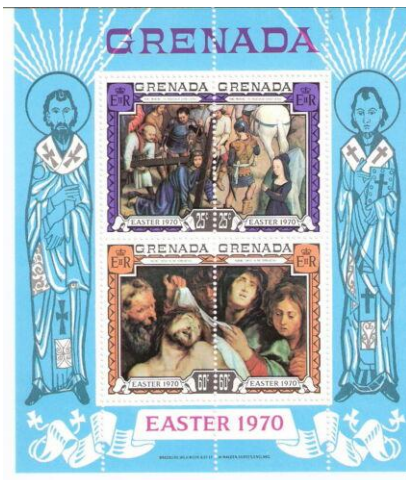




# BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

## April 2023

April brings a profusion of spring flowers, along with longer and warmer days. Be careful, as it begins with April Fool's Day! April is also important philatelically because of its designation as "National Letter Writing" month. Easter is celebrated on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.



*Grenada Scott # 357b*

### Notes from our March meetings:

The dates for BIRMPEX 2023 are set for the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of September at the Sokol Cultural Center.

The club banquet is tentatively scheduled for our second meeting date in October.

### Upcoming Events:

Club meetings – April 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Due to sparse turnout during winter months, club meetings have been temporarily moved to room four in the rear of the senior center.

Modern Stamps sale #509, April 15<sup>th</sup> at its Oak Park Facility

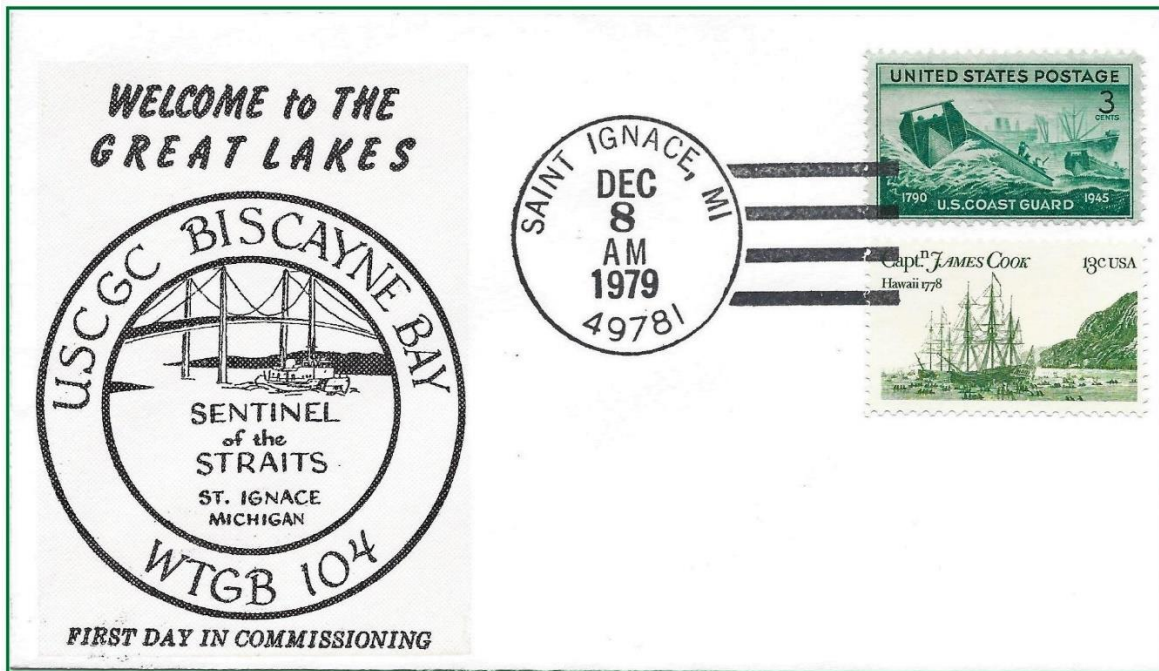
Kalamazoo Stamp Club's KAZOOPEX 2023, April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo Center

West Suburban Stamp Club's "2023 Plymouth Show", April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at the Hellenic Cultural Center, Westland

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

# USCGC Biscayne Bay

Michael Swope



Featured here is a commemorative cover celebrating the “First Day in Commissioning” for the United States Coast Guard Cutter, Biscayne Bay. It is franked with the 3¢ blue-green Coast Guard Issue, Coast Guard Landing Craft and Supply Ship stamp, Scott #936; and the 13¢ green, Captain Cook Issue, Resolution & Discovery stamp, Scott #1733. It is postmarked at Saint Ignace, Michigan, on December 8, 1979 – the day of commissioning.

Homeported in St Ignace, Michigan, the cutter Biscayne Bay is the fourth vessel of the Coast Guard’s “Bay” class. This class of icebreaking harbor tug was designed to replace an aging fleet of harbor tugs and to meet the Coast Guard’s domestic icebreaking responsibilities well into the next century.

Built in Tacoma, Washington by Tacoma Boatbuilding, Biscayne Bay’s primary mission is maintaining the connecting waterways of the Great Lakes and assisting vessels through the icebound shipping lanes. Her primary areas of operation are the Straits of Mackinac and St. Mary’s River. The cutter also frequently operates in the St. Clair/Detroit River system; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Duluth, Minnesota; and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

