

The Cover Story

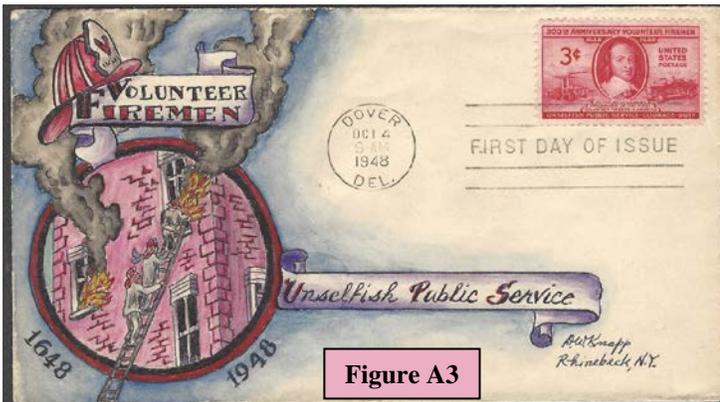
Chevy, Cadillac or Bentley?

By Newton Kulp

As a reader of a philatelic related publication one would wonder as to the auto industry related title. Or maybe if you are not a General Motors fan a better title would be Ford, Lincoln or Rolls Royce for you Ford Motor Company fans. I'm using this analogy as a reference to quality, quantity and pricing of an object. You probably have heard many times that an item is the Cadillac of (whatever the item is). In the realm of First Day of Issue cachet covers one can equate this to the production of cachets. The Chevy (Ford) variety would include the mass produced printed cachets of Artmaster, ArtCraft, Fleetwood and the like -- which sell for a \$1.00 and up. The Cadillacs (Lincolns) would be the limited edition often hand-painted varieties of Weigand, Fulton and the like that can be purchased in the \$50 to \$500 range. Then you get to the highest quality hand painted items. One such artist of the 1920s to 1980s was Dorothy Knapp. Her covers sell from \$500 to well over \$1000 each.

She produced hand-painted cachets for many issues from 1925 through 1986, always in quantities of less than 50, some being unique. Exact numbers drawn is unknown since she did not keep records for which issues she did covers nor the number of each she made. For some issues she made multiple cachet designs. Since each was hand-painted, very subtle variations exist between each cover. These differences usually cannot be determined unless you have several to compare against. Most were produced on a subscription basis for a group of select collectors, thus very few were made available to the general collecting public. On almost all covers she signed them near the bottom with D.W. Knapp and for some but not all included Rhinebeck, N.Y. (her home town).

As a collector of items related to Fire Service I have accumulated a collection of First Day of Issue and event covers for several different fire related issues. One issue is the stamp commemorating the 300th anniversary of the organization of the first volunteer firemen in America by Peter Stuyvesant (Scott number 971). Mrs. Knapp created two different cachets at the time of the issue (October 4, 1948) and a third as an "add-on" cachet.



You will find images of all three in this issue. **[Figure A1 & A2 on the front cover and A3 to the left.]** The first cachet has a three horse-drawn steam pumper racing to a fire. This scene would have been a typical event in the 1870s through the early 1900s. The second shows three firemen atop a tall ladder trying to enter a burning building through a window. This approach would have happened before the early 1920s when ladder trucks were placed in service to

access fires higher up in buildings. Less than fifty of each were painted. The third cachet is an add-on which she did to honor her son, Wally. It was painted sometime in the early 1950s on an uncacheted first day cover. Two versions are known - with and without the banner "Unselfish Public Service." It is believed that fewer than twenty copies of the combined images were made.

Many thanks to Douglas Weisz, a dealer of fine covers. He has written the book *Dorothy Knapp: Philately and Family* that details her life. It has over 500 color illustrations of her work including first date of issue, event and special covers. It also has chapters about her life and also how she produced her covers. Information for this article was taken from this book and from conversations with Douglas Weisz. His book is available to borrow from our library.

Pictures Tell a Lot!



This picture was taken September of 2017 and shows Steve Patrick and his round table of stamp offerings. We have encouraged all members to partake of the Member's Bourse that happens between 8:45 and 8:55 at the second meeting of each month. Bring something to sell and maybe you will be lucky enough to find something to buy. This is just another benefit of being a member of the Central Florida Stamp Club.

[Picture provided by Robert Ridgeway.]

This picture shows Stephen Strobel who co-presented a presentation with A. Stephen Patrick at the second meeting of February. Giving a presentation can be a rewarding effort and allows you to share your interests with the wider audience of club members. Stephen Patrick as VP-Programs is constantly on the lookout for presentations during the course of a year. We meet 24 times (most years), by the time you remove the auctions and holiday gathering that leaves 18 meetings -- that are in need of a presentation. Co-presenting is a nifty way to get your feet wet and share with the CFSC fellowship.

[Picture provided by Robert Ridgeway.]



At the second meeting of February, representing the CFSC, Steve Patrick (in the raspberry shirt) presented the 2017 CFSC Service award to Phillip Fettig. The list of things that can be attributed to Phil over his decades long service to the club is endless. Much of what he has done is behind the scenes, as he has lent his considerable experience and knowledge to address an issue. The CFSC wishes to extend a thank you to Phil for his many years of service. We do expect to see him for many more years to come!

[Picture provided by the Editor.]