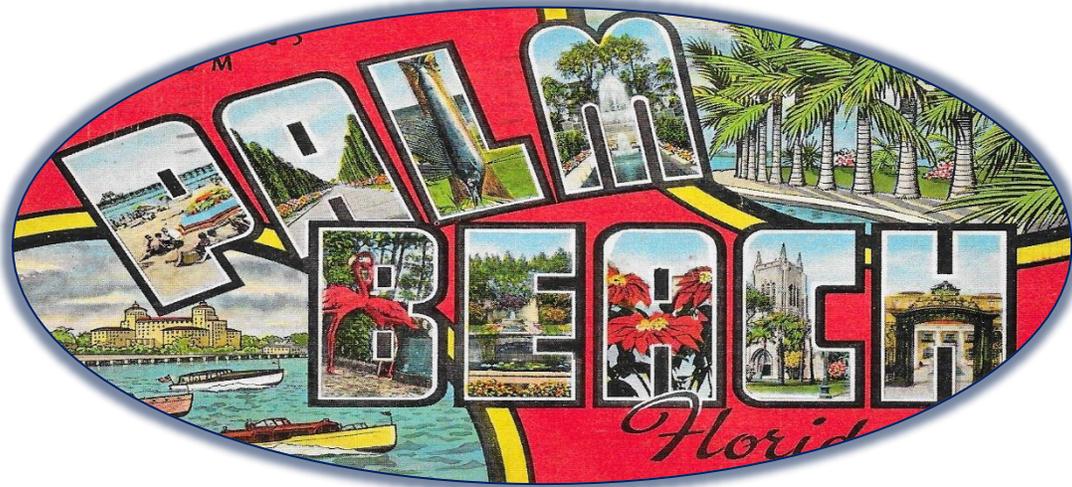


February 2024



Cresthaven Stamp Club Newsletter

This February we add a day to the end of our shortest month, referred to as “Leap Day”. This extra day every fourth year is a corrective measure that synchronizes the calendar with the earth’s almost year-long orbit around the sun. Without a Leap Day, a few hours would cumulatively disappear every year, eventually throwing off our calendar and seasons.

February is “National Heart Month”, a reminder for all of us to eat healthy and exercise regularly. How ironic is it then, that February is also “National Snack Food Month” (How did this happen?)! National Freedom Day is celebrated on the 1st; Groundhog Day on the 2nd; Valentines Day on the 14th; and, Presidents Day on the 17th.

Regards,
Michael Swope

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Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
See Website for Location:
www.cresthavenstamp.club



2023 APS Star Route Award

President: Richard Kaye
V-Pres: Kelley McDougall
Secretary: Pat Hensley
Treasurer: Harry Clifford
Liaison: Dan Maddalino
dmaddalino@aol.com
Editor: Michael Swope
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Cresthaven Stamp Club News



On January 9th, our club met at the Palm Beach County, Summit Branch Library, in West Palm Beach. Future meeting sites and other plans were discussed, along with our upcoming annual luncheon.



The American Philatelic Society announced the February launch of “StampEd”, a free quarterly digital magazine that invites the digital generation to connect with stamp collecting in new and exciting ways. We know the average age of stamp collectors is on the

rise and the longevity of the hobby is a significant concern for APS members.

StampEd is one of several steps being taken by the APS to spark interest in collecting among younger generations and create a strong foundation for the hobby moving into the future.



Welcome new club members – Hector Arvelo, Hal Chorney, Roger Dunham, Harold Landan, and Lee Malkin! We look forward to your participation in club activities.



Our annual luncheon and awards program was held on January 23rd at the Kingdom Buffett in Lake Worth Beach. Thanks to our secretary, Pat Hensley, for organizing this tasteful philatelic event.

The winners of 2023 Cresthaven Stamp Club Article of Distinction award are:

Gold – Dan Maddalino for “White Hall Makes the Cover”

Silver – Pat Hensley for “A Serial Killer, Murder Castle, and Post Office”

Bronze – Juan Riera for “Fishing with FDR”

Bronze – Michael Rogers for “Massaging the Bid”

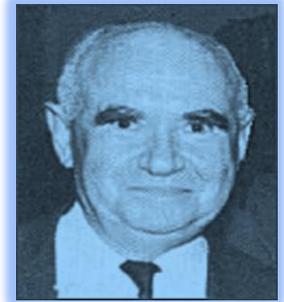
Next Club Meeting: February 13, 2024, at Summit Branch Library – **11:30 a.m.** Note the time change for this meeting!

