

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



March 2025

This month we welcome new club member Andi Bardino. Our club has grown considerably since changes were implemented on January 1st, including our name change and venue change to the Mid-County Senior Center on Lake Worth Road in Palm Springs. Our gracious hosts have made us feel “at home.” Thank you to the senior center staff!

We welcome guest author Walter Koster again, who provides us this month with a commemorative cover article on an historically well-known person with genealogical connections to Florida.

Designated in 1995 by the United States Congress, March is National Irish Heritage month. We celebrate National Girl Scouts Day on March 12th (buy some cookies); Saint Patrick’s Day on the 17th; First day of Spring on the 20th; and finally, National Manatee Appreciation Day on the 26th.

Regards, Michael Swope

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*US Scott #974
Juliette Gordon Low
Girl Scouts Founder*

**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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March 2025

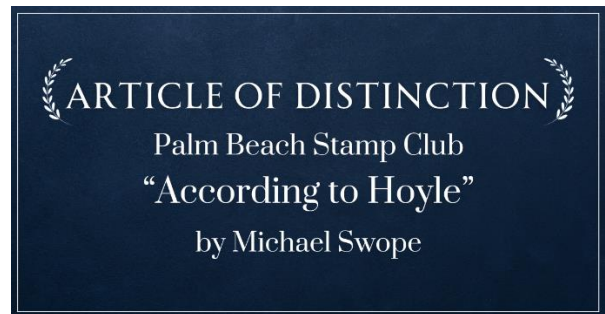
President Richard Kaye asked club members at both February meetings to provide recommendations for a venue to hold our Fall stamp show. Please send your ideas to Richard.

He also reminded members of the philatelic presentation our club is sponsoring at the Palm Beach County, Canyon Branch Library on Monday, March 3, 2025, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please register in advance to attend the program: <https://pbclibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/678a992011f6220660c462c7>. We are hoping for a large turnout.

Dan Maddalino presented an in-depth review of his Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, January 17-19, 2025, award-winning multi-frame exhibit on “Canadian Postage Stamps designed to Collect a War Tax for the First World War”, at our February 11th meeting.

At our February 25th meeting, Richard Kania presented an interesting slide-show, entitled “Who’s on First”. The program included facts regarding first-issued postage stamps of several countries.

Our new meeting location at the Palm Beach Mid-County Senior Center is working out very well. There has been an increase in membership and philatelic offerings. If you have not been to the new venue, you are missing wonderful opportunities.



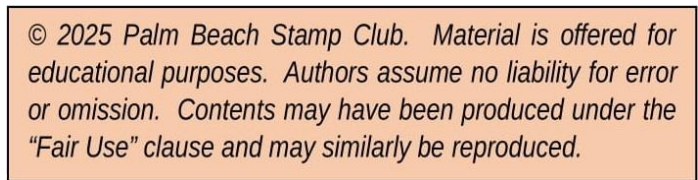
Recognized by the American Philatelic Society on February 10th, 2025, Palm Beach Stamp Club editor Michael Swope was awarded an “Article of Distinction” certificate.



March 1st, West Volusia Stamp Show, Saturday 10-3, American Legion Hall, 470 Summerhaven Ave., Debray 32713

March 22nd/23rd, TALLPEX 2025, Saturday & Sunday 10-5, 10-3, at the Tallahassee Seniors Center, 1400 N. Monroe, Tallahassee, 32303

March 22nd, Tampa Stamp & Coin Show, Saturday 9:30-3, at Higgins Hall, 5225 N. Hines, Tamps 33614



Japanese Stamps

Michael Rogers

Despite many collectors' unfamiliarity with the Japanese language, Japanese postage stamps are highly popular the world over. Japanese philately ranges from some of the most beautifully produced stamps to the crudely prepared issues of the 19th century. Most collectors based in the United States skip the classics. That's unfortunate.



While the vast majority of pre-1883 Japanese stamps (Scott #1-71) on the market are counterfeit, both the real and the fake are fun to pursue. Most counterfeits are difficult to detect, but collectors have access to a wealth of information to aid in their detection of these items. Wada Kotaro, Japan's most prolific forger, inscribed many of his creations with two Japanese characters – *mozo* or *sanko* – that mean “imitation”. In spite of the many forgeries, 19th century Japanese stamps are fascinating.

Condition-conscious collectors should understand that normal condition requirements are not applicable in 19th century Japanese philately. Owing to paper irregularities for most of these issues, many have condition problems that are quite acceptable to the astute collector. Early stamps are often found with pinholes because four positions per sheet of stamp paper were pierced as an integral part of the printing technique. Perforations were applied by hand, resulting in many irregular perforations. Short and damaged perforations abound, as does poor centering. These imperfections are typical and are most easily noted when viewing stamp multiples.

