Batalias
President

MASONIC PHILATELY

INTRODUCTION

Masonic Philately is the study and collecting of postage stamps that are either directly associated with the Masonic Order or may be connected with the Order through indirect means. It is a postage stamp *specialty* that may be enjoyed with stamps issued by any country in the world.

There are six (6) Masonic stamp classifications which range from the highest to the lowest level of association. These classifications are as follows:

CLASS I: Stamps that were issued by a government expressly for a Masonic purpose. Such stamps show Masonic symbols and buildings, usually commemorating a Masonic event. These stamp are considered

“true” Masonic stamps because of their direct association with the Order. There are no United States of America or Canadian stamps in this class. A list of Class I stamps is included under GOVERNMENT ISSUE MASONIC STAMPS.

CLASS II: Stamps that depict a person, the image of a person or show the name of a person who was, or is, a Freemason.

CLASS III: Stamps that show a monument to a person who was a Freemason (includes houses), those that show an object that was built, discovered, invented or created by a Freemason and places named after a Freemason.

CLASS IV: Stamps that commemorate a certain event or undertaking in which a Freemason played a major role.

CLASS V: Stamps that were designed by a Freemason.

CLASS VI: Stamps that inadvertently show symbols that may be associated with the Masonic Order.

The American Topical Association, American Philatelic Society and British Thematic Association all acknowledge Masonic Philately as a stamp specialty equal to all other recognized specialties. The first Masonic topical collection to win a major award was a submission in the May, 1947 Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition (CIPEX), New York City.

METHODOLOGY

Every postage stamp ever issued or to be issued in the future has potential for inclusion in a Masonic collection. The objective is to find a connection which links the stamp to Freemasonry. In cases where the image of a male person is shown on a stamp, research is done to determine if that person was (or is) a Freemason. Other images shown on stamps (buildings, flowers, paintings and so on), are researched to determine if they can be directly linked with a person who was a Freemason. For example, the building architect may have been a Freemason, the flower was named after a Freemason, or the painting was created by a Freemason. The only rule commonly applied is that the link

does not extend to relatives of Freemasons, (i.e., sons or grandsons who were not themselves Freemasons).

MASONIC STAMP CLUBS

Masonic Stamp Clubs have been formed in many countries throughout the world. The oldest and largest club in the United States is **THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK INC.** This Club traces its actual beginning to January 13, 1934. In 1938, the Club petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt (a Freemason and Club member) to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington (also a Freemason), as the first president of the United States. The following year, the Washington Inauguration stamp was issued (Scott No. 854) which shows Washington taking the oath of office. The club commenced publication of a magazine, *The Masonic Philatelist*, in 1944 which has continued to the present time. This magazine, which is currently issued quarterly, has earned high respect in the field of philately.

Membership in **THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK INC.** is open to Master Masons in good standing anywhere in the world. Membership automatically includes a subscription to the Club's quarterly publication, *The Masonic Philatelist*. The club initiation fee is \$8 US. Annual dues are \$12 for residents of the United States and \$15 US for residents of any other country. For the first year, the total is therefore \$20 US for domestic members and \$23 US for foreign members, with dues only, as shown, for subsequent years. Freemasons interested in joining this Club are invited to write to the following address and request an application form. United States residents are asked to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the reply.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York Inc.
22 East 35th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016.
U.S.A.

NOTE: You will be required to submit satisfactory proof of your Masonic membership with your application, (i.e., letter from the Secretary of your lodge or a photocopy of your current dues card).

QUESTIONS?? Email enquires may be directed to club vice-president Christopher L. Murphy at: cmurphy@axionet.com

Other major Masonic stamp clubs are:

The Masonic Study Unit - American Topical Association (U.S.A.): Inquiries may be directed to Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover, Massachusetts, 01810, U.S.A.

George Washington Masonic Stamp Club (U.S.A.): Inquiries may be directed to M. L. Nafzinger, P.O. Box 75, Occoquan, Virginia, 22125-0075 U.S.A.

