Palm Beach Stamp Club

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NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Palm Beach Stamp Club
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As November arrives and Floridians welcome cooler temperatures and the start of the holiday season, we also pause to observe Veterans Day and honor the men and women who have served our nation in times of war and peace.

The theme of service has long been reflected in American philately. From military mail carried across battlefields to commemorative stamps recognizing veterans, memorials, and acts of courage, our nation's postal history preserves countless stories of sacrifice and dedication. We are reminded that a veteran's contribution does not end with military service. Many continue to strengthen their communities through volunteer work, public service, leadership, and support for future generations.

Stamp of the Month

This Veterans Day, we extend our sincere gratitude to all veterans and their families and reflect on the enduring legacy they have left for future generations.



Scott # 3508

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November 2026

National Native American Heritage Month is observed in November, and it is appropriate to highlight the rich cultural contributions of Native Americans through philately. Throughout the years, the U.S. Postal Service has honored Native American leaders, artists, traditions, and achievements on numerous stamps. These issues offer collectors a meaningful opportunity to explore and appreciate the enduring legacy and diverse histories of America's first peoples.

For Florida collectors, these stamps also provide a connection to the state's own Native American heritage, including the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes, whose influence remains an important part of Florida's story.

Don't Forget to Fall Back! As November begins, most Floridians will turn their clocks back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1. While the evenings arrive a little earlier, collectors may find the extra hour a perfect opportunity to organize albums, sort covers, or enjoy some quiet time with their favorite stamps.

There was a moderate turnout at our October 8th meeting with a good auction. Keith Lichtman provided a presentation on "Cut Squares". The Lantana Library presentation on October 13th was well received. Some attendees said they wanted to sell collections and some plan to visit our stamp show. Hopefully we will see some new collectors from this group. U.S.P.S. community relations specialist Michelle Inman shared valuable information about Postal Service programs and looks forward to working the club show.

Our October 22nd meeting saw another moderate turnout with Keith Lichtman providing another presentation – this one using computer spreadsheets to inventory stamp collections.

Plans for the October 31st Stamp Show at the West Palm Beach Embassy Suites are complete, now with fourteen dealer tables reserved.

FloridaStampShows.com

November 8th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne 32935.

November 14th, Tampa Stamp & Coin Show At St. Lawrence Church, Higgins Hall, 9:30-3:00 on Saturday in Melbourne, 32935.

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Zeppelin Cover

Keith Lichtman

From my research on USS *Macon*, I have developed a fondness for zeppelin and airship covers, especially the ones I can actually afford. While browsing eBay recently, one cover immediately caught my attention. It wasn't the stamps that first drew me in, nor the postmark. It was the image of a Goodyear blimp soaring across the top of the envelope.



Once I took a closer look, I discovered the cover commemorated not one, but three different events: the centennial celebration of Wooster, Ohio; a visit by First Lady Lou Henry Hoover; and the first airship-to-airplane mail transfer service.

Founded in 1808 by John Bever, William Henry, and Joseph Larwill, the city of Wooster was named in honor of Revolutionary War General David Wooster. In 1932, the city celebrated its 100th anniversary with a series of special events, one of which brought First Lady Lou Henry Hoover to town. Mrs. Hoover received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the College of Wooster in recognition of her public service and her contributions to organizations such as the Girl Scouts. The honor also reflected her family's deep ties to the area, as some of her ancestors were among the early settlers and founders associated with Wooster's history.

On May 14, 1932, a special flight operated between the Goodyear Airship Dock in Akron and Wooster. During the event, mail carried aboard a Goodyear airship was transferred in midair to a waiting airplane, creating what was promoted as the first airship-to-airplane mail service. Such aviation experiments captured the public's imagination during the golden age of lighter-than-air travel, when airships were still viewed as a promising part of aviation's future.

The envelope is franked with four stamps from the 1932 Washington Bicentennial Issue, Scott Nos. 704 through 707, which together paid the 5¢ airmail rate. The stamps are tied by one complete and three partial circular date-stamps reading "Akron, Ohio, May 14, 9 PM." An unusual feature is that the year, 1932, appears outside the circular portion of the cancel.