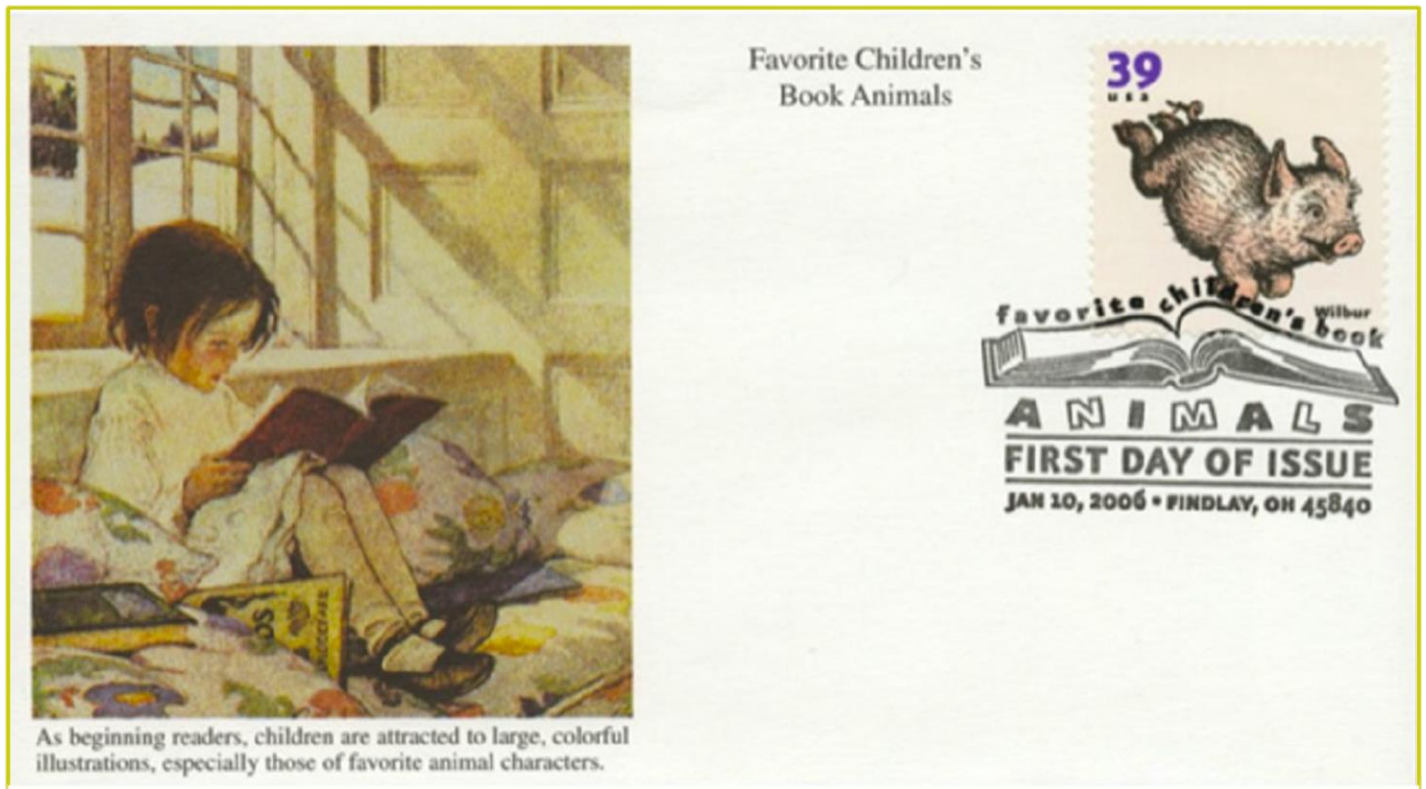
The imperforate, square-shaped Dragon stamps were first issued April 20, 1871. Rough and irregular perforated Dragons followed the next year with different denominations. The 1871 stamps depict a pair of wonderful dragons facing each other, with the denominations (48 Mon; 100m; 200m; and 500m) printed in Japanese characters called Kanji. Reflecting a currency change from Mon to Sen, the 1872 Dragon issue is denominated 1/2s; 1s; 2s; and 5s in corresponding colors.

The source for learning more about Japanese philately is membership to the International Society for Japanese Philately (www.isjp.org). From ISJP's website “The collection and study of Japanese stamps and the philately of related countries can be very intimidating. While the stamps are some of the most beautiful in the world, the early stamps of Japan are unique and challenging in many ways. There are forgeries, overprints, surcharges, perforation varieties, color varieties. So whether you are a beginning collector or have collected for years, the ISJP provides services and education to broaden your interests and your collecting enjoyment.”

Ref: Reprinted in part from *Linn's Stamp News*, July 17, 2000

It's All About Pigs

Pat Hensley



National Pig Day is celebrated every year on March 1st in the United States. It was created in 1972 by two sisters, Ellen Stanley and Mary Lynne Rave, to honor pigs. Pigs are very smart animals and can learn tricks just like dogs. They also have a strong sense of smell, which helps them find food in the ground. Some people celebrate this day by throwing pig-themed parties with decorations and pink-colored food. Zoos and farms sometimes have special events to teach people about pigs. Even though pigs do not sweat, they roll in mud to stay cool on hot days. This holiday helps people appreciate pigs for more than just bacon and ham. Pigs can also be great pets because they are friendly and love to play. National Pig Day is a fun way to learn about these amazing animals and their importance.

