

#699
August 1968



THE COVER STORY

Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland

Early Icelandic postcards are a fascinating window into the country's landscapes, towns, and daily living. They document Iceland in the late 19th and early 20th century. Most date from the period 1898-1930. Many were produced by small local publishers or Scandinavian companies.

Common themes include:

- ⇒ Maps
- ⇒ Patriotic or cultural motifs
- ⇒ Natural wonders
- ⇒ People
- ⇒ Towns, villages, harbors and farms

The purpose of this article is to provide the reader with a glimpse of Iceland's uniqueness, beauty and a few of its early postcards.

Maps:

The two maps postcards (figure 1) are from 1910. The upper postcard is a divided back with no publisher information. The lower one is a color version of the upper postcard and indicates it was published by Eneret Egill Jacobson & Bjorn Kristjansson, Reykjavik.

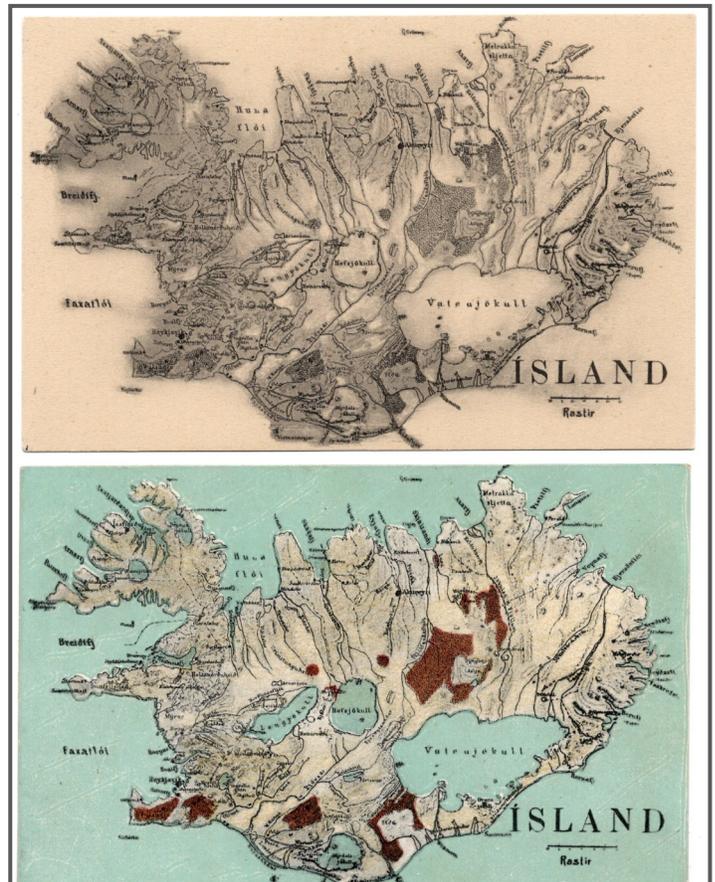


Figure 1

* Iceland ranks 106th largest country in the world and is about 103,000 square kilometers (about 39,770 square miles) or approximately the size of Ohio or Kentucky.

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 **February 5 at the Anh Hong restaurant 1124 E. Colonial Drive** & on **February 19th at the IHOP restaurant at 646 E. Colonial Drive at 4:30pm.** Bring your appetite & topics for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 5: Club Fundraiser Auction; and a door prize will be available. Best 2025 presentations and news letter articles will be announced. * “After Glow Series” returns—topic— Modern Errors that can be found.

February 19: Presentation titled *“Lafayette Philatelic History”* by **Donald Bourassa**; a door prize will be available and a silent auction.

Recap of last month’s meetings:

January 1: NO Meeting!

Have a safe and wonderful New Year!

