

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

By Alan Davis

On the way home from our driving trip through the southeast, we decided to spend a couple days in Washington DC since we hadn't been there in quite a long time. We spent the first day touring the African American Museum, which was well worth it. We also saw the WWII, MLK, and Korean Memorials that were all new since the last time we were there. The second day we visited the National Postal Museum.



Even my wife enjoyed it...

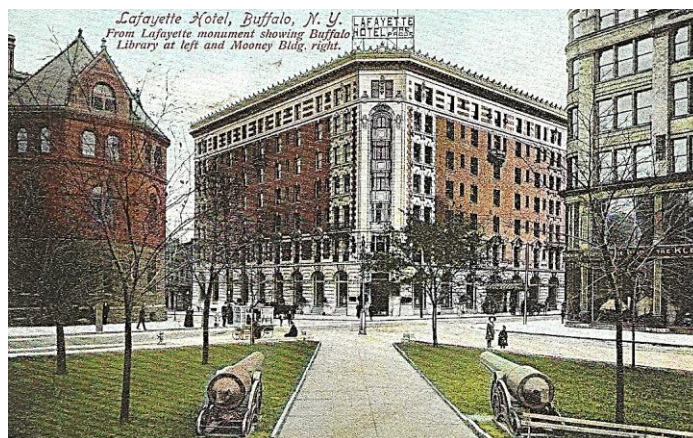


As we were leaving, an attendant pointed out an interesting detail to me that I didn't notice – look at the floor... envelopes front & back!

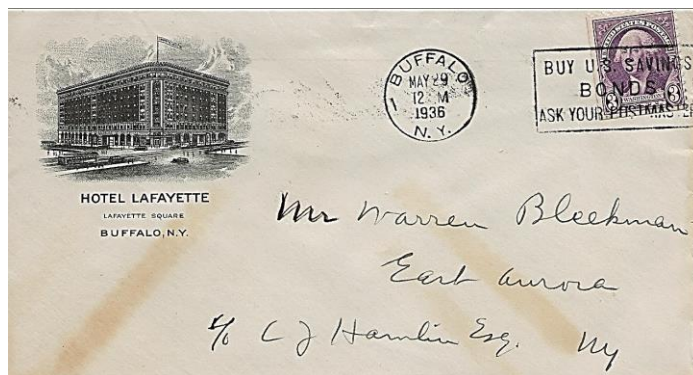


LAFAYETTE HOTEL COVERS

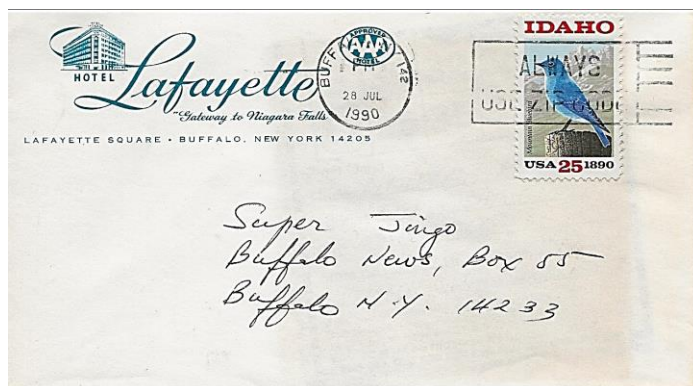
The Lafayette Hotel in downtown Buffalo has a rich, colorful history. Built in 1902 and expanded in 1926, the hotel was considered one of top hotels in the country. Despite a decline in the late 20th Century, it was renovated in 2012 and is now known as the Hotel Lafayette. It is also an interesting Buffalo postal history subject.



Picture Postcard



1936 Corner advertising cover



1990 Corner advertising cover



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

May 2022

Alfred Carroccia

Fuzzy9600@verizon.net

MAY NOTES

The Club is approaching the end of the 2021-2022 Club calendar. The next official Club business is the Board of Directors election which will be held before the May 5th auction. Be sure to vote. It cannot be stressed enough the importance of the Club's Board of Directors. It was the Board that helped the Club through COVID, maintaining contact with the membership, finding a new venue, and keeping the interest elevated and thereby the Club still functioning. If any Club member was on the fence about running for a Board position, if not this year, there's always next year!

