



#699
August 1968



THE COVER STORY

The Problem with Orange & Yellow Stamps by Mike Smith



I was recently contacted by a fellow club member asking my opinion on a particular U.S. classic issue; a 4-cent Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Indian Hunting Buffalo (Scott# 287). The color listed in the catalogue is orange. The member's concern was a variety of shades he noted for eBay listings that ranged from light orange to reddish orange rendering confusion about possible alteration.

Cont. on page 4

www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org

Upcoming Schedule— 2025

**** CFSC has the room available for Pre-meeting use from 2-4pm on both the first and third Thursday of the month for the coming year. CFSC members are welcome to use the room, catalogs and equipment during that time. The German Philatelic Society will be meeting on the third Thursday of the month during the 2-4:30pm time period.**

*** Pre meeting Dinner Plans:

Club members are invited to meet for dinner prior to the meeting on **June 5th at the Anh Hong restaurant 1124 E. Colonial Ave** and on **June 19th at IHOP at 646 E. Colonial Drive** at 4:30pm. Bring your appetite & topics for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

June 5: A “Called Auction” & a door prize available.

June 19: Agenda includes a presentation by Tom Lera titled “The Express Mail of the 1826-1839; Emphasis on Florida” followed by a silent auction; and a door prize will be available. The German Philatelic Society will meet from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

Recap of last Month’s meetings:

May 1: Meeting included a “New issues presentation” by Mike Smith and “Members Show & Tell” included Gary Byrd, Henry Jehan, John Catiller, Francis Ferguson & Mike Smith; a Silent auction followed with 18 Lots sold & total sales of \$163.00; door prize was won by Bill Johnston. 29 members attended the meeting; & 7 members got together for dinner before the meeting. *The FLOREX Planning Committee met at 3:00pm, Plans are developing and progress is being made and those interested in helping are welcome! Cachet design to be determined.*

May 15: There was a presentation “How Can You Help The Club...And More Importantly...Why”; followed by a silent auction were 19 lots sold for a total of \$283.50. 11 members gathered for dinner prior to the meeting & 34 members attended the meeting. Door prize was won by Ron Aquilera & the Maitland Stamp show certificate was won by Joe Mendelsohn. The German Philatelic Society met from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

Newest Members

Welcome to our newest member(s):

Welcome back **Daniel Bouw** member # 686!

Who will be the next to join CFSC?

Who will be new member # 779?

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Maitland 2025 Stamp Shows

**Venue at the Lake Maitland Civic Center
641 Maitland Ave. S. Maitland FL 32751**

June 7, 2025 10am—3:30pm

September 6, 2025 10am—3:30pm

FLOREX 2025 December 5-6, 2025

Show cachet theme to be determined

Friday 10am-5pm & Saturday 10am-4pm

Tommy Lawrence Arena

Volusia County Fairgrounds—Deland, FL

More info:

www.FLOREXStampShow.com



**Boston International Stamp
Expo May 23-31, 2026**

Boston, Massachusetts

More info at: <https://boston2026.org>

Hotel rooms can now be booked.

New announcements on their website!

Quoted:

“The best thing about stamp collecting is the enthusiasm which it arouses in youth as the years pass. It dispels boredom, enlarges your vision, broadens your knowledge and in innumerable ways enriches your life.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



The Editor’s Box

Philatelic Missive Newsletter articles needed!

Articles can be submitted via a word document with scans and attached to an email. Thank you!!

Submit articles to: Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org

Surely, you have some interesting stamps, covers, postcards, or your collecting interests/experiences, etc. that you can write about.



President's Message by Francis Ferguson

What Entertains You?

We are all stamp collectors of one type or another – however I would suspect that most everyone has other hobbies or endeavors that we find enjoyment with. As I am now 17 months into retirement – I can honestly say I have never been remotely bored.

While I am a stamp collector first and foremost, I do have other interests in life. I am a lifelong reader and love to get lost in a good story. I read both fiction and non-fiction and revel in both; a good story is just a good story! Television runs a distant second for my personal entertainment. Video games hold no interest for me. Cooking is fun and interesting – and better than going out to eat all the time. Gardening – playing in the dirt is cathartic – if only my aging knees would cooperate. Almost daily visits to the gym are a need for continued quality of life – but not high on my favorite list of things to do. I used to bowl in a weekly league – the same one for 25 years – until the wear and tear brought an end to that activity; it is missed, but not something I see happening again. Work around the house doing maintenance -- seems to be a never-ending demand that I do with strong reluctance at times. Travel is always good, especially when we get to leave Florida behind during the summer for cooler climates. The mountains are a great retreat that contrast with my love of the beach. I also do a good deal of writing of columns and other pieces as needs arise (how could I forget that!).