The Masonic Philatelic Club (England): Membership is open to Freemasons in good standing of the English Constitution and all other constitutions recognized by that body. Current annual membership is L5 for members residing in the United Kingdom and L6 for members residing elsewhere, payable by January 1st each year. This Club has a quarterly publication, *The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine*. Inquiries may be directed to the Club Secretary as follows: M. H. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, TS104JS, England, (Telephone 0642-472133).

Philamasonica-Zirkel Quatuor Coronati Wein (Austria): Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Herbert Schmid, Hackenberggasse 29/33/3, A-1190 Wien (Vienna) Austria.

Club Philatelique Jean-Theophile Desaguliers (France): Inquiries may be directed to Jean Prouteau, 1, Rue Verlaine, 17000 La Rochelle, France.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADIAN CLASS II “MASONIC” STAMPS

The following is a listing of major U.S. and Canadian Class II “Masonic” stamps. The list shows the name of the person (Freemason) depicted on the stamp followed by the Scott Catalogue Number. The list is not inclusive. It is shown here for the purpose of providing a foundation for Freemasons who wish to start a Masonic collection. Please refer to **BOOKS ON MASONIC PHILATELY** for information on obtaining comprehensive literature on the subject. For the purpose of this listing, only one (1) applicable stamp will be shown for each subject (person). The stamp type (country) follows the number (USA - United States of America; CDN - Canadian). Masonic membership for all subjects shown has been confirmed.

ABBOTT, SIR JOHN JOSEPH CALDWELL, #318 (CDN)
 ARNOLD, HENRY HARLEY, #2191, (USA)
 AUSTIN, STEPHEN FULLER, #776 (USA)
 BARTHOLDI, FREDERICK AUGUSTE, #2147 (USA)
 BENNETT, RICHARD BEDFORD, #357 (CDN)
 BLACK, HUGO LAFYETTE, #2172 (USA)
 BOLIVAR, SIMON, #1110 (USA)
 BORDEN, SIR ROBERT LAIRD, #303 (CDN)
 BOWELL, SIR MACKENZIE, #350 (CDN)
 BRYAN, WILLIAM JENNINGS, #2195 (USA)
 BUCHANAN, JAMES, #820 (USA)
 BURBANK, LUTHER, #876 (USA)
 BYRD, RICHARD E., #2388 (USA)
 CARSON, CHRISTOPHER (KIT) #2869N (USA)
 CHURCHILL, SIR WINSTON, #1264 (USA)
 CLAY, HENRY, #1846 (USA)
 CLEMENS, SAMUEL L. (MARK TWAIN), #863 (USA)
 CODY, WILLIAM F. (BUFFALO BILL), #2177 (USA)
 COHAN, GEORGE M., #1756 (USA)
 COLE, NATHANIEL ADAMS (NAT KING), #2852, (USA)
 DIEFENBAKER, JOHN GEORGE, #859 (CDN)
 DIRKSEN, EVERETT MCKINLEY, #1874 (USA)
 ELLINGTON, EDWARD K., (DUKE), #2211 (USA)
 FAIRBANKS, DOUGLAS, SR., #2088 (USA)

