

# MARIST COLLEGE

## Center for Lifetime Study (CLS) - FALL 2021 SEMESTER



CLASS MGR:  
PAT LUCZAI  
{CLS Member}



PRESENTER:  
MIKE COWAN  
{CLS Member}

### **“Family Treasures” – COLLECTING FDCs\* (FROM 1952 & BEYOND!)**

Tuesday, Oct. 5th, 2021 @ 9:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. (75 mins.) – Wk #4

*Presenter:* MIKE COWAN [CLS Member] \* => **First Day Covers (Stamps)**

CAVEAT – those good at math should be able to figure out my age - LOL

Presenter's e-mail address => [mikedcowan@verizon.net](mailto:mikedcowan@verizon.net)

**“FAMILY TREASURES” - COLLECTING FDCs (First Day Covers)  
MIKE COWAN - BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL SKETCH**

**Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan.**

**Began collecting FDCs as young boy in 1952.**

**In 1965, after finishing graduate school, moved to Pok, NY  
to work for IBM’s Technology Division - retired in 2002.**

**My FDC collecting waned during working years – work, life intervened.**

**Re-awakened by CLS (4-week) course  
taken in (Spring) 2018 on stamp collecting.**

**Course taught by Allen Fink, avid stamp collector  
AND professional (APS\*) appraiser.**

**\* => American Philatelic Society**

**THANKS Allen for re-awakening a hidden passion – after many years!**

**My collecting approach changed - from personally  
preparing and sending away for FDCs →  
to buying them from stamp dealers.**

**HOWEVER, enjoyment and passion for hobby still persists.**

# **“FAMILY TREASURES” - COLLECTING FDCs (First Day Covers)**

## **COURSE MATERIAL OVERVIEW**

**FDCs, First Day Covers - Specialized subset of stamp collecting.  
Adds unique & fascinating dimension to hobby => will be described.**

### **Presentation will include:**

**Basic information on FDCs;**

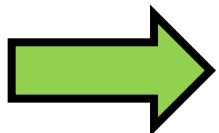
**How does one goes about collecting them;**

**Aspects of my collecting approach –  
personal preferences / topical (same or related topic).**

**Will share number of examples of my FDC collection  
capturing their individual historical significance and my evolving interests.**

**COVER SOME OPTIONS ON DISPOSING – WHEN TIME ARRIVES.**

**Although overall value of my collection (> 600 FDCs) not  
significant in monetary terms → joy, excitement, and knowledge  
accrued in collecting will be described, amplified.**



**N O T E - Oct 1 marked start of National Stamp Collecting Month.  
Annual celebration inaugurated October 1, 1981, 40 years ago.**

# **WHY COLLECT STAMPS? (AND THUS WHY COLLECT FDCs?)**

**=> FUN (STAMPS) AND MORE FUN (FDCs)**

**# HIGHLY PERSONAL – TYPICALLY ONE CAN COLLECT FDCs THAT ONE FINDS INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL.**

**# STAMPS ARE STORY TELLERS (SOME AMAZING STORIES) – IMMORTALIZE HISTORY / HELP BROADEN ONE’S KNOWLEDGE.**

**# FDC COLLECTING IS AFFORDABLE – POTENTIALLY VALUABLE AND EASILY TRANSFERABLE.**

**# STAMPS ARE PIECES OF ART (MINATURE MASTERPIECES) – ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF STAMP DESIGN.**

**# STAMP / FDC COLLECTING EXERCISES / STIMULATES ONE’S BRAIN.**

**# FDC COLLECTING IS A HANDS ON HOBBY ALLOWING “DIY” DESIGNS, REQUIRES PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT - EXTREMELY GRATIFYING.**

**# STAMP COLLECTORS LIVE LONG, HAPPY AND HEALTHY LIVES – REAL OR WISHFUL THINKING (FACT OR FICTION)?**



# So What is a First Day Cover (FDC)?

## THREE BASIC ELEMENTS



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Envelope bearing stamp which is cancelled on day stamp is initially placed on sale by postal authorities.

← FDC with Snowy Egret stamp (A) affixed.

Shown with New York, NY, First Day of Issue cancel (B)

Cachet (C), pronounced *ka-shay*, which compliments or tells us something about stamp.

# What is a First Day Cover – FDC – Why Unique?

A U.S. [First Day Cover](#), or FDC, is an envelope or post card bearing stamp cancelled on date stamp was first available for postal use.

In US, stamps traditionally placed on sale at site designated as official First Day post office, - usually ceremony dedicating new stamp.

Stamp or stamps then go on general nationwide sale following day.

FDC collecting first became popular in 1920s, when U.S. Post Office began to more frequently issue commemorative stamps.

In 1920s and early 1930s First Day Covers were postmarked with everyday working postmarks.

**First official FIRST DAY postmark with the familiar words "First Day of Issue" between bars - used for *Ordinance of 1787* commemorative stamp in 1937.**

In late 1950s to early 1960s, often small illustration included in the postmark below the city name and date.

In more recent years, first day postmarks have usually been unique graphics related to the stamp's subject, often in color.

**GREAT RESOURCE - American First Day Cover Society, non-profit organization devoted to advancement and collecting of first day covers.**

# FDC - *Ordinance of 1787* Sesquicentennial (150th Anniv.) Issue



CACHET



TYPICAL  
POSTMARK  
(City, date, time)



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

FDoI  
POSTMARK

Box 1085  
Green Bay, Wis.

First official first day postmark with familiar words **"FIRST DAY OF ISSUE"** between bars → used for *Ordinance of 1787* commemorative in June 1937.



# Ordinance of 1787 Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Issue

3-cent violet stamp

Issued July 13, 1937

(Scott Catalogue # 795)

Commemorates 150th anniversary of Northwest Territory defined by Ordinance of 1787.

Territory consisted of lands north of Ohio River and east of Mississippi River — lands comprising states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.



Stamp features map of Territory, flanked by portraits of Manasseh Cutler (left), who drafted ordinance, and Rufus Putnam, superintendent of settlement in Territory.

# What is a Cacheted FDC?



IN GOD WE TRUST



FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE

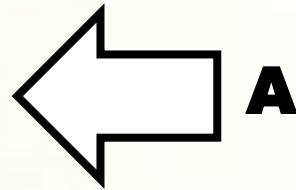
8¢

REGULAR POSTAGE  
SERIES OF 1954-58

(REVISED)



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



RETURN ADDRESS – NONE  
Typically written with pencil  
(lightly) & then erased.

“Typical” first day  
cover includes  
pictorial cachet (**A**)

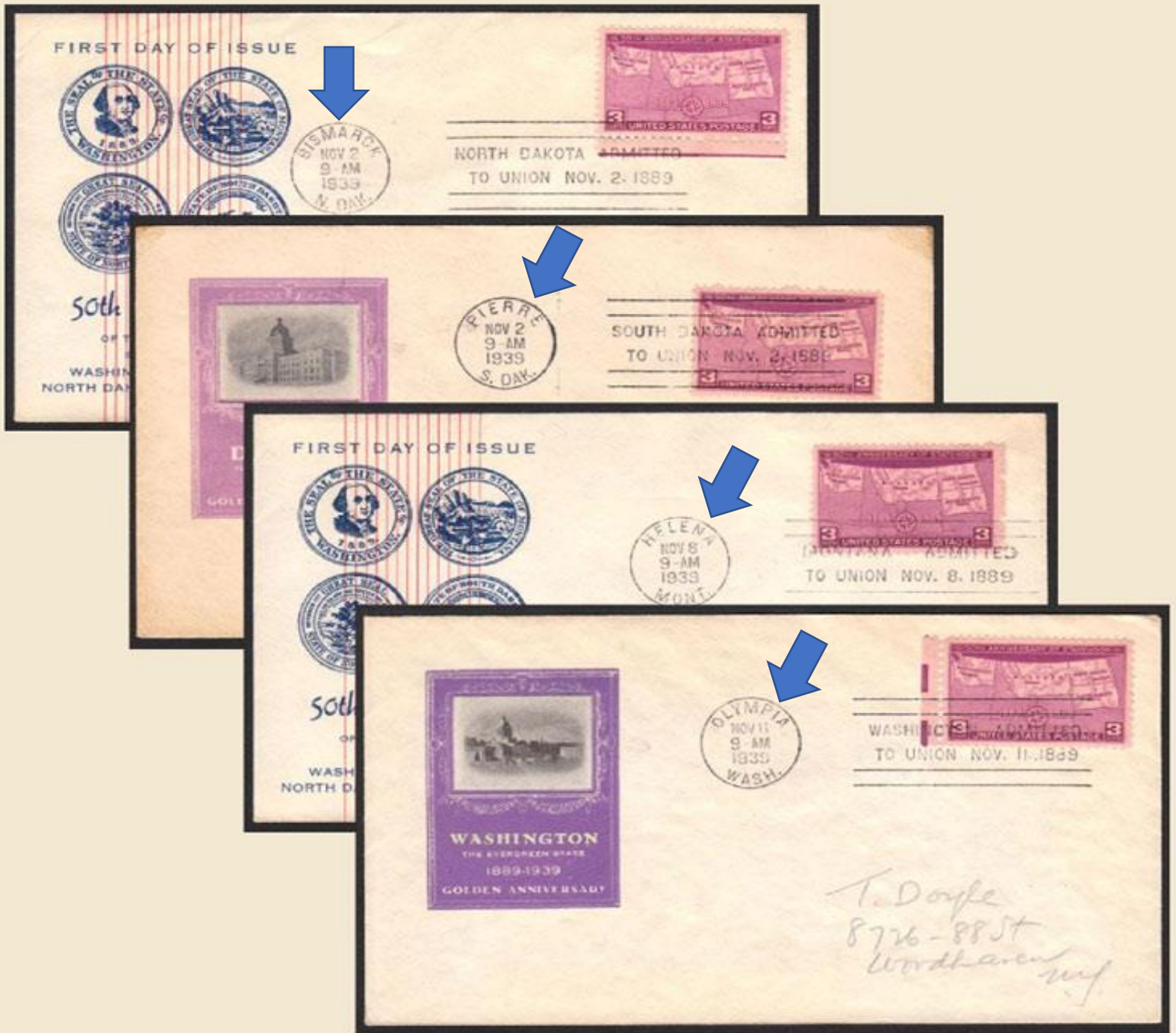
+ special  
“**FIRST DAY OF  
ISSUE**” (FDol)  
postmark (**B**)

from issuing city (**C**)  
Cleveland, Ohio  
on March 22, 1958

Unfortunately, there has  
been dramatic shift in  
value of first-day  
covers.

Over years, collectors  
have made it clear that  
they prefer first-day  
covers with cachets  
and NO address.





## **UNIQUE First Day Cover**

Once, U.S. stamp had **4 official first day ceremonies on 3 different dates!**

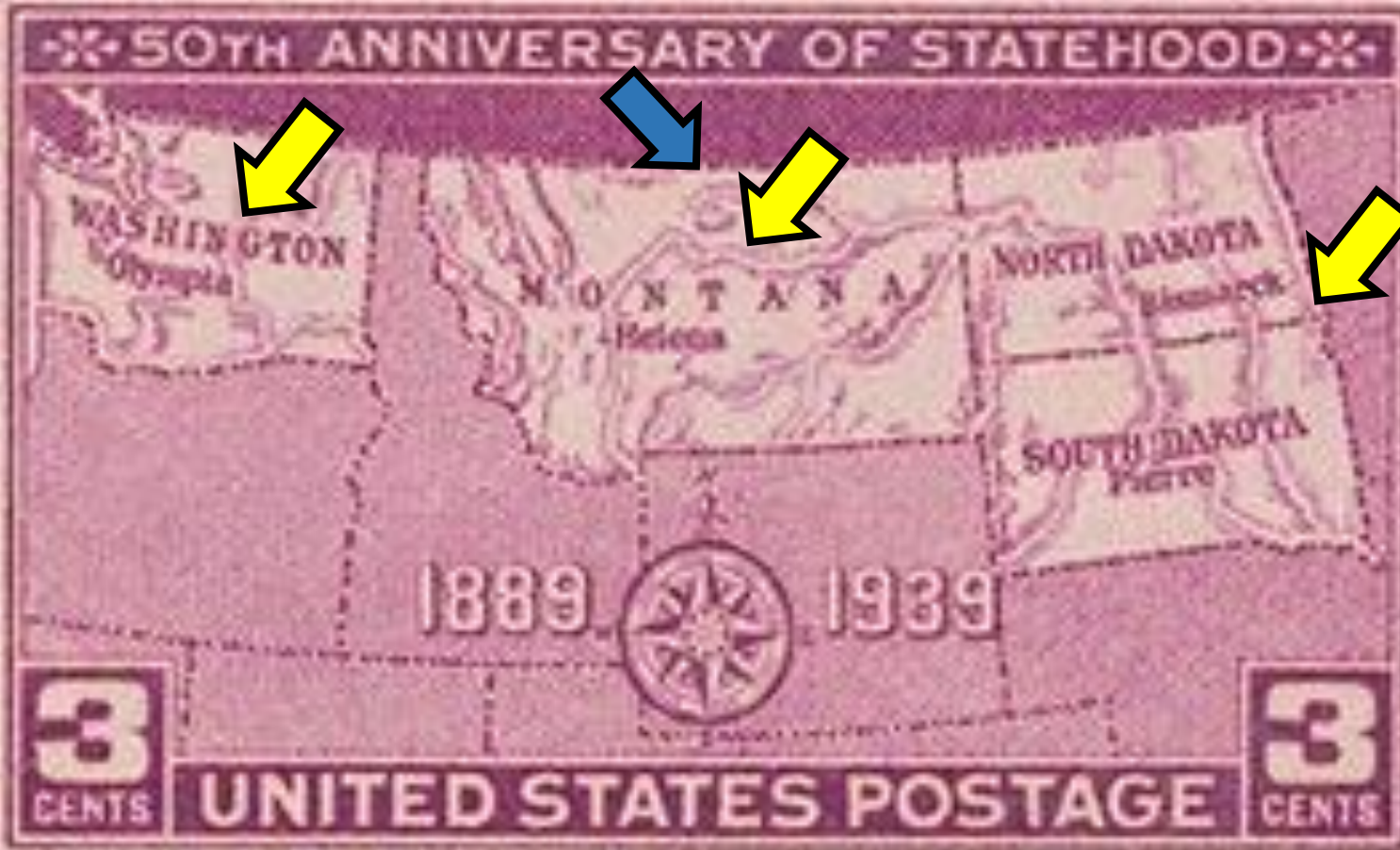
Statehood issue of 1939 (US #858) commemorated **50th anniversary of 4 states**, and was issued on:

- November 2 in Bismarck, North Dakota, and Pierre, South Dakota,
- November 8 in Helena, Montana,
- and November 11 in Olympia, Washington.

All four of these cities and dates considered "official first day" of this stamp.



# 3c Stamp - Statehood of Four States 50th Anniversary - Wash, Mont, N.D., S.D.



**NOTE - One of many stamps which President Franklin Roosevelt drew design.**

Honored 50th anniversary of addition of four states.

November 1889, four states were admitted to Union:

North Dakota & South Dakota - November 2nd, 1889,  
Montana - November 8th, 1889,  
Washington - November 11th, 1889.

As seen - 3 of 4 states border Canada.

U.S./Canadian border curves at that point.

Roosevelt - always stickler for detail - correctly sketched the design showing that curve.

Design made states resemble laundry hanging on wash line.

Lead to stamp's nickname of "clothesline stamp."

