



VOL. 39, NO. 4

SEPT.-OCT. 1989

WHOLE NO. 318

WELCOME
TO FLOREX '89
SPECIAL SHOW PROGRAM ISSUE



**THE
FLORIDA
FEDERATION
OF
STAMP
CLUBS
TURNS
40!**

THE FLORIDA PHILATELIST

Published five times a year as the official organ
of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's edition of FLOREX, the general meeting of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs.



This year's edition is bigger than ever with over 250 frames of exhibits. We have expanded the floor space. We have some of the top judges in the U.S. in a unique judging experiment.

We have come a long way from that first organizational meeting at the Dennis Hotel in St. Petersburg on December 18, 1949. Four clubs participated in the founding, but seven clubs with a total of 312 members were on the Charter Membership roll on April 15, 1950.

The fourth convention in 1953 was the first to be called FLOREX. A spring meeting was begun in 1954 and became known as STAMPOREE in 1956. The FFSC MONTHLY BULLETIN began in 1951 and became THE FLORIDA PHILATELIST in 1958. Today, we have over 50 clubs and about 2,000 members.

To those of you who are reading this journal for the first time, we invite you to join one of the clubs listed on the back cover. At most clubs, you will find friendly people who are willing to share their philatelic knowledge. I believe that your enjoyment of the hobby will be enhanced by participating in a local club.

The general business meeting of the Federation will take place on Saturday, November 4 at 11:00 a.m. We will be electing officers for the next two years and hearing business reports that will be reported in the next issue. Until then, best wishes to the 40th birthday of our Federation and happy stamping!

CJ

DINOSAURS DEBUT AT DISNEY

by Stephen Patrick

Stamp Collecting Month started in a big way for the 500 guests who attended the first-day ceremony for the dinosaur stamps at Epcot Center on October 1.

Previously, it was reported that one had to pay the regular admission fee to get in to the ceremony, but this turned out to be untrue. The Disney people set up a table outside the entrance gates at 9:00 a.m. and dispensed free one day tickets to any ceremony attendee on a first come, first served basis. About 250 seats had been reserved for dignitaries and guests of the Post Office.

So why didn't Disney advertise that the tickets were free? They could have converted thousands to stamp collecting on the spot from tourists who would have welcomed free admission. I'm sure they would have had a turn-away crowd of Central Florida stamp collectors and many disappointed people. As it was, there were a few empty seats.

The ceremony was held just inside the Exxon World of Energy with the smooth style one expects from Disney. Guests were ushered in to the 10:00 program to hear a brass quintet. A 16 piece marching band played the National Anthem with the flurry of a dozen US flags.

The participants on the program were Bob Davis of the Tampa regional office and Rick Hyde, the new Orlando Postmaster. Bob Mathis, Executive Director of Disney parks, gave a welcome. Then Postmaster General Anthony Frank made appropriate remarks, and introduced John Gurche, the stamp artist. After unveiling the stamps, he invited guests to take the ride through the World of Energy to see the dinosaurs.

Guests received a free souvenir program upon leaving the attraction. They then went next door to the yet unopened Wonders of Life pavillion for a buffet lunch and conversation. There was not a traditional autograph ceremony, but I was able to get signatures from everyone except for Frank and Mathis.

