

The USPS & Postal Commemorative Society Working Together? Why?

by Phil Fettig

I have always stated “Collect what you want, however you choose”. However, I also try to include that caution and knowledge is also needed. One of the sad jobs a dealer must do is advise a person who inherited philatelic material. A common example --- are accumulations of First Day Covers produced by companies like the Postal Commemorative Society (PCS) – which are worth very little in comparison to original cost.

When going through an old cover lot I came across the envelope shown in **figure B1**. It contains an addressed



FDC of a strip of 3 Scott 1851, showing Henry Knox. I think I remember the USPS sending serviced FDCs undercover, but thought that was to deliver the cover unaddressed, for an additional fee. So, why the addressed item?

Upon opening the envelope I discovered it was full of advertising material **figure B2** from the PCS touting a Disney Stamp Folio full of “philatelic gems” that are available only on a strict “first come, - first served” basis. The cost, as shown in **figure B3**, is only \$37.25!

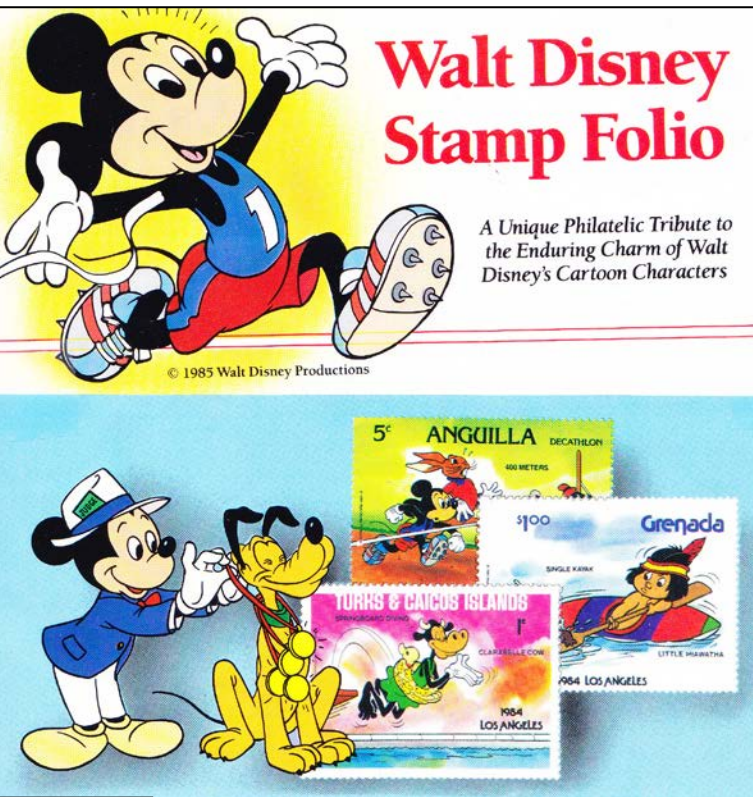


Figure B2

Detach and Return in the Envelope Provided 001
RESERVATION APPLICATION
Walt Disney Stamp Folio

Please reserve _____ Walt Disney Stamp Folio(s) as described in this announcement. The Folio includes 24 Disney stamps, three souvenir sheets, and an historic U.S. postage stamp of Walt Disney. I understand that the Folio will be shipped to me in January 1986.

Name _____ (Please Print Clearly)
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

I prefer to pay for each Folio ordered as follows:

Payment in full of \$39.75* (\$37.25 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling) is enclosed.
 A deposit of \$13.25* is enclosed. Bill me for the balance due in two additional installments when my Folio is shipped.
 Charge the full amount due, at the time of shipment, to my:
 MasterCard VISA

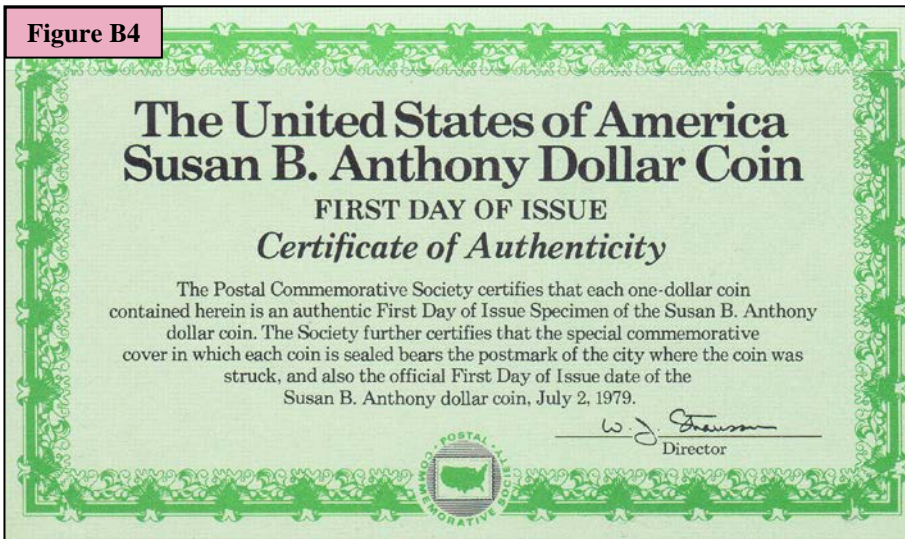
Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Make check or money order payable to Postal Comm. Soc. (or just PCS).
 *Conn. residents pay \$42.73 and \$14.24, respectively to include sales tax.

POSTAL COMMEMORATIVE SOCIETY
 47 Richards Avenue • Norwalk, CT 06857

Figure B3

Figure B4



The bloom is long gone from the Disney related stamps from the 1980s and most issues are still available at a lower cost. I guess I have to admit being naive in not realizing the USPS was in partnership with PCS.

The name currently in use is PCS Stamps & Coins and if you look at the website you can take advantage of the offer of 200 Historic Stamps of America. They are available for the low price of \$21.95 per set of 5. That is a total of \$878.00 for 200 cheap modern 20th century items found in

discount postage bins. There is no extra charge for the 2 wooden chests to store them.

To be sure, there is nothing illegal about this offer. If it gives a collector pleasure, then go for it – you just need to proceed with care when making decisions. PCS does certify that material sold is authentic. **Figure B4** is a certificate for a U.S. Susan B. Anthony Dollar Coin that was sold contained in a FDC. I can't show you the cover as I tore it open to use the coin to pay a toll.

CFSC Service Award for 2018



Mel Borofsky is the recipient of the 2018 CFSC Service award for involvement with the club – over and above the call of duty.

He has helped in many of the projects over the last 6-8 years that have involved graphics work. His work has included, the cachet and cancel design for FLOREX, the design of the club's 50th Anniversary logo and countless other projects over the years. In addition he has helmed the *Bourse Newsletter* as the Editor since April of 2013, and he also has run numerous raffles at shows to add to our treasury.

His talent and desire to be of service goes a long way to benefit the membership of the CFSC. Please thank him for his service to the club and to the wider world of philately.

[Picture provided by Robert Ridgeway.]