January 15: 32 members attended the meeting including new member **Matthew McLean** who joined CFSC; 12 members attended dinner pre-meeting. **Annual CFSC Business meeting** was conducted and new Board members were elected for the 2026-2028 term (see page 3 for more information on new CFSC BOD); a silent auction followed with 20 lots sold totaling \$326 in sales; the door prize was won by new member Matt McLean. Welcome and Congrats Matt!

January 29: CFSC Board meeting was held at Francis Ferguson’s home to get CFSC business for 2026 started.

Newest Members

Welcome to our newest member:

Matthew (Matt) McLean, Member # 785, joined CFSC at the first meeting in 2026, and his collecting interests include U.S.; Canada, Germany, Austria, French Colonies, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. WELCOME Matt!!!

Who will be the next to join CFSC?

Who will be new member # 786?

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Maitland 2026 Stamp Shows:

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

February 7, 2026 (* See page 9)

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:

The richest wealth is Wisdom.
The strongest weapon is
Patience. The best security is
Faith. The greatest tonic is
Laughter, and surprisingly all
are free. ❤️



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

Welcome to the new CFSC Newsletter Editor team:

Robert Fisher—Editor; Francis Ferguson—Associate Editor & Ron Aguilera!!!



President's Message by Francis Ferguson

Good News!

I am very happy to report that we have a Newsletter Editor – Robert Fisher has agreed to perform this monthly task. I have agreed to serve as Associate Editor along with Ron Aguilera. This three-person team will be able to deliver a product on time and with fabulous content – it is hoped! Please continue to provide articles long and short -- so the newsletter can be filled with the cream of the crop -- of amazing information - for all to enjoy.

The elections for the BOD went smoothly with only minor changes to the lineup. Gene Perry and Jeff Small joining in the At-Large positions. We would like to thank Carlos Guffain and Mike Schumacher for their service to the club and the philatelic community in previous terms.

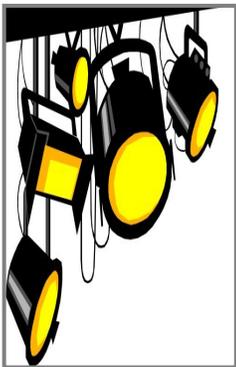
The annual paper shuffle -- known as the annual dues renewals -- has been mostly concluded. More on that next month as the final stuff is recorded. The goal is still to achieve 100 on our active roster again.

The SNSE held January 16-18 in Sarasota went off well. The very “cozy” new venue location presented some challenges that for the most part were overcome. I truly enjoyed being a collector for the three days and NOT being involved in making the show happen. It was heartwarming to see so many members of the CFSC in attendance. The joy of renewing philatelic friendships is always fun and rewarding.

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

***** Reminder - Time to renew your CFSC dues for 2026!**

John Catiller, Mike Cryer, Trevor Delafield, Michael Goldberg, Mark Isaacs, Greg Priewe, Keith Reccius and Ralph Skinner



Member Spotlight — New CFSC Board Members

Shown in separate photo—Mike Smith (Secretary).

(Left to right in photo below) A. Stephen Patrick (VP Programs); Robert Fisher (VP Operations); Newton Kulp (Director at Large); Stephen L. Strobel (Director at Large); Francis Ferguson (President); Gene Perry (Director at Large); Rick Cohen (Treasurer); and Jeff Small (Director at Large). Congratulations!

Thank you to the other candidates who ran, as well.



COVER STORY — Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland cont.

By: Mike Schumacher

Patriotic:

The first postcard (figure 2) displays the Icelandic flag and the Icelandic National Anthem (1926). The colors of the flag represent Iceland's dramatic natural landscape: **Blue** – the ocean and mountains; **White**— snow and glaciers; **Red**—volcanic fire. The postcard was used in 1926 and was published by Stenders Forlag.