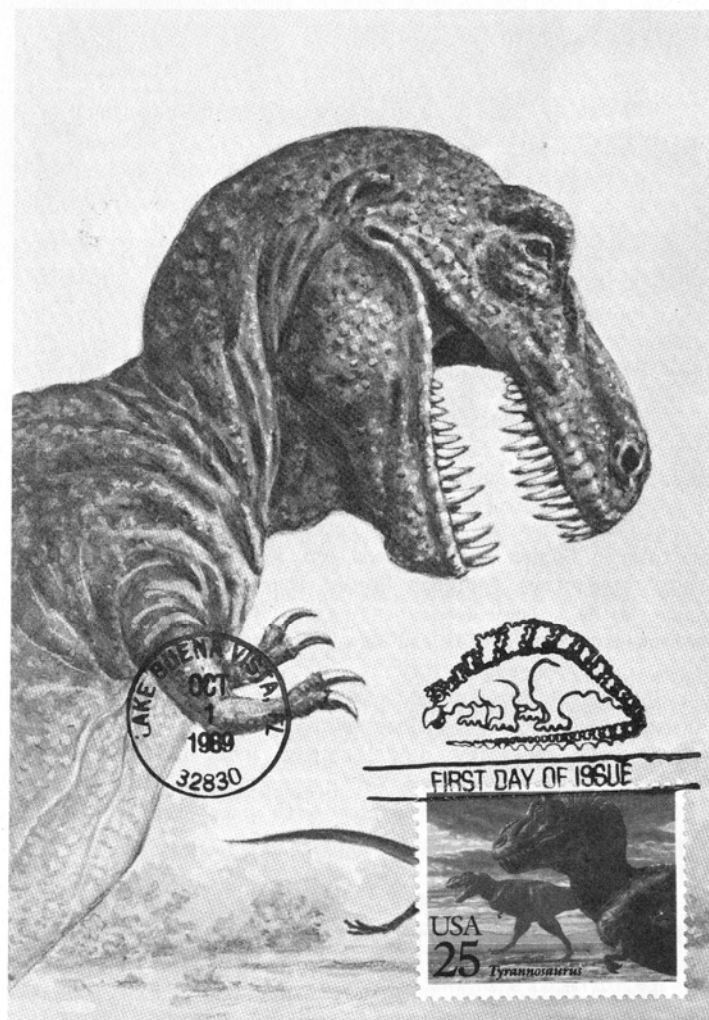


Other guests at the ceremony included Assistant Postmaster Gordon Morrison and APS Director Keith Wagner. Local collectors included Werner Bohne, Phil Fettig, Dr. Doug Quine, Bob Ward, and Lou Etherton. First day enthusiasts Saul Freiss and Norman Solomon came from Miami.

The Postal Service had a special station set up in the information center under Spaceship Earth. They were selling stamps and servicing cancellations from nine to four. Besides stamps, they were selling first day programs for \$5.95, a \$3.00 souvenir folder with cancellation, and a special poster with cancellation for \$25.

The ceremonial program itself is a three dimensional pop-up art showing all four dinosaurs. This issue represents a major push by the Postal Service to interest new and novice collectors in the hobby.

Already Linn's has received several irate letters from those upset that the ceremony took place where you had to pay to get in. But this time, Disney was not the big bad wolf. They were gracious hosts trying in every way to impress the Postal Service and collectors that they were important guests. It's just too bad that more collectors couldn't have known of the generosity and taken advantage of a most pleasant occasion.



Mr. Saul Friess of Miami is a topical collector of reptiles, amphibians, and prehistoric animals on stamps, covers, and postmarks. Here is an example of one of his first day souvenirs that he created for the dinosaurs. He is a professional photographer and can be contacted at Paramount Photographers, 6020 S. Dixie Hwy., South Miami, FL 33143.

WELCOME TO FLOREX '89

FLOREX '89



**SALUTES
JENNY!**

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Dealers	...A20

NEWS NOTES

ST PETERSBURG STAMP CLUB

The St. Pete Club now numbers 176. They keep a library for their members which includes current Scott catalogues, Ken Wood's encyclopedias on stamp collecting, and Gary Burghoff's Video Guide to Stamp Collecting.

The club advertises their club auction materials in their newsletter so that members may submit bids by mail. The club meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 401 5th St.N., St. Petersburg.

GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY, #23

The club plans to hold their November meeting at FLOREX. Jim Pullin is to arrange for a meeting place. Those who live in Central Florida and collect Germany will want to try a make that meeting to learn more of the Society. The club meets on the second Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3020 South Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL.

NEW CUBA HANDBOOK RELEASED

William McP. Jones, Florida Federation Treasurer, is also an expert on Cuba and an author. The "Handbook of Cuba, Part III: The Republic" which he wrote in collaboration with R.J. Roy is now available. It can be ordered from R.J. Roy, Box 5367, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 for \$25, \$30 with binder.

This section covers the years 1902-1961 with stamps, postal forgeries, post office seals, government-issued souvenirs, and telegraph stamps. It lists varieties, errors, and quantities issued where known. Watermarks are covered in detail for the first time. Parts I, II, and III are available for \$40 less binders.

WORLD STAMP EXPO

The World Stamp Expo will take place November 17 to December 3 in Washington DC. This will be the biggest stamp show in the US since Ameripex in 1986. There will be fantastic exhibits, new issues and first day ceremonies, numerous foreign post offices, and many top dealers. Many Floridians are planning on going. The next issue will report on the EXPO. Please send your news items to the editor.

NEWS NOTES

WEST VOLUSIA STAMP CLUB

Manny Delgado reports from Deland that the West Volusia Club is very active. They meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church on 509 E. Pennsylvania Ave. in Deland.

The November schedule includes programs on the British Post Office, Women on Stamps, and Skyhooking the Mail, plus a Club Auction.

The club sponsors three Ben Franklin Clubs in the area and plans a club show on Feb. 17.

HOLLYWOOD PHILATELIST

Club member Frank Walend celebrated his 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sept. 30. His son created a cinderella label for the occasion with a wedding photo set in a magenta frame.

The Sunrise Stamp Club held SUNEX '89 on Sunday, October 22, 1989.

The winner at the APS Champion of Champions was Dr. Roger G. Schnell of Ft. Lauderdale. The exhibition was the "Classic and Bicolored Stamps of the Danish West Indies".

Closed Albums: Larry Levitt passed away on August 8. Fred Schmidt died September 15 at the age of 91.

The Hollywood Club will be nominating new officers in November. The 21st will see a Philatelic Quiz, and on the 28th, there will be a Dollar Auction.

