

CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club

May 2022

Congratulations to retiring publisher Dan Maddalino and editor Betty Brodie, honored for service at the clubs' April 12 meeting.

To Dan and Betty: While others worked to be different, you worked to make a difference! Your passion and energy are unparalleled, and we respect your spirit of volunteerism. The Cresthaven Stamp Club is grateful for your near ten years of unselfish work as newsletter publisher and editor. In the words of Welsh labor organizer Elizabeth Andrews, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart". Thank you, Dan & Betty!

So, with their retirement comes change for the club. Change you will see in this newsletter. Change you will see in how the newsletter is viewed on the website. I will do my best to maintain high philatelic standards set for our award-winning newsletter and website. However, I cannot accomplish this goal on my own. I need your articles. I need your feedback. I need your support.

Best Regards, *Michael Swope*

Celebrations and dates to remember this month: May 5, Cinco de Mayo; May 8, Mother's Day; May 30, Memorial Day; May 10 & 24 Cresthaven Stamp Club meetings.

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Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse
1:00 p.m. - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
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FloridaStampShows.com

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



Why is the Poppy a Symbol of Memorial Day?

Michael Swope

In the war-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy was one of the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed; as it was by the very brutal fighting of World War I.

John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war first-hand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem "In Flanders Fields", in 1915. He saw the poppies scattered throughout the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

Days before the official end of the war in 1918, American professor Moina Michael wrote, her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith," which was inspired by McCrae's "In Flanders Fields." In her poem, she mentions wearing the "poppy red" to honor the dead; thus began the tradition of adorning one's clothing with a single red poppy in remembrance of those killed in war.



Military Cemetery Memorial Day



Scott #977, Honoring Moina Michael

"In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, May, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"We Shall Keep the Faith" by Moina Michael, November, 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Ref: www.wikipedia.com

2018 Scott Catalogue, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio

Historic Flags Series

Pat Hensley

The 1968 Historic Flags series (Scott #1345-54) consists of 10 stamps that feature the historic United States flags flown in American history. They were issued on July 4, 1968, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



One stamp features the flag flown at Fort Moultrie. This flag was carried by colonists of South Carolina when the British attacked Sullivan's Island. It is also known as the Liberty Flag. The victory saved Charleston and the fort was named for its commander, William Moultrie.

One stamp features the flag flown at Fort McHenry. There are 15 stars and 15 stripes on this flag, which was the inspiration for our national anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner. It was flown during the War of 1812. The original flag hangs at the Smithsonian Institution.

One stamp features the Washington's Cruisers flag. George Washington sailed seven ships around Boston to keep the British from getting supplies in 1775. The ships flew a white flag with a pine tree that represented freedom. These ships were the first United States Navy.

Another stamp features the Bennington flag of 1777. The British were defeated at the Battle of Bennington by colonists from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

The Rhode Island flag of 1775 is also featured. It was carried at the Battle of Yorktown by the First Rhode Island Regiment. Since 1647, Rhode Island has used the anchor and motto. This flag has 13 stars.

The First Stars and Stripes flag of 1777 is featured in this series. It was the first thirteen star, thirteen stripe flag authorized by the Continental Congress.

One stamp features the flag carried during the Battle of Bunker Hill. The colonists were defeated but the British took heavy losses.

The Grand Union flag is also known as the Continental Colors. This was the first national flag of the United States. The colonies are represented by the thirteen stripes and the British union flag shows that many wanted to stay loyal to England.

One stamp features the flag of the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop. General George Washington was escorted by the troop when he took command of the Continental Army.

The last stamp features the first Navy Jack which was flown by the Continental Navy. The rattlesnake was shown as a symbol of the colonist's resistance to British rule.

Activities for children:

Have children pick their favorite flag and draw it.

Have children design their own flag.

Have children look up some of the battles mentioned and draw a picture of what they imagined it would be like.

Have children design their own stamps.

Have students collect stamps from letters that interest them. Then find out why they were featured on that stamp.

Original photo by Pat Hensley

Reference:

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/1345-54/USA/>

Philatelic Facts

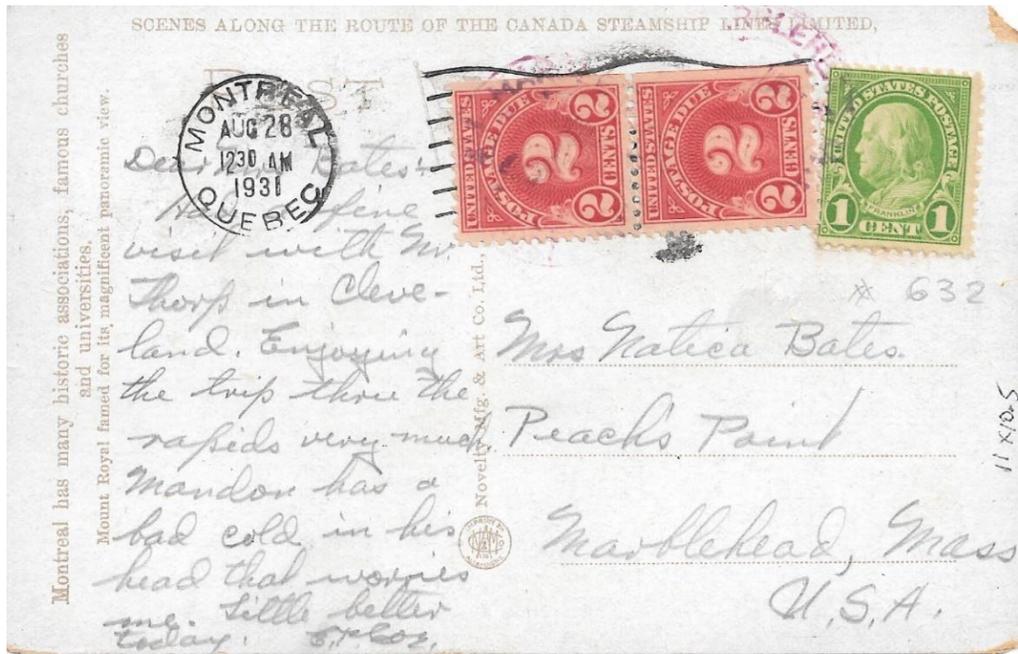


Stamp collector and dealer Charles H. Mekeel (1861-1921) was confident that philatelists would support a weekly stamp newspaper and, in 1891, backed up that confidence by starting MeKeel's Weekly Stamp News. He continued editing and publishing the newspaper until 1897, when he sold it to his brother Isaac who continued publishing the journal until the 1940's. It is now known as MeKeel's & Stamps Magazine, published by John Dunn, and edited by John Leszak.

LET'S COLLECT SOMETHING DIFFERENT SHORT PAID – WRONG COUNTRY

DAN MADDALINO

Most collectors will occasionally gain possession of philatelic odds and ends. This is what's left over from that "box lot", or "bag of stamps" purchased at a discount. Some items are familiar, and many are just "different". Building a collection of those "different" items can lead to hours of fun (and some frustration). So, let's look at something different to collect:



The post card illustrated above¹ has a lot to probe. The fact that it has postage due stamps (Scott #J81)² on it makes it fit in nicely with a postage due collection. But why is it marked 4 Cents US postage due? The 4 is below the US postage due stamps. Well let's go to our reference library and check for the postage regulations and rates in effect on August 28, 1931, when this was mailed. At the time of posting, the treaty rate for a post card from Canada to the United States was 2 Cents Canadian³. This card is Short Paid. Also, due to the use of an American postage stamp on an item originating in Canada, the 1 Cent US stamp (Scott #632) is invalid and not counted. This card is taxed (postage due) at twice the deficiency⁴, or 4 Cents US at delivery. Markings obscured by the postage due stamps indicate it was rescued from the Marblehead, Mass, Dead Letter Office. Illegal usage which penalized the recipient. A fantastic addition to a U.S. postage due collection. Let's collect something different!

Post Card from the collection of the author

Housemen, Donna, Editor; *Scotts Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers*; Amos Media. Sidney, Ohio, 2022

Harris, D. Robin, Editor; *2022 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. The Unitrade Press, Toronto, Canada: 2022; p. 97

Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S., Beecher, Henry W.; *U.S International Postage Rates, 1872-1996*. CAMA Publishing Company, Portland Orgon. 1996: pp. 256,319,326

The Castillo de San Marcos

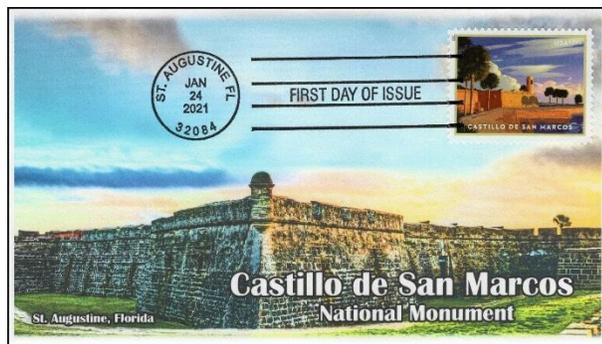
Juan L. Riera

The Castillo de San Marcos is the oldest masonry fort in the continental United States and is found in the oldest continuously inhabited European city in the continental United States, namely St. Augustine, Florida.



It replaced the last wooden fort and the previous half-dozen or so other wooden forts that were damaged in a raid by British privateer Robert Searles in 1668. Wooden forts in Florida were impractical because wood rotted especially fast with rain, humidity, and a high-water table; and as well, fire from frequent attacks by pirates, privateers, and rival powers to be.

The Castillo de San Marcos is depicted on Scott # 5554, issued January 24, 2021 in St. Augustine as a \$7.95 Priority Mail Stamp. It was printed by Ashton Potter Ltd. in a self-adhesive pane of four with 5,500,000 imprinted. It is the 25th entry into the American Landmarks stamp series that began in 2008 with the Mount Rushmore (\$4.90) and Hoover Dam (\$16.50) issues.