Iceland's National Anthem is *Lofsöngur* or often referred to as *Ó Guð vors lands* (O God of Our Land). It is a solemn hymn tied to Iceland's cultural and religious history (its Christian heritage, the country's natural beauty and a sense of humility and devotion). The lyrics were written by Matthias Jochumsson (figure 4) and the music was composed by Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson (figure 5) in 1874.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

1835—1920
Lutheran Clergyman,
poet, playwright and
social reformer
Stamp issued 1935



Figure 5

1847—1927
Composer
Stamp issued 1979

The second postcard (figure 3) shows a woman in Icelandic apparel holding the flag. It reads: *Kaupirðu góðan hlut, þá mundu hvar þú fékkst hann*, (Buy a good thing, then remember where you got it). It also says: *EFLIÐ ÍSLENSKAN ÍÐNAÐ* (Strengthen Icelandic Industry) and *ÁLAFOSS* which refers to a small waterfall on the Varmå River in Mosfellsbær, Iceland and a nearby wool factory (by the same name) that was built in 1896.

Álafoss wool factory was started (1896) by a local farmer, Björn Þorláksson who decided to utilize the energy from the Álafoss waterfall on the Varmå River (Varmå means warm & the river never freezes) to provide power to his machinery in the wool factory. At the time it became one of the most important companies in Iceland (the first motorized clothing factory in Iceland) under the management of Halldór Jónsson. The factory also played an important role in the growth of Mosfellsbær.

Cont. on page 5

COVER STORY — Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland cont

Cultural motifs: (highlights elements considered core to their national identity)

Iceland Coat of Arms: (figure 6) is made up of symbolism drawn from the nation's history, mythology and landscape. Its components reflect both the Icelandic flag and the legendary guardian spirits believed to protect the island. The center of the coat of arms reflects the Icelandic flag. The postcard was used in 1920 and published by Helgí Árnason, Reykjavík.



Figure 6

The four guardian spirits each represent a region of the country.

They are the mythic beings from the 13th century saga, *Heimskringla*.

- ⇒ **Bull**—symbol of strength and resilience, Northwestern Iceland
- ⇒ **Eagle/Griffin**—fierce protector Northeastern Iceland
- ⇒ **Dragon**—represents power & vigilance Southeastern Iceland
- ⇒ **Rock Giant**—embodies Iceland's rugged volcanic landscape Southwestern Iceland

National Attire:

The first postcard is a divided back - # 73 published by Thomsens Magasín, Reykjavík. (figure 7)
Thomsens Magasín founded a department store in 1837 which grew to be a cornerstone of Reykjavík's commercial life. He sold and manufactured goods.



Figure 7



Figure 8

The second postcard also shows a woman in National attire. (figure 8)

It is a Danish made postcard used in 1905 and is an undivided back postcard.

Iceland's oldest type of woman's national costume is the **Faldbúningur** and is characterized by a distinctive faldur (a curved or pointed headdress).

Cont. on page 6

COVER STORY — Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland cont

Natural wonders: **Pingvellir** - site of the Alþing, Iceland's national parliament, founded in 930 AD.



(birthplace of Icelandic democracy). The plains were the gathering place of Icelanders for nearly 900 years. It was here that they gathered, set laws, resolved disputes and made national decisions. Because of its cultural importance, **Pingvellir** is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Pingvellir sits in a rift valley between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates (making it one of the few places in the world where you can walk between continents).

Postcard # 81 published by Thomsens Magasín, Reykjavik mailed to Danmark 10.11.1900 (figure 9)

