

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



September 2025

On September 10, 1897, 25-year-old London taxi driver George Smith became the first person ever arrested for drunk driving, after he slammed his cab into a building. In the United States, the first laws against operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol went into effect in 1910. Despite the 1953 invention of the Breathalyzer, it was not until the early 1980s, when MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) was founded, that public awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving increased and lawmakers and police officers began to get tough on offenders.

Several countries, including the United States, Denmark, France, Italy, Turkey, and others, have issued postage stamps that warn of the devastating effects of alcoholism and drunk driving. Let's have a safe Labor Day holiday!

Regards, Michael Swope

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Stamp of the Month



Denmark, Scott #931

**Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

**Mid-County Senior Center
3680 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, Florida 33461**

www.palmbeachstamp.club

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Membership Affiliate #81338**

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GASS 2025 at Schaumburg, Illinois, has been declared a success, and two of our club members were honored in the

“Literature Palmares”! Juan L. Riera received a Silver for *USS Manley at Puerto Colombia* and a Silver/Bronze for *Fishing with FDR*. Dan Maddalino received a Silver for *Royal Arch Oak* and a Silver/Bronze for *A basic Classical Postal History Review*. Congratulations to our authors.

We're on Facebook! Thank you to club Secretary, Pat Hensley, for the successful launch our club Facebook Page on August 21, 2025.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/palmbeachstampclub> All club members are urged to join our Facebook group and share philatelic information and interests. This is an outreach effort to entice new members to our hobby and to our club.

President Richard Kaye reported a good turnout of club members at our August 12th meeting, where Keith Lichtman made a presentation on postage stamp perforations.

Dan Maddalino gave a presentation on Event Covers featuring hand and machine cancels and President Kaye announced receipt of American Bicentennial memorabilia from the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter at our August 29th meeting.

Upcoming Events –

On Thursday, September 25th, President Kaye will make another presentation of “The Joy of Stamp Collecting” at Grand Living Community 445 Datura Street, WPB. All club members are invited to this exclusive venue at 12:00 Noon. Lunch is provided. Thanks to club member Steve Gordon for this referral.

On Saturday, October 4th at 12:00 Noon, Kaye will make another presentation at the Mandel Library, 411 Clematis Street, WBP. Members are urged to attend to support our club.

Our club's Fall Stamp Show is fast approaching and volunteers will be needed to help make this event successful. The Embassy Suites Hotel at 1601 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach, 33406, has been selected as the venue for our club's stamp show on Saturday, November 1, 2025. See the show flyer on the club website.



September 6th, FSDA Orlando, Fall Show at the Maitland Civic Center, Saturday 10:00-3:30, Maitland, 32751.

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The Parcel Post Bank

Keith Lichtman

The introduction of the parcel post on January 1, 1913, made mail order accessible to Americans who did not live close to railroads, which up until then served as the foundation of the private express system. Parcel post proved so popular that within a year the weight limit had expanded from eleven pounds to fifty pounds.



Scott #Q3

Vernal, Utah, was one of the towns which did not sit close to a railway line. Parcel post changed not only the way Vernal received mail, but also the way its citizens lived. By 1916 Vernal was receiving two tons of mail a day and it cost only 54 cents for Vernal residents to ship a 50-pound package to Salt Lake City. William Horace Coltharp (1884-1956), one of the directors of the Bank of Vernal, decided to take advantage of the low cost of parcel post when building the new town bank.



W. H. Coltharp

Coltharp wanted pressed bricks for the face of the building, but the nearest supplier was nearly 400 miles away by road in Salt Lake City. Coltharp decided to have the nearly 38 tons of bricks shipped by parcel post from the Salt Lake Pressed Brick Company. Each brick was individually wrapped in paper and packed ten to a wood crate in order to meet the 50-pound limit for packages. The bricks filled nearly 1,500 crates.

Other businesses and customers took advantage of the parcel post as well and cheap postage rates contributed to a construction boom in Vernal. Cement, plaster, nails, and other hardware poured into Vernal, while merchants ordered massive amounts of goods for their stores. It was the 38 tons of bricks, however, that prompted the Second Assistant Postmaster General, Otto Praeger, to publish a notice in the Postal Bulletin stating "hereafter when more than 200 pounds of merchandise, other than perishable matter, are offered for mailing by one sender to one addressee on the same day, it shall be considered a large or unusual shipment."

Postmasters were then required, in every instance before accepting such shipments, to notify the Second Assistant and await instructions. This effectively ended shipments greater than 200 pounds.



Bank of Vernal, Utah, 1916

The Bank of Vernal's brick is part of a larger story of how the Post Office connected remote parts of the country and made consumer goods available to rural areas in a way hitherto unseen. It is also part of the narrative of western expansion by the United States government that had far reaching consequences for both sovereign Native peoples and Americans looking to expand. As an acquisition, it provides a visual representation of the power of the post office for an unusual project.

