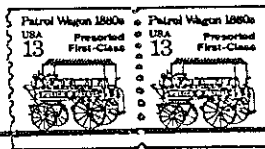
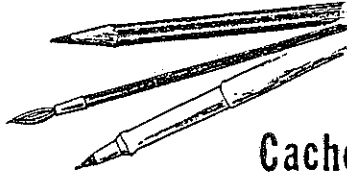


Left-Sider News



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Cachet Makers Association
AFDCS Chapter 65

Volume 1
Number 7

July 1989

c/o
C. H. Scott
Box 1085
Pine Grove, CA
95665

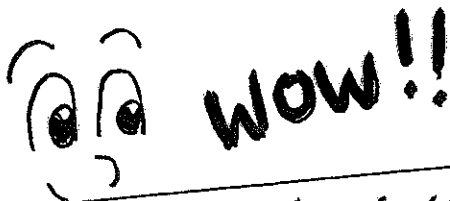
HOORAY FOR MELVIN !!!

My husband Melvin bought me a COMPUTER. I didn't know when I'd ever be able to afford one on what I make from the bookstore, but he knew I was dreaming about it. A good buy came along just after he had sold an old car we didn't need anymore. He had the cash in his pocket ... and "made my day!"

Now, Melvin never gets any fun mail -- just bills and junk; he's not a stamp collector. It would be a real thrill for him if a bunch of "rave notices" (thank you's) should happen to fill up his post office box one week soon. If you agree with me that it was a wonderful thing he did -- making it possible to produce our Left-Sider News on a word processing computer, send Melvin a card or postal card telling him how you feel.

Send Melvin's fan mail to:

Melvin Jenkins
P.O. Box 178
Pine Grove, CA 95665



we've grown to **101** Members!

CMA EXHIBIT REPORT

Only five offers of covers to exhibit at the September convention have arrived to date. Bernard Kroll, Exhibits Chairman, tells me the cut-off date is August 14. He offered to reserve two or three non-competitive frames for us, but it looks like we should pass on that this year.

Even if we used all the FDCs donated for miscellaneous purposes, regardless of stamp issue or topic, we don't have enough to fill one frame.

It also appears that we shouldn't try to limit our collection to one topical area; we couldn't find one topic for which everyone produced a cover.

Our thanks to these members who did send in photocopies, covers, and information. It will all be saved for later, unless requested to be returned. (Please remember to specify whether covers are donated or loaned.)

...Editor

Here our finances to date (see below). With current methods, we can figure that each newsletter of four pages costs 12 cents for copier toner and 25 cents for postage. An eight-page LSN costs 24 cents plus the 25 cents postage. This is figured without paper and envelope costs, which are currently being donated.

Reproducing and mailing the AFDCS Chapter Newsletter, which is usually four pages, costs at the same rates. (No Chapter letter this month.)

We should all be aware of these costs when we vote on the amount of dues we will be paying. The donations have been coming in with great frequency and excellent timing so far, but of course, we can't count on them indefinitely.

When the membership leaped to 101, price quotes from local printers in Pine Grove were sought. Using their heavy-duty copiers is much more expensive. If any member knows of a cheaper method to produce our newsletters -- let us know.

Looking GOOD!