In 2006, the United States Postal Service released a special stamp featuring Wilbur, the beloved pig from E.B. White's classic children's book, "*Charlotte's Web*." This 39¢, Wilbur postage stamp (U.S. Scott #3988), was part of the "*Favorite Children's Book Animals*" series, which celebrated cherished characters from literature. The Wilbur stamp was issued on January 10, 2006, with first day ceremonies in Findlay, Ohio. The ceremony took place at the Mazza Museum, known for its collection of children's book illustrations.

The stamp showcases an illustration of Wilbur, capturing his innocent and endearing nature. Collectors and fans of the story were excited to see Wilbur honored in this way. The stamp not only celebrated the character but also highlighted the lasting impact of "*Charlotte's Web*" on readers.

The "*Favorite Children's Book Animals*" series also featured other iconic characters, making it a favorite among philatelists. The Wilbur stamp is a great piece for those who love stamps and classic children's stories.

"*Charlotte's Web*" tells the heartwarming story of Wilbur, a pig who befriends a wise spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur's life is in danger, Charlotte writes words in her web to praise him, such as "Some Pig" and "Terrific," to convince the farmer to spare him. This tale of friendship and loyalty has touched the hearts of readers since it was published in 1952. The book has been made into animated and live-action films. Wilbur's character emphasizes themes of kindness, innocence, and the importance of friendship. The story also teaches valuable lessons about life, death, and the cycles of nature. The popularity of the story is evident in its continued presence in schools and libraries and the release of the Wilbur stamp was a fitting tribute to this beloved character and his story.

The "*Favorite Children's Book Animals*" stamp series honored characters that have become integral to many childhoods. Alongside Wilbur, the series featured other memorable animals from children's literature. These stamps served as a celebration of the stories and characters that have inspired and entertained generations. For collectors, the series offered a chance to own a piece of literary history. The stamp's design captured the essence of Wilbur's character, making it a favorite among enthusiasts. The series also highlighted the importance of children's literature in shaping young minds. By featuring these characters, the USPS recognized the cultural significance of these stories. The stamps continue to be a reminder of the timeless tales that have left a lasting impact on readers. The Wilbur stamp stands out as a tribute to a story that emphasizes friendship, compassion, and the beauty of life's simple moments.

References:

National Day Archives. "National Pig Day." <https://www.nationaldayarchives.com/day/national-pig-day>

Pigasus. "National Pig Day History and Facts." <https://pigasus.org/national-pig-day>

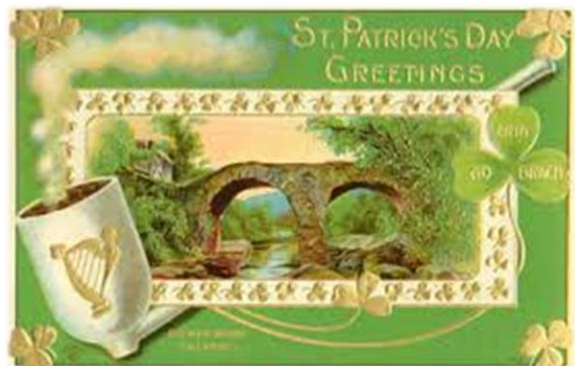
"USPS First Day Ceremony Program #3988 Wilbur the Pig Children's Book Animals." HipStamp, <https://www.hipstamp.com/listing/usps-first-day-ceremony-program-3988-wilbur-the-pig-childrens-book-animals/39231677>

"Wilbur - Charlotte's Web Wiki." Fandom, <https://charlottesweb.fandom.com/wiki/Wilbur>

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/3988-fdc-2006-39c-childrens-book-animals-wilbur/>

<https://www.holidayinsights.com/other/pigday.htm>

*Happy Saint Patrick's Day
Monday, March 17, 2025*



USS Macon, Last of the Navy's Dirigibles (Part I)

Keith Lichtman

Before I get into the story of the *U.S.S. Macon*, I want to explain differences between dirigibles, Zeppelins, and blimps. A dirigible is an airship that is lighter-than-air, has a rigid design, and can be steered. A Zeppelin is a dirigible, built in Germany by the Zeppelin Company. A blimp, on the other hand, has no rigid internal structure and will lose its shape if deflated. U.S. dirigibles use helium gas, where Zeppelins were forced to use the more flammable hydrogen gas. Helium gas was produced in the United States and banned from export.

The *U.S.S. Macon* was a dirigible built and operated by the U.S. Navy. It was designed for scouting and as an aircraft carrier. It was capable of carrying five Curtiss, F9C Sparrowhawk, fighter planes.

Construction on the *Macon* began at the Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation, Springfield, Ohio, in May, 1931. After World War I, and as part of war reparations, the German airship industry was reduced and Zeppelin operations forbidden. In 1924, Goodyear formed a joint interest company with the German Luftschiffbau Zeppelin company, of which Goodyear held 2/3 and the Zeppelin company 1/3 interest. Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation (1924-1941) was able to use Zeppelin's patents and a number of German engineers and technical staff moved to the United States.

Named after the city of Macon, Georgia, the cover (at right) honors *U.S.S. Macon's* christening on March 11, 1933. At right is the commemorative cover of christening at Akron, Ohio. It is franked with the 3¢ violet, General James E. Oglethorpe issue (Scott #726) and the 5¢ violet, Winged Globe issue (Scott #C16) postage stamps.