Figure 9

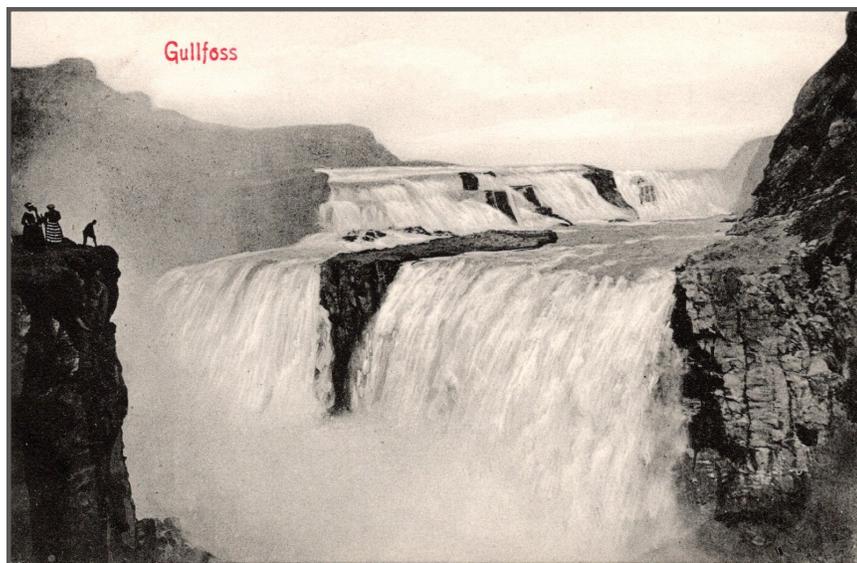
Kötlugosid (Katla) - an active volcano in south-eastern Iceland under the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap (glacier). The October 1918 eruption caused severe disruption to the area, massive flooding and tephra fall¹. A bridge was washed away, farms had to be abandoned and communications in the south-central region were destroyed.

Divided back postcard published by Páll Jónsson (1920) (figure 10)

1. Tephra falls—deposition of fragmented volcanic rock, ash, & pumice ejected during eruptions, often blanketing areas downwind for miles (ranging from dust to large heavy rocks).



Figure 10



Gullfoss - waterfall located in the canyon of the Hvítá river in southwestern Iceland. It is a wide curved three-step staircase waterfall (first drop 36 feet, second drop 69 feet and third drop 105 feet). During the summer the average amount of water passing through the falls is about 5,000 cubic feet per second.

Gullfoss is one of the most popular tourist sites in Iceland.

Divided back postcard (figure 11) published by P. Petersen, Reykjavik

Figure 11

Cont. on page 7

COVER STORY — Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland cont

People:

Snorri Sturluson - (figure 12)
1179—1241 Historian, lawyer, poet, knight, and politician. Twice elected as the lawspeaker of the Icelandic parliament and author/compiled portions of the *Prose Edda*, and *Heimsskringla* (a history of Norse mythology and early medieval Scandinavian history) as well as *Egil's Saga*.

Divided back postcard published by Stenders Forlag (a Danish publishing house noted for its postcards and art prints established by Carl Stender in 1888).

Jonas Hallgrímsson - (figure 13)
1807—1845 poet, naturalist and co-founder of the *Fjölnir* journal (1835) which helped spark Iceland's independence movement.

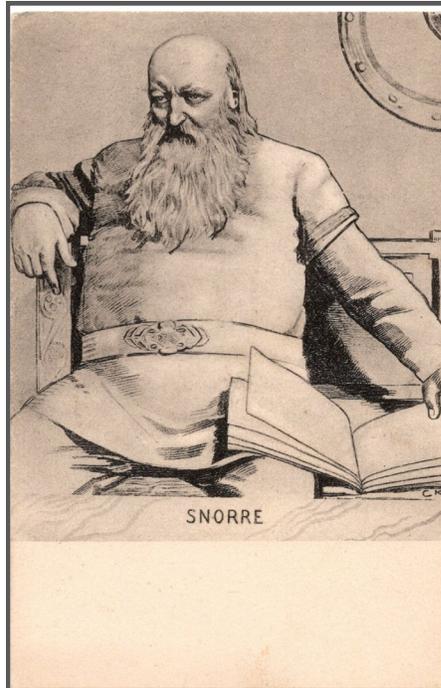


Figure 12



Figure 13

Divided back postcard used 18.11.1907 and published by Ó. Ólafsson, Reykjavík

Jón Sigurðsson - (figure 14) 1811—1879 scholar, historian and political leader who was a leader in pushing for Iceland's autonomy from Denmark. He served as President of the Althing from 1875 to 1877. Iceland's National Day (Independence Day) is June 17th his birthday. A number of Icelandic stamps contain his image (one example is used on this postcard dated 11.VI.1917).