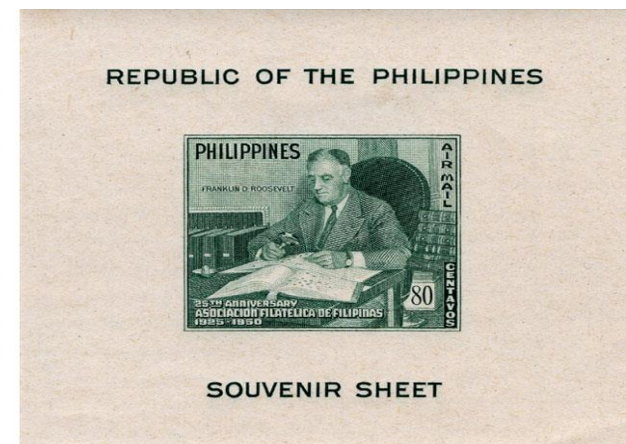
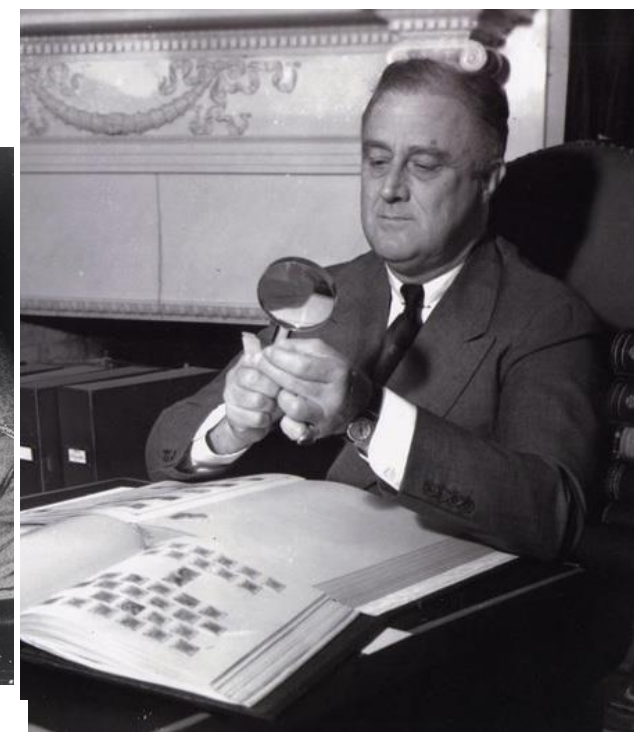
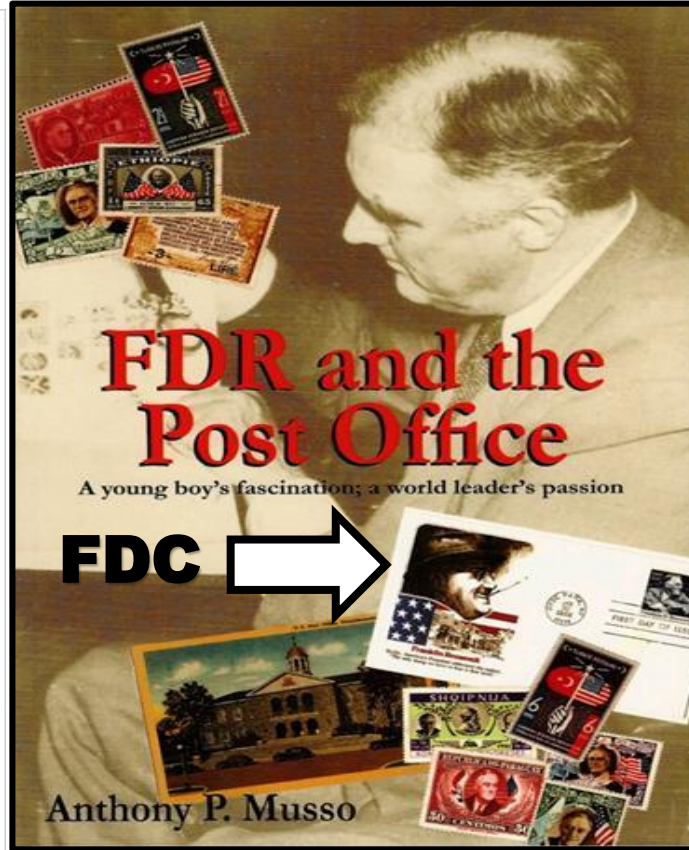
**INVOLVED 3 Issue Dates: November 2, 8, 11, 1939 => 4 FDCs**

**First Cities: Bismarck, North Dakota, and Pierre, South Dakota**

**Quantity Issued: 66,835,000**



# **FDR – THE “STAMP COLLECTOR IN CHIEF” (THE CONSUMMATE STAMP COLLECTOR)**



**FDR and the Post Office:  
A Young Boy's Fascination;  
A World Leader's Passion**

**Rewards of stamp collecting blessed much of FDR's life.  
As child, he looked to stamps for knowledge about world.**

**As polio-stricken adult, stamps offered solace.**

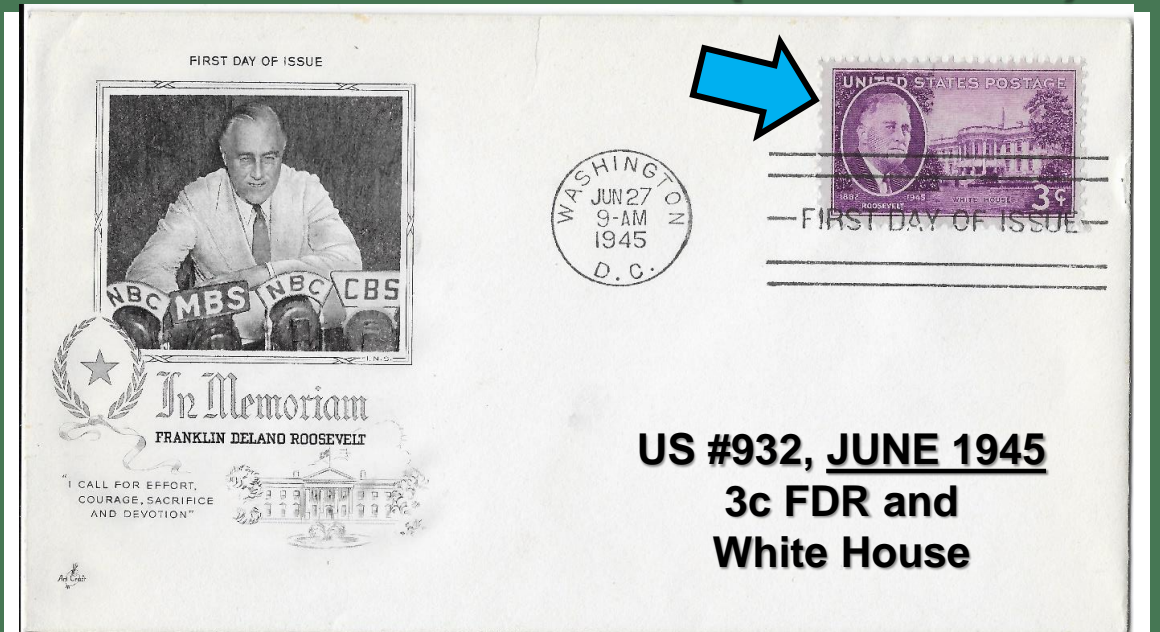
**Throughout entire life, including presidency, spent time each day with his collection.**



# IN MEMORIAM OF PRESIDENT FDR – 4 UNIQUE FDCs (1945 / 46)



**US #930, JULY 1945**  
**1c FDR and Hyde Park**



**US #932, JUNE 1945**  
**3c FDR and White House**



**US #931, AUG 1945**  
**2c FDR and Little White House**  
**{Place where he died}**

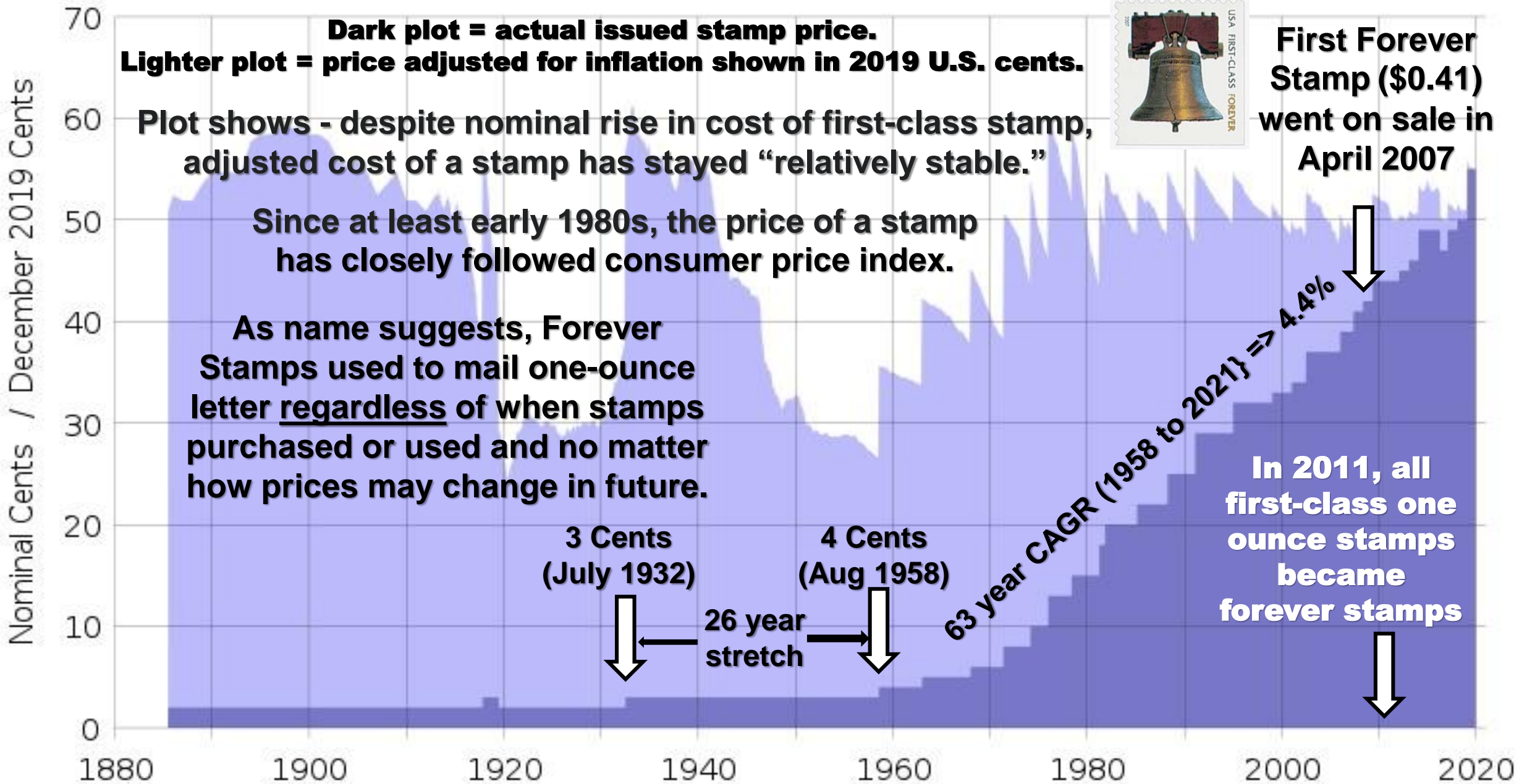


**US #933, JAN 1946**  
**5c FDR and Four Freedoms**

**NOTE – REQUIRED POSTAGE PER FDC ENVELOPE = 3 CENTS {1945/46}**



# U.S. FIRST CLASS POSTAGE RATE vs. TIME

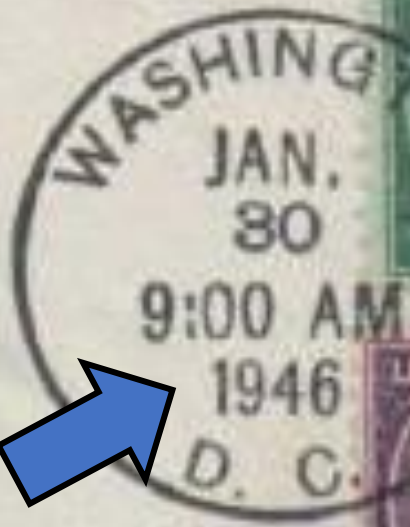




FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
*Memorial Series*  
COMPLETE



Asst Sec of Navy  
Gov. of NY  
President of U.S.  
First Elected Pres.  
to Serve 4 Terms



US #930, 1945 1c  
FDR and Hyde Park



US #931, 1945 2c  
FDR and Little White House



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

US #932, 1945 3c  
FDR and White House



US #933, 1946 5c  
FDR and Four  
Freedoms  
(FDol = Jan 30, 1946)



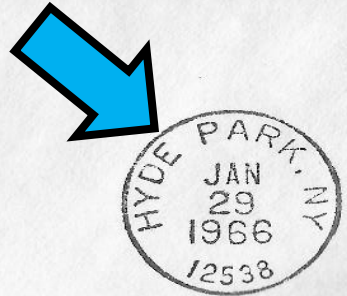
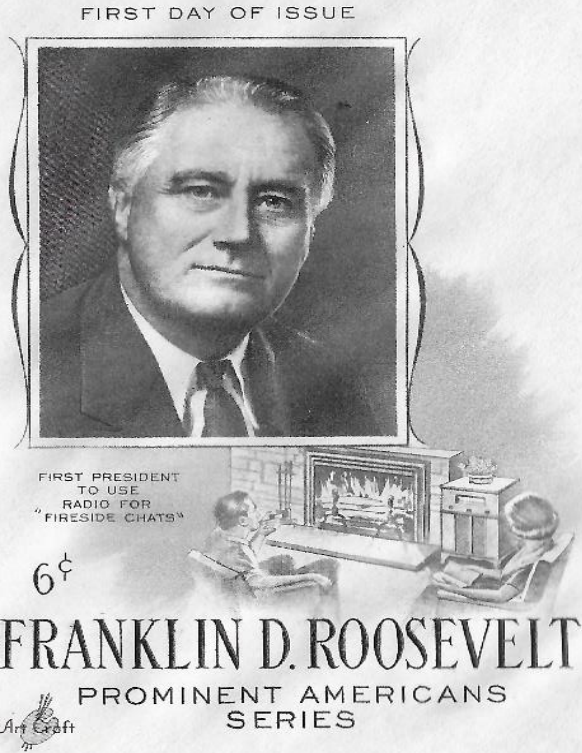
**FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE  
FOR 5c  
STAMP**

Shows one can design  
own FDC – USPS very  
accommodating

**EXAMPLE OF "DIY" FDC DESIGN**



# ROOSEVELT and CHURCHILL - A Friendship That Saved the World



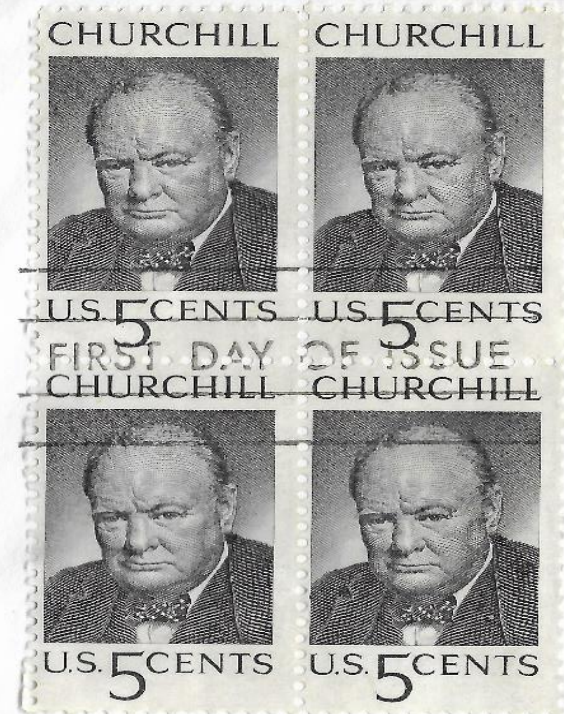
**6c FDR – Prominent American Series  
FDol = Jan 29, 1966  
Hyde Park, NY**

**5c Sir Winston Churchill  
– In Memoriam  
(1874 – 1965)  
FDol = May 13, 1965  
Fulton, MO**



**Why Fulton, MO?**

**America's National Churchill Museum  
located on campus of  
Westminster College**



**March 1946 – President Truman introduced Churchill to deliver address there**



# CHURCHILL GIVES HIS 'IRON CURTAIN' SPEECH IN FULTON, MO. IN MARCH 1946

America's National  
Churchill Museum located  
on campus of  
Westminster College  
In Fulton, MO





