

#699
August 1968



THE COVER STORY

U.S. Proofs & Essays

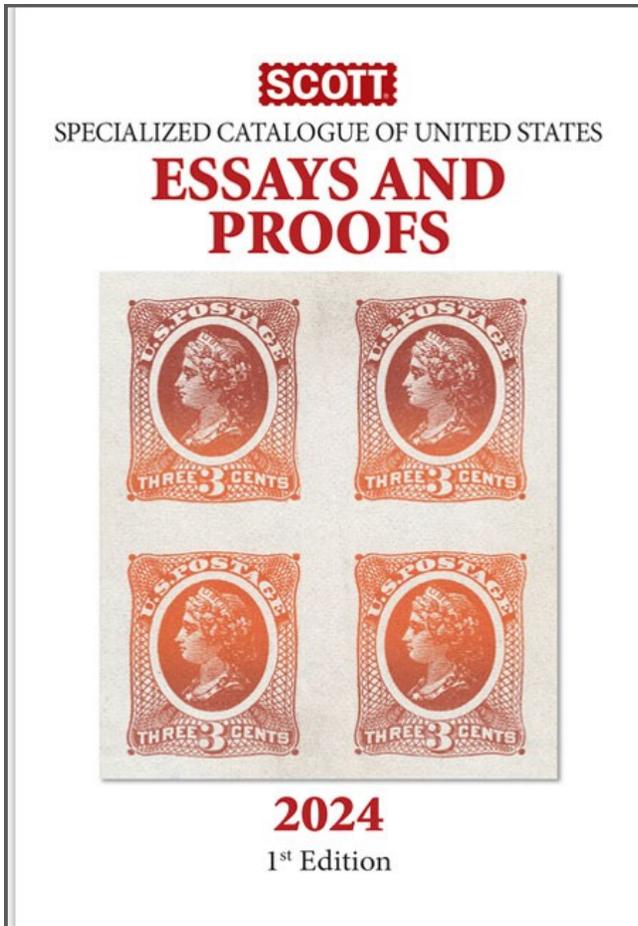


Figure 1

One of my favorite collecting/dealing areas are U.S. Proofs & Essays from the 1800s. The colors are so vibrant compared to the issued stamps, and much cheaper.

They used to be included in Scott's US Specialized catalogue, but are now broken out to a single stand alone volume.

"Scott Specialized Essays and Proofs" will cost about \$40.00 but is well worth the price for a nice 275 page catalogue.

The inaugural catalog was published in 2024. (figure 1)

www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org

Cont. on page 4

Upcoming Schedule— 2026

**** 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 **January 15th at the IHOP restaurant at 646 E. Colonial Drive at 4:30pm.** Bring your appetite & topics for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 1: NO Meeting!

Have a safe and wonderful New Year!

January 15: Annual CFSC Business meeting agenda: Election of new CFSC Board Members & voting for 2025 favorite meeting presentations and newsletter articles; a silent auction will follow; a door prize will be available.

Recap of last month's meetings:

December 4: Member Show and Tell & New Stamp Issue presentations. Presenters included: John Gehrig, Steve Patrick, & Steve McKenzie; 3 members attended dinner pre-meeting, 24 Members attended the meeting & a guest, Steve Blumer & **several members spent part of or all day at the Volusia County Fairgrounds setting up for the annual FLOREX Stamp Show. Thank you to all of those members who helped with the FLOREX set-up including Donald Bourassa who provided taxi service from the Orlando airport for two of the Judges.** Door prize was won by Gene Perry (See pages 10 –14 for more about FLOREX 2025).

December 18: 32 members attended plus 5 spouses, meeting agenda included: **CFSC annual Holiday Party, 4th Quarter Birthday Celebration and 2025 annual Glue Awards;** 4th quarter birthday certificate was won by Ron Aguilera. Members with excellent attendance for 2025 included John Bailey, Richard Blanchard, Gene Perry and David Zambon. See page 13 for more information on Glue award recipients. Lots of fun prize give aways and a bidding event for a Mega Millions ticket raised \$50 with a matching \$50 from CFSC for a donation to the Russel Home.

Newest Members

Welcome to our newest member:

Chad Grove, Member # 784, joined CFSC at FLOREX 2025, and his collecting interests include Japan and the Netherlands. He is also looking at taking on the responsibilities of the FLOREX Show Chair. WELCOME Chad!!!

Who will be the next to join CFSC?

Who will be new member # 785?

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Maitland 2026 Stamp Shows:

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

February 7, 2026

April 4, 2026

June 6, 2026

September 5, 2026

FLOREX 2026 December 4-5, 2026

Show cachet theme: TBD

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

Tommy Lawrence Arena

Volusia County Fairgrounds—Deland, FL

More info at:

www.FLOREXStampShow.com

Quoted:

“Gentle reminder, that as a human being you have the power and capacity to make other people’s lives easier and brighter. Make sure you take full advantage of that magic and make someone smile today, just because.”



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!! Thank you!! Thank you!! Keep the articles coming!