So, what do you do – especially in the hot Central Florida summer?

Be well, be safe and above all else be kind.

Scott 1474 - 8 cent Stamp Collecting stamps

A shift to the left, or a shift to the right,

Which variety do you have in your collection?

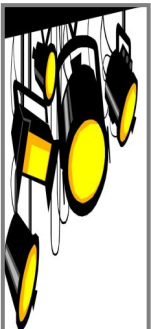


Member Spotlight — Mike Schumacher

Mike Schumacher has been a member of the CFSC since February 2016 and has served in a variety of positions on the CFSC BOD (Director at large; President and Secretary since 2018). He has also served as the CFSC Newsletter Editor and the FLOREX Show/Exhibit Chair since 2022. He has been a member of the APS and the SCC for more than 25 years. He has been an exhibitor for 20 years and has exhibited at a number of stamps show from coast to coast in the U.S.; as well as four times in Iceland, and once in each Norway and Canada. He has authored numerous articles that have been published in a variety of philatelic journals and wrote and published a philatelic resource book. This has led to many wonderful experiences and fantastic friendships.

However, I write this column not to highlight my past philatelic journey, but to let you all know (as some of you already know) I have made a decision to wrap up my philatelic adventure in the coming year. I am doing so, as the result of some personal and family health matters. Thus having served as a leader with the CFSC, I feel it is important to do what I can in the months ahead to encourage and work with CFSC members who are interested in learning and being apart of the future leadership of the CFSC. If you want to learn about taking on some of the leadership responsibilities, let me know and I will gladly share my knowledge and experiences. I can assure you, that it can be an easier transition into taking on tasks with some mentoring, than just having to figure it out on your own. The more members who get involved, will be a benefit to the future of the CFSC and help to balance the workload for all individuals and not fall on just a few members. So, do seriously consider getting involved and seek out the knowledge and mentoring that can help you ease into being a part of the future of the CFSC.

Thank you for the wonderful years and friendships with the CFSC & its members!!!



COVER STORY— *The Problem with Orange & Yellow Stamps*

By: Mike Smith

If you have been around this hobby long enough, you are probably aware that older stamps comprised of orange or yellow inks may have certain issues that other colors don't. After looking at similar listings on HipStamp, I saw exactly what this member was talking about. The color variety seemed endless and confusing and was not at all what I was thinking his concern was. After carefully reviewing the listings and noting that many had valid certificates of authenticity, I concluded that what we were both witnessing was poor photography or scanning. I personally have had the most difficulty in photographing my classic U.S. stamps containing orange or yellow ink. It seems to be the hardest color to get correct. It is also the hardest to obtain a sharp image, possibly because the orange and yellow blends in with the surrounding white paper as compared to other inks. Of course, using a photo editor helps hone in on the actual stamp's color, if one is willing to take the time to do so. My guess is, online dealers don't spend much time or effort with their listings, unless it is a very valuable stamp. Below are eight listings from HipStamp of Scott# 287, all with certificates of authenticity. This shows the problem very clearly!



What is mindboggling is, out of these eight stamps, perhaps one comes close to orange, at least to me. That would be the 7th stamp (2nd row, 3rd stamp). WOW! So how can a buyer possibly feel comfortable purchasing a stamp that is over a hundred bucks from these photos is beyond my comprehension.

It is also true that most issues have a lot of varieties of color shades and are not limited to just the orange and yellows. This can be due to under inking, over inking or plate wear. It can also be due to the way a particular batch of ink was prepared. The sharpest impressions and deepest colors seem to come from new plates before tens of thousands of impressions are made. As a collector, I strive to obtain the sharpest and deepest color possible, especially if I am patient and there is no added cost involved.

All that said, my response to the club member was that I thought there wouldn't be an issue purchasing a stamp from an eBay dealer. Most are reputable and allow returns if not satisfied. While a bit of a hassle, there is nothing like seeing the stamp in person to see its true color and beauty!

Cont. on page 5

COVER STORY— *The Problem with Orange & Yellow Stamps* cont.

While I may or may not have helped my fellow philatelist, it got me thinking about a deeper problem with orange and yellow ink stamps and I thought I would share them. Many philatelists have seen or heard of stamps labeled as “oxidized”. That is to say, the ink has been chemically altered and does not portray the original color. Orange and yellow inks are subject to such chemical changes more easily. However, the early Washington’s bearing pink, rose, rose pink, and pigeon blood pink inks are also vulnerable.