1910 Divided back postcard published by Einar Gunnarsson, Reykjavík



Figure 14



Figure 15

Hannes Þórður Hafstein - (figure 15)
1861—1922 Poet, lawyer and statesman, who was one of the most influential figures in Iceland's journey to self-governance.

He was Iceland's first Minister for Iceland on the Danish Cabinet in 1904. He served two terms and later served as Speaker of the Althing.

Divided back postcard published by Ó. Ólafsson, Reykjavík

Hannes Hafstein stamp issued in three colors & values in 1954.



Cont. on page 8

COVER STORY — Postcards (Brjefspjalds) from Iceland cont

Towns & Farms:

Bessastaðir - a farm & church located on the Álftanes peninsula near Reykjavik which was once owned by Snorri Sturluson and now serves as the President's residence.

(A visitor can drive right up to the building and knock on the front door.)

1910 divided back postcard (figure 16)
Published by Helgi Árnason, Reykjavik



Figure 16

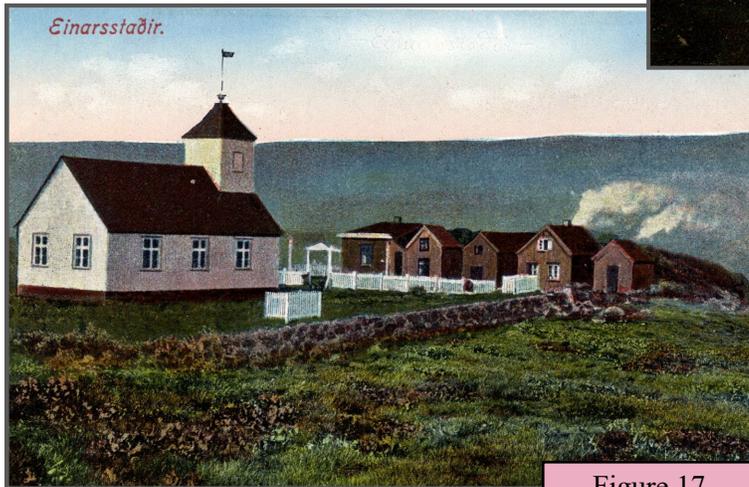


Figure 17

Eínarsstaðir - (figure 17) a farm near the hamlet of Laugar in Northeastern Iceland. It served as a mail receiving office from 1.1.1901 to 28.2.1927 & then it became a Post Office from 1.3.1927 to 30.6.1971. It used the number **60** canceller from 1903 to 1927. (figure 18)

1910 divided back postcard published by Helgi Árnason, Reykjavik (both figure 18 & 19)



Figure 18



Figure 19

Eyrarbakka - (figure 19) town in southeastern Iceland significantly impacted by the recent volcanic activity in 2024 –2025. The building to the right of the church housed the mail receiving office from 1.1.1885 to 31.12.1911 & then the Post Office starting 1.1.1912. It used number **2** canceller (figure 20) from 1903 thru 1911.



Figure 20

Seyðisfjörður - (figure 21) a fjord town on the east coast of Iceland nestled in the mountains. It's history includes being a fishing hub & a former military base during WWII. Its Post Office opened 1.3.1870.

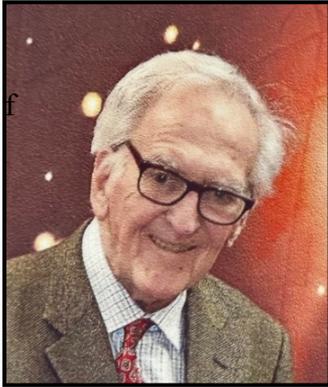
1920 divided back postcard published by Eneret Egill Jacobson & Bjorn Kristjansson, Reykjavik.

