

The Little Known Cachets of Frederick H. Mandabach

By Michael Friedman

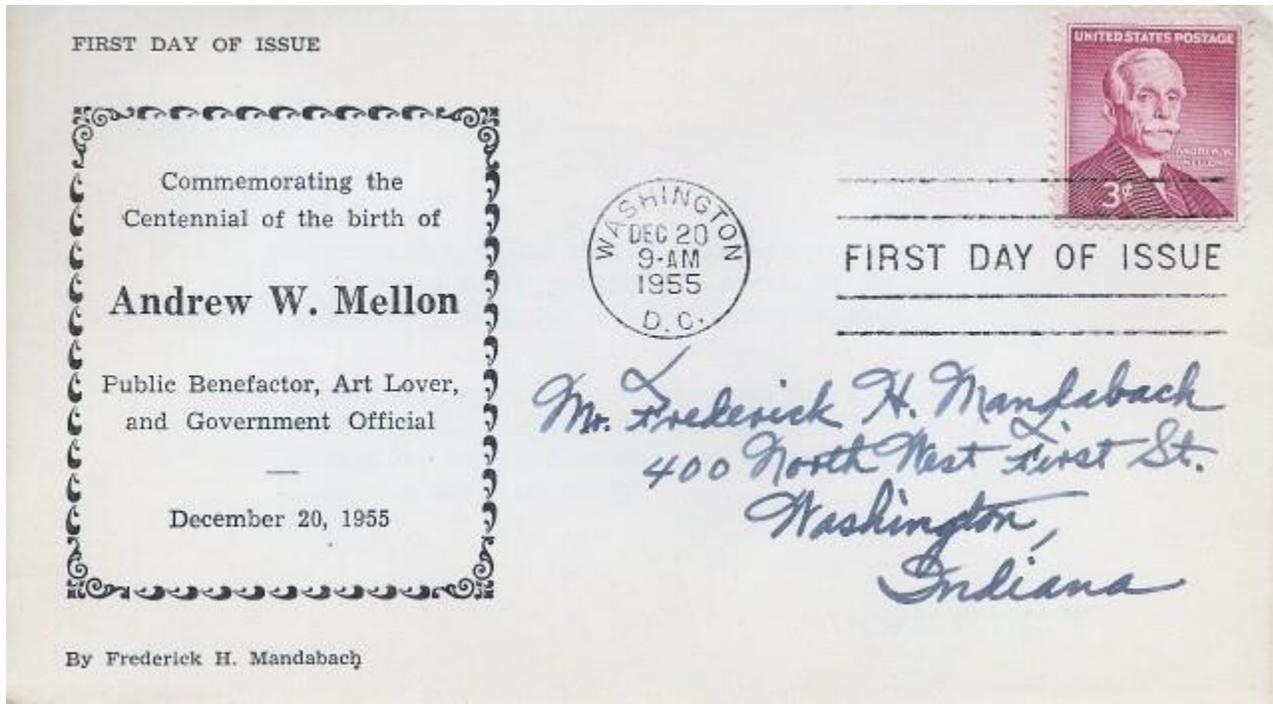


Figure 1

I recently purchased a wholesale lot containing Frederick H. Mandabach cacheted

FDCs. I had never heard of him, nor could recall ever having seen any of his cachets. I searched through catalogs, auction listings and eBay, but to no avail. I contacted many dealers and cover specialists and not one of them had any knowledge about these covers.

The *ancestry.com* website supplied information that Mandabach had a son named Frederick A. Mandabach and a daughter Ann Mandabach. Frederick A. Mandabach is a retired judge living in Southern California. I was able to contact him by email and received some interesting information: "You are correct that Frederick H. Mandabach is my father, now deceased. We enjoyed collecting stamps together when I was young, but other interests crowded that out when I went off to college.

"Some time in perhaps the late 1950s my father told me about his first day covers. He was a printer who had worked for newspapers all his life. He set the type and printed the covers that you have. (On one of

my visits home, I believe I did a drawing on one of them. I think my point was that his FDCs would be more interesting with graphics, so I suspect it is a prototype.)