What most likely happens is what is called “sulfurization” and not oxidation. This occurs when stamp ink is exposed to sulfur, either directly from a sulfur-rich environment or through the reaction of sulfur compounds with the ink’s pigments. This can lead to a discoloration of parts of, or the entire stamp, turning it from its original color to one with a brownish or blackish appearance. The darkening of stamp ink is a chemical process whereby sulfur atoms replace oxygen in compounds found in the ink. Many early stamps used metallic inks containing lead-based compounds, such as lead oxide, to enhance brightness. Over time, sulfur interacts with these compounds, replacing oxygen atoms and leads to a darker appearance. Here are a few examples of stamps that have been chemically altered.



The first stamp is a Scott# 275 orange that is slightly, but uniformly “oxidized” per catalogue description. The 2nd stamp is a Scott# 127 yellow that is heavily “oxidized”. While the cancel is black, note the black details of the wings and scrolls. Lastly, Scott# 141 orange contains quite a bit of so-called “oxidization”, particularly along the outer edges of the design. All three of these examples are darker than they normally would have been when printed. Also note that all of these have catalogue descriptions using the word “oxidized”, when in fact, they are sulfurized.

This can happen when older stamps were stored and exposed to environmental conditions in areas where high sulfur content existed (near factories, or in containers that release sulfur compounds). Remember, back in the good ole days, houses and buildings in cities and industrial areas of the country did not have air conditioning and were open to factories contaminating the air with sulfur-based pollutants. Ink chemistry also plays a part in this process when certain pigments, like those used in orange, yellow and pink shades, are more susceptible to the reaction with sulfur. Another problem was storage in older or cheap stamp mounts. Certain plastics used for mounts or storing stamps can release sulfur compounds that are not “friendly” with orange and yellow pigments. Luckily today, technology has allowed better quality materials to archive our philatelic treasures. However, we are the stewards of our beloved stamps, so it is up to us to ensure their care for future generations. Lastly, direct sunlight or extensive UV rays can also accelerate chemical reactions with these inks.

Cont. on page 6

COVER STORY— *The Problem with Orange & Yellow Stamps* cont.

So, the term "oxidation" is widely misleading in the stamp industry, as the darkening of stamps is caused by a chemical process called sulfurization. The historical misunderstanding of this phenomena has led to widespread mislabeling, but greater awareness can improve preservation practices and appreciation for the science behind stamp aging. While "oxidation" may persist in common usage, "sulfurization" is the more accurate descriptor of the chemical changes affecting stamp inks over time.

Oh, and beware, there are ways to reverse the process to attempt to restore the natural color of the ink. While I have read up on a couple of these and watched a video, I would not suggest it, especially on more valuable stamps. The process involves using hydrogen peroxide, but to me, that is altering the stamp, like re-gumming, reperforating, etc. As Mike always says, if in doubt, obtain a certificate of authenticity from an accredited service.

Now that we have that out of the way! The next problem that seems to plague orange and yellow stamps are inclusions. What are these inclusions you might ask? They are natural artifacts of the stamp paper, usually a dark spot that is visible. Think of it like acne, unsightly to say the least. While most stamp paper contains inclusions, they are more easily noticeable on orange and yellow stamps due to the light ink color relative to the white paper. Inclusions blend in more easily on darker inks unless they happen to appear in the white margins, then they stick out like a sore thumb!

Are natural artifacts a defect of the stamp? It depends on who you ask. I try to avoid them as they can be unsightly. Do I have a few stamps in my collection with a small inclusion? You bet, it is sometimes unavoidable, but the few I have are so minute or light and barely noticeable, if at all. From what I have been able to read on stamp forums and blogs, inclusions are acceptable and not a defect as it is a natural artifact of the paper. What does seem to be the consensus is it should lower the grade of a stamp. Some collectors are adamant about shying away from these stamps, others are less concerned.



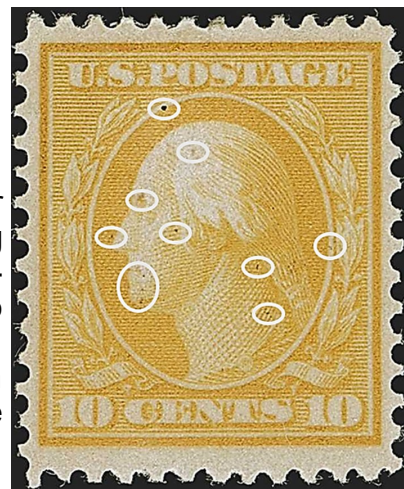
The first stamp is a Scott# 229 Orange that has a small inclusion in the top left margin, considered minor, and acceptable to most collectors, including Mike!

