



Cresthaven Stamp Club Newsletter

May 2024

*My Mother, my friend so dear.
Throughout my life you are always near.
A tender smile to guide my way,
You are the sunshine to light my day.*



Scott #2273

May is "Creative Beginnings" month and as philatelists, we celebrate creativity through our collections. It is also "Older Americans" month where we celebrate the societal contributions of older persons across the nation. Don't forget Mother's Day on the 12th and please honor our fallen heroes who perished while serving in the United States Armed Forces on Memorial Day, May 27th.

Regards,
Michael Swope

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Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Barkley Clubhouse
2605 Barkley Drive
West Palm Beach
Florida, 33415

cresthavenstamp.club



2023 APS Star Route Award

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Cresthaven Stamp Club News



May 2024



The American Philatelic Society has partnered with STAMPEX International to sponsor the Collectors Lounge at Virtual STAMPEX 2024 — and they hope to see you (virtually) at the show! Virtual STAMPEX allows philatelists from around the world to learn, connect, explore, and pick up some new stamps for their collection along the way, all from the comfort of home. See - <https://stamps.org/events/stampex>

April had a full slate of stamp club activities. Those gathering for our regular meeting on the 9th were given an interesting presentation by club member Dan Maddalino: *Dominica #55 - What is It?* This was followed by tables full of great auction material.

President Richard Kaye reminded everyone of our October 19th West Palm Beach Stamp Show. The club plans on innovative advertising to improve attendance. A secondary show flier has been created to place emphasis on this being a family event, including free stamps for kids. This looks to be another super show.

A Special Club Meeting was held on the 16th at the Mid-County Senior Center in Lake Worth to determine its viability as an alternate meeting site. It could be used in case the need arose.

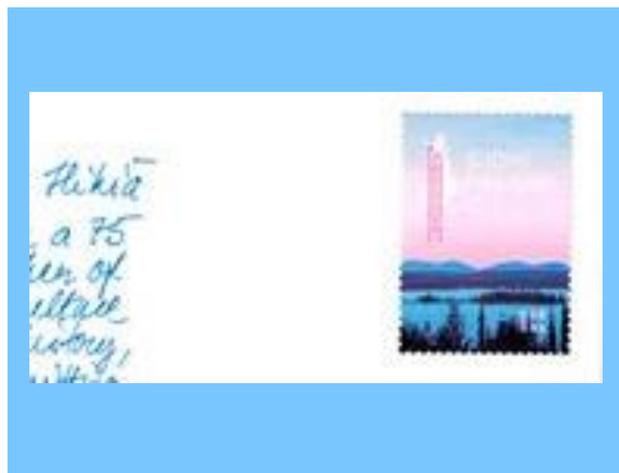
Closing the month out on the 23rd, club member Joe Farinella made a presentation on his stamp artwork. Members had another opportunity to add to their collections with our end of the month auctions. Plan now to be at our May 14 meeting for more news and another member presentation in our Summer Series.

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Braille Postage Stamps

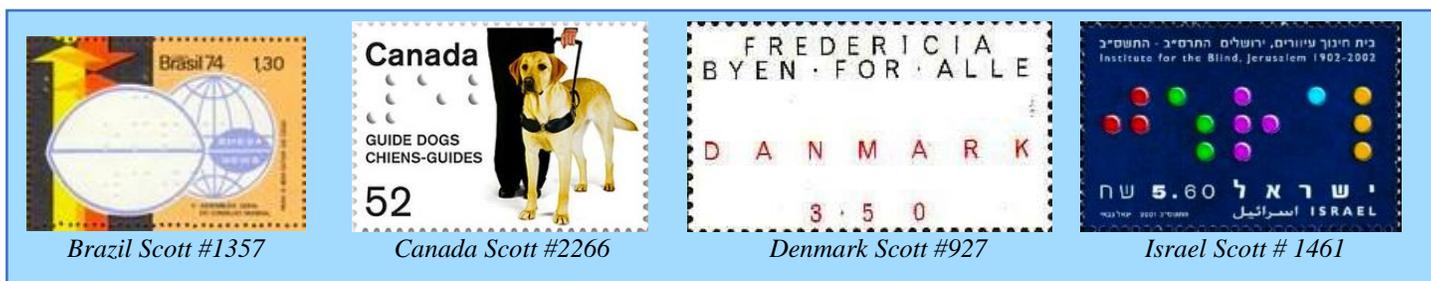
Pat Hensley

Recently, a friend sent my husband a postcard she received with a Braille stamp. The stamp (at right on card) depicts Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park in Lapland - Arctic Hill, Finland. The postage stamp, Scott #1327, has Braille dots applied in varnish. When I first saw the stamp, I wanted to learn more about Braille stamps in general, because I didn't know when and where they were first issued. We found it interesting that a Braille stamp was used on a handwritten postcard. A visually impaired person could feel the stamp, but they wouldn't be able to read it!



