

COVER STORY

Frank Lloyd Wright, Innovative Architect

by Stuart Bernstein

Frank Lloyd Wright is recognized as a dominant figure in the history of modern architecture and the greatest design influence in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century.

Wright sought to create spaces that encouraged people to live in harmony with each other and with their natural environment. "Falling Waters" is a house which is the ultimate expression of Wright's concept. The house is dramatically perched over a water fall. This is illustrated by the accompanying reproduction of a U.S. stamp issued September 30, 1982. [Figure 1]

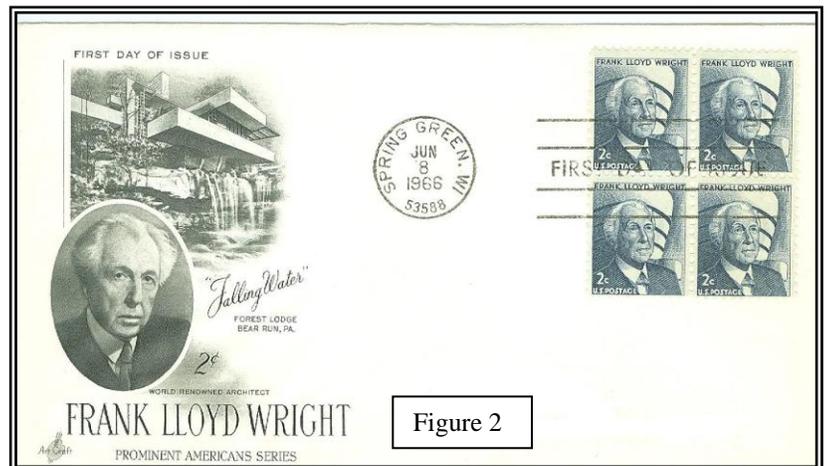
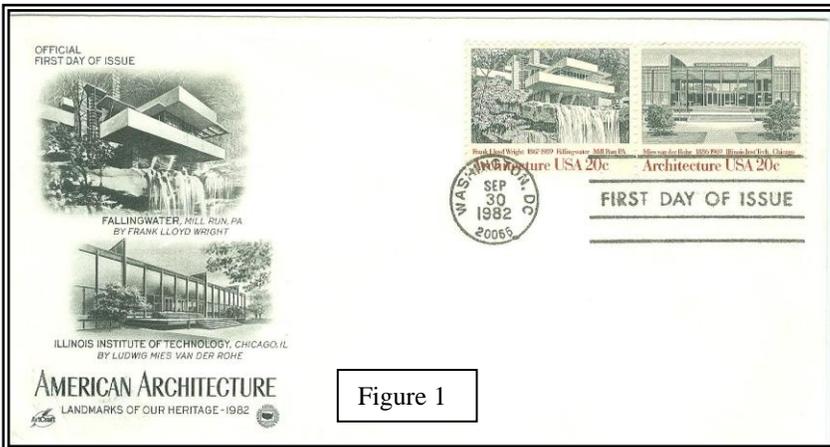
The Robie house by Wright is illustrated in the first sheet entitled "The Dawn of the Twentieth Century"(1900s) in Celebrate the Century Commemorative Stamp Collection issued February 3, 1998. [Front cover of newsletter, lower right stamp] This house was the first example of Prairie architecture and echoed the nature of the Midwest prairie where Wright was born.

Another Wright stamp features a portrait of him with the Guggenheim museum in the background. This was issued June 8, 1966. [Figure 2]

Wright was a junior architect in the office of famed architect, Louis Sullivan. Wright showed some of his early rebellion by complaining about the classical architecture of the Columbian Exposition which Sullivan was working on. Wright apparently was able to get some of his new ideas into the transportation building at the Exposition. As we know the first commemorative stamps were about the Columbian Exposition. Eventually Sullivan fired Wright for moonlighting.

Well, what about Wright's connections to central Florida? Wright designed Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

Today these building are utilized and can be toured. One of his students, Nils Schweizer, worked in Orlando for many years and currently there is a local interest group concerning modern architecture named in his honor.



Philatelic Serendipity – Part II

Much to My Surprise!

By Francis Ferguson

I have come to the conclusion that things just happen for whatever reason. My third trip to the Sunday Melbourne show started out rather dull, as the dealer that I was expecting to see in September, once again did not show up in October – oh well there is always January or February of 2010! Fortunately another philatelic treasure was lurking in the deep recesses of a cover box – I just had to find it.

A dealer showed up, who I have only ever seen at FLOREX – when my time is very limited and the pursuit of personal philatelic treasures to add to my collection is almost non-existent. Well --- I now had the time. A slow churn through his one dollar box and then the two dollar box produced nothing of interest.

Next up was the “better” box.....and better it was. After about 10 minutes of looking I shuffled through a handful of uninteresting covers and started to put them back, when something clicked in the back of my brain. Wait a minute – something was of interest, back up and look again....and there it was, a small cover fixed with a 1869 Pictorial 3¢ with a rather unattractive black-blob cancel, but there was the blue colored town strike that caught my attention. Holland Patent, NY. The brief enclosure helps to pin-point the date of September 6, 1869.

The badly struck town cancel -- looks like it might read September something.....



Why did this cover interest me? Actually the reasons are many. The simple answer is that I have an interest in small town cancels on the 1869 Pictorial Series from the Upstate region of New York. So far I have been able to find out that the enclosed letter was written Monday September 6, 1869 and addressed to a Mrs. John G. Owens in Trenton New York. The enclosure details a meeting on the following Thursday for a sewing date. The distance between Holland Patent and Trenton appears to be about 5 miles.

How this cover from Holland Patent NY ended up in a cover box with a dealer in Florida has to be an interesting story. If only this cover could talk. Further investigation will continue.

I also have in my collection another 3¢ Pictorial from Poland, New York. You may ask what ties the two covers together? A family connection is the answer. The housekeeper that my brother and I had as young children (my Mother owned her own business from 1948-1969) was raised on a farm in Poland NY and later lived the remaining 28 years of her life in the wonderfully picturesque Holland Patent.

According to the information I can obtain via the Internet – Holland Patent is located about 5 miles from Trenton, and about 11 miles from Poland. Holland Patent was founded in 1797, Trenton in 1793. Poland has a much more recent founding/incorporation date of 1890. I see a good deal of additional research in my future!

I have learned an important lesson from attending the Melbourne Sunday shows – never, never underestimate what can be found -- when one least expects.

Who knows – I might even find one of those three Edison plates that are eluding me....one can only hope.....