

The Quarterly Journal of the Maximum Card Study Unit

NORTH AMERICAN MAXIMAPHILY

Stamp: Florida State Flag from
the Flags of Our Nation series,
Scott #4284

Postcard: Anhinga published
by Impact

Postmark: pictorial "Museum of
Florida History Station",
Tallahassee, FL 9/8/2008



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Letter From the President

Terry Watson

In my opinion, the most exciting thing to happen in maximum philately in the past decade is currently taking place on YouTube. Our MACSU Vice President, Sun Yu Ng, continues to produce and present 8 to 12 minute video segments on art and architecture as seen through maximum cards. Our last journal featured a short article on his project which **he has entitled “Travel via Art & Architecture Maximum Cards”**. At that time, he had published five such videos. As of mid-July, 2023, he has now uploaded another forty (40) of these videos to YouTube. Ancient cave art through Modernism has now been covered. In the first two weeks of July, 2023, Sun Yu has uploaded maximum card videos on: Dutch Golden Age & English Baroque (can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/FC4lh7EeUSE>) Baroque Rome (at <https://youtu.be/qjb8Pd45zTA>) Bernini (at <https://youtu.be/3eRZ057RP1w>) Modernism (at <https://youtu.be/5C72PECfi7o>) In the near future, Sun Yu has planned to upload to YouTube videos on Giotto, Domes, Obelisks, and Neoclassicism (2 episodes).

The maximum cards used in these videos come from his collection, as well as from several of the most prestigious maximum philatelists in the world today. The maximum cards in **Sun Yu’s videos include classic era maximum cards and colorful, modern ones**. To date, his videos have received 2,465 views. To view these videos, go to www.youtube.com and search for *Travel via Art & Architecture Maximum Cards*. Be sure to click the **“Subscribe” button so that you do not miss any of the upcoming videos**.

It will soon be time for our annual contest for the Maximum Card of the Year Competition for 2022. Start looking through your 2022 cards to see which ones you would like to enter in this contest.

MAXIMUM CARD STUDY UNIT OF NORTH AMERICA

The Maximum Card Study Unit (MACSU) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the creation, collection, exchange, enjoyment, display, and study of Maximum Cards, by spreading the knowledge of Maximaphily among its members. The activities of MACSU are planned and carried on entirely by the volunteer services of its officers and members. MACSU is Affiliate # 106 of the American Philatelic Society, Chapter # 67 of the American First Day Cover Society and an affiliate of the American Topical Association.

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On the Origins of Maximum Card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection: Postal Stationery as Maximum Card Forerunners

by Sun-Yu Ng

In our previous articles [1][2][3] and videos [8], we have detailed new findings about three ancestral maximum card precursor families: coat of arms, royal personages, and rooms with view (hotels). The first parental generation maximum card precursors in each of these three families are defined by a new term TVA (timbre côté vue et adresse in French, meaning that one or more stamp(s) is affixed on the same side as picture and address). The second generation maximum card precursors in each of these three families are defined by a familiar term TCV (timbre côté vue in French, meaning that one or more stamp(s) is affixed on the pictorial side). The third generation maximum cards in each of these three and additional subfamilies are classic maximum cards, followed by (postwar) period fourth generation maximum cards and modern fifth generation maximum cards.

A maximum card (also known as maxicard or in French as carte maximum) is the result of postage stamp(s) being franked on the pictorial side of a postcard displaying similar, if not identical, images (excluding country name, face value, perforations) so as to attain maximal concordance between them. Preferably the cancellation would also reflect close proximity to the object of concordance. Maximaphily is the philatelic hobby of creating and collecting maximum cards.

Although Steve Jobs was referring to his own academic and life choices when he said in 2005 **“You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards”**, this is also how we answer the question of **“Where do Maximum Cards come from?”** by conducting a retrospective study on the origins of maximum cards as we attempt to connect the dots between them and their putative precursors [1][2][3]. During our study we have identified postal stationery, formular stationery, and hotel stationery as first parental generation precursors of individual or multiple maximum card families. In this article we will present evidences supporting our hypothesis, focusing on postal stationery imprinted with coat of arms as forerunners of maximum card precursors of the coat of arms family.

The coat of arms family has been introduced in Chapter One of our previous article [1]. After Cvetan Cvetkov informed us of Belgian postal stationery which was uprated with concordant Belgian Lion stamp, we were able to acquire an example (Figure 1), though not the earliest one known but still more than one year earlier than our earliest German Empire official formular stationery franked with an embossed German Empire imperial eagle bearing small shield coat of arms (Adler mit kleinem Brustschild in German) stamp (Figure 2 in our previous article [1]) and the earliest German Empire official formular stationery franked with an embossed German Empire imperial eagle bearing a large shield with the House of Hohenzollern coat of arms (Adler mit grobem Brustschild in German) stamp that was seen at an auction in 2021[9].

According to FIP definition, postal stationery must bear pre-printed stamp for postage. Therefore, we will investigate similar postal stationery in comparison with formular stationery presented in Chapter One [1] to examine their roles in each precursor family.



FIGURE 1 An example of Kingdom of Belgium official postal stationery (*Carte-Correspondance* in French) Michel No P1 issued in 1871 uprated with five centimes Michel No 25 stamp issued in 1870 with Crown and Belgian Lion (*Leo Belgicus* in Latin) in an oval above the stamp value. Belgian Lion is derived from the Duchy of Brabant coat of arms (1459). This example was sent on May 3, 1871 from Liège to Brussels. Image concordance between postal stationery and stamp stems from the Crown and Belgian Lion being present on both. Similar precursors exist with earlier dates, for example, January 1871 and April 1871. P1 versus P9 in Figure 4 would count as two distinct postal stationery editions in our final tally.

Although the first clue to identifying additional second generation (or F1) maximum card precursors in the coat of arms family is hidden within the Spasskaya tower postcard presented in our previous article [1], the more obvious clue comes from the entrance of the Munich Residenz postcard that will be detailed later. Following these two clues pointing towards palace entrances being decorated with coat of arms, we have identified one descendant of the 1871 Belgian postal stationery as the postcard of the Belgian Lion (*Leo Belgicus* in Latin) guarding the entrance to the royal park in Laeken. Its cousin stands atop the Butte du Lion at Waterloo and is distinct from the more relaxed Lion couché depicted on 1869-1870 stamp issues and guarding the Academy Palace in Brussels. Although commissioned by the Belgian King Leopold II, the Cinquantenaire Arch is about 3 km away from his palace but the former is decorated with the Brabantian Lion from which is derived the *Leo Belgicus* (Figure 2). Both postcards were franked with coat of arms stamp on the picture side as TCV (*timbre côté vue* in French, meaning that stamp is affixed on the picture side). A similar Cinquantenaire Arch postcard was franked with *Leo Belgicus* stamp issued in 1929 as TCV sent to Lille in France [8].

Later editions of the Belgian postal stationery are imprinted with the middle coat of arms (*armoiries moyennes* in French) with two standing lions holding up the *Leo Belgicus* shield (Figure 3). The logical descendants of these postal stationery can be found on the postcards of the exterior of the Palace of Justice in Liège, being formerly the Palace of the Prince-Bishops (Figure 4), as well as the Palace of the Count of Flanders (*Palais du Comte de Flandre* in French) in Brussels, decorated with the coat of arms of Flanders in relief. The Flemish Lion (black lion on gold field) and Brabantian Lion (gold lion on black field), are the inverse of each other.



Figure 2

FIGURE 2. An example of the Belgian lion (Leo Belgicus in Latin) second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the Cinquantenaire Arch of Brussels, Belgium. This monument is decorated with the crowned Brabantian Lion (gold lion on black oval field) below the bronze quadriga group representing personified Brabant raising the national flag. The crowned Brabantian Lion from which is derived the Leo Belgicus is concordant with the Belgian lion of the middle coat of arms (armoiries moyennes in French) on this five centimes Michel No 80 stamp issued in 1907. This arch was commissioned by King Leopold II to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1830 revolution and subsequent establishment of an independent Kingdom of Belgium but was completed 25 years later in 1905. This precursor was sent on April 22, 1911 from Brussels to Fère-Champenoise in France.



Figure 3

FIGURE 3. An example of Kingdom of Belgium official postal stationery (Carte-Correspondance in French) Michel No P9 updated with five centimes Michel No 25 stamp issued in 1870. This example was sent on May 15, 1878 from Verviers to Görmar, Germany. Image concordance between postal stationery and stamp stems from the presence of the Crown and Belgian Lion (Leo Belgicus in Latin) that is part of the middle coat of arms (armoiries moyennes in French) imprinted on P9. The distance between Verviers and Görmar is 447 km. P9 versus P1 in Figure 1 would count as two distinct postal stationery editions in our final tally.