Submit articles to: Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org

“Wanted—CFSC Newsletter Editor” To keep the tradition going and the philatelic knowledge flowing within the CFSC. Beginning in January 2026 to create the March issue and beyond. **Contact CFSC President Francis Ferguson**



President's Message by Francis Ferguson

2025 Plus One

1. The annual paper shuffle known far and wide as the “dues renewal process” is progressing along. While we have received a large number of renewals, we are aiming for a 100% renewal rate. Please return your paperwork and payment ASAP to make that wish happen!
2. As 2025 has ended, we face challenges in 2026 with the election of a new slate of officers; some from the previous group will be returning – others are stepping back. Please be present at the January 15th meeting to cast your election ballot and vote for best presentation and articles for 2025. Your vote does make a difference.
3. I challenge each and everyone to help grow the membership to over 100 as it was before the Pandemic in 2020. Collectors of all stripes are welcome and encouraged to join the philatelic family.
4. Congeniality is strived for at the meetings. If you are having a bad day leave it outside the doors – please. Each meeting should be welcoming and someplace we all want to be.
5. Involvement of the membership of the CFSC is always needed to help things to function seamlessly. It often looks effortless to an outsider -- but trust me when I say –it takes effort and dedication to make everything work. Of course, this benefits the individual however in total it makes the collective known as the CFSC look better as a functional organization serving the membership. A little help goes a long way.
6. We make another plea for someone to step forward to be the newsletter editor. This position performs a critically important function when it comes to getting information out to people. We do have a substantial number of writers who present material for each and every monthly missive. We are begging for someone to be part of the solution.

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

Member Spotlight — CFSC Member Volunteers



Dear Members;

Thank you to everyone who has participated and volunteered in the past for your contributions to making the CFSC a success and an enjoyable organization to be a member of!

Our club thrives because of the passion, curiosity, and camaraderie each of you brings to the table. As we continue to grow and strengthen our community, we invite every member to take an active role in helping our organization run smoothly and successfully.

Whether it's volunteering at meetings, sharing ideas for activities, helping with events, or simply offering support behind the scenes, your involvement makes a meaningful difference. When each of us contributes even a little, we create a club that is vibrant, organized, and enjoyable for everyone.

Your experience, your voice, and your enthusiasm matter. Together, we can build a club that not only celebrates the joy of stamp collecting but also fosters connection, learning, and a sense of belonging.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community—and for helping us make it even better.

Let's keep the momentum going and continue shaping a club we are all proud of

THANK YOU to each one of you for your exceptional hard work, time and effort! Vote for the members you feel will provide the best leadership for the club and show your support to them by getting involved and volunteering (i.e write an article, doing a presentation, helping at a meeting or a stamp show, etc., etc.).

COVER STORY — U.S. Proofs & Essays cont.

By: Norman Hinds Jr.

There are 5 different types:

- P1. Large Die proofs (figure 2)
- P2. Small Die Proofs (1903 Roosevelt Album) (figures 3, 4, & 5)
- P3. Plate proofs on India Paper
- P4. Plate proofs on card (figures 6 & 7 on page 5)
- P5. Plate proofs on stamp paper (pairs & blocks)
- TC. Trial color proofs of the final design in different colors (these can be of any of the 5 types)

Large die proofs are very interesting and generally the most valuable proofs. Shown here is #77P1 (figure 2)

I think the Small die Proofs are nice and interesting. They are called “Roosevelt Proofs” and were issued in 1903 under President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt. Only 85 albums were issued to dignitaries. The albums included the U.S. issues from 1847-1903, a total of 309 different stamps. They were issued on grey cardboard backing pages and artfully arranged. The pages measure about 6 inches by 9 inches. (figure 3 is an example of a page from the album) There are not many full pages remaining and very few complete albums left intact. Below is a link for a very good article written by James E. Lee regarding the album.

<https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-page/2015/september/most-roosevelt-small-die-proof-albums-of-1903-have-been-broken-u.html>



Figure 3



Figure 4

R.A. Siegel is auctioning one of the few remaining complete Roosevelt albums in their sale #1367, lot 117 on 12/9/25 CV \$75,000.

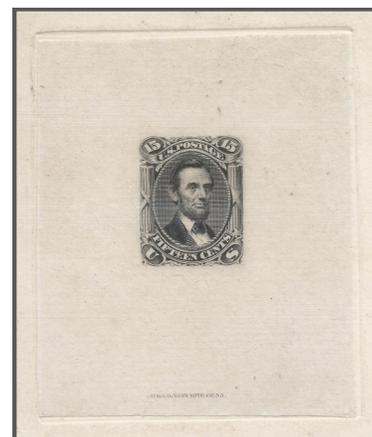


Figure 2

The items shown in figure 3 & 4 are a full page from the 1903 issue and singles of # 72 & # 77 that I have kept.

The scan below (figure 5) is from a recent purchase of 24 small die proofs and a few essays. They sure are pretty!



Figure 5

Cont. on page 5

COVER STORY — U.S. Proofs & Essays cont.

It will be interesting to see what it sells for in the sale. There is a photo available in the below link:

<https://auction.siegelauctions.com/sale/1367?PageNo=8>

Spoiler alert—it sold for **\$40,000 + 18% = \$ 47,200**

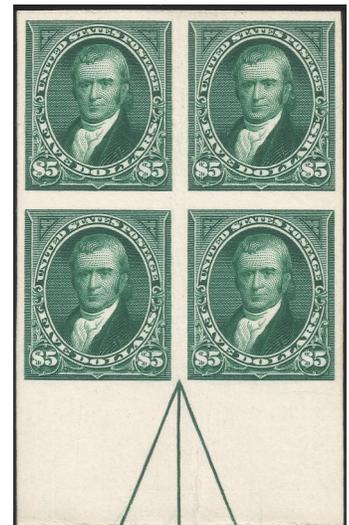
My all time favorite proof set is the 1894 Bureau Issue. The card proofs (P4) were only issued for 5 stamps in the set: #'s 247, 248, 256, 272, & 283. The lower two values only had 400 each printed and the 3 high values only had 200 of each printed. I have bought and sold these since 1976, as they are such a low printing issue. I believe the top 3 values were printed on 2 panes of 100 to equal 200 total. So, there are one each of the top, bottom, left and right arrow blocks making each position unique. There are 2 top and 2 bottom plate blocks of 6. Plate blocks from # 263 issued stamps DO NOT EXIST. So, the only way to get one is to buy the proofs, plate # 85.