FARRAGUT, DAVID, #792 (USA)
FIELDS, WILLIAM CLAUD, #1803 (USA)
FLEMING, SIR SANDFORD, #739 (CDN)
FORD, HENRY, #1286A, (USA)
FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN, #1690 (USA)
FULTON, ROBERT, #1270 (USA)
GABLE, CLARK, #2446 (USA)
GARFIELD, JAMES A., #825 (USA)
GARIBALDI, GIUSEPPI, #1168 (USA)
GEORGE VI, KING, #286 (CDN)
GEORGE, WALTER F., #1170 (USA)
GOMPERS, SAMUEL, #988 (USA)
GOODNIGHT, CHARLES, #2869L (USA)
GRIFFITH, DAVID W., #1555 (USA)
GZOWSKI, CASIMIR, #410 (CDN)
HANDY, WILLIAM C., #1372 (USA)
HANLAN, EDWARD (NED), #862 (CDN)
HARDING, WARREN G., #684 (USA)
HARDY, OLIVER NOWELL, #2562 (USA)
HENSON, JOSIAH, #997 (CDN)
HENSON, MATTHEW A., #2223 (USA)
HOBAN, JAMES, #1935 (USA)
HOUSTON, SAMUEL, #1242 (USA)
JACKSON, ANDREW, #812 (USA)
JOHNSON, ANDREW, #822 (USA)
JONES, JOHN PAUL, #1789 (USA)
KANE, ELISHA KENT, #2220 (USA)
KERN, JEROME DAVID, #2110 (USA)
KOSSUTH, LAJOS, #1117 (USA)
LA GUARDIA, FIORELLO HENRY, #1397 (USA)
LAFAYETTE, MARQUIS DE, #1716 (USA)
LAUBACH, FRANK C., #1864 (USA)
LINDBERGH, CHARLES, #2781 (USA)
LIVINGSTON, ROBERT R., #323 (USA)
LONG, CRAWFORD W., #875 (USA)
MACARTHUR, DOUGLAS, #1424 (USA)
MACDONALD, SIR JOHN A., #141 (CDN)
MARSHALL, GEORGE CATLETT, #1289 (USA)
MARSHALL, JOHN, #1050 (USA)

MAYO, CHARLES HORACE, #1251 (USA)
MCKINLEY, WILLIAM, #829 (USA)
MELLON, ANDREW, #1072 (USA)
MOLSON, JOHN, #1117 (CDN)
MONROE, JAMES, #1038 (USA)
MOSES, HORACE, #2095 (USA)
NORRIS, GEORGE, #1184 (USA)
OGLETHORPE, JAMES E., #726 (USA)
PEALE, CHARLES WILSON, #1064 (USA)
PEARY, ROBERT EDWIN, #2223 (USA)
PERSHING, JOHN J., #1042A (USA)
PHILIP, PRINCE, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, #374 (CDN)
POLK, JAMES K., #816 (USA)
PULASKI, COUNT CASIMIR, #690 (USA)
PUTNAM, RUFUS, #795 (USA)
REVERE, PAUL, #1048 (USA)
RODGERS, JIMMIE, #1755 (USA)
ROGERS, WILLIAM PENN ADAIR (WILL), #975 (USA)
ROOSEVELT, FRANKLIN DELANO, #1950 (USA)
ROOSEVELT, THEODORE, #830 (USA)
RUSSELL, RICHARD B., #1853 (USA)
SALOMON, HAYM, #1561 (USA)
SAN MARTIN, JOSE DE, #1125 (USA)
SARGENT, WINTHROP, #955 (USA)
SCHLEY, WINFIELD SCOTT, #793 (USA)
SCHURZ, CARL, #1847 (USA)
SCOTT, WINFIELD, #786 (USA)
SEVIER, JOHN, #941 (USA)
SOUSA, JOHN PHILIP, #880 (USA)
STANTON, EDWIN M., #138 (USA)
STEUBEN, FRIEDRICH VON, #689 (USA)
SULLIVAN, JOHN, #657 (USA)
TAFT, WILLIAM HOWARD, #685 (USA)
TRUMAN, HARRY S, #1499 (USA)
WASHINGTON, BOOKER T., #873 (USA)
WASHINGTON, GEORGE, #707 (USA)
WAYNE, JOHN, #2448 (USA)

GOVERNMENT ISSUE MASONIC STAMPS

The following list shows currently known government issue Masonic stamps:

YEAR	COUNTRY	SUBJECT
1935	Honduras	Masonic Temple, Tegucigalpa
1941	Serbia	Anti-Masonic Stamps (Set of 4)
1956	Cuba	Masonic Temple, Havana
1970	Dominican Republic	Masonic Symbols
1972	Honduras	Anniversary - Grand Lodge
1973	Brazil	Grand Orient of Brazil
1973	France	Grand Orient of France
1976	Barbados	Prince Hall, S&Cs
1977	Brazil	Cinquentenario - Grand Lodge
1978	Luxembourg	175th Anniversary, Grand Lodge
1983	Dominican Republic	125th Anniversary - Masonry
1983	Belgium	Grand Orient of Belgium
1985	Netherlands Antilles	150th Anniversary, Lodge de Vergenowging
1985	St. Kits	150th Anniversary, Mt. Olive Lodge
1987	Republic of Guinee	Famous Masons, S&Cs
1987	Philippines	75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge
1988	Brazil	Jose Bonifacio, S&Cs
1990	Mexico	XIV Conference, Supreme Cousejos del Mundo
1992	Jamaica	250th Anniversary, Free-masonry in Jamaica
1993	Philippines	Nilad Lodge Centennial
1993	France	100th Anniversary, Le Droit Humain
1993	Antigua & Barbuda	150th Anniversary, St. John's Lodge
1994	France	100th Anniversary, Grand Lodge of France

1994	Wallis & Futina	100th Anniversary, Grand Lodge of France
1994	New Caledonia	125th Anniversary Masonry in New Caledonia

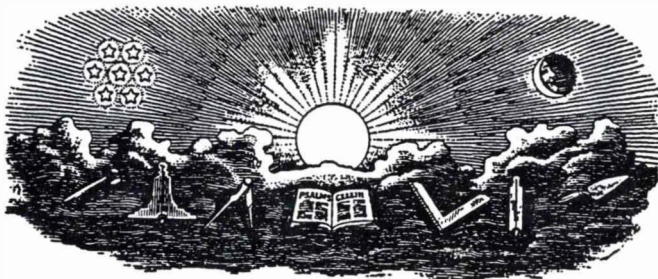
Note: A Masonic label issued by Costa Rica in 1956 is not an official government issue postage stamp. This label, which is often found on envelopes from that country, is sometimes confused with an actual postage stamp.

BOOKS ON MASONIC PHILATELY

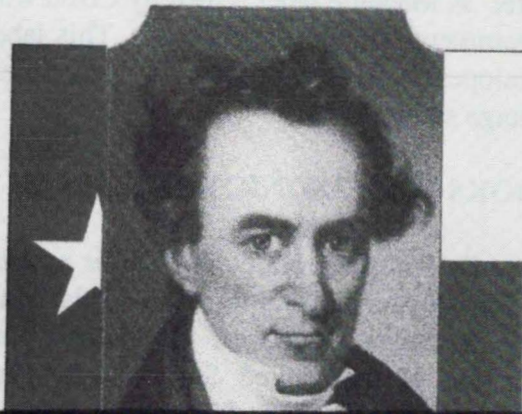
Masonic Philately, the United States of American and Canada (1990) by Christopher L. Murphy, BF. This is a digest on Class II stamps only, 50 pages, Softcover. Available from The Masonic Service Association of the United States, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910-4785. Please write for additional information.

Masonic Philately (1984) by Trevor J. Fray. This is a set of softcover books on world-wide Masonic philately. The work is published by Harry Hayes, 48-50 Trafalgar Street, Batley, West Yorkshire, England, WF17 7HA. Please write for additional information.

Information on other books by Christopher L. Murphy on United States and Canadian Masonic Philately may be obtained from: Pyramid Publications, Dept. 291 - 720 Sixth Street, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada V3L 3C5. Telephone: (604) 522-9982, Fax: (604) 522-3841, Email: cmurphy@axionet.com.