CLEARWATER STAMP CLUB

The newsletter of the Clearwater Club is called The Water Mark. Each issue features a watermark from a country of the world. It also has a feature on stamp terminology.

Item: You know you are getting old when you are 17 around the collar, 42 around the waist, and 96 around the golf course.

BETTER GRADE LATIN AMERICAN MATERIAL
exchanged in net-priced mounted circuits. No cash involved as idle assets improve your L A country collections. SASE to LAPS, Box 901, 5200 Brittany Dr. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33715

COVER OF THE MONTH



Gary Hauslin of New England Stamp in Naples sent along this copy of an interesting Florida cover. It is not completely clear as to what all the marks are, and maybe some of our readers would like to suggest answers to this philatelic question.

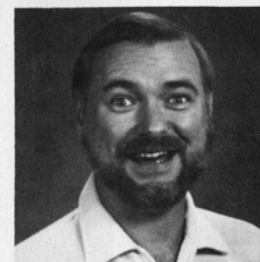
It seems that the cover was posted in Philadelphia on February 11 to a Thomas R Ingram(?) Esq. in St. Augustine, FLa. The stamp is perforated so it is a #25 or #26 produced after 1857.

The addressee was not in St. Augustine so it was forwarded on Feb. 19 to Palatka. Notice that the older spelling of Palatka is used. Palatka is a river town located on the St. Johns about 12 miles SW of St. Augustine. Below Palatka is a manuscript which appears to be a misspelled Mellonville. This town was located just east of present day Sanford on the shores of Lake Monroe. This appears to be the final destination as it was about the last stop on most St. John's riverboats.

In the upper left, it appears that when the letter was forwarded, there was an additional three (Ford 3) cent charge. Under the top "For 3" is written what could be Mellonvil? partially written on the face of the stamp.

If only this cover could talk, what a tale it might tell. It still is able to tell us a lot.

FROM THE EDITOR



In combining this issue of the Philatelist with the show program from FLOREX '89, we are trying to reach two groups of people.

Those of you who cannot travel to FLOREX can get a flavor of the many activities that go into the yearly show. Those of you who walk in the show from off the street can learn more about the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs and perhaps join one of our member clubs. We hope you enjoy our experiment.

CONTEST CARD

No new contest this issue. The last issue was late, and this one is going to press early. Thanks to Charlie Seaman of Safety Harbor for his guess of a bridge in the Tampa Bay area, but it's somewhere else. Keep trying.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This journal is distributed at meetings of member clubs. If you cannot attend a member club and would like to subscribe to the Philatelist, you may send \$10.00 to the editor for a one year subscription. The address can be found on the inside front cover.

STaMpsSHOW

In the last issue, I suggested that it would wonderful to have the American Philatelic Society to stage their annual STaMpsSHOW here in Central Florida, perhaps in connection with Disney World. In talking with Keith Wagner, APS Director, at the dinosaur first day ceremony, he informed me that he needs a minimum 5000 guaranteed attendance before he can bring a the show to town. Since FLOREX only draws about 1200, it will probably be a while before we ever get a national level show. I suppose we must be content that the grand prize winner at Anaheim gained entry through SARAPEX here in Florida. ASP

WELCOME TO FLOREX '89

Meet Phil Fettig, Chairman

This is the fourth year that Phil Fettig has served as General Chairman of FLOREX. Born in North Central Indiana, he has served in the US Navy for 24 years attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He serves as a recruiter in Orlando.

Phil is a lifetime collector and a part-time dealer and can be found at his booth at table 36, Dolphin Stamps. One of his specialties is his collection of naval covers.

He started at FLOREX seven years ago in St. Petersburg in setting up frames and doing odd jobs. When the show moved to Orlando in 1986, he took over as chairman and began forming his team, several who have been with him for four years.

Phil is most gratified to see the growth in the number of frames in the exhibit, the increased floor space for the exhibits, and a growing youth program which will bring a national level exhibit next year.

He and the committee are delighted to welcome you to the show. We are open to suggestions and comments to improve the show. We hope you enjoy yourself and the hobby we share.

+++++

FLOREX '89 COMMITTEE

Phil Stager..... Assistant General Chairman
Nancy "Tex" Shaffer..... Awards
Jane Morrison..... Banquet
Barry Savedow..... Bourse
Mel Kessler..... Exhibition
William McP. Jones..... Finance
Cal Fiala..... Frames
Clyde Jennings..... Judges
Paul Percha..... Public Relations
Earl Reeder..... Security
Lewis Etherton..... Youth Program
Stephen Patrick.... Editor: Program, Cachet, Souvenir Card

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989

8:00 a.m. JUDGES BREAKFAST
10:00 a.m. GRAND OPENING - Hall 700
TBA DRAWINGS - Door Prizes
TBA LINN'S STAMP NEWS - Slide Program
3:00 p.m. AUCTION - David Phillips
6:00 p.m. SHOW CLOSES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1989