A listing from a 12/2/2009 Siegel sale is shown below:

“5.00 Dark Green, Plate Proof on Card (263P4). Bottom arrow block of four, large margins all around, Very Fine appearance, unique from this position”.
Per Siegel auction 977 12/2/09. It sold for \$1500. + the buyers premium.

I bought the same item in a Siegel sale of March 2025 for less than half that price. I have the block listed for \$950 on eBay & Hip and it hasn't sold. What I think is funny is that a few other dealers have regular blocks for sale for over \$2,000. See the scan figure 6.

Below is a picture of my purchase in 1975 of a # 262 (P4) bottom plate # block of 6 stamps and a bottom arrow block of 4 stamps. (figure 7) The plate block probably has 1 other bottom block and the arrow block is unique. Both of these items have been bought and sold several times.



Now let's talk about prices. As you can see the price of the above mentioned block (figure 6) has gone down more than 50% since 2009. One factor in this is that in 2020 Bill Langs passed away. He has one of the largest dealer stocks and private holdings of U.S. Proofs and Essays. The estate chose to sell the whole inventory through Kelleher Auctions in several sales from 2020-2021. Of course, when any large holdings are sold at one time it will depress prices.

U.S. Official proofs are exceptionally cheap. Some can be bought for \$5.00 or less and are beautiful.

Cont. on page 6

COVER STORY— U.S. Proofs & Essays cont.

You may be wondering where I got the quantity issued figures on the 249/273 set. It is from a 1956 price list by Clarence Brazer (a titan in the field). I have owned this 16 page list for 50 years (1975). Attached are the cover page and the one showing the issued numbers for the above mentioned set. (figure 8 & 9) If anyone would like the full list, I can scan all the pages and send to you gratis. My email is nch143@aol.com.

1867

Price List No. 21 of United States Essays & Proofs

The Gems of Philately
And U. S. Stamps Overprinted Specimen, Sample, Etc.
January 2, 1956
Price Ten Cents

When Not Listed Herein Prices for Very Fine SPECIMEN Stamps are 80% of Scott's U. S. Catalogue, Others Priced Less.

My stock is now very extensive. Nearly everything here listed is now available. I also have many rare die essays and trial color die proofs that are sold too quickly to put on this List. It is well to let me know what you want at least once a year.

Every order is filled by Dr. Brazer personally, with a desire to please and help you to enjoy the great beauty and attractiveness of stamp engravings hand printed with efficient care and brilliant inks in efforts to obtain approvals and contracts.

I do not send approvals unless requested by catalog number from this list. It is best to write me what you collect and send your want list. Want Lists are kept prominent for one year and filled as available. Let me help you!

Many collectors fill the album spaces of high priced stamps with proofs. Less than 2500 postage plate proofs to 1894 were issued, and are generally sold in sets. Of most large die essays and proofs less than six are now known. Rare items are hard to obtain, but I will try to find items needed on want lists. I have the largest stock in existence, but a supplemental list is desirable.

U. S. essays and proofs are now scarce due to small numbers printed. There is now no source of supply except old collections. I need to buy fine collections to supply my customers and for my Reference Collection. This includes one variety and color of everything that exists, so that complete catalogs may be published, after which the collections are for sale.

All prices subject to change. Previous prices are hereby cancelled. Satisfaction guaranteed or prompt refund.

Terms: Cash with order, money order or check payable in New York funds, with the understanding that anything is returnable within three days for immediate refund. Purchase paid within three days of receipt for several items if totaling in excess of \$100.00 a 5% cash discount, if over \$500.00 a 7½% cash discount, if over \$1000.00 a 10% cash discount. To those known to me or on usual references which open an approval account, selections to any amount desired will be gladly sent on three days' approval. Budget accounts available for items priced over \$50.00 paying at least 25% down and 25% monthly. Please also tell me the amount of credit desired and amount to send at one time.

Dr. Brazer's prices are for very fine matched color proofs as issued, add 10% for superb. Scott's Catalog prices are only for "fine" condition. Dr. Brazer sells very fine quality plus knowledge. Everything sold by Dr. Brazer is guaranteed genuine. The small BRAZER handstamp will be applied to the back of any item purchased, upon request.

U. S. Proof Numbers—By Scott's U. S. Catalog. U. S. Essay Numbers—By Brazer's Essay Catalog.

U. S. Essay Catalog For Adhesive Postage Stamps

By Clarence W. Brazer, D.Sc.

This is the first and only illustrated U. S. ESSAY CATALOG. It is bound in red cloth, gold-lettered, and is the same size as Scott's Catalog, to which it is a companion volume. It contains 236 pages and over 600 large illustrations, and lists all known essays for U. S. Adhesive Postage Stamps by Scott's stamp numbers for which the essays were submitted. Collectors may therefore ascertain the essays connected with the stamps they collect and arrange them preceding the trial color and normal color proofs of the designs as issued. The printing of 1000 was soon sold out, but I will try to get it for my Essay Customers: it has sold recently at \$25.00.

The 1847 Issue Catalog

Contains historical correspondence preparatory to the stamps, origin of subjects used for vignettes, and my complete detail priced catalog of all known proofs when available, includes 1875 Reproductions, 32 pages, 26 large illustrations. Bound in buff cardboard. Cash with order.
Price \$2.00 postpaid. Add 10c for check.

1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue Catalog

Contains 42 handsome illustrations 5 x 3½ inches, 48 pages, giving source of vignettes, designers, engravers, die numbers, quantities issued, etc. Most complete and exhaustive catalog of this issue. Lists all known single and bi-color essays and proofs. Bound in gray cardboard. Cash with order.
Price \$2.00 postpaid. Add 10c for check.