Stephen Fuller Austin

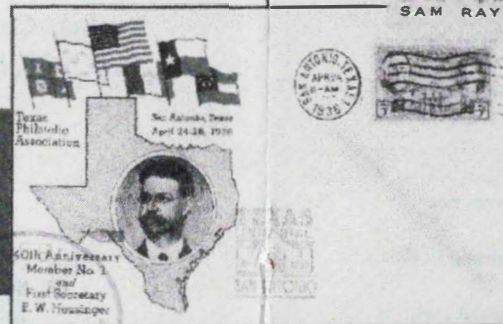
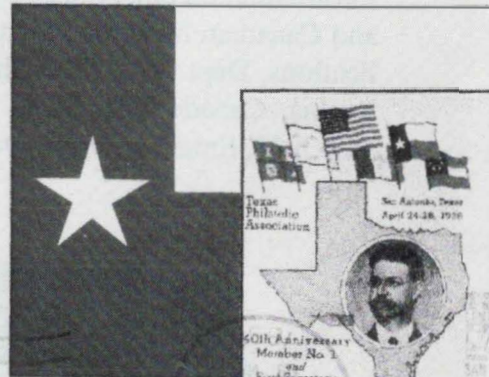


Dr. Allan Boudreau
One Washington Square Village
New York, NY 10012-1601

Texas Centennial Press
P.O. Box 1192
Austin, TX 78767-1192



Texas Philatelic Association
Centennial Meeting and Exposition
San Antonio ★ June 14 - 16, 1996



Pyramid Publications Inc.
Attn: Hon. Chris Murphy
720 Sixth Street
New Westminister, British Columbia
CANADA V3L 3C5

Celebrating Texas History Through Stamps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 1996

**From: Texas Centennial Press
P.O. Box 1192
Austin, TX 78757-1192**

**Contact: JIM DOUGHERTY
Phone: (512) 451-0637 FAX: (512) 451-8705
E-MAIL: DBRF04A@PRODIGY.COM**

Subject: "The Collector's Guide to 1936 Texas Independence and 1945 Statehood Centennial Cachets" by Jim Dougherty.

Texas Centennial Press has announced the upcoming publication of "The Collector's Guide to 1936 Texas Independence and 1945 Statehood Centennial Cachets" by Jim Dougherty. The reference is the most complete guide to first, second day and event cachets available for the 1936 Texas Independence Centennial (Scott #776), Third International Philatelic Exposition "TIPEX" souvenir sheet (Scott #778), and 1945 Texas Statehood Centennial (Scott #938) commemorative stamps.

Dougherty, a Past Master of Parsons Lodge #222, A.F. & A.M. in Austin, Texas, has collected United States stamps since childhood and has concentrated on Texas centennial postal history for the past six years. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a degree in journalism.

Freemasonry and the history of Texas have gone hand-in-hand. Therefore, it was not surprising that two prominent Masons, Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston were featured in the 1936 stamp design. Research cited in the guide suggests that Bro.: Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is credited with several stamp designs during his presidency, influenced the content of this stamp.

Austin, who received permission from the Mexican government to settle Anglo emigrants from the United States on the frontier of Texas, is known as the "Father of Texas." Houston, a former governor and U.S. congressman from Tennessee, came to Texas and eventually led the Texian Army to victory against Mexican forces under command of the dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. All three were Masons, although Santa Anna publicly renounced his membership.

The 1936 Texas Independence Centennial celebration spawned literally hundreds of fairs, observances and events. From a huge centennial exposition in Dallas with a rival fair (directed by Broadway producer Billy Rose) in Fort Worth, to local plaque dedications and dances, Texans were ready to celebrate their state and the last days of the Great Depression. Many of these events had their own philatelic souvenirs - commemorative cachets utilizing the Texas stamp, or its reprint as part of the TIPEX souvenir sheet.

Drawing on materials from several noted collectors, as well as from his extensive collection, Dougherty has compiled a useful catalog for these three issues and their various usages by collectors of the era. Photographic illustrations of over 500 cachets are included and the guide's numbering system is cross-referenced to earlier catalogs. The soft-covered guide is spiral bound for convenience in future updates.

Scheduled to go on sale at the centennial meeting of the Texas Philatelic Association, June 14-16, 1996 in San Antonio. The book may be ordered directly from: Texas Centennial Press, P.O. Box 1192, Austin, TX 78767-1192. The price is \$24.95, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling.



