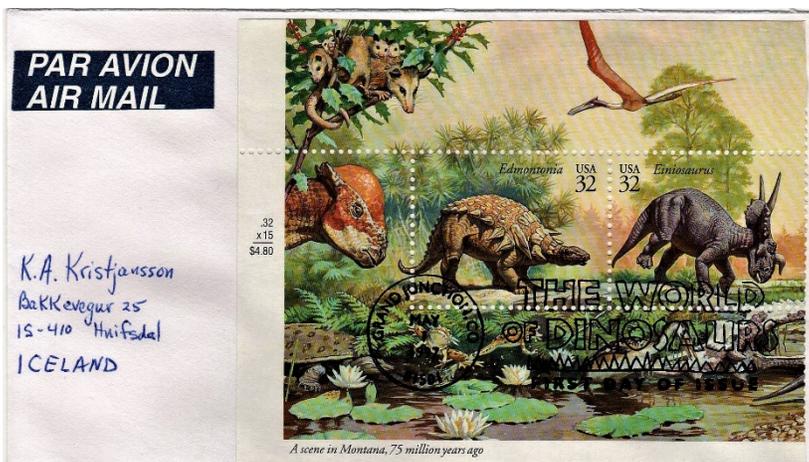


# Oh The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!

“A Cover 75 Million Years in the Making?” by Mike Schumacher

Sometimes you come upon an item while stamp collecting that is a little out of the ordinary and eye-catching. The First Day Cover pictured below (Figure B1) is one of those for me. It is a FDC sent by: **R.N. Robarge** from **Essex Junction, VT** & airmailed to Iceland. The corner of the stamp sheet used on it is from the lower left corner of the **1997 U.S.A. “World of Dinosaurs”** issue (Figure B2) which says “**A Scene in Montana, 75 million years ago**”. Obviously, we know this can’t be the actual scene in Montana 75 million years ago, as there wasn’t anyone around then to record it. But none the less a very interesting airmailed FDC cover. The first day of issue took place in **Grand Junction, Colorado** on May 1, 1997. Why Grand Junction, CO? Well, it turns out that the varied and unique terrain there which was formed by nature’s forces through millions of years has been the site of many important fossil discoveries from some of the largest to the smallest types of dinosaurs.

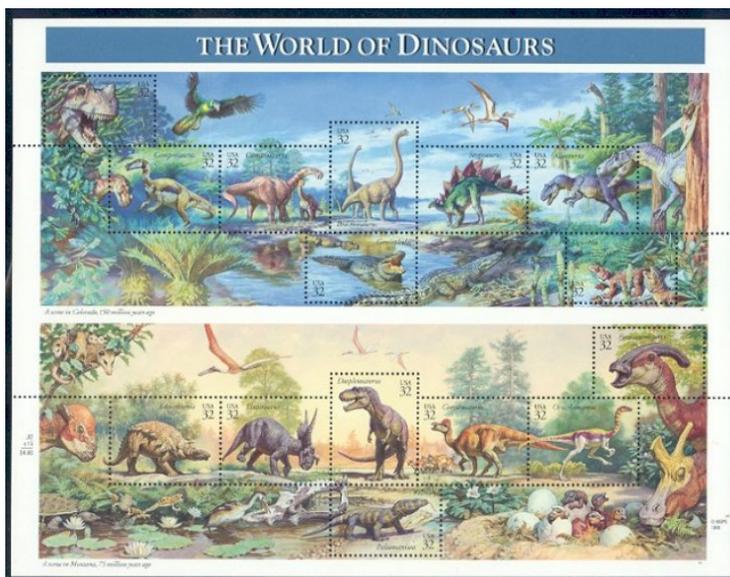
Figure B1



**R.N. Robarge** from **Essex Junction, VT** spent over 26 years as a professional high school teacher & had a Masters of Education Degree from Boston University. The word “**Dinosaur**” is derived from Greek words “**deinos**” meaning “terrible” & “**sauros**” meaning “lizard” or “reptile” (term created by paleontologist Sir Richard Owen, (figure B3) which he intended to imply

“awe-inspiring” & “magnificent” instead of something scary and terrifying). The dinosaurs are believed to have roamed the earth for more than 150 million years, over the period known as the Mesozoic era (a period roughly from 248 to 65 million years ago). Oh, the things you can learn stamp collecting!

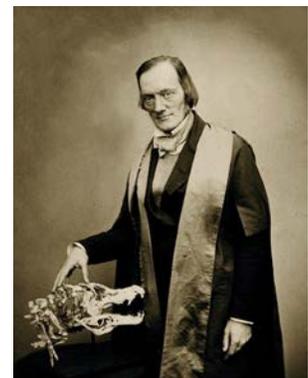
Figure B2



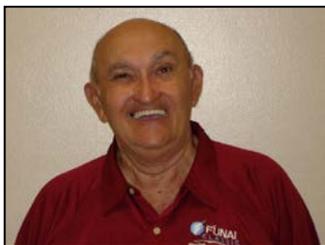
First Day of issue **May 1, 1997** in **Grand Junction, Colorado**  
Printed by: **Sterling Sommers for Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd.**  
Printing Method: **Lithographed**

Figure B3

Sir Richard Owen



# Closed Albums



We have received word that Albert Nagy passed away on September 15<sup>th</sup>. He had recently rejoined the CFSC after a hiatus of a couple of years. Al originally joined in late 2000 and was followed by his wife Sharon in 2001. Al collected all things Canada (his native land) while Sharon loved Disney themes. Both were a fixture for many years in the 2000s at meetings and shows. Al in particular had a gift for graphic design. He was responsible for the FLOREX 2005-2008 show booklets – producing a highly attractive professional product every time. Other design work included the FLOREX 2007 Ford Cinderella sheet and a number of the FLOREX cachet designs. There did not seem to be a design project that was beyond his capabilities. He also served from 2006-2009 as a member At-Large on the Board of Directors of the CFSC. Rest in peace.

In addition, Edward R. Horton who was a member from 1999 to 2011 passed away during the summer according to the listing in the APS Journal. He was a seasonal resident from central Illinois and could be found in the Orlando area from November until May. He was well versed in the postal issues of Papua New Guinea and would give a presentation on his specialty whenever asked. Failing health in 2011 stopped him from his much enjoyed, winter respite. Unfortunately, I was unable to locate a picture of Ed anywhere in our archives.



## Finding a Few “Nuggets” in Amongst Thousands of First Day Covers

by Phil Fettig

Sometimes you have to make a fast judgement on what to offer on a collection. People don't always understand that allowing more time could increase the offer. In this case I based my offer primarily on the mint US from the Washington-Franklin era. I purchased the material which also included thousands of US/UN first day covers, some in orderly binders with others in piles. Things were piling up and within a few weeks I had made other buys which delayed a better exam of the first purchase. When time permitted I started a more orderly exam and realized I had probably overpaid. Little did I realize that partial salvation would come from the mess of first days. **Figure B1** shows two of the nuggets I discovered. The first is a FDC with a strip of 5 stamps from the 1926 White Plains Souvenir Sheet (Scott 630) along with a nice label. If the cover had a full S/S it would have a CV of \$1,800 and I have only seen one in my life. My item, while



Figures B1

attractive, sold for much less but still made a collector happy. **Figure B2** also shows a cover of Scott 619 the 5 cent Lexington-Concord issue from 1925 with a block of 4 stamps. Since this is a registered piece, there is no date on the front. Due to space limitations the reverse, with a properly dated cancel is not shown. The cover was prepared by Edward C. Worden, who prepared many pioneer first day and aviation related covers. These items helped turn a potential poor buy into an acceptable one.



Figures B2