The Philatelic Missive

January 2025

#699
August 1968

THE COVER STORY

Internal Revenue Medicine Stamps

While researching Halloween postal history items, I discovered this October 31, 1883 Providence, Rhode Island Hunt's Remedy corner card (Figure 1). What an appropriate item for Halloween!

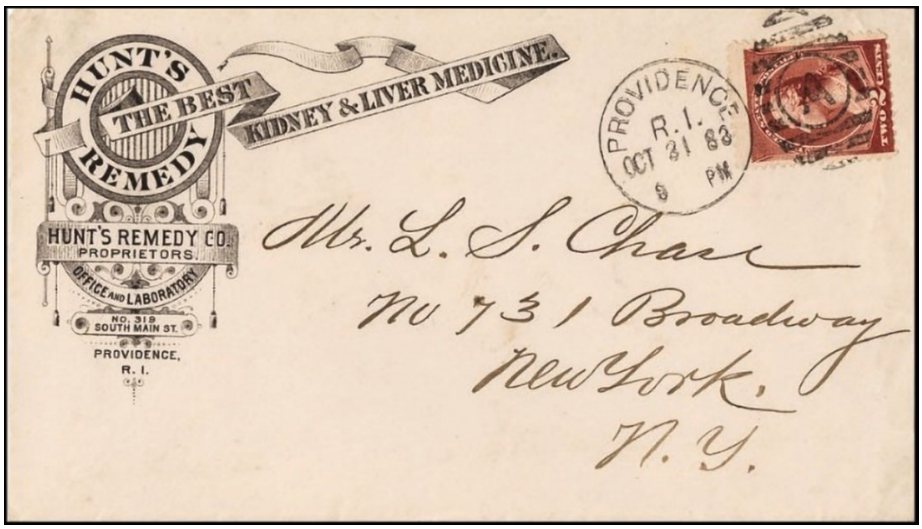


Figure 1. Hunt's Remedy October 31, 1883
(Courtesy of Richard Sheaff, The Ephemera Society)

Cont. on page 4

Upcoming Schedule— 2025

**** CFSC has the room available for Pre-meeting use from 2-4pm on both the first and third Thursday of the month for the coming year. CFSC members are welcome to use the room, catalogs and equipment during that time. The GPS will be meeting on the third Thursday of the month during the 2-4pm time period.**

***** Pre meeting Dinner Plans:**

Club members are invited to meet for dinner prior to the meeting at the IHOP at 646 E. Colonial Drive at 4:30pm. Bring your appetite – and topics for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 2: CFSC Donation Auction (Club fundraiser); door prize available. Meeting in the Ball Room.

January 16: Agenda includes **CFSC Annual Business meeting**—annual reports; balloting for 2024 Service award, best articles & presentations; a silent auction and a door prize available. **See page 12 for ballot details regarding best newsletter article and meeting presentations.**
Meeting in the Oak Room.

Recap of last Month's meetings:

December 5: The Member **"Show & Tell" presentations** were followed by a Silent auction—12 Lots sold with total sales of $182.00. Door Prize was won by ??. 20 members attended the meeting and several CFSC members helped set up FLOREX. Three members attended the pre-meeting dinner at the IHOP.

December 19: The Annual **CFSC "Holiday Party"** celebration took place along with the CFSC "Glue" awards and other recognition awards. **See page 10 for more details**. Nearly 30 members, spouses and guests attended the meeting. Great eats, fun & camaraderie. Stephen Strobel won the door prize.

FLOREX Volunteers—your assistance is greatly appreciated! Thank You! Thank You!

Boston International Stamp Expo
May 23-31, 2026
Boston, Massachusetts
More info at: https://boston2026.org

Newest Members

Welcome to our newest member(s):

Who will be the next to join CFSC?
Who will be new member # 777?