“My father was not a member of a formal stamp group, to the best of my knowledge, so I doubt he shared this interest with others in the community. I do know he followed a stamp column in the *SundayIndianapolis Times* and was frequently at the post office near his work.

“Dad would, as you can see, addressed his FDCs to me and my sister. Beyond that, I know he did send them to people he believed would be interested in receiving a First Day Cover on a particular subject. “I recall seeing a letter from the White House in which the secretary to President Eisenhower thanked Dad for sending the item for the President's collection.

“I do not believe Dad mailed these FDCs to any particular list of recipients. Dad retired from printing around 1970. I imagine he stopped doing his first day covers around that time. Desktop publishing had not been popularized at that time, nor had the personal computer. I suspect the first day covers were discontinued once he no longer worked as a printer.

“Some time ago I asked an antique dealer how it was that fresh crops of antiques kept coming to market. He explained the three Ds to me: death, divorce and dislocation. “Dad died in 1989 and many of his items were then stored in our home. When we relocated after my retirement in 2006, we downsized. I asked a friend what the best way would be to find a new home for my Dad's collected stamp items. That is how they came to be on the market.

“Hopefully, that answers your questions. It was a hobby, rather than, to the best of my knowledge, a commercial enterprise.

“There are or were other FDCs by Dad out there, but I do not know where they may be.” The 64 different cover varieties obtained in the lot that I had purchased ranged from 1955 to 1959. The earliest cachet was for the Andrew W. Mellon stamp (Scott 1072, Figure 1). It has been submitted for consideration as a First Cachet or earliest known cachet. The last one was for the Pan American Games airmail stamp (Scott C56). Quantities varied from nine covers to only one cover, but most were in the three to four range. Most cachets are in the same color as the stamp. Almost all the covers had sealed flaps and were pencil addressed to either himself, Frederick A. or Ann Mandabach, all in Washington, Indiana.

