

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



June 2024

What we know fondly as the “Stars and Stripes” was adopted by the Continental Congress as the official American Flag on June 14, 1777 - in the middle of the Revolutionary War. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing national flag day, to be observed each year on June 14th.



Scott #4129

Summer Solstice is on June 20th, the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. Don't forget your dad on Father's Day, June 16th.

Notes from our club meetings:

Preparation continues for BIRMPEX 2024, September 13 & 14 at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights. We need volunteers to work the greeting desk and possibly set up the kitchen.

We welcomed club member Wally Koster to our contributing author ranks in May, with his very interesting inaugural article, “Blue Water Bridge”. He appears again in our June issue.

Upcoming events:

Club meetings – June 4th & 18th, 6:00 p.m. at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Meetings are currently held in room #4 at the rear of the senior center.

Dearborn Stamp Club Show, June 7th & 8th at Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights.

Modern Stamps Sale #520, at their Oak Park facility on June 29, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.

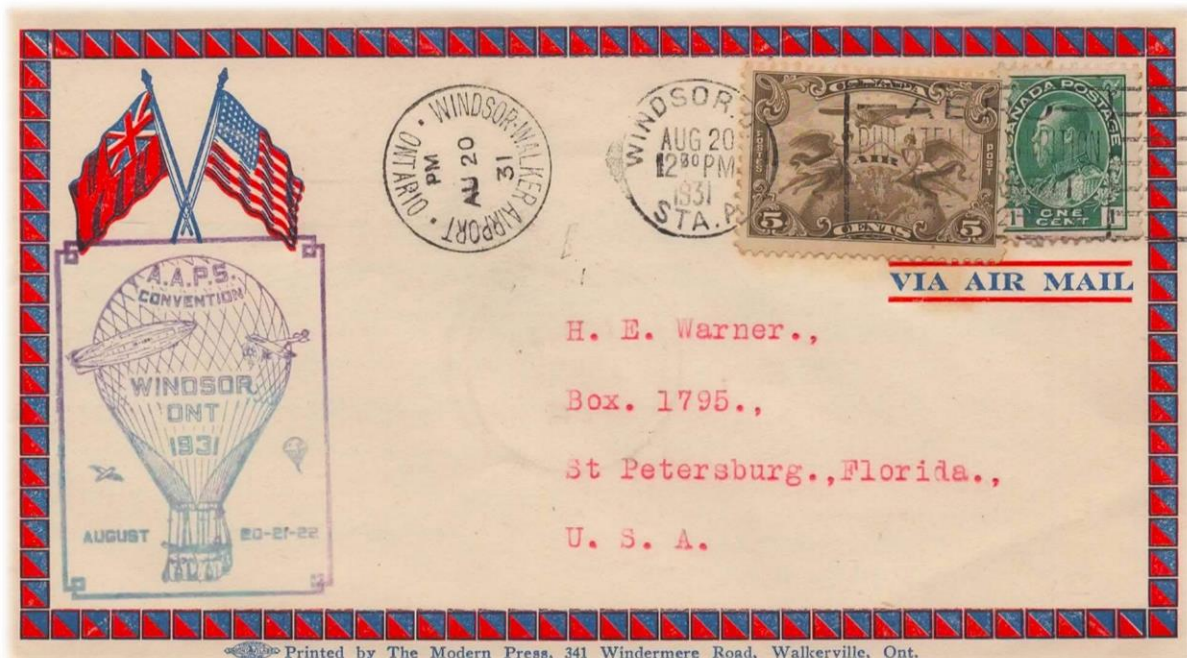
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Ken Rusch, President
Fred Como, Vice-President
Phil Kwasny, Secretary
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer
Michael Swope, Editor

Aerophilately

Wally Koster



Aerophilately is the branch of philately that specializes in the study and collection of airmail stamps and flown covers. It's widely agreed that aerophilately reached its peak in the 1930s when the interest in aviation and stamp collecting were both at their highest.

