

JULY, 2010

# The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle



## The Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club

THE JULY 8 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE USUAL LOCATION,  
THE EAST RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP HALL,  
915 McBRIEN ROAD, EAST RIDGE, TN  
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P.M. MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 P.M.

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### DID YOU KNOW -

1) Who were the first men to be featured on US postage stamps?

Did you know that the first US postage stamp featured Benjamin Franklin and George Washington? Both were notable figures during the American Revolution and they earned their honors as the first two men to be featured on the first United States stamps in 1847.

2) What was the smallest amount of US stamps made?

The Graf Zeppelin stamps have the smallest number of issues of definitive stamps in the 20th century. Only 61, 296 pieces of these USPS stamps were sold.

On the other hand, the Norse American stamps were known to be the least produced commemorative stamps in the USA. They were printed in sheets of 100 stamps instead of the usual 200 stamps.

3) Are US stamps legal tender?

No. US postage stamps are not legal tender and thus they cannot be taken for payment of goods and services.

4) Are US postage stamps made in China?

No. US postage stamps are made by the United States Postal Service contractors, and they are not manufactured outside the country.

### Question: How do I soak self-adhesive stamps?

Plain old lighter fluid - sold as Ronsonol in the US - works like a charm.

Just spritz some on the front of the stamp and after 30 seconds or so gently peel it off whatever it is attached to.

Once the fluid evaporates the original gum is still there so the stamp will stick to paper, so best to place it on wax paper or better, some leftover stamp backing sheets. If you want to mount the stamp in an album, talcum powder sprinkled on the back of the soaked stamp will keep it from sticking.

Some of us use lighter fluid for watermark detection, and know how to use it safely. So read the instructions carefully.

Use sparingly, and in a well ventilated area - on the patio for example.

Happy soaking!

### **AUCTION NOTICE!!!**

Bring your duplicates, extras, and any other items you would like to dispose of to the July meeting. Better yet, get them submitted early so the lots can be prepared ahead of time.

### July Meeting Refreshments:

Snacks ..... Robert Barger  
Drinks ..... Willis Monk

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## CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Upcoming Area Shows:

July 31- Aug 1 ..... CHARPEX 2010  
Charlotte, NC

Sept. 24-26 ..... Southeastern Stamp Show  
Marietta, GA   **Chattanooga Stamp Club:**

July 15 ..... July Meeting  
July 15 ..... Summer Auction

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### A Short Course on First Day Covers

#### What is a First Day Cover?

A First Day Cover (FDC) is an envelope or card bearing a stamp which is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities. A FDC with the Snowy Egret stamp (A) is shown with a New York, NY, First Day of Issue cancel (B) and a cachet (C), pronounced ka-shay, which compliments or tells us something about the stamp.

#### Where Are Stamps First Sold?

Although most U.S. stamps are released nationwide on the first day, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will designate a single city as the "official" first day city. (Sometimes multiple cities are designated as "official.") The location is usually appropriate to the subject of the stamp, and will be the only place where the "First Day of Issue" postmark is used. The 2003 Korean War Memorial stamp on the above FDC was released in Washington, DC -- the city where the Memorial is located.

#### When Are FDCs Prepared?

A specific day is selected for release of the new stamp, one which may be significant to the subject -- such as the Louisiana Purchase stamp issued on the 200th anniversary of the event.

#### How Are Stamps First Released?

Generally a First Day Of Issue (FDOI) ceremony is sponsored by the Postal Service or an organization associated with the new stamp. It is a colorful and entertaining ceremony which enables collectors to attend to prepare special souvenirs. Programs such as the Holiday Stamps folder shown above are usually distributed free of charge.

#### What is the Significance of the Cachet?

The cachet enhances the cover by complementing the stamp and can be attractive, educational, humorous, and other things. There are many different cachets for each new stamp -- such as two National World War II Memorial types shown. The choice adds an exciting dimension to the hobby.