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Jacques Minkus

Mike Rogers

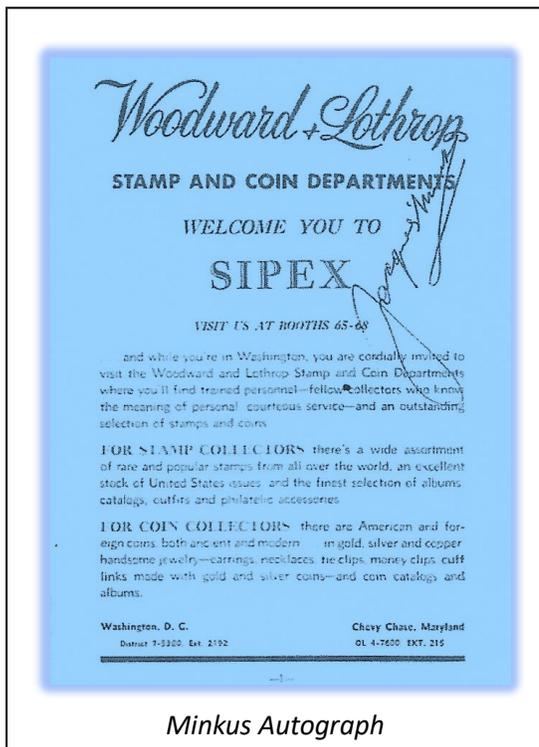
Jacques Minkus (1901-1996), emigrated to the United States in 1929 and established postage stamp counters for collectors at numerous department stores throughout the United States. His first counter was at Gimbels department store in Manhattan, in 1931. He published the Minkus New World-Wide Stamp Catalog beginning in 1955, along with hundreds of different stamp albums. He received the “Service to Philately Award: from the American Stamp Dealers Association in 1966; the American Philatelic Society’s “Luft Award” for exceptional contributions to philately in 1993; and, in 1997 he was elected to the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame.



Jacques Minkus

In May, 1966, I was a happy camper! I was at the biggest stamp show I’d ever seen – SIPEX in Washington, DC. As a seventeen-year-old growing up in New York City, there was no way that I could imagine that, just a few years later, I would be a stamp dealer – every collector’s fantasy!

Making sure I wouldn’t miss a thing; I purchased a show program. I walked the floor, gaining my bearings, planning where to spend hard earned money from mowing lawns. Buying Japan’s 1934 airmail souvenir sheet was my goal. Several were available, which required me to scrutinize prices and quality.



Minkus Autograph

About mid-day, I happened upon an icon – Jacques Minkus. There he was, tending the “Woodward & Lothrop” booth, one of his franchises. Greeting collectors, affable, European style charm, and a kind smile. He was a self-made man who placed stamp and coin shops on a franchise basis in department stores across the United States, creating thousands of collectors.

I felt drawn to Minkus, so I asked him for his autograph. He was genuinely perplexed: “You’re asking a stamp dealer for his autograph?” We exchanged pleasantries as I explained, I said anyone who came into this country and excelled was a role-model, like he and my own grandfather. I felt a rush that I could come to the show and meet one of philately’s giants.

Ref: Reprinted in part, *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector, Reminiscences*, September, 2011

Department of Florida National Woman's Relief Corps

Dan Maddalino

Postal history showing correspondence to and from the Department of Florida, National Woman's Relief Corps (NWRC), an Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), is quite scarce (Figure 1). It is a forgotten era. Florida's three H's (Heat, Humidity, and Hurricanes), fires, and floods have ravaged many small troves of old records. With no requirement to retain records of the NWRC Departments (States), most are lost¹.

