

Palm Beach Stamp Club

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Palm Beach Stamp Club
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American Philatelic Society
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NEWSLETTER

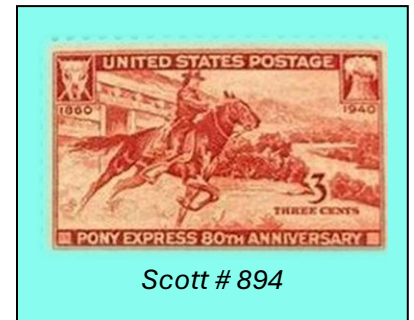
April 2026

April has always been a meaningful month in Florida's postal story. From the expansion of early 20th-century rail lines that connected inland towns to the world, to the rise of coastal post offices serving new waves of visitors, spring has long marked a season of growth and connection across the state.

Today, collectors continue that tradition—researching pioneer routes, studying territorial-era markings, and preserving the correspondence that shaped Florida's communities. Each cover, cancellation, and postcard offers a glimpse into the state's evolving identity.

As we enter April, may we honor that legacy by exploring new corners of our collections and sharing the stories that make Florida philately rich and vibrant.

Stamp of the Month The Pony Express was founded April 3, 1860, as the *Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Co.* It operated from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, CA for only 18 months.



Scott # 894

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April 2026

Celebrating our volunteers - the heart of our club. As National Volunteer Week approaches, April 19–25, 2026, we at the Palm Beach Stamp Club want to honor and celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers. Their dedication and passion are the backbone of everything we do, and this week provides the perfect opportunity to recognize the time, talent, and energy they give to keep our club thriving.

Volunteerism has the power to transform lives, strengthen communities, and create a sense of fulfillment. Each and every volunteer at our club helps foster education about philately, supports club events, and creates a welcoming community for collectors of all ages. By giving their time selflessly, these individuals not only enhance the experiences of fellow members but also contribute to the preservation and growth of stamp collecting as a vibrant hobby.

Club member Keith Lichtman made presentations at both the March 12th and

26th regular meetings. The first presentation was “Starting an International Collection” and the second was on “Pre-cancelled United States postage stamps.” Keith’s presentations are always interesting and informative.

Our club’s spring show at the Embassy Suites Hotel on March 21st was advertised with the American Philatelic Society, on Florida Stamp Shows.com, our own website, Facebook, and other venues. The results can only be regarded as disappointing because of low turn-out. We welcome your suggestions to improve our show turnout and hobby in general.

March club meetings were lightly attended at the Kingdom Buffett restaurant. If any club member has an idea for a new meeting venue, please contact President Richard Kaye.



April 4, Central Florida Stamp Club Spring Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 Maitland Ave. S., Maitland 32751, Saturday, 10-3:30.

April 12, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne 32935.

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Yang's Catalogue

Michael Rogers

The stamps of Hong Kong combine the mystique of the Orient with more familiar British themes. Hong Kong stamps are beautifully rendered and offer endless specialization opportunities. China's one billion citizens and most overseas Chinese know that its stamps are highly collectible. Hong Kong philately is enormously popular worldwide.

Comprising numerous islands and a peninsula at the mouth of the Pearl River some 90 miles south of Canton (Guangzhou), China - Hong Kong is one of Asia's busiest ports. Just 426 square miles hold its six million population. Hong Kong was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, ending more than 150 years of British rule.