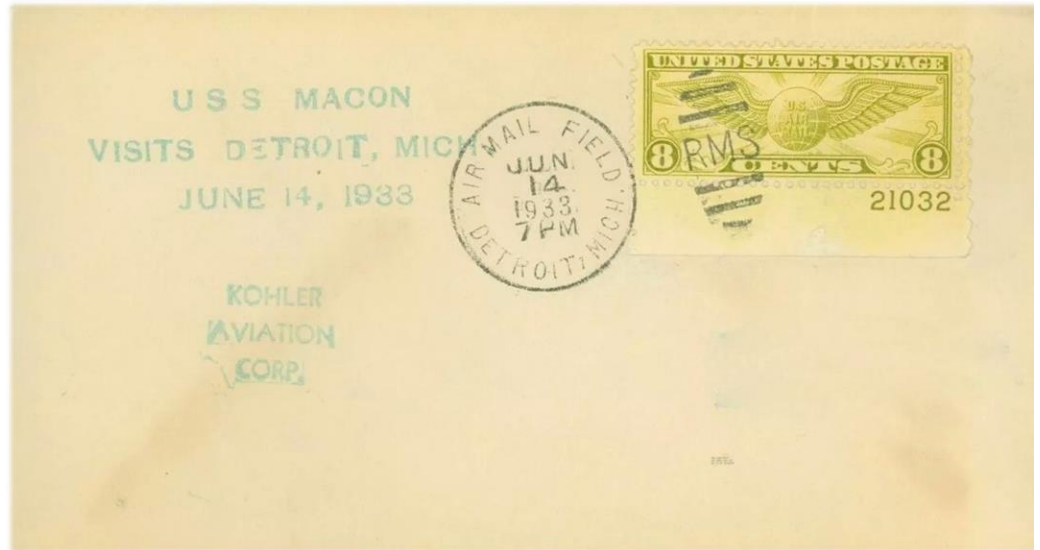


Macon's first flight occurred on April 21, 1933, when it flew for almost thirteen hours over the Akron, Ohio, countryside to conduct turning, climbing, and speed trials.



Shown at left is the U.S.S. Macon first flight cover. It is franked with an 8¢ olive bister, Winged Globe issue (Scott #C17) postage stamp and cancelled at Akron, Ohio on April 21, 1933. The first flight cache was produced by the Akron Chamber of Commerce.

On June 14, 1933, the U.S.S. Macon flew over Detroit, Michigan. and was honored with a cachet cover produced by the Kohler Aviation Corp. The 8¢ Winged Globe postage stamp is postmarked AIR MAIL FIELD DETROIT MICH. / JUN 14 1933 7PM.



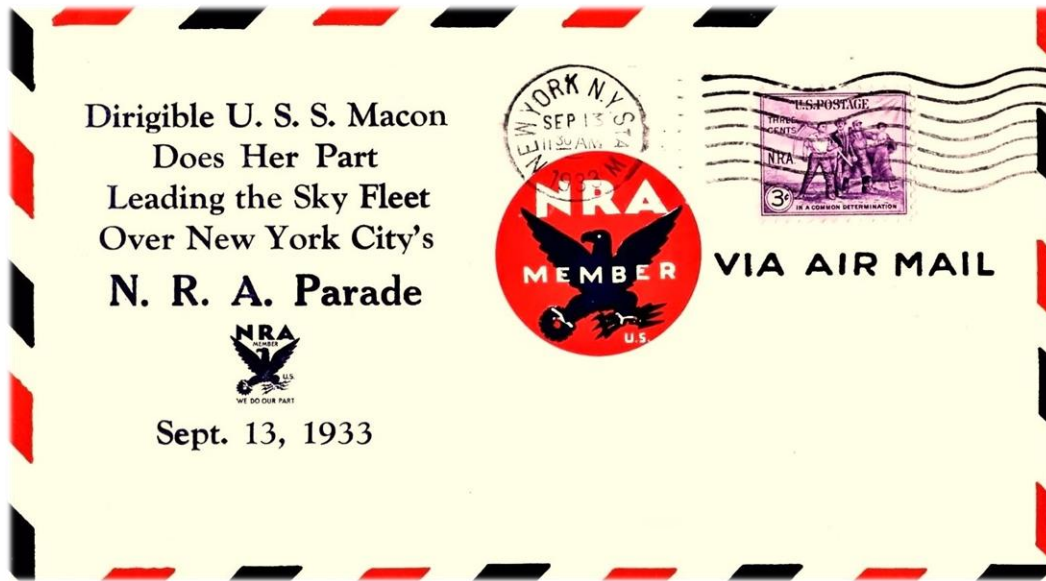
Commissioned on June 23, 1933, the Macon departed Goodyear's airfield at 8:20 p.m. bound for Lakehurst, New Jersey. The cachet cover (at left), bears a single Braddock's Field issue, 2¢ carmine rose, and two Peace-of-1783 issue, 3¢ violet stamps (Scott #688 & #727).

