

# CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWS

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**PALM BEACHES OLDEST AND FRIENDLIEST STAMP CLUB**

**MARCH 2022**

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## **MARCH IS “BUY LOCAL” MONTH**

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IMPERIAL BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY

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

# Philatelic Memorabilia

## Rattlesnake Island

By Michael Swope

Rattlesnake Island, often referred to as “the Pearl of Lake Erie” is an 85-acre island located eleven miles northeast of Port Clinton, Ohio, in Put-in-Bay Township. Considered a strategic location, it served as an American naval base during the war of 1812. In 1959, the island was sold to James Frackelton, M.D., a surgeon and owner of the Cleveland Stamp and Coin Company. Mail was then shuttled between the island and Port Clinton by airplane.



Shown here is a first class cover mailed from Rattlesnake Island, Ohio, and addressed to Saint Clair Shores, Michigan, via the Rattlesnake Island Local Post and the United States Postal Service. The cover has a 25¢ triangle-shaped local post stamp that features a Walleye fish; and the Rural America Issue 10¢ Chautauqua stamp (Scott #1505). Both stamps bear October 11, 1974, cancellations.

Frackelton started the “Rattlesnake Island Local Post” in 1966, probably as a philatelic venture (the contents of this envelope contained a local post stamp sale advertisement). According to author John Grow, the island operated the only United States Postal Service-sanctioned local post in the United States. The local post was permanently closed in 2013. Today, the island is a private, members-only club.

Ref:

*Rattlesnake Island Local Post, by John Grow, 2004, Wichita Stamp Club*

*Cover from authors collection*

*www.Wikipedia.com*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Spring WEST PALM BEACH STAMP AND POSTCARD SHOW will take place Saturday March 19 (10am – 4pm) at the Barkley Club House Auditorium. This is a spectacular opportunity to seek, and find, those special philatelic treasures you have been wanting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARCH IS BUY LOCAL MONTH  
START HERE**



FloridaStampShows.com

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



## **INFORMATION YOU NEED**

### **2022 IMPORTANT CLUB CONTACTS**

**PRESIDENT:** BOB BURR

561-267-1903

**VICE PRESIDENT:** JUAN

RIERA at meeting

**SECRETARY:** RICHARD

KAYE at meeting

**TREASURER:** HARRY

CLIFFORD at meeting

**WEBMASTER:** MICHAEL

SWOPE via

[www.cresthavenstamp.club](http://www.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**

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**#923**

CLUB FOUNDED 1970

## FROM THE PUBLISHER ...

DAN MADDALINO dmaddalino@aol.com



### ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS!

You have THREE (YES! THREE!) opportunities to participate in the March BUY LOCAL events. FIRST: The March 8 Stamp Club Meeting. Here is your chance to check your fellow members offerings before the Stamp Show. Fill some album slots before the general public gets their opportunity. Also, take the time to discuss your needs with our Dealer Members. Order from them and beat the March 19 rush. SECOND: Arrive early for the 10am start of the West Palm Beach Stamp and Postcard Show. Bring your WANT LISTS. Buy Local here at the show. If you can't find what is on your list, just ask. These dealers are willing to search their stocks after the show for your special items. Build a LOCAL relationship. It will save you money. THIRD: Return for the March 22 Stamp Club Meeting and finish out your search by, again, buying from your LOCAL fellow club members and dealer members. You will end the month very proud of the progress you've made with your collections.

**SKIP THE ONLINE AUCTION SITES. PASS ON THOSE NATIONAL SALES OFFERINGS. AVOID THE MAILORDERS. BUY LOCAL!**



**The Cresthaven Stamp Club News staff and article contributors have always encouraged reader feedback. All feedback, both positive and negative, is welcome and contributes to the growth and development of this publication. Thanks for your interest and keep reading and keep in touch.**

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# PODCASTS FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

## PAT HENSLEY



Want to hear more about stamps and stamp collecting? I did so I started searching for interesting podcasts about stamps and I was surprised how little there is to find. I wanted to share with you the ones that I found and hope you might find some that interest you. New and veteran stamp collectors would enjoy these shows. New collectors could be inspired by other stamp collectors! The best part about listening to podcasts is that you can listen to them whenever it is convenient for you. These are great to listen to while exercising or doing chores you hate to do.

I was able to find the first 5 on the podcast's app on my iPhone. Once I found them, I could subscribe to them and download any or all episodes that I was interested in. If you use an android phone, you can search for them in whatever podcast app that you use. I could only listen to or watch the last one (Our Dad Stamps) through the websites listed. If you know of any others, please share!