Well, that is just a taste of the philatelic fun of Iceland's postcards.



Figure 21

Closed Album: Desmond (Des) Fitzgerald



Des passed away on Saturday January 17th after a long period of declining health. Born October of 1934 in Manhattan, NY he was a long-time resident of the northeast – specifically the Sparta, New Jersey area where he owned a pharmacy for over forty years. He called Belvidere, NJ home for many years -- where he purchased a three-story Victorian home that he restored meticulously. After he sold the pharmacy, he moved to Florida in 2016 for a warmer retirement. Des was a veteran who served in the Army as a medic during the post Korean War era.

In his younger years he loved to snow-ski in the Poconos every chance he could. He had an affection for Polish Lowland Sheepdogs -- Winston was followed by Spencer. If there had been a third, his name would have been Churchill. Later in life -- travel was high on his priority list. Des was a lifelong collector who picked up the hobby as a youngster and continued through most of his years. His philatelic fascinations -- were the world and encompassed everything from stamps to covers to ephemera.

Des joined the CFSC July of 2018 and was often found at meetings and shows. He did particularly enjoy staffing the greeting table which allowed his gregarious personality to come through. Rest in peace, friend.

Reminder - CFSC One Day Maitland Stamp Show

Date: February 7, 2026 10 am. to 3 pm.
Place: The Greater Maitland Civic Center
The Venue on Lake Lily
641 Maitland Ave. S. Maitland, FL 32751

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To: CFSC Members:
It has come time to bid you all farewell, as I turn my attention to personal and family health matters. I just want to say, Thank you for the memories, friendships and philatelic learning opportunities! Wishing you all the best! And in the words of Porky Pig: "Tha—tha-tha—that's all folks!"
Mike Schumacher



The “Hen & Chickens” - Horsham, England

By: Mike Schumacher

Long before Sir Rowland Hill introduced the “Penny Black” in 1840, the mail was being delivered in Horsham, England. Horsham is located about 32 miles south-south-west of London and dates back to 947, where it was a meadow manor by the river Arun known for raising horses. Over the years it developed into a settlement town known for merchant trading. King Edward I visited Horsham in 1278 and again in 1299. King Henry VII visited Horsham in 1488 and King Henry VIII visited in 1519. By the 17th century, aside from a trading center for local merchants, Horsham was known for its iron industry, brick manufacturing and a successful brewing industry.

Shown below is a used postcard (figure 1) depicting an area of downtown Horsham in the early 1900s, and on the reverse side (figure 2) it is postmarked in September 1915.

(reverse side of postcard)



Figure 1

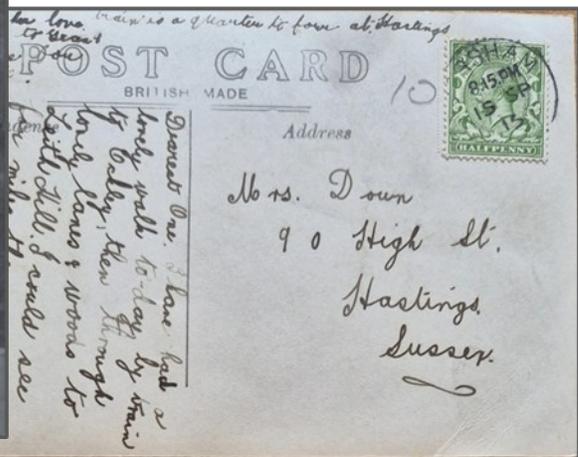


Figure 2

However, the story of mail delivery in Horsham, England starts long before 1915. In fact, it connects back to William Dockwra who started a penny post mail delivery system in 1680 called the “London District Post”. Dockwra’s system included a postmark to indicate where the letter had been handed in. The mail was then delivered by postboys on horseback and by 1782 mail coaches transported the mail throughout the country. By 1830 letters were carried by rail.

