



# Cresthaven Stamp Club Newsletter

## March 2024

The month of March, named after the Greek God Mars, is loaded with both important, quirky, and religious celebrations or observances. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, we observe National Girl Scouts Day (buy cookies); National Pi Day is naturally on “3.14”; and, the “Ides of March” occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> (the day Julius Caesar was assassinated). In 1995, Congress designated March as Irish American Heritage month and we now celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday falls on March 29<sup>th</sup> and Easter on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

National Procrastination Week is observed within the first two weeks of March (or whenever it’s convenient). At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, set your clocks ahead one hour for the start of Daylight Savings Time. And finally, the Spring Equinox occurs on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:06 p.m.

Regards,  
*Michael Swope*

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Chapter Affiliate #923  
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
See Website for Location:  
[www.cresthavenstamp.club](http://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](mailto:dmaddalino@aol.com)  
Editor: Michael Swope  
[mswope@ameritech.net](mailto:mswope@ameritech.net)

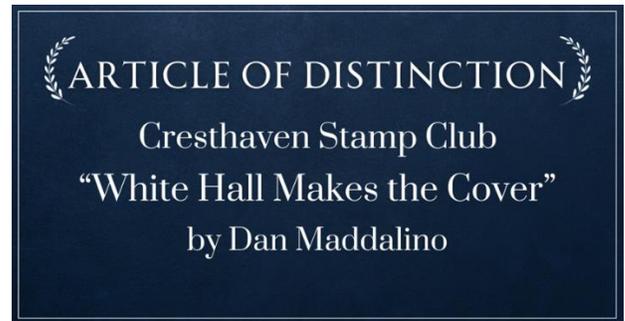
# Cresthaven Stamp Club News



March 2024

APS wants to know what “collecting is for everyone” means to you – and how you plan to (or have already) put that message to work. Send reply to [digitalcontent@stamps.org](mailto:digitalcontent@stamps.org), or write:

The American Philatelic Society  
100 Match Factory Place  
Bellefonte, PA 16823



Nora Bryson, APS Digital Editor, announced on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, that club member Dan Maddalino's article "White Hall Makes the Cover" was accepted for publication to the American Philatelic Society's website. In addition, Dan's article will be featured in the next issue of the APS weekly newsletter. Dan will receive a congratulatory certificate from the APS.



The American Philatelic Society is sharing the message that “collecting is for everyone!” There are as many facets of collecting as there are collectors, and each philatelist brings something wonderful to philately. Whether you collect U.S. postal history, worldwide topicals, or anything in between, you are part of what makes the hobby great!

Our club continues to seek a permanent meeting location, but until that occurs, please check our club website frequently for updated information.

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# Caribbean Hutia on Stamps

Juan L. Riera

The Hutia (*Jutia* in Spanish) are moderately large rodents of the family *Capromyidae* that inhabit Caribbean Islands, with origins in South America from where they island hopped with the help of prevailing currents. Twenty species of Hutia have been identified, although about a third are currently extinct. Taking into account the various species, they vary in length from slightly over 8 inches to 24 inches and weigh between 4.5 and 19 pounds. They generally live in pairs, breed year-round with 1-3 off-spring, and for the most part, eat bark and new-growth leaves and occasionally small animals, depending on species, and have the most complex stomach / digestion system of rodents. Hutias are considered clean animals because of their eating habits and they do not burrow. Instead, they rest in hollows among rocks, trees, and mangroves.

Demarest's hutia (*capromys pilorides*) is a species native to Cuba and is the largest extant species coming in at about 19 pounds - making them very desirable as a food source to be cooked in a large pot with wild nuts and honey, for example. This species lives in various habitats throughout Cuba and since 1968 it has been illegal to hunt them. In some parts of Cuba, they are declining while in the mountainous areas of Oriente Province they seem to be increasing in population. The area of Guantanamo Bay Naval Station is overrun with hutia, where they are known as banana rats because their feces is shaped like small bananas.

The University of Florida "Explorer Magazine", which documents current research at the university, recently cited research efforts in hutia-human interaction during the time of the *Lucayans* (indigenous people of the Bahamas, 700 AD to approximately 1500). A now extinct Cuban subspecies of hutia was at one time found on Grand Cayman and during Sir Francis Drake's 1586 voyage, he described these creatures as "coney", an old English word for rabbits.



Jamaica Scott # 499 a-d



Jamaica Scott #857-860



Cuba Scott #5807, 08, 10, 11



Cuba Scott # 1482 & 2459

Hutia are depicted on the stamps of Jamaica: Scott #'s 499 a-d and #'s 857-860. Where the latter were issued as part of the World Wildlife Fund Endangered Species program.