DATE	ACTION/ITEM	TO or FROM NAME	MONEY IN	EXPENSE	CASH BAL
Dec 15	Mailed 36 AFDCS Chptr Letters			\$8.80	(\$8.80)
Dec 21	Money for postage	Fred Collins	\$18.80		\$10.00
Jan 2	Money for supplies	Tom Foust	\$30.00		\$40.00
Feb 2	Photocopy 32 two-page newsletters	Econocopy		\$14.28	
Feb 2	Mailed 37 newsletters			\$9.30	\$16.42
Feb 16	Copier toner for 43 8-page LSNs			\$10.32	
Feb 16	Mailed 37 newsltrs & 6 back issue pkgs			\$12.00	(\$5.90)
Mar 9	General donation	Kim Yarbrough	\$10.00		\$4.10
Mar 18	Copier toner for 43 7-page LSNs			\$9.03	(\$4.93)
Mar 18	Mailed 43 newsletters			\$10.55	(\$15.48)
Mar 23	Copier toner for 40 4-page AFDCS ltrrs			\$4.80	(\$20.28)
Mar 23	Mailed 40 AFDCS Chptr letters			\$10.05	(\$30.33)
Mar 30	Money for postage	Fred Collins	\$100.00		\$69.67
Apr 14	Copier toner for 43 10-page combo ltrrs			\$12.90	
Apr 14	Mailed AFDCS letter & LSNs			\$10.80	\$45.97
May 1	General donation	Michael Litvak	\$25.00		
May 8	General donation	Tom Foust	\$40.00		
May 13	General donation	Kim Yarbrough	\$25.00		\$135.97
May 16	Copier toner for 47 8-page combo ltrrs			\$11.28	
May 16	Mailed AFDCS letter & LSNs			\$11.80	\$112.89
May 20	General donation	Doris Gold	\$5.00		
May 20	General donation	Bernard Goldberg	\$35.00		\$152.89
Jun 13	Copy & mail 85 recruiting letters	Sylvia Sabinsky		\$30.00	\$122.89
Jun 16	Copier toner for 43 recruiting ltrrs			\$1.29	
Jun 16	Mailed 43 recruiting letters			\$10.75	\$110.85
Jun 27	Copier toner for 62 9-page LSNs			\$16.74	
Jun 27	Mailed 62 Left-Sider Newsletters			\$15.55	\$78.56
Jul 1	Money for postage	John La Porta	\$2.00		
Jul 5	Money for postage	Michael Litvak	\$10.00		
Jul 12	General donation	Russ Benning	\$6.75		
Jul 13	General donation	George Thomas	\$2.00		\$99.31
Jul 27	Copier toner for 105 8-page LSNs			\$25.20	
Jul 28	Mailed 100 Left-Sider Newsletters			\$25.00	
Jul 28	Credit for stamp donations	See Stamp Ledger	\$11.25		\$60.36
Jul 28	Money for postage	Bernard Goldberg	\$25.00		
Jul 28	General donation	Robert Pristas	\$10.00		\$95.36

STAMP DONATIONS

DATE	WHO FROM/WHAT FOR	VALUE IN	USED	AMT LEFT
Jul 6	George Van Natta	\$2.50		\$2.50
Jul 10	Rick Chase	\$3.75		\$6.25
Jul 22	Mark Grabowski	\$5.00		\$11.25
Jul 28	mailed 45 LSNs		\$11.25	\$0.00



LETTERS TO THE "LEFT SIDER"

Thank you for your gracious welcome to the CMA! The CMA and the AFDCS have got to be some of the friendliest people in philately!

I have ordered the book recommended by Ms. Eiserman and look forward to receiving it, but I would appreciate information on:

- * How or where to obtain form 3315 or whatever for bulk mailing of FDCs. I've written to USPS twice with no response.
- * I need a source for high quality envelopes, preferably 100% rag, and ungummed in #6 and #10 sizes.
- * How can I obtain UD cancels along with the official FD cancel? No specific UDs in mind -- just general information.

It's good to know help is only a stamp away!

...Russ Benning

I'd like to compliment you on the fine job you're doing with the Left-Sider! Keep up the good work. Although you may not hear it often enough, it certainly is appreciated and will prove to be the glue that holds the fledgling CMA together.

...Gary Davis

Thank you for the letter and information (invitation to join the CMA). To tell you the truth, I would be interested -- but, and this is no joke, I'm so much a right wing conservative -- I could never lend my name to anything known as the Left-Sider. Change that, and let me know when that happens!

...Richard F. Lehr

(Editor note: Everything should be considered in context, don't you think? Most cachets are placed on the left side of envelopes -- thus the name Left-Sider. No politics in question here. I'm a conservative myself, but what do cachets and our hobby have to do with government philosophy?)

RCD FILE

I have a suggestion you might wish to consider. In "ancient times" the cachetmakers banded together and established a RCD roster. In this Registered Cachet Director file each member was assigned a RCD number on a permanent basis. In fact, on many early cacheted covers for some makers, the only ID was the RCD#. You might wish to consider the establishment of a CMA number system and publish the roster and additions in First Days from time to time.

... see next page →

RCD
cont'd....

The number is assigned to an individual forever so it will not be reused. It is the same even if the maker changes cachet names or produces more than one line of cachets.