SHOW SCHEDULE:
Maitland 2025 Stamp Shows
Venue at the Lake Maitland Civic Center
641 Maitland Ave. S. Maitland FL 32751

February 8, 2025	**10am—3:30pm**
April 5, 2025	**10am—3:30pm**
June 7, 2025	**10am—3:30pm**
September 6, 2025	**10am—3:30pm**

FLOREX 2025 December 5-6, 2025
Show cachet theme to be determined
Friday 10am-5pm & Saturday 10am-4pm
Tommy Lawrence Arena
Volusia County Fairgrounds—Deland, FL
More info:
www.FLOREXStampShow.com

Quoted

"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud." – Helen Dyer
(An American Biochemist and cancer researcher)

"Every person can make a difference, and every person should try." – John F. Kennedy

The Editor's Box

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! 2025!!!!

Philatelic Missive Newsletter articles needed!

Articles can be submitted via a word document with scans and attached to an email. Thank you!!

Submit articles to: Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org

President's Message by Francis Ferguson

Thanks, Gratitude and Unity

As the year 2024 comes to an end – I would like to thank all those that have made the club what it is. The display of unity and friendship was on display last night at the holiday gathering. So many cooperated to pull together an event that was grand. It was very fulfilling to see so many club members enjoying conversation and food. The annual gathering is outstanding in my book and something I look forward to – all year.

We recognized the four members with the longest membership runs, Phil Fettig, Mike Rogers, A. Stephen Patrick and Richard Scott. (The cake was very good!) Sadly, we lost a fifth member, James Edmunds in September who would also have been in this group of honored folks. In this era of short-term relationships -- to see 40+ years of membership in an organization is truly remarkable and should be celebrated. For a club that is roughly 80+ years old it is notable for members to be involved for 40+ years – that shows dedication and commitment to a common goal.

I do have to apologize for neglecting to acknowledge the three members who passed away in 2024 – the piece was in my talk, but I just skipped right over it. Closed albums, Mel Borofsky (April), Robert Feldman (August), James Edmunds (September). All of these individuals added to the vitality, diversity and strength of the CFSC.

As we look towards 2025 the status quo is great, however growth is better. Let us strive to become involved in making the club a better place. If you see something that needs to be done – don't wait to be asked – volunteer of your time and efforts. Small acts can make big differences!

The first meeting of January will be the club donation auction – clean out your closet or work space and donate material for the cried auction. We also will be doing the balloting for the best newsletter articles, presentations and nominations for the CFSC 2024 Service Award. Your votes will make a difference – please be present and accounted for.
Finally -- make sure your dues are paid for 2025 to remain in good standing!

Be well, be safe and above all else be kind.

Member Spotlight—FLOREX Volunteers

<u>THANK YOU—VOLUNTEERS</u>! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!!

Planning Committee: Mark Tiger, Francis Ferguson, Bob Sazama, Newt Kulp, Steve Patrick, Mike Smith, Gary Byrd, Mike Schumacher

Chairs & Assistant Chairs: Mark Tiger, Francis Ferguson, Mike Smith, Robert Fisher, Richard Blanchard, Gary Byrd, Newt Kulp, Steve Patrick, Mike Schumacher

Thursday Set-up Crew: Francis Ferguson, Robert Fisher, Newt Kulp, Mike Smith, Jeff Small, Phil Fettig, Jerry Eller, Allan Bennett, Nick Bond (West Volusia Club), Vinnie Lichter (Ocala Stamp Club), Mike Schumacher

Friday: Francis Ferguson, Newt Kulp, Mike Smith, Gary Byrd, Steve Patrick, Robert Fisher, Jeff Small, Bill Johnston, Gene Perry, Dave Zambon, Carol Bradfield, Jim Tinkoff, Richard Blanchard, Donald Bourassa, Phil Fettig, Kenneth Weynard, Vinnie Lichter (Ocala Stamp Club), Mike Schumacher

Saturday: Francis Ferguson, Newt Kulp, Mike Smith, Gary Byrd, Steve Patrick, Robert Fisher, Jeff Small, Donald Bourassa, Richard Blanchard, Gene Perry, Daniel Wagenknecht, John Gehrig, Carlos Guffain, Jim Moffitt, Tom Lera, Mike Daly, Vinnie Lichter (Ocala Stamp Club), Mike Schumacher

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers!!!!!!!! And I certainly invite and encourage other CFSC members to volunteer and be part of the team getting things done and moving the philatelic hobby into the future.

