

# The PhilateliKid

*The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)*

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

March 2, 2015

The website is up and running. Take a look, and let us know what you think, and how we can do to improve it!

Two things to remember: The word “clubs” is plural – has an “s” on the end

The website ends in “.org” not “.com”

**NY2016** New York City – Jacob Javits Center. May 28-June 4, 2016. This is a world stamp show which is hosted in the United States only once every 10 years. At the Town Hall Meeting at StampShow in Riverside, CA, Past President of APS Wade Saadi, who is in charge of NY2016 (His official title is President, but he also does a lot more), announced that plans are going very well, and that some hotels are offering a special room rate for NY2016 attendees. Saadi also said that the reservations will be accepted about one year prior to the beginning of NY2016, so that means that in about 3 months you can start making reservations. Go to the website to find out the latest information. [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org)

## **Philatelic Fun Book**

At the Riverside Stampshow, former Curator of Philately of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Cheryl Ganz gave a book signing of her recently released book, *Every Stamp Tells A Story*. It is a small book with only 137 pages, but after you have read it, you will be yearning for more. It is heavily illustrated with gems from the National Philatelic Museum, many of which have never been seen by the public before now. Want to see the hand-drawn sketch made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of a stamp he wanted to have issued commemorating Susan B. Anthony? Look on page 39. Want to learn more about the missing bridge Canal Zone stamp? Page 98-101. As editor, Ganz has written 11 of the 18 chapters, and has added stellar articles by several other authors. This hard-bound book is well worth the \$29.95 retail price, and you can get it for only \$22.41 plus shipping on Amazon.com.

## **Philatelic Covers**

In the philatelic world the word “cover” takes on a specific meaning, not used this way in anyplace outside of the world of stamp collecting. “Cover” is a word commonly is used as a verb as in “to cover” something, such as, “Little Johnny covered his French fries in ketchup.” That is not what we mean in philately. Nor does the commonly used noun apply, such as, “The covers on my bed keep me quite warm.” Neither does “cover the costs” or “cover the blemish” apply.

When philatelists say “cover” what we really mean is an *envelope*. Even more specifically, we mean an envelope with an address and a stamp on it.

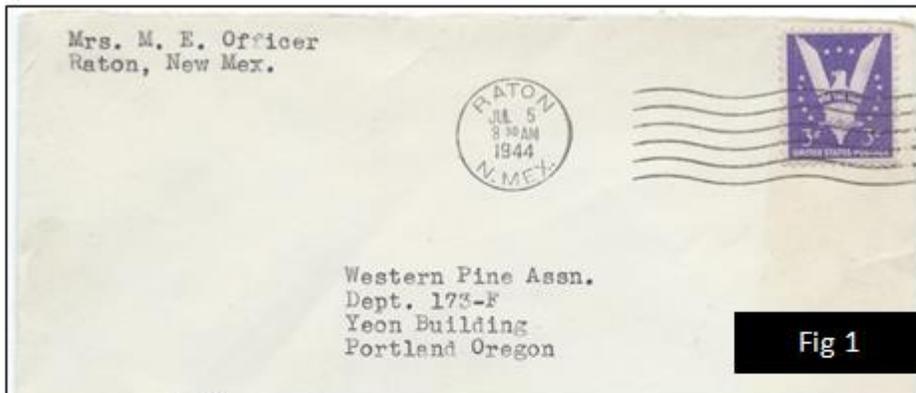


Fig 1

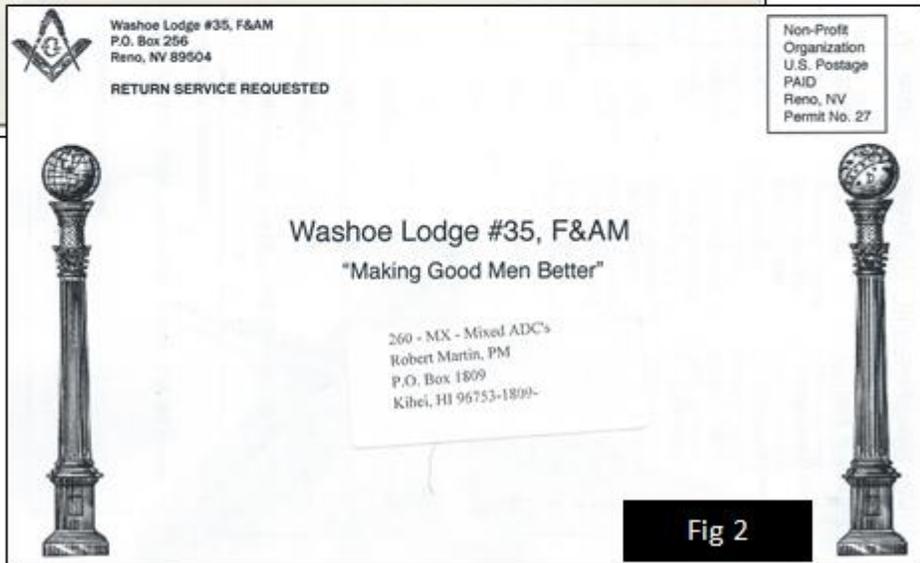


Fig 2

Most of the time the stamp has to have been canceled, and the envelope has to actually have gone through the mail. (Fig. 1) There are exceptions, just to make things more complicated. Just as we can have a “windowless house,” “flourless cake,” or a “driverless car” we can have a “stampless cover.”

An envelope is not really required to have an item be considered a cover. A “folded letter” becomes a cover

when a stamp or an indicium is applied and it gets addressed and mailed. (Fig.2)

Millions of covers with no address are in collections, which obviously means that it never went through the mail. This is especially true of “philatelic covers” and very frequently “First Day of Issue Covers.” (Fig. 3)

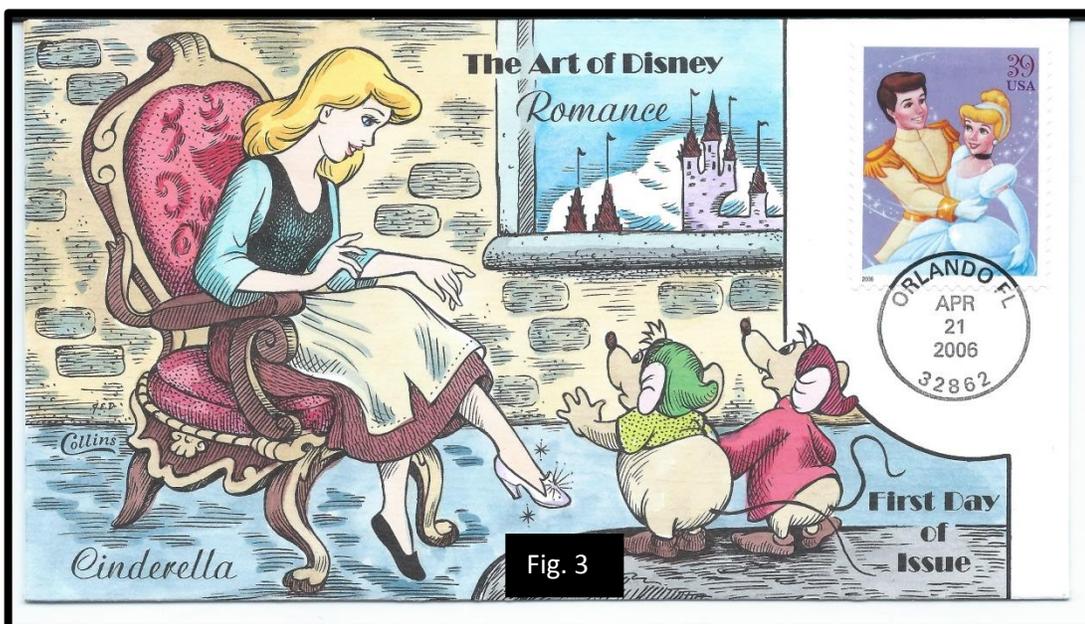
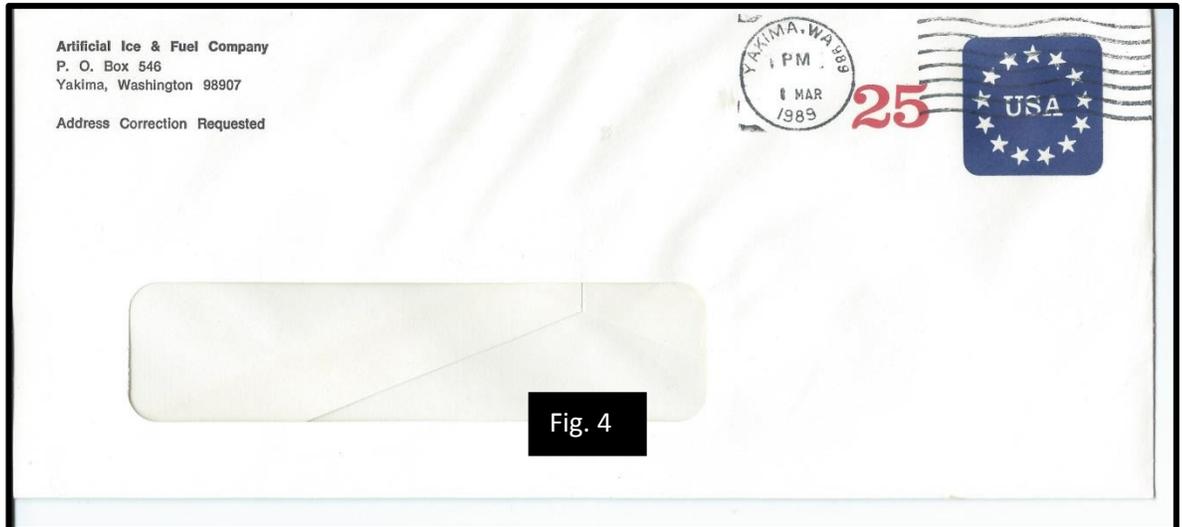


