

# CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWS

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**PALM BEACHES OLDEST AND FRIENDLIEST STAMP CLUB**

**MARCH 2021**

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## STAMP & POSTCARD SHOW SATURDAY MARCH 20

BARKLEY VILLAS AUDITORIUM  
2605 Barkley Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
10AM – 4PM

### THIS MONTHS FEATURED ARTICLE

#### THE COPLEY PLAZA



[www.CRESTHAVENSTAMP.CLUB](http://www.CRESTHAVENSTAMP.CLUB)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Annual Meeting Schedule** can be found on our webpage: [www.cresthavenstamp.com](http://www.cresthavenstamp.com)

**Congratulations** to member **JUAN RIERA** for having his article The Islamorada, Florida Post Office make the cover of the latest issue of the Florida Postal History Journal. Great job!

**Thanks to Arnold Zenker** for donating to the Stamp Club News a good number of historical memorabilia and notices from past stamp clubs in Palm Beach County.



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## INFORMATION YOU NEED

### 2021 IMPORTANT CLUB CONTACTS

**PRESIDENT:** BOB BURR  
561-267-1903  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** ARNOLD ZENKER at meeting  
**SECRETARY:** MICKEY PANZER at meeting  
**TREASURER:** HARRY CLIFFORD at meeting  
**WEBMASTER:** MICHAEL SWOPE via [cresthavenstamp.club](http://cresthavenstamp.club)

**MEETINGS 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAYS**

**ALL MEETINGS  
1 PM – 3 PM**

**2605 Barkley Drive West,  
West Palm Beach, FL**

**FULL SCHEDULE AT  
[Cresthavenstamp.club](http://Cresthavenstamp.club)**

### ARTICLE & NEWS SUBMISSION

- **CALL or EMAIL US:**  
You may call me at 561.758.6497.  
**Please leave a message!** Thanks, Dan.
- **EMAIL:**  
[dmaddalino@aol.com](mailto:dmaddalino@aol.com)



# THE COPLEY PLAZA

By JUAN L. RIERA

Recently, on a business trip to St. Augustine, a business owner I have known for years who knows I am a postcard collector, gave me a gift that turned out to be an interesting piece of history. Although the postcard has seen its better days, it opened the door to research a Miami Beach landmark that I have gone by numerous times and have not noticed or given much attention to.

Depicted on the post card is the Copley Plaza (Figure 1), located at 3900 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida. Since the postcard was used for advertising purposes, it was difficult to determine when the card was produced or much other than its address, that it is an Art Deco hotel, based on the image and the address, and that it was old, from the advertisement: \$4.00 per day for a double room (Figure 2). A quick google search lead me to the ordinance in the Collins Waterfront Historic Designation Report adopted January 31, 2001 by the city of Miami Beach designating the area as an historic district. After reading the extensive report, I learned that the Copley Plaza was built in 1940, it confirmed that it was Deco architectural style, that it contributed to the historic district, and the architect who designed it was Albert Anis.



Figure 1: Front

This lead me to search out information on Albert Anis (1889-1964) and discover that he was the architect for a number of outstanding Art Deco style buildings in Chicago, Illinois in the 1920s, and hotels on Ocean Drive beginning in the mid-1930s. Listed as his most noted works are five hotels on Ocean Drive and three hotels on Collins Avenue – a block or two apart from each other. Copley Plaza is not listed as a most noted work, although several others without addresses are. Later works, in the 1940s, include two apartment buildings and Temple Emanuel.



Figure 2: Reverse

The historic preservation report also discussed that the Copley Plaza (Figure 3) was one of 45 hotels/apartments in what has become a Historic District of Miami Beach to be leased by the military during World War II. Copley Plaza specifically was used for returning combat veterans to spend two-to-three weeks of "R&R" while their pay was calculated, records processed, and they were either discharged or reassigned. Many of these returnees had been missing in action or prisoners of war. On December 29, 1945 the Pancoast was the last of the military hotels to be returned to civilian use.



Figure 3 showing military personnel

From what I read, by using Miami Beach facilities (hotels, motels, private residences, restaurants, etc.) rather than building from scratch for military training, R&R, etc, the military saved an estimated \$6 million and shortened the war by at least six months. I am not sure of the accuracy of that, but it makes sense.

But how old is the postcard since it does not have a cancellation? From the advertisement, I figure it has to be before 1960, as I know Motel 6 (founded in 1962) and Super 8 (founded in 1972) got their names from being priced \$6 and \$8.88 when they opened. So, the Copley Plaza postcard is from between 1949 and 1960. I then looked in the Florida Memory Project of the Florida State Library and Archives and discovered that this same postcard is in the state archives with a cancellation date of June 10, 1941. Thus, the postcard as designed has existed since June 1941, and because the hotel was in military hands from 1942 through the end of 1945, I would estimate, based on the price listed, that this postcard is from the mid-1950s. Hotels such as the Copley Plaza nowadays, in the off season, will run a couple hundred dollars and at the height of the tourist season, in the \$300-\$400 range per night.