Figure 4

FIGURE 4. *An example of Kingdom of Belgium coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the Palace of Justice, formerly the Palace of the Prince-Bishops in Liège, Belgium. The coat of arms of Prince-Bishop Georges-Louis de Berghes (1662–1743) on the pediment facing Place Saint-Lambert is partly concordant with the Belgian middle coat of arms (armoiries moyennes in French) on this five centimes Michel No 80 stamp issued in 1907. Leo Belgicus occupies the whole shield depicted on stamp but is limited to only the first quarter of the shield on the Palace. Both shields are flanked by two standing lions holding up the Leo Belgicus or the Prince-Bishop shield. This precursor was sent on September 27, 1910 from Liège to Fervaques in France. The courtyard of the same Palace again would be the subject of several F2 maximum cards with 1929 stamp issue.*

Similar to the German Empire, the first issue of the Kingdom of Bavaria official postal stationery followed that of official formular stationery. In contrast to German Empire official postal stationery being without imprinted coat of arms, the Kingdom of Bavaria official postal stationery carry imprinted coat of arms and stamp. Similar to German Empire stamps [1], two versions of the coat of arms stamps with subtle differences were issued, each with a concordant coat of arms imprinted on postal stationery, but sometimes they would be paired with less concordant coat of arms of which there are three postal stationery editions. Two examples of the more concordant pairs are being presented here (Figure 5 & 6) together with a descendant postcard showing the Bavarian coat of arms flanking the entrance of the Munich Residenz (Figure 7). Next to this entrance stands the Feldherrnhalle in the Odeonsplatz, also decorated with the Bavarian coat of arms, depicted in 1908 and 1909 TCV, to be followed by a 1936 F2 maximum card. A third example could be found above the entrance of the Neuschwanstein castle in a few 1909 TCV sent to the Netherlands.

The transition (or evolution) between the two postal stationery is a good illustration of concordance selection. Most of the stamp issues between 1867 and 1875 are type 1 coat of arms. After 1876, they are type 2 exclusively. Postal stationery with type 1 imprinted are issued from 1873 to 1879 (although imprinted stamp became type 2 since 1876). Postal

stationery with type 2 imprinted are issued in 1879, followed by type 3 from 1883 to 1888 and type 4 from 1888 to 1890. Both type 3 and type 4 have no fully concordant stamp issue. We showed both type 1 imprinted postal stationery uprated with type 1 stamp in 1875 (Figure 5) and type 2 imprinted postal stationery uprated with type 2 stamp in 1880 (Figure 6). Although only briefly, we observed a concordance selection process from type 2 stamp type 1 card combination suffering minor mismatch (1876~1878) to both type 2 full concordance (1879~1882).



Figure 5

FIGURE 5. An example of Kingdom of Bavaria official postal stationery (Königreich Bayern Postkarte in German) Michel No P2 which was imprinted with the Kingdom of Bavaria coat of arms concordant with the Kingdom of Bavaria coat of arms embossed on this one Kreuzer stamp issued in 1875 (Michel No 32). This uprated postal stationery was sent from Munich (München in German) to Pilsen in Bohemia on August 5, 1875 and arrived on the next day. This example is 47 days earlier than the pioneering example of postal stationery as maximum card precursor exhibited by Daryl Kibble in 2008. There are four types of Bavarian coat of arms imprinted on postal stationery. Type 1 being shown here is concordant with stamp issues of 1867 to 1875 (except 1874). Type 2 is concordant with stamp issues of 1874 to 1911 (except 1875) of which we have Michel P18 as example sent in 1880 (Figure 6). Types 3 has the least concordant coat of arms and type 4 is less concordant than the first two types. Type 1 also is imprinted on Kingdom of Bavaria official formular stationery as early as 1872 with an early concordant precursor posted on September 5, 1873 and exhibited by Professor Lars-Olof Nilsson.

Although the Austro-Hungarian Empire issued postal stationery as early as 1869, it did not deliver any first generation precursor among the top maximaphily history exhibits. Emperor Franz Joseph I was shown on the first stamp issue as well as the first postal stationery issue. It was not until August 15, 1883 that the Austrian Empire coat of arms stamps (with the escutcheon arms replaced by face value of each stamp) showing double-headed eagle with imperial crown was issued. Unfortunately the postal stationery imprinted with concordant coat of arms was not valid after Oct 31. The creation of a first generation precursor (Figure 8) would thus require the sender who needs uprating to do so during a narrow window of 78 days. Two other senders opted to uprate with the Emperor stamp (valid for use until 1884) instead of the new stamp issue.



Figure 6

FIGURE 6. An example of Kingdom of Bavaria official postal stationery (Konigreich Bayern Postkarte in German) Michel No P18 which was imprinted with the Kingdom of Bavaria coat of arms concordant with the Kingdom of Bavaria coat of arms embossed on this five pfenning stamp issued in 1878 (Michel No 45). This uprate postal stationery was sent from Munich (Munchen in German) to Niederuzwil in Switzerland on August 16, 1880 and arrived on the next day. There are four types of Bavarian coat of arms imprinted on postal stationery. Type 1 is concordant with stamp issues of 1867 to 1875 (except 1874) of which we have Michel P 2 as example sent in 1875 (Figure 5). Type 2 being shown here is concordant with stamp issues of 1874 to 1911 (except 1875). Type 3 has the least concordant coat of arms and type 4 is less concordant than the first two types. P2 and P18 would count as two distinct postal stationery editions in our final tally.

After occupation of the Bosnia vilayet of the Ottoman Empire by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878, the Austrian Empire coat of arms was displayed on Bosnia stamps and postal stationery issued in 1879. Their combination then led to several first generation precursors, one example (Figure 9) was sent from Sarajevo, the city where the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand would trigger World War One.

The obvious place to look for a second generation (or F1) descendant of the Figure 8 Austro-Hungarian Empire postal stationery is inside the Hofburg royal complex in Vienna. However, we could not find such a postcard showing the concordant double-headed eagle in gold above the Neue Burg except one being franked with stamps bearing the First Republic coat of arms with the Federal eagle (Bundesadler in German) in 1921. An even more concordant postcard would show the Schweizer Tor but none could be found either. Without any F1 example, we have to skip to the F3 descendant in the fourth generation for now.

FIGURE 7. An example of Kingdom of Bavaria coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the western entrance gate of the Munich Residenz, the city palace of the monarchs of the Kingdom of Bavaria (Königreich Bayern in German) decorated with the Bavarian coat of arms above the two side gates. This precursor was sent from Munich to Rome on March 27, 1904. There are minor differences between the Bavarian coat of arms used for the Munich Residenz as shown on this postcard and the Bavarian coat of arms embossed on this stamp. The Bavarian coat of arms from the period between 1835 and 1918 was embossed on stamp because the ten pfennig stamp was issued in 1888 (Michel No 56) whereas the Bavarian coat of arms depicted on postcard was dated before 1807 since the west wing of the Munich Residenz was commissioned by Maximilian I (1597-1651). The main differences are: (1) Lion marquee on each side of the shield with crown (on stamp) and without crown (on postcard); (2) different crown designs above the central shields; (3) escutcheon of this shield with golden orb on red field (on postcard) versus escutcheon representing Bavaria (on stamp); (4) the golden lion of the Palatinate is shown on the first quarter of the shield (on stamp) but is shown on both the second and third field on postcard with the two remaining fields representing Bavaria (on postcard); (5) on stamp the second field shows the Franconian rake, the third field has red white strips with vertical gold pale to represent Swabia, and the fourth field the blue lion of Veldenz with crown on white field, none being shown on postcard.



Figure 7

The Kingdom of Hungary was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire but exercised considerable independence. Again, Emperor Franz Joseph I as King of Hungary was depicted on the first lithographic stamp issue with the Hungarian coat of arms showing the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen above the blazon shield. The small coat of arms was imprinted on the first Hungarian postal stationery issue as well. One of the earliest such concordant coat of arms combination is dated 1871 (Figure 10) but it is dated later than the 1871 Kingdom of Belgium combination (Figure 1). Kingdom of Hungary stamp issues after 1874 were without shield and Franz Joseph, but the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen concordance remains (Figure 11). As early as 1893, Hungarian postmarks began to depict the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen and thus Kingdom of Hungary postal stationery would rank second behind Swiss hotel TVA [5] in the race towards triple perfection image concordance for all three elements: stamp, postcard, and postmark (Figure 11).