Cont. on page 7

COVER STORY— *The Problem with Orange & Yellow Stamps* cont.

This stamp is a Scott# 364 yellow on bluish paper. Note the obvious inclusion highlighted by the topmost white oval but also note several other smaller ones. Poor George, I guess Clearasil didn't exist back then! This stamp would not be found in Mike's collection.

To summarize, most classic stamps have some issues, whether it be from the natural "ingredients" that comprise it, the manufacturing process, the environment it was subjected to after production, or mis-handling/treatment later in its life. Stamps were produced for use to carry the mails and at that time, were not intended as collectibles. Therefore, most people did not go out of their way to treat them with respect, like we do today. Hence, to find a high quality, sound example of a classic stamp is indeed, a treat, and a rarity!



Questionable eBay, # 31

By Francis Ferguson

Really?

The listing reads: "Blueseye Green Benjamin Franklin 1 Cent Stamp Scott #552." Offered at \$199.99 with Ground Advantage Shipping of \$4.84 and no returns accepted. A further detailed description is added: "... Green Benjamin Franklin 1 Cent Stamp is a historic and collectible item from the United States Postal Service. Featuring a green color and depicting Benjamin Franklin, this ungraded stamp holds significance as a piece of philatelic history. With its bullseye cancellation type and being off paper, this unique stamp is a valuable addition to any stamp collection focusing on United States postal issues."



First off – this is not a #552 but rather a #279 with a CV of .50 on a good day. Second it shows damage with a pulled perf in the middle of the top edge. Third, the stamp shows an obvious scissor cut on the right side; thus, it is damaged. The "blueseye" cancel adds nothing to the value.

The bottom line is this is a fanciful listing with no reality present. Further looking at the seller's other active listings show a similar pattern of questionable listings with greatly inflated starting bids. As I have stated before these kinds of listing do nothing to further any degree of trust in online selling community.

What do you think?

Reminder: Maitland Stamp show on June 7, 2025 Doors open at 10 am

Come join the fun and find a few new items to add to your collection!

**Venue at the Lake Maitland Civic Center
641 Maitland Ave. S. Maitland FL 32751**



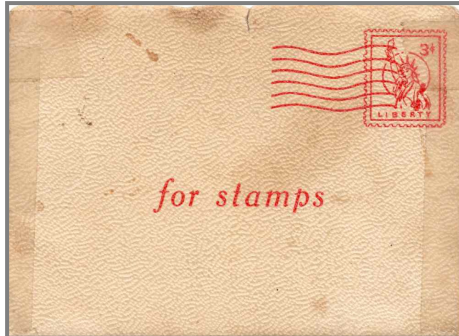
A Few Interesting Philatelic Items

By Mike Schumacher

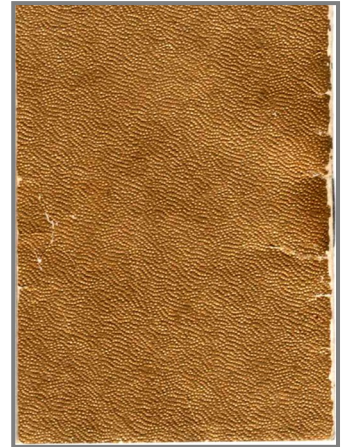
The purpose of this article is to highlight a few interesting recent finds.

1. A **“for Stamps”** envelope (measures 2.5 inches tall & 3 3/8 inches wide) with a gold colored booklet inside for protecting your valuable stamps. Certainly, a must have for every philatelist while attending a show or sending stamps to a friend.

Have you one in your collection?



