

Palm Beach Stamp Club

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NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Palm Beach Stamp Club
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American Philatelic Society
Chapter Affiliate #923
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September is a fitting time to revisit one of the mid-century commemoratives that quietly honors a cornerstone of American history: the 3¢ Rose Pink, Francis Scott Key postage stamp of 1948 (Scott #962). Issued on the 134th anniversary of Key's famous visit to the British fleet during the Battle of Baltimore, the stamp depicts him looking toward Fort McHenry, where the sight of the flag at dawn inspired the words that would become our national anthem. Its rose-tinted engraving and classic layout reflect the era's respect for historical subjects and the steady postwar interest in patriotic themes. As we begin a new season of collecting, this thoughtful issue reminds us how deeply American philately is intertwined with the nation's story. As we ease into autumn, it's a perfect moment to revisit this mid-century tribute and celebrate the history it preserves, one perforation at a time.

Stamp of the Month

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem which is later set to music and becomes our national anthem in 1931.



Scott # 962

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September 2026

A quick listen for postal fans - If you enjoy exploring the stories behind the stamps, *Mailin' It!* - the official United States Postal Service podcast, is a great way to dive deeper into the world of mail. Released every two weeks, each episode takes listeners behind the scenes of postal history, modern innovations, and even the cases handled by Postal Inspectors.

It's a fun, informative look at the people and ideas that keep America's mail moving. As we continue celebrating the nation's postal heritage—from historic Florida routes to national milestones—this podcast offers a fresh way to stay connected to the broader world of mail. Consider giving it a listen during your next sorting session or while preparing your latest exhibit. You may find that each episode adds a new layer of appreciation to the hobby we share.

For more information, paste the following Postal Service URL into your browser:

<https://www.usps.com/mailinit>

This link allows you to stream episodes, read summaries, and explore related postal topics.

Both the August 13th and 27th meetings were well attended with very active auctions. On the 13th Harry Clifford discussed “Fakes and Forgeries” that he acquired from Robert Burr’s estate. Dan Maddalino provided a presentation on General Electric Company advertising postal cards on the 27th.

Club members agreed not to reschedule the fourth Thursday meeting in November (it's Thanksgiving Day), however, voted in favor of meeting on the fourth Thursday in December (Christmas Eve day). The posted schedule on the website has been changed.

Plans are continuing for our club's fall stamp show at the West Palm Beach Embassy Suites on Saturday, October 31st. Advertising appears in the American Philatelic Societies events calendar, Linn's Stamp News, and Florida Stamps Shows.



September 5th, Florida Stamp Dealers Association Fall show. Saturday 10-5:30 at Civic Center, 641 Maitland Ave., 32751.

September 13th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne 32935.

October 6th, West Volusia Stamp Club, Collector to Collector Sale, Sanborn Activity Center, 815 S. Alabama Ave., Deland 32724

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Collecting Taiwan

Michael Rogers

The stamps of Taiwan (Republic of China) are actively collected in the United States and abroad. In particular, collectors who regard Taiwan as their homeland, regardless of where they now live, often collect Taiwanese stamps. Many formerly inexpensive and easy-to-find Taiwanese stamps are much more elusive and more costly today.

When Chiang Kai-shek's followers fled the mainland and occupied Formosa in 1945, the island needed to accommodate this huge population influx. The Republic of China was pronounced in 1949, and the island of Formosa became Taiwan.

New currency was adopted. To quickly provide postage stamps denominated in the currency, surcharge was the option. Using a nondenominated design of the 1949 green Chinese Flying Geese Over Globe stamp, five surcharged stamps (Scott 1007-11) were released on January 1, 1950. The surcharged stamps were denominated \$1 (1 Yuan), \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20. Retaining mint examples of these high-value stamps was beyond the financial reach of the few contemporary collectors. Therefore, relatively few mint examples were set aside for future collectors. Current catalogue value of the \$20 stamp (Scott 1011) is \$6,500.00, of which only 49,000 were issued.



