



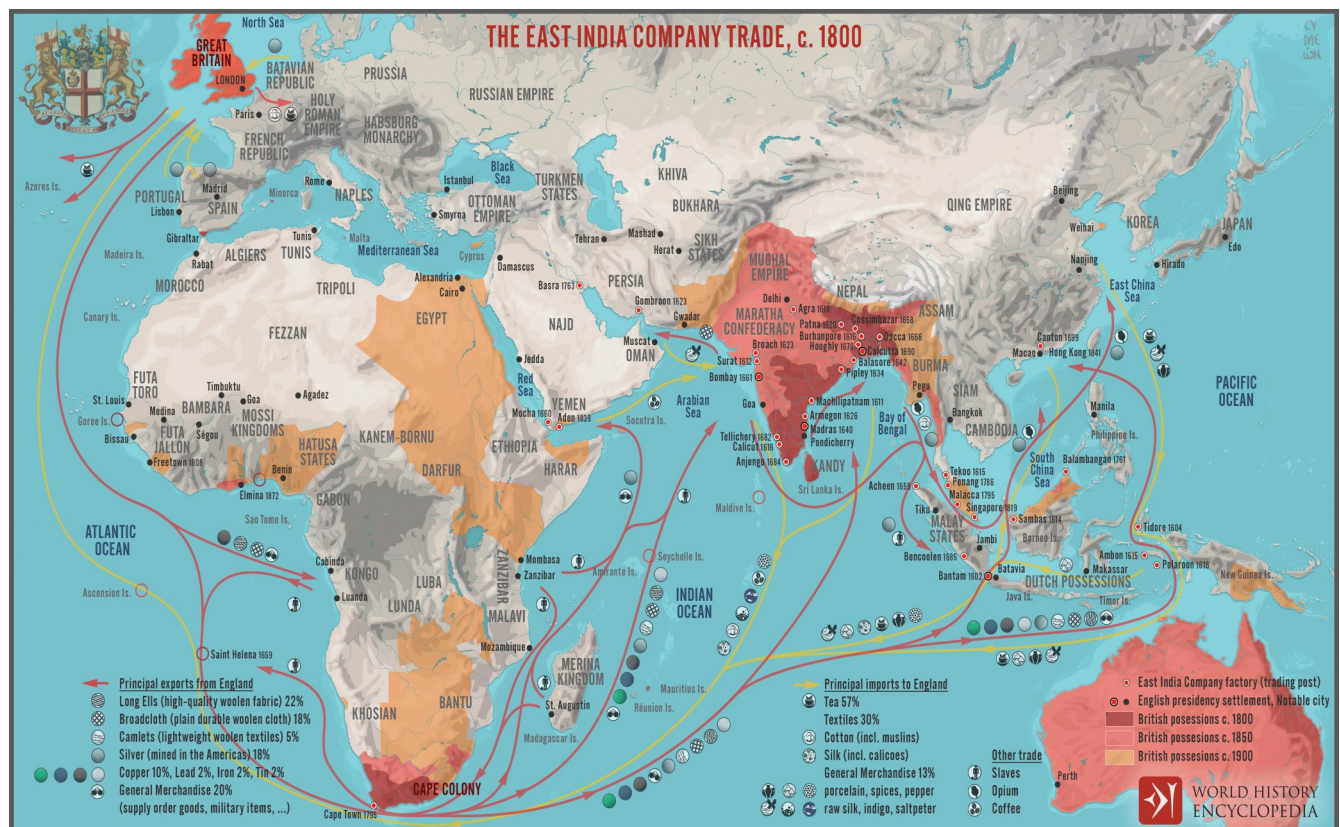
#699
August 1968



THE COVER STORY

The 1854 Issues of the East India Company

“Map illustrating the markets and goods traded by the East India Company (EIC) with East and Southeast Asia and India around 1800.”
(image from the World History Encyclopedia)



Cont. on page 4

Upcoming Schedule— 2025

**** CFSC has the room available for Pre-meeting use from 2-4:30pm 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 **September 4th at the Anh Hong restaurant 1124 E. Colonial Drive** and on **September 18th at IHOP at 646 E. Colonial Drive** at 4:30pm. Bring your appetite & topics for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 4: Agenda includes-a presentation titled “NSI” by Josh Furman followed by a silent auction. A door prize will be available. (See pre-meeting dinner plans above.)

