

CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club

May 2023

May is “Older Americans” month which recognizes the contributions of older adults across the nation. While raising families and building careers, older Americans have given back to their communities in a variety of ways and each deserves recognition for their commitment. President Gerald Ford signed the Older Americans Month proclamation in 1976.

Other May celebrations include “Star Wars Day” on the 4th (Fear is the path to the dark side!); Cinco de Mayo on the 5th; “Letter Carriers – Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive” on May 13th; Mother’s Day is the 14th (treat Mom to a brunch); and, lest we forget, a day set aside to honor and mourn United States military personnel who have died while serving in the armed forces – Memorial Day, May 29th (wear a poppy).

Planning for the October 21st West Palm Beach Stamp & Post Card show has begun. Dealer contracts are being offered and member work duties assigned. May club meeting dates are the 9th and 23rd. Thanks to club member Dan Maddalino for leading discussions on a variety of interesting philatelic topics over the past six months.

Regards,

Michael Swope

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Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse
1:00 p.m. – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

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West Palm Beach FL 33415
www.cresthavenstamp.club



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Vagabonds Visit President Coolidge

Pat Hensley



President Calvin Coolidge is pictured here with his father, Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, Sr., Henry Ford, and Thomas Edison. The unused real photo postcard (RPP) was taken in 1924 during one of the most famous visits to the President's home in Plymouth Notch, Massachusetts. Pictured in the photo: President Calvin Coolidge (second from left) his father, Colonel John Calvin Coolidge, Sr., (far left), Henry Ford (second from right), and Thomas Edison (far right). After everyone autographed the sap bucket, shown in the middle of the photo, President Coolidge gave it to Henry Ford. The bucket was owned by the President's great-great-grandfather. The sap bucket was on display in the barroom of the Wayside Inn (once owned by Ford) in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Plymouth Notch was President Coolidge's boyhood home. This was the third trip to Plymouth in the past year. During his first trip, his father woke him up to tell him that President Warren G. Harding had died and now Calvin was president. The second trip was to bury his son, Calvin Jr., who died of blood poisoning from an infected blister. This third visit was to escape the heat and pressures of Washington and get some much-needed rest. There wasn't a lot in town except a few houses and a general store along with a set of buildings and a little church. The set of buildings became the temporary White House. President Coolidge sat around his father's house reading or visiting during this time. One visitor complained that he had trouble harvesting because of illness in his family so the President volunteered to help.

Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Henry Firestone (not pictured) were on a camping journey together. Between 1915 and 1924, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs called themselves the “Four Vagabonds”. They took yearly camping trips between 1916 and 1924. Their camping trips are widely credited with initiating recreational car travel. The idea began in 1914 when Henry Ford and John Burroughs visited Thomas Edison in Florida and toured the Everglades together. The next year, the three went to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in California. Edison, Burroughs, and Harvey Firestone traveled throughout New England in 1916 and in 1918, they traveled through West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. Other trips included the Adirondacks, the Catskill Mountains, northern Michigan, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Their caravan consisted of several heavy passenger cars and vans that carried the Vagabonds, household staff, and equipment. Also, along with the group were Ford Motor Company photographers.

Class Activities:

Find out more about The Vagabonds.

Find a map and label the places the Vagabonds visited.

Calculate how many miles the Vagabonds traveled each year.

How long was Calvin Coolidge President and what were some important things did he do during his presidency?

How is a sap bucket used?

References:

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth-oai:m613rh259>

<https://vtdigger.org/2022/09/11/then-again-how-a-presidents-vacation-briefly-transformed-plymouth/>

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-resources/popular-topics/the-vagabonds>

<https://newengland.com/living/sap-buckets-up-close/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1924/08/20/archives/coolidge-presents-sap-bucket-to-ford-president-entertains-him-and.html>

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/139098>

Philatelic Facts



The stamp album is generally considered to be a necessary home for our philatelic material, especially if we are to derive the enjoyment they bring. From the earliest days of our hobby, collectors have used some form of album and the first commercially produce albums are believed to have been created by Justin Henri Lallier of Paris. He published albums in both France and Great Britain in 1862. These early albums were little more than books with pages featuring blank spaces into which stamps were pasted.