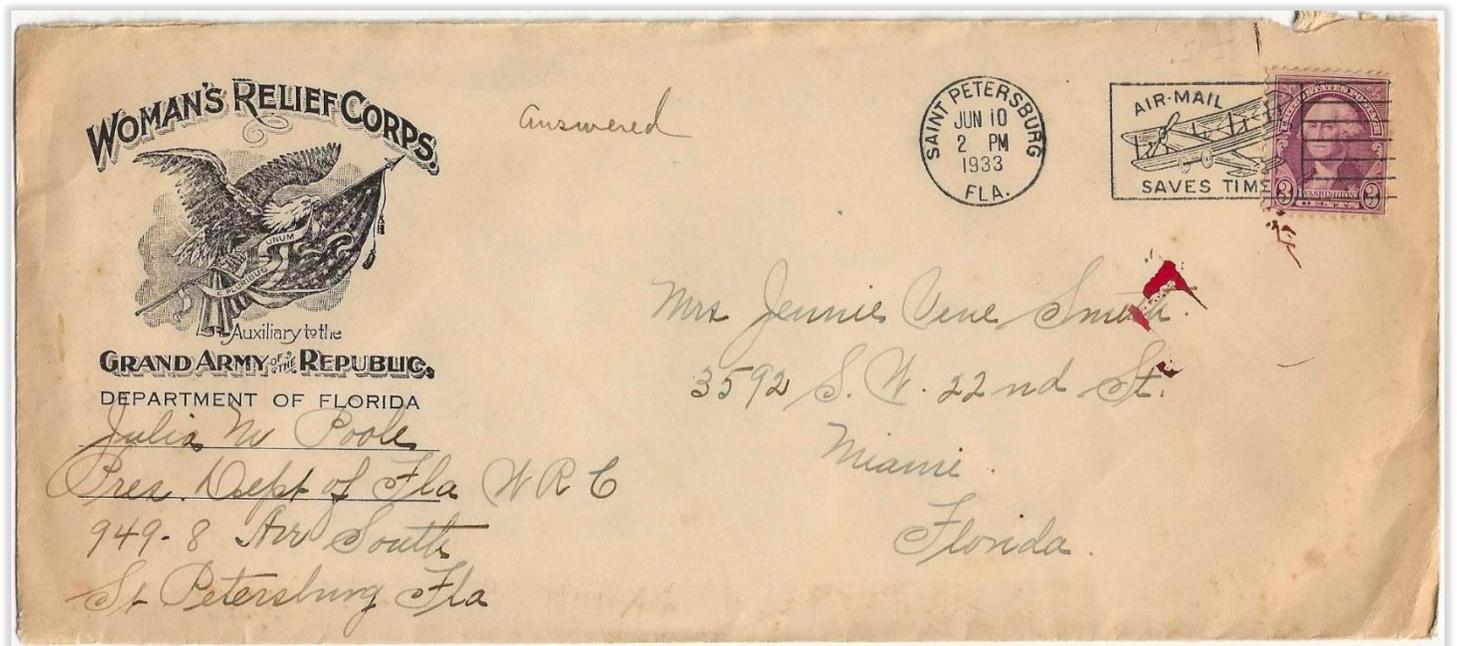


Figure 1

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was formed in 1866² as a soldier's aid society, organized to support the returning Union veterans of the US Civil War (1861-1865). Their motto was "Fraternity/ Charity/ Loyalty." They worked hard to aid and comfort the unfortunate Union veterans, who upon return from the war, were jobless, disabled, or discouraged. In addition, there were many widows and orphaned children who suffered from lack of the basic means for survival. An economic depression was crippling northern states and the GAR was a small organization which, at first, was not able to make a significant impact³.

In the early stages of the Civil War, as wounded veterans returned to their hometowns, small groups of women began to form local aid and relief circles. They cared for their friends and neighbors. These small relief groups blossomed and spread throughout the Union and Confederate States. By wars end, there were dozens of these small-town, women organized, charitable groups. In 1881, these women leaders saw the need for a national organization to

coordinate the relief efforts and begin large-scale fund-raising campaigns. So, in July of 1883, fifty-seven former Civil War nurses, representing their local relief groups, gathered in Denver, Colorado, to organize into one national (and more powerful) relief effort. With the support of the GAR the National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic was founded on July 25, 1883. They immediately went to work organizing each state's local group into Departments. The new NWRC modified the membership medal of the GAR as their stationery cachet. An example is shown in Figures 2a and 2b. The Department of Florida was founded at Jacksonville, in 1884⁴. As seen on Figure 1, and later, on Figure 3, The Department of Florida chose a bold, and more patriotic cachet.



