

CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club

July 2023

July is National Fireworks Safety month. Please celebrate safely on Independence Day, July 4th. The 11th is World Population Day, the 21st is National Junk Food Day, the 23rd is National Hot Dog Day (yeah), and finally, we celebrate Harry Potter's birthday on July 31st (Don't let the muggles get you down).

At the beginning of the clubs' June 13th meeting the "Unofficial Programs Committee" provided refreshments for club fellowship. In addition, Dan Maddalino gave another philatelic presentation, entitled "The Glass Slipper Test". It was a discussion on the World War I Belgium Relief label from Barbados and the French Red Cross label from Montserrat, British West Indies. We hope to see everyone at the July 11th meeting to answer the question: "Who Have I Shared My Hobby With?" You'll miss us if you're not there!

Welcome new club members Josephine Shallo-Hoffman and Richard Kania! Our July meetings are scheduled for the 11th and 25th.

Regards,
Michael Swope

In This Issue

Volume 10, Number 7

Page 2 – Fishing with FDR, Juan L. Riera

Page 4 – Barbados - Missing MR3 Issue, Dan Maddalino

Page 5 – Philatelic Facts

Page 6 – Palm Beach, Michael Swope



Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse
1:00 p.m. – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
2605 Barkley Drive
West Palm Beach FL 33415
www.cresthavenstamp.club



President: Richard Kaye
V-Pres: Kelley McDougall
Secretary: Pat Hensley
Treasurer: Harry Clifford
Liaison: Dan Maddalino
dmaddalino@aol.com
Editor: Michael Swope
mswope@ameritech.net

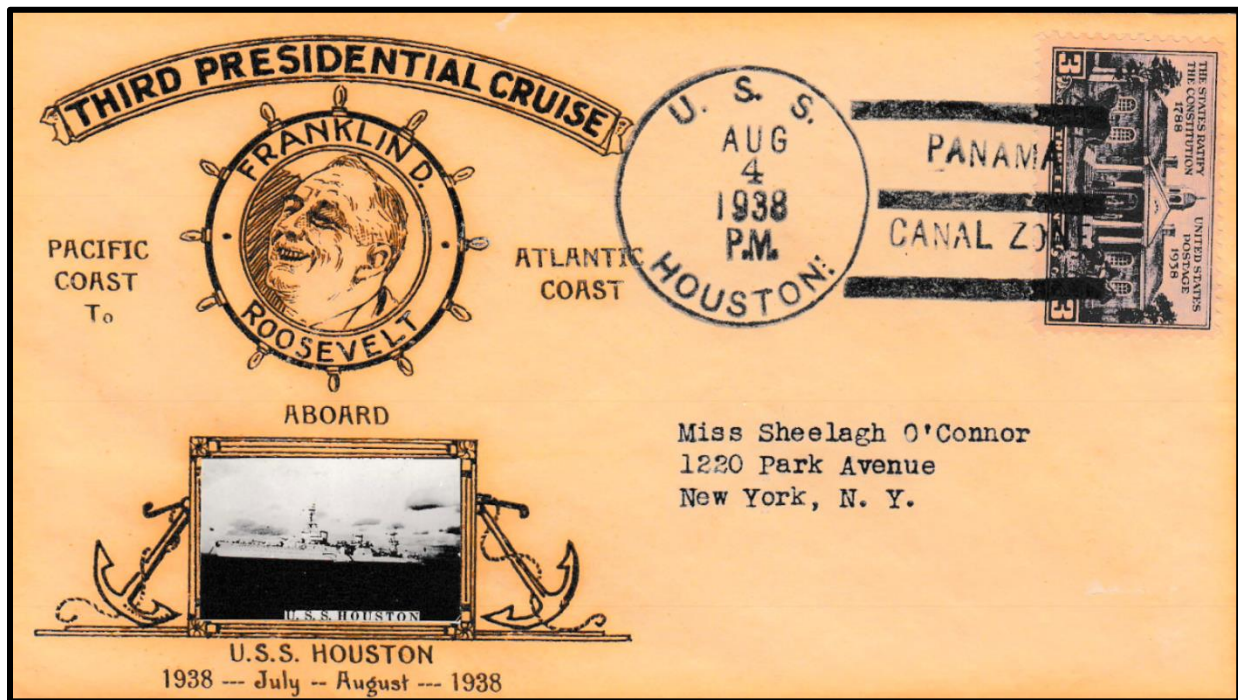
©2023 Cresthaven Stamp Club

Material is offered for educational and informational purposes. Guest authors assume no liability for error or omission in content. Material may have been produced under the "Fair Use" clause and can be similarly reproduced.



Fishing with FDR

Juan L. Riera



Franklin Delano Roosevelt was an avid, lifelong fisherman. After his mobility became limited when he contracted polio in 1921, he spent a great deal of his leisure time either sailing or fishing. Dr. Ross McIntire, Roosevelt's personal physician when he was president, advised him to go on as many vacations as possible to improve his health. McIntire later recounted, "Despite our bargain about regular relaxation, I doubt he would have kept the agreement except for his love of fishing."