Today, there are likely many more enthusiastic collectors who strive to own mint or used sets, hence the seemingly high prices. There are perhaps 200 major errors that exist for Taiwanese stamps of the 1950-61 classic era; however, the collector would not learn about them in a catalogue. Most of the errors are inexpensive, but difficult to find. Therefore, collections are formed one unusual item at a time, and knowledge flows from specialist to student through dialogue, reading, and study.

Anyone wanting to know more than the basics about collecting Taiwan should join the China Stamp Society. Its award-winning magazine, *China Clipper*, is published six times a year, and it often contains informative articles about Taiwanese stamps. To learn more, see <https://www.chinastampsociety.org>

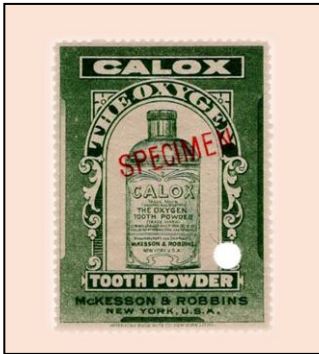
Reference:

Reprinted in part from Linn's Stamp News, October 16, 2000

McKesson

Keith Lichtman

Every month I seem to find something new to collect—and honestly, that’s half the fun of philately. Stamps and postal cards aren’t just paper; they’re doorways into history, economics, advertising, and sometimes even a little mystery. My latest discovery began with a postal card, but I want to begin here with a stamp I found along the way.



The Calox specimen stamp. While digging for McKesson & Robbins material, I came across a fascinating item: a pharmaceutical specimen stamp printed by the American Bank Note Company for McKesson & Robbins. It carries a punch cancel and promotes “Calox”, the oxygen tooth powder, patented in 1905. The product promised to purify the mouth, dissolve plaque, and whiten teeth—claims that were enthusiastically endorsed in newspapers by some of Hollywood’s biggest names of the era.

Despite the glamorous advertising, Calox didn’t survive the scrutiny of dental associations. By the 1930s, concerns over safety and misleading claims led to its discontinuation. Unfortunately, I could find no further information on why this stamp was produced or how it was used, but its existence hints at a time when pharmaceutical companies experimented with promotional formats far beyond the typical printed ad.

Exploring through postal cards: McKesson & Robbins, founded in 1833 and headquartered in New York City, grew into one of America’s major pharmaceutical wholesalers. Its corporate successor, McKesson Corporation, is now the largest pharmaceutical distributor in the United States. But long before modern logistics and barcodes, McKesson advertised its products through postal cards—many of which survive today as miniature windows into 19th-century medicine, nutrition, and commerce. I’ve found several of these cards, from the 1880s to the early 1900s and each tells a story.

ALBOLENE — Moisturizer of the 1880s (*See #1*)

The first card I found advertises Albolene, printed on a 1¢ Jefferson postal card (Scott UX9), postmarked Detroit, likely in the 1880s. Albolene was marketed as a moisturizing cleanser and makeup remover—and remarkably, it’s still sold today.

- 1880s price: \$1.00 per one-pound can
- 2026 price: \$9.97 per 12-oz jar (Walmart)

A product that’s lasted nearly 150 years is rare in pharmaceutical history, and seeing its early advertising on a postal card makes it even more appealing.

DIAMOND B.B. Extract of Beef — Nutrition and Medicine in One (*See #2*)

Next came a 1¢ Liberty postal card (Scott UX7), postmarked New York in 1882, advertising Diamond B.B. Extract of Beef. McKesson sold it for “culinary and pharmaceutical purposes,” promoting it as a high-quality nutritional and medicinal supplement. While McKesson no longer produces it, beef stock remains a kitchen staple—proof that some ideas never really disappear, they just evolve.