James G. "Jim" Dougherty, P.M.
DISTRICT 50-A MASONIC RELATIONS OFFICER 1996



P.O. Box 1192 AUSTIN, TX 78767-1192
(512) 451-0637 FAX (512) 451-8705

June 21, 1992

Dr. Allan Boudreau
One Washington Square Village
New York, NY 10012-1601

Dear Bro. Allan:

Received your letter today. I am so happy you liked the book. It makes the countless hours before this computer worthwhile when fellow collectors appreciate the effort. Thank you!

I am flattered and deeply honored that you would consider me for an office in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Needless to say, I would jump at the chance to serve in any capacity. Also, it is the perfect excuse (and I need little excuse) to visit New York City.

My wife Jane, son Will, and I returned from Philadelphia and Washington this past Wednesday. We visited Harry Oyler over in Fayetteville, PA. Bro. Harry and I have corresponded since he saw my Parsons Lodge - Texas Sesquicentennial FDC in *The Masonic Philatelist*. He has started me collecting 1932 George Washington birth bicentennial cachets and added greatly to my Masonic cachet collection. We stopped in at the House of the Temple in Washington and were surprised to see the covers I have been sending prominently on display in the library. Talk about making my trip!

Must close now. Once again, many, many thanks for everything.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial 'J' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Masonic First Day Covers

Dr. Allan Boudreau

"The subject of publicity rights and stamps is not going away. Among first-day cover cachetmakers in the United States, talk about publicity rights for protected names and images is the major topic of discussion."¹ The history of first day covers is interesting to many of us who have participated in making and collecting Masonic First Day Covers.

With the new regular postal series of 1922, the United States Post Office established a policy of issuing new stamps on specific dates and at places appropriate to their subjects. This policy, which has been continued by the U. S. Postal Service, brought the first day cover into the philatelic picture, adding a new facet to the hobby of stamp collecting.² Modern first day cover collecting began on October 4, 1922 with the 11 cent stamp (Scott 563) featuring the portrait of Rutheford B. Hayes, released at Freemont, Ohio to commemorate the birth centenary of this former President of the United States.

Prior to 1922 many U. S. stamps are known to have made their first appearance on specific dates, usually established by the postmark on the envelope, however, the actual "official" date of issue exists as a result of the postal service policy. *The Postal Service Guide to U. S. Stamps*³ first listing for a FDC date is March 15, 1920 for Scott #526. Collecting pre-1922 "first day covers" can be an interesting adventure in seeking out the earliest postmark date as evidence of the first known date when a particular stamp was used in the mails.

First day covers are envelopes mailed on the first "official" day of issue of a stamp. Typically, the cancellation includes the date and location

of the issuing post office, along with the designation, *First Day of Issue*. Special, decorated envelopes called cachets are frequently used as a picturesque, and often informative and interesting, background for the actual stamp. The art work and decorations on the envelope are often attractive and frequently make the cover more interesting and desirable to collectors.⁴

It is appropriate to mention here that any envelope with some distinguishing characteristic is considered a cover, especially if it has been sent through the mail, and is of interest to collectors. Commercial advertisement, unique corner cuts, hotel stationery, envelopes carried on particular air or sea routes, or on specific railroads, and many other unique types of covers are valued by collectors.

The bottom line with covers, first day and otherwise, is that if it is of interest to you, you can and should add it to your collection. You will certainly have items in your collections that have little monetary value but are important to you, and perhaps to no one else!

The U. S. Postal Service is basically a monopoly. The mails are closely regulated as to format, content, size, weight, and in many other ways. The existing laws do not permit competition. Nevertheless, you are allowed to decorate your envelopes (cachets) create your own personalized labels and even create a hand stamp to use in cancelling U. S. Stamps. This permits you to make a personal statement with every letter you enter into the mail.