Fig. 3

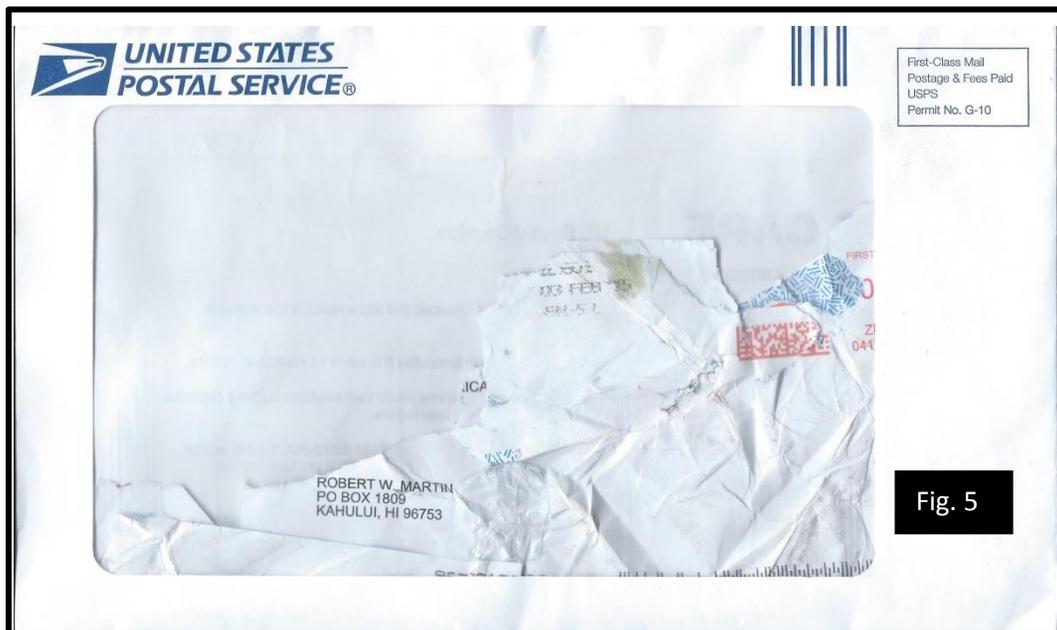
However, many covers, without any visible address, HAVE gone through the mail. They are window envelopes (Fig. 4)

The “window,” where the address originally could be seen, is blank now that the contents have been removed, and no address any longer appears. There is not yet a made up philatelic term for those types of covers, except to call them “window envelopes that have been mailed.”



If a cover has been in some sort of accident, such as aboard a boat that sank, aboard an airplane that crashed, or on a railroad car involved in an accident, then stamp collectors use a special word - “crash cover.” To qualify as a crash cover, there must be evidence proving it was actually in a disaster, and the more damaged it is, the more desirable it becomes, so long as enough remains to determine what it was!

There is a special type of cover that is used by the Postal Service. It is called a “body bag.” (Fig. 5) In reality, it is a large envelope into which the Postal Service places a piece of mail that has been damaged in transit, but where the original recipient can be determined. Sometimes that is impossible, and the damaged piece of mail is returned to the sender, if that information can be determined.



“Censored covers” refers to a cover that has been examined by a censor, often in wartime, to ensure that information is not being mailed which that government does not want disclosed. (Fig. 6)

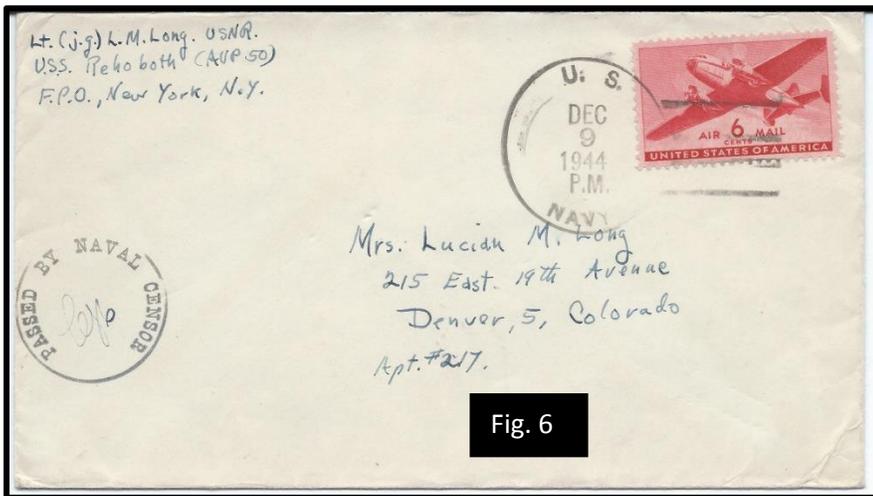
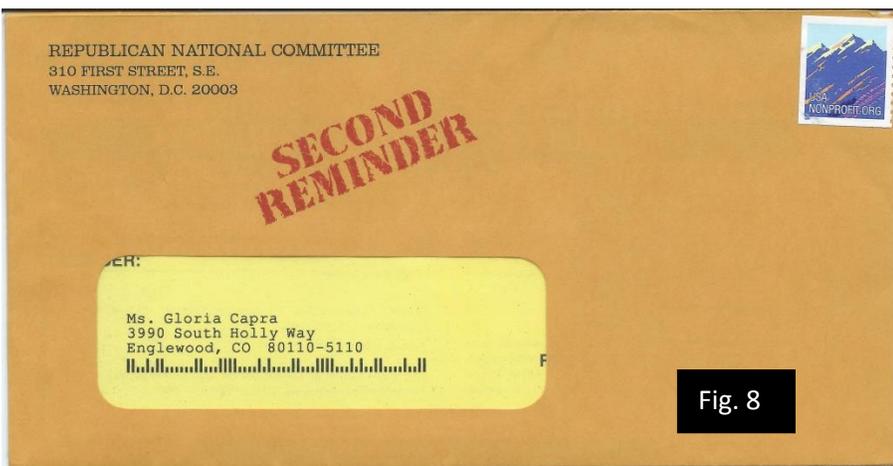
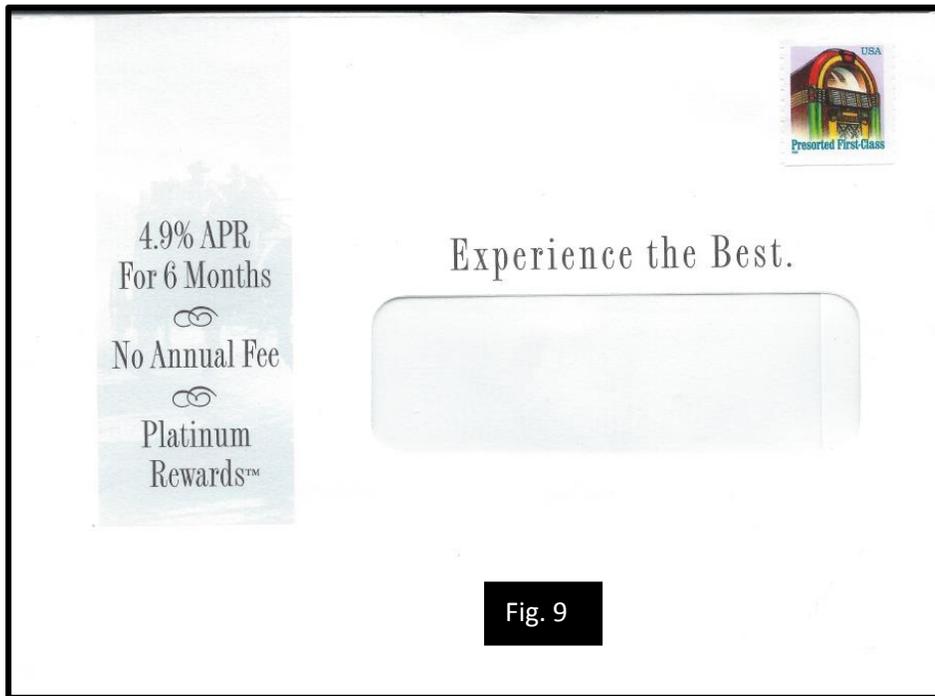


Fig. 6

In the non-philatelic world, “junk mail” is used to describe unsolicited covers that are mailed at a discount price. Bulk Rate (Fig. 7); Non-Profit Org (Fig 8); Presorted first Class (Fig 9).