Arriving Lakehurst at 4:18 a.m., The *Macon* moored at the Naval Air Station around 6:00 a.m. The “Berthed” cachet (at right) is affixed with the 1¢ green Franklin and 2¢ carmine rose Washington postage stamps (Scott #522 & 707), cancelled on June 24, 1933 at Lakehurst, NJ



Beginning July 7, 1933, the *Macon* participated in fleet exercises which included trial flights for mid air trapping and docking of its Sparrowhawk aircraft planes. The commanders were able to develop doctrine and techniques for scouting missions, while remaining hidden from the opposing forces.

The *Macon* left Lakehurst on the evening of September 12, 1933 on a training mission up the Hudson River. She passed over Norton Heights, Connecticut at 10:00 p.m. and arrived in New York City on September 13th to lead the Sky Fleet over the National Recovery Administration's Parade. She continued her training mission passing the United States Military Academy, West Point and city of Yonkers, New York. Cachets were issued to commemorate the *Macon's* visit.



Featured (at left) is the National Recovery Administration's commemorative cachet, honoring the "U.S.S. Macon - Does Her Part, Leading the Sky Fleet over the New York City N.R.A. Parade." The souvenir cover bears the 3¢, National Recovery Act postage stamp (Scott #732).

On October 2, 1933, the *Macon* flew a 24 hour training and test flight. She left Lakehurst, New Jersey and flew over Chester, Pennsylvania. The following day she flew over the Statue of Liberty and New York City heading out to Long Island Sound. Both events were commemorated with cachet covers.

Featured at right is the training and test flight over New York city and south cachet. The commemorative souvenir cover is franked with a under-paid 2¢ carmine rose, Ohio River Canalization issue postage stamp (scott #681) and cancelled at New York on October 3, 1933.



October 12, 1933, the *Macon* departed Naval Air Station Lakehurst for her new home at Naval Air Station, Sunnyvale, California. She sailed a southern route taking her over Macon, Georgia on October 13th. Then heading west, *Macon* arrived at NAS Sunnyvale on October 15th completing the 2500 mile nonstop flight in about 70 hours. Cachet covers were issued at the start of her journey on October 12th; on October 13th as it flew over Macon, Georgia; and, her arrival at NAS Sunnyvale, Moffett Field, on the 15th.



Shown at left is a cacheted commemorative departure cover, franked with the 8¢ olive bister, Winged Globe air mail postage stamp. The cover was cancelled at Lakehurst, New Jersey on October 12, 1933.

Featured at right is a souvenir commemorative arrival cachet cover, provided by the Sunnyvale, California Chamber of Commerce. It is franked with a 2¢ carmine rose, Washington Bicentennial and two 3¢ violet, National Recovery Act stamps (Scott #707 & 732).



On October 27th & 28th, 1933, the *Macon* participated in the “Navy Day” two-day cruise. She flew along Los Angeles Harbor, between San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.



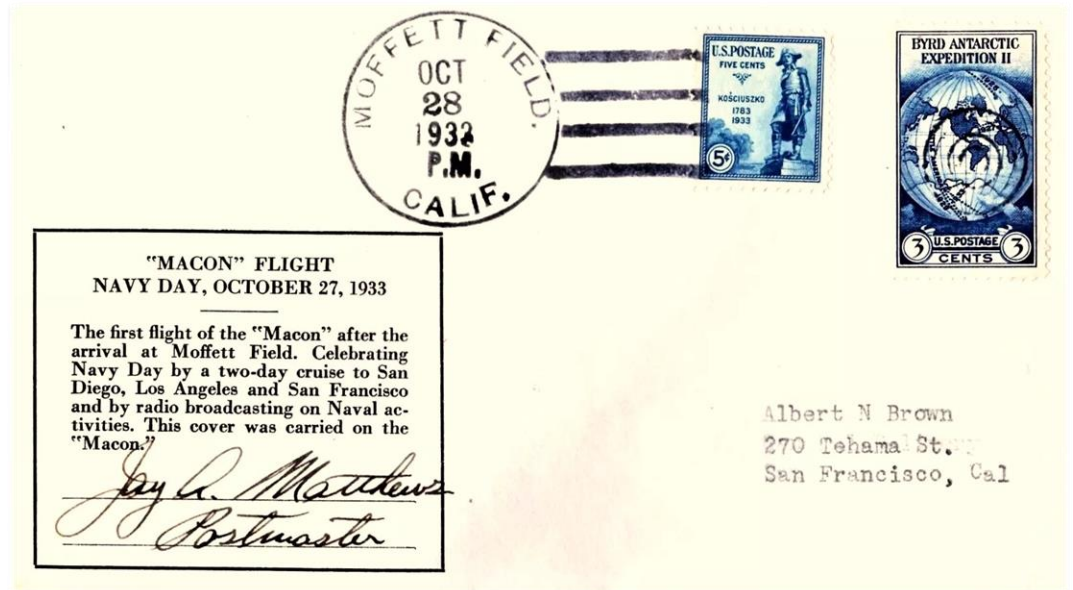
This commemorative “Navy Day” cacheted cover is franked with two 1¢ yellow-green, Century of Progress issue, Fort Dearborn stamps (Scott #728). The cancellation was made onboard the U.S.S. Pennsylvania, October 27, 1933.