References:

The Parcel Post Bank," United States Postal Service; "Precious Packages: America's Parcel Post Service," National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institute

The Money Doctor

Juan L. Riera

Charles Arthur Conant (1861-1915) was an American journalist, author, and promotor who became recognized as an expert in the field of banking and finance, especially in colonial administration and developing economies. As such, he was to have an indirect and significant influence on the postal administration of several countries and United States possessions as part of governmental administration and finance. He was part of a group of individuals that advocated for strong currencies, the Gold Standard, and low savings rates due to high rates of investments. He became known as “The Money Doctor”.



Charles Arthur Conant

He was born in Winchester, Massachusetts, where he studied in public schools as well as having private tutors. Between 1889 and 1901, Conant was the correspondent in Washington D.C. for the *New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin*. In 1901 and 1902 Conant was sent to the Philippines by Secretary of War Elihu Root, as part of a commission to investigate coinage and banking. According to Murray N. Rothbard the ultimate purpose of Conant’s work in the Philippines was to remove the use of silver in circulation as was widely used in Asia. This corresponds with the idea of switching the island archipelago from the old Spanish silver standard to the Gold Standard which was part of Dollar Diplomacy being practiced by the U.S. at the time. Conant advocated for silver coinage and silver certificates that were proportional and interchangeable with U.S. gold coinage and the U.S. gold standard. This was codified in the February, 1903, Philippine Coinage Act. Ironically, The Philippine National Bank issued 1-Peso bank notes from 1921 to 1924, that depict Conant on the obverse.

In 1903, Conant was named to the Commission on International Exchange by President Theodore Roosevelt, to promote the adoption of the gold standard by countries still on the silver standard. From 1903 to 1905, this commission advised several countries to adopt the gold standard, especially Mexico, China, and Panama. Conant was particularly involved in the switch for the newly independent Panama. Panama’s governing body passed Law 84 on June 28, 1904 to change to the gold standard based on the U.S. standard, essentially adopting Conant’s proposal.

Nicaragua operated on the silver standard until U.S. intervention in 1912. Conant recommended a three-phase plan in which Nicaraguan notes would be revalued, then stabilized, and then exchanged for new notes and coinage. On March 20 1912, the “Ley de Conversion Monetaria” was signed into law creating the monetary unit “Cordova”, which was identical to the American dollar.

Even though Cuba was a U.S. possession - technically only from 1898 to 1902, in practicality this extended for a much longer period because Cuba did not have a national currency until 1915. The first shipment of national currency arrived on April 7, 1915, to replace French and Spanish currencies that were commonly found on the island. It was viewed that the U.S. currency, which was also commonly used on the island, did not have to be replaced since it was based on the gold standard.

Conant died in Havana in July, 1915. From my reading he died of either stomach cancer or a tropical fever. In the various examples cited above, Conant was responsible for exerting U.S. influence over these possessions to switch from the silver standard to the gold standard; have their coinage be based on U.S. coinage; and, in the vast majority of cases, have the coinage designed and manufactured at U.S. mints. It is my contention that that this also indirectly influenced mail and philately since these governments manufactured stamps and set the prices for stamps and the postal service which would be altered if based on the silver standard or the gold standard.



Charles Arthur Conant on 1921 Philippine One Peso Note

Writing Letters Can Be Special

Pat Hensley



These 15¢ Letter Writing postage stamps were issued to celebrate “National Letter Writing Week”, February 24th to March 1st, 1980. It was a first for the U. S. Postal Service to release set-tenant sheets of six stamps with three sets stacked on top of each other in pairs. Each stamp helps people remember how important letter writing is.

The U.S. Postal Service released these special stamps on February 25, 1980, celebrating National Letter Writing Week for the first time in over fifteen years. To help spread the message, the USPS teamed up with the National Council of Teachers of English, business leaders, and other well-known Americans. Museums, libraries, and other important places had displays about letter writing. Bookstores and libraries shared books that talked about letters and showed letters written by famous people. On February 25, the USPS held a big ceremony at the Library of Congress to honor the new stamps. Each stamp pair included a small stamp that said, “P.S. Write Soon” and another that shared what letters can do, like “Letters Preserve Memories,” “Letters Lift Spirits,” and “Letters Shape Opinions.”

The USPS also helped create a 64-page booklet called All About Letters. It was given to students in grades 6 through 12. The booklet showed how to write different types of letters and included messages from Stevie Wonder, Darryl Stingley, and “Dear Abby.” It even gave addresses for pen pal groups and celebrities, explained ZIP codes, and gave tips on how to send mail safely. Today, the tradition of letter writing is still honored with World Letter Writing Day on September 1, National Letter Writing Day on December 7, and National Letter Writing Month in April.

