

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



June 2026

This month, our club turns its attention to one of the most iconic figures of the American Revolution: Nathan Hale. His brief story of courage is forever tied to the words *"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"*, which inspired generations. Philatelists know him not only as a patriot, but as a familiar face on U.S. classics. Hale's presence in American philately is a reminder of how stamps preserve more than just an image, they preserve ideals. His legacy invites us to reflect on the role of sacrifice, service, and national identity in the stories our collections tell. As we move into summer, it's a fitting moment to revisit the figures who shaped the nation whose postal history we love to study.



Thanks to Marc Speiser of East Lansing and Joshua Tacey of Auburn Hills for making philatelic donations to our club.

At our May 5th meeting, Martin Brown discussed a "first day cover" art project; members voted unanimously to exclude "cookies" from our website; and initial plans for FERNPEX 2026 were discussed.

The May 19th meeting was held in Room #3 at NEXT (with round tables) and the club voted to continue meeting in this room. Our condolences to member Fred Como on the recent passing of his wife Linda. The club banquet is scheduled for October 20th at a location to be determined. Finally, a donation was made to NEXT for use of their facilities.

Club Meetings –

June 2nd and 16th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham.

Upcoming Events –

June 5th & 6th, Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc. Show, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, 48105, Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-3.

June 12th & 13th, Dearborn Stamp Club Show, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights, 48127, Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-4.

June 27th, Modern Stamps Public Auction at their Oak Park facility, Saturday at 12N.

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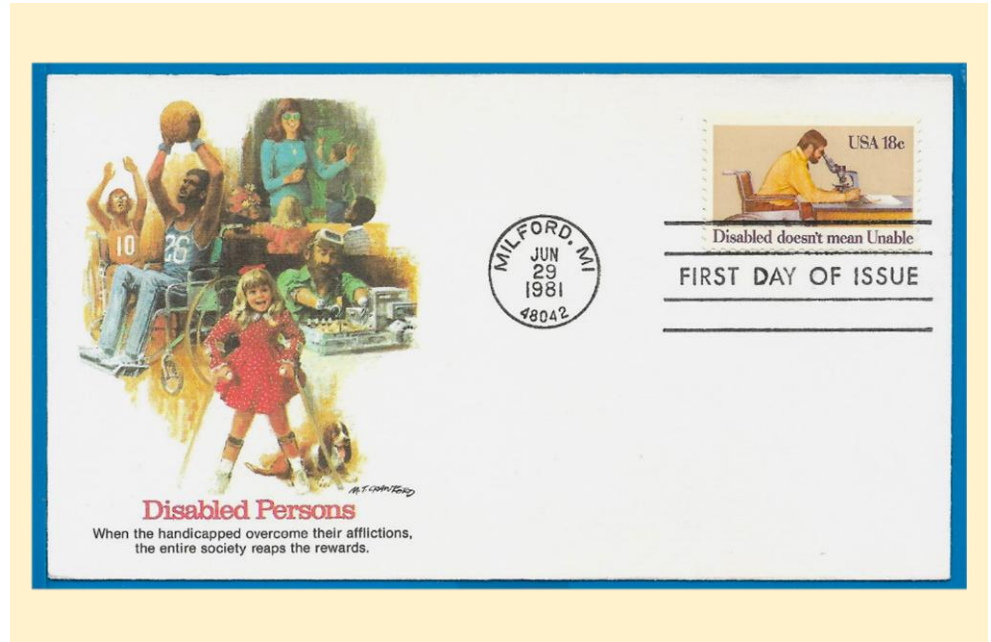
Page 3 – AAMS Convention, Michael Swope

International Year of the Disabled

Pat Hensley

On June 29, 1981, the 18¢ International “Year of the Disabled” postage stamp (Scott #1925) was issued and first day ceremonies were held in Milford, Michigan. It was hoped that this stamp would promote support programs for disabled persons. It was designed by Martha Perske, her first attempt in postage stamp design. It features a man in a wheelchair using a sophisticated microscope and shows the words, “Disabled doesn't mean Unable.”.

A United Nations resolution proclaimed 1981 the *International Year of the Disabled*. It was important to have the world accept the needs of those with handicaps. They encouraged all nations to help the disabled. The theme “full participation and equality” meant that persons with disabilities had the right to take part fully in society, just as other citizens.



Milford, Michigan was selected to hold the first day ceremony because it was home to the United States headquarters of the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) in 1981.

Prior to 1981, the United States Congress passed the “Education for All Handicapped Children Act (1975, Public Law 94-142).” This law protected the rights of children with disabilities and their families. In 1990, when the law was reauthorized, the name was changed to “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).” The most recent legal compilation of IDEA shows it is current through Public Law 118-42, enacted March 9, 2024, confirming that Congress has continued to amend and maintain the statute.