In Horsham the early Post Office was located at Pump Alley near the market square. The old Post-box can still be seen on the wall today and is one of the oldest still standing in England. The cachet depicts the post-box (figure 3) and an insert card (figure 4) depicts the location of the post office.

The first mail coaches to travel between London and Horsham began in 1750 and it was known as the “Flying Coach”. It ran from Southwark to Horsham on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

By 1784, the Postmaster General and John Palmer had entered into a contract to carry mail by coach. The coach could reach speeds of 12 miles an hour and carry 15 passengers and up to a ton of luggage.

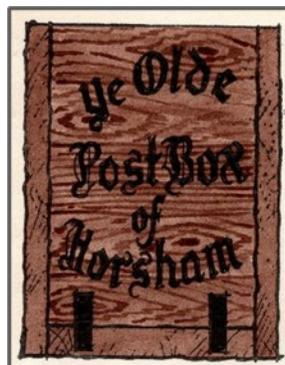


Figure 3

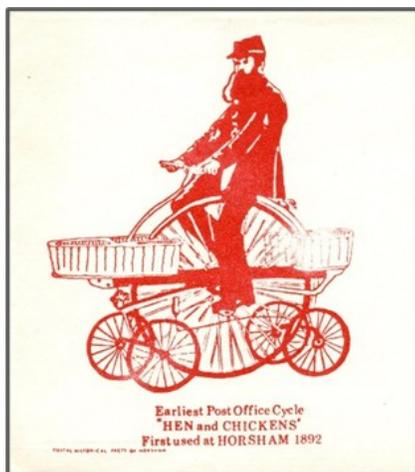


Figure 4

Cont. on page 6

The “Hen & Chickens” - Horsham, England cont..

To expedite mail delivery in Horsham, Mr. E. Burstow of Horsham was the architect who invented and designed the first Post Office cycle which was first used in Horsham in 1881. The cycle is depicted in the cachet shown below. (figure 5) It was known as the “Hen and Chickens” or a Pentacycle.