Louis Braille (1809-1852) was blinded in one eye when he was three years old as a result of an accident with a stitching awl in his father's harness-making shop. His wound became infected and nothing could be done. Eventually, he lost sight in his other eye. He invented the Braille Alphabet in 1824 at the age of 15. The alphabet is a collection of raised dots that can be arranged in different ways to symbolize letters. This system helped many people to read things they were unable to read before.

In 1974, Brazil issued the first stamp with Braille lettering, Scott #1357. The raised dots honor the 5th World Council for the Welfare of the Blind that was held in Sao Paulo. Canada Post issued the first Braille stamp in North America on April 21, 2008, Scott #2266. The stamp celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Association for the Blind. In 1990, Denmark issued a stamp, "Frederica, The Town for Everybody" that has Braille lettering, Scott #927. And, Israel issued a stamp in 2001, Scott #1461, celebrating the 100th anniversary of its Institute for the Blind. Even though these stamps are helpful to those who are visually disabled, they are difficult to collect. The raised dots are easily damaged by cancellation or handling.



Ref: [//www.ebay.com/itm/221573940922](http://www.ebay.com/itm/221573940922); [//findyourstampsvalue.com/news/philately-for-the-blind-unusual-braille-stamps](http://findyourstampsvalue.com/news/philately-for-the-blind-unusual-braille-stamps)

Collecting Used Stamps

Michael Rogers



One way to collect used stamps is simply obtain one example per Scott major number. A specialist might go for shades, varieties, or on cover. Collecting “used” means having the opportunity to branch out into lots of side doors. I was born in 1949, so I could try a calendar collection of 366 stamps, each bearing a different postmark for all days of the year. Challenging. Or, pick any stamp and display town cancels or shades. When I collected China, I had a lot of fun with English language postmarks. I enjoy United States first, second, and third issue revenues with printed cancels as there are many different.

No lie, those international pages take up a lot of room and they are costly. I bided my time, and lucky guy that I am, a partial set of the same pages, albeit used, 1900-1940 came up on eBay, where I bought it for \$245 postpaid. They were punched for the blue International binder. A most unusual listing.

Scott binders are so well made that I am well satisfied buying a used binder (\$10) instead of the new (\$52). Being frugal makes a difference as my Internationals now total twenty binders. I have a mixture of new and used binders, depending on how patient I was when I needed them.

Both mint and used collections are arranged geographically. I tend to concentrate on the areas that I have had the least experience with: Central & South America and Europe. Collecting worldwide means I will never run out of something to collect. Now that I think about it, I’m so happy that I accidentally got into collecting used stamps.

Ref: Reprinted in part from The American Stamp Dealer & Collector, “Reminiscences”, May, 2017

Denman Fink and Florida Post Office Murals

Juan L. Riera

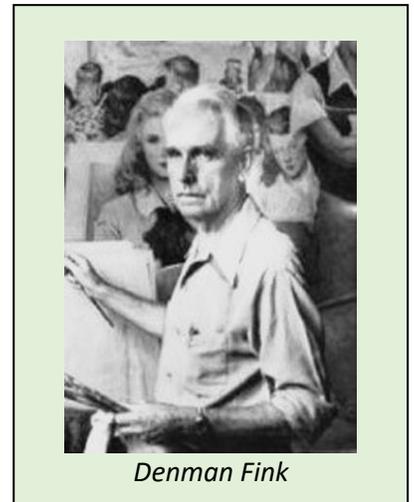


Lake Wales, Florida, Post Office Mural "Harvest Time" by Denman Fink (1942)

Born in Springdale, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh, Denman Fink (1880-1956) was trained at the Pittsburgh School of Design and the Boston Museum of Art, after which he worked as an illustrator for Scribner's and Harper's magazines. He lived in Haworth, New Jersey during this period, where he also painted and did commercial advertisements. During World War I he completed several large canvases, commissioned as part of the War effort.

In 1920 he came to Florida for the winter, having just completed a poster commission and a series of paintings for a volume of verse written by his nephew George E. Merrick. Merrick was to gain renown as the designer of the planned community of Coral Gables. Fink moved permanently to Florida in 1924 to serve as Merrick's artistic advisor.