Bounty Cargo on Stamps

Juan L. Riera

In 1787, when Lieutenant William Bligh took command of the HMS Bounty, his mission was to travel to Tahiti and collect “breadfruit” plants for transport to the West Indies. The purpose was to provide inexpensive and nutritious food for slave labor working on plantations. After Bligh was set adrift, mutineers tossed breadfruit plants overboard and set off to Pitcairn. Eventually Bligh was promoted to the rank of Captain and, as master and commander of HMS Providence from 1791 to 1793, once again undertook the task of transporting breadfruit plants to the West Indies. Breadfruit was successfully delivered and introduced By Captain Bligh in St. Vincent and Jamaica. Initially slaves did not take a liking to breadfruit. Surprisingly, when the Bounty mutineers arrived on Pitcairn Island, there were already two varieties of breadfruit - one is assumed to have come the Austral Islands or from Mangareva, while the other variety from Fiji.

Breadfruit has been compared to eating a potato: Stewed (with coconut milk, onion, and seasoning); breadfruit salad; mashed; chips; or, fried with breadcrumbs, are some examples. Breadfruit is a species of flowering tree in the mulberry and jackfruit family and is believed to have been domesticated in New Guinea, the Maluku Islands, and the Philippines. It is now grown throughout the tropics and its light-weight wood is frequently used on outriggers, ships, and houses.

Breadfruit is depicted on at least ten stamps from around the world including Pitcairn Island. These stamps are: Pitcairn Scott #797 issued August 26th, 2015 - A set of three stamps with face values of 1.00, 1.50, & 5.00. Pitcairn Scott # 320f, Captain Bligh & Breadfruit, 20¢ face value issued in 1989 and Pitcairn Scott # 101, 5¢ stamp issued September 17, 1969.

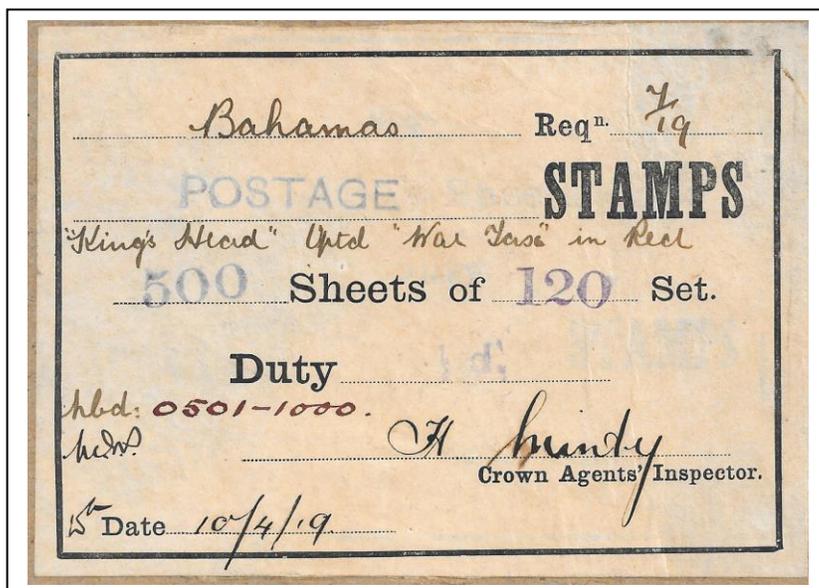
Additionally, there is a 4¢ breadfruit stamp from St. Vincent/Grenadines (Scott #221) issued March 23rd, 1965; French Polynesia four-franc stamp, issued January 3rd, 1959; Gabon on December 10, 1962; Bahamas, 2¢ issued in 1971; Cayman Islands, issued on May 24, 1989 for 50¢; and Fiji issued on July 25, 2002 with a face value of 25¢. These are just some examples. For further details and examples, I recommend *StampData.Com*.



