



# BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

## January 2023

January is named after Janus, the ancient Roman god of gates and doors symbolizing endings, beginnings, and transitions. He's depicted with two heads: one head looking at the past and the other at the future. 2023 is the Lunar New Year of the Rabbit; may it bring philatelic happiness and good health to you!



*U.S. Scott #5753*

Notes from our December club meeting:

The December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was the club's last meeting for 2022.

FERNPEX-2023, February 17 & 18, 2023, show planning continues. We have secured sufficient dealer commitments to make the show successful. Club members will stuff and stamp invitations at our January 17<sup>th</sup> club meeting.



Upcoming events:

Club meetings – January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham

Modern Stamps sale #507, January 21<sup>st</sup> at its Oak Park Facility

Ken Rusch, President  
Fred Como, Vice-President  
Phil Kwasny, Secretary  
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer  
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer  
Michael Swope, Editor-Webmaster

# Cadillaqua

Michael Swope



The 1912 post card shown above features “Cadillaqua” a celebration of Detroit's founding by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac on July 24, 1701. This 211th anniversary was billed as the “Greatest Fete and Carnival in History” and occurred July 22-27, 1912.

The Detroit Board of Commerce organized the Cadillaqua festival with an eye toward casting the city as the aquatic sports capital of the world. The Motor City moniker, it seems, wasn't enough. “They hope to make it the biggest festival of its kind ever held in this country,” The New York Times reported in advance, breathlessly listing rowing and swimming contests, yacht and powerboat races, and even a gripping showdown between a “floatplane” racing through the air against a speedboat on the water. In addition, there would be fireworks displays, pageantry, and parades.

A spectacular fireworks display kicked off the festival on Monday evening, July 22. The next day, a costumed cast of 100 French-Canadian voyageurs from their northern camp along the St. Clair River conducted a reenactment of Cadillac's landing at the foot of Third Street. This was followed by a 5000-automobile parade; boat races, athletic events, and a grand finale featuring a Venetian Night boat parade and fireworks.

The post card was published by the Wolverine News Company and mailed from Detroit to Canon City, Colorado on July 28, 1912. It is franked with a 1¢ Washington, Scott #405. The message side of the post card is printed “Cadillaqua will be the biggest carnival ever attempted in America. It will be held annually in Detroit during the fourth week of each July. The first Cadillaqua will cost \$500,000 and will celebrate the 211<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the city. It will be a land and water fete. The nation is invited”. On the last day of the event, the Detroit city council president and ten councilmembers were arrested on bribery charges. This was the end of Cadillaqua.