He was responsible for many of the design features of the community and completed a major mural for the Miami Courthouse. He painted a number of other Florida murals, and his work was exhibited nationwide. He became the head of the art department at the University of Miami, where he served for 25 years.



Denman Fink

During our Great Depression, the United States Government worked at stimulating the economy by building nearly 2,000 post offices throughout the country. Murals were eventually painted in almost 1,000 of these post offices and federal courthouses to employ artists and elevate the morale and spirits of Americans during dark economic times.

In 1941, Fink painted an oil on canvas entitled *“Law Guides Florida Progress”* that hung in the Federal Courtroom of the Miami Post Office and Courthouse. It was a massive work measuring 134 inches by 303 inches. In 1942, he painted the *“Harvest Time”* mural at the Lake Wales, Florida, Post Office (shown at top).



To commemorate these historical artistic efforts, the United States Postal Service issued a set of five, 55¢ Forever postage stamps, Scott #'s 5372-5375, - the *“Post Office Murals”* issue in 2019. The stamps include:

“Kiowas Moving Camp” (1936) in Anadarko, Oklahoma by Stephen Mopoe, James Auchiah, & Spenser Asah.

“Mountains and Yucca” (1937) in Deming, New Mexico, by Kenneth M. Adams.

“Airmail” (1941) in Piggott, Arkansas, by Daniel Rhodes.

“Antelope” (1939) in Florence, Colorado, by Olive Rush.

“Sugarloaf Mountain” (1940) in Rockville, Maryland, by Judson Smith.

The Royal Arch Oak

Dan Maddalino



Old Florida is well preserved on picture post cards of the early twentieth century. The collection, preservation, and study of these cards is known as Deltiology. Rising from the philatelic family tree, deltiology is a strong branch. Early picture post cards can at times be quite puzzling to the observer. Offered for your consideration is this unused card bearing a colorized photomechanical offset printing of an 1898 photograph by William Henry Jackson (1843-1942)¹. It was originally printed through Detroit Publishing Company, Michigan². This picture is the most famous of six views taken of this site and used on post cards. Observing the card we develop two questions: Where in Florida is this Royal Arch Oak and, why is it named the Royal Arch? This card identifies Florida as the state where it is located. So, we went to the internet to begin our hunt for information³.

The “where” in Florida inquiry was quickly identified. It was located on Florida’s east coast near Ormond (Beach) in Volusia County. In this illustration of the Royal Arch, we are looking southeast with the Tomoka River in the background. Two of the six known renditions of this scene on postcards are orientated for the viewer looking northwest. In these, the Tomoka River is a prominent feature. The dirt path with the wagon-wheel tracks was known as River Road, which connects with (old) Volusia County Road 9 to the south.

At the time of the printing of these postcards (circa 1903) the story of how this feature came to be known as the Royal Arch Oak was well known. Today, it is forgotten. A nationwide newspaper search⁴ has turned up three references to this once famous site. In the October 19, 1910, issue of the Hartford Courant (Hartford, Connecticut), under the title *West Hartford Man's Home in Florida*, we read "It is said that Edward, the late King of England as Prince of Wales⁵, went under the arch, since which time the arch has been a royal arch." An article from the *Hamilton Garden Club* by Alta Harvey Heiser in the August 15, 1936, issue of The Journal News (Hamilton, Ohio) states "A friend writing from Florida said she had never known that Florida had such delightful summer climate. The card has a picture of the Royal Arch Oak..." And finally, the third report comes from The News Herald (Franklin, Pennsylvania) published January 31, 1946. Miss. Bertha Weaver, in her article *NICKLEVILLE* she muses "A postcard comes from the Austin Donaldsons in Florida and shows the beautiful Royal Arch Oak and declares they are enjoying the sunshine..." So. it seems that sometime before January 1901 when Edward, Prince of Wales ascended to the throne of England as King Edward VII, this majestic arch received the title Royal Arch Oak.

To answer the question "How did this oak tree receive the name Royal Arch?", inquiries were placed with local historical societies. They were unable to provide any information, so modern quests always take us to the internet. There we found that the historical record is clear: Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, made only one visit to the United States. That was in 1860 as an extension to a visit to Ottawa, Canada to lay the cornerstone of a new Parliament building. His side trip took him to Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington, DC, Baltimore, New York, and Maine. No southern excursions. Prince Edward never returned to any part of North America again⁶. The local story is a myth. Then, who was responsible for naming the site? Was the person a responsible tourist promoter, or a real estate promoter, or (most probably) William Henry Jackson himself? Knowing Mr. Jacksons outstanding nature photography, and the habit of giving his art names, we can comfortably support Mr. Jackson as the origin of the title "Royal Arch Oak" and attached it in 1898.