COVER STORY— Internal Revenue Medicine Stamps cont. from front page

By: Thomas Lera

William E. Clarke acquired Hunt's Remedy May 9, 1872 and began his advertising campaign for the unique remedy. The main ingerdent was dogbane, a traditional Native American treatment for edema, swelling caused by too much fluid trapped in the body's tissues, mainly in the legs. He also promoted it as a cure-all for diseases of the kidneys, bladder, liver, and urinary organs.

In 1880, he commissioned the National Bank Note Company to engrave and print 9,000 copies of the 3¢ private die medicine stamp on watermarked 191R paper (Figure 2 left, Scott #RS56). The 3¢ paid the federal excise tax on a 75¢ bottle of his miracle cure and, like all private die stamps, afforded a terrific opportunity to advertise at the same time.

In the same year, the Internal Revenue issued 115,000 copies of the 6¢ private die medicine stamp on watermarked 191R paper (Figure 2 right, Scott #RS57) which covered the amount of tax on a $1.75 bottle of Hunt's Remedy.

Figure 2. Internal Revenue Medicine Stamps – Scott #RS56 left, Scott #RS57 right.

The stamp below is one of 15 stamps in the *1900s Celebrate the Century* set issued February 3, 1998, which includes a design recreating the 19th-century medicine revenue stamp (RS56). It clearly shows a deadly skeleton battling a man holding a bottle of a Hart's Remedy cure-all drug (Scott #3182f). The stamp celebrated the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act (Figure 3). allegorical vision of Death being slain by a bottle of Hunt's Remedy

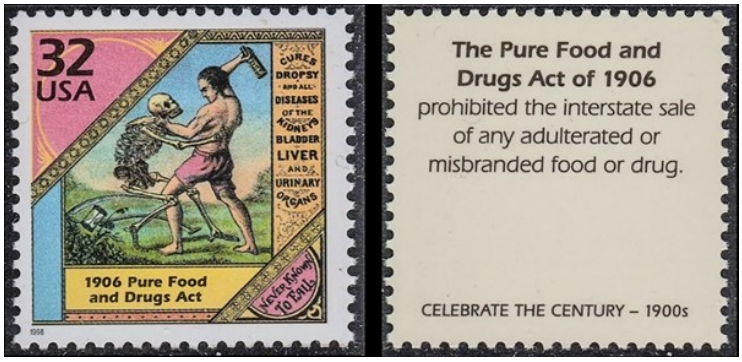
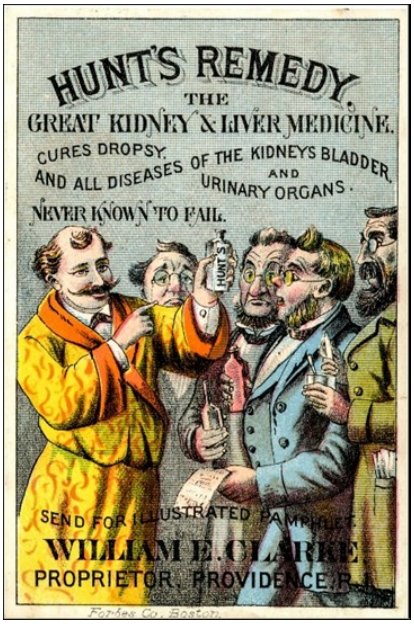


Figure 4. Left, 1870s trade card. (Courtesy of the University of Rochester).
Right, *United States Match and Medicine Stamps* by Christopher West.

Cont. on page 5

 cont. from page 4

Clarke created many different trade cards to give to salemen and pharmacies which offered Hunt's Remedy Figure 4, left. Many of Hunt's Remedy trade cards can be found on the internet.



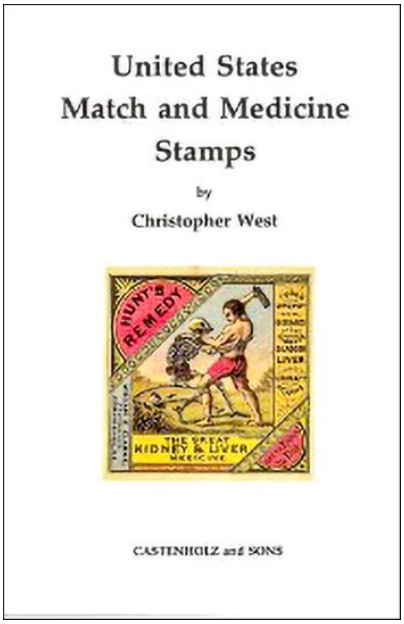


Figure 4. Left, 1870s trade card. (Courtesy of the University of Rochester).
Right, *United States Match and Medicine Stamps* by Christopher West.