When a stamp is canceled, the cancellation might not extend beyond any of the edges of the stamp. In most cases, a portion of the cancellation is also visible on the cover. We say that the stamp, thus cancelled, is “tied to the cover.” (Fig. 12)

At certain times in certain jurisdictions, when there was a shortage of postage stamps, the local postmaster was authorized to cut a more valuable stamp in half, and use each half for postage. Those stamps are called bisected stamps, and on cover are highly collectible. For example, if a 5 cent stamp was needed, but the post office only had 10 cent stamps, the postmaster would sell half a stamp for 5 cents. Those 10 cent stamps were cut in half either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, and then placed on an envelope and mailed. The bisected stamp would be cancelled, just as if it were a normal stamp. Because the bisected stamp was very small compared to a whole stamp, the cancellation almost always was partly on the stamp and partly on the envelope, thus “tying” the bisected stamp to the cover. A bisected stamp that is loose from a cover has no value, because a person could simply have taken a normal used stamp and cut it in half. Similarly, a bisected mint stamp has no value.

Covers sometimes contain markings made by the Postal Service that are in addition to the cancellation. Those markings are called “Auxiliary markings” and can turn an otherwise uninteresting cover into a very collectible cover. Fig 10 has a green auxiliary marking which reads MISSENT TO I.S.E.

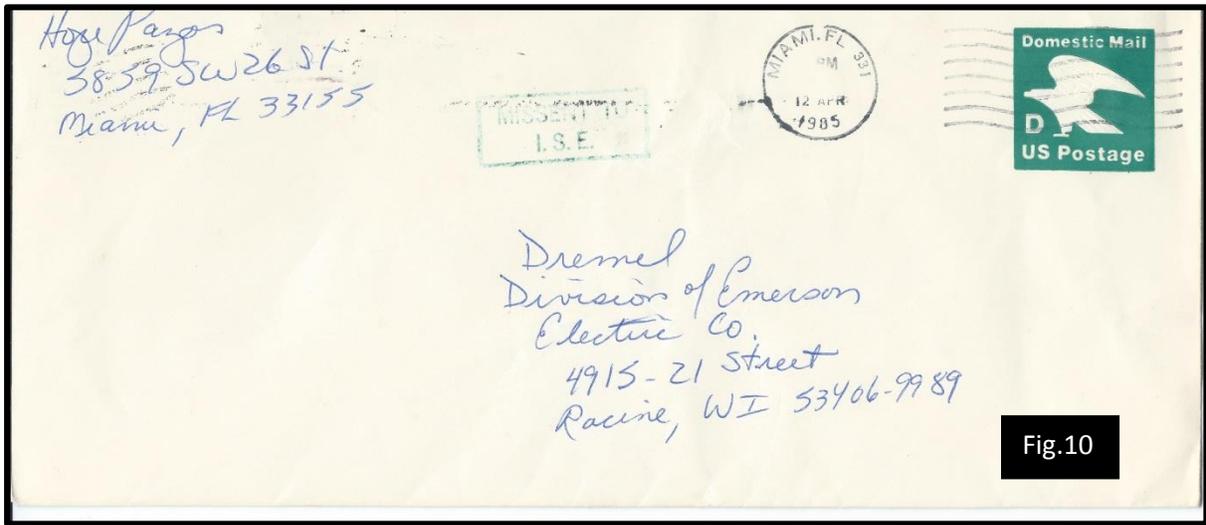


Fig.10

Fig. 11 has a seldom seen auxiliary marking that says "Return to Sender. Odd Shaped Items Are Not Mailable in Letter Size Envelopes. DMM CO21.7.4

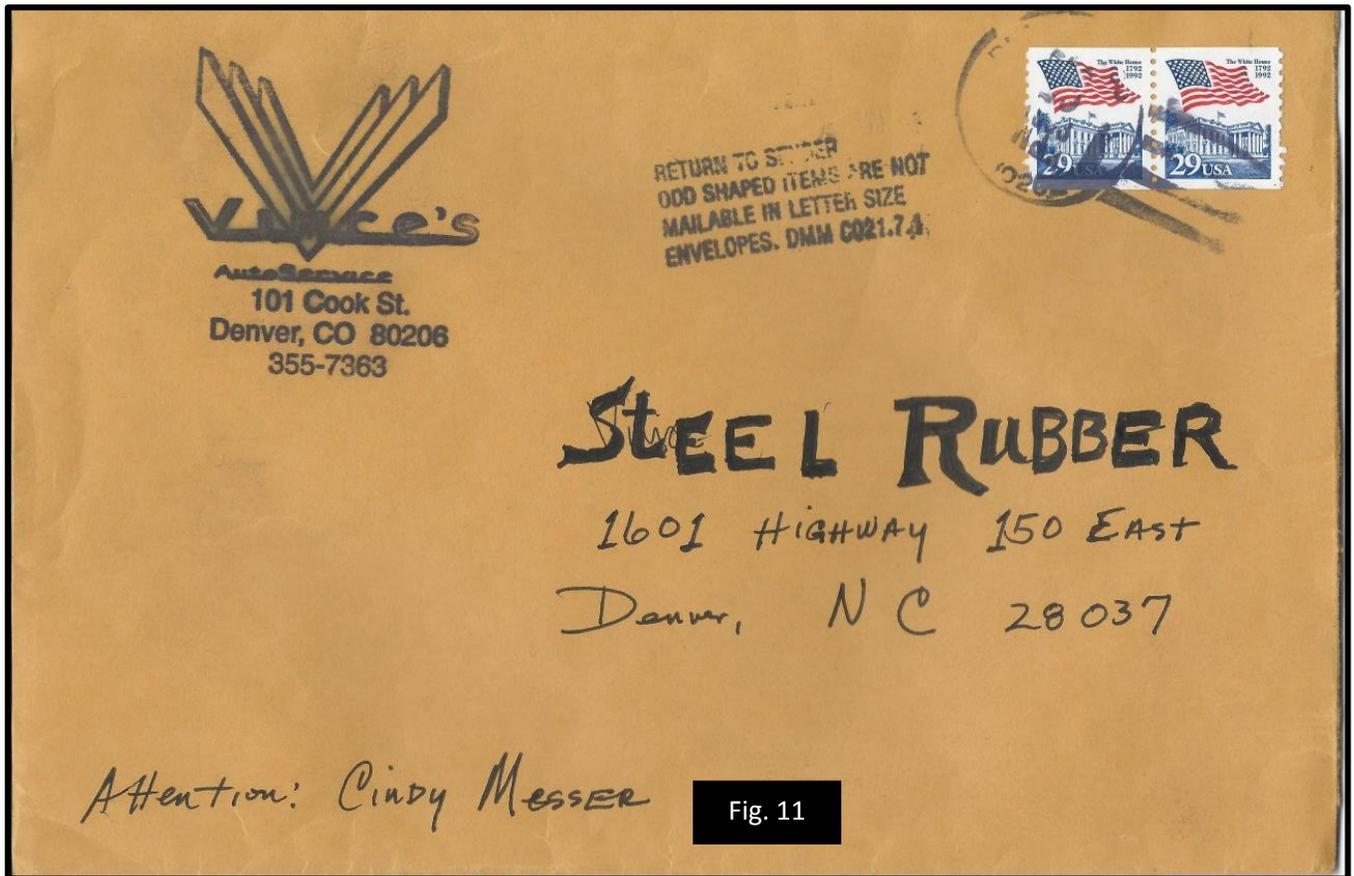
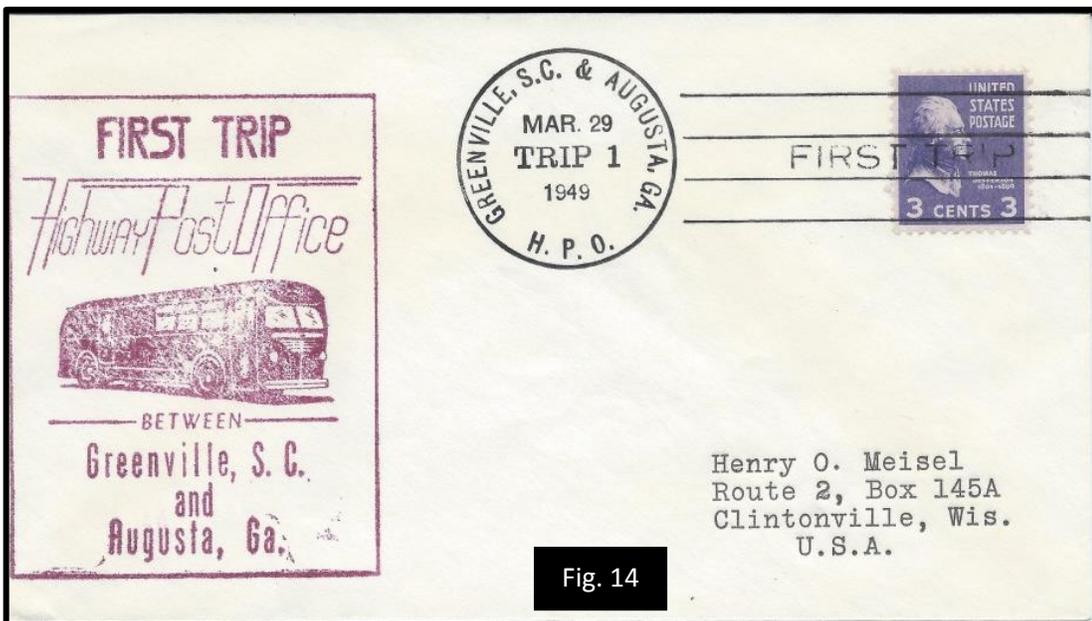
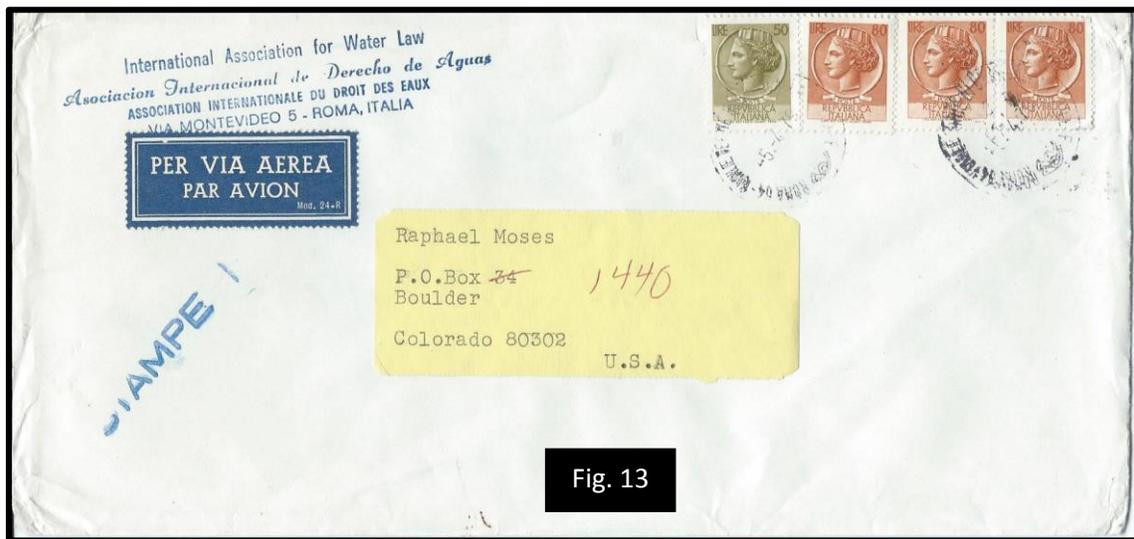
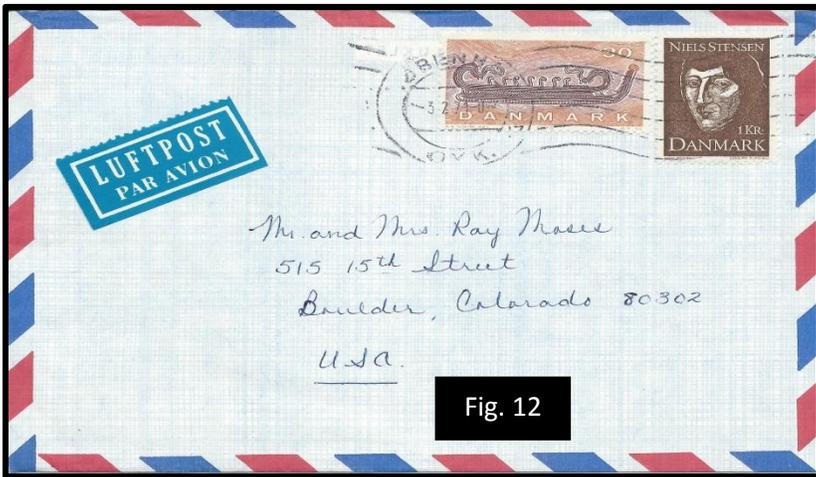