September 18: Agenda includes-presentation titled “A Stamp Salute to 9/11” by Newt Kulp followed by a silent auction. A door prize will be available and 3rd Quarter Birthdays will be celebrated. (See pre-meeting dinner plans above.) The German Philatelic Society will be meeting from 2pm to 4:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Recap of last Month’s meetings:

August 7: 31 Members attended the meeting & 5 Members met for dinner prior to the meeting; a “**Called Auction**” was held with Auctioneer Bob Sazama; 28 Lots sold with total sales of \$570; door prize was won by Newt Kulp & Maitland Show certificate was won by Ray Larsen.

August 21: 30 Members attended the meeting & 11 members met for dinner pre-meeting; Mike Schumacher did a presentation titled “**The 1936 Swedish-Icelandic Vatnajokull Expedition**” which was followed by a silent auction where 19 Lots sold with total sales of \$225; door prize was won by Gene Perry; Maitland Show certificate was won by Josh Furman. The German Philatelic Society met from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. Mimi brought treats again!!! Thanks Mimi!!!

Newest Members

Welcome to our newest member:

Joseph Schwarz Member # 780 Collecting interests include U.S. & German

Who will be the next to join CFSC?

Who will be new member # 781?

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Maitland 2025 Stamp Shows

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

September 6, 2025 10am—3:30pm

FLOREX 2025 December 5-6, 2025

Show cachet theme:

250th Anniversary of the Post Office

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

Tommy Lawrence Arena

Volusia County Fairgrounds—Deland, FL

More info at:

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 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

Attending or exhibiting at another show around the U.S. or in another country—write about it. Have a particular philatelic interest—write about it. Share the info with other CFSC members.



President's Message by Francis Ferguson

Reality Check

The CFSC has been in existence for a little over eight decades during which there have been highs and lows – however the club has always survived. The core functions of the club have been performed, by a small but dedicated group of folks, that have provided the glue to hold things together.

The Board of Directors is charged with the overall management of the club. This has included both financial and informational functions. The financial end is pretty straight forward – keep everything solvent and transparent to the membership. This is the foundation of a well-run organization that can serve the needs of the members. The information side of things is a little trickier as the concept of information has radically changed over the last forty years. Now information on demand (i.e. the Internet) is considered a norm – a typed newsletter that is then copied and mailed is no longer acceptable.

We have attempted over the years to collect the newsletters that have been unearthed and have them on the website –which helps to add depth and breadth to our history. Newsletters appeared sporadically during the 1970s to the early 2000s. There may have been more produced during that time period (and earlier) – but we have not seen them yet. If you know of any that are not represented in the Archives please reach out! This is the way the club documents its history for future generations.

In 2006 -- the newsletter began to appear on a monthly schedule that allowed for the fast and accurate dissemination of information to the membership. This has become a critical component of the functioning of the club.

It is now approaching the time for the current Editor, Mike Shumacher to step away. Mike's dedication to producing a monthly newsletter has been outstanding – especially in the face of his many other commitments. The last newsletter he will produce will be the January 2026 edition – after that we are in need of someone who can be dedicated to performing this critical function that benefits the membership in so many ways.

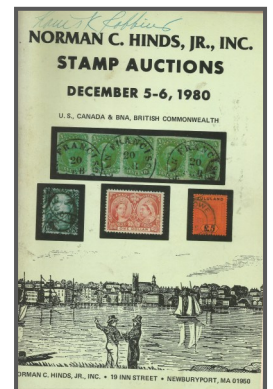
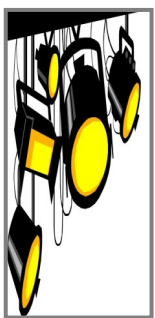
If you are that person – please step forward. I have to hope and believe that someone will take on this job. More than ever in the age of information, newsletters are important to keep everyone abreast of news.

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

Member Spotlight — Norman Hinds

Norman Hinds Jr. has been a CFSC members since June 2023. He is also a member of the APS, FSDA and the USPCS. His philatelic journey began working in a coin shop when he was just 15, because his father worked there. But Norman's interests were more into stamps, so he talked the owner into starting a stamp department. This was in Wakefield, MA. Over the years he has learned that knowledge in philately is priceless. While working in this shop, Norman tells the story of the older gentlemen who would regularly look through the stock. Later in 1976, Norman opened his own business and they maintained contact. In 1980, Norman was planning his first public auction and the gentleman asked if he could assign a nice stamp. It was a common looking Black Jack # 73 which the gentleman had purchased from the coin shop in the 70s for less than \$5.00. It turned out that it was a rare major double transfer in the upper left corner called the "Atherton Shift". It sold for \$6000 then and now catalogues for \$12,000. Norman has now been looking through collections for 45 years and still hasn't found another one. As a CFSC member Stamp Dealer, he is at the Maitland shows with his dealer table.