World Letter Writing Day is celebrated every year on September 1st. This day encourages people all over the world to write letters by hand. It was started in 2014 by Richard Simpkin, an Australian author and photographer, who wanted to remind people how meaningful it is to send a letter instead of just a quick message online. Schools and libraries sometimes hold letter-writing events to help kids enjoy the fun of writing and receiving letters.

Both the 1980 stamps and World Letter Writing Day show how important writing letters can be. A letter can make someone feel remembered and appreciated. It takes more time than typing a message, but it can also feel more personal. Even though we live in a digital world, writing a letter can still bring smiles and create lasting memories. The U.S. stamp and this special day both encourage people to take a few minutes to connect with others in a thoughtful way.

References:

Cover from the author's collection

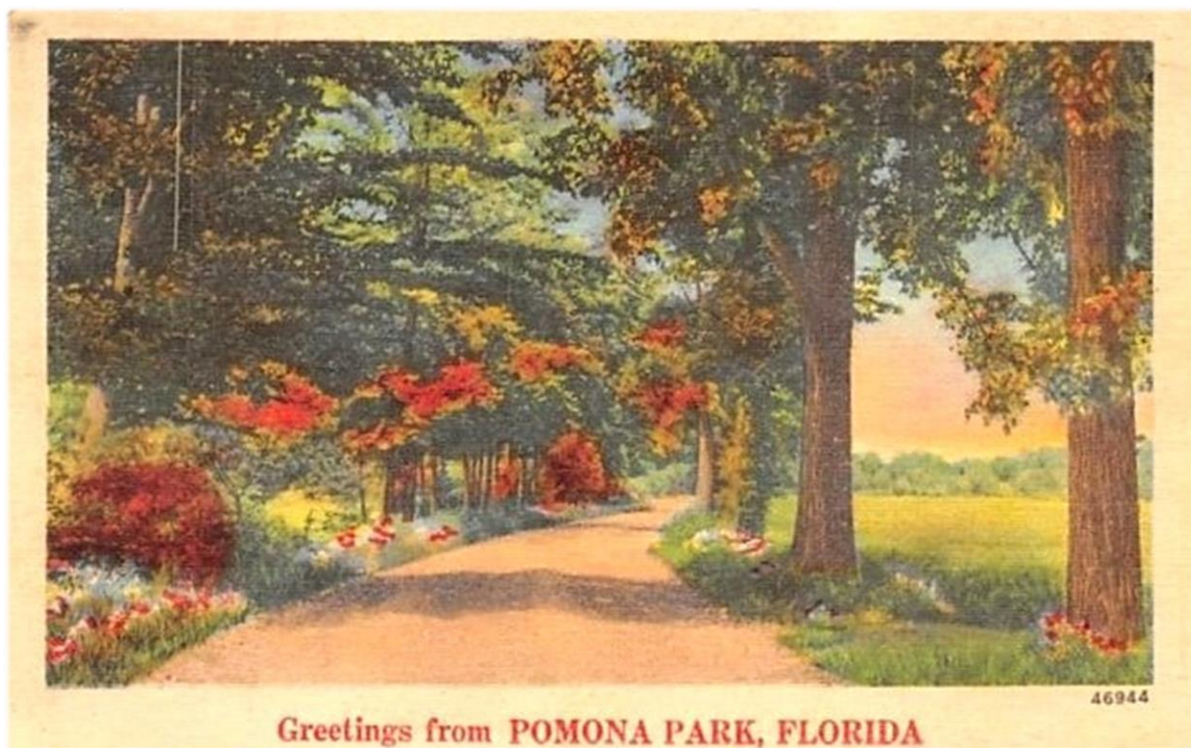
World Letter Writing Day. <https://www.worldletterwritingday.com>

National Postal Museum. <https://postalmuseum.si.edu>

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/1805-10-1980-15c-letter-writing/>

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-letter-writing-day/>

Autumn in Florida



Autumn and Fall refer to the same season, and their beginnings coincide because they are simply different names for the same period. The start of the season can be defined astronomically, as the autumnal equinox, or meteorologically, starting on September 1 in the Northern Hemisphere.

Canadian Counterfeits and Forgeries – Part II

Walter Koster

The Scott Cassic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers identifies a “forgery” as a reproduction created to defraud collectors. Two notorious forgers of Canadian stamps are alleged to be Albert C. Roessler (1883-1952) and Rowcliffe “Roy” Wrigley (1885–Unk).