(insert Booklet >>>)



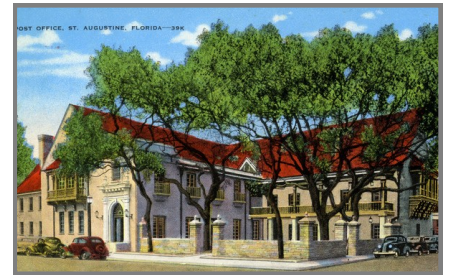
2. A cut corner of **“Florida Postal History” - Saint Augustine, FLA Dec. 16, 1886 postmark**



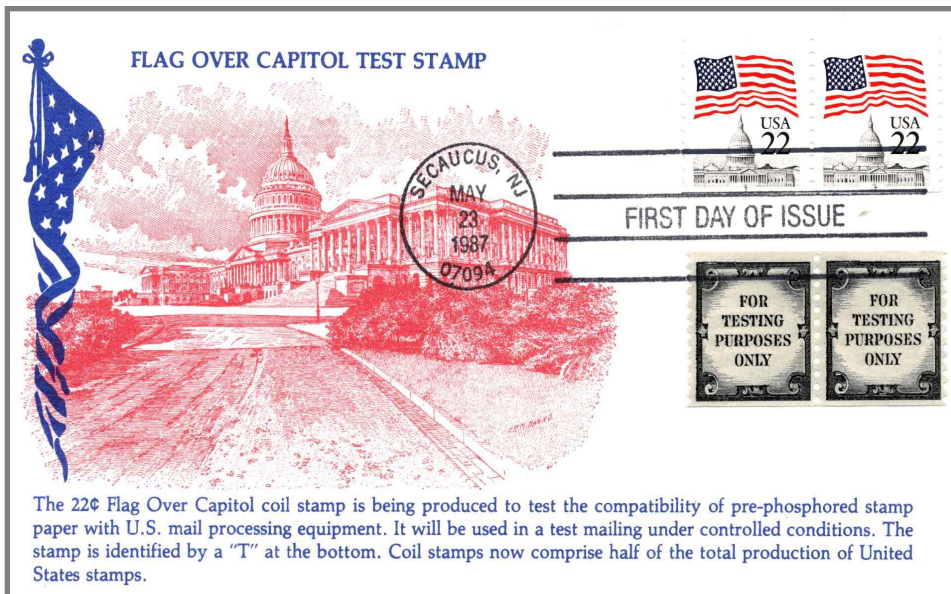
Florida's first Post Office was in St. Augustine & it opened on July 20, 1821. The Post Office was located at the center of town surrounded by Flagler's hotel and other community attractions.

Postcard of St. Augustine P.O. >>

A very nice piece of Florida postal history!



3. **“Flag Over Capitol Test Stamp” First Day of Issue cover** including a pair of Scott # 2115c 22 cent stamps & a pair of “For Testing Purposes Only” stamps. The key difference between the 2115 and the 2115c stamp is that it has the letter “T” at the bottom center of the stamp. Does your U.S. stamp Collection/album have a space filled with this stamp? See cachet description. A splendid piece of philatelic history!



Secaucus, N.J.

An island in the N.J. meadowlands. The name is derived from Algonquian words for black snake (seke and ach-gook). It was originally part of the land purchased by Peter Stuyvesant in 1658. (A major figure in the history of New York City.)



The area was an agricultural community specializing in growing flowers and pig farming. The first post office opened in 1891 managed by Otto Stoss who ran a barber shop & candy store. He collected the mail from the train in Sauer Island & distributed around town.

What Philatelic gems are hiding in your collection? Show them a little light of day & write about them for the CFSC newsletter!

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The Central Florida Stamp Club is a 80+ year old organization governed by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership every two years and dedicated to the enjoyment of the hobby of stamp collecting.

- Membership is a reasonable \$30 per year, \$6 for youth.
- Meetings are twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.
- The Membership of the CFSC includes many diverse interests that cover the range from A-Z.
- The meeting is centrally located to downtown Orlando and can be easily accessed from SR 50 (Colonial Drive) and I/4.
- The Marks Street Senior Center has been our host for more than 30 years and provides a pleasant meeting room with easy access and plenty of free parking.
- The informal part of the meeting is prior to 6:00pm. The business side of things will be brief. Cried auction and/or presentation to start at 6:15 until 7:15 Followed by auction wrap up and informal discussions. We must be out of the building by 8:00 without exception.
- The Membership of the CFSC participates as the host and sponsor of the one day shows in February, April, June & September. In addition, we are the resident hosting club for FLOREX which is held in the Central Florida area.
- The CFSC maintains a website: CentralFloridaStampClub.org
- Benefits of membership include; monthly newsletter, access to loaner equipment & catalogs, participation in door prize drawings, the right to submit and bid in cried/silent auctions — and much more.
- Postal address: CFSC P.O. Box 1206, Plymouth, FL 32768-1206
- As of 12.2024

Central Florida Stamp Club



NOTE: Opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the authors placing articles, and are not reflective of the CFSC or any members.

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