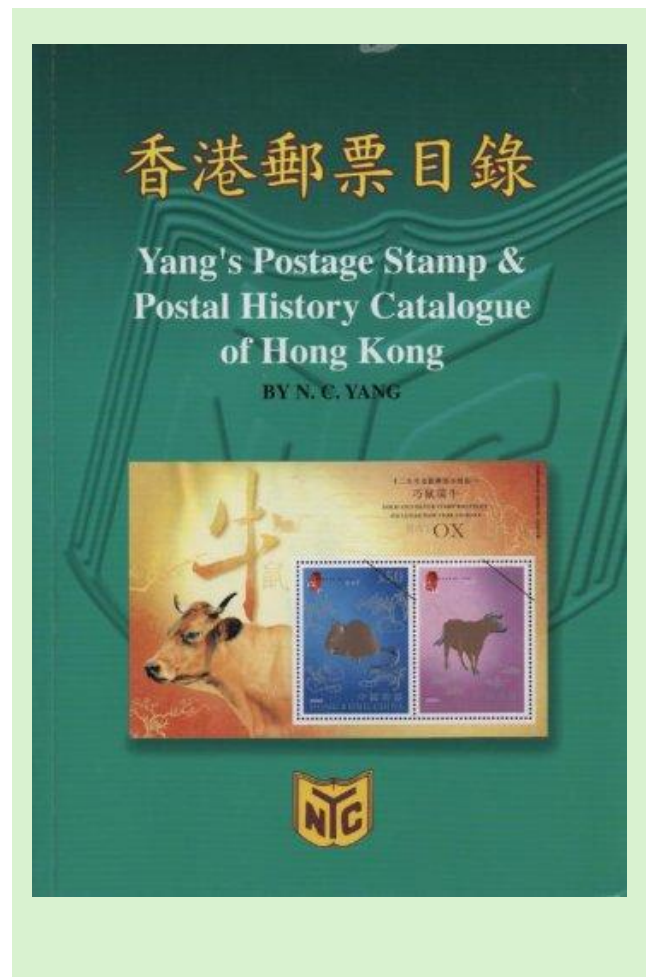
Victorian-era Hong Kong has wide appeal, but for collectors to have a greater understanding of the philately of Hong Kong, Yang's *Postage Stamp and Postal History Catalogue of Hong Kong* (ISBN 13: 9789628574438, 2004, published by Yang's Stamp Service) is required reading. This softcover 165-page handbook is difficult to find but worth the investment. It is written in English with some Chinese.

Yang describes and prices stamps, postal history markings, postal stationary, first flight covers, booklets and Frama (computer generated) automatic stamps. Chapters on treaty ports, cancellations, British offices in China, and the 1941-1945 Japanese occupation era describe difficult material with many photographs.

Yang illustrates markings of Canton & Macau line steamers, French mail boats, the Netherlands Indies Java-China-Japan Lines, the Tandjong-Priok line and German sea post cancels.

Reference:

Reprinted in part from *Linn's Stamp News*, October 22, 2001



History On Postal Cards

Keith Lichtman

Many stamp collectors are natural history buffs. We see a stamp and immediately want to know the story behind it. Commemorative issues often appear on significant anniversaries to honor a person, place, event, or even an object—art, automobiles, inventions, and more. The subject is usually printed right on the stamp: Olympics, statehood, an actor, an author. That little clue is often enough to spark our curiosity.

In the United States, when a new stamp is issued, the Postal Service and philatelic publications typically provide background on the subject. For me, the real fun is digging into the economic history of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What companies existed then? What did they sell? What happened to them? And—always fascinating—what did things cost?



To explore these questions, I collect advertising postal cards. It's worth pausing to explain the difference between a *postal card* and a *postcard*. A postal card is issued by a government postal authority, such as the U.S. Post Office, and includes printed postage. Postcards are privately produced, and the sender must apply the correct postage.

I look for pre-printed business postal cards from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the variety is immense. The history you may uncover is remarkable. In 1897, a barrel of apples cost \$3.00 and white wine sold for 65¢ per gallon. In 1894, a pound of salmon steaks was 8¢. Dr. Miles Medical Co. advertised restorative tonics, blood purifiers, and anti-pain pills. On August 15, 1897, a man named Luther Thompson was wanted for murder. I'll be sharing articles on some of these discoveries in coming months.

Another rich area of interest is the cancellations found on postal cards. Just like on letter mail, you can find fancy cancels, slogans, flags, and even colored inks. The lesson is simple: don't pass up the boxes of postal cards. They hold just as much history—and just as many stories—as first-class stamps and covers.

J. T. HERSEY & CO.,
WHOLESALE PRODUCE AND FRUITS.
 814 Commercial Street.

Atchison, Kansas, June 24th, 1897.

We quote you today :

EARLY HARVEST APPLES, per barrel \$2.50 to \$3.00
 NEW POTATOES, per bushel, sacked 50c
 NEW CABBAGE, per lb., crated 1c to 1 1/4c
 RASPBERRIES, per crate \$1.25 to \$1.50

Apples scarce as yet but will soon be plenty. Blackberries will be in market ; next crop large and fine, and we look for cheap prices. Send us your orders.