Members of the Club do not need to be on the Board to help make an impact. Any member who has ideas on how to improve the Buffalo Stamp Club, please let the Board know. The Club has over 100 members each with diverse collecting areas and different views. The Club needs to know the pulse of its members to implement objectives that will benefit the Club and its members.

We want to bring back member presentations for next year, possibly in The Knights bar area. We're always looking for ways to increase interest and participation. If you have any ideas, let us know so we can make changes to be a better Club.

MAY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 5th: Meeting/Auction
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Thursday, June 2nd: Meeting/Auction

August 20 & 21: End of Summer Show

At The Knights Halls, 2735 Union Road just north of William St. in Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements beginning at 7:00 PM.

Arrive early to submit and view lots; seller deadline to submit lots is 6:30 PM

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

Vice President: Dan McNess (dmcness@mac.com)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: Bob Meegan
(meegan9697@roadrunner.com)

Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak
(coverconnection@gmail.com)

Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kevin Suckow

Auction Assistant: Bennie Passantino

Auction Acctg: Paul Moore (paulmoore@verizon.net)

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: **vacant**

Bourse Chairman: John Leszak (coverconnection@gmail.com)

Historical & Library: Al Carroccia & Casey Kielbasa

Other Directors: Larry Cherns (katchke@hotmail.com),

Pam Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)

Heidi Rust (youdafox@hotmail.com)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Board of Directors election will take place before the auction on Thursday, May 5th. Previous newsletters explained the significance of the election and the role of the Board in the operation of the Club. The newsletter also listed the names of the four Directors whose terms are expiring. One Director will not be on the ballot. A member has expressed interest as a candidate and will be on the ballot.

Some members were concerned about the amount of work involved as a Board Director. The amount of work is minimal and involves the preparation and assisting at the Club's shows – Autumn Stamp Festival, BUFPEX, and Summer Show.

The Board meets once during the Summer to elect officers, set the Club calendar, and discuss the state of the Club. The Club may meet at other times, if needed. But most Club matters are dealt with through email or consensus discussions at the auctions.

The Club thanks those members who came forward and expressed interest.

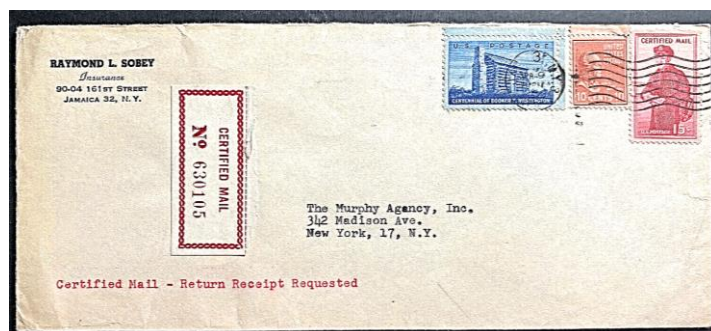
OTHER EVENTS

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **2-day Stamp Show and Bourse on Saturday & Sunday, August 20th & 22nd**. A 2-day show at the end of the summer is attractive for several out-of-state dealers who would eagerly make the trip to Buffalo.

Also, the Meegans are eager to plan an **August Summer Picnic** but need to know if there is enough interest to make it worthwhile. Last September's attempt at a picnic yielded low attendance. As Bob says, "It's just as much work for 10 people as it is for 30." So, need to ensure that interest is high enough – What do you think? Let us know.