9:00 a.m. BOARD MEETING - Federation Officers
10:00 a.m. SHOW OPENS
11:00 a.m. GENERAL MEETING - Federation Delegates
TBA Confederate Stamp Alliance - Conrad Bush
TBA Americcan Air Mail Soc. - Fall Meeting
TBA Germany Philatelic Soc.
2:00 p.m. JUDGES CRITIQUE
6:00 p.m. SHOW CLOSES
7:00 p.m. AWARDS BANQUET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1989

8:30 a.m. A.A.M.S. BREAKFAST & TRADING SESSION
F.S.D.A. BREAKFAST
10:00 a.m. SHOW OPENS
3:00 p.m. EXHIBITS CLOSE
4:00 p.m. SHOW CLOSES

FLOREX '89 JUDGES

THE EXPERIMENT- Clyde Jennings, a distinguished judge and Federation President, conceived of a unique experiment in philatelic judging. Last year he invited a panel of very experienced judges to give "The Old Guard" opinions. At the same time he invited a group of "Young Turks" for 1989 to compare how they would judge many of the same exhibits. For that reason, many of the exhibitors from 1988 were invited to return for 1989. We hope the results will help predict what the future will be like in judging.

THE 1989 PANAL

Mrs. Patricia Walker returns to FLOREX as Chief of Judges. Previously she served her first apprenticeship and judgeship here. She is past president of the Ireland Philatelic Society and has won Grand Prizes with her Ireland exhibit.

Richard Drews comes from the Chicago Collectors Club where he serves as the General Chairman of CHICAGO '92. He is an expert in US Classics.

Doug Kelsey is an Executive Director of the Western Postal History Museum in Tuscon, AZ. He is from Cleveland and helps direct The March Party of the Garfield Perry Stamp Club.

Dr. Peter McCann has been a chief judge. He is a specialist in the issues of the Caribbean.

Dr. Robert Rosende is the Chairman of The Philatelic Foundation. He is an expert in the issues of Cuba.

The 1988 judges were Bill Bauer, Werner Bohne, Ernest Cohn, George Guzzio, and Phil Ireland. They have been invited to return just as the other panel was here last year to give unofficial opinions.

FLOREX '89 EXHIBIT AWARDS

Florex '89 Awards

Grand Award, Reserve Grand, Gold, Vermeil,
Silver, Silver/Bronze, Bronze

Florex '89 Youth Awards

Grand Award, Reserve Grand

American Philatelic Society

Pre-1900, 1900-1940, Post 1940, Research Award

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors

American Topical Association

Bureau Issues Association

American Air Mail Society

Cuba Philatelic Society

India Study Circle

Puerto Rico Philatelic Society

U.S. Cancellation Club

U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Collectors Club of Chicago

Hollywood Stamp Club

for Best Postal History

Florida Stamp Dealers Association

for Best Exhibit by member of Florida Federation

Orlando Postmasters Award

John J. Britt Award

Ingeborg Herst Award

for Best Exhibit by a Woman

Henry M. Gobie Award

for Best U.S. Possessions Exhibit

Maurice Apfelbaum Award

for Best First Time Exhibitor

Most Popular by U.B. Thejudge

FLOREX '89 PHILATELIC EXHIBITS

Frame #	Title	Exhibitor
1-5	Florida Stampless Covers	Niles F. Schuh
6-11	Philatelic Opera	Mrs. G.H. Davis
12-18	Cuba--Postal Stationery, 1878-1899	Octavio Cabrera
19-26	External Mail Routes of China, 1840's-1940's	Kam-Yuen Choy
27-32	Frogs and Toad Trivia	Joan Bleakley
33-36	U.S. V-Mail of World War II	John R. Weimer
37-44	The Mulready	Louis Grunin
45-54	The Polynesian Dependencies of New Zealand	J. Edgar Williams
55-60	Belgium King Leopold I (1849-1866)	Ralph A. Yurio
61-65	Rocket Mail Labels of the World	Gerhardt Kaufmann
66-72	U.S. 2 cent Shield, 1903-1909	Jack Breznen
73-80	Hungary 1945-46	Robert Querbach
81-90	Rate Study: 1911-1939, US & Possessions Air Mail	James K. Adams
91-100	Cuba: The Stamps of King Alfonso XII	Ernesto Cuesta
101-108	Internal and Foreign Surface Rates of Mandate Palestine, 1918-1948	Arthur Groten
109-116	Interrupted Air Mail Flights	Philip R. McCarty
117-123	Cuba: The King Alfonso XIII Issues (1890-1889)	Peter Robertson
124-126	Critters on Covers	Charles Hanselmann
127-136	Stamp Separation from 1840 to Modern Times	John Hotchner
137-144	First Flights of China, 1920-1937	Norman Townsend