Cuba issued Hutia postage stamps, Scott #771; #1482; #2459; #'s 5807, 5808, 5810, & 5811; and, #4765.

The Bahamas Hutia stamp, Scott # 515, a 1982, 16¢ stamp was issued as part of a nature set that also included a bat and a dolphin.

The Dominican Republic Hutia stamp, #C315, a 10-cent airmail stamp depicting fauna was issued on August 30, 1980.



Hutia, an interesting little animal that is depicted on the stamps of several Caribbean nations.

Ref: [Research.ufl.edu/explore](http://Research.ufl.edu/explore)



Cuba Scott # 771



Cuba Scott # 4765



Bahama Scott # 515



Dominican Rep. Scott #C315

## Philatelic Facts



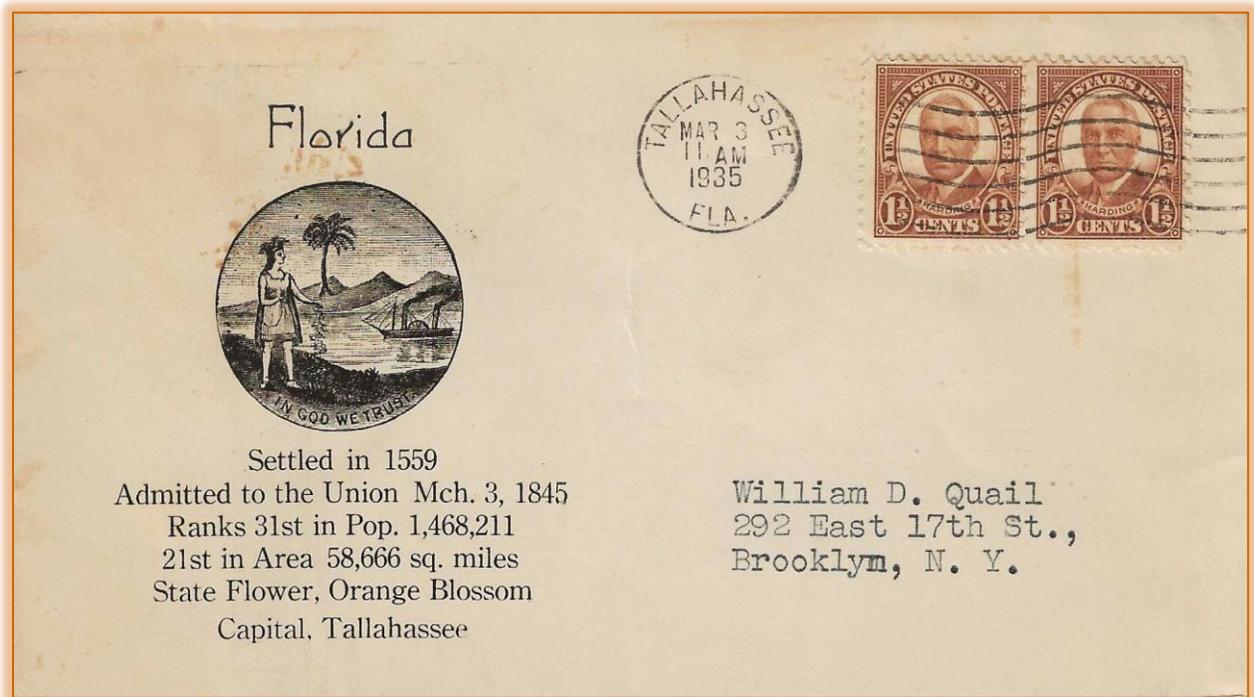
### Obliteration

Philatelically termed “obliterating mark”, it is designed to render illegible, or to deface any inscription, monarchical emblem, obsolete value, or other unwanted art in a stamp’s design. It is frequently, but incorrectly, used as a synonym for cancellation.

# Jurassic Florida

Dan Maddalino

Drawing from my collection of Florida covers displaying Florida's Great Seal, I present to you one showing the rarely seen first state seal of 1868 (below). Between 1868 and 1970 the Great Seal remained virtually unchanged. Aside from some softening of the elements and moving the motto and placing the statement "Great Seal of STATE OF FLORIDA" onto rings around the center imagery, it had not been modified for more than one-hundred years.



However, the seal shown in *Figure 2* was short lived. When issued it was immediately pointed out that Florida did not have volcanoes! But the state law called for "mountains" to be in the background. Florida doesn't have mountains either. And so, this is when the "softening" began. By 1870 the volcanoes eroded away to "hills" (small mountains).