#### How Do I Choose a Cachet?

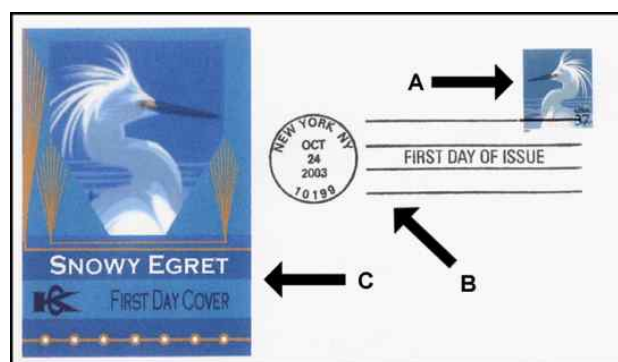
As noted above, the designs come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. They may be printed, engraved, thermographed or produced by a variety of other methods. Some collectors make their own. One collecting challenge is to see how many different cachets can be found for a particular stamp.

#### How Do I Obtain FDCs?

Collectors may buy envelopes, apply the stamps and send them to the USPS for servicing (canceling). The instructions for doing this are in the USPS's Postal Bulletin (available online) or in collector publications or websites. Or the covers may be purchased ready made from cachetmakers or stamp dealers.

#### First Day Cover Collecting Is...

A hands-on hobby, unlike stamp collecting, where the FDC collector actively participates. Collectors may make their own covers or collect covers in many dozens of different ways -- the result is a personal involvement that is extremely gratifying.



### The Unique 2¢ Lincoln Issue

The 1909 2¢ Lincoln postage stamp was issued by Act of Congress which says "Resolve by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to design and issue a special postage stamp of 2¢ denomination in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln." No one had been so honored before, and none since. (1909)

The design was the bowed head of Lincoln as taken from the Augustus Saint-Gaudens statue located in Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois. Scott lists the stamp as #367, Perf. 12; #368 Imperf. and #369, Perf. 12 on Bluish Paper. First day was February 12, 1909.

The statue had been unveiled in 1887 and was immediately acclaimed as a masterpiece. The artist, considered by many as America's greatest sculptor, had been born in Dublin, Ireland of a French father and an Irish mother. The date was 1848. He died in 1907 so he never saw the stamp design taken from the statue.

Saint-Gaudens also produced the seated Lincoln which is in Grant Park, part of the Chicago lake front; others of his statues dot the American landscape. Like Barnard, another sculptor of Lincoln, Saint-Gaudens was an officer of the French Legion of Honor. He had shown many of his works at the Paris Exposition of 1900.

Saint-Gaudens is rightly regarded as America's greatest sculptor and his works tinue to exert a powerful influence in the United States.

Source: *Lincoln Log*, Journal of the Lincoln Society of Philately, Vol. X No. 5, January, February, 1973

367



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#### Internet Sites:

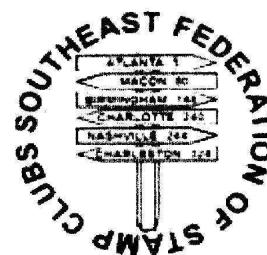
- Great Britain Collectors Club .....  
..... <http://www.gbstamps.com/gbcc/>
- Stamp Yellow Pages .....  
..... <http://www.stampshows.com/local-post.html>
- National Postal Museum .....  
..... <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/>

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#### HELP WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER

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This is your newsletter. In that case, we need your input. If you have a special interest in some philately related subject, write it down and send it in. I will edit it if you want, and publish it in an upcoming issue. Just send it to me either way: email to [<gbricker@catt.com>](mailto:gbricker@catt.com), or snail mail at P.O. Box 1642, Ringgold, GA 30736



APS Chapter # 0731

### The Chattanooga Stamp Club

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Southeasten Federation of Stamp Clubs. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

#### - CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2010 -

President; Robert Barger  
Secretary: Willis Monk

Vice-President: Jim Hogue  
Treasurer: Carl Anderson

**MEETINGS:** Club meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST located at 915 McBrien Rd in Eastridge, TN. Meetings begin at 7.30 PM. Come early and enjoy meeting the members as well as talking about stamps.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$20.00. Send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer, Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd., Signal Mountain, TN 37377.