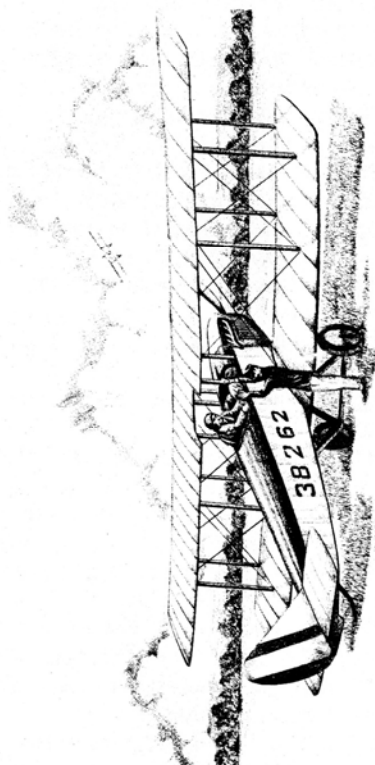
145-147	Who's Who of Errors	Vernon Moore
148-154	United States Air Mail- The Early Years	Allan D. Jones
155-161	Joseph Stalin: From Peasant to World Leader	Alberta Curtis
162	The Pakua Cancells of Imperial China	Jay Shoemaker
163-172	Postal History, Danish West Indies	Roger G. Schnell
173-176	Bats	Thomas Lera
177-182	Antigua, 1862-1932	Mark Swetland
183-189	The Bicycle Era Speedies	Henry M. Gobie
190-194	Japanese Paintings	Denise Stotts
195-201	Pan Am First on the Atlantic	Robert Miller
202-211	Cuba: Postal History before the U.P.U.	Yamil H. Kouri
212-221	Cayman Islands 1889-1936	Edgar Marston III
222-231	Richmond, Virginia, Stampless Covers, 1789-1854	David B. Robinson
232-240	Mexico: The First Design 1856-1867	Dale R. Pulver
241-250	Air Mail to Austria: 1918-1939	Richard Green
251-262	First Flight Covers via Puerto Rico	Sergio J. Lugo
263-278	Victoria: Queen Victoria "Half Lengths"	Lester R. Wesley
279-286	Twenty-Five Cent First Class Postage Combinations	Trygve E. Aarhus
287-306	The Prexies: A Rate and Usage Study	Roland Rustad
307-322	U.S. Private Separations, 1906-1926	Harry A. Roark
323-336	Ecuador from U.P.U. through the Fire Controls (1880-1902)	Cecilia Livingston

FLOREX '89 Salutes "Jenny" and 70 years of US Air Mail



Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs Orlando, Florida November 3, 4, 5, 1989

The first official air mail flight lifted off May 15, 1918, from New York City bound for Washington, D.C. in a plane affectionately known as "Jenny". A 24¢ stamp was issued that day to pay for a one ounce letter. Today, the US Postal Service provides basically the same service for only a penny more. FLOREX welcomes The American Air Mail Society and is pleased to salute the beginning of US airmail.



Prepared by Terry Dietrich, Artist; Applelink Inc., Printers; and Stephen Patrick, Designer; of Apopka, FL

FLOREX '89 SOUVENIRS

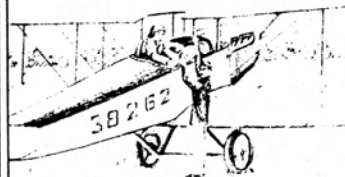
Pictured below is the souvenir envelope for this year. The cachet salutes the first airplane that carried the mail for the US government affectionately known as "Jenny".

The artwork was done by Mr. Terry Dietrich for the fourth year in a row. His pencil sketches evoke a sense of simple elegance. The souvenir card on page A8 shows the complete sketch. He also did the cancellation art.

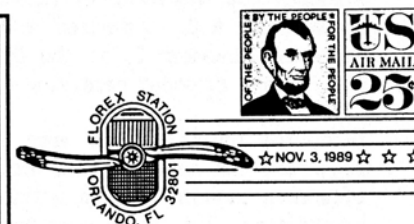
The envelopes are \$1.00 each or 3/\$2.75 plus SASE by mail. The cards are \$2.50 plus .50 for mail orders.

A souvenir pin picturing Jenny and the words FLOREX '89 is available for \$3.50 plus .50 for mail orders. The artwork on the cover of this insert is based on the pin. Order at FLOREX SOUVENIRS, PO Box 560837, Orlando, FL 32856.

FLOREX '89 and the A.A.M.S Salute "JENNY"



Orlando, FL • November 3, 4, 5



FLOREX TO HOST YOUTH IN 1990

In order to encourage youth to exhibit their collections, the first American Youth Stamp Exhibit Championship (AYSEC) will take place at FLOREX '90. This contest is being sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and is the idea of Carl Burnett of Melbourne, Florida.

To qualify, an exhibit must be entered into one of the 35 World Series of Philately national shows and receive the youth Grand Award with at least a silver level rating. Qualifying started at the STaMpsHOW in August and will run for one year. Floridians can still enter at SARAPEX and STAMPOREE.