Every U. S. Specialized Collection Should Include Essays & Proofs
Highest Prices Paid for Collections of all Kinds of United States Essays & Proofs.
Expert Appraisals Made for Insurance, Probate of Estates and Sales.
Write for Free Conference here or at your address.
Copyright 1956 by

Clarence W. Brazer, D.Sc.

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Member of E. P. S., A. P. S., S. P. A., C. C. of N. Y., B. I. A., A. S. D. A.
The Only Dealer in U. S. Essays, Proofs & Specimens Exclusively.

4 U. S. XIX Century Plate Proofs in Normal Colors

	P3	P4	No.		P3	P4	No.
a. org-brn	9.00	12.00	(500)	1893 India Card Issued			
b. dk r-brn	10.00	2.00	(500)	230P 1c dp blue	4.50	1.25	(1000)
block of 4	55.00	15.00		block of 4	25.00	12.50	
211P 4c blu-grn	7.50	1.25	(1000)	a. pale blue	2.50	(200?)	
block of 4	40.00	9.00		b. blue	5.00	1.75	(500)
a. deep b-grn	8.00	1.50	(500)	block of 4	25.00	14.00	
210-211P Set of 2	15.00	2.50		c. dark blue	6.00	2.50	(200?)
				block of 4	15.00		
				231P 2c violet	25.00	3.75	(500)
1887				block of 4	20.00		
212P 1c blue	120.00	(45.00)	(200?)	a. gray-violet	2.25	(1000)	
block of 4	20.00			block of 4	20.00		
b. lt. blue	18.00			b. deep violet	2.75	(500)	
block of 4	16.50	2.50	(500)	block of 4	20.00		
c. dk blue	20.00			232P 3c green	4.50	1.75	(500)
block of 4	120.00			block of 4	25.00	12.50	
P. # blk 10	300.00			b. dk grn	4.00	1.50	(500)
213P 2c grn	5.00	2.00	(500)	233P 4c ultra	4.50	1.75	(500)
block of 4	30.00	12.50		block of 4	25.00	14.00	
a. bright gr	5.50	2.25	(500)	a. blue	25.00	20.00	
b. dk grn	6.00	2.50	(500)	b. dull ultra	4.00	1.50	(1000)
block of 4	35.00			block of 4	22.50	2.00	(200?)
214P 3c verm	6.00	2.25	(1000)	block of 4	30.00	15.00	
block of 4	16.50	2.50	(500)	a. gray-blk	4.50	1.75	(500)
a. org-red	7.50	2.75	(500)	block of 4	20.00	2.00	(200?)
213P-214P Set 2	10.00	4.00		block of 4	25.00	1.50	(500)
				a. blue 5c choc	4.50	1.75	(500)
				block of 4	25.00	12.50	
1888				a. pale brown	5.00	2.00	(200?)
215P 4c carm	6.00	2.50	(500)	b. dk choc	4.00	1.50	(1000)
block of 4	35.00	15.00		c. deep ultra	5.00	2.00	(200?)
b. rose-carm	6.50	2.50	(500)	block of 4	30.00	15.00	
c. pale rose	2.50	(500)		235P 6c purple	4.50	1.75	(500)
216P 5c indigo	7.50	2.00	(1000)	a. gray-blk	4.00	1.50	(500)
block of 4	42.50	12.50		block of 4	25.00	12.50	
a. deep blue	2.50	(500)		a. red-violet	4.00	1.50	(1000)
block of 4	15.00			block of 4	22.50	1.50	
217P 30c org-brn	7.50	2.50	(500)	b. dull purple	5.00	2.25	(1000)
block of 4	42.50	15.00		236P 8c magenta	5.00	3.25	(500)
a. deep org-brn	3.00	(500)		block of 4	30.00	2.50	(200?)
b. lt. org-brn	7.50	2.25	(500)	a. lt. magenta	6.00	3.50	(500?)
block of 4	30.00			b. dk magenta	7.00	3.50	(500)
218P 90c purple	9.50	3.75	(500)	237P 10c blk-brn	4.50	1.75	(500)
block of 4	60.00	21.00		block of 4	24.00	12.50	
a. blk-purp	9.00	3.50	(500)	b. dk brn	4.00	1.50	(1000)
b. dk purple	4.00	(500)		238P 15c dk grn	4.50	2.25	(500)
215P-218P Set 4	27.50	10.00		block of 4	27.50	20.00	
				a. green	4.00	2.00	(1000)
				block of 4	24.00	16.00	
1890				b. dull green	3.00	2.50	(200?)
219P 1c dull blue	3.00	1.00	(500)	239P 30c or-brn	5.00	2.50	(500)
block of 4	18.00	8.00		block of 4	30.00	17.50	
a. deep blue	1.25	(500)		c. yel-brn	4.50	2.25	(1000)
b. ultramar	3.00	1.00	(500)	block of 4	27.50		
block of 4	18.00			240P 60c sl-blue	7.50	3.25	(1000)
c. blue	3.50	1.25	(500)	block of 4	42.50	25.00	
219DP 2c lake	6.50	(900)	(500)	a. dull sl-blue	8.50	5.00	(500)
block of 4	32.50	60.00		241P \$1 salmon	12.00	9.00	(500)
a. dark carmine	8.00	(400)		block of 4	90.00	50.00	(1000)
block of 4	50.00			242P \$2 brn-red	13.50	10.00	(500)
P. # blk 12	200.00			block of 4	100.00	90.00	(500)
b. rose	9.00	(500)		a. deep brn	12.50	9.00	(1000)
c. carm-rose	9.00	(500)		block of 4	90.00	80.00	
221P 3c purple	3.00	1.00	(500)	block of 4	110.00	105.00	
block of 4	18.00	8.00		a. olive-grn	15.00	11.00	(1000)
a. brt purp	3.00	1.00	(500)	block of 4	105.00	100.00	
b. dk purp	3.50	1.25	(500)	b. pale yel-g	16.00	12.00	(200?)
222P 3c dk brn	3.00	1.00	(1000)	block of 4	110.00	105.00	
block of 4	18.00	8.00		244P \$4 crimson	17.50	13.00	(1000)
a. black-brn	4.00	1.50	(500)	block of 4	135.00	125.00	
block of 4	24.00	10.00		a. rose-crm	18.00	14.00	(500)
223P 5c choc	2.00	1.00	(1000)	b. pale rose	15.00	(200?)	
block of 4	18.00	8.00		c. dark red	15.00	(200?)	
a. yel-brn	3.50	1.25	(500)	245P \$5 black	22.50	16.00	(1000)
block of 4	20.00	10.00		a. gray-blk	25.00	15.00	(500)
224P 6c brn-red	3.00	1.00	(1000)	230P-245P S. 16	135.00	70.00	
block of 4	18.00	8.00					
block of 4	20.00	10.00					
225P 8c lilac	6.00	5.50	(500)				
block of 4	47.50	6.00	(500)				
a. gray-lilac	6.50	6.00	(500)				
226P 10c green	3.50	1.25	(500)				
block of 4	20.00	10.00					
a. blue-green	3.50	1.25	(500)				
block of 4	20.00	10.00					
b. dk grn	4.00	1.50	(500)				
a. dk brn-red	3.50	1.25	(500)				
227P 15c indigo	3.50	1.25	(1000)				
block of 4	20.00	10.00					
a. deep indig	4.00	1.50	(500)				
block of 4	22.50	12.50					
228P 30c black	3.50	1.50	(500)				
block of 4	20.00	12.50					
a. gray-blk	3.50	1.50	(500)				
block of 4	20.00	12.50					
b. full black	4.00	2.00	(500)				
229P 90c orange	5.00	2.50	(500)				
block of 4	30.00	20.00					
a. yel-org	5.00	2.50	(500)				
b. red-org	5.00	2.50	(500)				
219P-229P Set 11	38.50	22.00					