Turning the cover over reveals another attractive cachet showing the Goodyear Airship Dock in Akron. The inscription reads, "Celebrating Wooster Centennial, 1st Airship-Airplane Mail Service," neatly summarizing the purpose of this fascinating flight.

What I enjoy most about covers like this is that they tell multiple stories at once. This single envelope connects local history, a First Lady's visit, early aviation, air mail development, and stamp collecting. For a collector interested in both postal history and airships, that combination makes for a very satisfying addition to the collection. After all, sometimes a cover is more than just an envelope, it's a small piece of American history that happened to travel through the mail.

FAMOUS AMERICAN AUTHORS

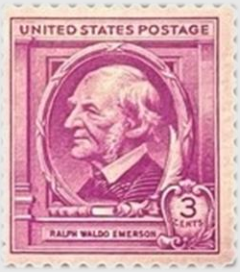
Pat Hensley



859



860



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863

The 1940 Famous Americans Series (#859-93) was a major group of U.S. commemorative postage stamps that honored 35 important Americans. The series was divided into seven groups: Authors, Poets, Educators, Scientists, Composers, Artists, and Inventors and were issued on January 29, 1940, beginning with the Authors group. The Post Office Department selected people who had made important contributions to American life and culture. The First Day of Issue ceremonies were usually held in places connected to the person being honored, such as their birthplace or a community where they had lived. This gave local communities an opportunity to celebrate their famous residents.

The Famous American Authors stamps honored five well-known writers: Washington Irving (#859, author of *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*), James Fenimore Cooper (#860, American frontier author, including *The Last of the Mohicans*), Ralph Waldo Emerson (#861, an important writer and thinker), Louisa May Alcott (#862, author of *Little Women*), and Samuel L. Clemens (#863, better by his pen name, Mark Twain and author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*). The five authors' stamps were issued between January 29 and February 13, 1940, in Tarrytown and Cooperstown, New York; Boston and Concord, Massachusetts; and Hannibal, Missouri.

The Famous Americans Series also provides an excellent connection to National Authors' Day, observed annually on November 1. The holiday originated in 1928 when Nellie Verne Burt McPherson, a teacher and president of the Bement, Illinois, Women's Club, proposed a day to recognize and appreciate American authors. The General Federation of Women's Clubs endorsed the idea in 1929, and the U.S. Department of Commerce officially recognized National Authors' Day in 1949. Today, November 1 offers an opportunity to revisit a favorite book, discover a new writer, or express appreciation to an author whose work has inspired us. The authors honored in the 1940 Famous Americans stamps serve as lasting reminders of how writers shape American culture and leave a legacy that influences future generations.

Do you like to read? I've loved reading since I was a little girl. I like reading fiction, but my husband likes reading nonfiction books. What is your favorite book or author? Mine is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