Lewis Etherton, Youth Chairman, has invited every school in a three county area to attend this year's FLOREX and has encouraged the youth to exhibit. For more information write AYSEC, PO Box 1987, Melbourne, FL 32902-1987.

FLOREX POSTAL HISTORY SEMINAR

Although not sponsored by FLOREX, Dr. Ken Schoolmeester of Greensboro, N.C. organized a Postal History Seminar for Thursday, November 2, at the Omni Hotel. About 35 paid the \$30 fee and attended receiving a Seminar Handbook.

Among the topics covered were selecting a topic, research, acquiring the material, and displaying the collection. The afternoon session covered writing for the philatelic press, expertising, and use of computers.

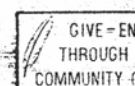
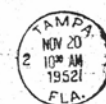
The panel of presenters was to include Lowell Newman of Fox Auctions, Brian Green, Dr. Harvey Tillis, William J. Bomar, Richard Helblock, and Dr. Doug Quine. If seminars like this one prove successful, they would be a great incentive to collectors to get the information they need to become exhibitors or at least more knowledgeable. Schoolmeester has previously organized seminars like this in Arizona.

F.F.S.C. FALL CONVENTIONS

FLOREX '89 marks the 40th fall convention for the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. The first took place Dec. 2, 1950 in Winter Haven and was called the All-State Convention. It has been held in 13 different cities over the years with St. Petersburgs the most at 10.

It has been called FLOREX since 1953. In 1952 it was called EXSTAMP when it was first held at Tampa. You can imagine the trouble that Tampa would have naming its exhibit in normal philatelic language.

The first 20 years saw it sponsored by different local clubs; but since 1970, it is a function of the Federation. However, local participation is important as eight of this year's committee are members of the Central Florida Stamp Club.



Many interesting souvenirs have come from these meetings. Pictured above is the oldest cover owned by the editor. He would be interested in obtaining examples of the first two years, the All-State in Winter Haven 1950, and the MIPEX in Miami in 1951.

Thanks for your participation in FLOREX. Let's keep it going for another 40 years.

AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY

by Stephen Reinhard, President

The American Air Mail Society, organized in 1923, is one of the oldest and largest aerophilatelic societies in the world. Its members collect everything from Balloon Posts of the Siege of Paris to more modern airpost items, such as Jet and Rocket Mail, U.S. First Flights, and Transoceanic and Foreign Flight Covers. The dues are low (\$12 per year) and the privileges and services many.

Being a cooperative group, organized solely to assist airpost collectors, the American Air Mail Society is not operated for profit. All of its officers, managers, and writers serve without compensation. The AIRPOST JOURNAL is the official monthly publication of the Society. It is a generously illustrated magazine that covers the entire field of aerophilately. Feature articles, written by leading students in the field, are presented each month with photos of many of the covers being discussed. Included are the advertisements of many of the leading aerophilatelic dealers of the world.

The Society publishes the now famous American Air Mail Catalogue, now in a fifth edition comprising five volumes. In it can be found the priced listings of many different aerophilatelic specialties. In addition, the Society publishes handbooks on a regular basis, the most recent one being on the topic of Glider Mail.

Other benefits of membership include an advance bulletin service, where members are informed of coming first flights and airport dedications, frequent auctions, where members may dispose of unwanted material or purchase fine additions to their collections, a sales department offering covers and stamps at reasonable prices, free exchange advertisements, a translation service, local chapters, meetings, etc.

For further information about the American Air Mail Society stop by our table on the floor of the show or write to Stephen Reinhard, P.O. Box 1210, Mineola, NY 11501

FLORIDA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL UNITED STATES AIR MAIL

by A. D. Jones

The State of Florida has contributed greatly to the advancement of United States air mail by taking a leading role, especially in international air mail, as the gateway to the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Famed fliers such as Charles Lindbergh and Edwin Musick flew to and from Florida while aircraft such as the Caribbean Clipper and the Graf Zeppelin were also known to the area. Many pilots, aircraft and events gained national and international recognition through their ties with Florida and air mail.

Following are a few of the significant events which took place in the 1920's and 1930's to, from, and through Florida that left an indelible mark on air mail and aviation history.