There are several stamp books discussing Medicine Revenue stamps. I recommend *United States Match and Medicine Stamps* by Christopher West (aka Elliott Perry), published byCastenholz & Sons, Pacific Palisades, 1980, and *Patent Medicine Tax Stamps: A history of the firms using United States private die proprietary medicine tax stamps* by Henry W. Holcombe, published Quarterman Publications, 1979.

Cecil Munsey's article on *Hunt's Remedy* in the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors *Journal of Bottles and Extras,* July/ August 2008 issue discusses the origin and history of Hunt's Remedy from 1860 to 1903.

The Ephemera Society Accessed at https://www.ephemerasociety.org/hunts-remedy.
Smithsonian National Postal Museum, *Hunt's Remedy Stamp Object Spotlight.* Accessed December 1, 2024 at https://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/hunts-remedy-stamp.
1900s Celebrate the Century - The Dawn of the Twentieth Century. Scott # 3128
Hunt's Remedy, the great kidney & liver medicine. Accessed December 1, 2024 at http://hdl.handle.net/1802/28379.
Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors accessed December 1, 2024 at https://www.fohbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/HuntsRemedy_BE_JulAug_2008.pdf.

HEIDELBACH - ICKELHEIMER COVER

By Daniel Wagenknecht

Stuck inside a bin at Renniger's flea market with a random stash of stamps and ephemera was the pictured piece. Measuring 14.5 inches by 8.5 inches, it is the front of what was a large envelope mailed from London to New York. The plastic sleeve holding it had an old price tag of $40.00, so at one time a dealer or antique store proprieter thought it was a pretty neat piece. Who knows if the piece was purchased for that price?

Thirteen postmarks read, "REGISTERED 19 FEB 40" and something illegible on the bottom. One note stamp in purple reads "Supposed liable to customs duty" and one also in purple reads contrarily: "U.S. CUSTOMS FREE OF DUTY N.M." Again some text at the bottom is illegible.

It is addressed to "Messrs Heidelbach Ickelheimer, 49. Wall Street, New York, USA." A pencil notation reads "$33 new, 25c to 50c now" to the top right of addressee. There is nothing on the back, since, as I mentioned, the front has been cut off from the envelope.

There are nineteen British postage stamps adorning this cover. Scott number 240 (3 pence) is valued at 80c in Scott 2019. Three number 249 (2 shilling and 6 pence), valued at $9 each but one is folded and apparently torn. Fifteen number 251 (10 shilling), which are valued at $22.50 each but one is folded and torn and one has the top right corner torn off. All bear the profile of King Edward VIII.

According to Wikipedia, Heidelbach, Ickelheimer, and Co. specialized in foreign currency exchange. The firm was part of "Our Crowd", an "interlinked group of Wall Street investment banks founded by German Jewish bankers in the last half of the 19th Century."

On March 14, 1941, the following headline appeared in the New York Times:

HEIDELBACH BANK IS IN LIQUIDATION; One of Three Old-Line Private Banking Firms Left in Wall St. Out of Business ASSETS PUT AT $10,245,311 Liabilities to Be Assumed by Commercial National -- Two Partners Will Retire

The article goes on to explain: "The old-line private banking firm of Heidelbach, Ickelheimer Co., one of the three still left in Wall Street, announced yesterday that, after the recent death of Henry R. Ickelheimer, senior partner, the firm was being liquidated. Founded in 1876, it played an important part in the international banking field."

The question that fascinates me is this: What would have been so valuable in 1940 to require over 156 British Shillings postage? Was it a deed to property? A big amount of cash, securities, stock certificates? In today's valuations, if my calculation is correct, that means the postage was well over $600. Whatever was contained in this envelope, it was not enough to keep the bank in business. Today, through myriad mergers and acquisitions, the assets of Heidelbach, Ickelheimer, and Company are part of the modern finance giant Bank of America. Anyone have any speculation?