Thank you, Norman for being a CFSC member and your contributions to the CFSC and philately.



COVER STORY— The 1854 Issues of the East India Company

By: Donald Bourassa

The East India Company was a British joint-stock company founded in 1600 and dissolved in 1874. It was formed to trade in the Indian Ocean region. The company gained control of large parts of South Asia and colonized parts of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. At its peak the company had its own armed forces totaling about 260,000 soldiers which was twice the size of the British army at the time.

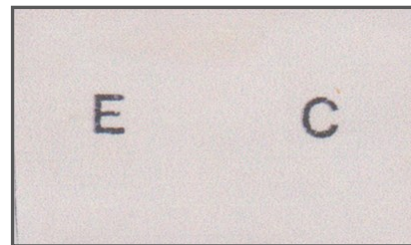
The first stamps valid for postage throughout India were placed on sale in October 1854 with four values: ½ anna, 1 anna, 2 annas, and 4 annas. They featured a youthful profile of a 15 year old Queen Victoria.

All four values were designed and printed in Calcutta, and issued without perforations or gum.

Half anna issue. This was the basic rate meant to send inland letters.
H.M. Smith of Calcutta prepared new designs using a profile of the Queen.



My specimen pair shows the details of this crude early issue.



Scan of back shows the “E” and “C” of SPECIMEN.

One anna issue

A crude printing of this red lithograph stamp



This issue was for newspapers and books sent in bulk. The one anna was payment for up to twenty tolas.

A tola is equivalent to 11.664 grams or Approximately 0.4114 ounces.

Cont. on page 5

COVER STORY— The 1854 Issues of the East India Company cont.

All of the stamps were lithographed except for the 2 annas green, which was produced by typography from copper molds or from electrotyped plates.

2 annas issue

The description for this two annas issue was said to be the same as the blue half anna at top. I have noted several differences.

- 1: *Queen Victoria fills more of the frame.*
- 2: *Engravings in the columns are more precise.*
- 3: *The font is updated.*



The 4 annas value was one of the world's first bicolored postage stamps.

A mint copy of this stamp has a catalogue value over \$5,000. My specimen of that issue is displayed here.

These new stamps were needed to show the postage was prepaid which was a basic principle of the new system.



Problems with an early 1/2 anna stamp.

The East India Company already had attempted a ½ anna vermilion stamp in April 1854, known as the "9½ arches essay".

This could not be produced in quantity because it required an expensive vermilion pigment not readily available from England and the substituted Indian pigment destroyed the printing stones.

Starting in 1855 all new issues of India were printed by De La Rue of England, and included the words East India Company. That continued until the Empire issues of 1882 that only declared the country name of INDIA.

A Cover's Historical Story

By Mike Schumacher

Every cover has a story to tell. One just never knows how interesting the story will be until the research begins. Often while looking through a box of inexpensive covers at a show, it's a postmark from someplace that I have never heard of that catches my attention and the discovery process begins. It was the postmarks that caught my attention and started the curiosity juices' flowing when I saw this cover. Here is this cover's historical story.

Postmark: Ardmore, PA Aug 10, 1898 (Starting with the town - the date will be addressed later)

Ardmore, PA - got its start when Richard Davis bought 410 acres of land from five Welshmen in 1686. The village's name was originally Athensville, but was changed to Ardmore in 1873 by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Ardmore is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. It was primarily a farming and milling community. The **Autocar Company** moved there in 1899. It originally was known as the Pittsburgh Motor Vehicle Company and was started in 1897 in Pittsburgh.



