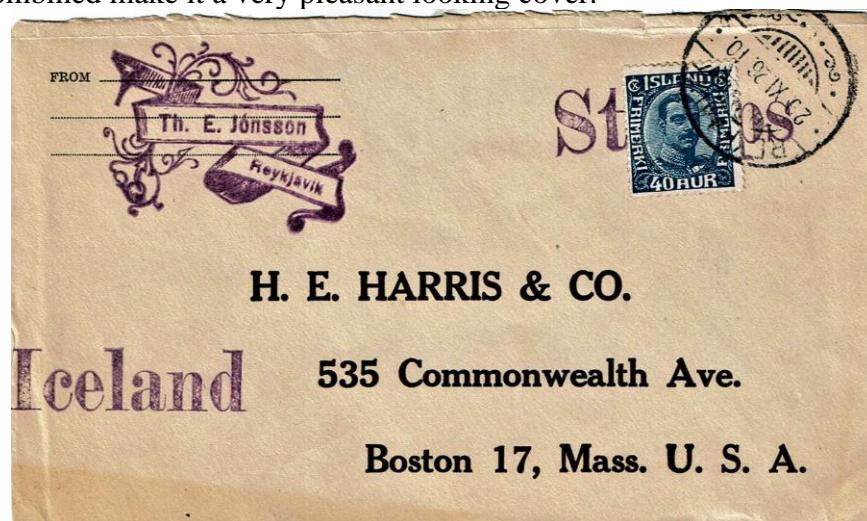


Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!

A cover to H. E. Harris & Co.

by Mike Schumacher

This article is about an interesting looking cover recently added to my Icelandic collection. It is a 1926 cover, sent to H. E. Harris & Co. in Boston, Massachusetts with a couple of unusual, stamped markings. In the upper left corner of the envelope is a stamped logo of the sender - Th. E. Jonsson, Reykjavik, who it appears was a stamp dealer (conclusion based on the other two markings which indicate "Iceland" & "Stamps"). None of these markings have I previously seen on a cover. Affixed to the cover is a 40aur King Christian X stamp, which was first issued on November 25, 1920, and reprinted in 1923. The postmark is a type B1d Reykjavik cancel¹. All things combined make it a very pleasant looking cover.



The H. E. Harris Company (a mail-order stamp company) was founded by Henry Ellis Harris when he was 14 years old (1916), with 25 cents in capital, in a spare bedroom of his family's home. He opened his first retail store in 1921 and by 1935, Henry E. Harris was the largest stamps dealer in the world, employing more than 200 people. In 1943, he purchased the Kenmore Stamp Company.

Kenmore Stamp Company was started in 1932 by Ernest Greenway Jarvis, owner and president of the Niagara Fall Smelting and Refinery Company, when his doctor advised him that he needed to take up a hobby and relax. Thus, he resumed his boyhood interest – stamp collecting.

The Kenmore Stamp Company returned to the stamp scene in 1947, when Henry E. Harris Jr. bought the rights to the name from Jarvis' father and re-established the company in 1948 in the Boston suburb of Arlington.

In 1975, the H.E. Harris Company was sold to the venture capitalism division of General Mills. The H.E. Harris Company was stripped of its assets, inventory was sold, the publishing division was floated, and the approval division was closed. The number of H. E. Harris employees went from hundreds to zero. This was an ignominious end to what was once the largest stamp company in the world.

Henry E. Harris died in 1977. In 1979 he was inducted into the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame. Henry E. Harris was also the recipient of the American Philatelic Society Luff award in 1966.

Footnote¹ For more information on Iceland cancels see: "POSTHUS OG BREFHIRDINGAR A ISLANDI" by Klubbur Skandinaviasafnara

*The Florida Stamp Dealers' Association
Presents*

The Fall 2021

Central Florida Stamp Show The Maitland Civic Center

**641 Maitland Ave S.
Maitland 32751**

email: info@FloridaStampShows.com

FloridaStampDealers.org

Use of a MASK is strongly encouraged.

Saturday, September 11, 2021 -- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

***POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS
BOUGHT-SOLD-TRADED***

Hosted by the Central Florida Stamp Club

12-15 Dealers

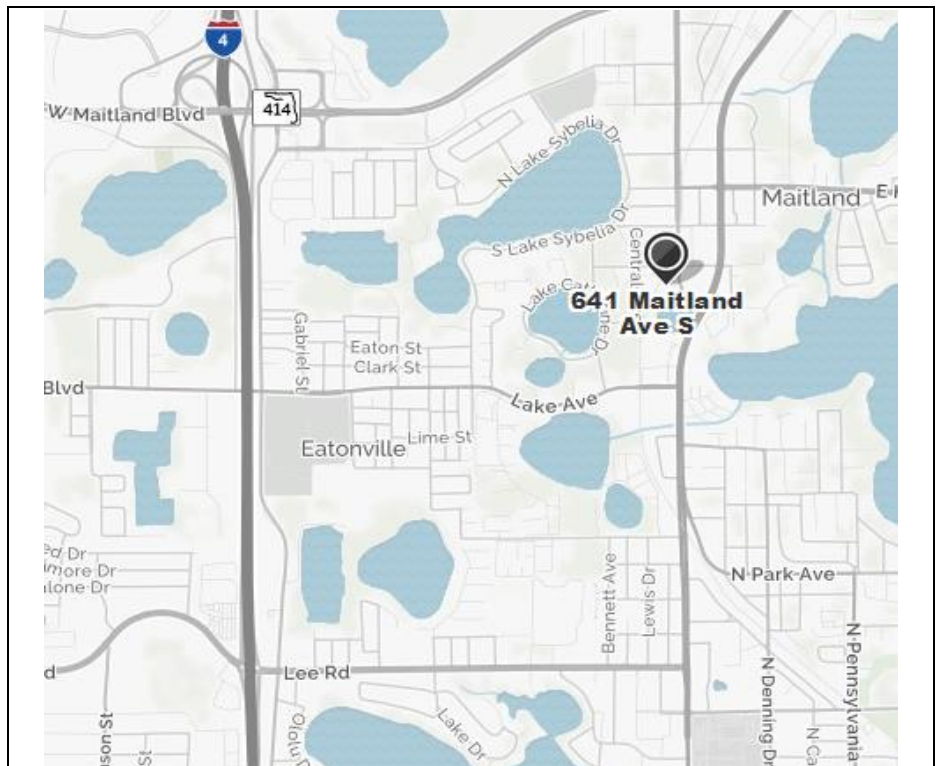
Free Admission

Free Parking

**Free Stamps
for Children**

Door Prizes

08.28.21



www.FloridaStampShows.com -OR- www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org