Shown above is a commemorative cover of Franklin Roosevelt's third presidential cruise, onboard the U.S.S. Houston, a Northampton-Class Cruiser (CA-30) of the United States Navy. The cover is franked with the 1938, deep violet, 3¢, Constitution Ratification issue, depicting the "Old Courthouse" at Williamsburg, Virginia. The cover was cancelled August 4, 1938, on the Houston, in the Panama Canal Zone.

The Presidential Cruise of 1938 on board the Houston was a fishing trip for Roosevelt that lasted from July 14th to August 9th, departing from San Diego and visiting the Archipelago de Colon, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and "Old Providence Island". The latter is now known as Isla de Providencia that is part of the Colombian Department of San Andres, however, is still to this day, claimed by Nicaragua. In 1903 when the U.S. "brokered" the independence of Panama from Colombia the Department of San Andres was offered to Panama. The offer was declined.



U.S.S. Houston

Scientific staff of the Smithsonian were invited along on the 1938 fishing trip to collect marine and botanical specimens. Dr. Waldo Schmitt was appointed naturalist of the cruise and was assisted by ship personnel. The team collected many specimens including plants, mollusks, fish, sponges, and other invertebrates. Several new species were discovered. Including a new type of palm tree, “*Siriella Roosevelti*”, named for the president.

In an earlier cruise, also aboard the U.S.S. Houston, Roosevelt became the first sitting president of the United States to transit the Panama Canal, on July 11, 1934. The Houston had embarked Roosevelt and his party at Annapolis on July 1, proceeding to the canal via Cape Haiti, Mayaguez, San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Cartagena, and Balboa. With many “fishing” activities along the way, the cruise traversed the canal and headed for Portland, Oregon, via Cocos Island and Honolulu, Hawaii.

The grouper and rock beauty were caught by FDR in July 1938 off the coast of the Galapagos Islands. Roosevelt spent several weeks, much of it fishing, aboard the *USS Houston*, traveling from San Diego, California through the Panama Canal, and ultimately anchoring in Pensacola, Florida.

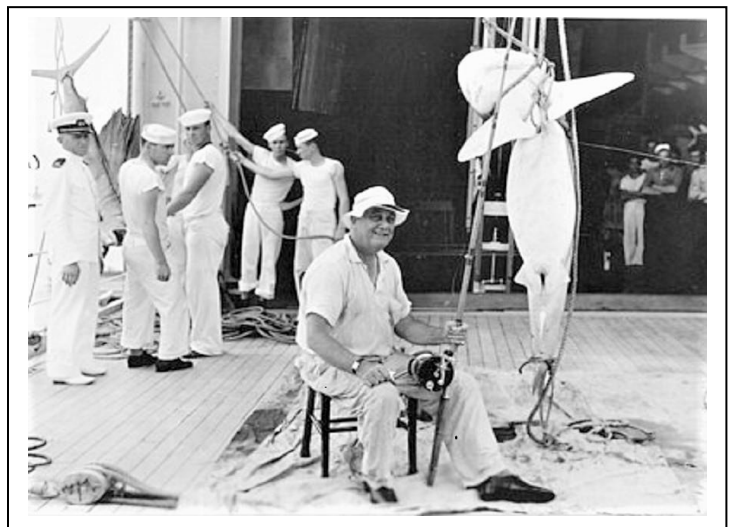
Ref:

Cover from Author's collection

<https://fdr.blogs.archives.gov>

<https://fdrlibrary.tumblr.com>

<https://libraries.uh.edu>

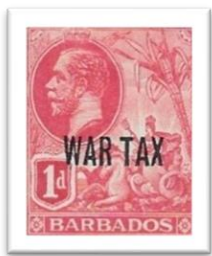


Barbados Missing MR3 Issue

Dan Maddalino

On January 17, 1919, after the end of World War I, a well audited and securely packed print run of 4,368 sheets of “WAR TAX” overprinted stamps (524,160 stamps) left London in the hold of a cargo ship bound for the British Colony of Barbados. The stamps have never been accounted for. There is no record of the responsible British merchant vessel encountering any late hostilities since the ceasefire was declared on November 11, 1918. Germany had ordered all land, sea, and air forces to stand down and return to German territories. World War I was over. But where were the half-million postage stamps placed on board this ship by Crown Agents for Thomas De La Rue, the postage stamp printers?

Within a year of first world war breaking out in Europe (1914) factions were lobbying for the government of Barbados to raise cash for the war effort. Barbados was a wealthy colony, having a profitable sugar exporting industry. The first effort to raise money failed in 1915. Private fund-raising was allowed, but the Barbados Treasury was not to participate. A push for a Postal War Tax failed in 1916. The public strongly opposed this scheme. The clan of war relief supporters, and profiteers worked to change the government representatives and was successful in passing the Postal War Tax Act on February 2, 1917.