OPA Token

By Jerry Eller

OPA stands for Office of Price Administration

The Office of Price Administration used OPA stamps, coins, and chits for rationing. Items that were rationed included canned goods, meats, sugar, coffee, tires, gas and more. OPA tokens were used for rationing during WWII. OPA tokens used by retailers to give change back for food bought with ration stamps.

OPA tokens are either red or blue in color. Red OPA's are a lot more common than blue ones. Blue tokens were used for processed foods and red tokens were used for meats and Fats. There are 30 different known red tokens and about 24 known blue tokens.

Blue ones read: OPA Blue Point 1 (with two different letters) and the red ones read: OPA Red Point (with two different letters). Both have certain letters more valuable than the rest.

Both the red and blue OPA's have certain ones that are more valuable than the rest. The hardest letter combinations to locate are MV, WC, WH and MM. MV ones have gone for a little as $125 and much as $250.00 on eBay. OPA's were last used in 1945. Red OPAs may have been used in December of 1944. Considering that a minimum of 900,000,000 blue and 1 billion reds were made, they are a lot rarer than you might think. These are considered part of the ration and coin collection area of BoB (Back of Book) topics.

Questionable eBay, # 26
The Land of Strange Things.

By Francis Ferguson

The listing reads; "*US #147 or #158 or #184(4) Jumbo corner margins, all 4 corner *d*". This experienced seller is offering these four common stamps for $90, with mailing of $1.30 and returns accepted within 30 days.

Frankly I do not see anything special about this – four stamps that are very much off center that form an interesting set when placed together. One man's treasure is another man's ……

I don't know what to say about this other than it is very odd and frankly the vibe -- is one of trying to make more out of it than it is.

What do you think?

FLOREX 2024 in Review

By Mike Schumacher

The 75th Anniversary of the FLOREX Stamp Exhibition is in the books and it appeared to be a success. Twenty-one dealers in attendance; twenty-three competitive exhibits and five non-competitive exhibits which included two (ten frame) Court of Honor exhibits. A **"BIG THANK YOU!"** all around to the sponsorship of the Florida Stamp Dealers' Association; the members of the Central Florida Stamp Club for staffing the show along with members of the General Francis Marion Stamp club, the West Volusia Stamp club and the Villages Stamp club; the dealers; the judges; the exhibitors; the participating societies; the donors and the presenters. Thank you also to the Save the Manatees Club for their participation. The attendance was similar to past years which included a number of youth and their families from the Home Schooling Association. As the saying goes—a picture says a thousand words, so I will let the pictures tell much of the story. (Photos by Mike Smith and Mike Schumacher)

Anniversary cake

Show Chair Mike Schumacher & Judges (l to r) John Hotchner, Peter McCann and Jay Stotts