The Partnership That Saved the West

# ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL 1939-1941

**Joseph P. Lash**

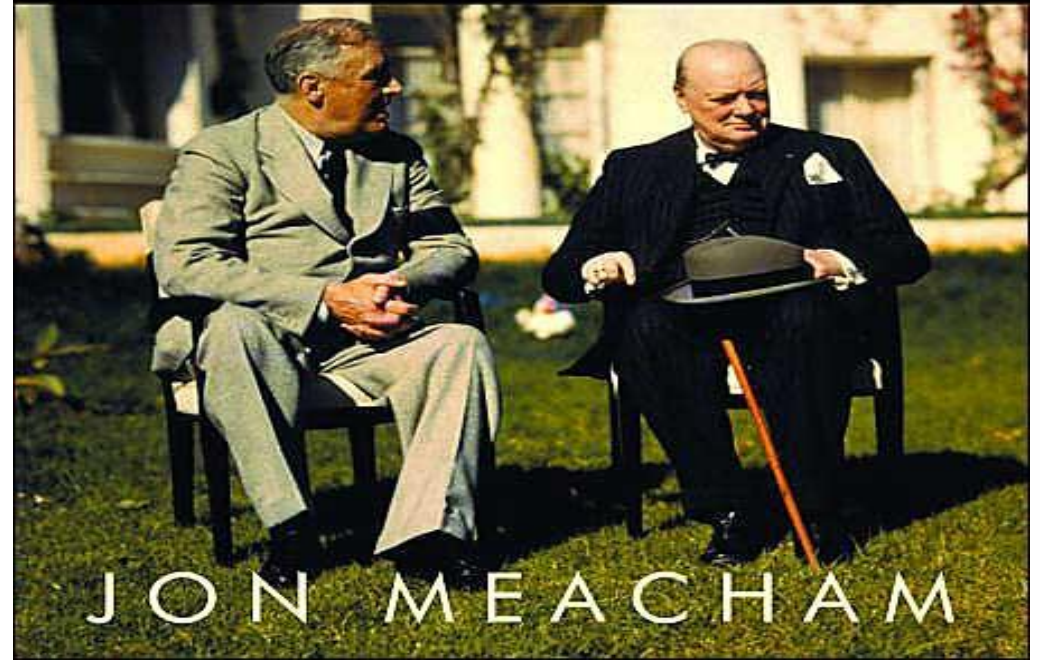
AUTHOR OF ELEANOR AND FRANKLIN



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
"Intense and compelling reading."—*The Washington Post Book World*

# FRANKLIN AND WINSTON

AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT  
OF AN EPIC FRIENDSHIP



JON MEACHAM



**“Family Treasures” – COLLECTING FDCs  
(FROM 1951 & BEYOND!)**

**START OF MY JOURNEY – BACK TO BEGINNING**

**Of Mike Cowan’s FDC COLLECTING**

**UNITED STATES FDCs – FIRST THREE EXAMPLES**

**(Quidam ex Multis\*)**

\* → Some from Many

**# 175th ANNIV. OF BATTLE OF BROOKLYN, DEC 1951 =>  
IMPEDUS TO START COLLECTING FDCs (MY “TIPPING POINT”)**

**# FIRST FDC SENT AWAY FOR – SEPT. 1952  
(KICKED OFF FORMAL COLLECTING OF FDCs)**

**# CLS / LOCUST GROVE FDC “CONNECTION” =>  
SAMUEL MORSE (TELEGRAPH) – MAY 1944**

**NOTES – UNDERLINED YEARS → FDC YEAR OF ISSUE**

**SCOTT CATALOG NUMBER - most universally accepted way to describe and identify stamps**



# TIPPING POINT EVENT - MY FIRST FDC (GIFT FROM STAMP DEALER)

Commemorating  
the 175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
BATTLE of BROOKLYN



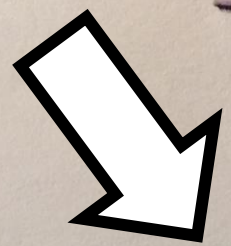
WASHINGTON LEADING HIS TROOPS AT THE BATTLE OF BROOKLYN 1776

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

FLEETWOOD



BLOCK OF 4 STAMPS



EARL SCHILL  
121 JOHN R. ST  
DETROIT 26, MICH.

U.S.

First Day Of Issue

Dec 13th, 1951;

3 Cent Stamp  
(Scott #1003)

COMMEMORATING  
175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
Battle Of Brooklyn  
(1776)

Fleetwood Cachet\*

\* => printed design  
added to an envelope to  
commemorate a special  
event.

NOTE:

EARL SCHILL  
Proprietor of  
Stamp and Coin  
Store in  
Downtown DETROIT

Earl Schill's coin shop (John R St in downtown Detroit) closed on October 31, 1988. He operated as stamp & coin dealer since late 1920's - had shop in Detroit since early 1940's. Died in 1993.

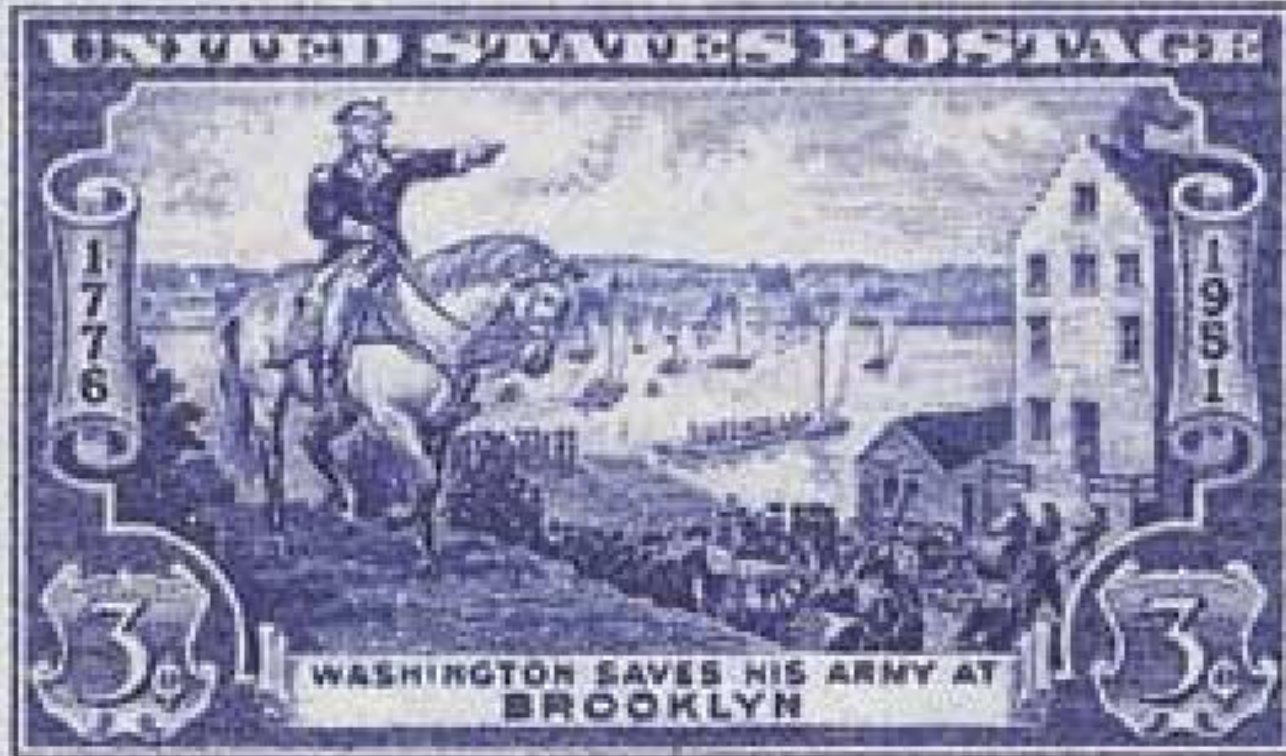


## 3¢ Battle of Brooklyn

Issue Date: Dec 10, 1951

City: Brooklyn, NY

Quantity: 116,130,000



Commemorating 175th anniversary  
of Battle of Brooklyn.

Stamp pictures General Washington evacuating  
his troops near Fulton Ferry House.

**The Battle of Brooklyn (also known as Battle of Long Island) marked first fighting between Continental and British armies of the Revolutionary War.**

**Largest battle of the war.**

**British General William Howe commanded an army of 32,000 backed by powerful British fleet.**

**August 1776, British force attacked General George Washington and his army of 20,000.**

**Washington's troops lacked military training of British soldiers, and General had no navy.**

**It's estimated Americans suffered about 2,000 casualties, while British losses were less than 400.**



FIRST DAY COVER



U.S.

First Day Of Issue

Sept. 30th, 1952;

3 Cent Stamp

COMMEMORATING

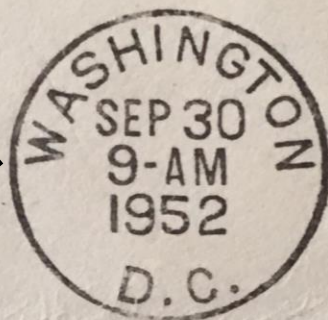
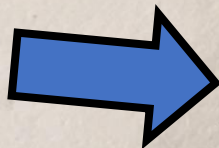
500<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

printing of first book,

The Holy Bible,

from movable type,

by Johann Gutenberg



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**NOTE: FIRST FDC**

**I created and**

**sent away for**

(at 12 yrs old)



Michael Cowan  
4023 Buena Vista  
Detroit 38, Michigan



# “Family Treasures” – COLLECTING FDCs

## TOOLS of the TRADE



**TWO ENVELOPES:**  
Small (for FDC)  
Large (for mailing)

Correct # of Coins –  
taped to cardboard  
(Cover cost of  
the return postage)



Clean white, blank  
envelope (or cachet)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS => PIECE OF THIN CARDBOARD TO STIFFEN UP FDC ENVELOPE (BETTER CANCELLATIONS)  
PLUS NOTE FOR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (BLOCK OF FOUR / PLATE BLOCK, ETC.) + NY Times Sunday paper**

**QUESTIONs – NON CACHETED VS CACHETED AND TYPED ADDRESS VS LIGHT PENCIL & ERASE?**

**Dramatic difference in value of first-day covers.**

**Over the years, collectors have made it clear - they prefer their first-day covers with cachets.**



# CLS / LOCUST GROVE "CONNECTION" FDC

100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

FIRST MESSAGE TRANSMITTED  
BY TELEGRAPH

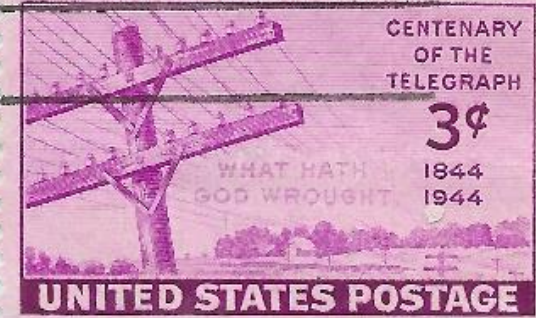
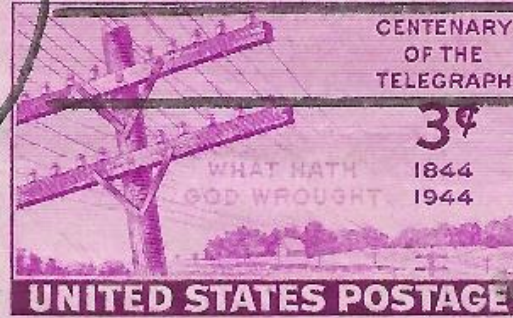
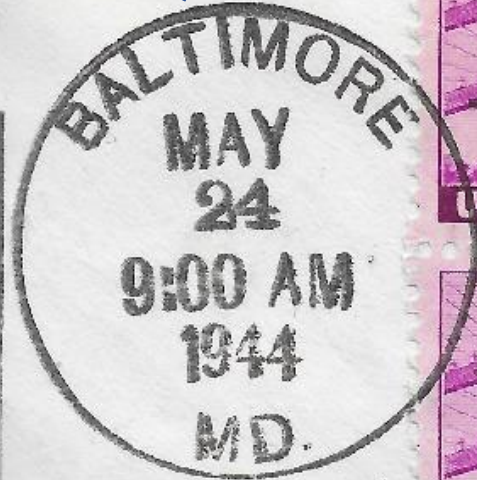


*Sam. F. B. Morse*

"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT"  
THE FIRST MESSAGE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

W. B. Watson,  
79 Vincent Ave.,  
Lynbrook, L.I., N.Y.

**TELEGRAPH'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (1844 – 1944)**

**FIRST MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY TELEGRAPH  
(SAMUEL F. B. MORSE)**

**"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT"**



# MY “STUFF” – COLLECTING FDCs (FROM 1951 AND BEYOND!)

## Mike Cowan FDC Collection Examples (Approx. 1951 to PRESENT)

NOTE – UNDERLINED YEARS → FDC YEAR OF ISSUE

### UNITED STATES FDCs – EXAMPLES (Quidam ex Multis)

175<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. OF BATTLE OF BROOKLYN, DEC 1951 (“NOSTALGIA”)

FIRST FDC I SENT AWAY FOR – SEPT. 1952 (STARTED COLLECTING FDCs)

SCL / LOCUST GROVE FDC “CONNECTION” – MORSE (TELEGRAPH), MAY 1944

**BEN FRANKLIN & ELECTRICITY (1956) – ART INSPIRED; + OTHER BF FDCs**

**NASSAU HALL (1956), FIRST U.S. COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
PRINTED ON COLORED PAPER – INTERESTING HISTORY**

**SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN CIRCUS (1966) – FAVORITE (COLORFUL)**

RELATED TO DETROIT & MICHIGAN (BORN / RAISED) – 9 FDCs

ALBERT EINSTEIN (“HERO”) STAMPS, 1966 (8c) & 1979 (15c) – 2 FDCs

# 3 Cent (1956) Benjamin Franklin and Electricity - FDC

Design of U.S. #1073 comes from painting by Benjamin West, called, "Franklin Taking Lightning from the Sky."

West and Franklin were close friends

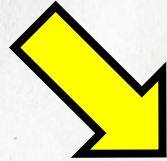
**Stamp issued on 250th anniv. of Franklin's birth**

Franklin (1706-90) was American statesman, writer, scientist, and inventor born in Boston, Massachusetts.

Only person to sign all 4 key documents in US history - Declaration of Independence, Treaty of Alliance with France, Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, and US Constitution

**Franklin appointed first U.S. Postmaster General in 1775**

FIRST DAY COVER



**BLOCK OF 4 STAMPS**

One certainty in world of first-day cover collecting → blank (no cachet) first-day covers are virtually worthless in today's stamp collecting marketplace.