The Castillo was designed by Spanish engineer Ignacio Daza, who actively built military fortifications throughout the Caribbean Basin. The first coquina was laid in 1672 and the core of the fort, as it appears today, was completed in 1695. Many alterations, additions, and changes were subsequently carried out.

Coquina is a sedimentary rock similar to limestone consisting of tiny shells that have bonded together. Coquina came from quarries on Anastasia Island, across Matanzas Bay. The varied labor force included convicts and Native Americans from nearby missions, and skilled workers from Cuba. The fort was designed with four bastions named in honor of San Pedro, San Agustin, San Carlos, and San Pablo. A battalion of Spanish troops from Havana rotated through the Castillo de San Marcos and as a consequence, through Fort Matanzas on a yearly basis.

During the British period (1763-1783), the fort was renamed Fort St. Marks that would have been familiar to British prisoners fighting for the independence of the thirteen colonies that would become the United States. There is an historical marker of British prisoners nearby on the plaza. Three founding fathers of the United States were held at the fort: Thomas Heywood, Jr., Arthur Middleton, and Edward Rutledge.

During the Second Spanish period, a Spanish Lieutenant-Governor and high-ranking military officer, Bartolome Morales, brought along his grandson who had lost his mother during child-birth. The grandson, Felix Varela, was raised in the shadow of the Castillo and is depicted on several stamps of Cuba and one in the United States.



Cuba Scott #4301



Cuba Scott #3971



US Scott #3166

The signing of the Adams-Onis Treaty, also known as the 1821 Transcontinental Treaty, transferred Florida to the United States and resulted in the subsequent renaming of Castillo to Fort Marion. The treaty also settled the border between the Louisiana Purchase territory and Texas, then part of Mexico.

The fort was used as a prison by the United States during the Second Seminole War and held, among others; Osceola, Uchee Billy, King Philip, and his son Coacoochee. Apparently, the fort was not as secure as thought since 20 Seminoles, including two women, escaped on the night of November 19, 1837.

For about a year during the Civil War the fort was under confederate control until the city was abandoned and surrendered to Union forces by the mayor. After the Civil War the fort became home to a number of western tribal leaders and their followers as prisoners, many who initially died due to harsh treatment. After an enlightened approach was taken, the focus was on more humane treatment and education.

In 1933 the fort was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service and in 1942, Congress approved the name change back to Castillo de San Marcos. It has become a quite popular tourist attraction and was featured on numerous television shows and the 1951 movie, Distant Drums.

As for recent postal service for the Castillo de San Marcos, there was the Government House, also known as the Governor's House, located about a block and a half away.



The site had served as the Governor's House since 1598. In about 1710, a building of coquina, the same building material as the Castillo, was constructed and served as the official residence of the governor, as well as an office, courthouse, and social center of the town. I would argue, however, that it served in this function only as a formal extension of being located on the Plaza de la Constitution. Well known visitors include Daniel Boone and General Nathaniel Greene. The last governor to use the residence was Enrique White, who died in 1811.

The structure was in ruins when Florida was annexed by the United States in 1819. Federal funds were used to renovate Castillo in 1833-1844, based on the designs of Washington Monument architect, Robert Mills. The structure has 16 rooms including a post office. In 1873,

major remodeling took place using plans of architect William M. Kimball and the Post office and customs house gradually occupied more space over the next sixty years. The last renovation was in 1937, as a Works Progress Administration project, designed by Jacksonville architect Mellen Clark Greeley. The U.S. Post office continued to use the building until 1965, when a new post office was built. The building is now a museum and library, administered by the University of Florida. If you visit, there are post office boxes from the early era on display.

Ref: www.wikipedia.com

The History of Castillo De San Marcos; Aranna, Manucy & Humphreys, 2009, St. Augustine, Historic Print & Map Co. Scans & photos from authors collection

Belgian Provisional Postage Due Stamps

Bob Burr

The 1878 Universal Postal Union convention held in Paris set a requirement that short-paid international mail between member nations be marked by the originating country with the Letter “T”, which stands for the French word “Taxe”. The purpose was to warn receiving countries that postage was due and should be collected from the recipient. This “T” marking was often placed on the envelope, not on the stamp. Sometimes the “T” was plain, but more often it was enclosed in a circle, triangle, hexagon, or octagon.

From October through November, 1919, Belgian post offices ran out of postage-due stamps. As a substitute, they locally applied a large black “T” by hand stamping the normal postage stamps of the 1915 series. The Scott Classic Specialized catalogue lists these provisional postage-due stamps as J16C to J16K. They were used for only a two-month period and authentic use is rare and valuable on cover.

Forgers soon realized collectors wanted these stamps and went out of their way to assist collectors in the acquisition of these provisional postage-due stamps. My goal herein is to show some of the forgeries of these provisional stamps.

The left pair below have the “T” on top of the cancel with the darker “T” obscuring the lighter stamp cancel. The 10-cent red stamp appears to have the “T” atop the cancel dated in 1914, years earlier than the authorized period. The rightmost 5-cent green has a “T” atop a cancel with an end date of 1922, approximately two years after the postage due shortage occurred. Enough said – buyer beware.