DIGERENTIA — Food for the Brain (Or So They Said) (*See #3*)

My third card, on a 1¢ UX5 postal card, carries New York and Detroit markings and advertises Digerentia, a medicated lozenge sold as:

- Food for the brain and nervous system
- A preventive for nausea during pregnancy
- A treatment for dyspepsia (indigestion)

The brain-boosting claims didn’t hold up, but the indigestion relief apparently did. Digerentia is long gone, but today we have Alka-Seltzer—proof that some remedies simply get rebranded for new generations.

ROUGH ON RATS — A Darker Chapter (*See #4*)

My favorite card, however, is an order card—not an advertisement. It’s a 1¢ Jefferson postal card (Scott UX9), postmarked at New York in 1889, ordering six dozen cases of Rough on Rats for export to Cuba. McKesson didn’t manufacture the product; they acted as wholesalers. What they didn’t know was that Rough on Rats’ main ingredient was white arsenic. The product’s makers failed to disclose this, but people quickly discovered it worked just as well on humans as on rodents. Only in 1901 did the government force the company to label it as poison. When McKesson stopped distributing it remains unclear.

Conclusion: A New Collecting Path

What started with a single “Specimen” stamp led me into a surprisingly rich corner of postal history. These cards reveal how pharmaceutical companies marketed their products, how medicine evolved, and how advertising reflected the hopes—and sometimes the hazards—of the era.

So yes, I’ve found something new to collect again. And I suspect I’ll find something new next month too. That’s the joy of philately: every card, every stamp, every odd little artifact has a story waiting to be uncovered.

Addendum

#1 - Abolene

#2 - Diamond BB

#3 - Digerentia

#4 - Rough on Rats

#1

ALBOLENE.

As we are introducing this preparation in your city, you will undoubtedly have some prescriptions and orders for it.

FARRAND, WILLIAMS & CO., have Albolene in stock and can supply your needs.

You will find Albolene an excellent base for ointments, etc. The melting point being higher than other similar preparations, you will find it more satisfactory in warm weather than any other.

PRICE LIST.

For Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Use.

1 lb. cans.....	lb. 40	25 lb. cans.....	lb. 30
5 lb. cans.....	lb. 35	50 lb. cans.....	lb. 25

If "Perfumed" is desired in bulk, 10c. per lb. should be added.

For Toilet Purposes, Plain and Perfumed.

In very attractive style, for counter display, screw-top glass jars.

Retail at 15 cents; doz., \$1.75 Retail at 25 cents; doz., \$2.00 Retail at 40 cents; doz., \$3.50

Respectfully yours,
McKESSON & ROBBINS.

#2

Office of **McKESSON & ROBBINS,**
91 Fulton Street, New York.

We offer for sale

"DIAMOND B. B." brand EXTRACT of BEEF
for Culinary and Pharmaceutical purposes (Beef, Wine and Iron, etc.), at the following schedule:

1 lb. cans, 1.00 per can; 2 lb. cans, 1.90 per can;
lots of 25 lbs., 10 per cent. discount,
lots of 50 lbs., 15 per cent. discount.

Yours respectfully,
McKESSON & ROBBINS.

McK. & R.'s Pure Fruit Juices, in quart champagne bottles, 8.00 doz.

#3

DIGERENTIA

*A new formula, containing food for the Brain and Nervous System; and an effective remedy for **DYSPEPSIA** and Defective Nutrition. Also a reliable preventive of **NAUSEA** during **PREGNANCY**. The term **DIGERENTIA** is applied to a compound substance containing the active principals of the **GASTRIC JUICE** with **DIASTASE**.*

*This important preparation and valuable remedy is extensively recommended by **PHYSICIANS** for the most obstinate cases of **DYSPEPSIA**. It is Chemically Manufactured from **LACTO PHOSPHATE OF LIME, MAGNESIA and IRON, Pepsin, Diastase, Oil of JATAMANSIE and GLUCOSE**, in the form of a **MEDICATED LOZENGE**.*

Price 50 cts. per box; \$4.00 per doz.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL CO., 155 Broadway, N. Y.
Trade supplied by the Wholesale Agents,
McKESSON & ROBBINS, 91 Fulton St., New York.