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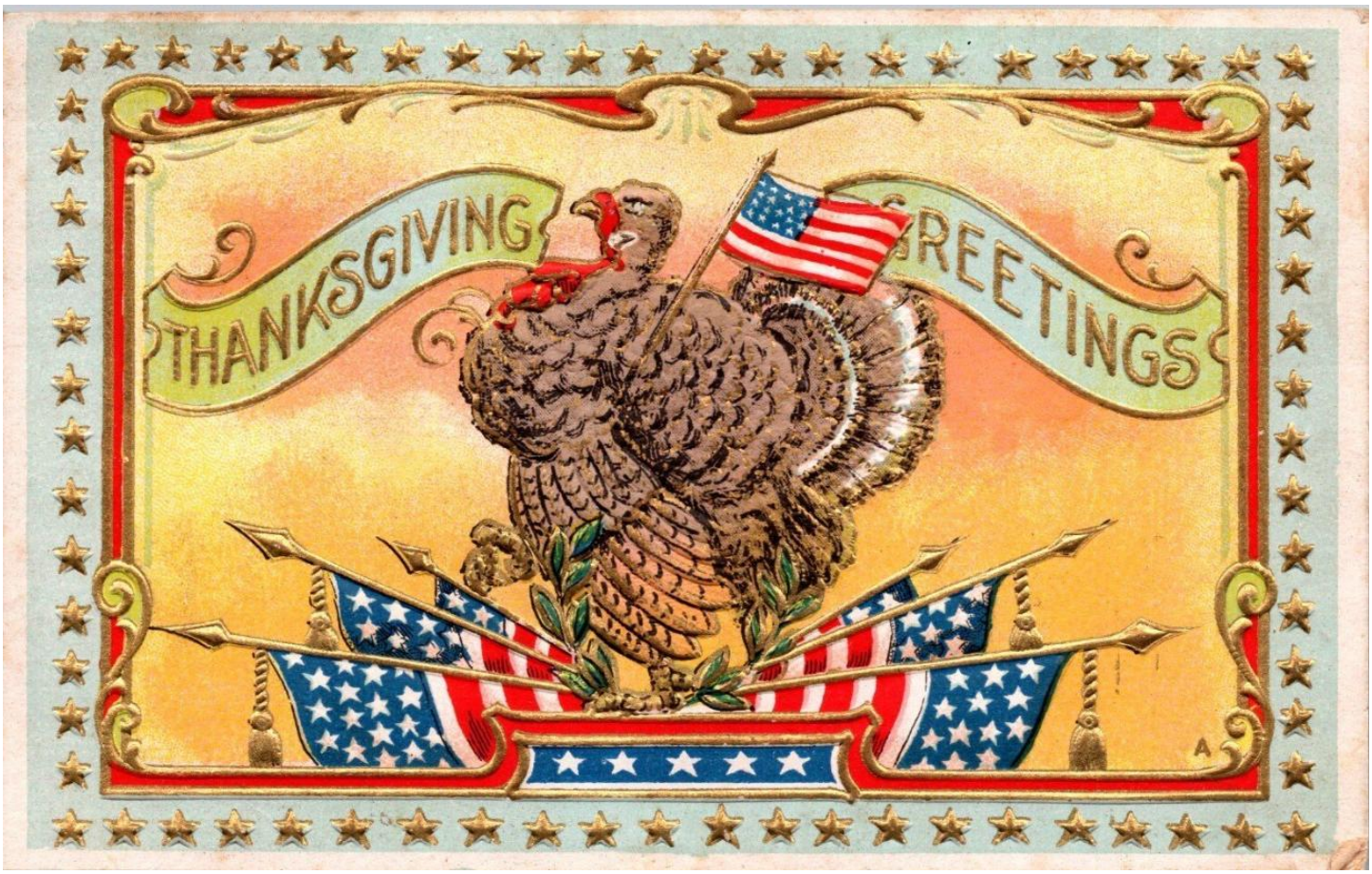
National Day Calendar – National Authors' Day
1947 U.S. – The Famous American Stamps of 1940
https://www.mysticstamp.com/859-93-1940-famous-americans-series-complete-set-35-stamps/
https://nationaltoday.com/national-authors-day/