Figure 2a

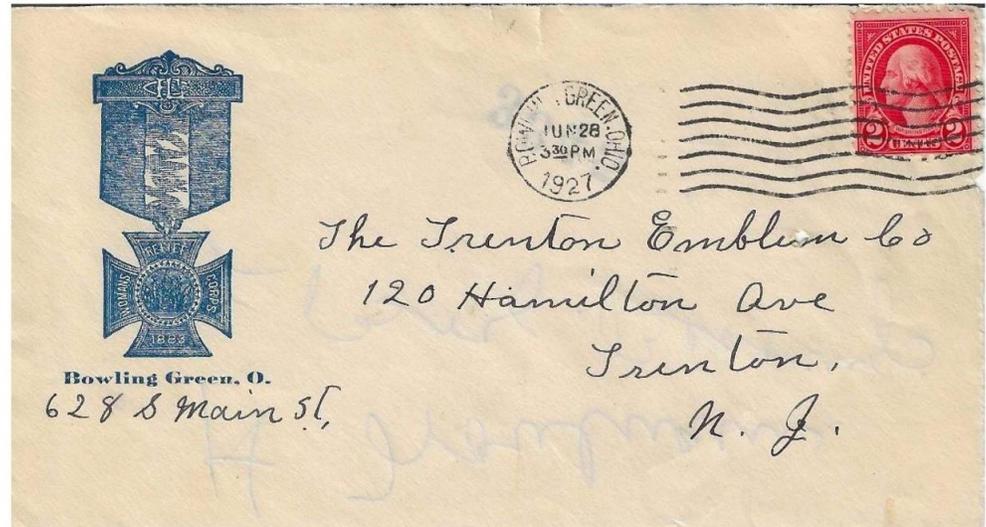


Figure 2b

The Department of Florida followed the Union veteran's example into northern Florida and set up local organizations called Posts⁵. In addition to Jacksonville, early Posts were established at Lynn Haven (Panama City), Eustis, Key West, and St. Petersburg/Tampa. Most GAR Posts had an organized NWRC affiliated with them and frequently shared meeting halls. By the turn of the 20th Century there were approximately 225 former Union soldiers making the ranks of the GAR in Florida⁴. By the early 1900's, membership in the GAR rose to more than 400,000 nationally. Eventually, there were 45 Posts in the State of Florida. However, age was on their heels. As membership began to decline, and to keep a pledge of memorializing Union Veterans, the Florida Department of the National Woman's Relief Corp turned their efforts towards monument building⁶.

During the 1930's, the Miami Post of the GAR was struggling to finance and build a monument to Union veterans. The Miami NWRC partnered with the GAR and by 1939, was successful in having a monument erected in Miami's Woodlawn Cemetery. Figure 3 shows the cover from Mrs. Grace Hahn communicating this accomplishment to the 1922 Past National President and then current project coordinator Marie L. Basham.