Today, these century-old oak trees along the east coast of Volusia County, Florida, are mostly gone due to either age or brush fires common to the area. However, through deltiology we can nostalgically visit Old Florida again, and enjoy the views.

Endnotes

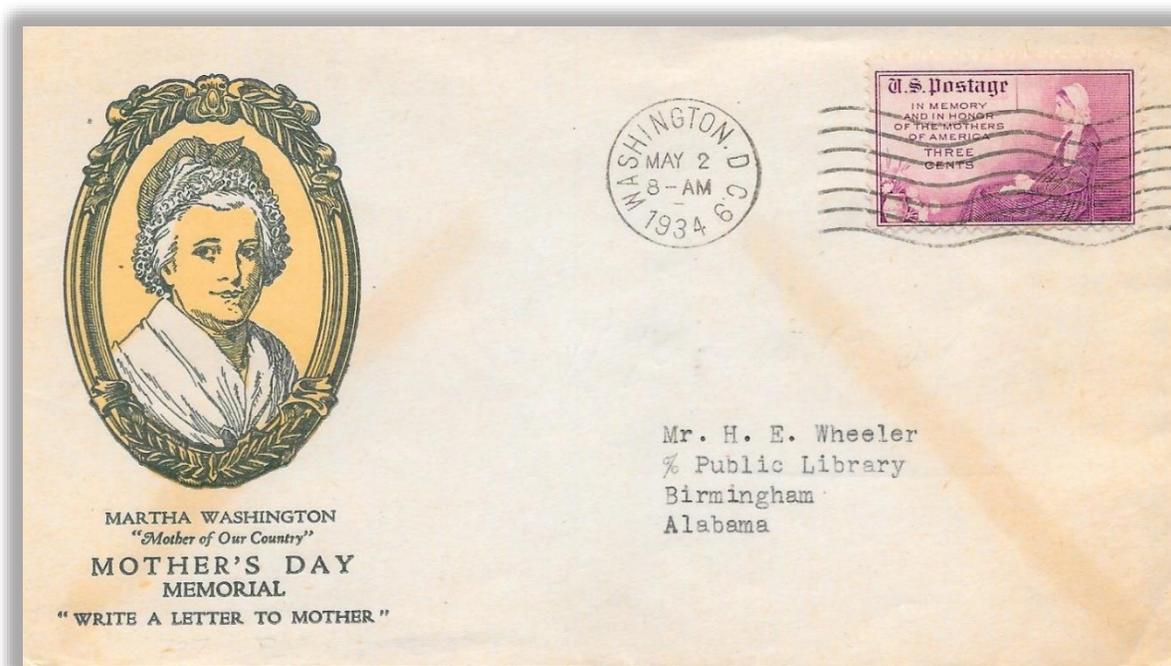
nypl.org *The New York Public Library Digital Collections* January 31, 2024 hdl.loc.gov/pp/print
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA February 1, 2024
[Floridamemory.com/items/.show/157523](https://floridamemory.com/items/.show/157523) February 3, 2024

Newspapers.com Search for key-words Royal Arch Oak. January 25, 2024

King Edward VII (1841-1910) was born Albert Edward on November 9, 1841, and declared Prince of Wales December 8, 1841 [Royal.uk](https://www.royal.gov.uk) The official website of the Royal Family February 4, 2024

Write a Letter to Mother

Michael Swope



Martha Dandridge Custis Washington (1731-1802), the inaugural first lady of the United States, was the wife of our first president, George Washington and is considered the mother of our country.

Widowed at age 26 in 1757, Martha remarried to George Washington in 1759 and moved to his Mount Vernon plantation. She became a symbol of the American Revolution after her husband was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and she took on a matronly role while visiting encampments when fighting stalled during winter months. After the war ended in 1783, Washington sought retirement at Mount Vernon, but she was returned to public life when her husband became president of the United States in 1789.

Shown above is the "Write a letter to Mother", Mother's Day, first-day commemorative cover, franked with the "Mothers of America" issue, 3¢ purple postage stamp (Scott #737), cancelled at Washington DC on May 2, 1934.

*Mom, where do I start. There is no beginning, nor an end,
To your constant, calming presence - it's all encompassing.
When I have you, there are times when I take you for granted,
But when absent for a moment, I feel uprooted, empty-handed.*

Ref: Cover from Author's collection; Mountvernon.org;
Medium.com, YJA, "A letter to my mother", first stanza, May, 10, 2020.