Many individuals who have the initiative and energy, and are willing and able to spend the money involved have created special cachets to commemorate a Lodge anniversary or some other significant circumstance that merits such attention and interest. To get a permit for the use of a hand cancellation stamp one must complete the U. S. Postal Service Form 3620. You will receive a number to use on the hand stamp and the rules and regulations that must be followed as to the size, design, and content of the impression.

Many members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York have been involved in the preparation, mailing, and distribution of covers. Back in the early days of the MSCNY two stalwart Club members stand out in the

annals of philately and in their contributions to Masonic Philately, Harry L. Lindquist and E. Milnor Peck. Harry was a member of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, the publisher of Stamps Magazine, a past president of the Collectors Club, and the New York Athletic Club. Milnor was a member of Chancellor Walworth Lodge No. 271, and the owner of Fleetwood Cover Service then located in Pleasantville, New York. Pat Herst, Jr. was a youngster in those days, a member of Mount Nebo Lodge 257, and an author of quality philatelic collectibles. Dr. Irwin Yarry and Lou Bernstein carried on the concept of creating attractive First Day covers with a Masonic theme.

Other Club members have continued the effort in recent years. John F. Allen has produced a number of beautiful Masonic covers commemorating significant Masonic events; Nicholas Batallias, a member of St. John's Lodge No. 1 engineered a magnificent St. John's Lodge Bible cover that was widely distributed during the Bicentennial of the United States, and the Bicentennial of the Grand Lodge of New York (this is the bible that was used at the inauguration of George Washington as the first President of the United States); Stanley Longnecker produces a steady flow of quality Masonic Covers for the Goerge Washington Masonic Stamp Club; Edsel Hatfield also continues to educate and entertain with his Masonic covers. Many other Club members, too numerous to mention here, have developed Masonic covers to commemorate Masonic Lodge events.

Masonic covers and cachets have never been a commercial activity. Any of us who have amused ourselves with this phase of our philatelic hobby know that it does cost us something. We design the envelope, have it printed, perhaps prepare an educational insert, buy the appropriate stamps, put it all together, take (or send) it to the Post Office for the proper cancellation, and then try to distribute our finished product to our fellow collectors.

Since the advent of the amateur hobbyist cachetmaker in the 1920's this facet of philately, first day covers, has grown into a substantial commercial enterprise. Many governments are in the business of producing philatelic first day covers, souvenirs prepared especially for collectors. In the United States, a number of commercial cachetmakers (such as Fleetwood,

Artcraft, Mystic, Artmaster) offer a wide assortment of specialized services to the collector. The American First Day Cover Society exists to champion the interests of those involved in this activity.

Beginning in 1978, all stamp and postal stationery designs are copyrighted by the U. S. Postal Service. The USPS eagle symbol and logotype are trademarks of the United States Postal Service⁵. This action came about in some part due to the efforts of the estate of W. C. Field to secure payment for the use of the name and image on the W. C. fields Performing Arts issue (Scott # 1803). Many small cachet makers received letters suggesting that they pay a royalty for the use of the stamp.

A new problem faces today's cachetmakers, the subject of publicity rights. Doug Kesley, executive Director of the AFDCS recently stated, "that the issue of publicity rights is very alive within the society."⁶ Kelsey said that the society hesitated to use the word "crisis," but it feels that it has to look carefully . . . at the problem." He went on to say "Our members and others are recognizing the effect of the devastating policies of the United States Postal Services on the AFDCS." The "devastating policies" refers to the deals the Postal Service makes with rights holders.

¹ *Linn's Stamp News*, February 5, 1966, Licensing still is major issue for FDCs.

² *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*, Third Edition, Amos Press Inc, 1980.

³ *The Postal Service Guide to U. S. Stamps*, 21st Edition, U. S. Postal Service, 1995.

⁴ *Stamp Collecting*, Charles F. Adams, Dell Publishing, 1992

⁵ Stamps, Special *Holiday Catalog*, United States Postal Service, October-November-December, 1995.

⁶ *Linn's Stamp News*, February 5, 1996, p.12 Law May Allow Some FDC cachets to avoid publicity rights issue.



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