Figure 8

FIGURE 8. An example of Austrian Empire official postal stationery (*Correspondenz-Karte* in German) imprinted with 1804 Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms (double-headed eagle with marshaled arms of Habsburg, Babenberg, and Lorraine displayed on the escutcheon, Order of the Golden Fleece, and Imperial Crown), which is listed as Michel No P26 (issue date is 1876-1882), and uprated with two five Kreuzer Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms stamps (with the escutcheon arms replaced by face value of each stamp) issued in 1883 (Michel No 46). This example was sent from Kamnitz an der Linde in the Kingdom of Bohemia (known today as *Kamenice nad Lipou* in the Czech Republic) to Haida in the Kingdom of Bohemia (known today as *Nový Bor* in the Czech Republic) on August 15, 1883. The distance between them is 195 km. We thank Jindřich Zroek for providing us with this scan.



Figure 9

FIGURE 9. An example of Austrian Empire occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina official postal stationery (*Correspondenz-Karte* in German) imprinted with an 1804 Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms (double-headed eagle with marshaled arms of Habsburg, Babenberg, and Lorraine displayed on the escutcheon, Order of the Golden Fleece, and Imperial Crown), which is listed as Michel No P1 (issue date is 1879), and uprated with five Kreuzer Bosnia and Herzegovina Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms stamp issued in 1879 (Michel No 4). Since this Bosnia and Herzegovina stamp has the Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms with marshaled arms of Habsburg, Babenberg, and Lorraine displayed on the escutcheon, it would offer greater concordance with the imprinted Austrian Empire imperial coat of arms than Figure 8. This precursor was sent from Sarajevo to London on October 29, 1890 but several earlier examples do exist.



Figure 10

FIGURE 10. *An example of Kingdom of Hungary official postal stationery (Levelező-Lap in Hungarian) Michel No P2 issued in 1869 imprinted with 1867 Kingdom of Hungary small or lesser coat of arms (kiscímer in Hungarian), and uprated with two Kreuzer/krajczár Michel No 1 stamp issued in 1871 with Kingdom of Hungary coat of arms depicted under Emperor Franz Joseph I. This example was sent on August 31, 1871 from Erzsébetváros of Transylvania (known today as Dumbrăveni in Romania but it was inside the Kingdom of Hungary before 1918) to Vienna/Wien (September 4 arrival cancel). Image concordance between postal stationery and stamp stems from the presence of the small or lesser coat of arms (blazon shield with red and white strips of the Árpáds on the left, double cross on top of trimount on the right, and the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen sitting above). This is the most concordant combination of Kingdom of Hungary postal stationery uprated with Kingdom of Hungary stamp and we thank Dénes Czirók RDP for this scan.*



Figure 11

FIGURE 11. *An example of Kingdom of Hungary official postal stationery (Magyar Királyi Posta Levelező-Lap in Hungarian) Michel No P6 issued in 1877 imprinted with 1867 Kingdom of Hungary small or lesser coat of arms (kiscímer in Hungarian), and uprated with three Kreuzer/krajczár Michel No 22 stamp issued in 1881 with Holy Crown of Saint Stephen above the stamp value. This example was sent on March 15, 1895 from Budapest by Albert Philipp to Bern, Switzerland (March 17 arrival cancel). Image concordance between postal stationery and stamp stems from the presence of the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen that is part of the small or lesser coat of arms. Since this postmark depicts the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen under Budapest, this precursor is able to achieve triple perfection image concordance for all three elements: stamp, postcard, and postmark. P2 and P6 with identical Kingdom of Hungary kiscímernek would count as one postal stationery edition in our final tally.*

After 1900, when the new stamp issues added the flying Turul which could include postcards showing the Turul sculpture above the Habsburg steps of the Buda Castle in Budapest as second generation (or F1) descendants. Although one possible example of the latter has been found [8], we did find better examples of coat of arms decoration depicted on **other postcards**. One of them shows the baroque Oroszlános kapu, now known as the Lions Gate, leading into the central courtyard being decorated on top with the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen and the Kingdom of Hungary middle coat of arms (Figure 12). Another second generation (or F1) descendant would be any one of many postcards of the Saint Stephen statue, wearing the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen, in the Halászbástya or Fisherman's Bastion of Budapest. The latter would be second generation (or F1) descendants of both the coat of arms and royal personages families and will be presented with other royal monuments in our next manuscript [9] and videos [8].

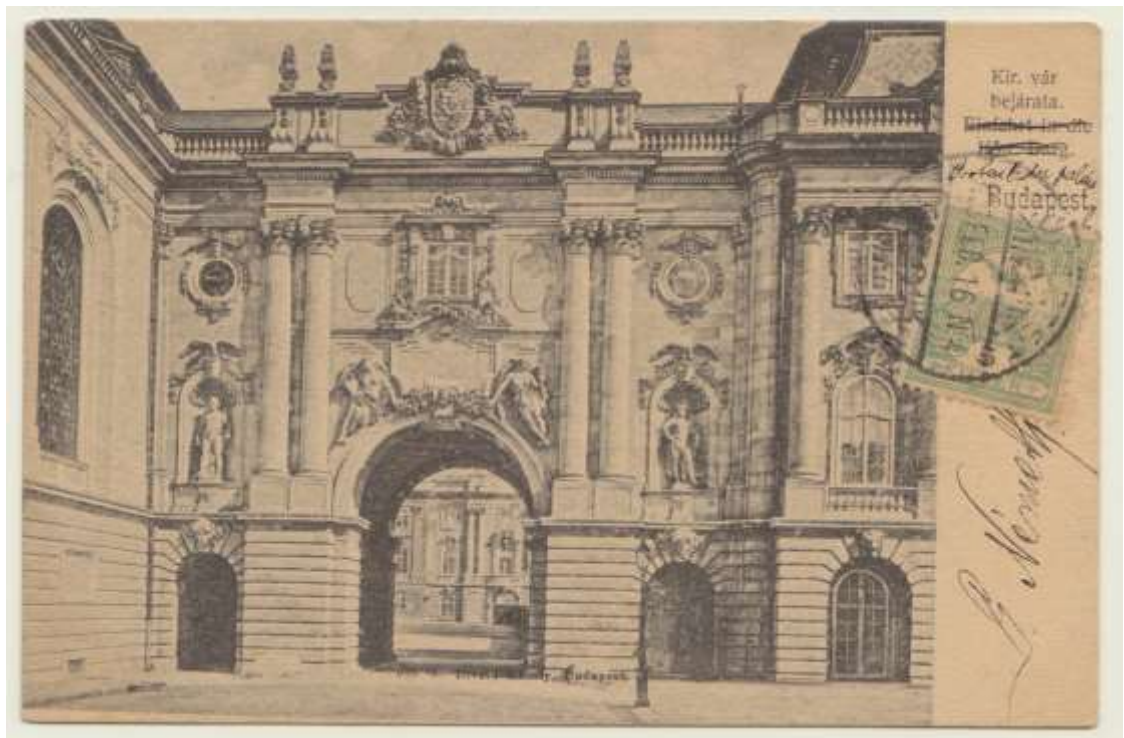


Figure 12

FIGURE 12. *An example of Kingdom of Hungary coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the Lions Gate (Oroszlános kapu in Hungarian) of the Buda Castle (Királyi Palota in Hungarian) and franked with five fillér Michel No 58A stamp issued in 1900 with Holy Crown of Saint Stephen above the stamp value. This example was sent from Budapest to Paris on February 16, 1903. Image concordance between postcard and stamp stems from the presence of the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen that is part of the 1890 middle coat of arms or középcímer (kiscímer is inside blazon shield as escutcheon, surrounded by the coats of arms of Transleithania or the lands of the Crown of Saint Stephen, including Kingdom of Dalmatia, Kingdom of Croatia, Principality of Transylvania, Rijeka or Fiume in both Hungarian and Italian, and Kingdom of Slavonia; and the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen above this középcímer) which sits in the middle of the decorative frieze on top of the Lions Gate. Since this postmark depicts the Holy Crown of Saint Stephen under Budapest, this precursor is able to achieve triple perfection image concordance for all three elements: stamp, postcard, and postmark.*

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PART II of this article including postal stationery and TCV precursors from the Russian Empire, Kingdom of Italy, and Mexico, as well as our conclusions and hypothesis will be presented in the next issue of this journal, scheduled for September or October, 2023, concomitant with the scheduled release of Part 2, Part 3, Part 7, and Part 8 of our YouTube videos at SCPPPC Postal History Channel [8].