## Sources

Figure 1: From the collection of the author

Figure 2: [www.floridamemory.com/item/show/330222](http://www.floridamemory.com/item/show/330222)

Figure 3: [www.cardcow.com/676790/miami-beach-florida-copley-plaza-hotel-collins-ave/](http://www.cardcow.com/676790/miami-beach-florida-copley-plaza-hotel-collins-ave/)



# FROM THE PUBLISHER ...

DAN MADDALINO dmaddalino@aol.com



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** “But, it’s March?”, you say. Yes, and I hope you’re having a very good first three months of it. You see, I am writing this during the first week of January. We are on a 60-day preparation and publishing schedule. This requires that all of the writing and assembly of your Newsletter be finished, and then sent to Betty Brodie for proofing 30 – 35 days before it appears in your email in-box. BTW we are also churning out a weekly newspaper article.

A year ago, February 2020, the Cresthaven Stamp Club was forced to suspend its meetings due to COVID-19. Fortunately, we returned to meeting, sharing, and fellowship by the end of the summer. If you look at our publication log you would not know that there was an interruption. We all received a monthly newsletter. The Lake Worth Herald Publishing, Inc received its weekly columns. I believe that this shows the strength and dedication of our fellow club members. Information, educational articles and stories were fed to me and together we kept the club members connected through your Stamp Club News. An example of our members teamwork, and the leadership of Bob Burr.

Another challenge that I am sure we all will step up and work as a team to keep it active, and a success, is the March 20 **West Palm Beach Stamp and Postcard Show**. There are many things to be done, but none of them are hard. Dedicate one Saturday this year (1/365<sup>th</sup> of this year) to promoting your pastime, your club, and your hobby. Stamp Collecting in Palm Beach County, and its surrounding area, needs organized philately. Give a few hours to make this a success. Contact Bob Burr now.



Our **FREE STUFF** table has been stocked with some great philatelic material and literature. While our **CLUB AUCTIONS** are the avenue most traveled to pass on un-needed items, the **FREE STUFF** table should not be overlooked for a fast way to find a great new home for your “extras.” Got too much stuff? Bring it all in and place it on the Clubs **FREE STUFF** table. It will thank you for finding a happy new home for it.

Have a great month!!!

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# US FIRST SE-TENANT BLOCK OF FOUR

## By PAT HENSLEY

In the 1964 Christmas issue, the Postmaster General decided to try something new in the form of four stamps together with different designs. The four stamps would show holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, and a pinecone (Scott #1254-1257). These were issued in sheets of 100 with each sheet having 25 blocks of four designs. Each stamp is printed in holiday red and green against a white background.

This first United States Post Office Department se-tenant printing of stamps was an important event in US philatelic history. The word "se-tenant" comes from a French expression meaning joined together. It refers to an unsevered pair or group of stamps that are different in design, denomination, surcharge, or overprint.

The mistletoe symbolizes peace, the holly symbolizes the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head, the poinsettia is the traditional Christmas flower, and pinecones represent evergreen trees which are symbols of eternal life.



Christmas stamps have always been popular with collectors and the general public. When these four-in-one block of holiday stamps were issued, collectors were excited that they could make up several combinations of the se-tenant pairs, either vertically or horizontally. This was the third Christmas issue, but the first se-tenant issue.

The US did have stamps with different designs from 1930-1950s. Even though these sheets had different images, they were considered souvenir sheets or miniature sheets that were imperforate and they showed reprints of previously issued stamps.

These four stamps were designed by Thomas Naegele. They were issued on November 9, 1964 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This was the first time the post office issued more than one stamp design on one sheet.

Illustration is in the public domain.

# STAMP CLUB NEWS



**If you haven't paid your 2021** stamp club dues by now, then you're not reading this. Persons not renewing as of February 15 were removed from the mailing list. Please remember to pay your club dues prior to December 31 of each year.

**FREE**

Every meeting we offer a **FREE STUFF** table. Please bring in and donate ANY and all types of philatelic items. We especially need philatelic **literature**. Magazines and catalogues, and, yes, even philatelic books.

**2021 CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB WEST PALM BEACH STAMP AND POST CARD SHOW AND SALE: MARCH 20, 2021. Be there!!!**

**Our Annual Meeting Schedule** can be found on our webpage: [www.cresthavenstamp.club](http://www.cresthavenstamp.club)

**TRADING SESSIONS:** New members: Don't be shy. Grab a used Target shopping bag and stuff it with those odds-and-ends you keep shuffling around to work on your core collection. That's all you need to do to bring it in and pour it out on a table and let the members and guests plow through it. Price it low and watch it go!