#4

*McKesson & Robbins, Wholesale Druggists
Manufacturing Chemists,
91 Fulton Street, New York.* 7/6 1888

Dear Sir,

*Please send me
6 dozen Rough. in Rats
Spanish for Export
to Cuba*

*Respectfully
McKesson & Robbins
New York*

Export-19

#1

UNITED STATES
POSTAL CARD

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

*W. Caldwell
242 Grand River
City*

#2

UNITED STATES
POSTAL CARD

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.

*James M. Caldwell.
Detroit
Mich.*

#3

UNITED STATES
POSTAL CARD

WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

*Comfort Bros
Corner of Grand River & Third St.
Detroit
Mich.*

#4

UNITED STATES
POSTAL CARD

NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

*E. S. Wells
Jersey City
N. J.*

Sunday Delivery

Pat Hensley

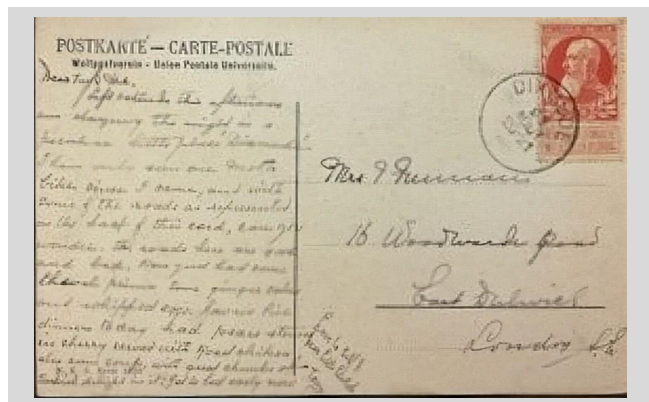
My husband recently rediscovered a postcard in his collection, and the stamp on it turned out to be far more interesting than we expected. It is the 10 centime, dull rose, Belgian King Leopold II definitive stamp (Scott #85), still bearing its famous Sunday Delivery Label. The stamp itself shows King Leopold II of Belgium, who reigned from 1865 to 1909, but the real curiosity lies in the perforated tab attached at the bottom. Printed in both French (*Ne Pas Livrer le Dimanche*) and Dutch (*Niet Bestellen op Zondag*), the inscription translates to “Do Not Deliver on Sunday.”



This small detachable tab is one of the most distinctive features of classic Belgian stamps. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Belgium Postal Administration delivered mail seven days a week. Many citizens objected to Sunday delivery for religious reasons, believing postal workers should be allowed to observe Sunday as a day of rest. To accommodate both viewpoints, the Belgian postal officials introduced an elegant solution: a perforated label beneath each stamp that allowed the sender to choose.

If the sender wanted the letter delivered on Sunday, they simply tore off the tab before mailing it. If they preferred the letter to be held until Monday, they left the tab attached. Postal clerks would then delay delivery whenever the tab remained intact. It was an early, clever form of customer-directed service—one that remains a charming footnote in postal history.

This postcard is a particularly nice example. The Sunday Delivery Label is still complete, and the cancellation ties both the stamp and the tab firmly to the card. Together they illustrate how the Belgian postal system once balanced efficiency with respect for religious tradition, giving senders a say in whether their mail should arrive on the Sabbath.