CERTIFIED MAIL STAMP

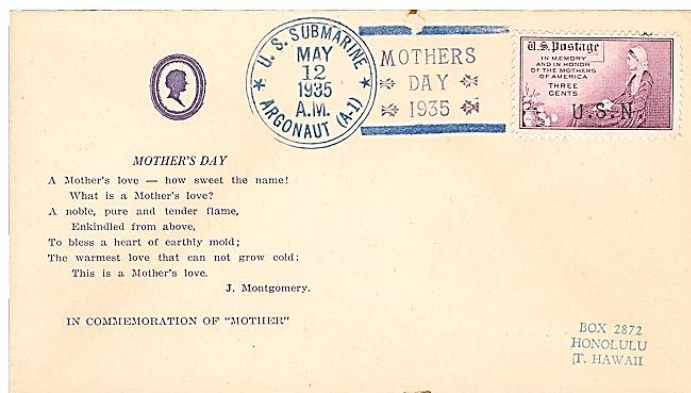
In 1955, the United States Post Office issued a stamp specifically to pay the 15 cent fee for certified mail. The stamp, Scott FA1, was not issued to pay postage!



The above cover correctly pays first class use together with proper use of the certified stamp.

The collecting of this stamp is an extremely limited specialty area. It is only one stamp with a short period of use. However, you can form an interesting collection of stamps and, with a bit of patience and searching, of uses and frankings on cover.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!!



Biafra - Cinderella Stamps

By Bob Lamb

In philately, a Cinderella stamp is "virtually anything resembling a postage stamp, but not issued for postal purposes by a government postal administration". There is a wide variety of Cinderella stamps, such as those printed for promotional use by businesses, churches, political or non-profit groups.

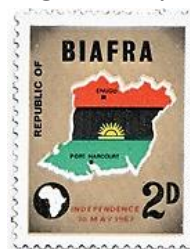
The term comes from Cinderella, a folk-tale underdog heroine who was treated as inferior within her family. Cinderella stamps similarly were considered inferior to postage stamps. While it is common to find patriotic sentiments on official stamps, the term propaganda stamp is usually used to mean unofficial stamps produced to promote a particular ideology, or to create confusion within an enemy state.

Sometimes stamps are issued by breakaway governments, governments in exile or micronations in order to give themselves greater legitimacy; however, these stamps usually have no postal validity. I keep a separate stock book for these Cinderellas when I find them.

Then there are the postage stamps issued by fly speck nations, far out of proportion to their populace or needs. They are legitimate according to the UPU, but how many do we actually ever see in mail usage? The following is a brief survey of the postage stamps and postal history of Biafra. One goal for collectors is to find the issues postally used on legitimate covers.

The Republic of Biafra was a secessionist state in south-eastern Nigeria which existed from May 30, 1967 to January 15, 1970. The secession was led by the Igbo people following economic, ethnic, cultural and religious tensions among the various peoples of Nigeria and this contributed to the causes for the Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Nigerian-Biafran War. Biafra was recognized by Gabon, Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania and Zambia.

The authorities in Biafra issued banknotes and postage stamps to assert their claim to sovereignty. The postage stamps were used mainly on internal mail within the region, but also on some external mail sent by air via Libreville in Gabon. The stamps are not recognized as legitimate by any stamp catalogues.



On April 1, 1968, thirteen stamps of Nigeria from the 1965 issue were issued overprinted with the Biafran coat of arms and the words SOVEREIGN BIAFRA. The 1/2 d and 1d values from the same 1965 Nigeria series also exist surcharged with new values and overprinted BIAFRA-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968 SOVEREIGN BIAFRA, but these stamps are not believed to have been used for postage.

A number of further stamps were issued in 1968 and 1969 inscribed BIAFRA or REPUBLIC OF BIAFRA, including miniature sheets, further overprints and stamps ostensibly issued to raise funds for charity.

The war seesawed back and forth with the civilian population suffering the most. After two-and-a-half years of war, during which almost two million Biafran civilians (three-quarters of them small children) died from starvation caused by the total blockade of the region by the Nigerian government, Biafran forces, under Nigeria's motto of "No-victor, No-vanquished", surrendered to the Nigerian Federal Military Government (FMG).