**First Day of Issue (FDol) Date: January 17, 1956**

City: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Quantity: 129,384,550



# 3 Cent (1956) Benjamin Franklin and Electricity – FDC (Cachet + No Address)



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE

**FDol =  
JAN 17, 1956**



**COMMEMORATING  
250th  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
FRANKLIN'S BIRTH  
(1706 – 1956)**



COMMEMORATING THE  
250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF  
*Benjamin Franklin*  
PATRIOT · DIPLOMAT · SCIENTIST  
FIRST POSTMASTER GENERAL



**1956 3¢ Benjamin Franklin and Electricity  
(U.S. Scott #1073)**

**Issue Date: January 17, 1956**

**City: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Quantity: 129,384,550**

**Printed by: Bureau of Engraving and Printing**

**Printing Method: Rotary Press**

**Perforations: 10 ½ x 11**

**Color: Bright carmine**

**West's painting completed in 1805**

**Whether or not Franklin actually flew a kite in a lightning storm is disputed, although he definitely wrote about it.**

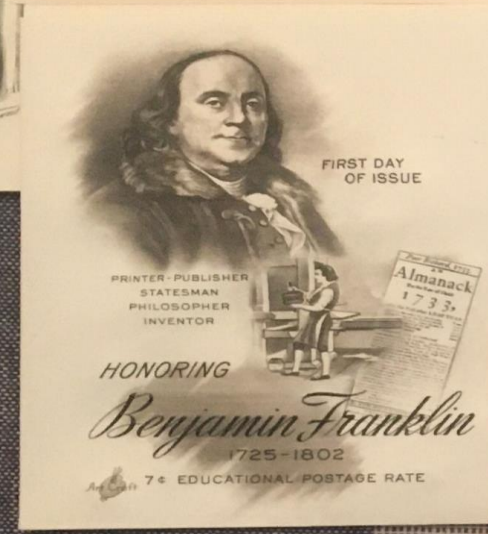
**Franklin made life-long study of electricity. Invented lightning rod and made other notable advances.**



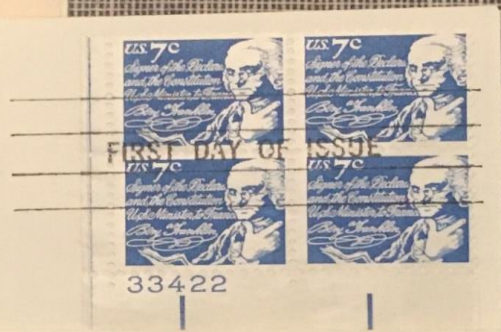


1960-61 American Credo Series  
 Ben Franklin – FDoI = March 1, 1960  
 Credo => “Fear to do ill, and you need fear Nought else”

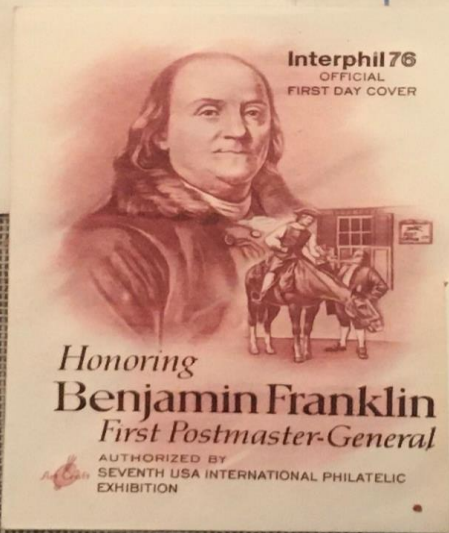
**4 OTHER FRANKLIN FDCs – Various Dates {1960 to 2006}**



PHILADELPHIA  
 OCT. 20  
 1972  
 PA



7c Ben Franklin  
 FDoI = Oct 20, 1972

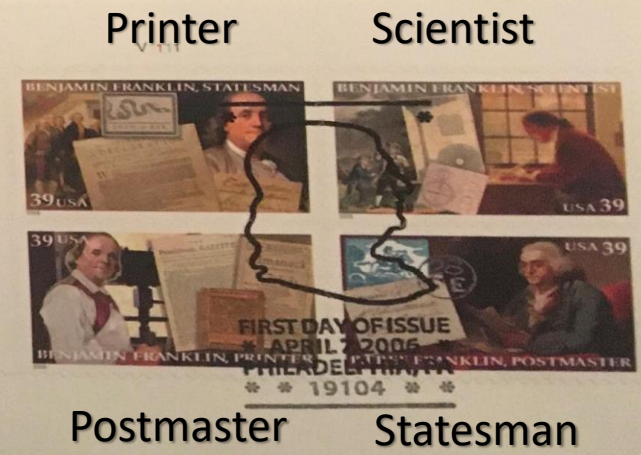
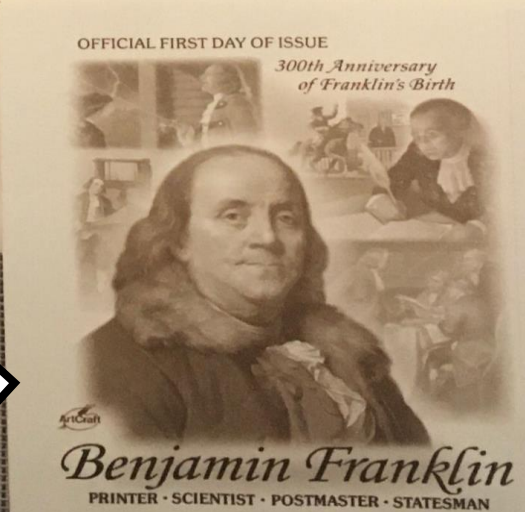
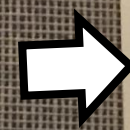


PHILADELPHIA, PA  
 JUN 1  
 1976  
 19104



13c Ben Franklin  
 FDoI = Jun 1, 1976  
 {Part of American Revolution Bicentennial Series)

39c, 4 Stamps; FDoI = Apr 7, 2006  
 America observed Ben Franklin's 300th birth anniversary in 2006. One of our nation's founding fathers, Franklin also a distinguished diplomat, journalist, inventor, and our first Postmaster General.



Printer Scientist  
 Postmaster Statesman



# **Franklin Appointed First U.S. Postmaster General In 1775**

## **WHAT HAS FRANKLIN WROUGHT? ASSESSING USPS TODAY (Size and Scope)**

**Postal Service serves 161.4 million addresses  
in country – covering every state, city and town.**

**429.9M mail pieces daily – more than any other post in world.**

**Everyone living in U.S. and its territories has access to  
postal products and services and pays same  
for First-Class Mail postage stamp regardless of location.**

**Postal Service sends 3.3M pounds of international,  
military and diplomatic mail and packages weekly,  
using 64 international airlines, comprised  
of 11 US Flag Carriers and their affiliates.**

**There are 31,330 Postal Service-managed  
retail offices (doesn't include contract offices).**

**Source: URL = <https://facts.usps.com/size-and-scope/>**



# 1956 3¢ Nassau Hall, Princeton University (#1083)

**FIRST DAY COVER**

FIRST DAY COVER



**BLOCK OF 4  
STAMPS**

Issued to celebrate 200th anniversary of  
Princeton University's Nassau Hall.

Built in 1756, Nassau Hall was largest building in NJ.

Michael Cowan  
4023 Buena Vista  
Detroit 38, Michigan

**SEAT OF CONTINENTAL  
CONGRESS IN 1783**

**Issue Date:  
September 22,  
1956**

**City:  
Princeton, NJ**

**Quantity:  
122,100,000**

**Printed by:  
Bureau of  
Engraving and  
Printing**

**Printing Method:  
Rotary Press**

**Colors:  
Black, orange**



# 1956 3¢ Nassau Hall, Princeton University – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FDC



**Nassau Hall - oldest building on campus of Princeton University, founded in 1746.**

**Hall completed in 1756.**

**During American Revolutionary War, building occupied by both British and Colonial forces.**

**From July to October 1783, the Hall hosted U.S. government - Congress of Confederation met on 2nd floor.**

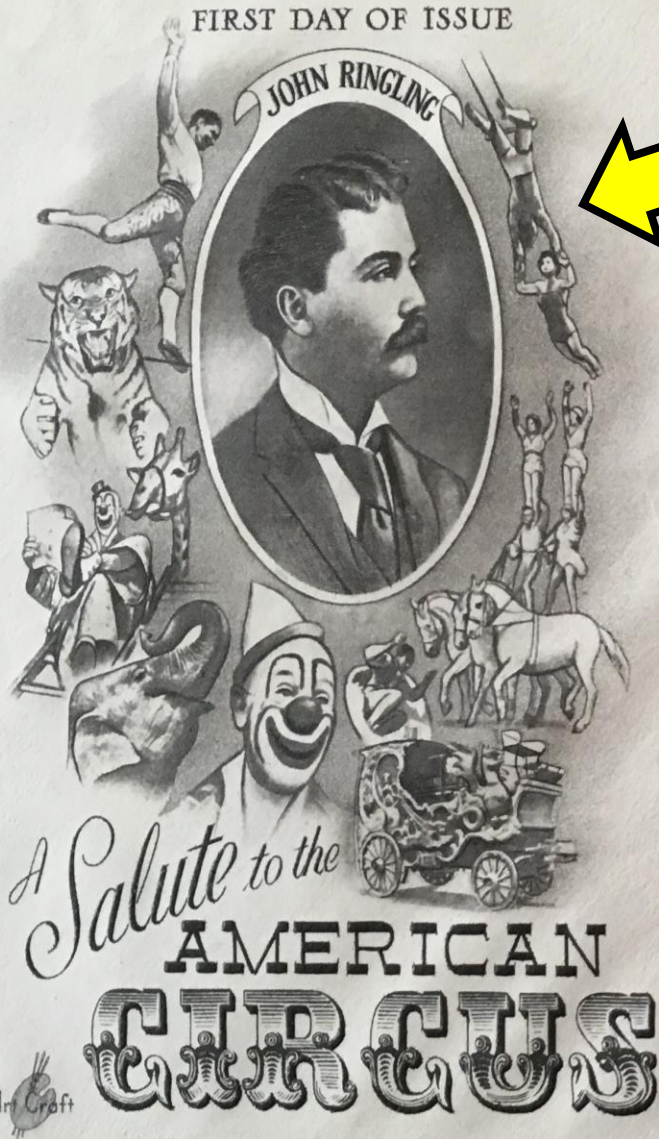
**Princeton University notes - received news of definitive treaty of peace with Great Britain and welcomed first foreign minister – from Netherlands – accredited to United States.”**

**General George Washington captured Nassau Hall, bringing Battle of Princeton to successful conclusion for Colonial Army.**

**This victory marked major turning point in Revolutionary War.**



# FDC - SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN CIRCUS - JOHN RINGLING



First Day Of  
Issue  
Cover

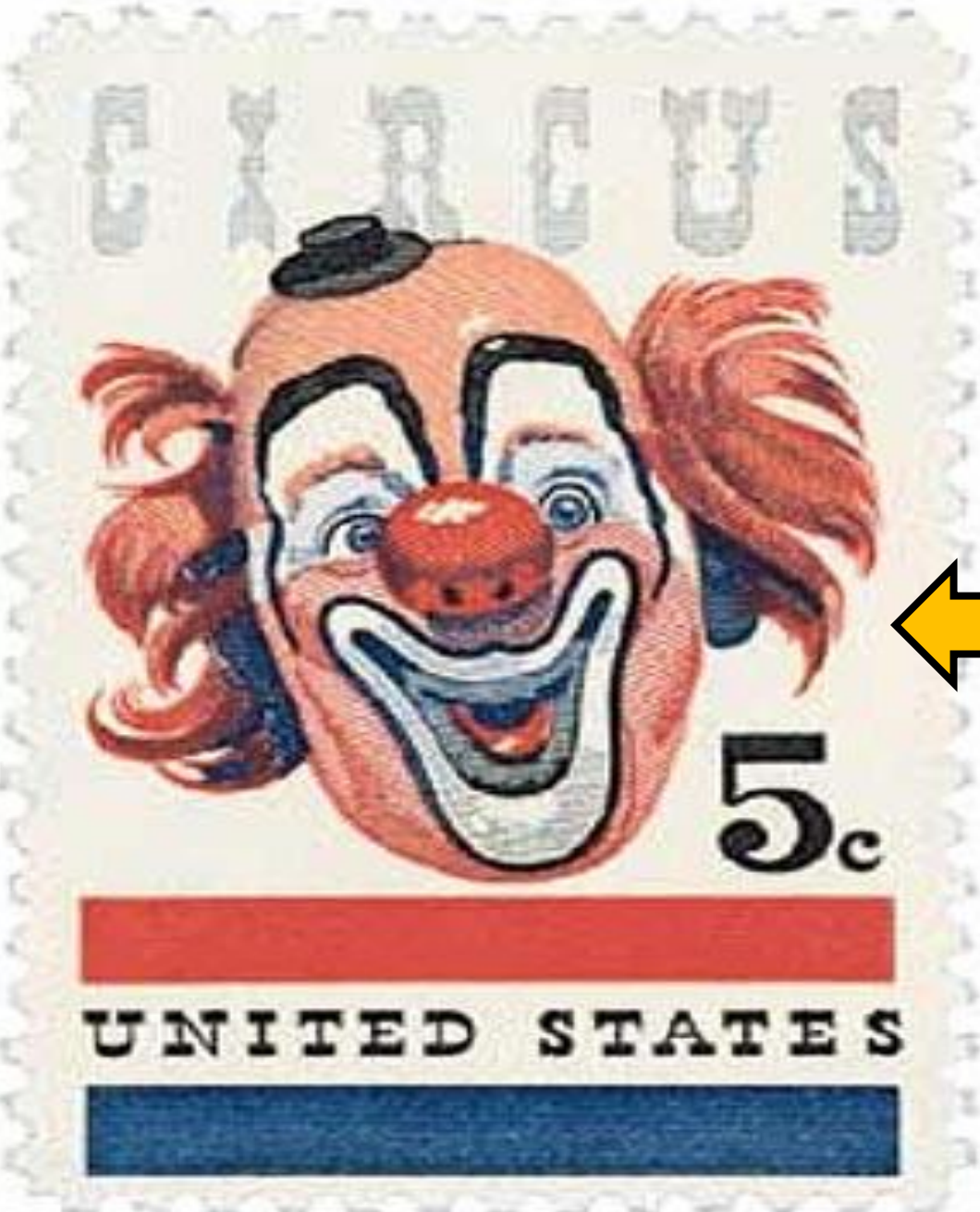
(May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1966)

5c – Block of  
Four, + Cachet

**PICTURED  
(on stamp)  
Jolly  
Clown**



**#1309 – 1966 5c American Circus**



**FIRST DAY of Issue Date: May 2, 1966**

City: Delavan, WI

Quantity: 131,270,000

**Stamp commemorates 100th anniversary of birth of John Ringling, one of 7 brothers, and honors American Circus industry.**

**Johann Ludwig Jacob, German-born, who moved to America and became star clown of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.**

**At time of issue, this was only US stamp to picture living person.**

**QUESTION => WHY POSTMARKED IN CITY OF DELAVAN, WISCONSIN?  
(FDol celebration city)**



# RECOGNIZE THE 5c STAMP?

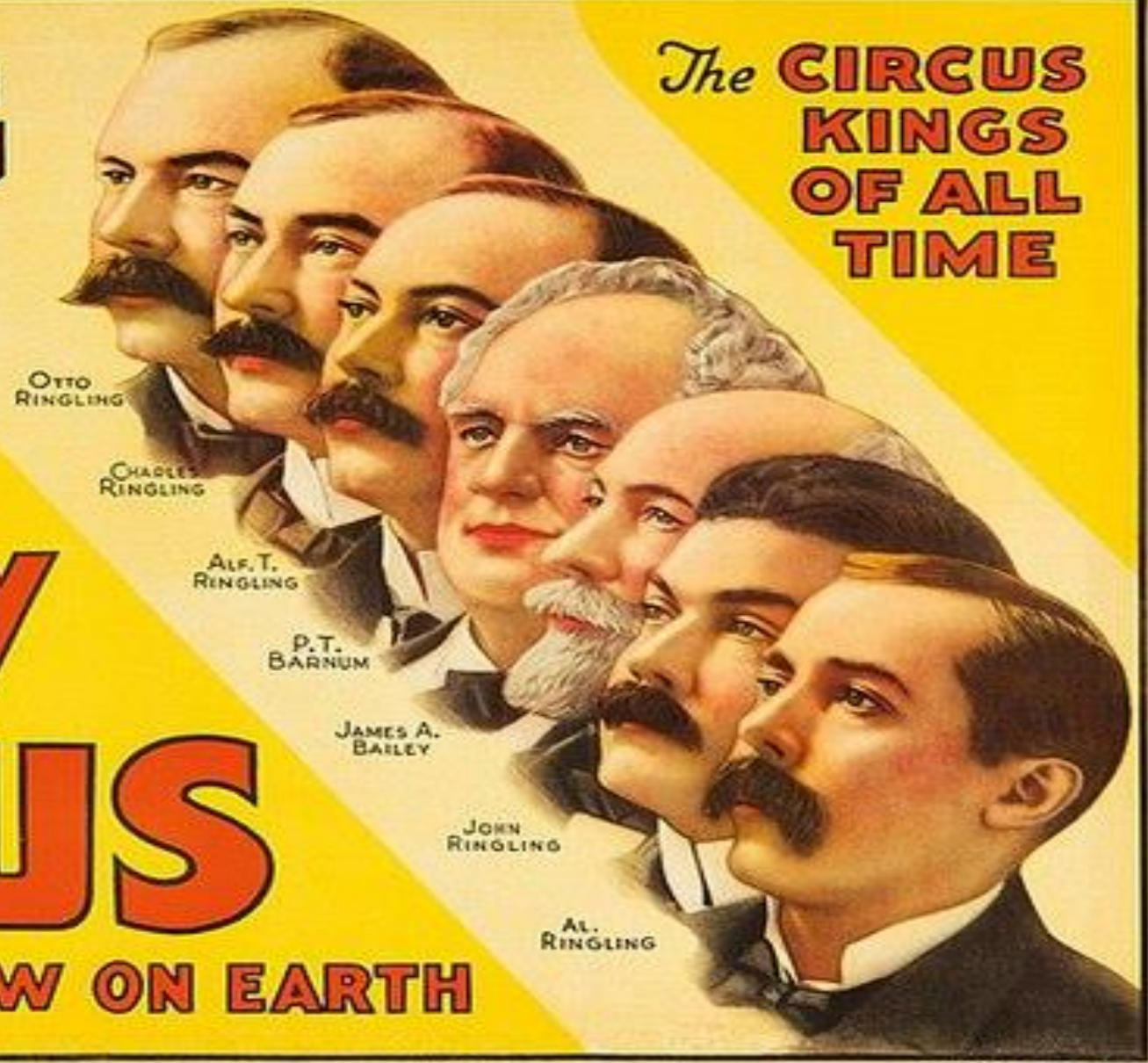


**N O T E => IMAGE ABSTRACTED FROM CITY OF DELAVAN'S WEBSITE PAGE ([ci.delavan.wi.us](http://ci.delavan.wi.us))**



# RINGLING BROS AND BARNUM & BAILEY Combined CIRCUS

*The* **CIRCUS  
KINGS  
OF ALL  
TIME**



**THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH**



# MY “STUFF” – COLLECTING FDCs (FROM 1951 AND BEYOND!)

## Mike Cowan FDC Collection Examples (Approx. 1951 to NOW)

NOTE – UNDERLINED YEARS → FDC YEAR OF ISSUE

### UNITED STATES FDCs – 19 EXAMPLES (Quidam ex Multis)

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FIRST FDC I SENT AWAY FOR - 1952 (STARTED COLLECTING FDCs)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN & ELECTRICITY (1956) - PLUS 4 OTHERS

SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN CIRCUS (1966) – FAVORITE (COLORFUL)

### **RELATED TO DETROIT & MICHIGAN (BORN / RAISED) - 9 FDCs**

ALBERT EINSTEIN, 1966 (8c) & 1979 (15c) – 2 FDCs

JOHN F KENNEDY (EVERYONE’S FAVORITE) – X FDCs (19xx/

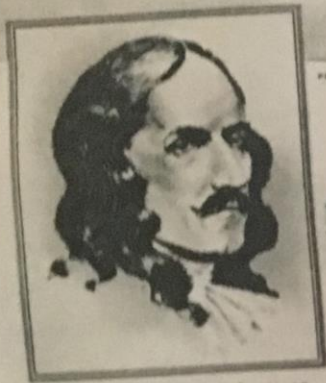
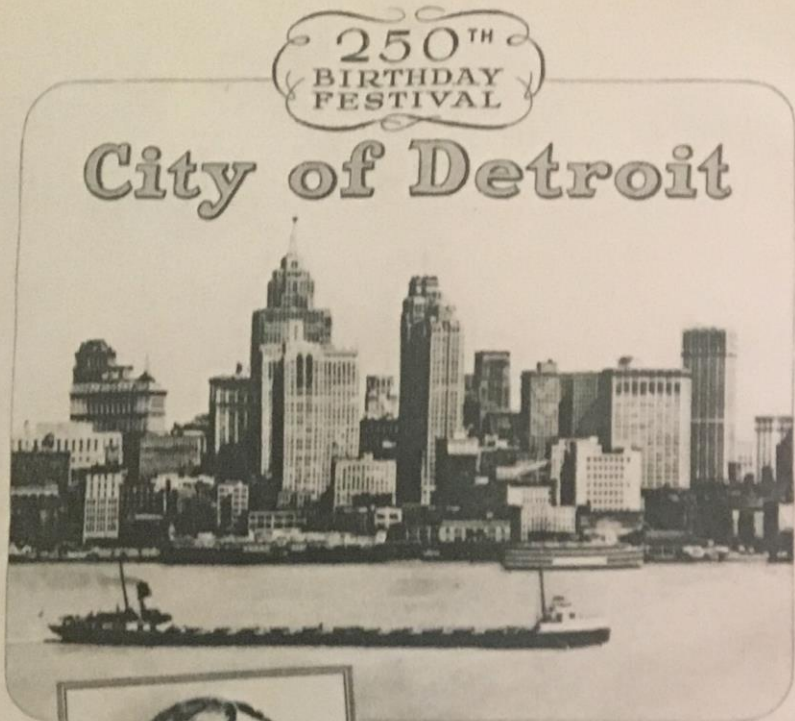
MARILYN MONROE (ALSO EVERYONE’S FAVORITE) FDC (19xx/

**HONORING THE AMERICAN WOMAN**

**NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH - OCTOBER**

**SUMMARY / WRAP UP**

# FDC - LANDING OF CADILLAC AT DETROIT IN 1701



ANTOINE DE LA MOINE CADILLAC



*Atmaster*

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



312 Dubois St.

Vincennes, Indiana

COMMEMORATING DETROIT'S 250<sup>th</sup>  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (July 24 1951)

3 Cent Block of 4 + Plate Block #



# Founding Of Detroit

July 24, 1701, French explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac established fort on site of what would become City of Detroit.



Pictured above, U.S. Stamp issued on 250th anniversary of landing of Cadillac in present-day Detroit.

Stamp pictures Cadillac's landing, with 1951 image of skyline of City of Detroit in background.

U.S. #1000 - 1951

3¢ Stamp

Landing of Cadillac

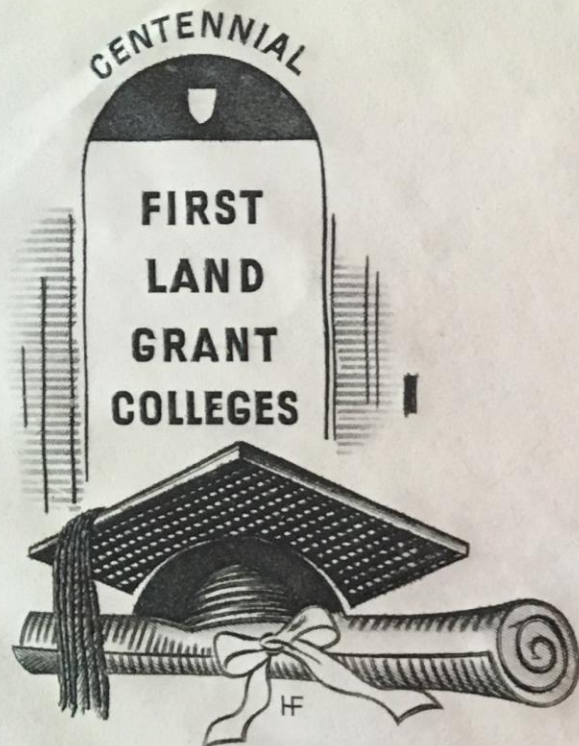
- **Issue Date: July 24, 1951**
  - City: Detroit, Michigan
  - Quantity: 114,140,000
- Printed By: Bureau of Engraving and Printing
  - Printing Method: Rotary Press
    - Perforations: 11 x 10 ½
    - Color: Blue

Commemorates 250th anniversary of landing of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac in what is now present-day Detroit.

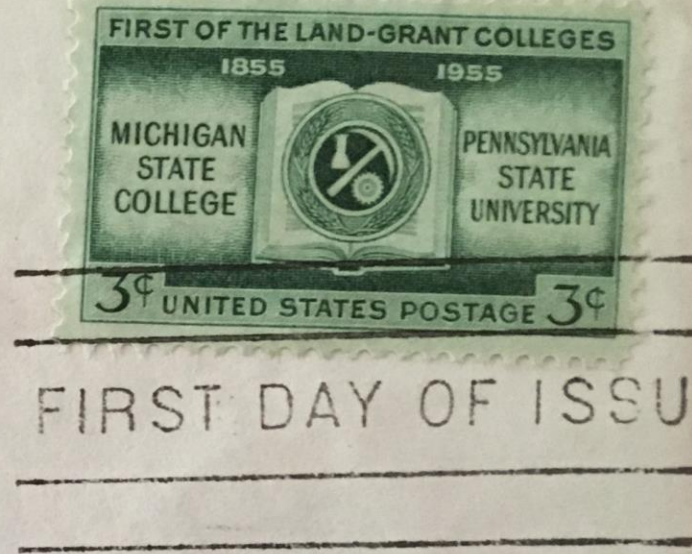
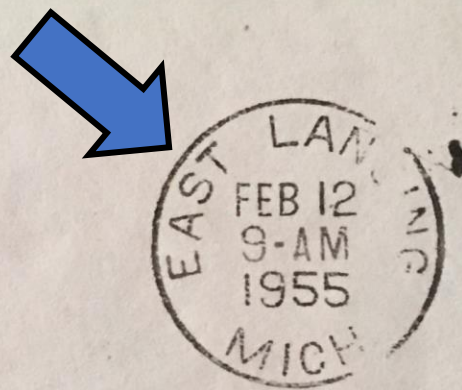
Became key location for France in New World, and trading center on edges of American frontier.



# CENTENNIAL (1855 – 1955) – FIRST LAND GRANT COLLEGES, MICH. STATE COLLEGE (NOW MSU) + PENN. STATE UNIVER.



MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FIRST DAY COVER



Michael Cowan  
4023 Buena Vista  
Detroit 38, Michigan



FIRST DAY COVER

Plate block => block of stamps from edge of sheet - shows *plate #* from which stamps were printed.

Plate Block of 4 Stamps – adds value to FDC



25193



Plate #

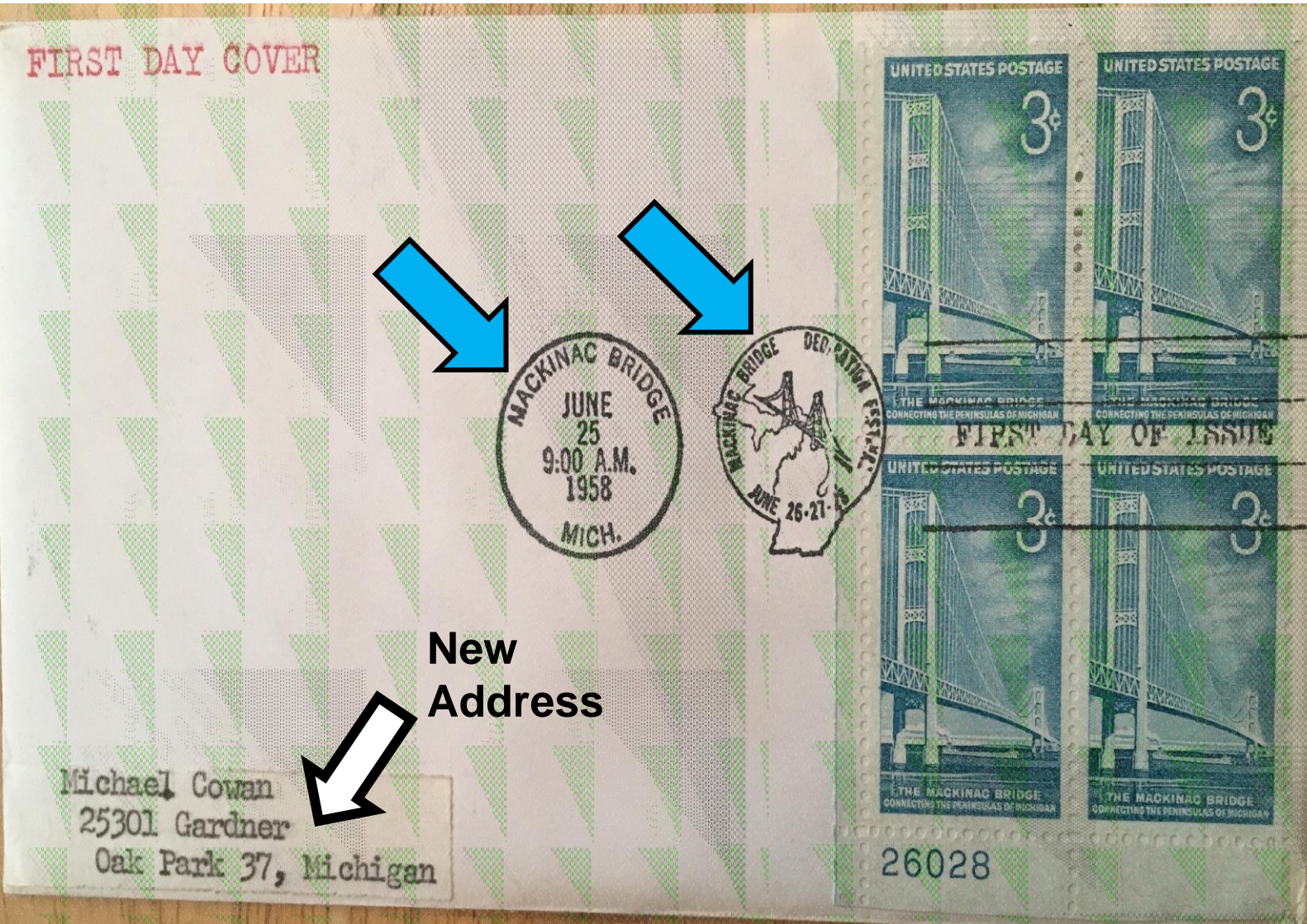
Michigan – Great Lakes Transportation  
SOO LOCKS CENTENNIAL,  
1855 – 1955  
Sault Sainte Marie, MI (June 1955)

Michael Cowan  
4023 Buena Vista  
Detroit 38, Michigan



# MACKINAC BRIDGE DEDICATION FESTIVAL (JUNE 26, 27, 28, 1958)

# MACKINAC BRIDGE – AIR VIEW



3c PLATE BLOCK of 4 (FDol = June 25, 1958)



# MACKINAC BRIDGE – AIR VIEW



Main span (between towers) is 3,800 ft.

552 ft (Tower height);  
200 ft (Deck height);  
Clearance below: 155 ft

## MACKINAC BRIDGE FACTS

- Suspension bridge spanning Straits of Mackinac. Connects Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. US I-75
- Opened in 1957.
- 26,372-foot-long (4.995 mi)
- Known as "Big Mac" and "Mighty Mac")
- World's 24th-longest main span
- Longest suspension bridge between anchorages in the Western Hemisphere.
- Bridge connects city of St. Ignace, MI on north end with village of Mackinaw City, MI on south.
- Length of bridge's main span is 3,800 feet, which makes it third-longest suspension span in United States.
- 20th longest suspension span worldwide. Also one of world's longest bridges overall.