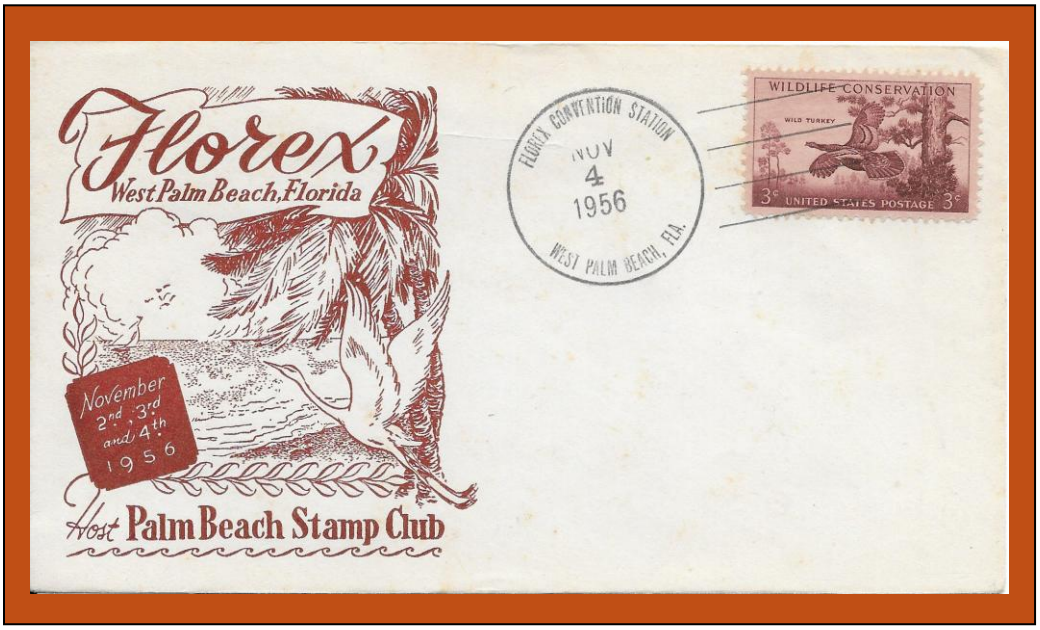
This Thanksgiving, we're thankful for the friendships, shared knowledge, and enthusiasm that make our stamp club such a special community. We wish all our members a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Florex 1956

Michael Swope

As stamp collectors gather for club meetings and exhibitions in November, it is worth looking back at one of Florida's early statewide philatelic events. Seventy years ago, collectors from across the Sunshine State traveled to West Palm Beach for the 1956 FLOREX convention, held on November 2, 3, and 4.

During postwar years, stamp collecting was enjoying great popularity throughout the United States. Local clubs flourished, exhibitions attracted enthusiastic crowds, and national & regional stamp shows provided opportunities for collectors to meet face-to-face, exchange knowledge, and add to their collections.



Florida was no exception. The 1956 FLOREX, hosted by the Palm Beach Stamp Club, brought together collectors, dealers, exhibitors, and club leaders from around the state. For many attendees, the convention offered far more than the opportunity to buy and sell stamps. It was a chance to share discoveries, view competitive exhibits, discuss new issues from around the world, and strengthen friendships within Florida's growing philatelic community.

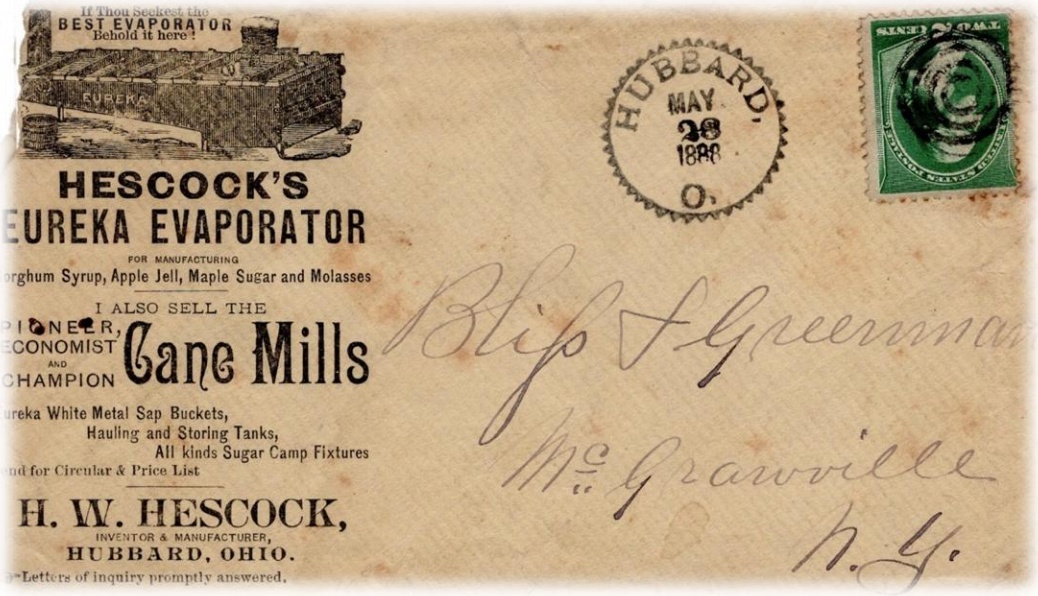
West Palm Beach provided an ideal setting for the gathering. November's pleasant weather welcomed visitors arriving from every corner of the state, while the convention demonstrated the increasing strength and organization of Florida philately. At a time when communication was still largely conducted through letters and postcards, stamp collecting served as a direct connection to history, geography, and world events. Conventions such as FLOREX helped transform a solitary hobby into a vibrant social activity.