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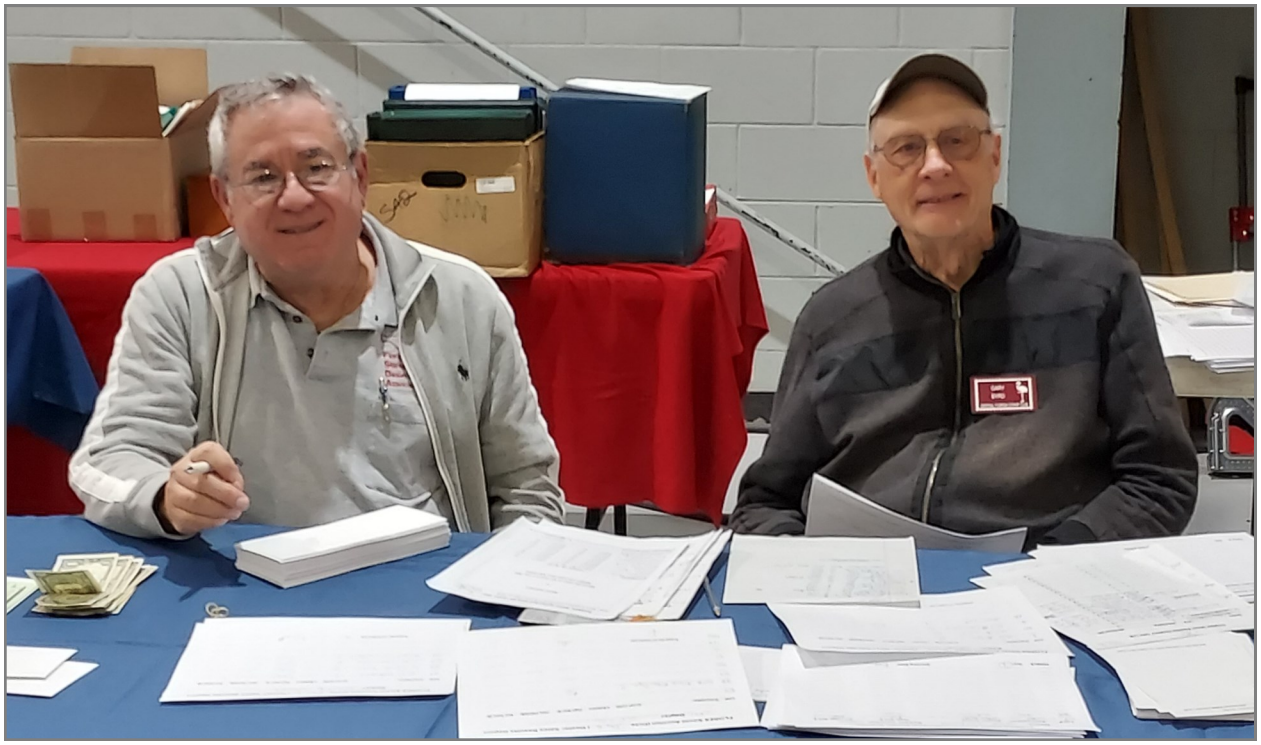
FLOREX 2024 in Review cont.

Exhibits, Youth Table and Youth Table Chair, Richard Blanchard

Dealer's bourse area

Silent Auction Booth - Francis Ferguson (FLOREX Emeritus) and Gary Byrd (Silent Auction Chair)



Cont. on page 10

FLOREX 2024 in Review cont.

Dealer's bourse area

Robert Sazama

Ann & Robert Dowrick

George & Monica Enstroms

Jim Archbold Kris Archbold

Stephen L. Strobel

Peter. McCann Thomas Lera Robert Fisher

Grand Award (multi frame) C. O'Brien

Reserve Grand Award P. Leber

P. McCann O. Cabrera

CFSC Holiday Party & Awards

Photos by Mike Smith

The December 19th CFSC meeting agenda included the annual holiday party and award presentations. A total of nearly 40 CFSC members, spouses and guests attended the celebration.

President Ferguson & Santa Strobel checking out the food table.

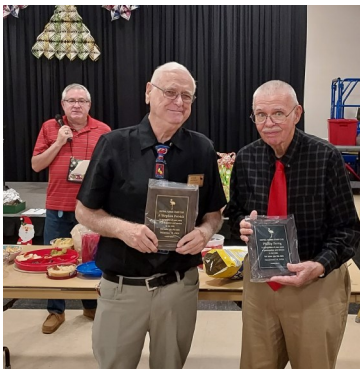
Members ready for the feasting. (frt row) R. Blanchard. T. Lera, S. Patrick

< J. & L. Tinkhoff

< R. & E. Cohen

H. Tompkins & B. Helton & family >

Emcee Ferguson presents CFSC Longevity awards to S. Patrick & P. Fettig



2024 CFSC Glue Award winners (l to r) J. Small, R. Fisher, S. Patrick, R. Cohen, D. Zambon, S. Strobel, G. Perry, M. Smith

4th Qtr Brithday winner R. Aguilera

2024 Best meeting attendance winners (l to r) S. Patrick, R. Blanchard, D. Zambon, J. Bailey

Meeting Emcee President F. Ferguson

2024 Best Newsletter Article & Meeting Presentation Ballot

A heads up for the January meeting - it will be time for you to choose and recognize the 2024 best newsletter articles and presentations. See lists below and come prepared to vote at the January meeting.