Fig. 11

Various other auxiliary markings include Luftpost Par Avion (Fig. 12); and Per Via Aerea Par Avion (Fig13).



Various cancellations create a variety of covers, such as HPO (Highway Post Office) (Fig 14), and RPO (Railway Post Office)

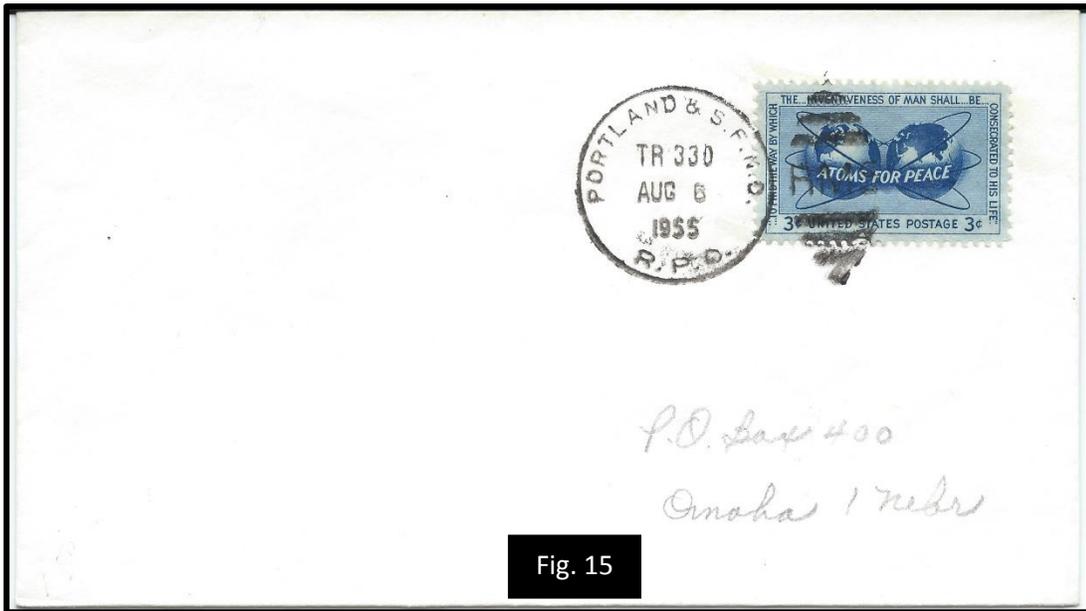


Fig. 15

. Some unusual cancellations are called “fancy cancels” which often, to be seen in whole, must be on a cover because the cancellation is larger than the stamp itself. Slogans, as part of the cancellation, appear on covers, such as “Use Zip Code.” Those slogans can be quite an interesting part of the history of the country. Fig. 16 features the slogan “Air Mail Saves Time” featuring a biplane promoted a then-new service being offered by the Post Office.



Fig. 16

Stamps also are found on packaging, and “wrappers.” When a piece of the packaging or wrapper containing a stamp is cut away from the rest, the stamp is said to be “on piece.” (Fig. 17.) There is no standard for how large or small the surrounding piece of packaging must be, but most collectors want the piece to be cut so that it is clearly away from the edges of the stamps, and that no perforations have been “clipped.”



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

To make matters more complex, the Postal Service has prepared and sells envelopes with postage

pre-printed onto the envelope, or embossed into the envelope. (Fig. 18).

The USPS also sells Aerograms with pre-printed indicia. (Fig. 19 and Fig. 20.)