Figure 8

Figure 9

A quick mention on Essays. They were issued before the final design and color were selected. I especially like the 1869 Pictorial Issues. There were many different designs and colors produced. Also the earlier essays are fascinating, and many are available at low prices. In the photo (figure 10) are: an early Washington essay, 65 Essay large die, 113, 116, 117, and 122 essays.

All of the above pics are from a large dealer stock I bought 2 years ago (except for the Roosevelt album).

As always, I hope this article was enjoyed.

Figure 10



Candidates (Alphabetical order) for 2026 CFSC Board Members Election

	<p>Rick Cohen - member of the CFSC since 2014. A stamp collector since the age of 5, I'm deeply passionate about philately. As a club member, I enjoy the fellowship as well as the diverse ways our members enjoy our hobby. Every meeting, I gain more knowledge! I am finishing my 6th year as a board member. During this period, I helped coordinate our phone tree, reaching out to our members during COVID when we were unable to meet. I gave a presentation via ZOOM in March 2020 and was published twice in our newsletter during my tenure as a board member. For the last 4 years, I have served as your club treasurer. By profession, I am a retired Certified Financial Planner Licensee.</p> <p>I wish to continue to serve our membership in a board member capacity for another term in order that we continue to preserve and enjoy our hobby through education and fellowship. I welcome your vote!</p>
	<p>Jerry Eller - From Pontiac Michigan, graduated from Pontiac, Central High (Second Generation to Graduate from PCH) attended the College of Creative Design in Detroit Mich. and Louisiana Tech. in Ruston, Louisiana. Served eight and a half years in the United States Air Force and during a tour overseas in 1969 rekindled my interest in stamps again. To which I am now a collector of Panama Canal Zone, (Panama Canal Zone Meter Mail), Dead Letter Return mail as well as a few others. Recently made the jump to the dealer's side of Philately.</p> <p>Member of CFSC for over 30 years. And have been a board member in the past. Looking forward to help guide the CFSC into the future as a Board member.</p>
	<p>Francis Ferguson - I have been a club member since March of 2000 and have been involved in every aspect of the management of the CFSC, The Florida Postal History Society & The Florida Stamp Dealers' Association over the years. My track record speaks as to my dedication and abilities. Retirement has given me a lot more time to do what I want. I look forward to continuing to serve the club.</p>
	<p>Robert Fisher - I have been a stamp collector since 1973 while stationed in the Panama Canal Zone in the US Army. I currently specialize in Germany (except for DDR), Carpatho-Ukraine, FLOREX and Post WW2 Displaced Persons camps. I have been a member of the club for about 15 years and am currently the Vice President of Operations. In addition, I have served as Exhibit Chairman for FLOREX for ten years and am currently the vice president of GPS Florida Chapter 23 stamp club. I have been a member of APS, AAPE, GPS and the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society. However, I have let those memberships lapse because of my reduced income after retirement. I am also a volunteer for the USO and am an elections poll worker.</p>
	<p>Carlos Guffain – a member of the CFSC for more than ten years and have been a Board member for these last six years. I also served the Club as Vice President, Operations. It has been an honor to serve the membership in these capacities and would continue to do so if called upon again. I am currently retired after a 40-year career in education administration and government service at different levels. I have been a lifelong collector with memberships in APS, GPS, SCCS, USPCS, SCC, USPPS, SFPR and others. I continue to learn and expand my knowledge of philately from the Club membership and so many amazing educational presentations. I look forward to another year of many successes for our Club.</p>

Cont. on page 8

Candidates (Alphabetical order) for 2026 CFSC Board Members Election cont.