Travel and Maximum Cards

My vacations are always enjoyed more when I can realize at least one maximum card while on the trip. A recent trip to Costa Rica provided me the opportunity to realize just one such maximum card. In the town of Monteverde, I located the post office and the clerk knew enough English to understand that I wanted to purchase any animal stamps that he might have in stock. He produced four souvenir sheets, each with two stamps. There were souvenir sheets of a frog, an underwater reef scene, a jaguar and a white-nosed Coati.

My task then was to find and purchase concordant postcards. This proved more difficult than I had thought it would be. At a souvenir shop in town, I quickly found and bought two coati cards. I did not expect to find postcards of the toad, although there were many postcards of the colorful, poisonous dart frogs. As Monteverde is an inland town, I did not **expect to find any reef postcards, but as I was soon to be on the Costa Rica's Pacific coast**, I thought that I had a good chance of finding such postcards. It was not to be. I thought that jaguar postcards would be easy to locate, but I never saw a jaguar postcard the entire time in Costa Rica.

Two days later, our tour group stopped for lunch and sightseeing in the town of Jaco. This town is on the Pacific Coast and just below the mountains that make up Carara National Park. As luck would have it, my Coati stamp was part of a set highlighting the **country's national parks with this stamp specifically highlighting the Carara National Park**. If I could locate the post office, communicate my cancellation request to the clerk, and get back to the bus before my group left me, I would have a great maximum card that was fully-concordant!

Using Google Maps and using my almost non-existent Spanish (“**Donde correos?**”), I found the post office. For some reason (my hurried look or tourist privilege?), the clerk let me cut to the front of the line. Now, I only needed to communicate my need for a cancellation **on the picture side of the postcard**. The clerk spoke no English and I only know “Donde

correos?” I pantomimed my need for a cancellation. She took the card, went back briefly to her supervisor, came back and began to pull the stamp off of the address side of the card. “No, no, no!” (more of my Spanish). Somehow, the light came on, and she figured out what I needed. “Stupid Gringo wanting a cancellation on the wrong side of an unaddressed postcard! Que pasa?”



The State of Florida Through Maximum Cards (Part 1)

In our seventh installment of viewing each of the 50 states within the United States of America through maximum cards, Florida comes up next. Florida entered the Union on March 3, 1845, being the 27th state to do so. During the latter half of the 20th century, Florida grew rapidly and now has a population of over 21 million, Florida is the third **most populous state**. It ranks **eighth in population density**. Florida's most populous metropolitan area includes Dade (Miami), Broward (Ft Lauderdale), and Palm Beach Counties (West Palm Beach). As for its size, Florida ranks 22nd in size (65,758 sq. miles).

In the past three-quarters of a century, the state has shown substantial economic growth with a gross state product of \$1.4 trillion. It has the fourth-largest economy of any U.S. state, making it the 16th-largest economy in the world. Tourism, hospitality, agriculture, real estate and transportation being the strongest of its economic sectors.

Florida is the most southeastern of the US states. It is the only state to share a coastline with the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Its coastline is the longest of the contiguous US states, around 1,350 miles (2,170 km).

Florida and Hawaii are the only two states to contain a **tropical climate**. Florida's tropical climate is in the southern part of the state while the northern portion of the state is subtropical..



Stamp: Greetings from Florida,
Scott #4569

Postcard: Greetings from Florida
& Map, Published by Gulfstream
Card Co.

Postmark: circle-date FDOI,
Tallahassee, FL 4/4/2002

Stamp: Passion Flower from the La
Florida issue to mark the 500th anni-
versary of Spanish explorer Juan Ponce
de Leon's founding of Florida. Scott
#4753

Postcard: Passion Flower, published by
Café Press

Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, St. Augustine,
FL 4/2/2013



Stamp: Settlement of Florida, Scott #1271

Postcard: Ponce de Leon statue, published by Florida Souvenir Co.

Postmark: pictorial "Fun '98", Orlando, FL 1/9/1998

Stamp: Florida Statehood, Scott #927

Postcard: City Gate to St. Augustine, published by Century Souvenir Co.

Postmark: machine cancel, St Augustine, FL 9/19/1989

On April 3, 1513 the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon became the first European to make landfall in the area which he named La Florida. No doubt the vegetation played a part in its naming as did the fact that it was the Easter season which the Spanish call *Pascua Florida* (Festival of Flowers). It has been said that he was searching for the Fountain of Youth.

While there were several attempts at settlement, it wasn't until 1565 that the settlement of St. Augustine was founded. St Augustine would eventually become the oldest, continuously occupied European settlement in the continental U.S. However, in 1763, Spain ceded Florida to England in exchange for control over Havana, Cuba. In January 1861, Florida became the third Southern state to secede from the Union.



In 1672, Spain built the Castillo de San Marcos to protect St Augustine from English colonists and buccaneers.

Stamp: Castillo de San Marcos, Priority Mail, Scott #5554

Postcard: antique Castello de San Marcos, published by E C Kropp Co.

Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, St. Augustine, FL 1/24/2021

In 1826, a lighthouse was built in the Dry Tortugas to protect shipping from the small islands and reefs. In 1846, Fort Jefferson was then built on the Dry Tortuga Islands as an advance post for a defense of the Gulf Coast. It is the largest brick masonry structure in the Americas. Today, it is a National Monument and can be visited after a 68 mile boat ride from Key West.

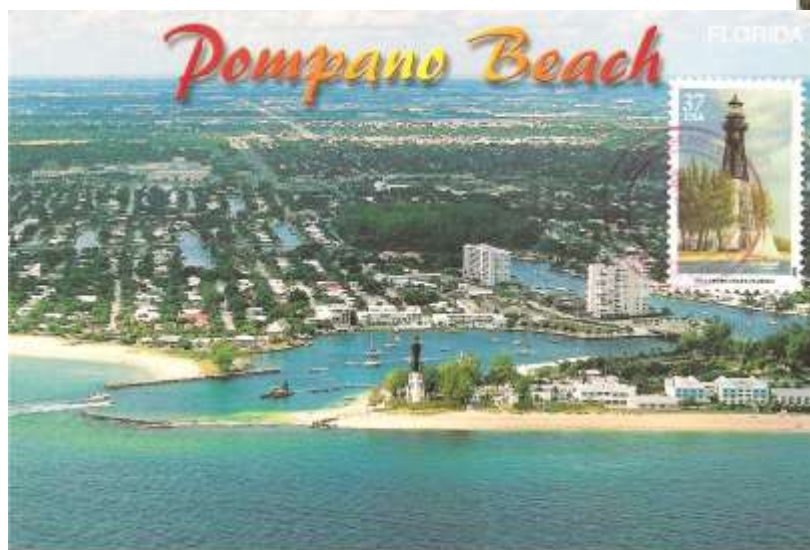
Stamp: Fort Jefferson Lighthouse from the Gulf Coast Lighthouses issue, Scott #4412

Postcard: Fort Jefferson Lighthouse, unknown publisher

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, Key West, FL 7/9/2013



The Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse is located in Pompano Beach. It is a skeletal structure that is 142 feet tall.



Stamp: Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse from the Southeast Coast Lighthouses issue, Scott #3791

Postcard: Pompano Beach (with Hillsboro Light in foreground), published by Scenic Florida Distributors

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, Lighthouse Point, FL 6/27/2007

There are currently 30 lighthouses in the state of Florida that are overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard. American Shoals Light is the third Florida lighthouse featured on a USPS stamp (1990).

The Everglades are a tropical wetland that is located in the southern portion of the state. It is a 60 mile, slow-moving river that flows south from Lake Okeechobee.

Stamp: Everglades National Park, Scott #50801

Postcard: Everglades National Park, published by Impact

Postmark: ordinary, circle-date, Ochopee, FL 1/23/2018



The Everglades are a unique ecosystem with an abundance of wildlife. The Everglades National Park is the largest tropical wilderness in the U.S.

Stamp: Roseate Spoonbill from the Southern Florida Wetland Wildlife issue, Scott #4099f

Postcard: Roseate Spoonbills, "Florida Everglades", published by City Sights

Postmark: circle-date FDOI, Naples, FL 10/4/2006



There are 375 different species of birds that can be found in Everglades National Park. Everglades inhabitants include bald eagles, roseate spoonbills, wood storks, snail kites, and seaside sparrows, all of which were featured on the USPS' 2003 Southern Florida Wetlands Wildlife issue.