An Unusual Memento

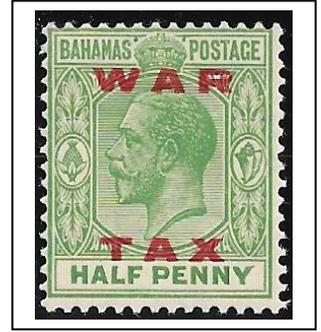
Dan Maddalino

Shown (at right) is a packing label affixed to a remnant of a pasteboard box, used to ship printed postage stamps from the printer to a purchaser. In this case, the printer was De La Rue & Company, Ltd, London, England. However, the purchaser was not a government agent nor postal service. The recipient (below) of these newly printed postage stamps was Mr. Oswald Marsh¹ (1880-1951).



Mr. Marsh was a postage stamp dealer, wholesaler, and new issue supplier. He was known and respected world-wide while operating a London based stamp shop from about 1900 until his death in 1951². During World War I, it was common for stamp dealers, with authorization from colonial postal services, to preorder British Empire War Tax stamps directly from De La Rue. The stamps purchased in this case, were the Bahamas ½d green KGV (Kings Head), overprinted WAR TAX in red ink³ (Scott # MR11, below).

De La Rue recorded receipt of requisition 7/19 from the Bahamas on January 29, 1919⁴. The requisition included the printing of 600,600 stamps arranged in “sets” of 120 stamps. This creates a total of 5,005 sheets of green ½d KGV (Kings Head) war tax stamps. Additionally, it specified the overprint was to be red. The packaging label is for 500 sheets (audit numbers 0501-1000), or 60,000 stamps. The requisition 7/19 included additional printing orders. Concerns over apparent vague instructions delayed the shipment to the Bahamas which caused the packing label to be dated April 10, 1919, and the official issue date given by both Scott⁵ and Gibbons⁶ as July 14, 1919. Interestingly, stamp dealers, wholesalers, and speculators, who bought in bulk were serviced first.



Oswald Marsh, in addition to being a world-class stamp dealer, was a world-class hoarder. After his death in 1951 his family assumed the business and went about clearing out decades-worth of clutter. Mr. Marsh tended to save everything that came to him, including piles of pasteboard shipping boxes. A member of his family saved some of these items, including this label, as remembrance of dedication to his hobby. The Marsh stamp business closed out their inventory in 2008⁷, which is how this 1919 war tax packing label came to the market.

Unusual mementos, such as this, are an outstanding addition to your British Caribbean philatelic collections.

END NOTES

1. Internet: <https://www.facebook.com/stanleygibbonsgroup/photos/> Accessed October 16, 2022
2. Internet: <https://www.parabook.com/web/Oswald.marsh/2117002> (accessed August 10, 2022)
3. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, (London, England: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 2016) pp. 2-3
4. John G. M. Davis: War Tax Stamps of the British Empire, First World War, British West Indies. (London, England: The Royal Philatelic Society London 2009) pp. 75-76
5. Jay Bigalke: Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol 1B. (Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media, USA. 2020) p. 153
6. Stanley Gibbons. p. 113
7. Parabook.com; Oswald Marsh