1, Stamp Show Here Today - This show talks about stamps, stamp collecting and postal history.

<http://stampshowheretoday.com/>

2. Stamp Stories - The host talks about Canadian stamps and the history behind them.

<https://anchor.fm/stamp-stories/episodes/Christmas-Stamps-1970-e1c11bt>

3. Conversations with Philatelists - The hosts interview philatelists around the world.

<https://www.philatelypodcast.com/>

4. Bob Collects Stamps - talks about collecting stamps (mostly US)

<https://bob-collects-stamps.pinecast.co/>

5. All About Stamps - talks about stamp collecting

<https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/news/all-about-stamps-podcast>

6. Our Dad Stamps - Interesting stories about stamps and stamp collecting (mostly UK)

<https://anchor.fm/peter-west9> (audio)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHPRdLoqmYeUDv5XjM3UWOQ/videos> (videos)

Photo by eze cmf on Unsplash



# STAMP CLUB NEWS



**BUY LOCAL – Seek your “needs” at the March 8 club meeting.**

This Stamp Club News is, once again, seeking members with pride in their collections. We are asking you to show a piece or a portion of what you collect at any stamp club meeting. Not a formal lecture. Just, a sharing with your fellow members. Contact Dan (call, email, or at a meeting) to schedule your date.

**BUY LOCAL – Complete your “want lists” at the March 19 West Palm Beach Stamp and Postcard Show!**

President Bob continues to grace our auction tables with boxes, files, and piles of great donated philatelic treasures. Almost all of these offerings are unsearched No kidding. Bob literally grabs a handful of packed packets, stock books and albums, and tattered storage containers, to give us an outstanding opportunity to make some great discoveries! I have seen a greater return on my club action acquisitions than the price paid. It is terrific fun as well. Buy a few lots and find hours of enjoyment!

**BUY LOCAL – Grab some bargains at the March 22 club meeting.**



# CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB RECEIVES LARGE DONATION TO ITS REFERENCE LIBRARY

On January 25, 2022, the Cresthaven Stamp Club received a significant donation to its reference library from the club's Vice President Juan Riera. Mr. Riera is a frequent contributor of air mail related articles to the American Air Mail Society and was alerted that the American Air Mail Society was conducting a book giveaway to clear space in the American Philatelic Society facility. The books listed below are all mint and still in their shrink-wrap covers.

American Air Mail Catalog, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Volume's 1, 2, 3, and 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Volume's 1, 2, and 3 – All covering different topics

The Airmails of Canada and Newfoundland

The Pioneer Airmails of the US

Aerial Mail Service

Correio Aereo

Collecting Airmail (an introduction)

Peruvian Civil Aviation

Glider Mail

THANK YOU, JUAN RIERA, FOR THIS OUTSTANDING ADDITION TO THE CLUB'S RESOURCES. MEMBERS, PLEASE SEE CLUB SECRETARY RICHARD KAYE FOR ACCESS TO THESE VOLUMES.

# THE POSTAL FIASCO CREATED BY THE IMPERIAL BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY

DAN MADDALINO

British East Africa has a deep, and extraordinarily complex, philatelic history. One early problem was that the British East Africa Territory was huge, and sparsely populated with Brits. Bordered on the north by German East Africa, to the west by Lake Victoria, the south by untrustworthy indigenous tribes, and east by the Indian Ocean, with the Sultan of Zanzibar resisting British authority. The British Crown was nervous about losing control of this newest region of its Empire.

Just when the British Foreign Office feared that the lack of an administrator, and a postal service for communication, would cause the loss of the Territory, Scottish shipping magnate, Sir William MacKinnon formed the British East Africa Association (1887). Sir William saw profit and power. He offered to lead and organize a new British Colony. On September 3, 1888, the Foreign Office granted a Royal Charter to Sir William under the name Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC). His company now could control the trade and tax the residents. In exchange, his company was to establish a postal service, improve the roads within the colony, and build a railroad between Mombasa (the capital) and Lake Victoria to stimulate European immigration.

Prior to the new Company Post Office at Mombasa beginning its operation on January 13, 1890, the settlers used stamps of India and Zanzibar. When the post office at Mombasa became operational the residents used newly overprinted stamps of Great Britain. For collectors, these stamps are referred to as the "On-GB Provisionals" (Figure 1). They are the first issues for this new colony and utilized the contemporary 1d, 2d, and 5d values of Great Britain.



Figure 1





Thomas De La Rue printed the second issue of stamps for this new colony, and they were delivered in February 1890 (Figure 2). These definitive stamps were paid for by IBEA investors. Denominations were in the currency of India: ½ anna, 1 anna, 2 annas, 4 annas, 8 annas, and 1 rupee.