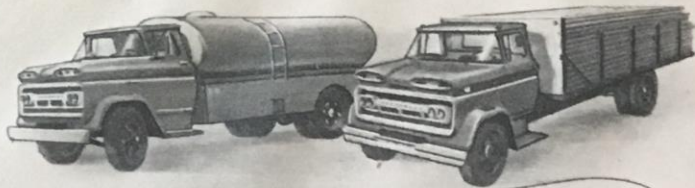




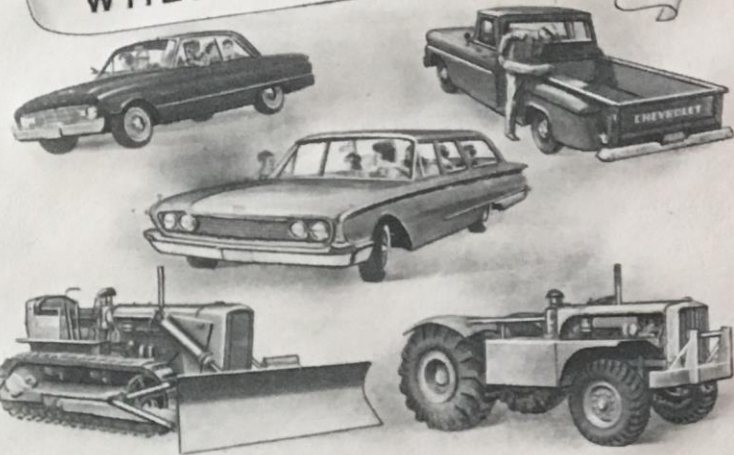
# HONORING AUTO INDUSTRY - FDC

Issued to coincide with opening of 1960 National Automobile Show in Detroit, Michigan.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



WHEELS OF FREEDOM



*Honoring the*

**AUTOMOTIVE  
INDUSTRY**

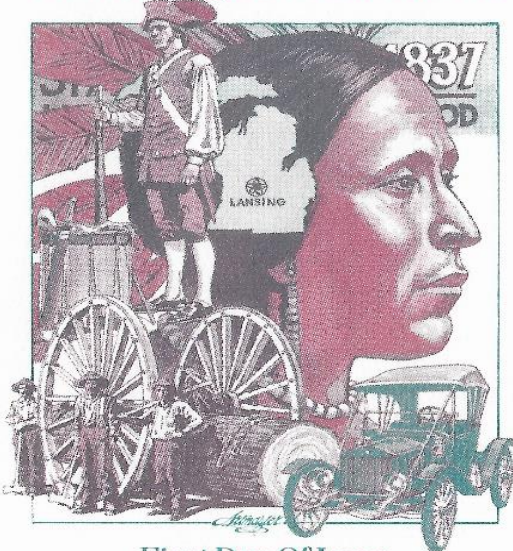


**Wheels Of Freedom  
4c Block of 4  
FDol: Oct 15, 1960  
City: DETROIT, MICHIGAN**



# MORE MICHIGAN FDCs – STATEHOOD & GREETINGS

## 150th Anniversary Of Michigan Statehood



First Day Of Issue



**FDol = JAN 25, 1987  
CITY = LANSING, MI  
OBTAINED  
STATEHOOD - 1837**



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



On the Michigan state seal, adopted in 1835, the elk and moose represent Michigan, and the bald eagle symbolizes the nation.



**FDol = APR 4, 2002  
CITY = LANSING, MI  
GREETINGS FROM  
AMERICA**





# Greetings from America

The April 4, 2002, release of the “Greetings from America” sheet marked the first time a US postage stamp was issued on the same day in every state!

This is fifth 50-stamp se-tenant sheet issued by US. Like 1976 State Flags, 1982 State Birds and Flowers, 1987 American Wildlife, and 1992 Wildflowers,



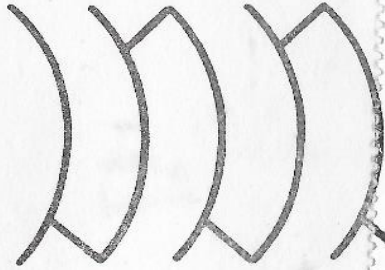


# YET MORE MICHIGAN FDCs – BIRDs / FOWERs AND FLAGS

Colorano "Silk" Cachet



First Day of Issue



Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan



**Flags of Our Nation**



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MARILYN MONROE (ALSO EVERYONE’S FAVORITE) FDC (19xx/

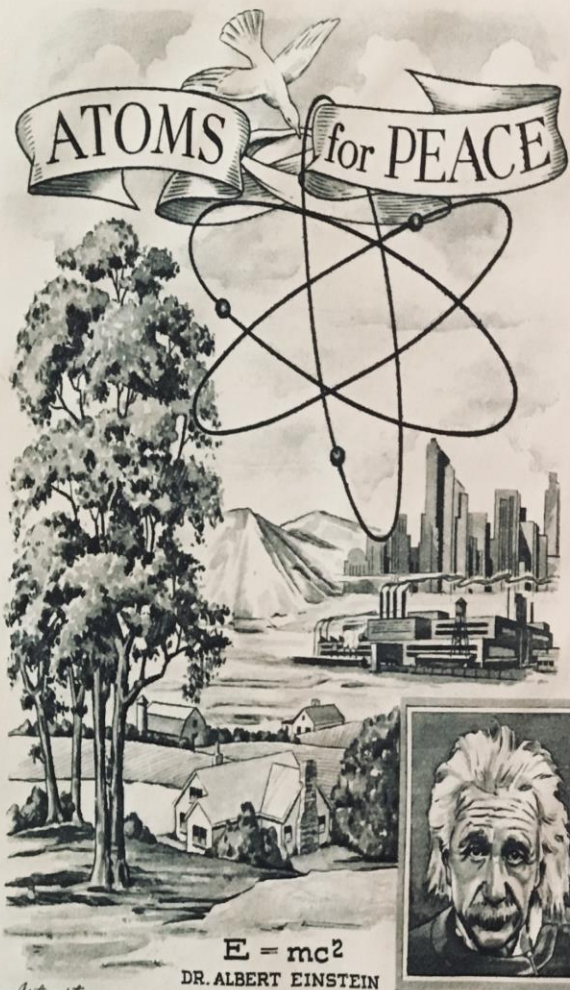
HONORING THE AMERICAN WOMAN

NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH - OCTOBER

SUMMARY / WRAP UP



# 1955 3¢ Atoms for Peace FDC



Artmaster

$E = mc^2$   
DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN

*First Day of Issue*



**"TO FIND WAY BY WHICH  
INVENTIVENESS OF MAN  
SHALL BE  
CONSECRATED  
TO HIS LIFE"**

Michael Cowan  
4023 Buena Vista  
Detroit 38, Michigan

FDol: July 28, 1955  
City: Washington, D.C.  
Quantity: 133,638,850

Issued in honor of  
President Dwight D.  
Eisenhower's address  
to UN General Assembly  
in Dec. 1953.

Speech called "Atoms  
for Peace."

Laid out Eisenhower's  
vision of use of  
nuclear power for  
peace, rather than  
destruction.

"the fearful  
atomic dilemma"

transform atom from  
scourge into benefit  
for mankind



**Postmaster Gen. Arthur Summerfield presents sheet of “Atoms for Peace” stamps to President Eisenhower. Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Lewis L. Strauss is second from left.**





# PROMINENT AMERICAN SERIES

ALBERT EINSTEIN  
WORLD RENOWN  
PHYSICIST

FAMOUS QUOTE:

*“The Most  
Incomprehensible Thing  
About the World Is That It Is  
Comprehensible”*

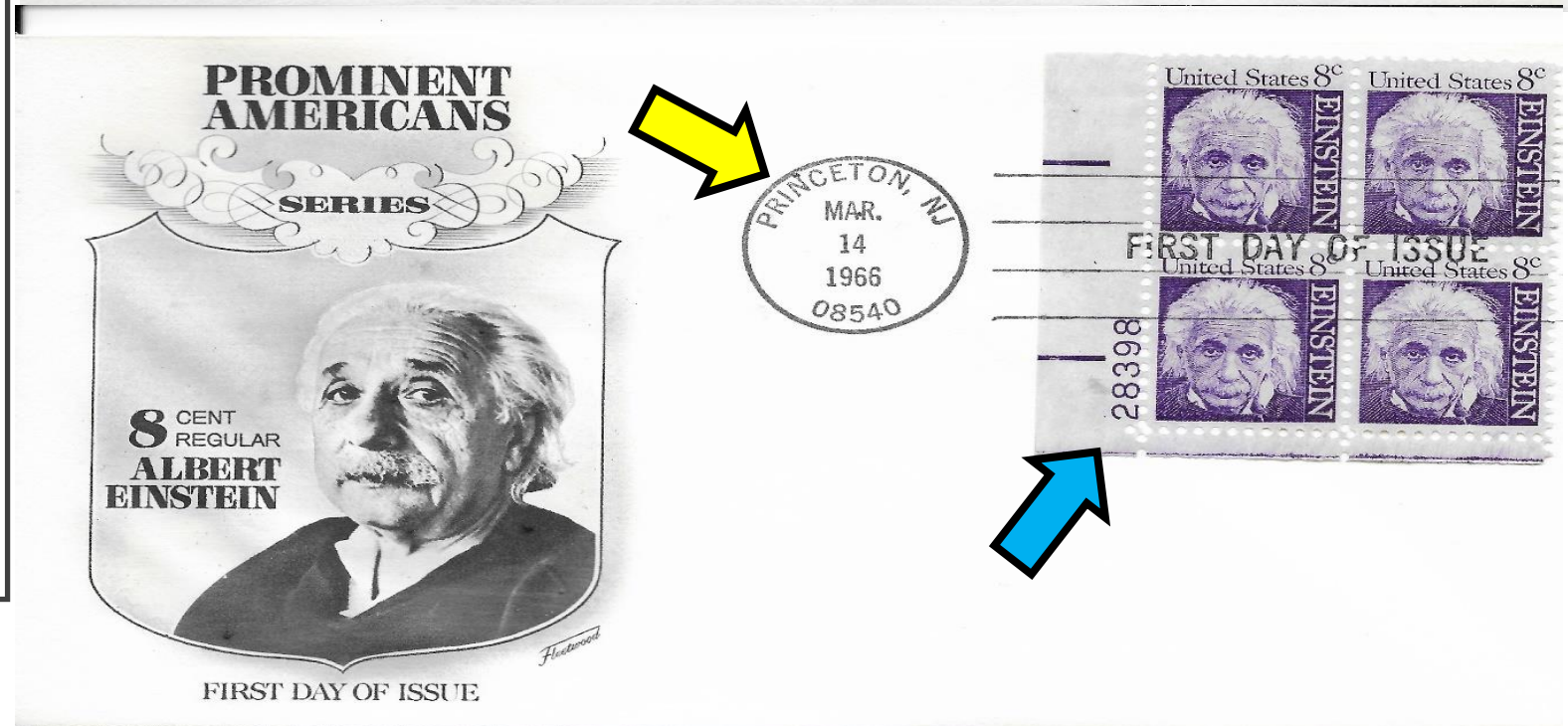
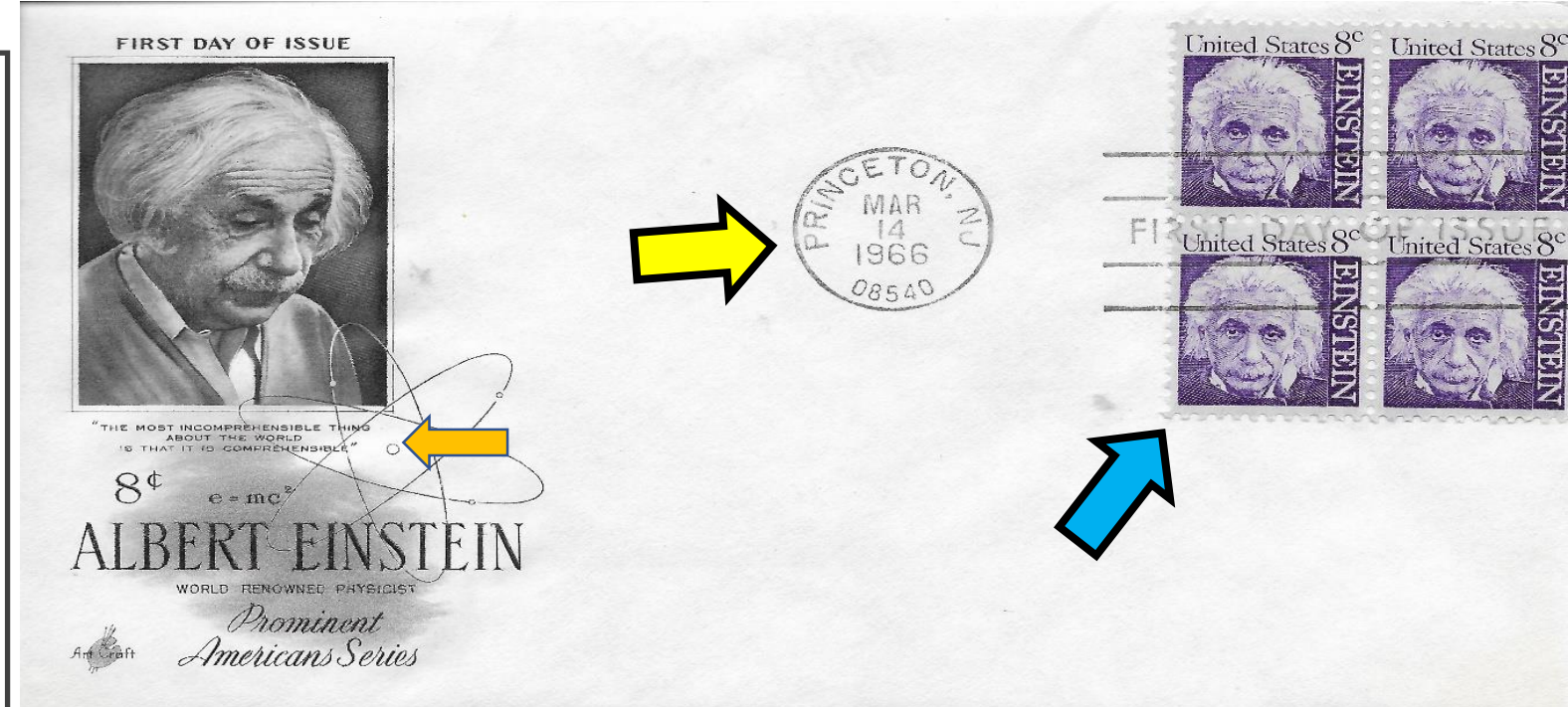
8c

Block of 4 Stamps  
and 8c

Plate Block of 4 Stamps

FDol: March 14, 1966

PRINCETON, NJ





← New York Times *STAMPS* Column (Samuel A. Tower)  
February 25, 1979, Section D, Page 43

## U.S. Honors Einstein

**On centennial of his birth, US paying tribute to most distinguished of many men and women of distinction who fled Nazi persecutions to find haven in America.**

**Stamp to be issued on March 4, 1979 at Princeton, N.J.**

**FDol taking place as part of events that will be held in observance of his centennial at Princeton's Institute of Advanced Study.**

**Institution established to allow scholars of note to devote their lives to research and studies without any pressures.**

**Hounded by Nazis, Einstein came to Princeton in 1933.**

**Passed his remaining years there until his death 22 years later.**

**Photograph of Einstein in informal garb by Hermann Landshoff, which captures pensive and benign expression so characteristic of him, is basis of new 15-cent vertical standard-size commemorative, with name and "USA 15c" below his portrait.**

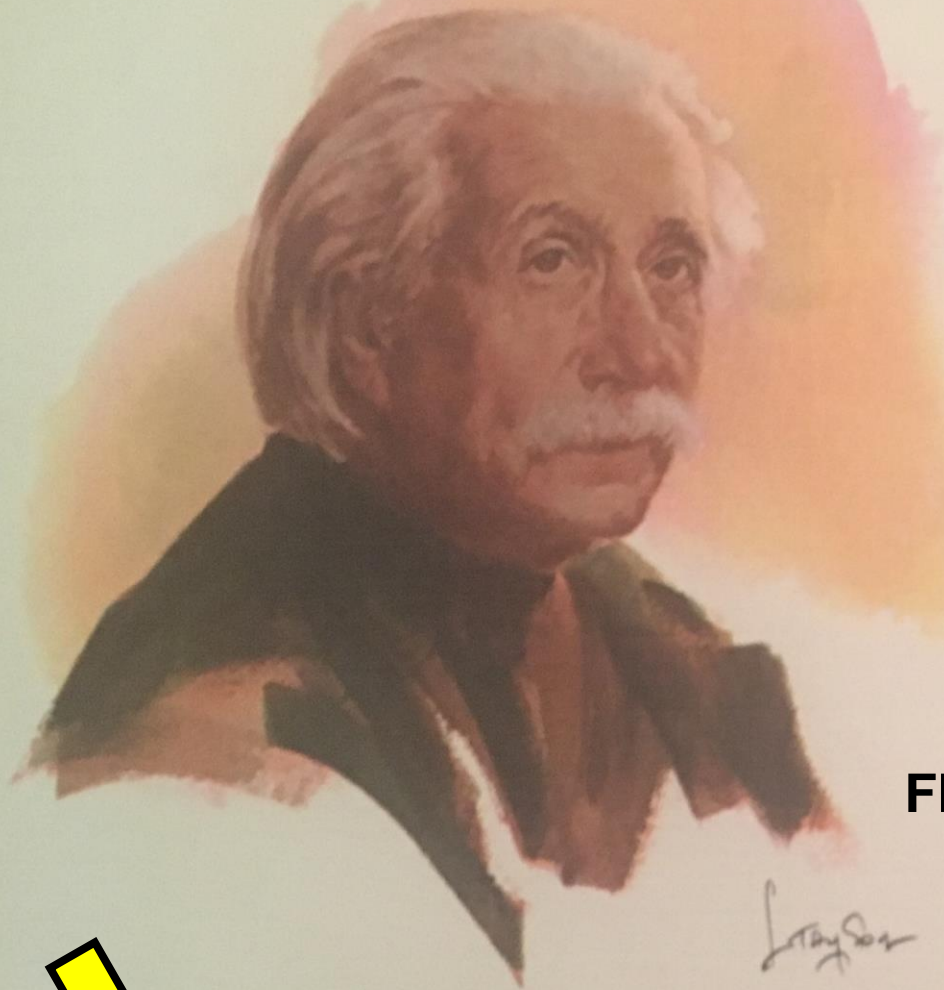
**Stamp designed by Bradbury Thompson of Riverside, Conn.**