The *Macon* was forbidden from carrying covers for collectors, however, on October 27, 1933 and November 17, 1933, an officer aboard the airship had done so. We do not know which officer had done this as it would have led to disciplinary action, but twenty-eight covers on each of the two days were carried onboard.

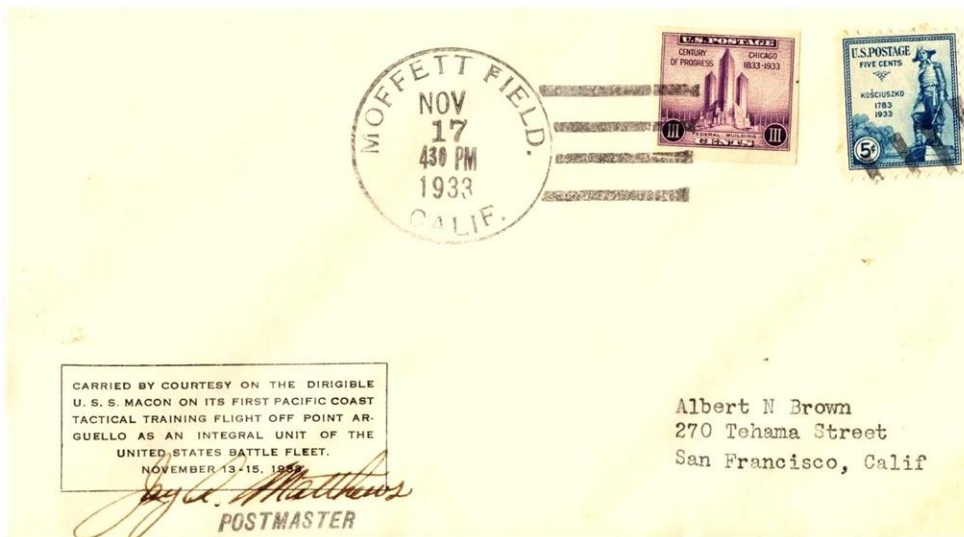
The cacheted covers were signed by Postmaster Jay Matthews at Moffett Field, acknowledging they were carried on *Macon* flights.

Covers of the first flight have a postmark of MOFFETT FIELD. OCT 28 1933 PM CALIF. and a cachet printed in black ink in a square that reads; "MACON" FLIGHT NAVY DAY, OCTOBER 27, 1933 The first flight of the "Macon" after the arrival at Moffett Field. Celebrating Navy Day by a two-day Cruise to San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and by radio broadcasting on Naval activities. This cover was carried on the "Macon." / (signed) Jay A. Matthews / Postmaster

Macon's first flight at Moffett Field commemorative cachet cover is franked with the 3¢ dark blue, Byrd Antarctic issue and 5¢ blue, Kosciuszko issue postage stamps (Scott #733 & 734). The cover was cancelled at Moffett Field on October 28, 1933.



Covers of the second flight have a postmark of MOFFETT FIELD. NOV 17 430 PM 1933 CALIF. and a rectangular cachet printed in the lower left that reads CARRIED BY COURTESY ON THE DIRIGIBLE U.S.S. MACON ON ITS FIRST PACIFIC COAST TACTICAL TRAINING FLIGHT OFF POINT ARGUELLO AS AN INTEGRAL UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES BATTLE FLEET NOVEMBER 13-15 1933 / (signed) Jay A. Matthews / Postmaster.



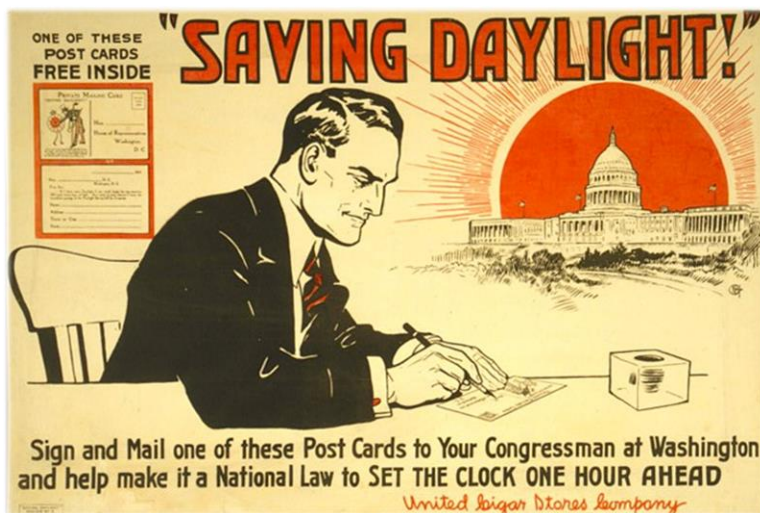
Macon's second Moffett Field flight cover is franked with the 3¢ violet, Century of Progress issue - Federal Building and a 5¢ blue, Kosciuszko issue postage stamps (Scott # 729 & 734). The cover was cancelled at Moffett Field on November 17, 1933.

The *U.S.S. Macon* began participating in maneuvers with the United States battle fleet on November 13th-16th, 1933. The event was commemorated over the multiple days with cachet covers from the U.S.S. Pennsylvania and other ships and Naval Stations along the California coast.