Stamp: Florida Everglades, Priority Mail, Scott #5751

Postcard: Egrets, Everglades, published by Impact

Postmark: official 4 bar FDOI, Homestead, FL 1/22/2023

Stamp: Everglades Mink from the Southern Florida Wetland Wildlife issue, Scott #4099g

Postcard: Mink, published by Pomegranate

Postmark: official pictorial FDOI, Naples, FL 10/4/2006

There are more than 40 species of mammals in the Everglades. The introduction of the invasive Burmese Python in the park has become a major threat to the park's mid-sized mammals.



Stamp: Florida Panther from the Endangered Species issue , #3105m

Postcard: Florida Panther, published by Impact

Postmark: pictorial, "Save the Florida Panther", Orlando, FL 11/16/1998

The Florida Panther is an extremely endangered animal with only around 230 surviving today in the wild. Its major threats come from human encroachment into its territory, automobiles and inbreeding due to its small population.



Stamp: Grey Angelfish, Longest Reef off the Florida Coast from the Wonders of America issue, Scott #4042

Postcard: Grey Angelfish, Florida Keys, published by Blue Water Publishing, Inc.

Postmark: ordinary, circle-date, Key West, FL 1/10/2014

Florida is blessed with a variety of ecosystems. The coral reef just offshore of the Florida Keys is a very special one. It is the only living coral reef in the Continental U.S.

As such, the Keys are a mecca to SCUBA divers. Over 500 different species of fish live on the reefs of the Florida Keys.

Stamp: Butterfly Fish & Scuba Diver, Scott #2863

Postcard: Scuba Diver in Florida Keys, published by Pro Publishing, Inc.

Postmark: pictorial (turtle, sea, & sun), Key West National Marine Refuge Station, Key West, FL. 11/15/2008





Central Florida is filled with lakes and natural springs. These also draw tourists with fishing being a major sport activity. The Largemouth Bass is the state fish.

Stamp: Largemouth Bass, Scott #2207

Postcard: Bass Fishing, published by Colorpicture Publishers, Inc.

Postmark: pictorial "Roosters 1st Annual Fishing Invitational", White Springs, FL 7/3/2013

There are over 700 natural springs in north and central Florida. Many of the springs of Florida were developed into privately owned tourist destinations in the 1940s and 50s. Silver Springs and Weeki Wachee were two of the most popular.

Stamp: American Crocodile, Scott #3105d

Postcard: Silver Springs Crocodile, published by Impact

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, Silver Springs, FL 7/25/2009



Today, many of these springs have been incorporated into national forests and state parks including Homosassa Springs and Silver Springs. Many Florida springs offer wildlife viewing, swimming, snorkeling, diving, photography, camping, canoeing, tubing or kayaking in water with a constant average temperature of 72 degrees.

A variety of animals can be viewed in the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park including a hippopotamus that has starred in many movies over the last 40 years.

Stamp: Great Gray Owl, Scott #1760

Postcard: Great Gray Owl, Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park, published by Impact

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, Homosassa Springs, FL 1/29/2020

Manatees, often called sea cows, can be found throughout the coastal regions of Florida, both in salt water and fresh. Manatees are fully aquatic mammals that can reach over 13 feet in length and weigh as much as 1200 pounds. Typically, they move slowly and stay just under the surface of their water habitat. This is one of the reasons for their endangered species status. The propellers of boats often run into manatees.

Stamp: Florida Manatee from the Endangered Species issue, Scott #31050

Postcard: Manatee, published by Graphics International Design Studio

Postmark: pictorial "Manatee Station", Orange City, FL 1/24/2004



The Mocking Bird is the official State Bird of Florida

Stamp: Mockingbird & Orange Blossom from the State Bird & Flower issue, Scott #1961

Postcard: Mockingbird, Florida State Bird, published by Capital Engraving, Inc.

Postmark: pictorial "Blueberry Festival Station", Wellborn, FL 6/23/2011

The design of Florida's flag consists of two red bars on a white field, with the state seal in the center. The flag was adopted on May 6, 1868 with modification made in November 1900 and in May 1985.

Stamp: Florida State Flag from the Flags of Our Nation series, Scott #4284

Postcard: Florida State Flag, published by Zazzle

Postmark: pictorial "Museum of Florida History Station", Tallahassee, FL 9/8/2008

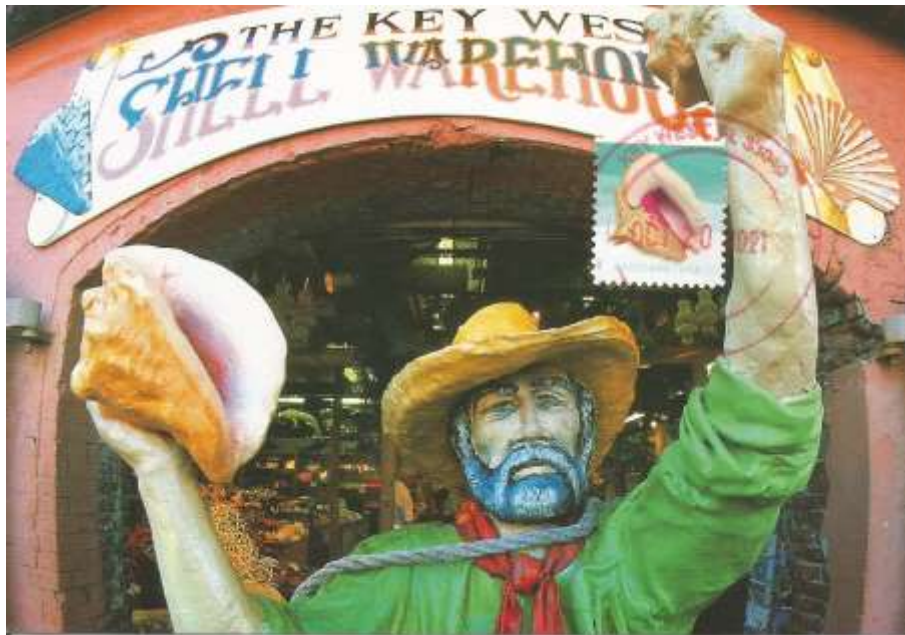


Tourism is the primary driving force of Florida's economy. With its warm climate and 1,350 mile coastline, the beaches on Florida's Atlantic and Gulf Coasts are some of the most popular in the world.

Stamp: Greetings from Florida, Scott #4569

Postcard: linen-era Florida Beach, published by Tichnor Bros, Inc.

Postmark: pictorial, "NAPUS Station", St. Pete Beach, FL, 5/27/2003



Key West and the Florida Keys are another important tourist draw. The Keys are the southern most portion of the continental U.S. They are 120 miles long and consist of around 1,700 islands

Stamp: Conch Shell, Scott #5163

Postcard: Shell Warehouse, Unknown publisher

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, Key West, FL 10/20/2021

Once on the Endangered Species List, the alligator has made a full recovery. Now alligators are becoming a common nuisance and can be found on Florida golf courses, neighborhood sidewalks, in family swimming pools and subdivision lakes.

Stamp: Alligator, Florida State hood issue, Scott #2950

Postcard: Florida Alligator, published by Curteichcolor

Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, Tallahassee, FL 3/3/1995



Postmark Quality Assessment from Cancellation Requests

If you are a maximphiliist who creates your own maximum cards, you no doubt have been discouraged at times when you receive back postmarks that are faulty— smeared, illegible, too light, too heavy, etc. Over the years, I have estimated that about one-quarter of the cards that I receive back from cancellation requests are faulty. Recently, I made an attempt to more accurately assess the percentage of faulty cards that I receive back from cancellation requests.

Over the years, I have accumulated postcards and matching stamps in the hope of eventually being able to obtain concordant pictorial postmarks for them. However, with the dearth of pictorial postmarks that have been offered since COVID, I decided to just obtain ordinary, circle-date cancellations for many of these cards. Knowing that these cards would not be acceptable to purists as the stamps were over five years old, I sent 219 postcards to 67 different post offices in the months of April and May, 2023. The results follow.