**It has been produced by intaglio. in brown.**



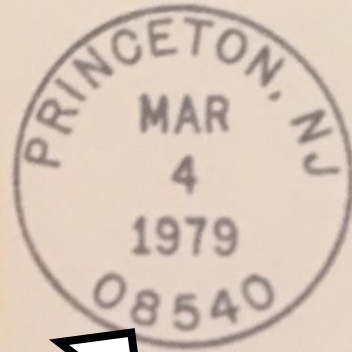


**As a scientist, he revolutionized the world of physics.  
As a humanitarian he tempered its use.**

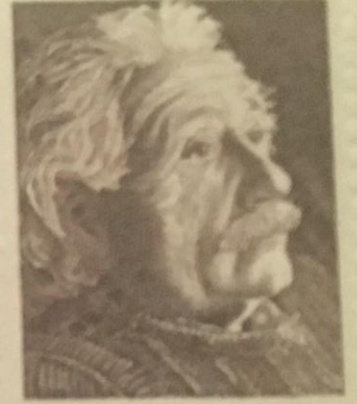
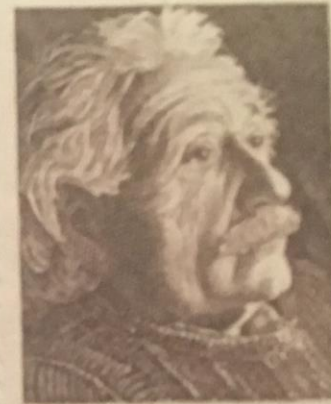


**ALBERT EINSTEIN**

As a scientist, he revolutionized the world of physics.  
As a humanitarian, he tempered its use.



**FDoI = MAR 4, 1979;  
PRINCETON, NJ**



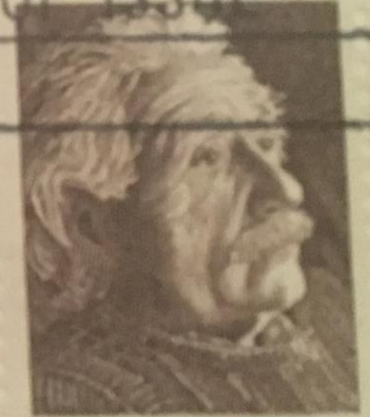
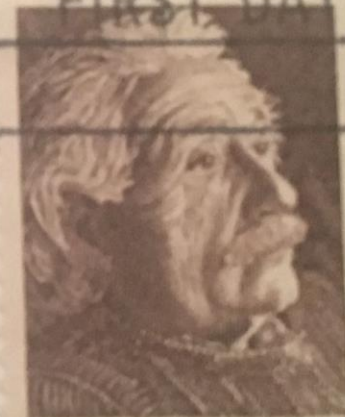
**Einstein**

USA 15c

**Einstein**

USA 15c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



**Einstein**

USA 15c

**Einstein**

USA 15c

**38967**

**FDC - 15c PLATE BLOCK of 4**



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ALBERT EINSTEIN, 1966 (8c) & 1979 (15c) – 2 FDCs

**JOHN F KENNEDY (EVERYONE’S FAVORITE) – FDCs (2017)**

**MARILYN MONROE (ALSO EVERYONE’S FAVORITE) FDC (1995)**

**HONORING THE AMERICAN WOMAN**

NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH - OCTOBER

SUMMARY / WRAP UP



**JOHN F. KENNEDY FDC – 5c STAMP ISSUED (MAY 29 1964)  
AS A MEMORIAL TO 35<sup>TH</sup> U.S. PRESIDENT**



**JOHN F.  
KENNEDY**

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY STAMP WAS ISSUED AS A MEMORIAL TO THE 35<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOLLOWING HIS ASSASSINATION . . . . . BORN IN BOSTON, GRADUATED FROM HARVARD, HE SERVED AS CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR, FROM MASSACHUSETTS WITH AN INTERRUPTION DURING WORLD WAR II FOR A TOUR OF DUTY AS A NAVAL OFFICER . . . INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT JAN. 21, 1961, THE YOUNGEST MAN EVER TO FILL THAT OFFICE, HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST ACCLAIMED LEADERS OF WORLD POLITICAL THOUGHT . . . HE DIED IN DALLAS, TEX. NOV. 22, 1963.

C. J. STEPHEN ANDERSON



27803



**... AND THE GLOW FROM THAT FIRE CAN TRULY LIGHT THE WORLD  
1917 < JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY > 1963**

**U.S. #1246 issued for 47th birthday of late President John F. Kennedy.**

**Design, selected by former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy,  
pictures J.F.K. and eternal flame from the lighting ceremonies  
at Arlington National Cemetery.**







**MARILYN MONROE FDC – HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STAR (Wordwide Recognition)**



*Marilyn Monroe*  
*Hollywood Movie Star*



*Marilyn Monroe*

**32c STAMP - FDoI: JUNE 1, 1995 @ UNIVERSAL CITY, CA**



# HONORING THE AMERICAN WOMAN FDC



*Home  
Education  
Civic Affairs  
Arts-Industry*

*Honoring The  
American  
Woman*

*First Day of Issue*



**4c STAMP - FDoI: JUNE 1960 @ WASHINGTON D.C.**

**Stamp pays tribute to American women  
and their accomplishments.**

**Shows mother and daughter before book,  
surrounded by symbols of areas where women have made  
contributions in Education, Civic Affairs, and Arts & Industry.**



# Woodstock

August 15-18, 1969 • Bethel, NY

3 Days of Peace,  
Love & Music

UNIQUE FDoI  
POSTMARK

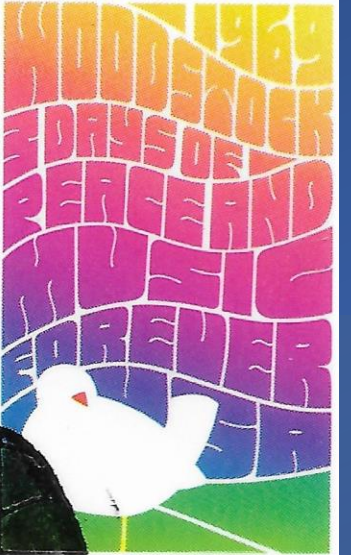


AUGUST 8, 2019  
NEW YORK, NY 10199



32c  
FOREVER  
STAMP

2019



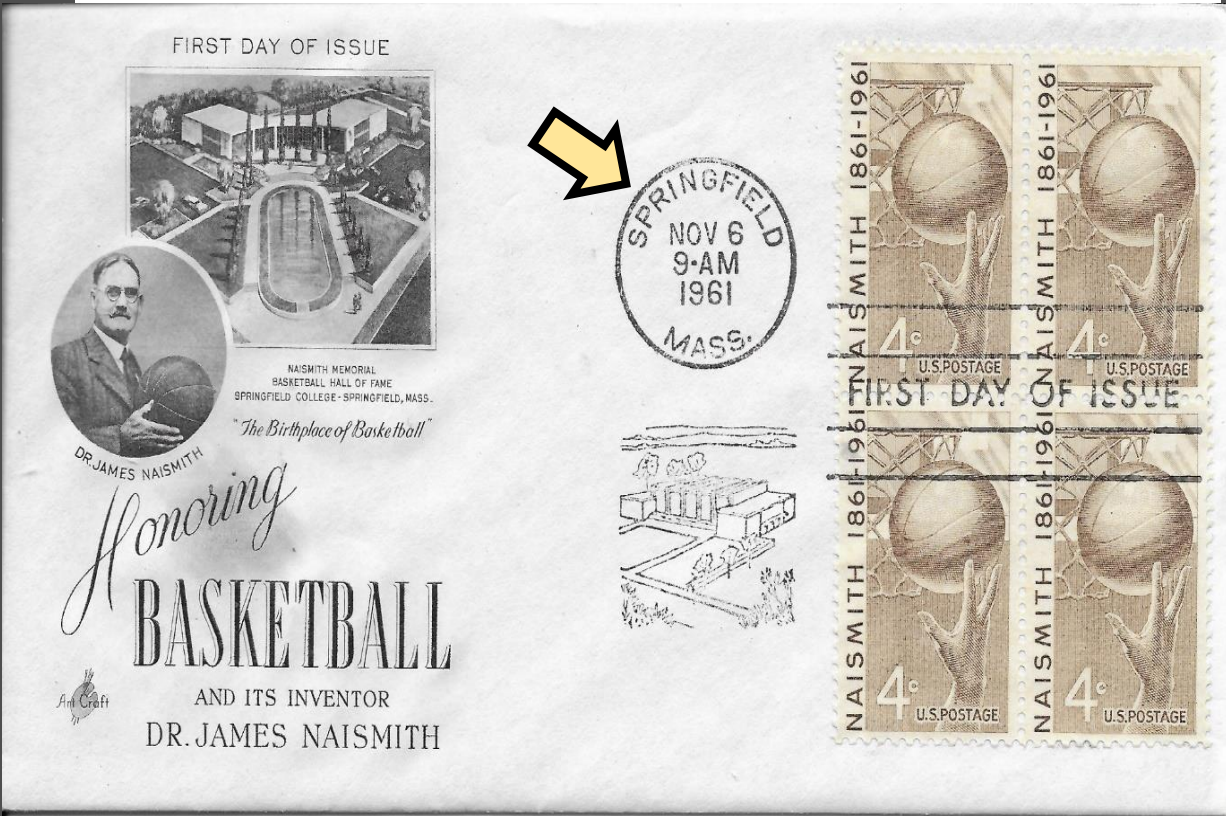
**50th ANNIVERSARY (1969 - 2019)  
OF WOODSTOCK MUSIC  
FESTIVAL FDC**



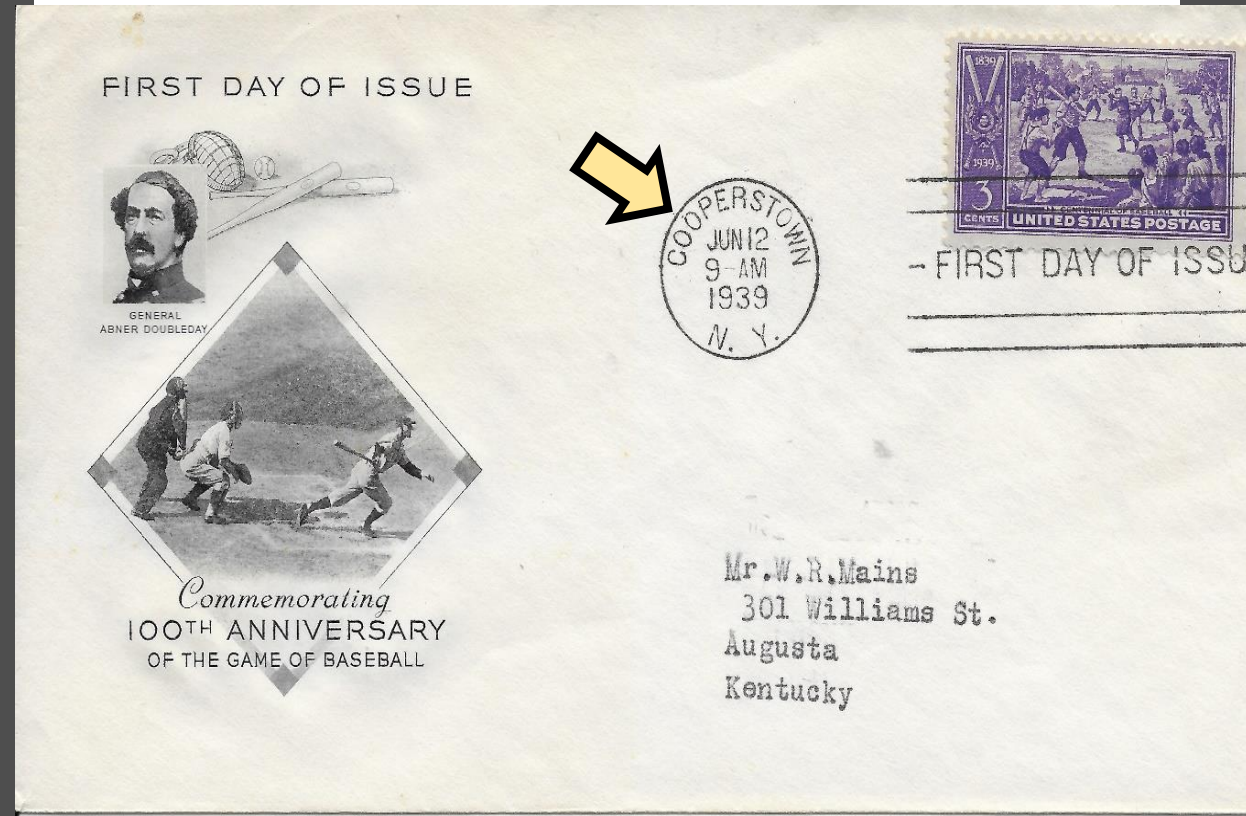
# SPORTS RELATED FDCs – BASKETBALL / BASEBALL

## HONORING BASKETBALL & ITS INVENTOR DR. JAMES NAISMITH (100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 1861 – 1961)

## COMMEMORATING 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GAME OF BASEBALL (1839 – 1939)



**FDol : NOV 6, 1961  
CITY: SPRINGFIELD, MASS  
(4c STAMP}**



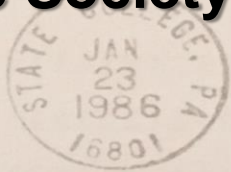
**FDol : JUN 12, 1939  
CITY: COOPERSTOWN, NY  
(3c STAMP}**



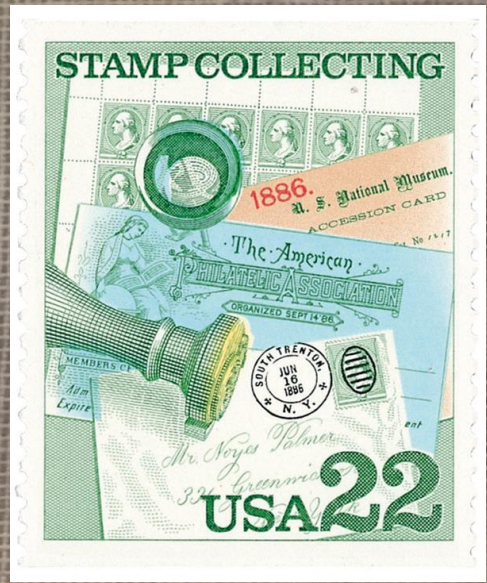
# STAMP COLLECTING FDCs – JAN 1986

2 of 4 stamps issued to  
celebrate 100th anniversary  
of American Philatelic Society.

