

BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB



DECEMBER 2021

Greetings to stamp collectors and philatelists. This is the inaugural issue of the Birmingham & Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter.

New members are always welcome, please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the NEXT Senior Center located at 2121 Midvale Street in Birmingham, Michigan. Meetings start at 5:30 pm.

The first meeting of each month is an auction meeting and members are encouraged to bring philatelic items to sell. The second meeting of the month allows for a presentation (our current membership have varying interests and expertise in a wide range of philatelic endeavors); and, a mini-auction.

Our club has a complete set of current Scott catalogs and other research materials available for use and loan.

Be sure to check our club website: www.birminghamstamp.club for our meeting schedule and notices of philatelic shows.

Notes from our December 7, 2021 meeting:

Members voted to keep annual club dues at \$5.00 for 2022. Discussion on increasing dues in 2023 was tabled.

The club's GoDaddy powered website and domain name were renewed through 2024.

Chris Crossley digs deep into another "cover" and will present the surprising details at our January 4 meeting.

Be sure to check our website "Notices" section for two events on January 15th:

Modern Stamps, Inc., will hold Sale #498, a public stamp auction (with live internet bidding available) at its Oak Park Offices.

And, Winterpex '22 is scheduled from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Dearborn Heights Sokol Cultural Center.

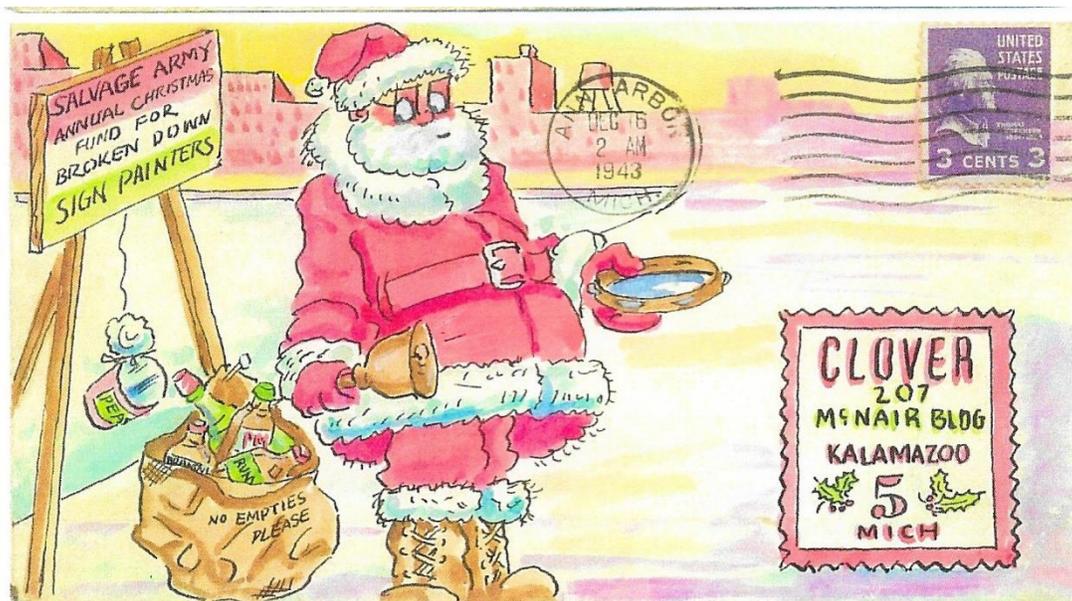
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Michigan Works of Art with a Touch of Postal History

By Cary E. Johnson



Featured here is a delightful pair of Michigan covers in full color. Most hand-painted items we find are philatelic cachets produced for first day covers. Hand-decorated envelopes go back to the mid-1850's, perhaps even earlier, and can be very elaborate in nature and are usually a single color of ink. The letters of these two correspondences are gone, but the covers conjure up many provocative stories based on their symbolism and sometimes whimsical design that, maybe, only the painter and Ms. (assumed) Clover understood. These winter holiday related themes have hidden clues in the pictures – which is part of the enjoyment of seeing these covers painted only for the eyes of Ms. Clover in Kalamazoo and the postal employees in transit. The sender (return address verso) was Robert D. Cook of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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