Of the 219 postmarks that I received, I subjectively rated 82 (38%) of them of receiving **“excellent” postmarks**. **These cards had clear, crisp and legible cancellations.**

Examples of “Excellent” Postmarks

Stamp: Cowboy Boots from Western Wear issue, Scott #5617

Postcard: “Cowboy Country, Utah”, published by Great Mountain West

Postmark: ordinary circle-date, red ink, Salt Lake City, UT 5/15/2023. Postal clerk followed directions by placing the postmark in the exact requested location clearly showing over the lighter colored Stirrups portion of the postcard’s picture.



Stamp: Fox, Scott #5742

Postcard: Red Fox in Snow, published by Hugh Morton

Postmark: ordinary four-bar, circle-date, black ink, Fox, AK 4/14/2023. Postal clerk followed directions by placing the postmark in the exact requested location clearly showing over the picture’s area of snow.

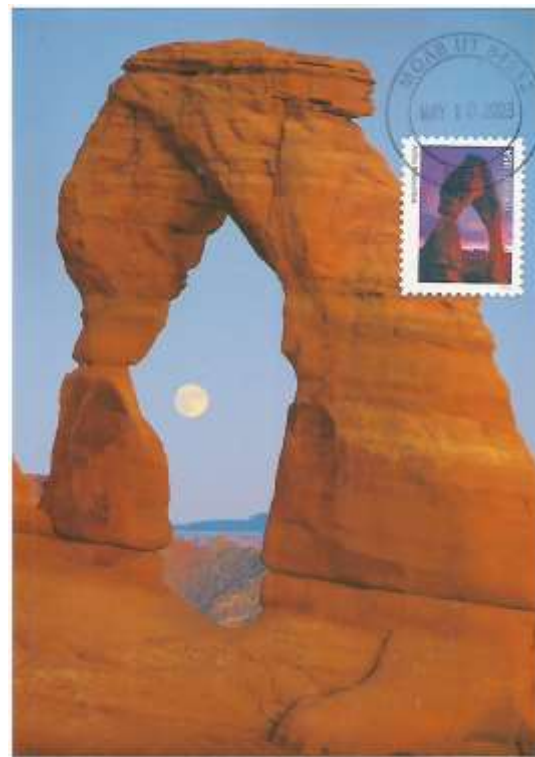
Two additional cards that I gave an “excellent” rating.



Stamp: South Dakota State Flag from the Flags of Our Nation series Scott #4321

Postcard: “South Dakota Buffalo”, published by Rushmore News, Inc.

Postmark: circle-date, Buffalo, SD 5/5/2023



Stamp: Delicate Arch. Arches National Park, Scott #5080h

Postcard: “Delicate Arch Moonrise”, published by Impact

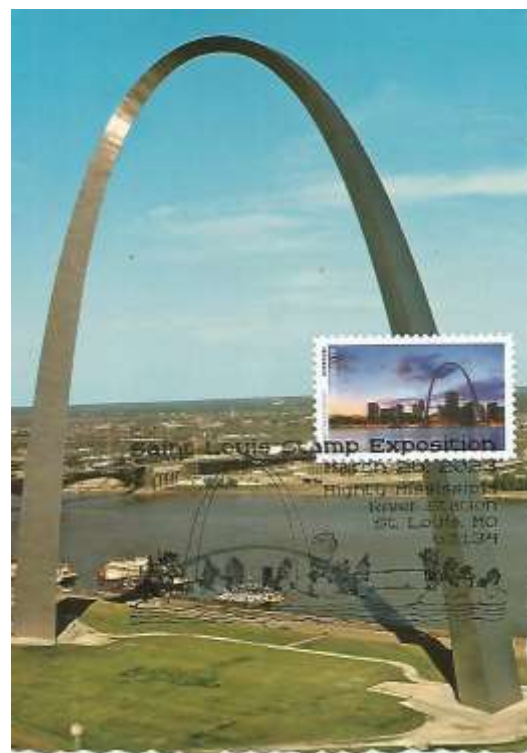
Postmark: circle-date, Moab, UT 5/10/2023

Although I asked for ordinary circle-date postmarks, two postal clerks showed initiative and gave me a pictorial postmark (St Louis, MO & Portland, OR). This was greatly appreciated. However, on the St. Louis card, the clerk did not locate the postmark where I had requested it to be placed. I had requested that the postmark be placed on the upper left hand side of the stamp so that it would be more visible against the lighter blue sky of the picture postcard.

Stamp: St . Louis, Missouri from the 2022 Mighty Mississippi issue, Scott #5698e

Postcard: “The Gateway Arch”, published by T & H Distributors

Postmark: pictorial “St Louis Stamp Exposition”, Mighty Mississippi River Station St Louis, MO 3/26/2023



Examples of “Satisfactory” Postmarks

Fifty-three of the 216 cards (25%) received cancellations that I characterized as “satisfactory”. Most of these cards had good postmarks, but had a minor flaw or two. These flaws included cancellations that were a little light, a little heavy, a portion of the postmark not visible, slight ink smears, etc. Three examples follow:



Stamp: Buffalo Bill from the Legends of the West issue, Scott #2869b

Postcard: Buffalo Bill statue at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, published by John Hinde Curteich, Inc.

Postmark: circle-date Cody, WY 5/5/2023 Year date portion of postmark is heavy

Stamp: Utah State Flag from the Flags of Our Nation series, Scott #4324

Postcard: Bryce Canyon National Park, published by Western Resort Publications

Postmark: circle-date, Tropic, UT 5/5/2023, slight smear of zip code portion of postmark. Post mark not located in position that I designated. I asked that the postmark be located a little to the right of current postmark so that it would show up better against the light blue sky.



Stamp: Super Chief from the 1999 Locomotive issue, Scott #3337

Postcard: linen era Santa Fe Streamliner, published by Fred Harvey

Postmark: circle-date San Bernardino, CA 5/2/2023 Postmark not placed in the position that I requested with a post-it note. Red ink would have shown up better if it had been positioned in the blue sky to the left of the stamp.



Stamp: School Bus, additional oz. , Scott #5740
 Postcard: Blue Bird School Bus, published by Zazzle
 Postmark: circle-date, Fort Valley, GA 5/5/2023

Nineteen (9%) of the cards that I received back with local cancellations were obviously faulty and can be characterized as “fillers” in a collection. Two cards using the USPS’ stamps from the 1994 Wonders of the Sea issue serve as examples.



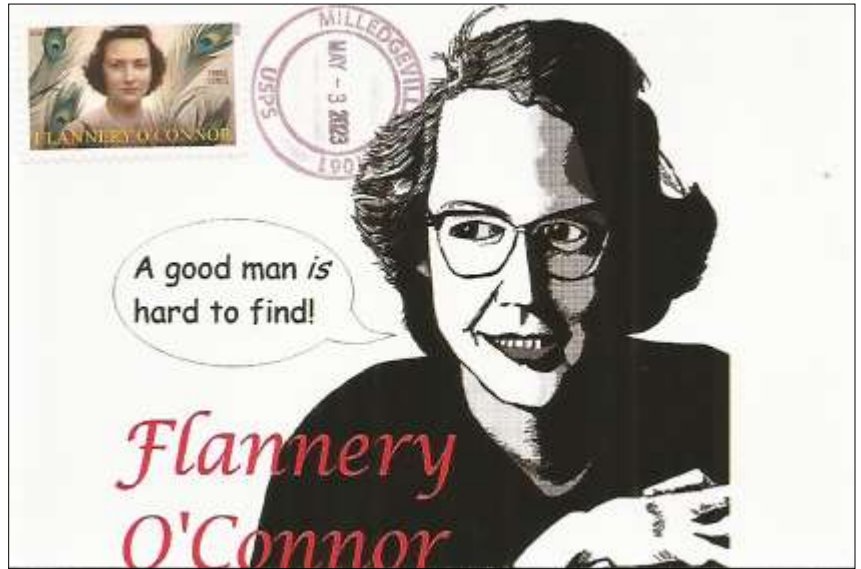
Stamp: Scuba Diver , Scott #2866c
 Postcard: “diving among the reefs at John Pennekamp State Park”, published by Gulfstream Card Co.
 Postmark: circle-date, Key Largo, FL 4/25/2023 The ink of the cancellation has run making it almost illegible. This may be due to the card’s surface as other Key Largo postmarks were satisfactory.

In an attempt to realize maximum cards using the recently released School Bus stamp, I sent three cards to Fort Valley, GA. Fort Valley is a concordant site in that Blue Bird school buses are manufactured in Fort Valley. These cards were returned to me with “satisfactory” postmarks. This card’s postmark is a little light and the year date is heavy. IC is another manufacturer of school buses. Three IC Bus postcards were sent to Lisle, IL (manufacturing site), but these cards (1%) were never returned to me.