	<p>Newton Kulp - Member of CFSC since August 2010. During my tenure, I have served on the Board for 12 years and have served as VP of Programs and as Secretary. Currently serving as CFSC Librarian and Donation Chair. I also help as needed with the other various stamp shows (FLOREX & Maitland) that the CFSC and FSDA sponsor. I do 1 or 2 programs per year and write articles for the CFSC newsletter. I wish to be elected again to the BODs to help direct the progress I have seen the club experience and help it grow even further.</p>
	<p>Jim Moffitt - born and raised - west coast of Florida in Pinellas County. I started stamp collecting at 8 when my father gave me his boyhood collection. Off and on, I have been collecting for 50 plus years. In the past 10 years, I have focused on my Bahamian roots and learned a great deal about my Bahamian ancestry. As part of this growing process, I have learned about one of my ancestors which is a famous Bahamian artist and was commissioned by the Bahamian government for his artwork to be on several Bahamas postage stamps over the past 40 years. I am an Eagle Scout and also a certified Stamp Collecting Merit Badge counselor for scouting. I have 3 wonderful children and 5 grandchildren. Out of all of them, my grandson Zane has been bitten by the stamp collecting bug. I want to engage with the youth as that is the future of the hobby. I am married to a wonderful woman, Bev. When we aren't tackling the day-to-day adventures of life, we like to spend our down time in Green Turtle Cay, Abacos, where my family roots go back 10 generations on a small little rock 4.5 miles off mainland Abaco. The community is a mere 500 people sharing life on a half mile wide by 3-mile-long island. A member of the CFSC since 2020.</p>
	<p>A. Stephen Patrick— I would like to serve CFSC two more years as a member of the Board of Directors, although that is up to the voting membership. For 45 years the 1st and 3rd Thursday night have been my regular stamp date night. I have learned something new every meeting. I want to help you do the same. I collect U.S. and worldwide. In the past, I have served as President for four organizations. I belong to more than a dozen collector groups including: APS, GPS # 23. SCCS, MEPSI, SCS, CS, FPHS, ANA, FUN & CFSC. Thank you for your vote.</p>
	<p>Gene Perry— I have been member of the CFSC since April 2017; I am also a member of the APS. I have previously served a two year term on the CFSC Board. I have also served as a greeter at the registration table at club meetings and a volunteer at the registration table at FLOREX stamp shows, as well as the several shows annually hosted by the club at Maitland. I have served as the coordinator for the annual club picnic and helped out in other positions at meetings, like “new member” contact person and election manager. I enjoy being a member of the CFSC and have learned much from the wonderful people in the club. I look forward to working for the club and its members in the coming years as a member of the Board of Directors.</p>

Voting will take place at the January 15th meeting. Attend and vote then!

Candidates (Alphabetical order) for 2026 CFSC Board Members Election cont.

	<p>Bob Sazama— from East St. Louis; graduated from Southern Illinois University and taught school (Civics, American History and a Librarian) for 9 years. Having won the “draft lottery” spent two years in the Army as a clerk. Retired Department of Defense employee having provided continuing education programs for the military around the world. Lived in the Villages since 2013. I and my wife (Joanne—deceased) have been selling stamps since 1990. Have been a member of CFSC since 2013 and actively participate in club meetings as well as FLOREX and the Maitland stamp shows. I am especially proud of being an Eagle scout and having two wonderful daughters.</p>
	<p>Jeff Small—member of the CFSC since 2021. Served as Elections Manager in the 2024 election cycle. Regularly volunteer at club meetings, FLOREX and the Maitland Stamp Shows (assisting with room set-up, auctions and registration table). At FLOREX have assisted with the show set-up, registration table, exhibit set-up and the silent auction booth.</p> <p>I would like to serve on the CFSC Board of Directors to help direct the progress that I have seen the club experience and help it grow even more in the future.</p>
	<p>Mike Smith—member of the CFSC since December 2019 & of the APS for more than 25 years. Philatelist since my early teens. Actively participate in club meetings and other activities, Currently serving as Vice President of Programs—setting up club meeting presentation schedule and assisting with the auctions. I have written several articles for the newsletter and done presentations at club meetings. Regularly volunteer at FLOREX and the Maitland Stamp Shows. Served as Registration Chair at FLOREX responsible for staffing the front entrance as well as preparing and selling club cachets, and handling entrance fees for FSDA & CFSC.</p> <p>I would like to continue to serve on the CFSC Board of Directors for the 2025-2027 term with the intent of undertaking the role of club Secretary. My goal is to grow the membership while attracting younger philatelists into the hobby. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
	<p>Stephen L. Strobel – member of Central Florida Stamp Club since January 1, 2009 & a member of the APS since 1985. Started collecting at a young age and through college I belonged to the Southern Illinois Stamp Club (SISC) at Southern Illinois University (SIU). I enjoy participating in the Club and have served on the Board of Directors previously and currently. Since joining, I have broadened my collecting interests to join other associations: Florida Postal History Society (currently an Officer), State Revenue Society, US Philatelic Classics Society, Civil War Philatelic Society and the United States Stamp Society. I want to continue helping CFSC guide its way into the future. I will always be open to any other member’s grievances or suggestions. I want to thank all the members for their previous support, and I look forward to continuing my position as a Board Member.</p> <p>Sincerely, Stephen L. Strobel.</p>

Voting will take place at the January 15th meeting. Attend and vote then!