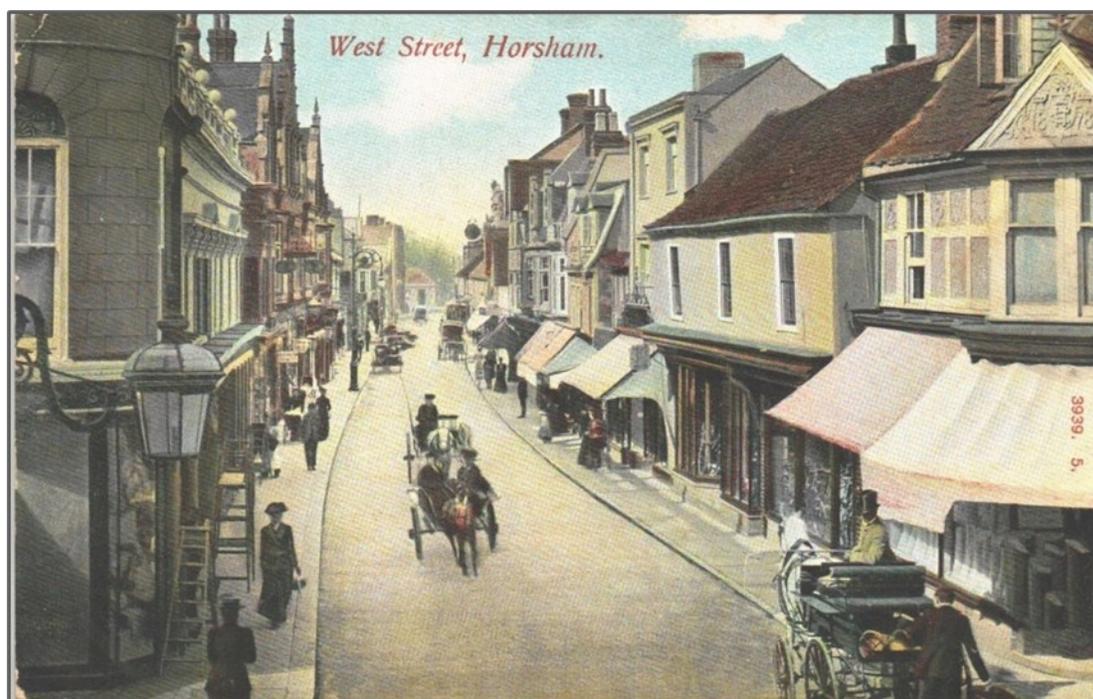


The replica of the “Hen and Chickens” (Pentacycle) shown in the postcard below (figure 6) was built by Bill Sylvester of Waterlooville, Hampshire, England and is part of the collection of cycles at the Horsham Museum.



The Horsham items ended up in my collection due to my interest in Bicycling. And now you know a little something about Horsham, England and early mail service before Sir Rowland Hill and the Penny Black arrived on the scene.

So maybe the next time you are in England, you can pay a visit to Horsham and the Museum.



Questionable eBay, # 39

By Francis Ferguson

This Poor Thing....



Listing reads: “1 Cent Benjamin Franklin United States Postage Stamp”. Starting bid of \$100, with free shipping with no returns accepted. Seller offered the item to me for \$52 as a “watcher” -- declined offer. Seller has no rating and no sales.

Further description reads, “*The product is a one cent Benjamin Franklin United States postage stamp, featuring a green color and a fancy cancel cancellation type. This historical figure-themed stamp was used and is ungraded, uncertified, and of United States origin. It is a collector's item that holds value for its unique characteristics and historical significance.*”

The listing description is accurate, but without any Scott’s number. The condition of the cover is not noted anywhere in the description which to put it bluntly is horrible. This is a common stamp paying the common 3 cent rate for the era. There is nothing special here what-so-ever.

Now let us look at the more detailed description provided by the seller. (1) This is a common machine cancel for the era – not a “fancy cancel” as claimed. (2) The last line is pure fantasy; there is nothing here that holds any value or special historical significance.

I have to believe that the seller excelled at creative writing during their schooling. Frankly, this is just another example of the endless stream of junk that pollutes the online sales sites.

What do you think?

Another eBay Win Some

By: Newt Kulp

In the January 2026 newsletter I presented a short note on a win with an eBay purchase I made. Shortly after I wrote that article, I scored another “win”. While looking for several of the post office seals, I did not already own, I came across an eBay listing “Post Office Official Seal #OX1”. The accompanying picture did not look anything like OX1 but the much different OXF1. It was listed for \$9.99, free shipping. Since OX1 catalogues for \$60 mint and OXF1 lists for \$30 mint and I didn’t have either one, I bid on it and as the only bidder won it for \$9.99.



When I received the item, it looked like the OXF1 that was pictured or was it. OXF1 was a gummed stamp but the one I received looks like mint -no gum. This would make it OXF2 which catalogues for \$1,000 (in italics). Also, OXF1 is green while OXF2 is bluish green. I have asked several fellow club members for their opinion on the color and have gotten answers for each. Is it OXF1 with the gum soaked off or a genuine OXF2?

I’ll be sending it to get a certificate to determine exactly what which stamp I own.

For those of you who don’t know what stamps with an OX or OXF Scott numbers are, see my January article for the explanation of the OX stamps. The OXF designation refers to stamps name registry seals and used from 1872 (when OXF1 was issued) until the mid-1880s. These stamps were issued and used to prevent tampering with registered letters while in transit. They were affixed over the juncture of the flaps of the large envelopes in which registered mail letters were enclosed or stamp requisitions were shipped to postmasters.

They have no face value and could not be legally used for anything but the intended use.

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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 (first year free).
- 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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