The group can establish some standards as to eligibility for a number to be assigned, which I assume would include eligibility to become a member of the CMA. The only requirement I can think of now is that the person produce more than one cacheted cover per year or be transferred to an inactive category.

...Bernard Kroll

CALL FOR HELP

Stephen Spiro sent in this request when he joined the CMA:

Dear Friend,

I make First Day Covers as fund raisers for the ^{below} ~~above~~ two organizations. Unfortunately, I am not an artist, nor do I have much in the way of material for making cachets. Sometimes I can think of a way to take a picture of a Cub Scout which ties in with the stamp or I find some graphics which are appropriate, but not too often.

So, I'm asking you for help. Could you please provide me with either 1) a drawing or other graphic which I can use to get a one-color cachet printed on envelopes, or 2) about 100 cacheted envelopes which you produce for us. In the first case, I'll send you up to 100 blanks as soon as I get them printed. In the second case, you can make as many as you want for your own use. In either case, we will give you credit in all of our publicity.

The cachets should have some connection with Cub Scouting. And we ask you not to advertise your supply for sale until after the date of issue (they are a fundraiser, after all). After that you can sell them or trade them or whatever you want.

The only announced issues for which I have a cachet are:
1 cent Official - Both Love 1990 - Both
Stamp Expo \$3.60 SS - Both

In case you are wondering, a Roundtable is a form of Commissioner service, providing monthly training opportunities for Cub Scout leaders, particularly in the program area. Essentially, a monthly Roundtable session will provide the leaders present with enough material to run the den or pack for a month or so. Crafts are "hands on", so there are considerable expenses for craft supplies, for instance.

Thank you very much for whatever help you can give us.

SEMEOS DISTRICT
CUB SCOUT ROUNDTABLE
THOMAS A. EDISON COUNCIL
NEW JERSEY



STEPHEN J. SPIRO
CUB PACK 69
34 BROCKTON CT
METUCHEN, NJ 08840

PACK 69



CHARTERED TO EDGAR SCHOOL P.T.O., METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY



LLOYD A. de VRIES



POST OFFICE BOX 145 * DUMONT, NJ 07628 * (201) 967-7162

AFDCS * APS * ATA * ACPS * MACSU * AMERICANA UNIT * ASPPP

July 9, 1989

Dear Cynthia,

Yes, I'd like to be a member of the Cachet Makers Association, and receive the *Left-Sider News*. Don't you want some SASEs or dues or something?

I have to mention that I don't think holding the Cachetmakers' Bourse during the commercial bourse at the upcoming Convention is a good idea. For myself, I'm disappointed that I won't be able to visit the Cachetmakers, and pick up new merchandise. I spent several hundred dollars at the Cachetmakers' Bourse last year. Bill Kreindel of Eastern has volunteered to man my table for me while I go to the Bourse (I always work alone), but I never feel comfortable away from the table. No one knows my stock as well as I do, and when you tell a customer "He'll be right back" the customer rarely sticks around or comes back himself. I'll go to the Bourse, but I won't stay long.

I'm more annoyed than angry. Other dealers are much more upset. They feel that they're paying \$300 to \$500 (and perhaps more) for their tables, but have to compete Saturday afternoon with cachetmakers who paid, what? \$50? I know one dealer who says he's notifying his suppliers that he will no longer do business with them if they participate in the Cachetmakers' Bourse. (I don't know if he'll stick to his guns.)

This isn't good for the Society. Dealers pay for shows, not those attending, or the sponsors, or the exhibitors. Many non-commercial show promoters forget that. Unless dealers do really well at those shows, or are particularly obtuse (I wouldn't have some of my fellow dealers in my house unless I'd rolled up the Persian), they won't come back. Those who are disgruntled may decide not to buy tables at future Society conventions. Figure it out: 50 dealers, at, oh, \$350 average each, is \$17,500. Fifty cachetmakers at \$50 apiece is \$2500. A thousand attendees at \$2 apiece (and 1,000 is a good number for a show) are \$2,000.

(Personally, I think I'll find the American Ceremony Program Society meeting to be much more disruptive of my sales than the Cachetmakers' Bourse will be. And I don't expect that to be moved to the evening.)