FLOREX 2025 Stamp Show

By Mike Schumacher

The 76th annual stamp show is in the books and here is few photos to cherish the memories. **Thank you to all of the dealers, exhibitors, judges, volunteers and societies that participated this year!** A lot of hard work really helped to make things flow smoothly, before, during and take-down of the show. I know there were a lot more people involved than those I captured in the photos. My apologies to those I missed—general show chair duties and responsibilities got in the way, but **I know you were there and greatly appreciate your contributions to the success of FLOREX!!!**



The calm before the show begins.



Members of the hard-working set-up crew! (above)



Society tables and exhibits.



Photo opportunity for the Judges and Show Chair



Stamp dealer—Bob Sazama

Cont. on page 11

FLOREX 2025 cont.

20 dealers and numerous volunteers from the Central Florida Stamp Club & the West Volusia Stamp Club



Stamp dealer Mark Tiger & Kathy Savedow



CFSC member Jeff Small



Stamp dealer James Taff



Stamp dealer Russ & Angela Eggert



Stamp dealer Labron Harris



Stamp dealer Roy Houtby & Linda Taylor



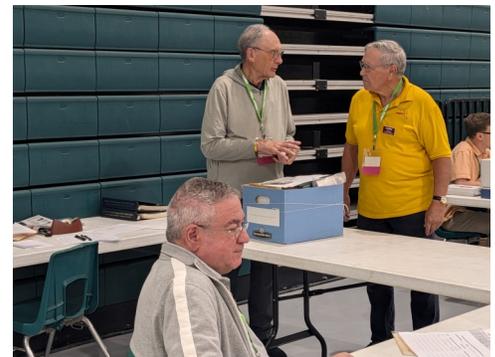
<< Stamp dealer Bob & Ann Dowrick (in the background) Stamp dealer George Enstrom

Stamp dealer (right) >> John & Peggy Hunter



<< (left) CFSC Members Steve McKenzie, Mike Smith & David Zambon

CFSC Members (right) >> Francis Ferguson, Gary Byrd & Newt Kulp



Cont. on page 12

FLOREX 2025 cont.



Stamp dealer John Latter & Jean Schneider



Stamp dealer Kurt Harding



Stamp dealer Norman Hinds Jr.



Stamp dealer Jerry Eller & exhibitor and agent for the "Irish Brigade" exhibitors Robert Benninghoff



Stamp dealer Peter Dearing



Stamp dealer—Leo Stamps



Stamp dealer—Kevin LaFrance

FLOREX 2026 is scheduled for December 4-5, 2026!

FLOREX 2025 cont.



U.S. Classic Society table
staffed by Tom & Sandy Lera



CFSC member & FLOREX General
Show Chair Mike Schumacher



(above) CFSC members
Carol Bradfield & John Bailey



GPS # 23 booth staffed by Stan McNatt



The General Francis Marion Stamp Club booth



Youth Table free stamps for kids

FLOREX 2026 is scheduled for December 4-5, 2026!

Questionable eBay, # 38

By Francis Ferguson

Plate Number 228800, Redux

Listing reads “#805 1 1/2c Washington Plate Block #22880 LR EFO "Inverted 8" MNH OG VF CV \$100.”



Opening bid of \$40 with \$1 for shipping and a 30 day -return policy.

The experienced seller states: “Durland Plate Number CV is \$100”. That is patently wrong – the 2020 Durland price is \$2.00 for any one of the four positions with this plate number.

This oldy moldy chestnut just keeps on giving false information. The truth is ALL of the printing of this number was done with the inverted ‘8’ in the fourth digit. The oddity here is – if one were found with both of the eights right side up.

That of course is impossible considering how printing plates are created. I wonder –how long it will take for some “industrious” faker to create one – that is normal?

What do you think?



Not so questionable eBay!

Win some—lose some.

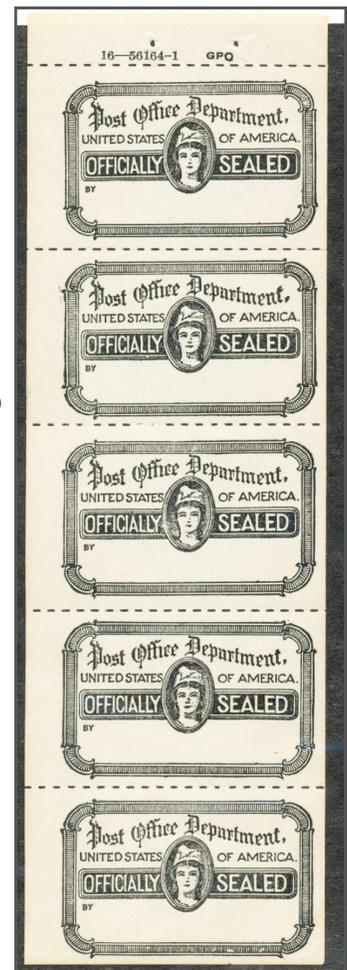
By: Newt Kulp

Fergie has a regular column in this newsletter highlighting questionable eBay offers. Here is a reverse of standard fare. An offering with a description of “OX mint strip never hinged” with buy it now of \$1.99 with \$1.50 shipping.

For those of you who do not know what a Scott catalogue classification of OX is, it designates post office seals. The seals were used up until the early 90s to reseal an envelope that was damaged in transit or opened for inspection. Today the item is placed in a plastic bag with a vague reason for the damage. The \$1.99 price is a little high since most panes of five of the type shown catalogue for \$1.25 to \$2.50 (OX39 to OX45).