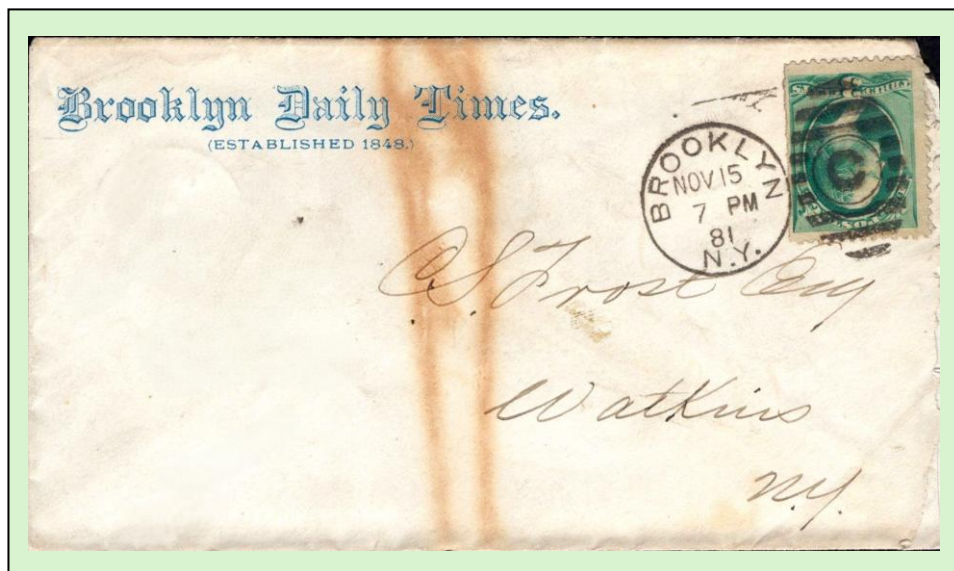
References

1. *Slania Stamps. Belgium 5 Centimes, 1912 with Imprint. Explains the bilingual inscription "Ne Pas Livrer le Dimanche / Niet Bestellen op Zondag" ("Do Not Deliver on Sunday") found on Belgian stamps with attached tabs.*
2. *Reddit – r/philately. New in My Collection. Collectors discuss the history of Belgium's Sunday delivery labels and explain that the tab remained attached if the sender did not want Sunday delivery, while it was removed if Sunday delivery was acceptable*

Brooklyn Daily Times

Keith Lichtman

Every now and then, a cover turns up that reminds us how much history can hide inside a simple envelope. That happened when I was sorting through a stack of old mail, hunting for fancy cancels. One envelope stopped me cold — a big, bold, beautifully clear Brooklyn postmark. Being from Brooklyn, I couldn't resist.



This Brooklyn Daily Times cover bears a crisp circular postmark “Brooklyn N.Y. NOV 15, 7 PM, 81” The killer is a letter “C” ellipse cancel. The postage stamp is a 3¢ green Washington (Scott #147), affixed upside-down, adding a bit of personality to the piece. On the back, a receiving mark - “WATKINS, N.Y., NOV 17”, completes the journey.

A newspaper with deep roots: The Brooklyn Daily Times had already been around for more than three decades when this cover was mailed. Founded in 1848 as the *Williamsburg Daily Times*, the paper changed its name after Brooklyn and Williamsburg unified in 1855. Politically, it aligned with the progressive wing of the Republican Party and supported the Abolition movement — a reminder that newspapers once wore their ideals proudly on the masthead. The Times identity shifted over time: in 1932, it was absorbed by the *Brooklyn Standard Union* and became the *Brooklyn Times-Union*. Just five years later, the *Brooklyn Eagle* purchased the Times-Union, and the Eagle itself ended in January 1955.

This 1881 cover isn't just a piece of mail — it's a snapshot of a newspaper, a city, and a moment in time. The upside-down Washington stamp, the Brooklyn and Watkins postmarks, and the connection to a long-gone but influential paper all come together to remind us why philately is so compelling. Every envelope has a story, and sometimes that story leads right back home.