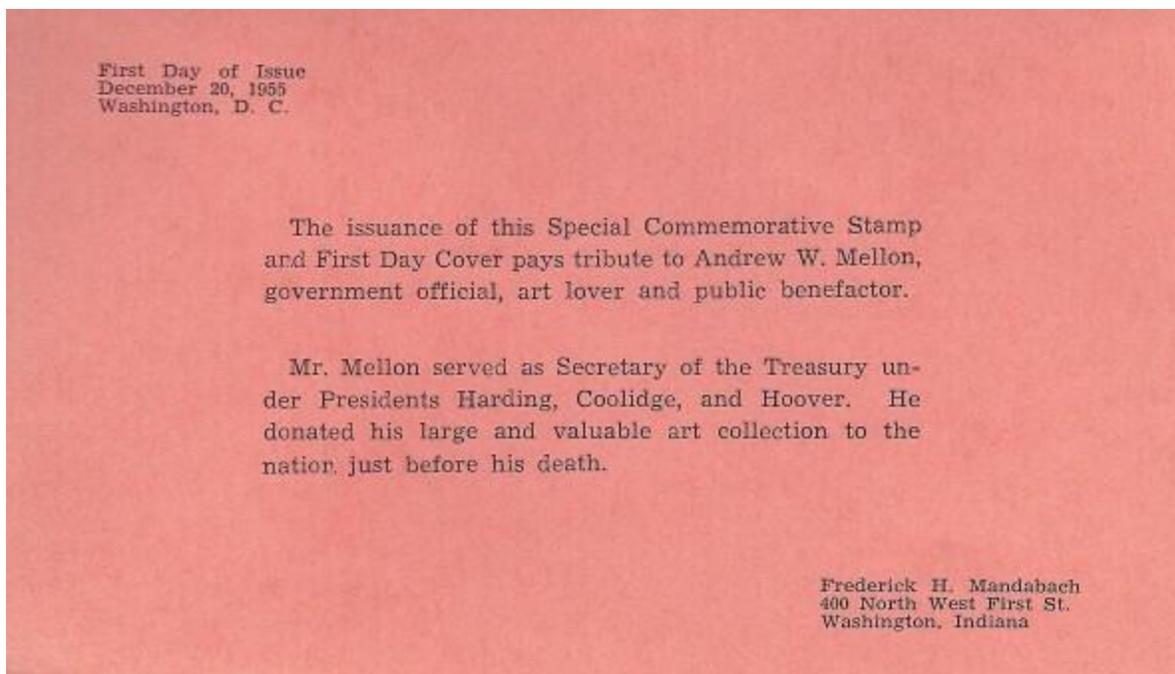


Figure 2

The few with unsealed flaps had a printed filler card (figure 2) pertaining to the stamp. I would guess that these cards are in many of the sealed covers. The cachet for the 1957 3-cent Polio stamp (Scott 1057, Figure 3) has the text "By Frederick A. Mandabach". Although there is no graphic image, this may be the cover that his son had some input on.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
January 15, 1957
Washington, D. C.



Commemorating the
20th
Anniversary
of the
**National
Foundation
For Infantile
Paralysis**
And the March of Dimes



By Frederick A. Mandabach



—FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—

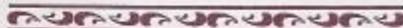


*Mr. Frederick H. Mandabach
400 N. W. 1st St.
Washington,
Ind.*

Figure 3

The multiple official city FDCs for the Lafayette Bicentenary issue (Scott 1097, Figure 4)

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
Louisville Ky.
September 6, 1957



Honoring
**Marquis
de Lafayette**
On the
**200th
Anniversary
Of His Birth**



By Frederick H. Mandabach



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



*Mr. Frederick H. Mandabach
400 N. W. 1st St.
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Figure 4

and the Whooping Crane Wildlife Conservation issue (Scott 1098, Figure 5) were produced with 3 different cachets each.