The *War Maneuvers* cachet (at right) is franked with a block of 1/2¢, olive brown, Washington Bicentennial stamps (Scott #704). It was cancelled aboard the U.S.S. Pennsylvania (at Sea) on November 13, 1933.



Ref:
U.S.S. Akron (ZRS-4) and U.S.S. Macon (ZRS-5), AIRSHIPS.NET <https://www.airships.net/us-navy-rigid-airships/uss-akron-macon/>; Lt. J. Gordon Vaeth, USN Reserve, US Naval Institute, *Naval History*, vol6 Number 1 March 1992; <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/1992/march/macon-last-queen-skies>
 Captain Lawrence B. Brennan, U.S. Navy (Ret.), NAVAL AIR STATION LAKEHURST, *The Last Two Lakehurst US Navy Dirigibles, USS AKRON (ZRS 4) and USS MACON (ZRS 5)*, From the Pages of NJPH February 2019 May 2019, https://njpostalhistory.org/media/pdf/LakehurstNAS_Pts_I_IIjph2019.pdf
USS Macon (ZRS-5), Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Macon_\(ZRS-5\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Macon_(ZRS-5))

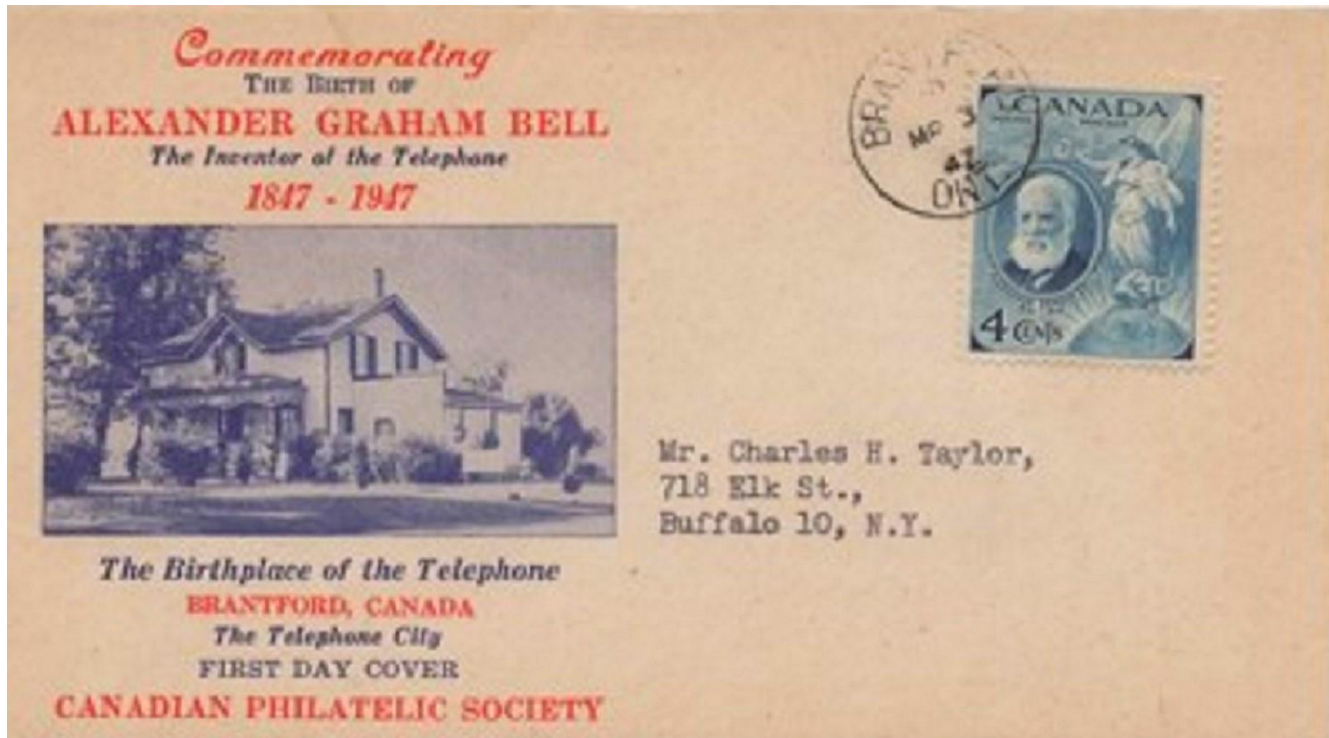


Spring Ahead

On Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00 a.m., daylight saving time (DST) will go into effect and last for 240 days to November 2nd. It is the practice of advancing clocks to make better use of the longer daylight available during summer, so that darkness falls at a later clock time.

Alexander Graham Bell

Walter Koster



Featured above is a First Day Cover (FDC) created and sponsored by The Canadian Philatelic Society to commemorate the centennial birth of Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) and Brantford, Canada, as “The Birthplace of the Telephone.” The cover is franked with a 4¢ deep blue Portrait of Alexander Graham Bell (Scott #274) postage stamp and carries a “Brantford, Ont., Mar 3, 47” circular date cancellation.