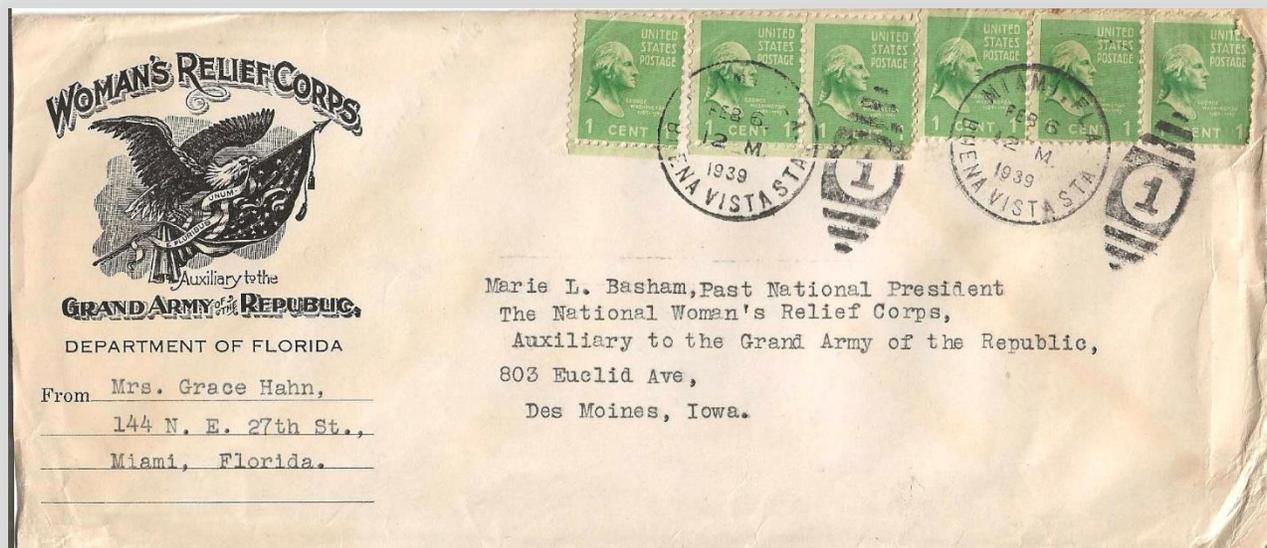


Figure 3

Mrs. Grace Hahn (Grace Houlette Hahn 1876-1971)⁷ was a prominent resident of Miami. Her husband, William Lloyd Hahn (1877-1937)⁸ served during the Spanish American War (1898) in the 1st Florida Volunteer Infantry⁹, and together in 1921, they constructed a hotel (today known as The Hahn Building) in downtown Miami¹⁰. Grace Hahn was an active leader in local, state, and national patriotic and charitable organizations¹¹. But, most importantly, she was the Star of the Miami Post, having served as Miami Post President, followed by the 1939 Presidency of the Department of Florida, and then in 1940, elected National President of the National Women's Relief Corps. Throughout its 141 years, she is the only corps member from Florida to have ever been elected National President.

Following the 1949 death of the last verified Union Veteran of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic lost its purpose and dissolved in 1959¹². By 2020, the National Woman's Relief Corps had shrunk in membership to less than 200 nationwide, but they remain in existence. Headquartered in Riverton, Illinois, they perform charitable projects and fund educational scholarships¹³.

The Florida Department of the National Woman's Relief Corps no longer exists. This forgotten era of the National Woman's Relief Corps, and Florida's star; Grace Hahn, is now only remembered through the scarce Florida postal history preserved and shared by collectors.

ENDNOTES

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All covers are from the collection of the author.



Club Member Awards at Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition

January 19 to 21, 2024

Congratulations to club members Dan Maddalino and Juan L. Riera for recognition at the "World Series of Philatelic Exhibitions" in Sarasota.

Philatelic – Single Frame

Dan Maddalino, "VERMEIL", for "Covers and Cards Tell the Story of the Woman's Relief Corps"

Literature

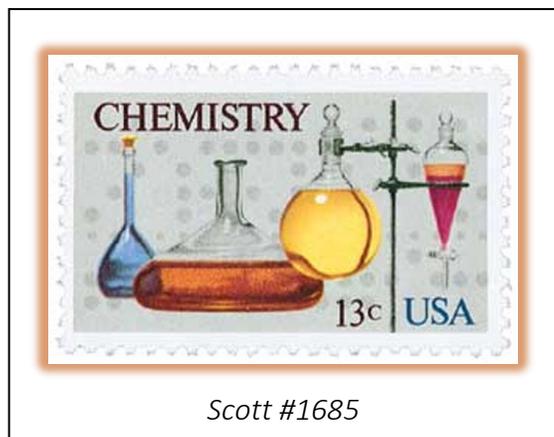
Juan L. Riera, "LARGE SILVER", for "The Barefoot Mailman"

Juan L. Riera, "SILVER", for "Aviation Rivalry Spurred on by Airmail"

Chemistry Centenary

Pat Hensley

February 7th is considered “Periodic Table Day” so, I wondered what stamps I could find to honor this day. I found the 13c Chemistry Centenary (Scott #1685). I confess that I was never very good with chemistry, but I’m glad that there are people out there who are.



This stamp was issued on April 6, 1976 to celebrate the American Chemical Society’s 100th anniversary. This design was created by Ken Davies and shows a variety of flasks, a funnel, and a computer tape. The multicolor postage stamp was printed on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s seven-color Andreotti gravure press in sheets of two hundred and distributed as panes of 50. In the selvage, one in each color used to print the sheet, are printed with Mr. Zip, “MAIL EARLY IN THE DAY,” electric eye markings and six plate numbers.