Figure 2



Figure 3

Beginning in 1970, and continuing through 2007, the Florida Legislature wrestled with improvements needed on the original seal. The product is the Great Seal we see today (*Figure 3*). Gone is the Jurassic landscape, having been replaced with a historically correct representation of life in Florida at the time of Statehood (1845).

Even though Florida did not have volcanoes nor towering mountains there remains massive amounts of fossils to be found in this paleontologist's playground.

*Primary Sources*

1. [a-z-animals.com/blog/discover-the-florida-state-seal-history/symbolism-and-meaning/](http://a-z-animals.com/blog/discover-the-florida-state-seal-history/symbolism-and-meaning/)
2. [dos.fl.gov](http://dos.fl.gov)
3. Albert C. Hine, *Geologic History of Florida* (2013), University Press of Florida: Gainesville, Florida

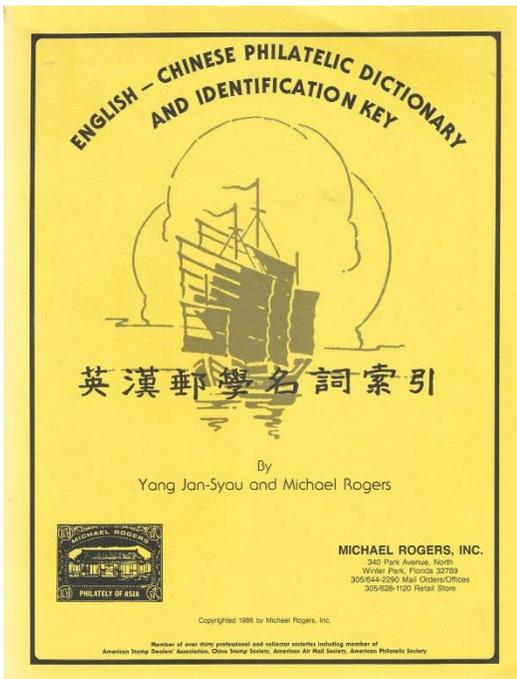
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*Happy Saint Patrick's Day !*



# English-Chinese Philatelic Dictionary

Michael Rogers



I became a China stamp dealer overnight when I purchased the Bateman China accumulation in 1982. It was a massive inventory of postal history and stamps from classics to new issues, including rarities and highly specialized material, alongside mountains of the mundane.

Working with the Bateman material proved daunting. With 20-20 hindsight, I wish that I had developed a talent for Chinese philately slowly, so that I would have been better prepared to market it properly. Wouldn't it be a perfect world if we could look in a catalogue for guidance for everything Chinese? The problem is, so much isn't listed in a catalogue, and then there is all the postal history of China!

As a Caucasian who didn't read Chinese characters, or at that time, have anyone Chinese working by my side, I was having a tough time recognizing Chinese characters to read postmarks. Musing how the Chinese arranged multiple words, I got together with a Chinese exchange student, Yang Jan-Syau. We organized key Chinese cities by the number of strokes in the first character. Hundreds of cities were chosen, organized by province, then by first character, with Wade-Giles, Pin-Yin, and PRC spellings. Jan provided a guide to identify a Chinese character with the seven elements of written strokes. Chinese year numbering was explained.

Thus, an English-Chinese philatelic dictionary came to fruition. Early in 1986, we ran off a couple hundred sets of photocopies, distributing them gratis to collectors. Reaction was pretty good, so one morning, on a whim, I phoned in a press release to Linn's, announcing the publication of our philatelic dictionary and handbook.

Place names could be found on upgraded bilingual maps and there were notes on treaty ports and historic notes of Chinese Provinces. The second edition sold 5,000 copies, before the third edition was released in 1988. John Dunn reviewed the new edition for his stamp column in the *New York Times Book Review*.

You'll find worn examples of this long out-of-print book in the National Postal Museum, philatelic libraries, and eBay!

*Ref: Reprinted in part from The American Stamp Dealer & Collector, Reminiscences, November-December, 2011*

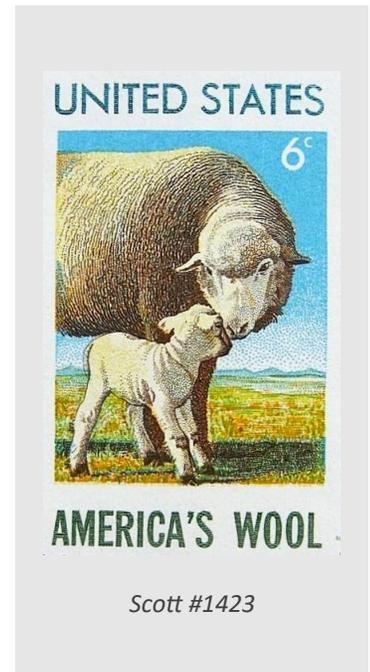
# Wool Industry

Pat Hensley

The 6¢ American Wool Industry Issue postage stamp (US Scott #1423) was issued on January 19, 1971, in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was one of the first United States, UV-Light-Activated, phosphorus-overprinted, (tagged) postage stamps used to enhance mail-handling by the Post Office Department. It was designed by Dean Ellis and printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Wool has been used in Europe since 10,000 BC and Cortez brought it to America in 1521. This stamp commemorates the 450th anniversary of that event.