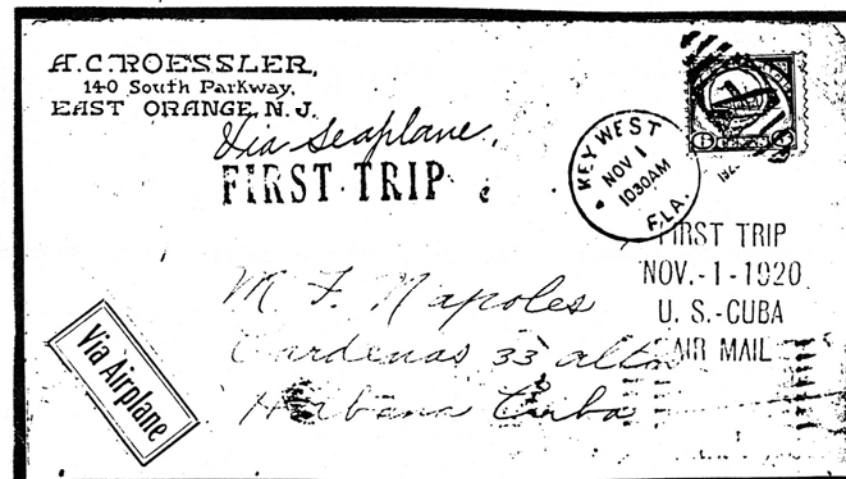


Figure 1

On November 1, 1920, Florida West Indies Airways inaugurated Foreign Air Mail (FAM) route number 4 from Key West, Florida, to Havana, Cuba, using converted ex-Navy F-5L flying boats. The mail was accepted and flown from Key West to Havana on that date (figure 1). The cover shown is one of 50 prepared and flown on the flight. However, there was no return dispatch as the Cuban postal authorities had not awarded the companion air mail contract.

This route was operated until June 1921 when all service was suspended until January 1923 when Aeromarine Airways, Inc. attempted to revive the route, but only operated it for a period of less than three weeks. Service was not resumed again until Pan American Airways was awarded the contract on October 19, 1927 (figure 2). Pan American's United States terminal was moved from Key West, Florida to Miami, Florida, on September 15, 1928.

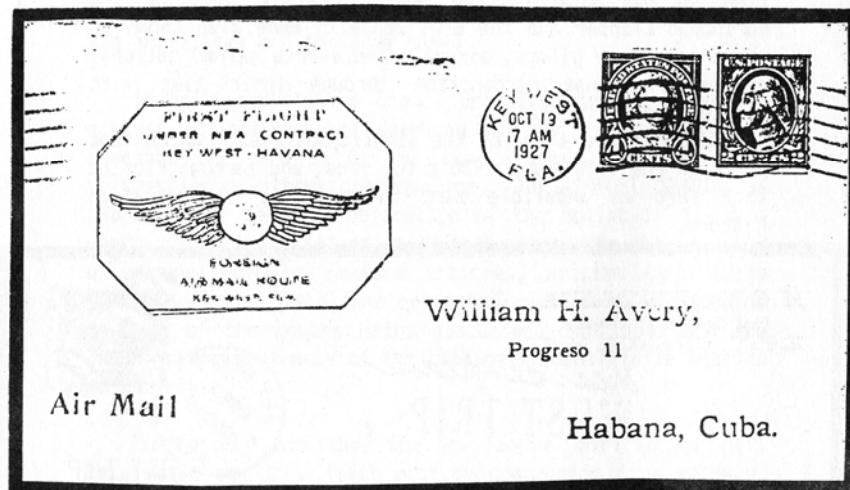


Figure 2

The first Pan American flight on October 19, 1927, used a Fairchild FC-2 seaplane borrowed from West Indian Aerial Express. Picture courtesy of Thomas H. Boyle.

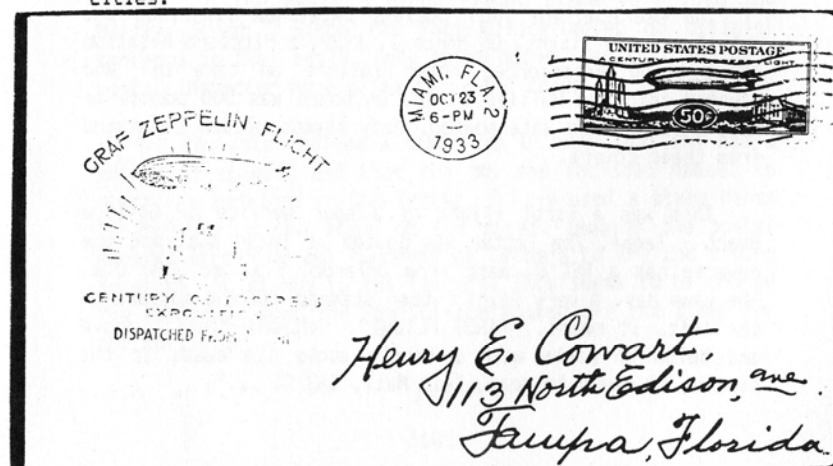
January 2, 1929, saw the start of Foreign Air Mail (FAM) route number 7 between Miami, Florida, and Nassau in the Bahama Islands. The route was operated on a daily basis by Pan American Airways, Inc. through the winter season and twice weekly during the remainder of the year. The inaugural flight from Miami to Nassau was piloted by Harry Rogers and the cost for a 1/2 ounce letter was 7 cents, this was during the 5 cent per ounce/ 10 cents per each additional ounce rate period (figure 3). However, the mail from Nassau to Miami was charged only the first class rate.