Letter Recipient: H. A. Arnold, First Lieutenant & Assistant Surgeon Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry—Herbert Alonzo Arnold was born August 11, 1857 in Norristown, PA and died October 26, 1933. He was married to Louisa Harley and they had five children. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1878. He served in the Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the Governor's Troop. He served as the State Commander of the Naval & Military Order during the Spanish-American War. In April 1898, the Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry was mustered into service and assembled at Mt. Gretna's Camp Hastings. On July 7, 1898, they moved to Camp Alger and then moved to Newport News, Virginia on July 27th, 1898. On August 5th, 1898 they boarded the U.S.S. Manitoba with 800 men, 1000 horses and mules and 1280 tons of supplies and headed down the James River into the Atlantic Ocean bound for Porto Rico. They arrived at the **Port of Ponce** in Porto Rico on **August 10, 1898**. (The day this letter was sent to him from Ardmore, PA.) Reports are that they engaged in battle on August 12 and after an almost bloodless campaign the hostilities ceased on August 13th, 1898. Subsequently an armistice was declared. The Governor's Troops were later transported back home aboard the Mississippi. (Both the Manitoba and the Mississippi were purchased from the Atlantic Transport line – the Mississippi on July 14, 1898 for \$350,000 and the Manitoba on July 20, 1898 for \$660,000.) Herbert Arnold retired from the Pennsylvania National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1914.

Cont. on page 7

A Cover's Historical Story cont.

We can only assume that the letter likely caught up to First Lieutenant Herbert Arnold in Porto Rico by looking at the other Postal markings on the envelope. On the reverse is a **“Washington Transit Aug 10, 98”** marking and a hand written notation on the front of the envelope indicates the letter traveled **“via Washington”**. (See front of cover on page 6.)



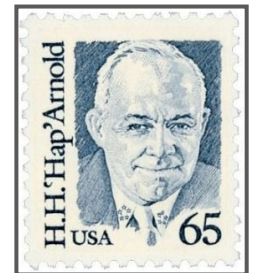
The next (and most interesting & unusual) postmark is from the **“Military Station Porto Rico. Washington D.C. on August 25, 1898”**. Additionally, there is a hand written note indicating the destination to be **“Ponce”**. (See cover on page 6.)

The stamp on the envelope is a 2¢ Washington stamp issued by the Bureau of Engraving on May 1898. At the time this stamp paid the domestic letter rate. In April of 1898 the U.S. Postmaster General issued a prohibition of mail between the U.S. and Spain, including its colonies. In June 1898 he rescinded the prohibition and allowed mail to be sent to military service personnel serving in Spanish colonies. Specific Post Offices in the U.S. were designated to handle the mail to the three war regions. Mail to the Philippine area was handled by a branch in San Francisco; Cuba by a branch in New York and Puerto Rico by the Washington D.C. Post Office. After the war ended the stamp was overprinted for use in the three regions.



A Footnote to the story:

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert A. Arnold never appeared on a U.S. Postage stamp, but one of his five children did. His son, Henry “Hap” Arnold was featured on the Great Americans series, U.S. stamp # 2191 – the 65¢ Henry “Hap” Arnold stamp which issued on November 5, 1988, in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. The stamp design was created by Christopher Calle based on a photo provided to him by Henry Arnold’s family.



Henry “Hap” Arnold was the recipient of this honor for his outstanding military career. He was a graduate of the West Point class of 1907; he learned to fly from the Wright Brothers. He served as the Commander of the Army Air Force during World War II and was instrumental in the field of aviation tactics in Germany and Japan. He retired in 1946 and in 1949 by an act of Congress he received the permanent rank of a five-star General. (The first such commission ever granted.)



So, take a look at those inexpensive boxes of covers at the dealer’s tables and let your curiosity loose to explore and see what “Historical Cover Story” you can discover.

P.S. Other notable Ardmore people: Kobe Bryant (NBA Player); Alexander Haig (U.S. Army General, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff & U.S. Secretary of State); Richie Ashburn (MLB Hall of Famer for the Philadelphia Phillies); Owen Jones (U.S. Representative); and Harry Hawk (Actor & Comedian on stage at Ford’s Theatre when Abraham Lincoln was shot).



Closed Album—Betty Helton



Betty Helton passed away in August 2025. She had been a member of the CFSC since July 2015. When she was actively collecting, her interest was on U.S. stamps. She really enjoyed receiving & reading the CFSC Philatelic Missive, and had even in the past year wrote an article that was published in it. She and her family members always enjoyed attending the annual Holiday Party. Her cheerful, smiley disposition will be missed. Rest in Peace Betty.