Yours Respectfully,

J. T. HERSEY & CO.

CALIFORNIA WINE CELLAR.

Red and White Wines,

Delivered in Demijohns.

CLARET ; 1 gal. 55c. 5 gal. 50c. 10 gal. 45c
 ZINFANDEL ; 1 gal. 60c. 5 gal. 55c. 10 gal. 50c.
 BURGUNDY ; 1 gal. 65c. 5 gal. 60c. 10 gal. 55c.
 WHITE WINE ; 1 gal. 65c. 5 gal. 60c. 10 gal. 55c

Ohio Wines—OHIO CLARET; 1 gal. 55c. 5 gal. 50c. 10 gal. 45c. Ohio White Wine; 65c. 75c., \$1.00, per gal
 Old White and Red Wines—from 3 to 7 years old, 75c., \$1.00, 1.25 1.50 and 2.00 (per gallon, delivered in bottles)
 \$2.50, 3.10, 3.70 4.35 and 5.50 per case War tax paid.
 FRENCH CLARETS, (Bordeaux); \$1.00, 4.75, 5.25, 5.75, 6.00, 6.35, 6.75, 7.50, 8.00, 8.25, 8.50 and 12.75 per case.
 BOURGOGNE: \$5.50, 11.00, 13.00, 21.00 and 24.00, per case.
 RHINE WINE: \$5.00, 6.00, 9.00, 10.00, 12.00 and 15.00, per case.
 SHERRY and PORT ; \$1.00, 1.50 2.00 3.00 per gallon. All Sweet Wines from \$1.00 to 3.00 per gal.
 BRANDY: 60c, 75c, & \$1.00 per bottle, \$2.50, 3.00 & 4.00 per gal. EAU-DE-VIE DE MARC Ohio ; \$2.50 & 3.00 per gal.
 WHISKEY ; \$2.00, 2.25, 2.50, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00 and 6.00 per gallon. 50c., 60c., 75c., \$1.00, 1.25 and 1.50 per bottle.
 GIN and RUM ; \$2.50, 3.00, 4.00 and 5.00 per gallon. 60c., 75c., \$1.00 and 1.25 per bottle.
 QUINQUINA, (Tonic Wine) ; per bottle, 60c. RED and WHITE WINE VINEGAR, OLIVE and DOMESTIC OIL,
 All Kinds of Imported and Domestic Wines Liquors and Cordials Wholesale and Retail.

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Please send

Tel. Call, 477 Harlem.

CLEVELAND, O., August 17th, 1897.

ARREST FOR SHOOTING TO KILL,

Luther Thompson, colored, shot and mortally wounded a Negro named Andrew Findley, Sunday, August 15th, 1897.

Thompson is a black Negro, 24 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall ; weight, 170 pounds ; stout built ; full smooth face ; large front teeth ; scar on inside of right wrist ; is a little stoop-shouldered ; a laborer, follows coal mining or grading on rail roads ; has also been on river boats ; is known in Pittsburg, Pa., and Parkersburg, W. Va.

Address all communications to

GEO. E. CORNER,
 Supt. of Police.

Or—

E. A. ABBOTT, Director of Police.

Benton

All postcards from Author's collection.

Palm Beach Memorial Fountain

Dan Maddalino

The Palm Beach Memorial Fountain, located at 360 South Ocean Boulevard where traffic divides around it, has been a landmark since 1929. Originally positioned between the town's first Town Hall and fire station, it was a gift from residents through the Memorial Fountain Commission, chaired by Harold S. Vanderbilt. Early postcards—like the circa-1935 colorized linen card published by P.E.C. News Co.—show the fountain's elegant architecture and lush gardens that drew visitors for decades.

The park was designed by Addison Mizner, whose Mediterranean Revival style shaped Palm Beach, Boca Raton, and Miami throughout the 1920s. His plan features a three-tiered layout: an upper terrace with a fountain modeled after Rome's Fountain of the Sea Horses, a lower terrace with a central rill, and a long reflecting pool framed by walkways and low seating walls.