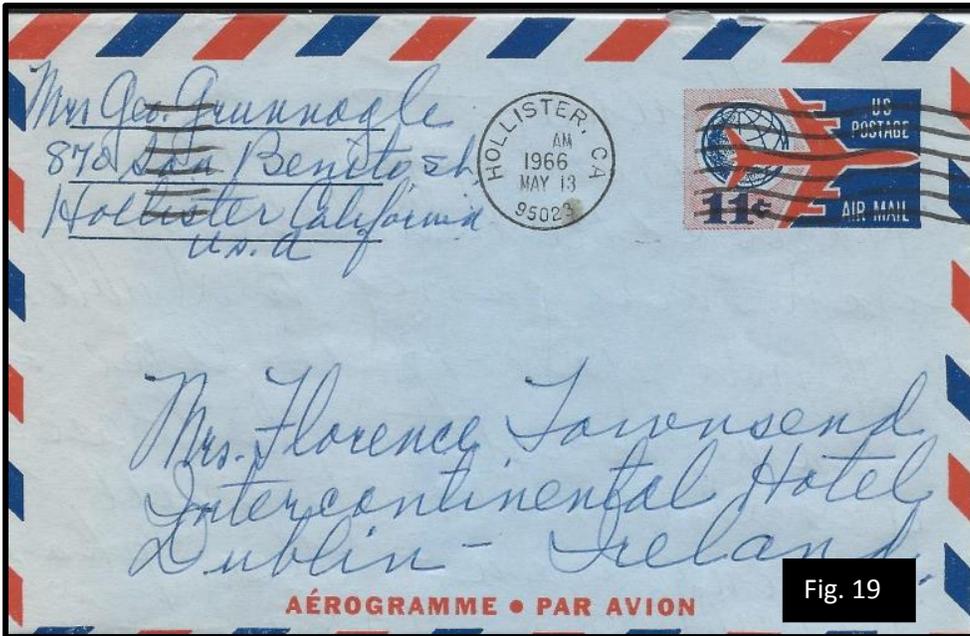


Fig. 19

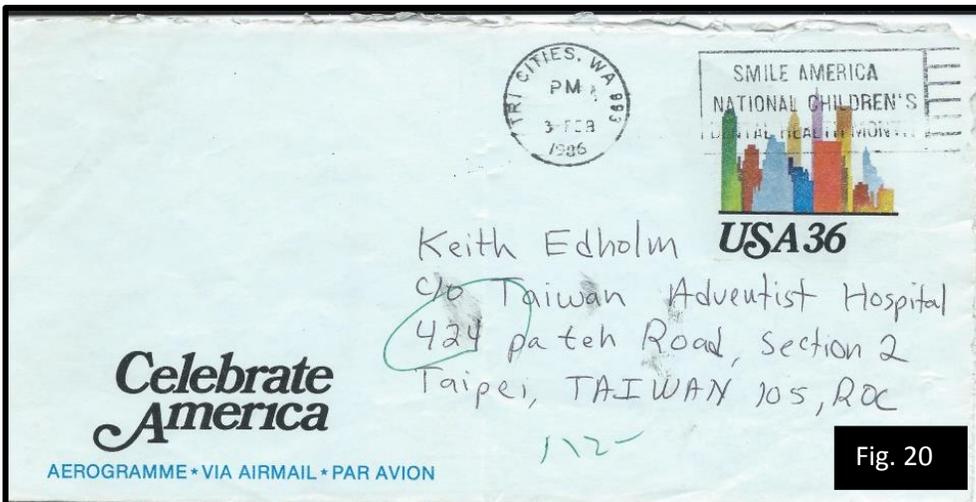
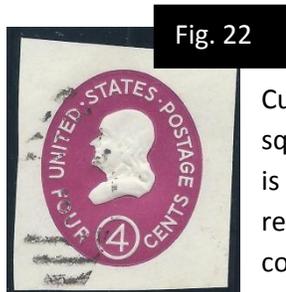


Fig. 20

The reverse side of the above aerogram is very colorful and interesting (Fig 21.)



When the entire envelope is saved, collectors of those covers call them “entires.” When just the corner of the envelope that contains the franking is cut away, usually to make collecting easier and less bulky, the collectible piece is called a “cut square.” (Fig. 22)



Cut squares are very collectible. They usually are rectangular, and sometimes may appear as a square in shape. Sometimes the indicium has been trimmed so closely that the surrounding paper is totally missing, and what is left is an oval or a circle. Most collectors prefer a square or rectangular cut. Collecting cut squares, by the way, is an idiosyncrasy of the United States stamp collectors. The rest of the world basically does not collect cut squares, but only entires.

The law specifically permits certain individuals to mail for free, with just the signature of the sender all that is required where the stamp normally appears. Fig 23 is a cover from U.S. Senator (USS) S.I. Hayakawa,.

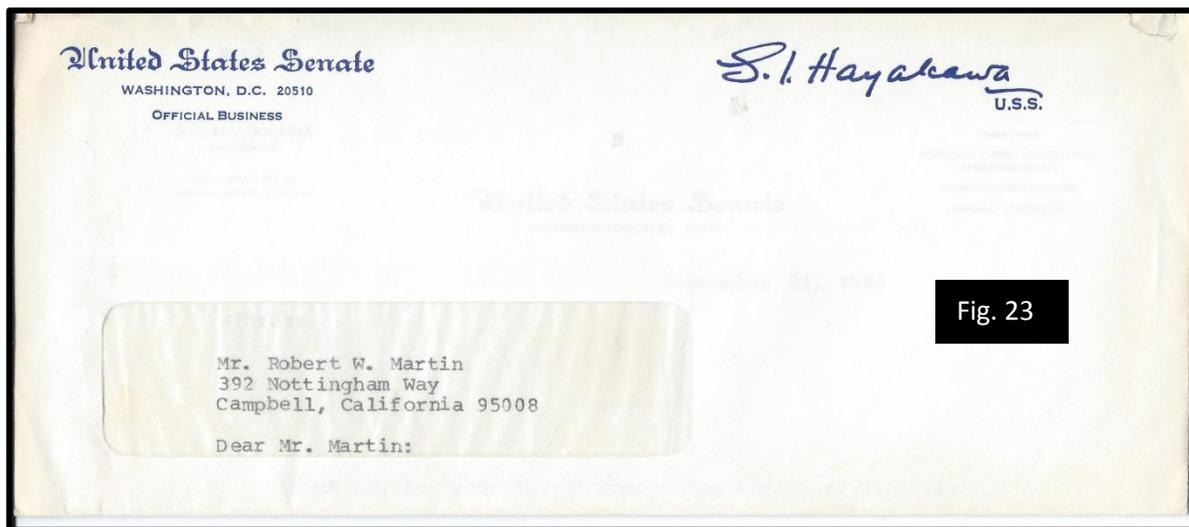


Fig. 24 is a cover from a Member of Congress (M.C.) Tom Tancredo.

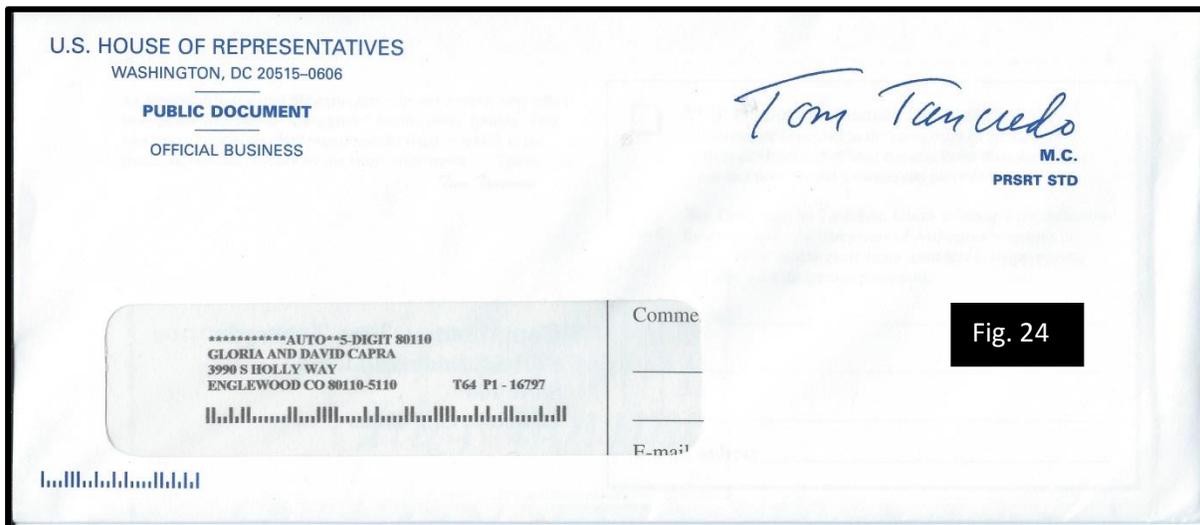


Fig. 24

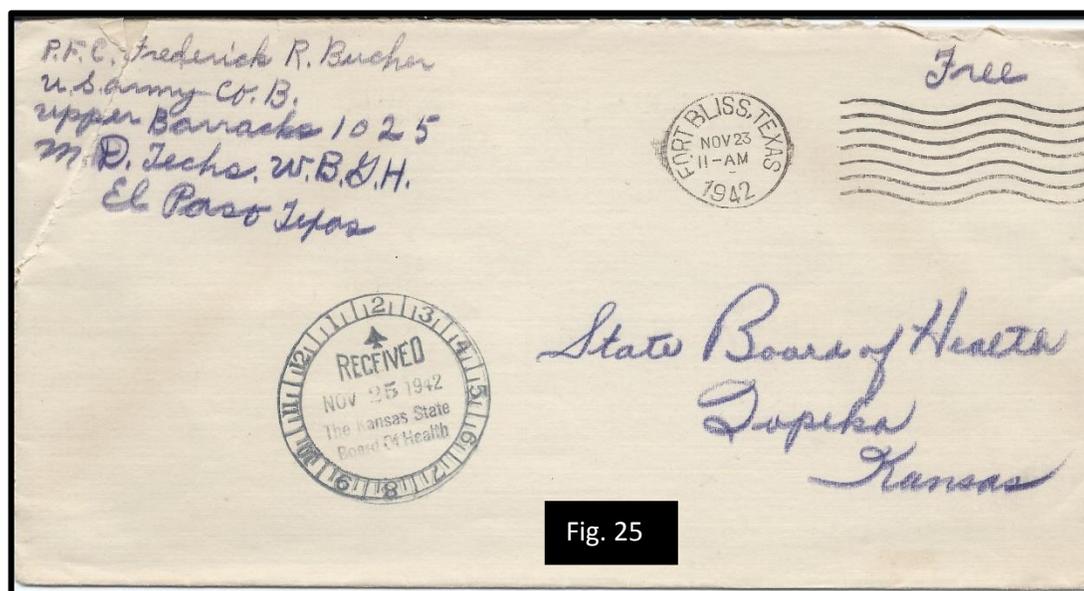


Fig. 25

Fig. 25 is a cover from P.F.C. Frederick R. Bucher marked "Free." It was mailed from The Army Base Fort Bliss, Texas on November 23, 1942, just 11 ½ months after the United States had entered World War II. Covers like this are highly collectible.