Article List

	(Cover Story) CFSC 2023 FLOREX & Holiday Party
	(Cover Story) What's The Difference? Part 2
	Interesting Covers (Feb. issue)
	(Cover Story) The Story of Canadian Stamp Scott # 485
	Interesting Covers (Mar. issue)
	(Cover Story) The Industrial Building Branch
	U.S. New Issues in March 2024
	Philately Meets Portraiture: Covers by John Kaul
	(Cover Story) The Boer War and Censored Mail 1899 - 1901
	A Few Interesting Postmarks
	(Cover Story) Washington-Franklin Coils Real or Fake?
	Iceland Postmarks
	(Cover Story) Florida Postmarks and Cachets
	1937 Everglades Route AM-31
	You say, To-may-toe & I say Ta-ma-toe! Some say, "Astabula" and some say, "Astatula"
	(Cover Story) The Icelandic Horse
	Home Town Lad Makes It Into Baseball Hall of Fame!
	(Cover Story) A Baseball Legend on new stamp Issue!
	Celebration of our Senior Philatelic Ambassadors & CFSC Photo Opp!
	Harding Memorial Stamp (2 cent issue of 1923)
	A First-Class News Article
	GASS – Hartford, CT 2024!
	(Cover Story) The Philatelic Rainbow Colored Cancels on Classic U.S. Stamps
	Philately is Everywhere!
	(Cover Story) Variations on a Theme Part 1
	A Couple of Minnesota finds in Hartford, CT
	(Cover Story) It's Show Time – FLOREX 2024 75th Anniversary Exhibition
	Variations on a Theme Part 2
	Questionable Ebays (Jan. through Dec)

Presentation List

	TASCO Booklets
	Postal History of Orange County Florida
	Double Take- Color Omissions on U.S. Stamps
	Identifying U.S. Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers
	Masters of the Night
	"Guatelows" The Guatemalan 1902 Waterlow Issue
	British Offices Abroad – Specifically Puerto Rico
	Prexy EFOs
	The Good, The Bad, The Ugly of Buying Stamp Collections
	New Stamp Issues
	First Day Images on Souvenir Cards

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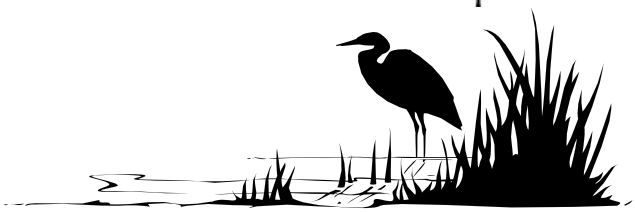
The Central Florida Stamp Club is a 75+ year old organization governed by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership every two years and dedicated to the enjoyment of the hobby of stamp collecting.

- Membership is a reasonable $30 per year, $6 for youth.
- Meetings are twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.
- The Membership of the CFSC includes many diverse interests that cover the range from A-Z.
- The meeting is centrally located to downtown Orlando and can be easily accessed from SR 50 (Colonial Drive) and I/4.
- The Marks Street Senior Center has been our host for more than 25 years and provides a pleasant meeting room with easy access and plenty of free parking.
- The informal part of the meeting is prior to 6:00pm. The business side of things will be brief. Cried auction and/or presentation to start at 6:15 until 7:15 Followed by auction wrap up and informal discussions. We must be out of the building by 8:00 without exception.
- The Membership of the CFSC participates as the host and sponsor of the one day shows in February, April, June & September. In addition, we are the resident hosting club for FLOREX which is held in the Central Florida area.
- The CFSC maintains a website: CentralFloridaStampClub.org
- Benefits of membership include; monthly newsletter, access to loaner equipment & catalogs, participation in door prize drawings, the right to submit and bid in cried/silent auctions — and much more.
- Postal address: CFSC P.O. Box 1206, Plymouth, FL 32768-1206
- As of 12.2023

Central Florida Stamp Club



NOTE: Opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the authors placing articles, and are not reflective of the CFSC or any members.

The Editor of this newsletter, Mike Schumacher can be reached at E-mail address Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org

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