Stamp: Butterflyfish and Clown fish, Scott #2866d
 Postcard: “Florida Keys, Banded Butterfly fish”, published by Blue Water Publishing, Inc.
 Postmark: circle-date, Islamorada, FL 4/27/2023 For some unknown reason,, the card was given two postmarks, one hitting the stamp and the other not.

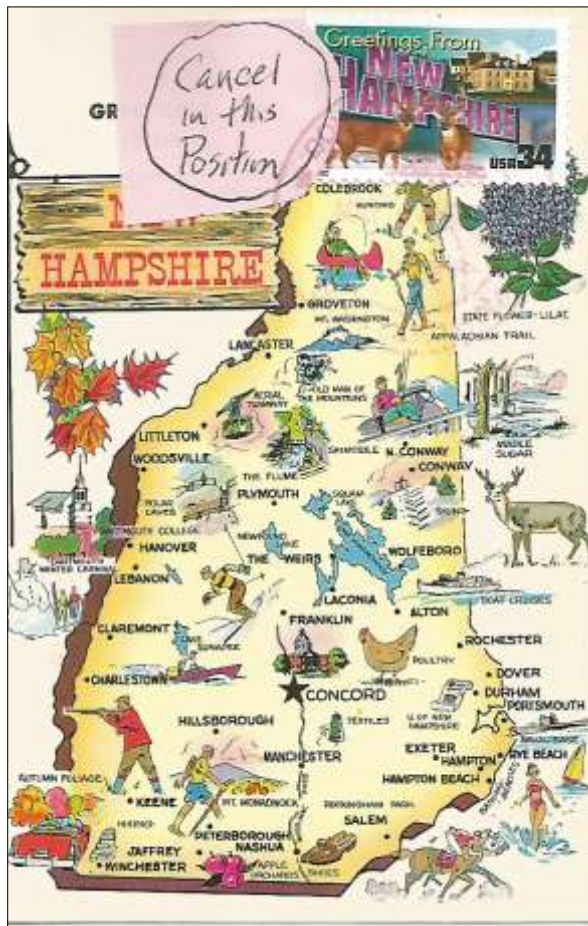
Forty-three cards (20%) were returned to me with poor cancellations, so much so that they were unusable in a maximum card collection. Some of these cards had such heavy, or light postmarks that they were completely illegible. Other cards (right) had postmarks that completely missed the stamp. FIP guidelines state that the postmark must “tie” the stamp to the postcard.



Stamp: Flannery O'Connor, 3 oz rate Scott #5003

Postcard: Flannery O'Connor & quote, published by Café Press

Postmark: circle-date, Milledgeville, GA 5/3/2023
Postmark does not touch the stamp.



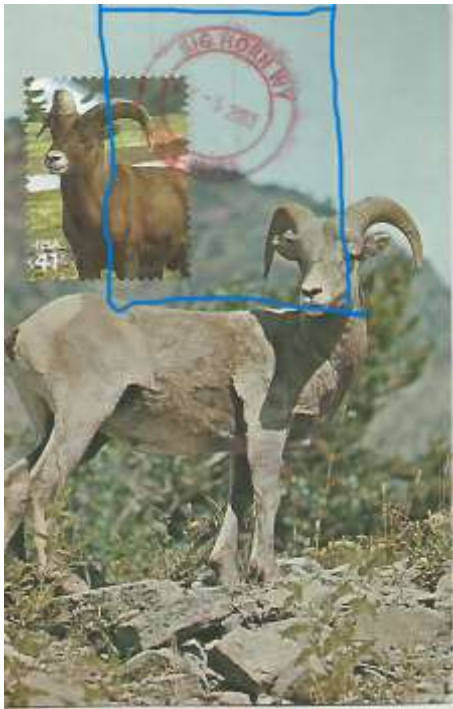
Stamp: Greetings from New Hampshire, Scott #3589

Postcard: Greetings from New Hampshire (map),
Published by Tichnor Brothers, Inc.

Postmark: circle-date, Concord, NH (5/illigible/2023,
Too light, smeared, misplaced postmark.

There are many reasons how cancellation requests can go badly. Firstly, we must admit that slick postcards can be problematic for postal clerks that do not have any experience with cancellation requests. It is likely that most clerks have never had a cancellation request of any kind, especially in smaller post offices. There appears to be little understanding of how to work philatelic requests. Poor quality inks often also are responsible for poor cancellations.

The USPS' Postal Operations Manual (POM) states that postal “employees should strive to furnish clear and legible postmarks to stamp collectors”. However, sometimes it can only be deduced that postal workers have little interest in providing quality service of philatelic requests. The card to the left is an example of such unconcern. I put a post-it note showing the location where I wished the postmark to be placed. Not only did the postal worker not place the postmark where directed, he/she did not bother to even remove the post-it note and a portion of the postmark can be seen on the post-it note.



Stamp: Big Horn Sheep, Scott #4198e
 Postcard: Big Horn Sheep, published by Nature Press
 Postmark: circle-date, Big Horn, WY 5/5/2023

Stamp: Cincinnati's Union Terminal, Scott #5762
 Postcard: Cincinnati Union Terminal, published by Kraemer Art Co..
 Postmark: incorrect FDOI, Gatlinburg, TN 1/22/2023
 Cincinnati, OH was the official FDOI site.

The worst offender came from the post office in Big Horn, WY. This was not the work of a careless, uncaring postal employee. Quite the opposite. He/she **went the second mile in trying to "improve" the cancellations** on three cards by placing tape over the postmark and portions of the stamp (outlined in blue). The handwritten explanation can be seen below.

Terry,
 We had to tape over
 the stamp because it
 wouldn't dry after
 2 hours.
 Hope that will
 work



Hands down, the best postmarks come from the **professionals at the USPS' Cancellation Services in Kansas City**. However, occasionally, they, too mess up as can be seen to the above right with the wrong first day of issue postmark applied to the Cincinnati Rail Station stamp. The cancellation for the new Smokey Mountains Priority Mail postmark was applied to three of my Cincinnati Railway Station cards, making these cards completely worthless. And these postcards were not cheap when purchased on Ebay.

But, everyone makes mistakes. Note the Harlem Renaissance stamp that I mistakenly sent to a Brooklyn post office instead of Harlem.

Stamp: Nella Larsen, Harlem Renaissance, Scott #5471
 Postcard: Nella Larsen, published by Zazzle
 Postmark: Camden Plaza (Brooklyn), NY 6/7/2023



New Realizations—Snowy Beauty

On October 11, 2022, the United States Postal Service issued a set of 10 stamps that “celebrate the warmth and cheer that flowers and berries bring to our natural landscapes, even after a surprise snow”.



Stamp: Pansies, Scott #5732
 Postcard: Pansies, published by Thor Gyger
 Postmark: digital color FDOI, Guilford, IN
 10/11/2022



Stamp: Daffodil, Scott #5735
 Postcard: Daffodil, unknown European publisher
 Postmark: digital color FDOI, Guilford, IN
 10/11/2022



Stamp: Grape Hyacinths, Scott #5734
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: circle-date FDOI, Guilford, IN
 10/11/2022



Stamp: Hellebore, Scott #5730
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Crocus, Scott #5729
 Postcard: published by Christopher Arndt Postcards
 Postmark: FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Camellia, Scott #5727
 Postcard: Camellia, published by Ocean Springs Dist.
 Postmark: digital color FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Plum Blossoms, Scott #5733
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: digital color FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Ranunculus, Scott #5736
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Winter Aconite, Scott #5728
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022



Stamp: Winterberry, Scott #5731
 Postcard: published by Zazzle
 Postmark: FDOI, Guilford, IN 10/11/2022

Recent Realizations

With the increased postal rates going into effect, the USPS issued stamps of sailboats on January 22, 2023. These two colorful stamps featured sailboats and were to be used for the new, 48 cent rate for postcards.