There are meetings and events I'd like to attend during a Convention, too, but as a dealer with a table, I can't. I pushed Steve Bondarenko to form the ACPS, and I'm a charter member, but I've never been to a meeting. There may be a first day ceremony Friday morning about the time the show opens. I've never been to a general membership meeting of the AFDCS, and this year, I've got to set my table up during the Executive Committee meeting. (They probably don't want me there anyway. I'm never invited.) When you're in business, there are trade-offs. At an active Convention, you can't be everywhere.

The show promoter for the Syracuse Convention in 1990 -- who is a commercial bourse operator and not a FDC dealer -- is already promising dealers that the Cachetmakers' Bourse won't be held during the commercial bourse.

Feel free to use any of this letter in your next newsletter. And thanks for taking on "Cover Exchange" in *First Days*.

CEREMONY PROGRAMS + SOUVENIR PAGES + FDC'S + MAXIMUM CARDS

Letters to the editor show that not everyone is happy with our success in getting the Cachet Makers Bourse moved to mid-day scheduling at this year's coming convention:

I oppose day cachet makers bourse. I have had booths at the last 7 national AFDCS conventions. I think the main dealers who make the shows possible (mucho \$ for the booths) should be supported during the day. I'm one of the biggest buyers at the cachet makers bourse at NIGHT. Amen.

...Gene Bell

Lloyd de Vries expressed the same feelings in more detail. See his letter on the next page.

As a balance, re-read this opinion from Dick Leavitt, written in February:

My feeling is that scheduling the Bourse in the evening tends to limit the attendance to people who are staying in the hotel -- and that many people who are from the local area or who have scheduled their trip to the convention to be a one day trip only, simply do not stay around for the Cachet Makers Bourse. That is a shame, because the cachet maker is the very life blood of this hobby and their Bourse should not be relegated to a time of day when many people have already gone home.

While I cannot speak for all dealers, I am one, and would not in the least be upset. I do not rely on sales of non-sold-out covers by current cachet makers to "make" my shows, especially the AFDCS convention. If anything, I think the bourse might help me, because those cachet makers who have tables at the bourse would tend to steer collectors who need some of their SOLD OUT covers to dealers who are on the regular bourse floor.

And here is a comment from Judith Fogt, received in March, before convention plans were firmed up:

The defense against a daytime cachetmakers bourse is that it competes with dealers. Here I quote Ed Denson: "Don't let the show be the tail that's wagging the dog." It's also worth thinking about this -- doesn't a successful cachetmakers bourse help dealers in the long run, by showcasing the very personalities whose work they want to sell all year round?

For this year, the Cachet Makers Bourse is set. We can still be concerned about the various viewpoints. It will be an on-going controversial issue because different organizations (commercial or club) sponsor/host our convention every year. It is good for us to understand both sides of the "argument."

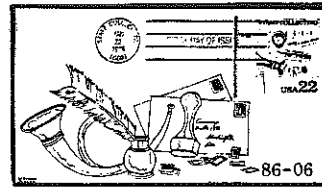
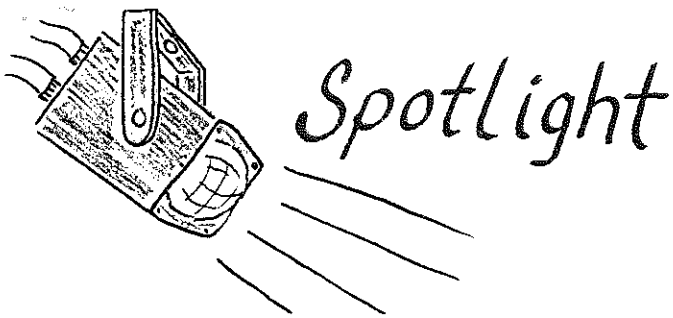
Perhaps there will be a more unanimous view when the results of this year's daytime CM Bourse are analyzed. Seems like it is only fair to try this schedule change at least once.

...Editor



Opinion
For
4
3





KRIBB'S KOVERS

RECEIVED: July 11, 1989

My wife Angie and I started in May of 1978 with SC. 1735 (the A stamp) when we were driving through Memphis on the First Day for that issue. We were enroute to Birmingham, where we also obtained what we discovered later to be unofficials. We truly got an education the hard way on FDC cachet making.