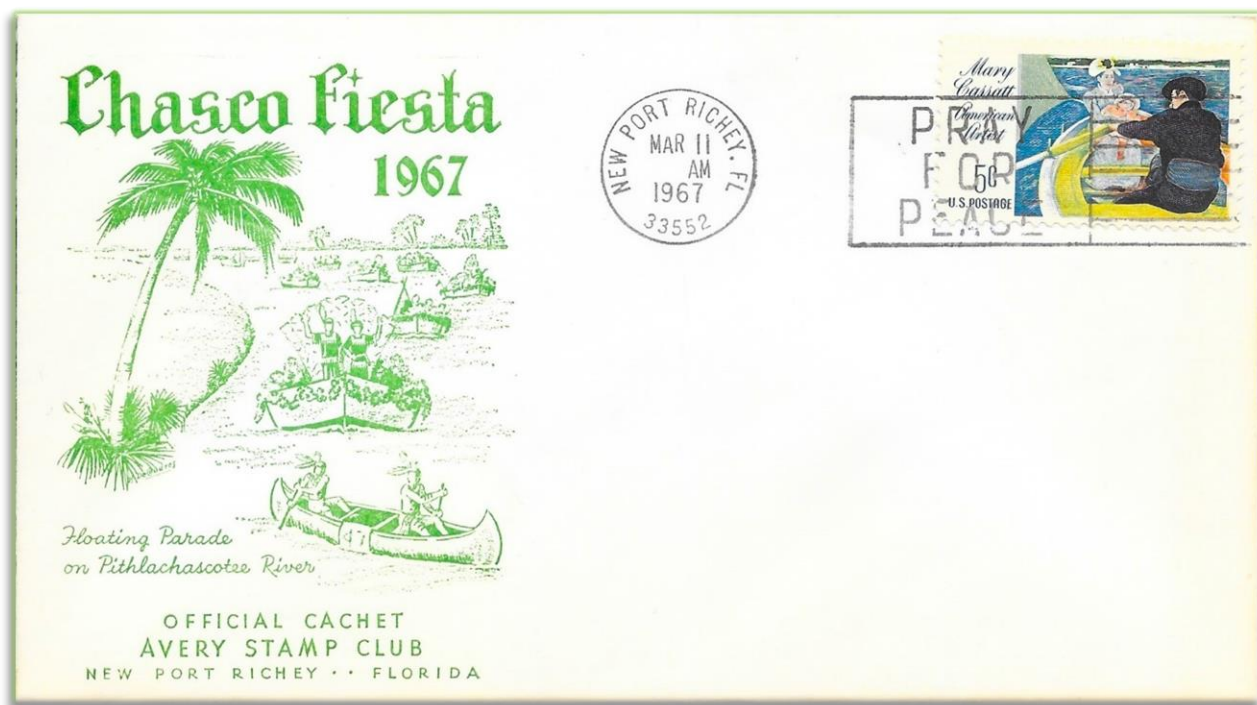
Born March 3, 1847, in Edinburgh, Scotland; Bell and his parents emigrated to Paris, Ontario, in 1870. The Bells soon purchased a 10.5-acre farm at Tutela Heights, near Brantford, Ontario. The telephone was actually invented at the farm with patent specifications prepared on July 26, 1874. However, despite having a patent, Bell did not have a fully functioning instrument. He produced the first intelligible speech at his Boston laboratory on March 10, 1876, by summoning assistant Thomas A. Watson from the next room with the words, “Mr. Watson—come here—I want to see you.”

Bell became a US citizen in 1882 and co-founded the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in 1885. He died at his summer home on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, on August 2, 1922. Bell’s grandson, Alexander Graham Bell Fairchild (1906-1994) was an entomologist and long-time resident of Florida, having lived in both Coconut Grove and Miami.

Ref: Britannica.com/biography/Alexander-Graham-Bell; Brantford.ca/en/things-to-do/bell-homestead.aspx

Chasco Fiesta

Michael Swope



Featured above is the New Port Richey, Florida, Avery Stamp Club's official 1967 *Chasco Fiesta* cacheted commemorative cover. The cover is franked with the 5¢, multicolored, Mary Cassatt Issue postage stamp and cancelled at New Port Richey on March 11, 1967.

The *Chasco Fiesta* is a respite from the work-a-day world where everyone in the New Port Richey area becomes a "friendly Indian." Presented for the first time in 1922, the *Chasco Fiesta* commemorates the Calusa Native American Indians, a tribe who lived in southwest Florida from at least 1000 AD until the mid-18th century. They were known for being fierce warriors who defended their lands from other tribes and European explorers.

The *Chasco Fiesta* was created by Gerben DeVries (1880-1953), the first postmaster of New Port Richey, Florida. DeVries was inspired by the area's Native American tribes and the Pithlachascotee River to create a fictional pageant based on the legend of Queen Chasco and King Pithla. The festival was originally a fundraiser for the local library.

From March 25th thru April 5th, 2025, honor the 103-year history and vibrant spirit of *Chasco Fiesta* at the annual celebration in Sims Park, New Port Richey. Enjoy an exciting lineup of events, including the iconic Native American Pow Wow, Street and Boat Parades, a Car Show, 5K Run, nightly live music spanning diverse genres—and so much more.



Ref: Cover from Author's collection; ChascoFiesta.com