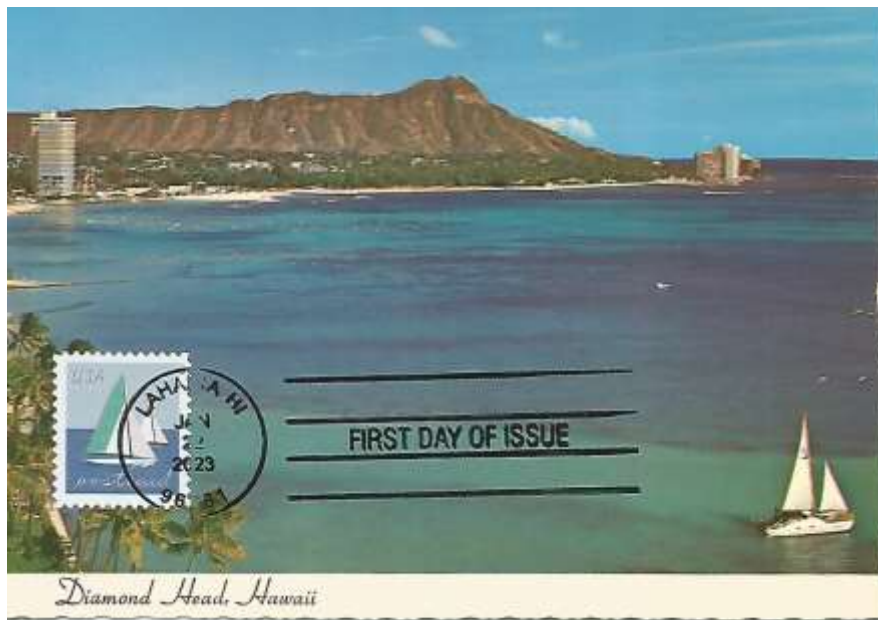
The December 15, 2022, Postal Bulletin states that the **two stamps** “capture the joyful sensation of being on the water on a beautiful day”.



Stamp: one sailboat, postcard rate, Scott #5748

Postcard: Sailing, published by Colour Picture Publishers, Inc.

Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, Lahaina, HI 1/22/2023



Stamp: two sailboats, postcard rate, Scott #5747

Postcard: Diamond Head, Hawaiian, published by Hawaiian Service, Inc.

Postmark: 4 bar FDOI, Lahaina, HI 1/22/2023

Charles Schultz was honored on September 30, 2022 with the issuance of ten stamps that featured some of his much-loved cartoon charac-

Stamp: Lucy from the Charles M Schultz issue. Scott #5726b

Postcard: Peanuts characters, “Welcome”. Postcard created for teachers to send to new students. Published by Paper Magic Group, Inc.

Postmark: pictorial FDOI, Santa Rosa, CA 9/30/2022



On April 24th, the USPS issued a set of five stamps commemorating the iconic work of pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein. In addition to the pictured, “Still Life with Goldfish” (1972), the set includes: “Standing Explosion (Red)” (1965), “Modern Painting I” (1966), “Still Life with Crystal Bowl” (1972), and “Portrait of a Woman” (1979).

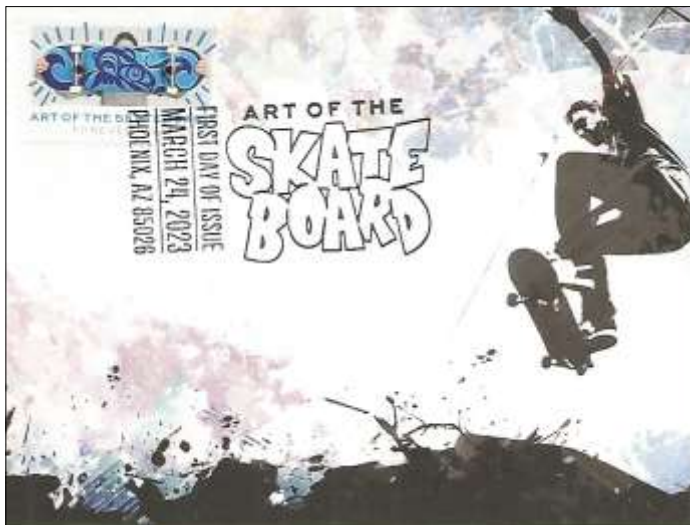
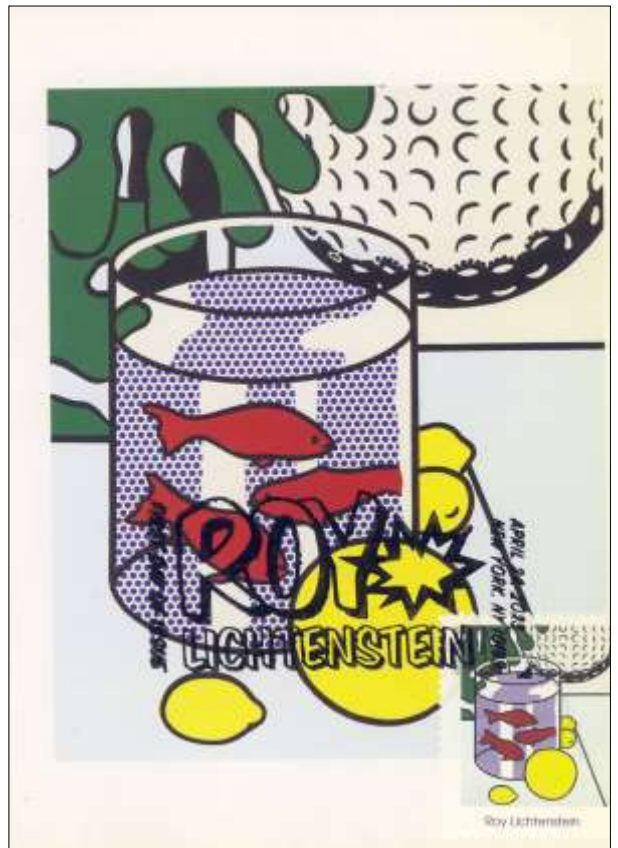
Lichtenstein’s art featured cartoon-like depictions in bright colors and dot patterns of unlikely subjects such as consumer goods. His work was loved by some and hated by others.

Stamp: Roy Lichtenstein’s “Still Life with Goldfish”,
Scott #5795

Postcard: Museum Card, published by Art Institute of Chicago

Postmark: pictorial FDOI, New York, NY
4/24/2023

Card realized by Matthew Corey



Stamp: Skateboard by Tlingit Athabascan Salmon Design
by Crystal Worl, Scott #5763

Postcard: Skateboarder, published by Zazzle

Postmark: pictorial FDOI, Phoenix, AZ 3/24/2023,

Stamp: Skateboard by Navajo Design by Di’Orr
Greenwood , Scott #5765

Postcard: Skateboarder, published by Zazzle

Postmark: pictorial FDOI, Phoenix, AZ 3/24/2023

On March 24th, the USPS issued a set of four stamps honoring the “Art of the Skateboard”. These four stamps feature “vibrant designs that capture skateboarding’s excitement and reflect the diversity and influences of the four artists whose work is featured”.



Recent Realizations—Canada



Stamp: C W Parker
Carousel #119

Postcard: Coney
Island style carousel,
published by Zon
International
Publishing Co.

Postmark: official
FDOI, Calgary, AB
7/21/2022

Stamp: Sunflower, Canada semi-postal

Postcard: Sunflower, published by Christopher Arndt
Postcards

Postmark: pictorial FDOI, Ottawa, ON 7/7/2022



Stamp: Beluga Whale
(*Delphinapterus leucas*)

Postcard: Beluga Whale, published
by Impact

Postmark: pictorial FDOI,
Halifax, NS 8/20/2022

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For The

MAXIMUM CARD STUDY UNIT of AMERICA

Founded in 1978, the Maximum Card Study Unit (MACSU) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the creation, collection, exchange, enjoyment, display, and study of Maximum Cards, by spreading the knowledge of Maximaphily among its members.

Membership includes a subscription to Maximaphily USA, a quarterly journal featuring news of the maximum card world and articles by members and experts in the field.

Articles featuring topical collecting typically are richly illustrated with maximum cards and share the author's insightful knowledge of the subject and his/her own personal and helpful experience.

The pages providing information regarding activities of individual members allows members to place free advertising for trading, buying, selling and exchanging information. Here the opportunity to make contacts with members in other countries is provided.

There are articles evaluating maximum cards according to accepted standards, pointing out good qualities and making suggestions for improvement.

Mail bid auctions are held on occasion, featuring inexpensive cards donated by members.

Every issue provides a page or two of illustrations of the most recent maximum card creations by our members. Every member gets a chance to show his cards and write an article about them.

.....

MACSU Membership Application

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Email Address: _____
Collecting Interests (Topics, countries, etc.) _____

(Indicate if you want your name and interests listed in an upcoming issue: YES: NO)

Club membership is only \$12 per year and includes a quarterly journal emailed to you. You can pay your dues via PayPal. Send your PayPal payment to MAXICARDS@gmail.com