Sometimes when the recipient opens the envelope, a piece is torn off to facilitate removal of the contents. When the piece is relatively small, the cover is said to have been "cut down."

In times past many collectors of covers kept only the front of the envelope. Those "partial covers" can still be quite collectible. Sometimes the whole envelope is present, but the flap has been removed. Those "flapless covers" also can be quite collectible.

Covers can be interesting for many reasons. Collectible covers often are treasured when sent by a famous person, sent to a famous person, or have travelled in an interesting way, such as by Zeppelin or aboard a specific boat. Fig. 26 is signed by Postmaster General James A. Farley. The signature is written just beneath embossed words which read "The Postmaster General."

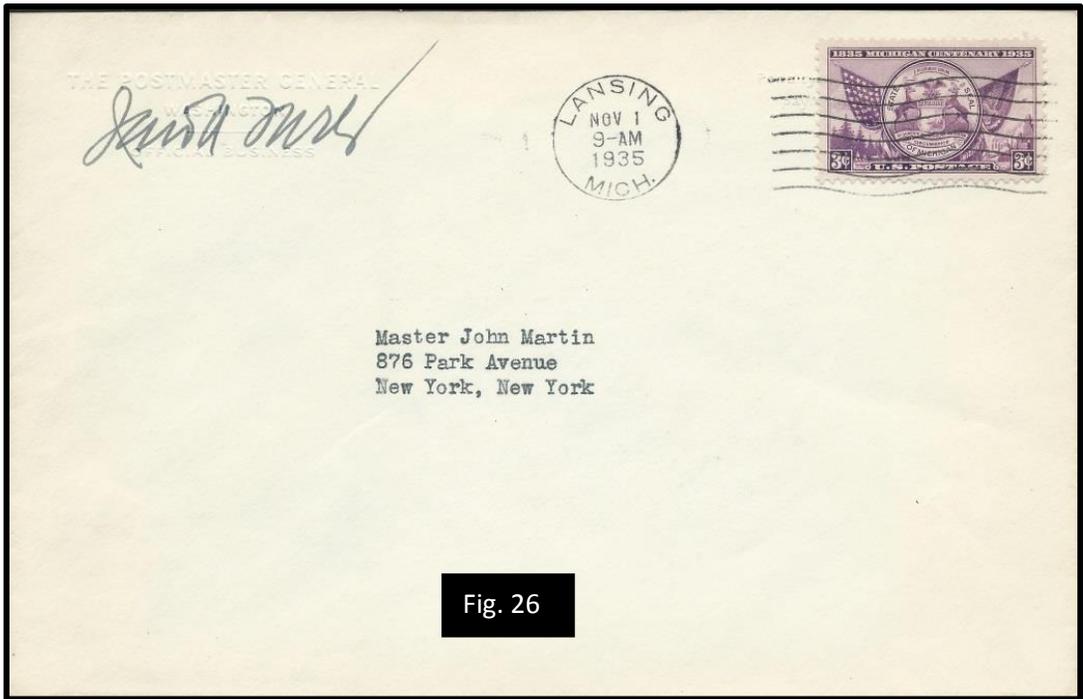


Fig. 26

In recent years the USPS has offered for an additional charge special color First Day Cover cancelations. Figure 27

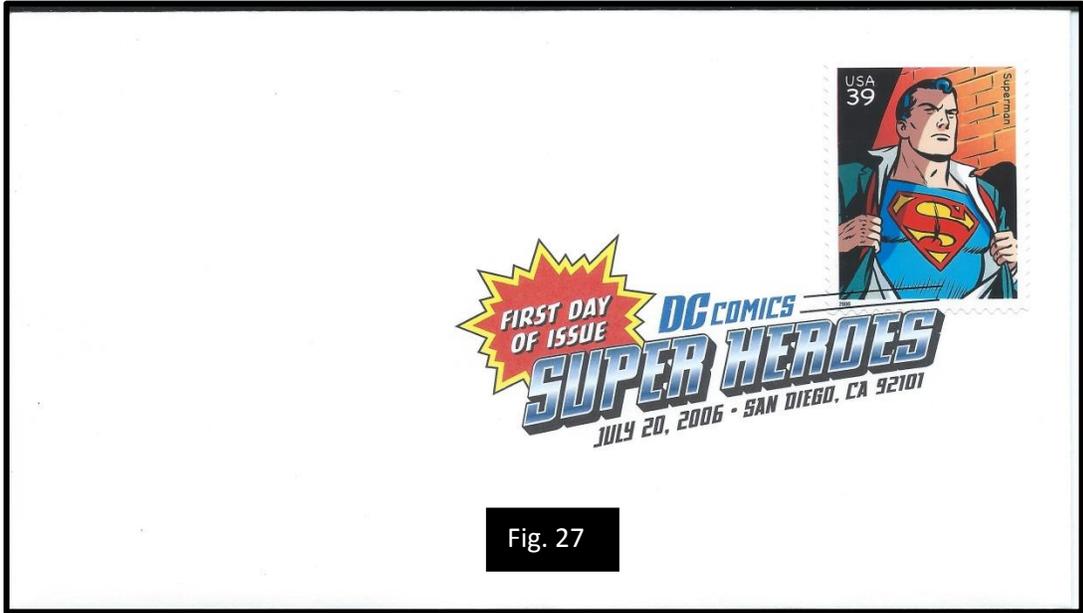


Fig. 27

Covers with the exact proper minimum amount of postage are a challenge to figure out, especially when the amount is unusual because of the weight of the letter, the destination of the letter, or special additional services paid for such as air mail, certified mail, registered mail, or express mail.

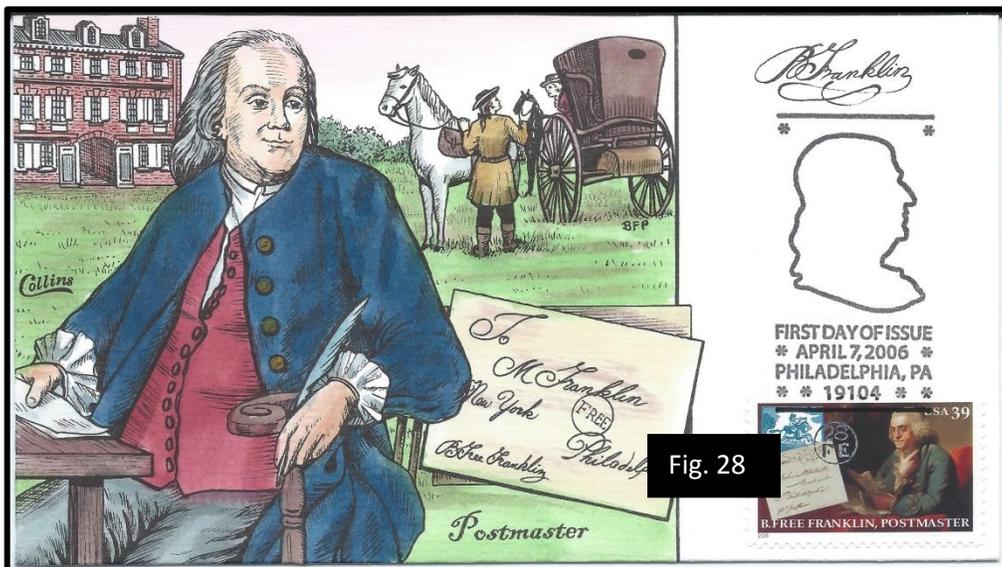


Fig. 28

Covers can be decorated before or after mailing by artwork. The artwork on a cover is called a “cachet.” Hence the philatelic term “Cacheted covers.” Fig. 28 has a hand painted cachet by noted artist Fred Collins on a First Day of Issue cover. Cacheted covers can be highly desired and very collectible.