"Postal History of the United Colonies"

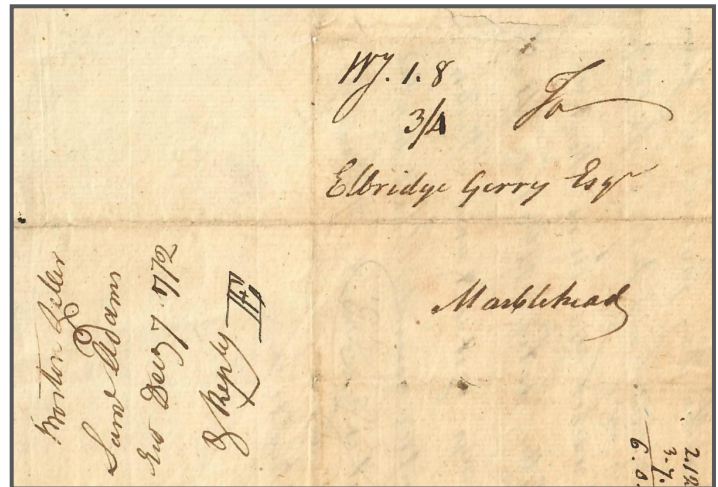
Wednesday, September 3rd at 5:30 pm EDT

Presented by Vernon R. Morris, Jr. MD

Virtually via Zoom <https://www.collectorsclub.org>
Pre-Register online



Postal Crisis of 1775



Lexington and Concord presented an enormous challenge to patriot written communication, some of which today would be considered "classified". How could two postal systems possibly co-exist?

Vernon R. Morris, Jr. MD will discuss this fascinating and dynamic period of the postal history of the United Colonies.

CFSC Member Vernon R. Morris, Jr. MD

Photos & information from Collectors Club email announcing the presentation

Questionable eBay, # 34

By Francis Ferguson

Ben Franklin



The listing reads; “*Benjamin Franklin 1902-1907 US One Cent Stamp, Green, Used.*” With a starting bid of \$999.00 (coupon use with a reduction of \$50). Free shipping and no returns allowed.

Where to begin? This seller has been around since 2017 with a plethora of listings of low value stamps that have fantastic prices. I quickly scanned through about 50 of the active listings (all common stamps) and almost every one of the listings says “Rare” or “Very Rare”. They are not any such thing. Many of the listing show obviously damaged stamps that have been cut on two sides to create questionable “coil” stamps. This is especially bizarre for issues that had no coil stamp formats!

These six stamps have a value of maybe 40 cents – on a good day. The one that looks unused (questionable) – has a catalog value of \$12.

What do you think?



A Postal card with a Footnote in History

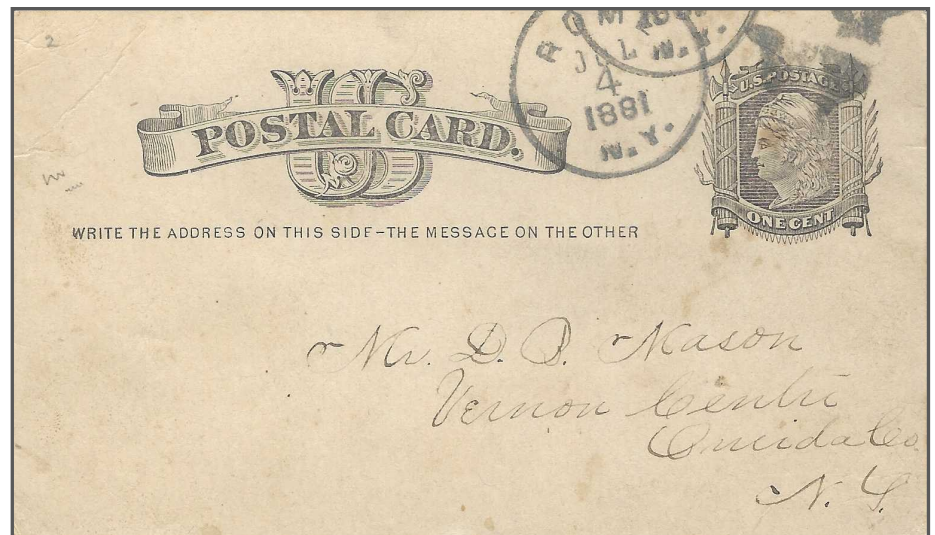
By: A Stephen Patrick

Back in the late 1980s, I purchased a shoe box with correspondence of the Mason family from Western New York. It started in the 1870s, with letters from the family in school at Oberlin, Ohio and ended in the 1920s with an heir with the last name of Dummer who was a traveling salesman for a manufacturing company.

In the box were many postal cards and Friday afternoon, I took them to the American History class at school. The band was on a trip that wiped out half of my class, so I decided to “wing it” and see if my class would like a little investigation. Everyone took a small number of items and began trying to decipher 19th century penmanship.