Figure 3

From October 14 to December 2, 1933, the Graf Zeppelin made a special mail carrying flight from Friedrichshafen, Germany via Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Miami (fig. 4) and Akron to Chicago, Ill., for the Century of Progress Exposition. This was the Graf Zeppelin's 50th trans-Atlantic crossing which returned to Germany by via Akron and Seville.

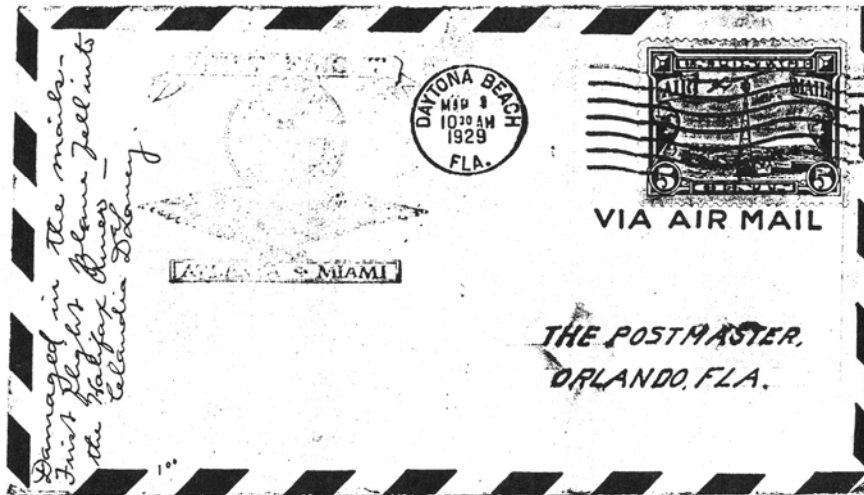
For this event, the United States and Germany issued special stamps. The US issued the 50 cent (#C-18) which paid the rate for letters or post cards. On October 23, 1933, the Graf Zeppelin (LZ-127) left Miami, Florida, for Chicago, Illinois via Akron, Ohio. This was one of the few instances where a foreign carrier was allowed to carry mail between US cities.



A FLORIDA PLANE CRASH

by Stephen Patrick

Randy Savadow of The Browse House has provided the following crash cover that is part of his personal collection. His interest stems from the fact that the crash took place just a few miles away from where he grew up in Daytona Beach and where he continues to work with his father in the stamp business.



The American Air Mail Society Catalogue describes the details of the flight. On March 1, 1929, a Pitcairn Aviation Corp. plane experienced motor failure on take off and plunged into the Halifax River. On board was 500 pounds of mail which became watersoaked. Many stamps became separated from their covers.

This was a first flight of a spur service of Daytona Beach - Tampa. The letter was posted at 10:30 a.m. and the reverse has a REC'D. mark from Orlando, Fla. at 3:30 p.m. the same day. A very faint rubber stamped marking appears on the left. It reads, "FIRST FLIGHT", "ATLANTA-MIAMI", above and below an eagle with a circle above its head. In the circle, it seems to read, "Air Mail, CAM 25 ...".

A16

United States Post Office

First CLASS

Orlando, Fla., March 8, 1929.

Louis C. Knorr,
35 Reservoir Road,
Lynn, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter in regard to the condition of your first flight letter will advise that due to engine trouble the plane fell into the Halifax River.

I am sending you a stamp which seems to fit on your envelope, but if it is not the kind of stamp you used, return it and describe your stamp. I have a number of stamps which became detached when letters were wet.

Yours very truly,

Claudia DaLaney

Postmaster.

CBD/P
Enc.

This particular cover was sent by Louis C. Knorr of Lynn, Massachusetts, to the Postmaster of Orlando, Fla. On the cover, Claudia DaLaney, Orlando Postmaster, has noted, "Damaged in the mails - First flight plane fell into the Halifax River." Since the Post Office added no official markings to the mails, only those noted like this and by a postal inspector have evidence of the crash on the cover.

The contents include a note from DaLaney that she has a number of stamps, and that the one she included seemed to match the markings on the letter. I have used a stamp hinge to re-position the stamp on the cover. Imagine the postal workers spreading out hundreds of letters to dry and trying to match the stamps to the letters. This seems to be one of the few times when the Post Office soaked off the stamp for the collector.

A17

ROOM 600 - Exhibits

Snacks

1	2	3	4	5	6

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32

DEALERS

33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

47

48
49

50

51

52

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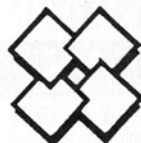
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VENICE STAMP CLUB	P.O. Box 1501, Venice, FL 34284-1501
WEST FLORIDA STAMP CLUB	205 Hughes Street, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
WEST VOLUSIA STAMP CLUB	509E Pennsylvania Avenue, Deland FL 32720
WINTER HAVEN STAMP CLUB	1435 Drexel Avenue NE, Winter Haven, FL 33881