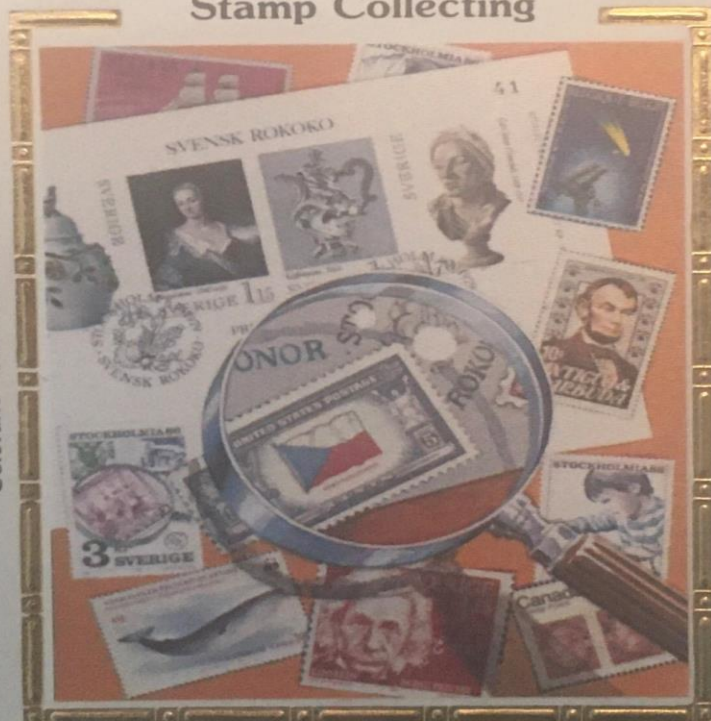
First Day of Issue



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

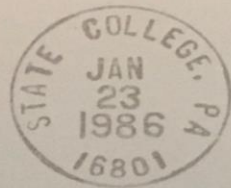


Stamp Collecting



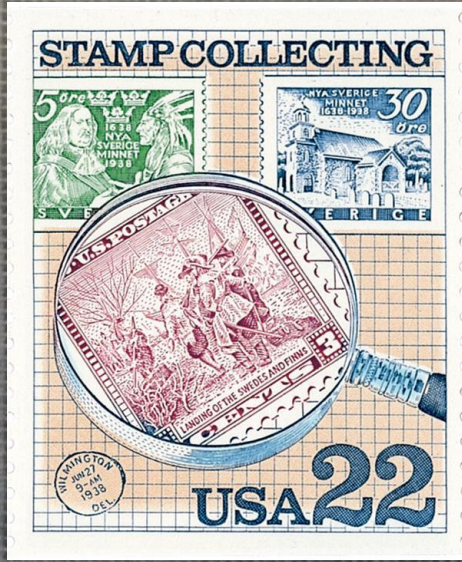
Colorano "Silk" Cachet

First Day of Issue



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

FDol: JAN 23, 1986;  
State College, PA





Stamp Collecting

Colorano "Silk" Cachet

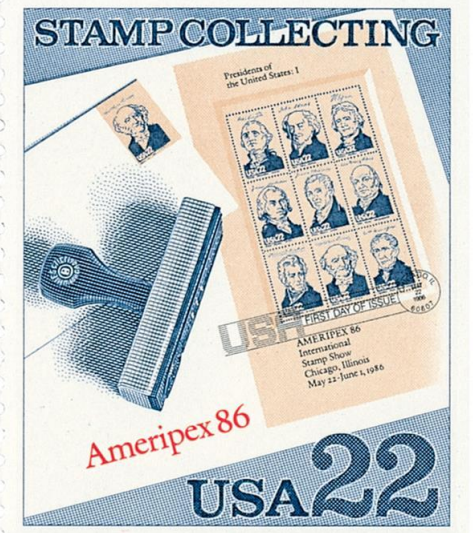
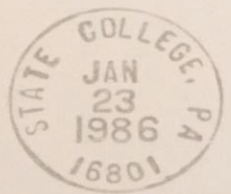


First Day of Issue

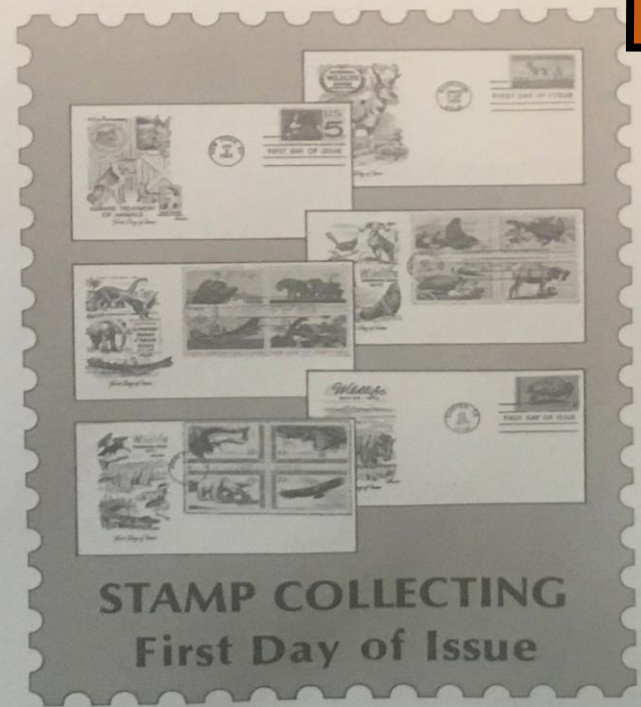


USA 22

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



USA 22



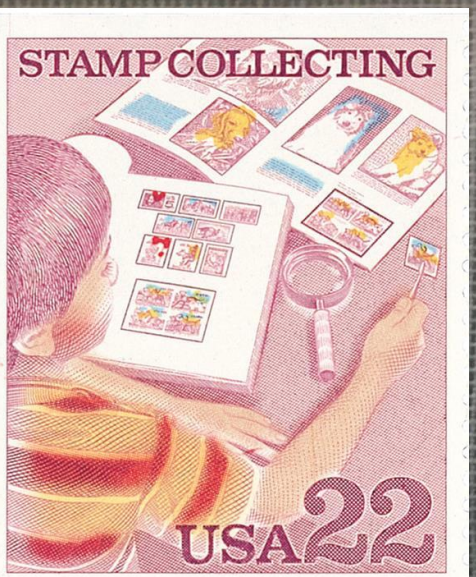
STAMP COLLECTING  
First Day of Issue



USA 22

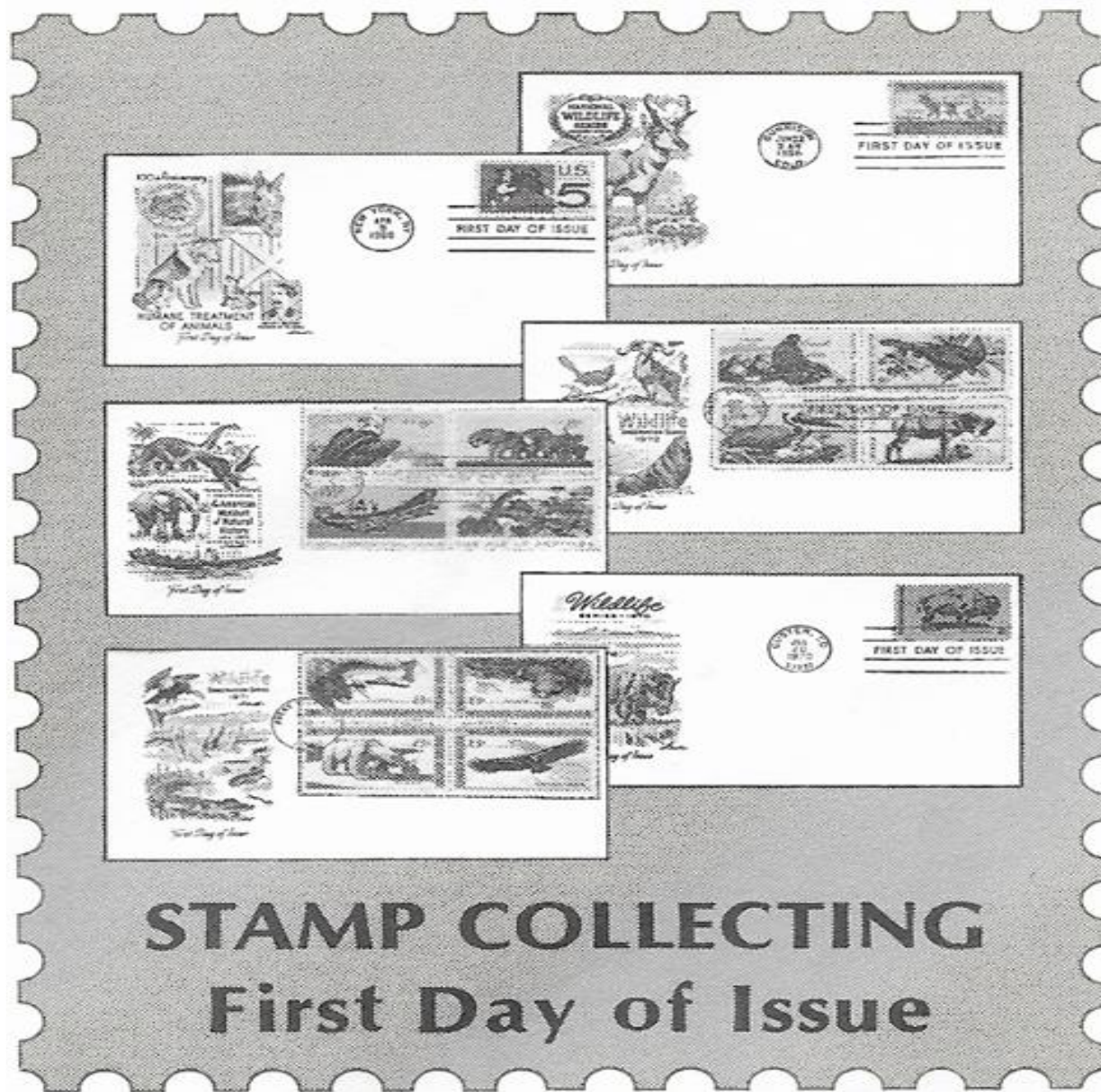
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**STAMP COLLECTING  
FDCs – JAN 1986**



USA 22





# STAMP COLLECTING

## First Day of Issue



# **TREATING STAMP / FDC COLLECTION AS COLLECTIBLE FOR FUTURE DISPOSITION OR HAND-ME-DOWN**

## **ESSENTIAL THINGS THAT MUST / SHOULD BE DONE**

**CARRY OUT DETAILED INVENTORY OF EVERY ITEM – USE SPREADSHEET**

**ESTIMATE EACH FDC VALUE – CATALOG / INTERNET (EBAY, ETC.) PRICE →**

**NECESSARY FOR REPLACEMENT / INSURANCE;**

**HOWEVER, FOR ACTUAL SALE - TAKE 50-60 PERCENT (RULE OF THUMB)**

**CONTACT REPUTABLE, LICENSED APPRAISER OR  
STAMP DEALER (POSSIBLE BUYER) TO CONDUCT FORMAL APPRAISAL**

**SERIOUS OR CASUAL COLLECTOR – DEALER UP FRONT QUESTION**

**FINALLY, VALUE PROPOSITION CONSIDERATION – WORTH?**

**MAJOR FACTOR → SUPPLY / DEMAND PLAYS DOMINATE ROLE  
(+ CONDITION)**

**MORE PRECISELY – SCARCITY / SENTIMENT ← EXAMPLE**

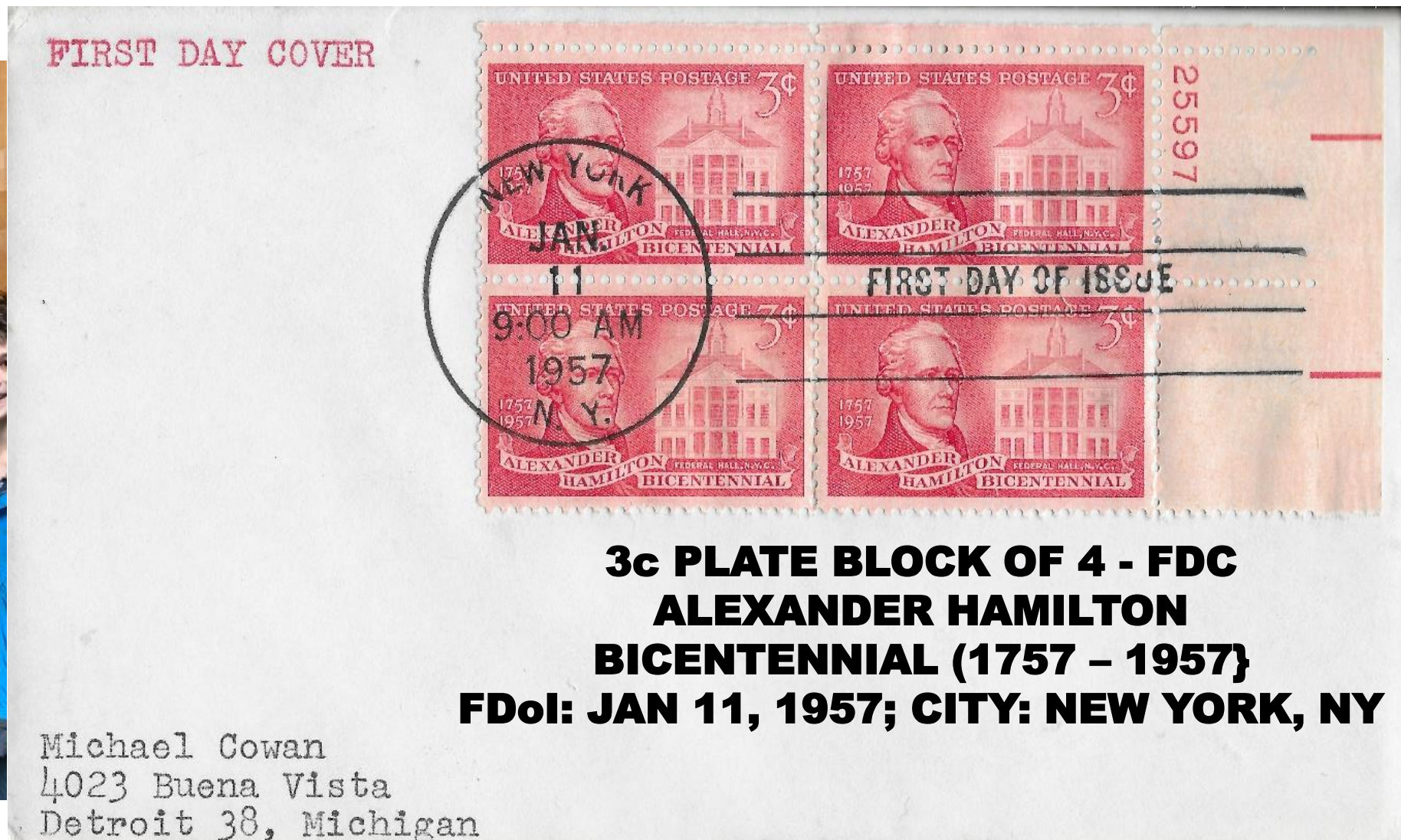
**DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY → CONSEQUENTLY, NEED HELP OF A PROFESSIONAL**



# EXAMPLE OF ROLE THAT SENTIMENT CAN PLAY IN DETERMINING VALUE OF FDC



**HAMILTON  
AN AMERICAN MUSICAL**



**3c PLATE BLOCK OF 4 - FDC  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON  
BICENTENNIAL (1757 - 1957)  
FDol: JAN 11, 1957; CITY: NEW YORK, NY**

One of most popular and successful stage musicals of all time.  
(Show won 11 Tony Awards, Grammy, and even Pulitzer Prize)  
**NET - Widespread name recognition of anything Alexander Hamilton.**



# **WHY COLLECT STAMPS? WHY COLLECT FDCs? - RECAP**

**FUN (STAMPS) AND MORE FUN (FDCs)**

**HIGHLY PERSONAL – TYPICALLY ONE COLLECTS  
STAMPS THAT ONE WANTS AND ENJOYS**

**STAMPS ARE STORYTELLERS - IMMORTALIZE HISTORY AND  
CAN HELP BROADEN ONE'S KNOWLEDGE OF IT.**

**FDC COLLECTING IS AFFORDABLE –  
POTENTIALLY VALUABLE AND EASILY PORTABLE.**

**STAMPS ARE ART – ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF STAMP DESIGN  
STAMP COLLECTING EXERCISES YOUR BRAIN**

**STAMP COLLECTORS LIVE LONG, HAPPY AND HEALTHY LIVES**

**FINALLY – EVERY STAMP HAS A STORY (SOME FASCINATING)  
WHICH SHOWS THE FUN AND POWER OF STAMPS.**

**NET – COLLECTING STAMPS REWARDING HOBBY IN MANY WAYS  
(plus FDCs EXTRA REWARDING)**