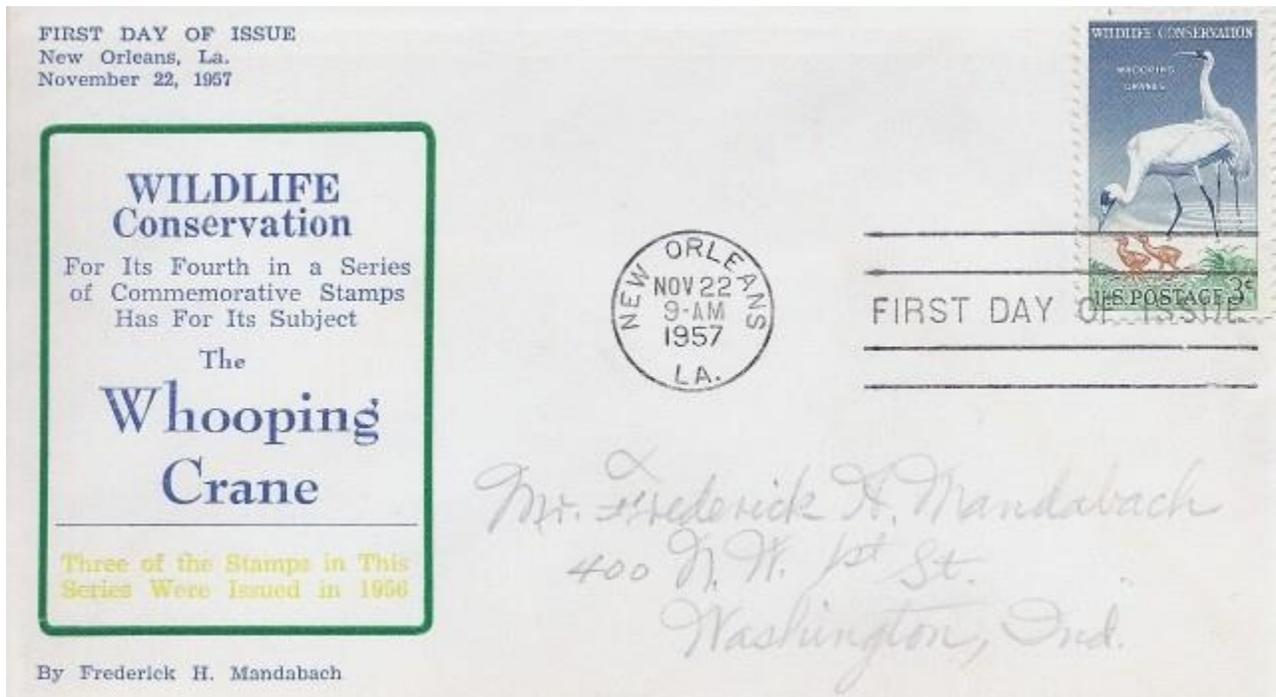


Figure 5

The text on each specifies one of the trio of official cities. His 4-cent and 8-cent Champions of Liberty series cachets have the same design for both, but match the stamp colors. My favorite Mandabach cachet is the red and blue American Flag cachet (Scott 1094, Figure 6).

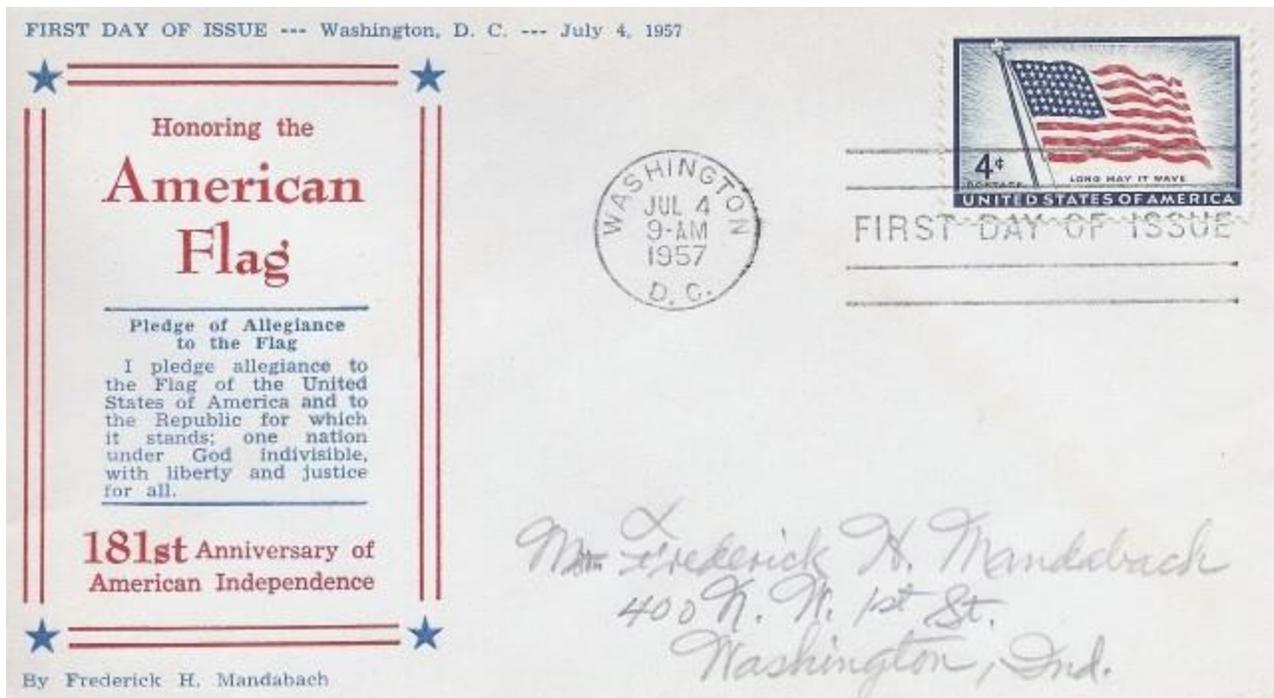


Figure 6

Mandabach Census

I am trying to create a census of the covers he produced. Do any AFDCS members have Mandabach covers, other than those obtained from me? If so, kindly provide the Scott numbers and scans to my address at the end of this article. Any AFDCS member who would like an e-mail containing scans of all the Mandabach covers that I have, need only send a request to my e-mail address.

Acknowledgements

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(Michael Friedman, POB 801325, Santa Clarita, CA 91380; E-mail, mike713@pacbell.net)