References:

The Walt Witman Archives, *Brooklyn Daily Times*, <https://whitmanarchive.org/>

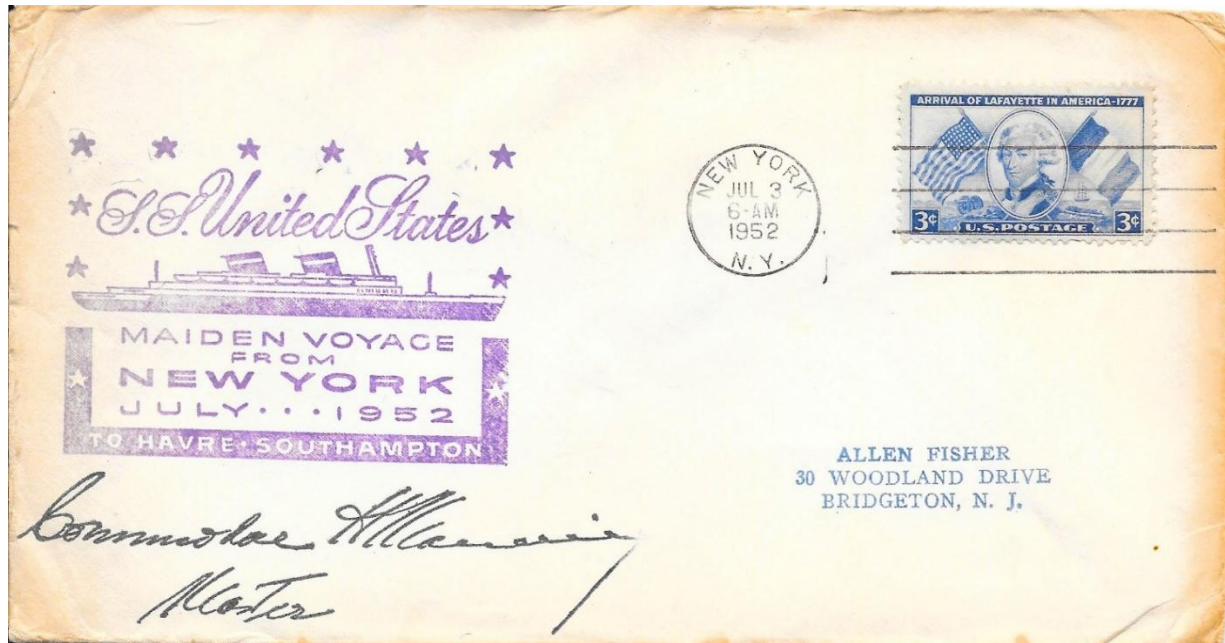
Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn_Times-Union

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn_Eagle

NYU Special Collections Search Portal / Center for Brooklyn History / Local Newspapers on Microfilm Collection / Brooklyn Standard Union (*The Standard Union*) https://findingaids.library.nyu.edu/cbh/bcms_0028/contents/aspace_ref58/

S.S. UNITED STATES

Michael Swope



Few philatelic items capture American maritime interest as vividly as a July 3, 1952, maiden-voyage cover from the S.S. *United States* — especially one signed by Commodore Harry Manning, the celebrated captain who guided the liner on her record-breaking debut. Under Manning’s command, the ship roared across the Atlantic and seized the Blue Riband, instantly becoming a Cold War-era symbol of American engineering at its finest. This cover is more than a souvenir. It’s a first-hand witness to the moment the United States reclaimed transatlantic supremacy.

Where the ship stands today: The S.S. *United States* has endured decades of lay-ups, sales, and uncertainty. Now stripped to her steel and resting in Mobile, Alabama, she is approaching what may be her final chapter. Okaloosa County (Florida) officials report that the 1952-built vessel has been fully remediated and is awaiting final approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency before she can be towed 22 miles offshore for a controlled sinking. If approved, the ship would become the world’s largest artificial reef — a quiet, solemn end for a vessel once known as “America’s Flagship.”

This cover preserves the moment of triumph before the long twilight, reminding us that history often survives not in steel, but in paper carried across oceans. It is franked with the 3¢, bright blue, Lafayette Issue postage stamp (Scott #1010) and cancelled at New York on July 3, 1952.

References: Cover from Author’s collection; Wikipedia.org