The first order for overprinted stamps was received in the colony and placed on sale October 10, 1917 (Scott's MR1, Bright Red, above right). A total of 524,640 stamps should have been sufficient for a small colony of 156,312 men, women and children. But it wasn't. Six months later (April, 1918), another 1,006,320 stamps (Scott's MR2, Dull Red, at left) were distributed to the few post offices across this tiny island. However, it was difficult for the residents to purchase any for themselves. Stamp speculators, dealers, and hoarders were intercepting these deliveries and buying the bulk of the supply. Finally in January 1919, even though the war was over, the Postmaster for Barbados ordered another 524,160 war tax stamps. This is the missing (MR3?) shipment.

It is well known by students of British Empire War Tax Stamps, that corruption and theft were rampant throughout the British Colonial postal system. Several colonial postmasters were profiting from their scandalous activities to funnel money away from their national treasuries. Most famous of these were from Jamaica (postmaster fled the country), Ceylon (postmaster recalled to London), Bahamas (catalogue delisting of numerous issues as fake), and Barbados (postmaster private sales)! Was this what happened to the 500,000-plus stamps that have gone “missing”? The stamps were delivered to Barbados but were never recorded as received by the

postal service. Did the Colonial Postmaster divert the delivery to stamp speculators and pocket the sale? Were they received but not recorded? Very unlikely. However, because the war was over, were they simply destroyed as not needed? No, they would have been sold to recover the cost of printing. Without evidence, these are only speculations. But one question remains: Why in over 100 years have no stamps that would be catalogued as MR3 ever surfaced? The mystery of the missing MR3 stamps remains.

Primary Sources

1. John G. M. Davis, *War Tax Stamps of the British Empire, First World War*, Chapter 9, Barbados. (London, England: Royal Philatelic Society London: 2009)
2. Jay Bigalke (ed.), *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. 1B* (Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media: 2022)
3. Internet: <https://www.stats.gov.bb/census/>
4. Stamps from author's collection.

Philatelic Facts



Charles Ponzi

Charles Ponsi was born in Italy in 1883. He later changed his last name to 'Ponzi', thus providing a new English language word that has since become synonymous with "con-artist". As a youth he was frequently involved in petty theft, shop lifting, and card cheating. When he was sixteen, he sailed to the United States and worked as a waiter. Ponzi became proficient in English and moved to Montreal where he was hired at a bank. His bi-lingual skills were key to rapid advancement. However, his access to accounts led to an arrest and conviction for embezzlement, and a three-year prison sentence.

Ponzi returned to the United States following release from prison and obtained employment at an import-export firm in Boston. Here he discovered Universal Postal Union, International Reply Coupons and learned they could be purchased at post offices and attached to letters to enable recipients to exchange coupons for a stamp of sufficient value to reply without cost. The device fascinated Ponzi, who redeemed a Spanish coupon at a Boston post office for a 5¢ U.S. postage stamp. He learned the cost of a UPU coupon in Spain was equivalent to 1¢, U.S. and realized there was a huge potential for financial gain.

Ponzi's scheme garnered a quarter-million dollars weekly by 1920. A U.S. Post Office investigation revealed, however, that Ponzi was not purchasing coupons. Ponzi was quoted, "I have just used this postal coupon idea as a blind. I did not want the Wall Street boys to get even a hint of what my real scheme is. And so long as my depositors get back their investments with a profit, I do not have to account to anybody". Records indicate Ponzi scammed over fifteen-million dollars from investors. He was indicted on eighty-six counts of conversion and pled guilty to embezzlement. He served five years in prison.

Palm Beach

Michael Swope



Featured above is a (c. 1923) photochrome post card published by E. C. Kropp Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, depicting an ariel view of beach and surroundings at Palm Beach, Florida.

Located on a barrier island in Palm Beach County, the town is separated from West Palm Beach and Lake Worth Beach by the Intracoastal Waterway. Settlers reached there in 1872 and a post office opened in 1877. Elisha Dimick, the town's first mayor, established Palm Beach's first hotel in 1880, the Coconut Grove House. It was Standard Oil's Henry Flagler who was instrumental in transforming the island of jungle and swamp into a winter resort for the wealthy. Flagler built the Royal Poinciana Hotel in 1894, the Breakers in 1896, and Whitehall in 1902. The town of Palm Beach incorporated on April 17, 1911.

The post card cache reads, "From the aeroplane a fascinating panorama is presented of this brilliant resort gem in its exquisite setting of emerald and sapphire, clasped in the burnished gold of the tropical sun." The card is franked with the 1¢, green, Benjamin Franklin postage stamp, Scott # 552. It was mailed to Brookline, MA, and cancelled January 18, 1925, at West Palm Beach, Florida.



Ref: Post card from author's collection
www.wikipedia.com