The class and I were rewarded when Monica McIntyre held up her hand and said, “Mr. Patrick, have you read this?” Of course, I hadn’t, but the card was full of footnotes in history.

First it was written on a UX5, the 1875 second issue with the image of Liberty that catalogues-used for only 45 cents. It was sent by Susie Naomi to her “Parents” addressed to Mr. D.A. Mason in Vernon Center, Oneida County N.Y. The post mark was from Rome N.Y. on July 4, 1881. It looks like the postmaster worked on a holiday!



Cont. on page 10

A Postal card with a Footnote in History cont.

The card was written and dated Sunday and obviously mailed the next day.

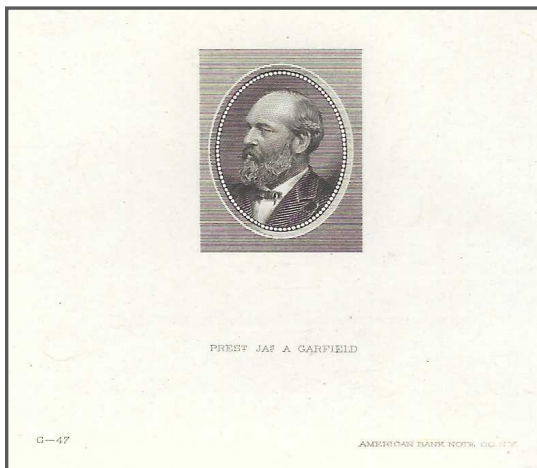
The first news is that she went to church that day and shared communion. It was a Protestant church, as she went to Mary's S.S. (Sunday School) class with the teacher Mr. Brush. She went to the Opera House on the 30th where the program drew 400 people. She also went down to the mill and twice played in the corn.. She also went to the (Erie) canal and watched mules drawing boats all the time.

Now for the news: **"I suppose you have heard about Garfield's assassination. Isn't it sad? It is worse than the Czar's. It will be in the papers. He was shot about 10 o'clock yesterday but not fatally. The reports are for the better."**

Czar Alexander II Russia had been assassinated by an anarchist on March 13, just three months before in St. Petersburg. He had been a friend to the Union during the Civil War and sold Alaska to the United States, so that Great Britain wouldn't get it.

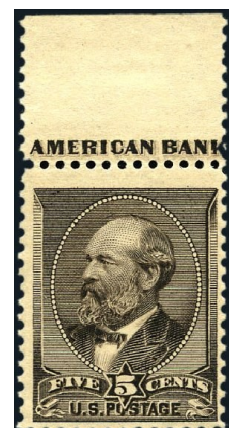
Garfield was shot on July 2 and lingered until death on September 18. A bullet was lodged deep in his abdomen and was never found. Many experts feel that it was sepsis brought on by poor medical treatment that really killed him. Even Charles Guiteau at his trial claimed; "Yes, I shot the president, but his physicians killed him." Guiteau was hung on June 30, 1882, two days short of a year since the fatal shot.

I don't know it that history session influenced Monica, but she went on to be a history major and a teacher. Stamp collecting surely influenced me to be a history major and spend 43 years teaching high school students.



Displayed in this article is the front and back of this simple post card.

Also shown is a die number C-47 proof of Scott #205 E-2, the regular issue yellow brown stamp that issued in 1882.



Rome N.Y. Sunday
Dear Parents I went to church
to day it was communion
I went in Mary's S.S. class
Mr Brush was the teacher
He asked if you went on
or came home. Vinias birthday
day to day she is twenty two
yet as old to day. I went
to the Opera House the 30
it was almost full of
hundred people in it I
have been down to the mill
twice played in the corn
many Vailo I saw mules
drawing boats the cars are
going all the time.
Vini has just had a nap
I suppose you have heard
about Garfield's assassination
went it had it is worse
than the Czar it will be in
the papers he was shot about
10 o'clock yesterday but not
fatally the reports are for the
better. I saw a catholic girl
convinced she will be careful the
rail on I have been to the
forth I have been to the
it is real nice there they are
wearing the scarlet for here
little but Mrs Howard has
a nice camphor bag so
I want to have it they are real
good to me here I am going to
write I am going to write to
Vini John Vini says the
will see me all Susie Naome

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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.

**The Editor of this newsletter, Mike Schumacher
can be reached at E-mail address
Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org**

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