Figure 2

At the onset, the new postal service was very popular, and volume increased to the point that postal rates could be reduced. The definitive line of stamps later added a 2½ annas, 3 annas, 4½ annas, 5 annas, and a 7½ annas. However, chaos set in almost immediately. By February 1891 the post office had run out of the new stamps, as only 5,275 total sheets of stamps were purchased. No one thought to reorder stamps from England. During the same time, the UPU ordered rate changes. Postmasters began to create their own stamps by hand-stamping the new value and the company name on any leftover stamps used in the past. That practice lasted until about May when postmasters were authorized to just write their initials on the face of stamps they could find. Today, these stamps are extremely rare, with few genuine copies residing in private collections. These are known as the “1891 Manuscript Provisionals”. Eventually, the colony was resupplied with postage stamps (as in Figure 2). Over the next two years conditions in the colony deteriorated as the IBEA company board continued to only reinvest in themselves. The company was drawing cash out of the colony to repay investors and enrich Sir William. An 1892 conflict between the local tribes,



Figure 3

the colonists, and the Company resulted in an armed skirmish, and the building of a IBEA fort. This mini war cost the company nearly all of its available cash. Sir William MacKinnon died in 1893 while raising money in London. Early in 1895 the British Foreign Office was tiring of the bad news out of East Africa and seized the Colony by declaring it a British Protectorate. Chaos again gripped the British East Africa postal system. As a result, the locals began hand-stamping a new provisional issue as seen in Figure 3.

British East Africa was now a Protectorate, so England had to provide new stamps (the same as Figure 2 but overprinted British East Africa). By 1895, the workers on the main road to Lake Victoria were not making progress and the railroad was still in the planning stage. The British Crown was pressuring the Home Office to correct these deficiencies. IBEA investors saw the end coming and tried to squeeze the last coins out of the Territory. As a twist of fate, the only asset remaining in 1895 was a stash of mint sheets of Imperial British East Africa Company postage stamps (Figure 2). Thousands of mint sheets of stamps were taken from the colony and sold to stamp dealers in London just prior to Sir Williams' IBEA company filing for bankruptcy. This plunged the colony deeper into postal chaos. The colony was once again out of postage stamps. This created three more overprints: The "On-India" Provisionals (Figure 4), using stamps from India; the "On-Zanzibar" Provisionals (Figure 5), using the Sultan's Zanzibar stamps; and the "De La Rue" Provisionals (by reusing IBEA plates, which were then again overprinted). This was all resolved in 1896 with the arrival of the "British East Africa Queen's Head" issue (Figure 6 next page). The Queen's Head issue was discontinued in 1904, with the breakup of the Colony into three separate British Protectorates.



Figure 4



Figure 5

The collecting of British East Africa, especially stamps issued under the administration of the Imperial British East Africa Company, can be quite intimidating. The mismanagement of the IBEA Company created dozens of stamp issues, stamp Provisionals, and postal stationery. There are nearly a hundred, if not more, varieties, plate flaws, and printing errors to search for. Add proofs and essays to the list and you will begin building an impressive collection. However, collectors are warned that the market is flooded with fakes and reproductions of all the stamps of East Africa from 1864 through 1904. Especially from the IBEA era. Have your acquisitions authenticated. The hunt can be fun.



Figure 6


## **PRIMARY SOURCES**

Minns, John; *British East Africa, The Stamps and Postal Stationery*. Royal Philatelic Society, London. 1981

*Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog*: Amos Publishing, Sidney, Ohio, USA

All illustrations in the public domain

# WANTED



**Hello!**  
I am a postcard collector. If you would be so kind, please mail me a picture postcard from where you live or some place you visit to the address as it appears below. Remember an international stamp if necessary.  
Thank you!

*Juan L. Riera*  
P.O. Box 522942  
Miami, FL 33152

DAN MADDALINO seeking to complete my International Joint Issue collection. Looking for these Mint foreign stamps:  
ISRAEL 1996 Hanukkah #1289  
SWEDEN 2001 Nobel Prize #2415  
SWEDEN 2015 Ingrid Bergman #2756 – 2758  
GREAT BRITAIN 2006 Animal Tails mini-sheet with #'s 2334 – 2341  
CANADA 2017 Hockey History S/S #3039  
SEE ME AT A CLUB MEETING - DAN

**BUY LOCAL - THANKS**

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**PLACE YOUR “WANTS” WITH US**  
**NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS**

**CONTACT THE PUBLISHER AT CLUB MEETINGS**  
**dmaddalino@aol.com**