The convention also stands as a reminder of the important role played by Florida stamp clubs in preserving and promoting the hobby. Long before online auctions, digital catalogs, and virtual meetings, collectors relied on local clubs and regional exhibitions to learn, trade, and expand their collections. The friendships developed through those organizations created a foundation that continues to support Florida philately today.

EUREKA!

Keith Lichtman

This old cover caught my eye. Not because of the illustration, the stamp, or even the postmark. What grabbed my attention was a single word: Eureka.



Funny how one word can suddenly bring back memories. "Eureka!" is one of those expressions that seems to belong to another era. Growing up, I remember hearing cartoon characters shout it whenever they make a great discovery. In my memory, it was usually followed by something like, "Eureka, I'm rich!" Of course, finding this cover isn't going to make me rich, but it did make me smile.

The word *eureka* comes from the ancient Greek expression meaning "I have found it!" and has long been associated with moments of discovery and inspiration. In a way, that's one of the joys of stamp collecting and postal history. Every cover, postcard, or old letter can reveal a small discovery about the people, businesses, and communities of the past.

This particular envelope advertised *Hescock's Eureka Evaporator* and was mailed on May 28, 1888. The cover bears a 2¢ green George Washington stamp, Scott #213, from the 1887 series. More than a century later, it still attracts attention, although probably not for the reasons its maker intended.

That is part of the charm of postal history. What was once an ordinary business envelope has become a small historical artifact. The stamp, postmark, advertising corner card, and even a single intriguing word all combine to tell a story.

Thanksgiving Auto Race

Michael Swope

As Thanksgiving approaches, most of us think of family gatherings, turkey dinners, and holiday traditions. Few people realize that Thanksgiving Day also marks an important milestone in American automotive history. On November 28, 1895, Frank Duryea won the first automobile race ever held in the United States, helping launch the American automobile industry and changing the way people traveled for generations to come.

The 1895 race was sponsored by the *Chicago Times-Herald*, which hoped to generate public interest in the new "horseless carriage." Originally, organizers planned a challenging 92-mile route between Chicago and Waukegan, Illinois. Mother Nature had other ideas. A fierce Thanksgiving snowstorm dumped nearly eight inches of snow on the area, forcing officials to shorten the course to approximately 50 miles between Chicago and Evanston and back again.

The event attracted tremendous interest. Eighty-nine entries were announced, but the blizzard reduced the field to only six starters. Competitors faced terrible road conditions, icy streets, deep snow, and mechanical problems. Among the entrants were three Benz automobiles imported from Germany, two electric vehicles, and a gasoline-powered Duryea Motor Wagon driven by Frank Duryea. Nearly ten hours after the race began, Duryea crossed the finish line victoriously. Only one other vehicle completed the course.

The victory earned the Duryea brothers a $2,000 prize and nationwide publicity. More importantly, it demonstrated that automobiles were practical machines rather than mere curiosities. During the following year, the Duryea Motor Wagon Company sold 13 automobiles, making it America's leading automobile manufacturer at the time. The race marked the beginning of automobile manufacturing as a serious business in the United States.

For collectors, Scott #3019, from the Antique Automobiles Issue serves as a fitting reminder of the transportation revolution that followed Duryea's snowy Thanksgiving triumph. Improved roads and reliable automobiles eventually helped make Rural Free Delivery more efficient, bringing mail and communication to millions of Americans living beyond city limits.

