



BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

July 2022

Independence Day, the Fourth of July has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941. However, the tradition of Independence Day celebrations dates to the American Revolution. On July 4, 1776 delegates from the thirteen colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, the historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Since 1776, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence.



U.S. Scott #2276

Notes from our June club meetings:

Club President Ken Rusch reported on the recently updated member list. We now have 56 paid members, of which 30 also belong to APS. Our Treasury balances are \$900.06 for Birmingham & \$816.01 for Ferndale.

Also noted was the combined club's non-profit tax status is paid through 2022 with the State of Michigan.

A recent news report suggests the Birmingham School District (which operates the NEXT Senior Center) is operating at a severe deficit and may impact club meetings.

Club member Michael Swope made a presentation featuring the Ferndale Stamp Club's 5th annual banquet, held at Lincoln High School on December 2, 1939. The emcee of that event was noted author, philatelist, and club founding member Maurice F. Cole. The complete banquet program (see at www.birminghamstamp.club) was found at a West Palm Beach, Florida antique show in February, 2022.

Upcoming events:

Club Meetings – July 5th & 19th at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham

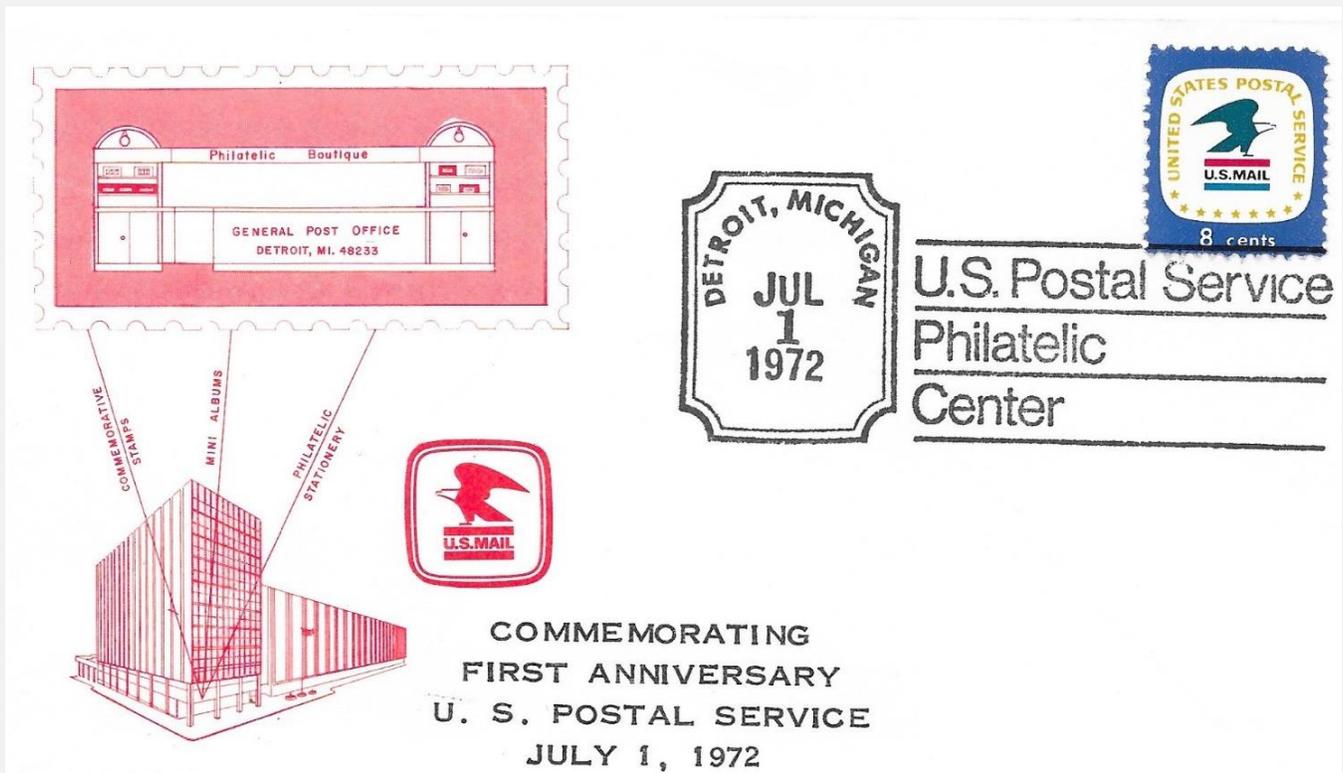
We will prepare BIRPEX announcements at our August 2nd meeting

Modern Stamps sale #503 – August 6th at its Oak Park Facility

United States Postal Service First Anniversary

Michael Swope

Featured here is a July 1, 1972, Detroit, Michigan, General Post Office “Philatelic Boutique” cachet commemorating the first anniversary of the United States Postal Service. This fifty-year old cover is affixed with the 8¢, U.S. Postal Service Emblem stamp, Scott #1396 (issued on July 1, 1971). The souvenir cover is tied to the stamp with a July 1, 1972 Detroit, Michigan, Philatelic Center cancel.



A year earlier, on July 1, 1971, the Post Office Department was transformed into the United States Postal Service when it became an independent branch of the United States government.

Before this transition, politicians often controlled post office jobs, salaries, and promotions. The postmaster general was even frequently the sitting presidents campaign manager. Mounting customer complaints and a 1970 postal workers' strike, however, demonstrated the need for change. The United States Postal Service that emerged from the reform is a semi-independent agency which is expected to operate like a business and place emphasis on efficiency.

A postal career service was established and political appointments to Postal Service jobs were prohibited, a framework that still stands today.