This cover to St. Petersburg, Florida, was issued to commemorate the American Aero Philatelic Society Convention in Windsor, Ontario, in August, 1931. The cachet features crossed American and Canadian Red Ensign flags above a violet and blue graphic which includes a balloon, an airship, an airplane, a bird, and a parachute. Text reads "A.A.P.S. Convention, Windsor, Ont., 1931" and "August 20 – 21 – 22." Text over the lower front identifies the cover as "Printed by The Modern Press, 341 Windermere Road, Walkerville, Ont."

The cover is franked with Canada's first airmail stamp, the 5-cent "Winged Figures over Globe" (Scott #C1), and a 1¢ "King George V Admiral Issue" (Scott #104) postal stamp to prepay the 6¢ per ounce airmail rate of the day.

Front postal markings include "Windsor-Walkerville Airport, Ontario, AU 20, 31, PM," and "Windsor, Ont. STA. A, Aug. 20. 12:30 PM, 1931," circular cancels, with a "Aero Philatelic Exhibition Windsor, Ont. Aug 17 – 22, 1931" slogan cancel #70 and a seven-line machine cancel.

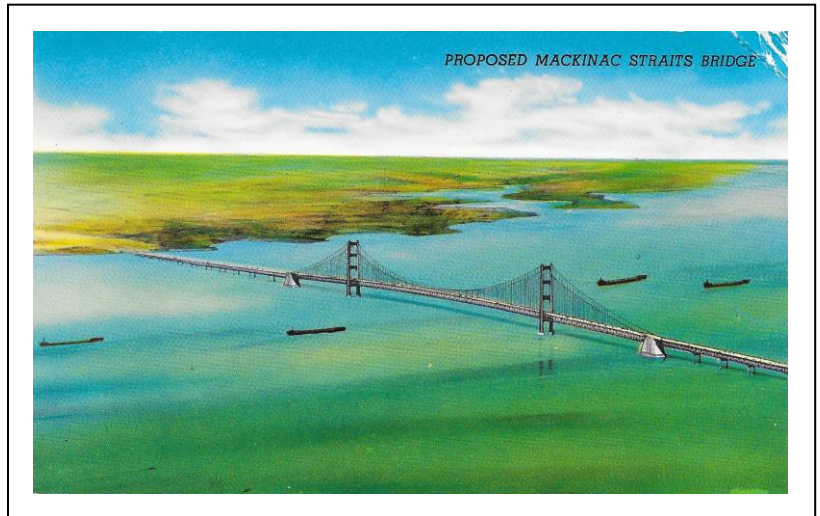
Under the four-digit American Air Mail Catalog (AAMC) numbering system, this cover is identified as #3155 in *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS).

Ref: Cover from Author's collection; *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS); Wikipedia.org.

Mackinac Bridge, Start to Finish

Michael Swope

At right is an unused Hiawatha Card Co. (Ypsilanti) published postcard, c. 1951, depicting an engineer's proposed idea for a bridge connecting Michigan's two peninsulas. The 5-mile bridge would carry four lanes of traffic and go due north from Mackinaw City to a point west of St. Ignace. It was estimated that it would require from four to five years to complete, have a center span of 3,800 feet - between two 565-foot towers, and a water clearance of 150 feet. The 1951 official report of the Mackinac Bridge Authority estimated the bridge would cost 85-million dollars.



As early as 1884, news stories called for a bridge to cross the Straits of Mackinac and, beginning in 1928, several different Michigan governmental agencies studied and made recommendations to build it. The Mackinac Straits Bridge Authority was appointed in 1934 with the direct responsibility to present a plan to President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration. The application was formally declined by the WPA in 1935. But finally, ceremonies to begin construction on the bridge occurred on May 7, 1954.



At left is United States Congressman Louis C. Rabaut's cachet cover "The Wedding of Peninsulas", featuring the 3¢, bright greenish blue, first day Mackinac Bridge Issue postage stamp, Scott #1109. It was cancelled at the Mackinac Bridge on June 25, 1958, at 9:00 a.m. A secondary cancellation mark is "Mackinac Bridge Dedication Festival, June 26-27-28".