FloridaStampShows.com

The source for all show  
related information for the  
state of Florida





# THE FIX IS IN

By DAN MADDALINO

In old gangster movies when a con was set up it was often stated that “The fix is in”. All parties then knew that the payoff was soon to come. This statement applied to stamp issues from Chile in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The remote and almost uninhabited chain of Chilean Pacific islands that inspired the story of Robinson Crusoe was in no need of a stamp issue. In 1910, it got one anyway.

Since the first issue of 1853, almost every stamp of Chile had carried a portrait of Christopher Columbus (Figure 1), which is weird because Columbus never visited the country, nor even saw the Pacific Ocean. But the 1910 issue was the strangest of all.



Figure 1: 1901-1905 Definitives. Columbus, Columbus, Columbus, etc, etc, etc

A group of philatelic speculators enlisted Chilean postal officials to add some collector attraction to the country’s stamp program. They arranged for several values from the 1905 series, printed by the American Banknote Company, to be locally overprinted (with some values also surcharged) “Islas De Juan Fernandez” (Figure 2a & b next page).

It was a “Fix” (scam) from the start. The goal was to bring international attention from stamp collectors, because this remote and almost uninhabited island chain, 400 miles from the mainland is the location of “Robinson Crusoe’s Island”. That was where the



British privateer Alexander Selkirk had lived as a castaway for four years, and had been the bases for the novel by Daniel Defoe in 1719. Collectors would pay “big bucks” for these stamps.



Figure 2a & b  
Scott # 80 with surcharge “10 cts”

Scott # 82

Of course, these islands had no real postal need, and so the national government intervened, not wanting the country to be the butt of philatelic jokes. The solution was to make these overprinted stamps less attractive to the collecting world by making them available throughout Chile. This also wiped-out the scarcity factor.

As a result, collectors can find reasonably priced covers and cheap stamps with these overprints from all over Chile (Figure 3), except from these islands that is!!

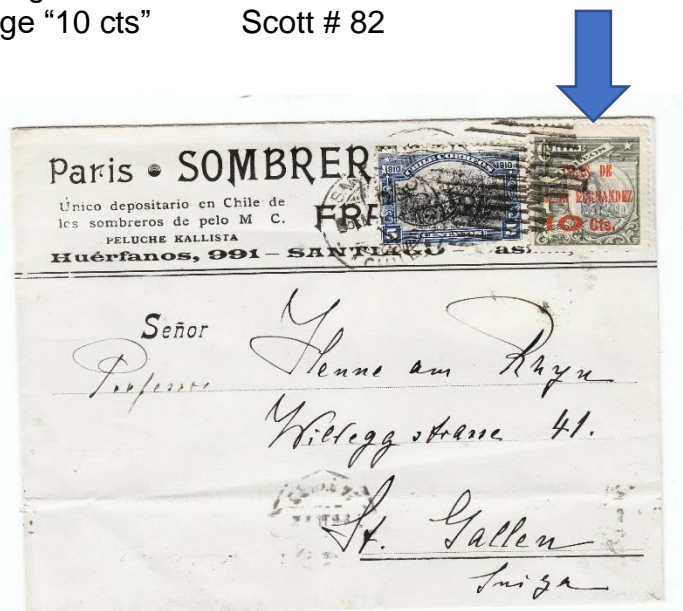


Figure 3: Chile “Islas De Juan Fernandez” on cover sent via Portugal to Switzerland 1911. Scott #80, with 10 cents surcharged.

All illustrations are in the public domain

Story concept from: Strange but True, John Winchester; www.stampmagazine.co.uk. January 2019

# CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS START AT 1:00 PM

**WE MEET:** 2605 Barkley Drive West, West Palm Beach, FL

JANUARY 12 MEMBERS MEETING  
**JANUARY 26 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

JULY 13 MEMBERS MEETING  
JULY 27 TRADING SESSION

FEBRUARY 9 MEMBERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23 TRADING SESSION

AUGUST 10 MEMBERS MEETING  
AUGUST 24 TRADING SESSION

MARCH 9 MEMBERS MEETING  
**MARCH 20 STAMP/POSTCARD SHOW**  
MARCH 23 TRADING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 14 MEMBERS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28 TRADING SESSION

APRIL 13 MEMBERS MEETING  
APRIL 27 TRADING SESSION

OCTOBER 12 MEMBERS MEETING  
OCTOBER 26 TRADING SESSION

MAY 11 MEMBERS MEETING  
MAY 25 TRADING SESSION

NOVEMBER 9 MEMBERS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 23 TRADING SESSION

JUNE 8 MEMBERS MEETING  
JUNE 22 TRADING SESSION

DECEMBER 14 MEMBERS MEETING  
DECEMBER 28 TRADING SESSION

## PALM BEACHES OLDEST AND FRIENDLIEST STAMP CLUB

FOUNDED 1970

[Cresthavenstamp.club](http://Cresthavenstamp.club)

PHILATELIC AUCTION AT EVERY MEETING