The description did not specify which one it was and I needed two of them. So, I examined the picture closely trying to determine which one it was. To my surprise it was the very rare OX38 – the first seals produced with the hyphen hole perfs instead of the round hole perfs. The only way one can tell if it is the rare OX38 (catalogues at \$125) and the common OX39 (catalogues at \$1.25) is the inscription on the tab. The picture very clearly shows the inscription of the rare one.

I immediately bought it costing me a total of under \$3.00 since I also bought several other items at the same time from the dealer who combined shipping. Like I said, once in a while you win one.



2025 CFSC Holiday Party

All through the room the stamps had been cleared, the decorations were in place, the table had been filled with food and the CFSC annual holiday feasting and festivities were about to begin.



Photos

Thanks to Mike Smith and Ricky



Cont. on page 16

2025 CFSC Holiday Party



Smiley faces ready to dine!



4th Quarter Birthday certificate
Winner Ron Aquilera



A Blessing for all things we are thankful for & a moment to remember
CFSC 2025 closed albums—Betty Helton, Rick Scott and Hal Gear



2025 CFSC Glue Award Recipients: Presented by CFSC President Francis Ferguson



Mike Smith Mimi Tompkins Dan Wagenknecht Newt Kulp David Zambon & Jerry Eller

Another Cover's Story – Percival Lowell

By: Mike Schumacher

You may recall from past stories that I have written, I have a habit of looking through those inexpensive dealer's boxes looking for things that catch my eye – it could be a stamp, a town cancel, postal markings, a cachet, a recipient's name, etc. Then later at home, researching the item can lead to a fascinating journey of learning.

The cover in this article (figure 1) on the surface seems pretty plain and unexciting. No cachet, a November 3, 1916 Pueblo, Colorado wavy line flag cancel, no other special postal markings and a typical 2¢ Washington red stamp from the period. However, upon further exploration of the recipient's name and address it is obvious that the cover has some interest, at least to the scientific community. The letter is addressed to: **Percival Lowell** (an American businessman, author, mathematician, and astronomer). (figure 2)

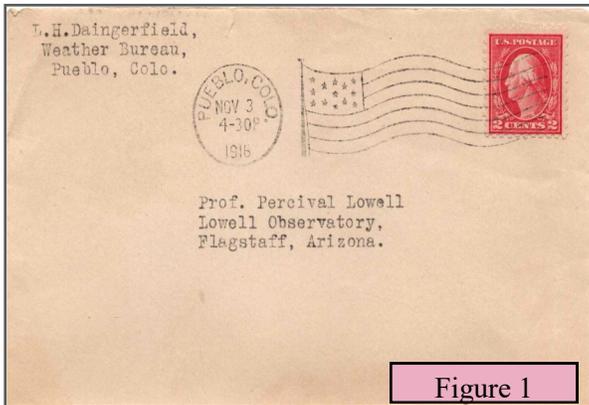


Figure 1

Percival Lowell was born in Boston, Massachusetts on March 13, 1855 and died from a stroke November 12, 1916 (just nine days after this letter was sent to him). He graduated from Harvard College in 1876, with a degree in the field of Mathematics (with distinction). Following graduation, he ran a cotton mill (1876 – 1882); then throughout the 1880s traveled in the Far East on a diplomatic mission to Korea (1883-1884) as U.S. foreign secretary and then lived in Japan (1885-1892) studying and

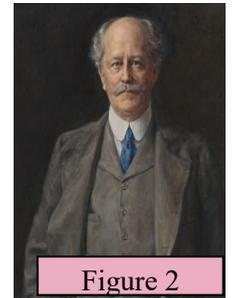
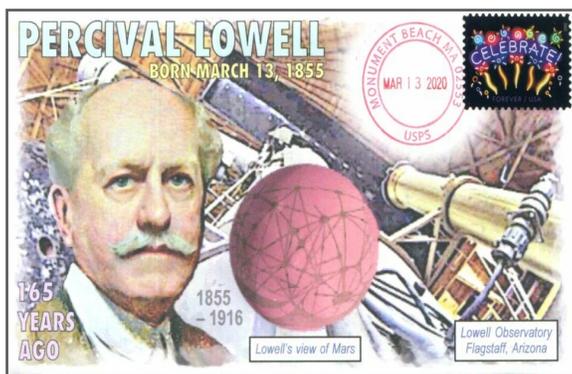


Figure 2

Portrait of Percival Lowell painted by Pietro Pezzati (Harvard Art Museum)

writing about Japanese religion, economics, language and behavior.

He returned to the U.S. in 1893, determined to study astronomy—with a particular interest in Mars (the existence of canal-like features on the surface) and a ninth planet that he believed existed. Percival founded the astronomical observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona (which bears his name) in 1894. Flagstaff, Arizona was chosen for the location of the observatory due to its elevation (altitude about 7,000 feet) and remoteness. The first telescope at the Lowell Observatory was a 24-inch refractor telescope built by Alvin Clark & Sons. (Pluto was discovered at the Lowell Observatory – near where Percival believed it to be – by Clyde Tombaugh on February 18, 1930.)



In 1961, scientists from the observatory worked with cartographers to create maps of the moon in support of the Apollo Moon Program.

The Observatory continues to make significant astronomical discoveries.



Percival's theory of canals on Mars, was later disproved by NASA's exploration of Mars..

Stamp issued: July 20, 1978 Printed by: Bureau of Engraving

Stamp honors the 2nd anniversary of Viking 1 landing on Mars.

Guess one never knows, what will be discovered in those inexpensive dealer's boxes.



Stamp issued:

May 5, 1969
Printed by: Bureau of Engraving

Stamp honors launching of Apollo 8 from Cape Kennedy, Florida December 21, 1968

Support our CFSC Stamp Dealer Members!!!





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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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