Resources: Reprinted (in part) from *Cresthaven Stamp Club News*, Vol. 10, No 4, April 2023

https://postalmuseum.si.edu/object/npm_1985.0021.2523; <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/the-international-year-of-disabled-persons-1981.html>

[https://sites.ed.gov/idea/IDEA-](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/IDEA-History#:~:text=On%20November%2019%2C%201975%2C%20President,and%20locality%20across%20the%20country.)

[History#:~:text=On%20November%2019%2C%201975%2C%20President,and%20locality%20across%20the%20country.](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/IDEA-History#:~:text=On%20November%2019%2C%201975%2C%20President,and%20locality%20across%20the%20country.)

American Air Mail Society Convention

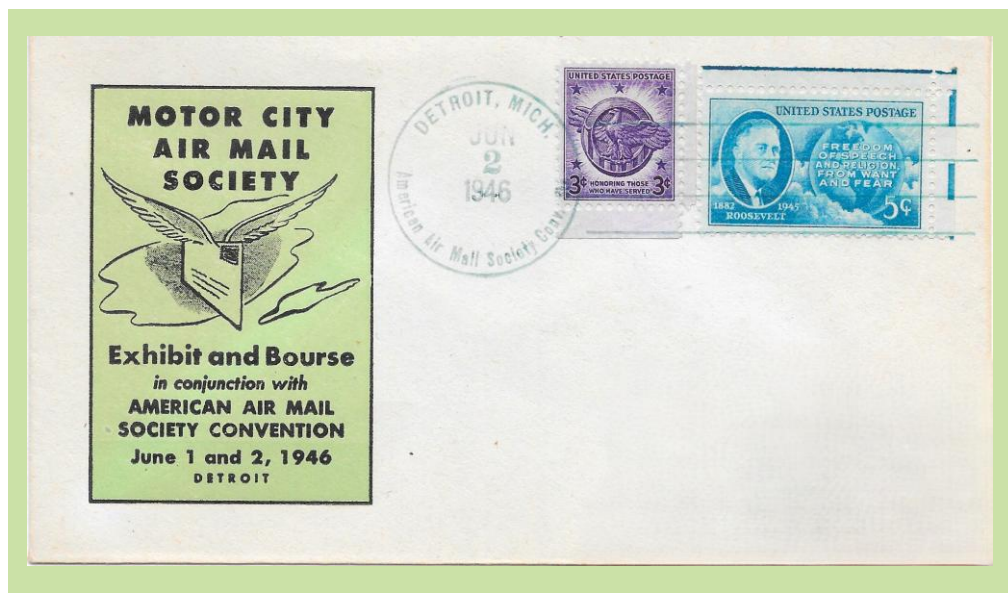
Michael Swope

Eighty years ago, as the United States emerged from the upheaval of World War II, the American Air Mail Society resumed its tradition of in-person conventions—events that had been disrupted, postponed, or scaled back during the war years. The 1946 gathering in Detroit, at the Book-Cadillac hotel, stood out as one of the earliest full-scale postwar meetings, symbolizing both the revival of organized philately and the explosive growth of interest in aerophilately.

Detroit was a natural host for the airmail enthusiasts. Wartime production had transformed the Motor City into one of the nation's most important industrial centers, and its airports—Detroit City Airport and Willow Run—had become major hubs for military and civilian aviation. For air-mail collectors, Detroit offered airmail routes connecting the Midwest to both coasts; proximity to Canadian air-mail networks through Windsor; and, a strong local philatelic community, including active air-mail specialists. These factors made Detroit an ideal location for the AAMS as it sought to energize its membership after years of wartime constraints.

The 1946 convention reflected a hobby in transition. Collectors were suddenly confronted with a flood of wartime military airmail, V-mail, and censored covers; New international routes opening as airlines converted from military to civilian service; and, A renewed interest in pioneer flights, as veterans and aviation workers joined the hobby. Dealers and exhibitors at the Detroit meeting reportedly showcased material that had been nearly impossible to obtain during the war—trans-Atlantic covers, Pan Am material, and pre-1930s flight mail that had resurfaced from long-held collections.

The convention was hosted by the Motor City Air Mail Society and they published the event cover at right. It is franked with the violet, 3¢ Honorable Discharge (Scott #940) and blue, 5¢ Franklin Roosevelt (Scott #933) postage stamps. It was cancelled at convention center on June 2, 1946.



Ref:
Cover from Autor's collection