In early 1876, a group of chemists met at the home of a Columbia College professor and decided to form a local chemical society. Because they had received such a great response, they decided to make it a national society instead of just a local group. The organizational meeting took place on April 6, 1876 at the College of Pharmacy in New York City, where the American Chemical Society (ACS) was founded.

Today, the American Chemical Society has its headquarters in Washington DC and is chartered by the US Congress. It is one of the world’s largest scientific organizations with more than 173,000 members across 140 countries. Their mission is to “advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and all its people.” Their vision is to “improve all people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry.”

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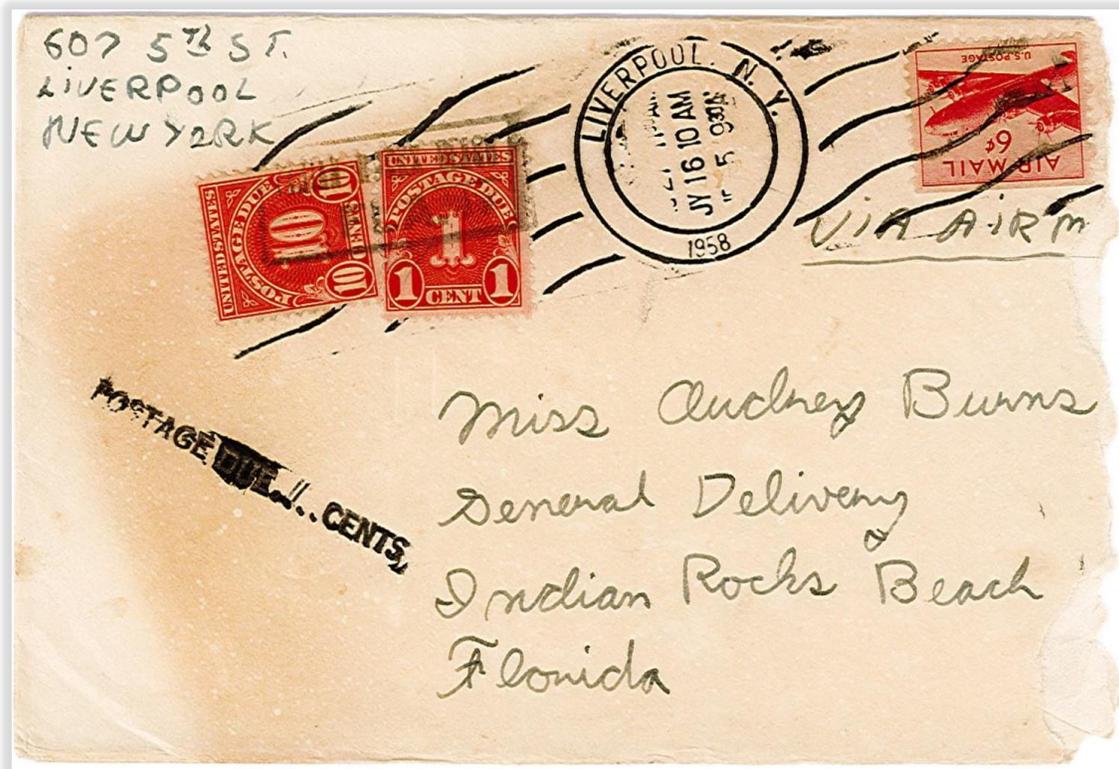
<https://www.mysticstamp.com/1685-1976-13c-chemistry-centenary/>

<https://www.acs.org/about.html>

Liverpool to Indian Rocks Beach

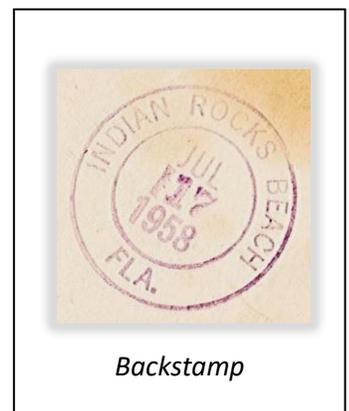
Juan L. Riera

I recently acquired a cover from a fellow Florida philatelist, which I find to be interesting in that it was mailed from Liverpool, New York, a tiny lakeside village with a long history; to Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, a tiny seaside village with a pretty short, recent history.