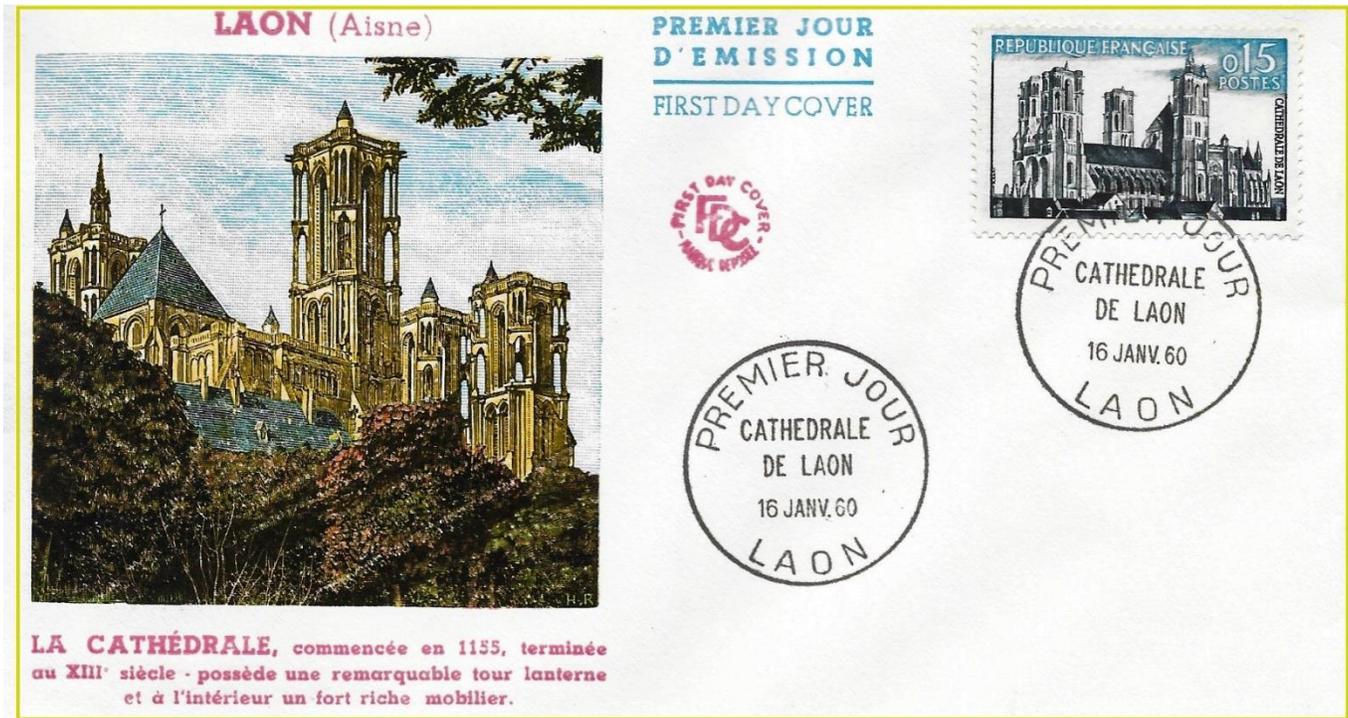
Philately in Florida



Sunday, May 14, 2023, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Boulevard, Melbourne, 32935. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00

Laon Cathedral

Michael Swope



Shown above is a souvenir first day cover for the 15 Centime, France, Scott #943, Laon Cathedral postage stamp, issued on January 16, 1960, and postmarked at Laon, France. The color cachet features architecture of this 700-year-old church and (translated) "The cathedral, began in 1155 and completed in the 13th century, has a remarkable lantern tower and a richly furnished interior."

Laon Cathedral (French: *Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Laon*) is a Roman Catholic church located in Laon, Aisne, Hauts-de-France, France. It is one of the most important and stylistically unified examples of early Gothic architecture and one of the most elaborate and best preserved of the early French Gothic cathedrals. The church served as the cathedral of the Diocese of Laon until 1802, and has been recognized as an historic monument since 1840.

Although the cathedral suffered some damage during the French Revolution and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, it escaped both World Wars unharmed. Following the WWII fall of France, between May 10 and June 25, 1940, Adolph Hitler visited this historic cathedral.

Twenty-five years later, I attended services in this remarkable facility while stationed at Laon Air Base - from March, 1965 to December, 1966.

Ref:
Cover from author's collection
www.spottinghistory.com