Kribbs' Kovers are pure 100% hand-drawn and hand-painted. I draw and Angie paints. Early on we were doing about 30. A year or so ago we increased generally to about 40 or 50, and now -- we MUST do a minimum of 50 to meet dealer demands.

Here's what happened to increase the demand: The news broke out about a year ago that we were the ones who did those early Transportation Series PRECANCELS, with and without coil numbers.

The news broke at the Morristown (NJ) convention when Wayne Anmuth was a speaker and repeatedly told the audience there were no known FDCs for the early Transportation stamps with precancels. Each time, we would say "here are some samples from our covers."

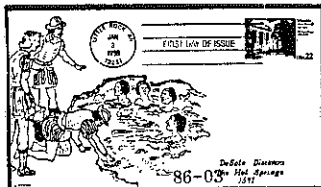
We did them on KK, House of Farnam and Gill Craft cachets. The precancels with numbers sold for \$1,000 back then. I am told the new Mellone/Scott catalog will verify they are now going for upwards of \$2,000 each.

The same precancels -- but without coil numbers -- originally sold for \$250 to \$750. Joe Merman in a recent auction, sold about 11 of them at \$330 each.

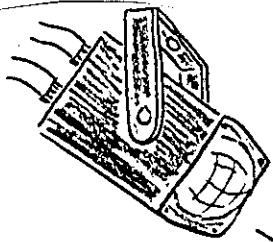
Since that time, dealers have been asking us to let them stock our covers. Now Angie and I face a "problem" that I cannot say any other cachet maker anywhere in the world may have: every cover we have done from 1978 through the Hap Arnold issue of 1988 is sold out.

We are now getting about one request every other day to become subscribers, from persons all over the country. Last week we added three.

You have got to realize that doing our covers one-at-a-time as hand-drawn and hand-painted by just Angie and myself ... and doing at least one cachet for all issues (even postal cards and envelopes)... we can only do so much from a human aspect. I think that somewhere near 75 is gonna be an absolute maximum we will be able to do and try to stay even with the USPS output of issues.



...Ken & Angie Kribbs



Spotlight

BENNING PHILATELICS

RECEIVED: July 15, 1989

I have been a professional graphic designer/illustrator for over 20 years. My drawings and paintings have been published in a number of magazines and I have had paintings in several exhibits in Atlanta, Nashville, Memphis, Houston, San Diego, et.al. My graphics have been done for clients in NYC, Philadelphia, Chicago, L.A., Dallas, Nashville and many other locations.

I will be producing hand-drawn, hand-colored cachets on combo covers. The first one is the 7.1 cent Tractor coil stamp overprinted to become a precancel combined with the original Tractor coil stamp. Both have plate number 5 on them. I have 20 of these.

Another 20 combo covers will feature the new precancel Tractor coil with Sc. 1024, 1410, and 1506.

I hope to do most new issues in quantities of 40, signed and numbered. So far, I have (done) the Tractor, Hopkins, Gehrig, and the Sea Shore postal card. I've planned some very nice combos for the balance of the '89 issues as well.

...Russ Benning

PORTER PHILATELIC PAGES

RECEIVED: June 30, 1989

Our Souvenir Pages are published on card stock rather than the paper stock used by the USPS for their souvenir page program. All are numbered and signed. With an average of 7 PPS per year, and 9 FDCs per year (in four years) we proudly say "we are not flooding the market."

There are more people collecting FDCs than Souvenir Pages. My personal interest lies in anything cancelled FDOI. This is how I got started publishing FDCs in 1986.

It was January 3, the first stamp for the new year, and one day past my birthday. The Arkansas Statehood stamp was a beautiful four-color process printed stamp. I liked that, being in the graphic arts "business."

My cachet was not to be some kind of art work. It would be a reproduction of the Stamp Specifications for which we are identified.

I used this "first cachet" cover for the mailing of advertising to sell PPS. We sold few PPS but sold out these Arkansas FDCs to first cachet collectors, & our customers.

...Robert Ford Porter, Litt.D.

Editor note: Mr. Porter is the Chairman of the Board for Lifegate, Inc. -- an evangelistic ministry based in Martinsville, Indiana.