There are more than 1000 sheep breeds in the world. Merino or Rambouillet make fine wool which is used in clothing because it is so soft. Romney or Blackface breeds make thicker wool and are used for interior decor, carpets, bedding, upholstery insulation, and protective clothing for firefighters and soldiers.



In 1789, King Charles IV of Spain gifted six Merino sheep to the Dutch. Then these sheep ended up in South Africa and were sold to a British entrepreneur John Macarthur, who took them to Australia. 80% of the Merino wool used in fashion today is produced in Australia. 1.2 billion sheep produce almost 2 million kilograms of raw wool for home and clothing. Other leading producers are Argentina, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States and Uruguay.

Wool can vary in color, texture and length, depending on the breed of the sheep, the country they come from, the food they eat, and even the climate-weather they live in.

The interesting feature about wool is its composition. It is made mainly of a protein called keratin which is also in human hair, nails and other animal fiber. It gives elasticity, strength and the ability to withstand bending and stretching over time. If you got a close look at the fiber under a microscope, you would see that the fibers have overlapping cuticle scales that look like shingles on a roof. These scales protect the inner layer of the fiber known as the cortex. In the cortex are the main keratin fibers bundles to form a helix. Beyond the cortex is the medulla, the central part of some wool fibers that account for crimp or waviness of the fibers. This crimp gives the fiber its insulating property by trapping air and enhancing warmth.

The average diameter of wool fibers is measured in microns. A micron is one-millionth of a meter or approximately 0.000039 inches. This is a standardized way to measure the thickness of fibers. This thickness determines the quality and characteristics of wool. Finer fibers (softer), have smaller measurements and coarser fibers (rougher), have larger ones. Fine wool is used in clothing because it is softer and touches the skin which means it will probably not be itchy. Coarser wool (with the higher micron count) is more suitable for fabric that needs to be durable like rugs, blankets, upholstery, and coats. Micron counts can differ from wool taken from different parts of the sheep. Wool from the neck and legs are usually coarser than the back.



Many of my friends know that I'm a passionate knitter and my favorite fiber is wool. Fiber festivals are held all around the United States and throughout the year, but my favorite is the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival which usually takes place the weekend after Mother's Day. The festival features Sheep Shows to rate various breeds of sheep, and dog-herding demonstrations. hundreds of fiber vendors, a fleece (fiber from different sheep) auction, and even a Sheep to Shawl competition. During the Sheep to Shawl competition, registered teams of 6 people have to shear a sheep, comb the fiber, and then spin it on spinning wheels. The spun fiber is then used on a weaving loom to create a shawl. The finished shawls are auctioned to raise money for charity. Thousands of people attend this event each year.

*References:*

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/1423-1971-6c-americas-wool-industry/>

<https://iwto.org/wool-supply-chain/history-of-wool/>

# Election Convention

Michael Swope



As we prepare for a year of political conventions and the 2024 Presidential election, take a look back at a previous convention. Featured above is the Wolverine Stamp Club's cacheted commemorative first day cover of the Republican National Convention, held in Detroit, Michigan, July 14-17, 1980. The cover is franked with the 4¢, 48-star, "Old Glory" American flag stamp (Scott #1094) and the 13¢, 13-star, "Independence Hall" American flag coil stamp (Scott #1625). The cover bears the Convention Center Station cancellation, July 14, 1980.

Security is always the primary focus at these conventions and the United States Office of Justice Programs created an "Evaluation of the Policing and Security at the 1980 Republican National Convention". That report was based on a detailed analysis of thousands of convention-related documents generated by law enforcement officials and numerous public and private agencies that monitored implementation of the security plan; motorcade planning; community relations; demonstration liaison; public information; communications; logistics; hotel and special event security; dignitary protection; and, investigative and intelligence units. Law enforcement was praised for its cooperation, flexibility, and exemplary administration.

At right is my security identification and pass (personal information blocked). I was the Michigan State Police liaison to the United States Secret Service for this convention.