Roessler of East Orange, New Jersey, a stamp dealer best known for his cacheted covers, is reported to be the creator of the infamous 1933 Canadian Airways Limited semi-official stamp essay. Genuine Canadian Airways stamps carry small circles in their lower left and right corners. Inside each circle is a Canada goose flying right to left. The bogus stamp (left) has only one circle, in the lower left corner, with the goose flying left to right.

Wrigley of Vancouver, B.C., was a well-known dealer, catalog publisher, and promoter with a seemingly endless supply of 5-hole and 4-hole OHMS perforated stamps or “perfins,” as well as numerous perforation machines. Though Wrigley was never proven in court to have done anything wrong, he agreed to transfer the collection by way of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the former National Postal Museum, which defaced all of his stamps with a “counterfeit” mark. Front and reverse views of a 13¢ deep blue Halifax Harbor perforated 5-hole OHMS official (Scott #0A242) shown at right.



Common forgery techniques include bogus cancellations, overprints, added or clipped perforations, and other design alterations. Genuine and forged 1915 Canada War Tax overprint, 5¢ revenue stamps (Scott #MR2A) featuring King George V are shown at left, with the forgery on the right. The fake high-value revenue was fabricated simply by printing “WAR TAX” over the face of a 5¢, deep blue, King George V Admiral (Scott #111) of which 189 million copies were issued.

The fake high-value revenue was fabricated simply by printing “WAR TAX” over the face of a 5¢, deep blue, King George V Admiral (Scott #111) of which 189 million copies were issued.

Fake double perforations on stamps, also known as "reperforations," are created by adding perforations to existing imperforate or single-perforated stamps, to make them appear as a rarer, double-perforated variety. Genuine perforations are typically uniform and consistent, while fake perforations may appear rough, uneven, or have inconsistent spacing. A block of 1978 14¢ "Ships" (Scott #776 – 779) with fake double perforations is at right.



Finally, how are forgeries different than essays, proofs, and specimen stamps? Essays are stamp designs that were submitted to postal authorities and ultimately not used. Proofs are trial printings of stamp designs, most often printed on thin India paper or card before they go into production. Specimens are postage stamps that serve as examples and most often punched, perforated, or overprinted "SPECIMEN," "MUESTRA," "SAGGIO," "MUSTER," or the equivalent terms in other languages.

References:

BNA Topics, Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society, February, 1973, Vol. 30, No. 2, Page 36, *Canada's Bogus Semi-Official Airmail*; Stamps:<http://bnaps.org/>
 Library and Archives Canada Blog: <https://thediscoverblog.com/2023/03/16/faked-forged-and-counterfeit-stamps-at-library-and-archives-canada/>; Canadian Stamps: Canada Faked / Forgery Stamps: <https://bwdavis.ca/canada---fakedforgery-stamps.html>; Faked, Forged and Counterfeit Stamps at Library and Archives Canada: <https://thediscoverblog.com/2023/03/16/faked-forged-and-counterfeit-stamps-at-library-and-archives-canada/>
 Linn's Stamp News, "What are Essays, Proofs and Specimens?" <https://www.linns.com/insights/what-are-essays--proofs-and-specimens-.html>

Endnote:



"Forged or Genuine" is a monthly online feature of the American Philatelic Society at Stamps.Org. It will test your ability to identify stamp forgeries versus their genuine counterparts.

Queen Juliana

Michael Swope



Juliana Louise Emma Marie Wilhelmina (1909–2004) was Queen of the Netherlands from 1948 until her abdication in 1980. She was the only child of Queen Wilhelmina (1880-1962) and Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1876-1934). She received a private education and studied international law at the University of Leiden. In 1937, she married Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld (1911-2004), with whom she had four daughters: Beatrix, Irene, Margriet, and Christina. During the German invasion of the Netherlands in WWII, the royal family was evacuated to the United Kingdom. Juliana then relocated to Canada with her children, while Wilhelmina and Bernhard remained in Britain. The royal family returned to the Netherlands after its liberation in 1945.

Due to Wilhelmina's failing health, Juliana took over royal duties briefly in 1947 and on September 6, 1948, Wilhelmina abdicated and Juliana ascended to the Dutch throne. Her reign saw the decolonization and independence of the Dutch East Indies and Suriname. Queen Juliana was a very popular figure among the Dutch, but abdicated in favor of her eldest daughter, Beatrix in 1980.

Shown above is the first day cover commemorating the September 6, 1948, ascension to the Dutch throne by Queen Juliana. It is franked with the 10¢ vermilion, Queen Wilhelmina (Scott #302); the 10¢ dark brown, Queen Juliana (Scott #304); and, the 20¢ ultra, Queen Juliana (Scott #305) postage stamps. The cover was mailed to Detroit, Michigan, with illegible cancellations, from (on back panel) "Wolf's Stamp Business" in Rotterdam, Holland.