This airmail cover was cancelled in New York on July 16, 1958, at 9:30 a.m. and arrived the very next day at Indian Rocks Beach, July 17, 1958, according to the backstamp. The cover is affixed with a 6¢, carmine, "Transport Plane" airmail postage stamp, Scott #C39. It also bears two scarlet postage due stamps, the 1¢ and 10¢, Scott #'s J80a and J84a.

Indian Rocks Beach is a 1.89 square mile municipality on the barrier island of Sand Key in Pinellas County, and is part of the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. The municipality was incorporated in 1956, almost two years before the cover was sent. In 1960, the population of the city was just under 2,000 people. The city has over two miles of beach along the Gulf of Mexico with 26 public beach access points and, as is to be expected, tourism is the main or primary industry. The population hit a high point in 2000, with 5,000 residents, and has since been in decline.



Backstamp



The original post office opened in 1914 on a mainland dirt road leading to a ferry in the “Narrows” of the Intercoastal Waterway. In 1916, the ferry was replaced by a wooden swing bridge which was the only automobile bridge to the barrier island until that was replaced, in 1958, with the Walsingham Bridge. The current Indian Rocks Beach Post Office opened in 1960 at 204 4th Avenue, Zip 33785 & 33786.

The first postmaster, Dr. Max Friedlander, a physician, ran his medical practice behind the post office. He also housed a general store and a real estate office in a little wooden building. Next door, his wife Josephine, managed their Gulf View Hotel. Since that time, the post office has moved four times and remains the smallest post office in Pinellas County with 13 postal workers.

The letter was sent from Liverpool, New York, which is a shoreside village of Onondaga Lake and a northwestern suburb of Syracuse, with a 2020 population of just over 2,000. The area has been inhabited since the 16th century by Iroquois indigenous people, who were missionized by French-Canadian Jesuits. The village was incorporated in April, 1830, and early industry included salt works, a sawmill, and cigar manufacturing. The area also lay near the Erie Canal and on the Oswego Canal.

An interesting little cover, if you ask me.



Historic Mail by Air

The carriage of mail by air dates back much further in time than most collectors realize. The first service to be conducted over a period of time with some degree of regularity was arranged during the Siege of Paris, in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. The beleaguered city kept in touch with the rest of France by dispatching mail via balloon, with inbound mail delivered by carrier pigeon. Items carried by this service were generally marked “Par Ballon Monte” (By Piloted Balloon), and are highly prized by collectors.

George Washington Carver

Michael Swope



Dr. George Washington Carver (1864-1943), was a botanist and inventor who developed hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans. Born into slavery before it was outlawed, Carver left home at a young age to pursue education and went on to earn a master's degree in agricultural science from Iowa State University. At the urging of Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), Carver would go on to teach and conduct research at Tuskegee University, Alabama, for almost fifty years. Soon after his death, Carver's childhood home in Diamond Grove, Missouri, would be named a national monument—the first of its kind to honor a Black American.

Shown above is a first day (delayed posting) commemorative cover, affixed with a block of 3¢, bright red violet, George Washington Carver Issue stamps, Scott #953 (issued January 5, 1948); along with the 5¢, blue, Benjamin Franklin and the 10¢, brown orange, George Washington imperforate stamps from the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition Issue souvenir sheet, Scott #'s 948a and 948b. The cover bears a February 12, 1948, cancellation from the "Booker T. Washington Birthplace" at Hale's Ford, Westlake Corner, Virginia.

Of special note on this cover is the signature of Portia Washington Pittman (1883-1978), the daughter of Booker T. Washington.

References: Cover from Author's collection; History.com

Cresthaven Stamp Club “Articles of Distinction” 2023

Congratulations to our 2023 newsletter “Article of Distinction” award winners. Certificates were presented during our January 23, 2024 annual luncheon at Kingdom Buffett in Lake Worth Beach.



Gold – Dan Maddalino



Silver – Pat Hensley



Bronze – Michael Rogers



Bronze – Juan L. Riera

Thank You!

I would like to thank the members of the club and club newsletter editor Michael Swope for the 2023 Article of Distinction Gold Award. It has been and continues to be a pleasure to write for and about this great hobby of ours. Thanks again. *Dan Maddalino*