Covers containing a pre-printed return address in the upper left corner are called “corner cards.” Collectors of Perfins prize those covers because they identify the perfin to the company that designed and used that specific

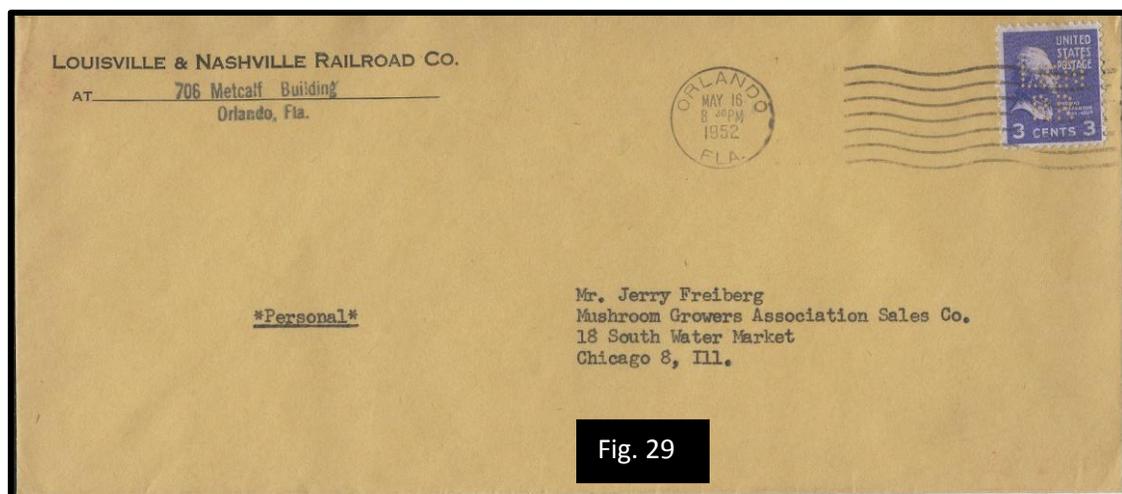


Fig. 29

perfin. Fig. 29 is a cover franked with the 3 cent Prexie. Careful examination reveals a perfin that reads on the first line “L & N” and on the second line “RR.” The fact that this perfin appears on an envelope ( a “corner card”) with the return address of “Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co.” is proof positive of the company to which the perfin belongs.

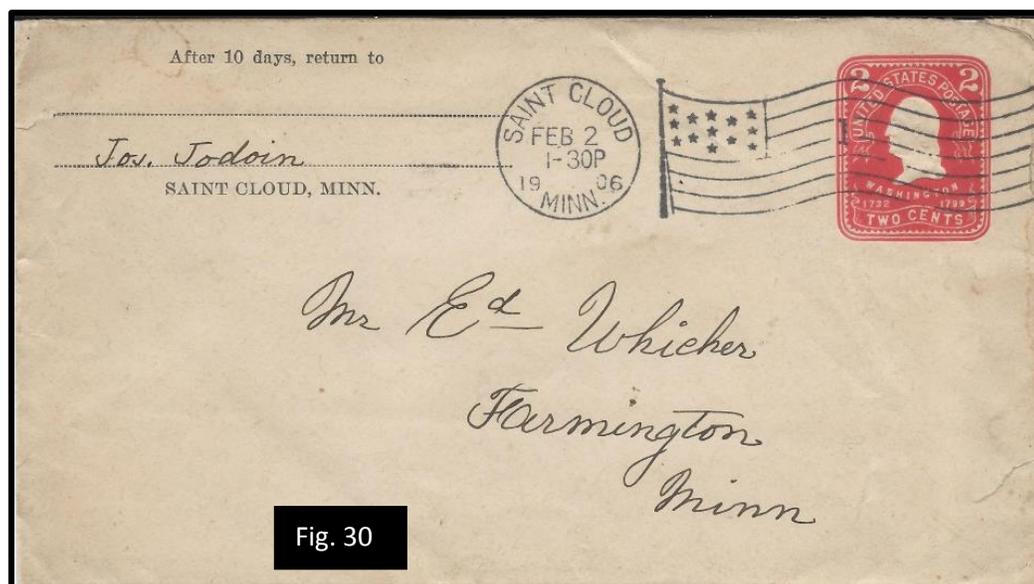


Fig. 30

Special cancelations make covers even more interesting. Some collectors specialize in a specific cancel, such as a “flag” cancel. Fig. 30 is a 1906 cover with a U.S. flag cancel.

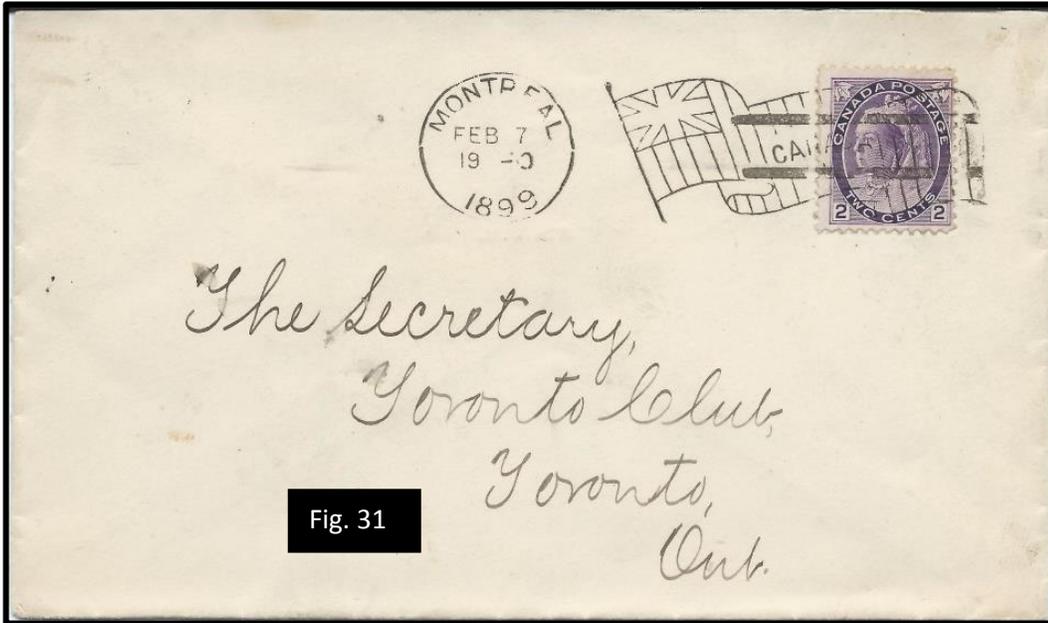


Fig. 31

Fig. 31 is an 1899 cover from Canada with a flag cancel. The old flag style (with the Union Jack), the Canadian flag has been replaced by the current version featuring a maple leaf.

Covers can have machine printed indicia. Fig. 32 is franked by a Neopost private postage meter.