The memorial honors railroad pioneer Henry Flagler and Palm Beach's first mayor, Elisha Dimick. Before 1985, curved walls were added to recognize residents who served in wartime and local police and firefighters who died in the line of duty. Over time, however, the fountain deteriorated, and by 2015 it was cracked, dry, and nonfunctional. A coalition of business leaders and private donors stepped in to restore the site. After extensive repairs, the fountain reopened in 2017, returning to its original beauty. Today, the fountain and park once again welcome residents and visitors to enjoy one of Palm Beach's most iconic public spaces.



The post card is franked with 1¢ green, Washington *Prexie* issue postage stamp, Scott #804, and was cancelled at Lake Worth, Florida on May 4, 1940.

References:

Tclf.org/landscapes/memorial-fountain-parks; Bocahistory.org;

Palmbeachdailynews.com/story/news/local/2016/10/27/memorial-fountain

Yellow Garden Spider

Pat Hensley

Spiders don't usually bother me, but my husband wants nothing to do with them - so I'm the designated spider remover in our house. When I learned that the first week of April is *Be Kind to Spiders Week*, I wondered whether any spiders had ever appeared on U.S. stamps.

They have! In 1999, the U.S. Postal Service issued the *Insects & Spiders* set, a bright 20-stamp collection that included the Yellow Garden Spider. This 33¢ postage stamp (Scott #3351d) shows the spider resting on its web, a reminder that even small backyard creatures deserve appreciation.



Spiders aren't insects at all - they're arachnids. Insects have six legs and three body parts; spiders have eight legs and only two body sections. Insects often have wings and antennae, but spiders never do. Instead of chewing, spiders use their fangs to liquefy their food.

The Yellow Garden Spider is easy to spot with its bold yellow-and-black pattern. It builds large circular webs with a thick zigzag of silk in the center called *stabilimentum*. Scientists think this zigzag pattern may help birds avoid the web or hide the spider from predators.

Despite their dramatic appearance, these spiders are gentle and helpful. They catch flies, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, and other pests that damage plants or sneak into our homes. They prefer to stay on their webs and rarely bother people.

Since they do so much good, it's worth giving them a little kindness. If one wanders indoors, a cup and a piece of paper are all you need to move outside safely. Keeping spiders around helps keep gardens healthy - and keeps the "bad bugs" in check.

References:

- National Wildlife Federation: *Yellow Garden Spider (Argiope aurantia)*
- Smithsonian Institution: *Common Garden Spiders*
- National Day Calendar: *Be Kind to Spiders Week (First Full Week of April)*
- United States Postal Service: *1999 Insects and Spiders Commemorative Series*
- American Museum of Natural History: *Spiders vs. Insects*

Postal Service v. Konan

Michael Swope

April in Florida brings blooming hibiscus, returning snowbirds, and—this year—a Supreme Court decision that might make you look twice at your mailbox. In a 5–4 ruling on February 24, 2026, (*Postal Service v. Konan*, 607 U.S. ___ [2026]) the Court decided that Americans cannot sue the United States Postal Service even when they intentionally refuse to deliver mail. Yes, intentionally. As in: “Nope, not today,” but with legal immunity.

For stamp collectors, the ruling is a reminder that the postal system we love is both sturdy and quirky. It has survived hurricanes, budget crises, and the occasional alligator wandering into a sorting facility (true story—though thankfully not in the philatelic section). And while the Court’s decision won’t affect your latest cover from Sarasota or that postcard from St. Augustine, it does add a new chapter to the long, colorful saga of American mail.

So, as we head into April—Florida’s unofficial “perfect weather month”—keep an eye on your mailbox. Not because of the ruling, but because you never know what might show up: a long-lost letter, a new club newsletter, or possibly a gecko who’s decided your mailbox is prime real estate. After all, this is Florida. The mail usually gets through... eventually.

Featured below is an empty envelope that I received on March 5, 2026, that should have contained postcards that I purchased through eBay over four months earlier, on November 22, 2025. The cover was mailed from Silver Springs, Florida to Sterling Heights, Michigan – and then forwarded to my winter address in West Palm Beach, Florida. Both ends of the envelope were sliced open and contents removed. The envelope is franked with the 3¢ Geophysical Year Issue; two, 13¢ Carl Sandburg Issue; and the 78¢ (Forever) Coastal Formations postage stamps.