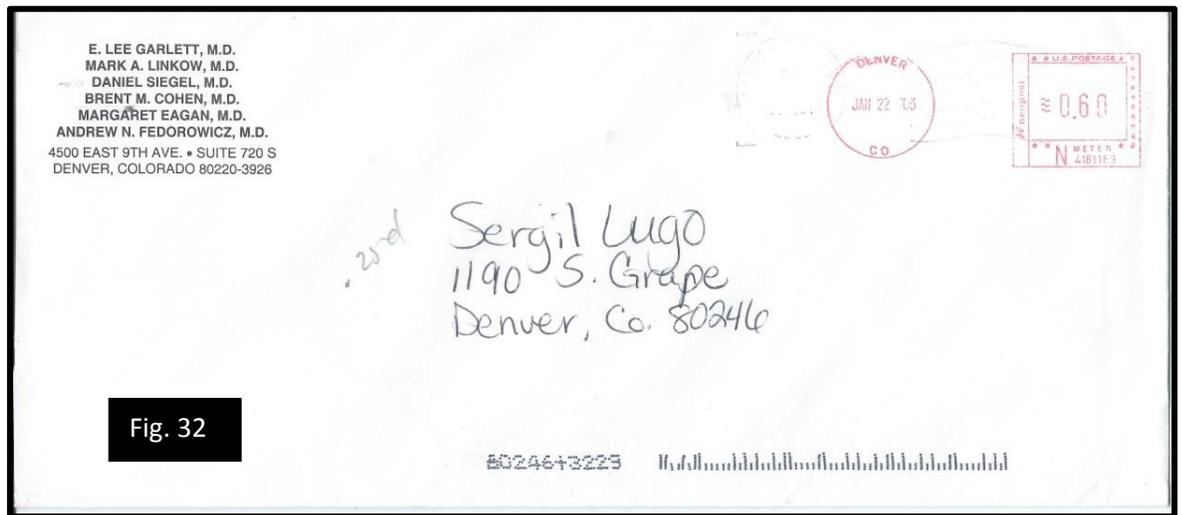


Fig. 32

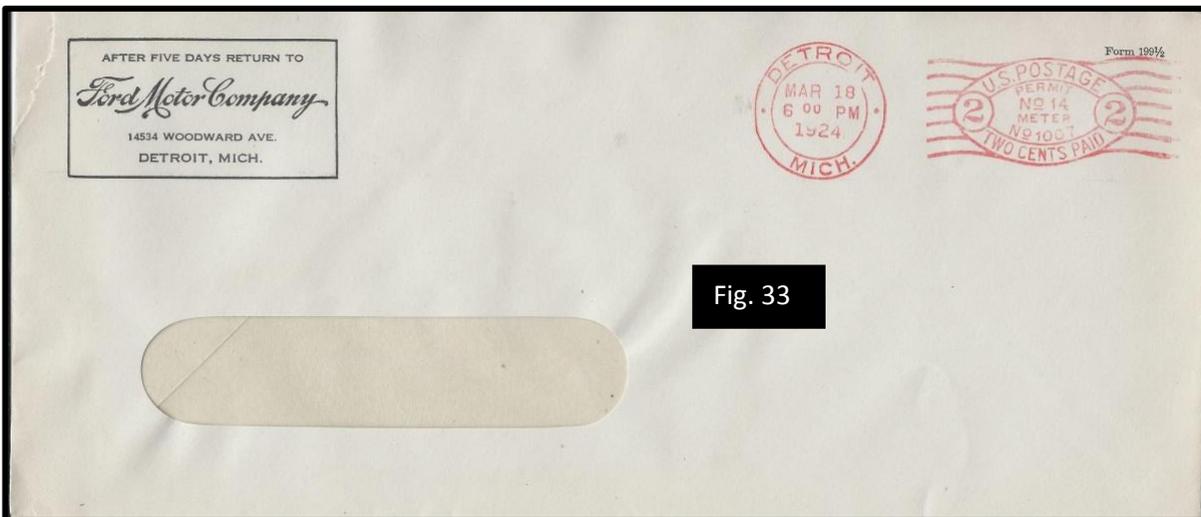


Fig. 33

Machine printed postage made by postage meters, Fig. 33, 34, & 35 can be collected by style or different meter manufacturing companies.

Addressees and Return addresses for specific companies or industries are fun to collect.

Remember the Packard Motor Company?

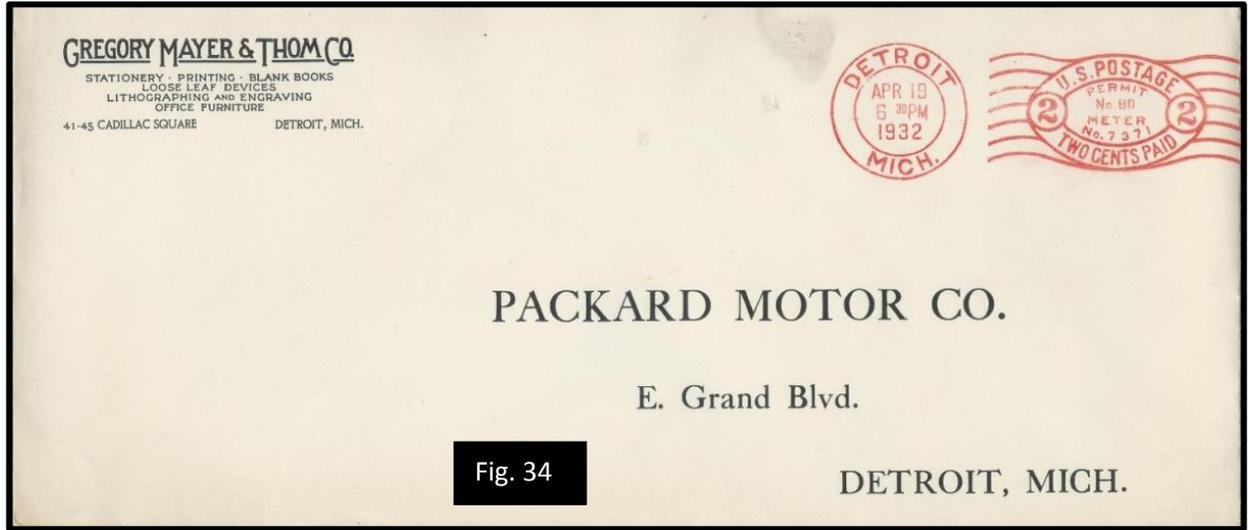


Fig. 34

Remember the Hudson Motor Car Company?

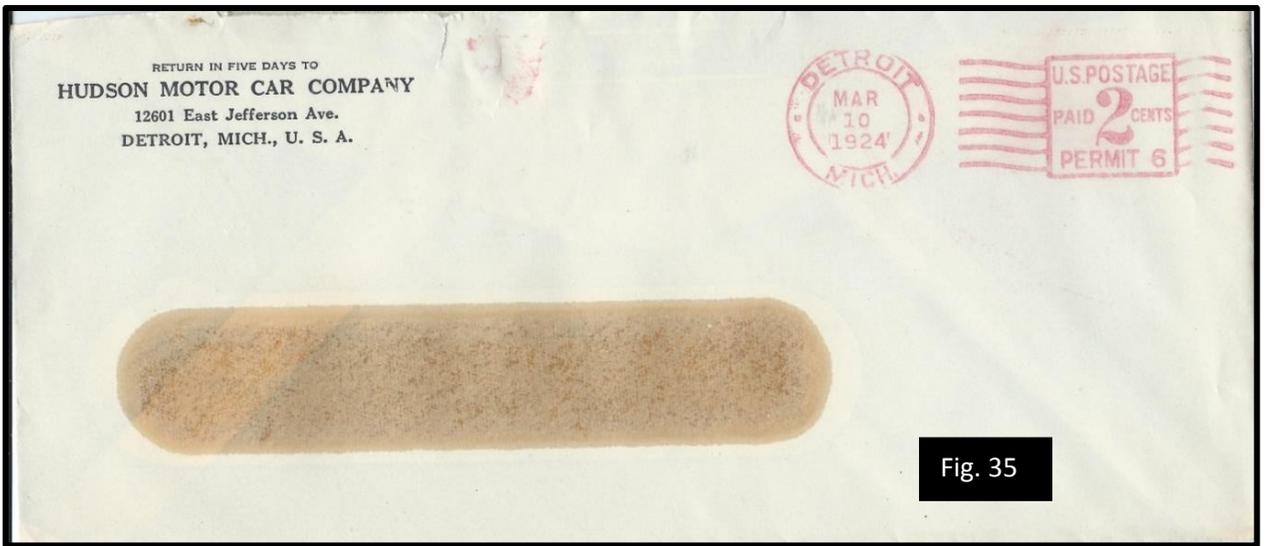


Fig. 35



Fig. 36

International philatelic exhibitions in the United States have had special stamps, souvenir sheets, and covers since 1926

Fig. 36 is a cover from the third international philatelic exhibition in the United State, held in 1936.

The above cover is a Registered Mail letter mailed in 1936 from the United States to Danzig, and as such is not supposed to show the date of mailing, but it does. The reverse side of this cover, Fig. 37 shown below, shows the receiving cancelation at The Free City of Danzig, which at the time was an independent City-State created by the Treaty of Versailles after WWI. It is now part of Poland, and is known as Gdansk, Poland. This is an example of all kinds of interesting bits of information found on covers, even the reverse sides !



Fig. 37

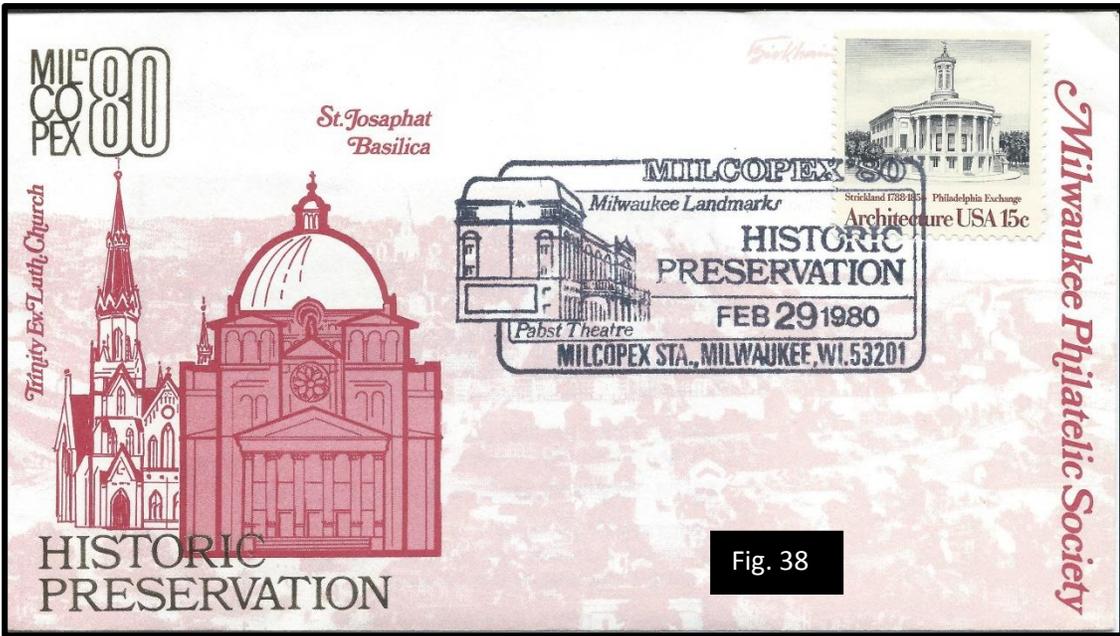


Fig. 38

Regional and National philatelic exhibitions in the United States frequently have had specially prepared cancellations and cachets (Fig. 38 - regional) (Fig. 39 - national).

