



Exhibiting First Day Covers:
First Days of the 1929 George Rogers
Clark Commemorative

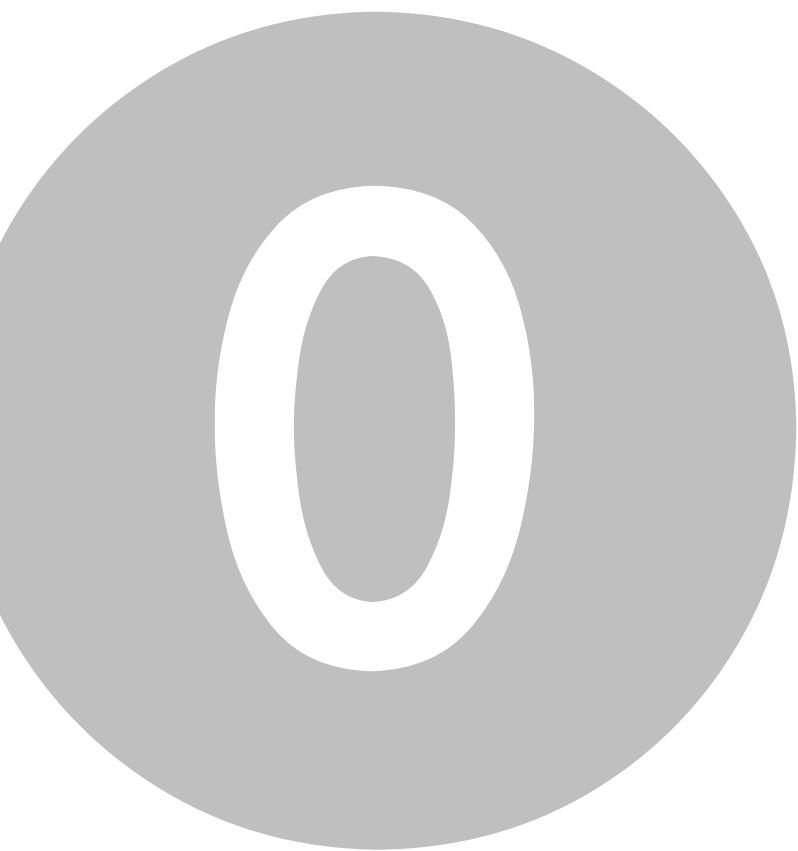
Andrew McFarlane

The Collectors Club

New York, NY

October 1, 2014






INTRODUCTION

First Day Cover Exhibiting Classes & Divisions


APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

General Class

- Postal Division:

- Traditional
- Postal History
- Aerophilately
- Astrophilately
- Postal Stationery
- First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division 

- Illustrated Mail Division

- Cacheted First Day Covers 
- Advertising, Patriotic and Event Covers
- Maximaphily

APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

Postal vs. Illustrated Mail

“First Day Cover exhibits that have the attributes of traditional philately or postal history should be judged in the Postal Division. Covers from 1920 onward bearing cachets and for which the cachet is the primary focus of the exhibit should be judged according to the criteria in the Illustrated Mail Division.”

APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

- General Class – Postal Division:
 - First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division

Current version of the manual (revised Sept. 2012) has just over two pages (pages 42-44) devoted to FDC Exhibits in the Postal Division.

Revised Sept 26, 2012 — (replaced chapter 23A)		
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY		
Manual of Philatelic Judging		
Sixth Edition		
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APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

- General Class – Postal Division: First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division

From the manual under the category of ***Importance***:

“The classic period of FDCs and EDUs is usually defined as pre-1920. A classic exhibit should show knowledge of pioneer servicers and cachet forerunners such as illustrated exposition covers. The source for the dates of EDUs should be referenced.”

“Exhibits of post-1920 FDCs and EDUs should demonstrate knowledge of cachets and their artists and/or producers.”

APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

- General Class – Postal Division: First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division

From the manual under the category of ***Treatment***:

“An FDC exhibit focusing on a single stamp or a set or series of stamps should begin with a stamp study similar to that of a traditional treatment”.

“Non-first day usages should be shown beginning with the postal service, such as the rate for which the stamp was issued, represented by the stamp or stationery. Non-first class mail types, e.g., airmail, special delivery, registered, and parcel, follow this. The range and variety of usages also reflects philatelic knowledge.”

APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

- General Class – Postal Division: First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division

From the manual under the category of ***Treatment***:

“Applicable para-philatelic material should be included. This includes postal service announcements of the new issue, first day ceremony invitations and programs, souvenir pages and panels, and stuffer cards. Corner cards, stuffers and return addresses often provide important information about the first day servicer. Most para-philatelic material such as ceremony programs did not feature stamps with first day cancels before 1950.”

APS Manual of Philatelic Judging (6th Edition)

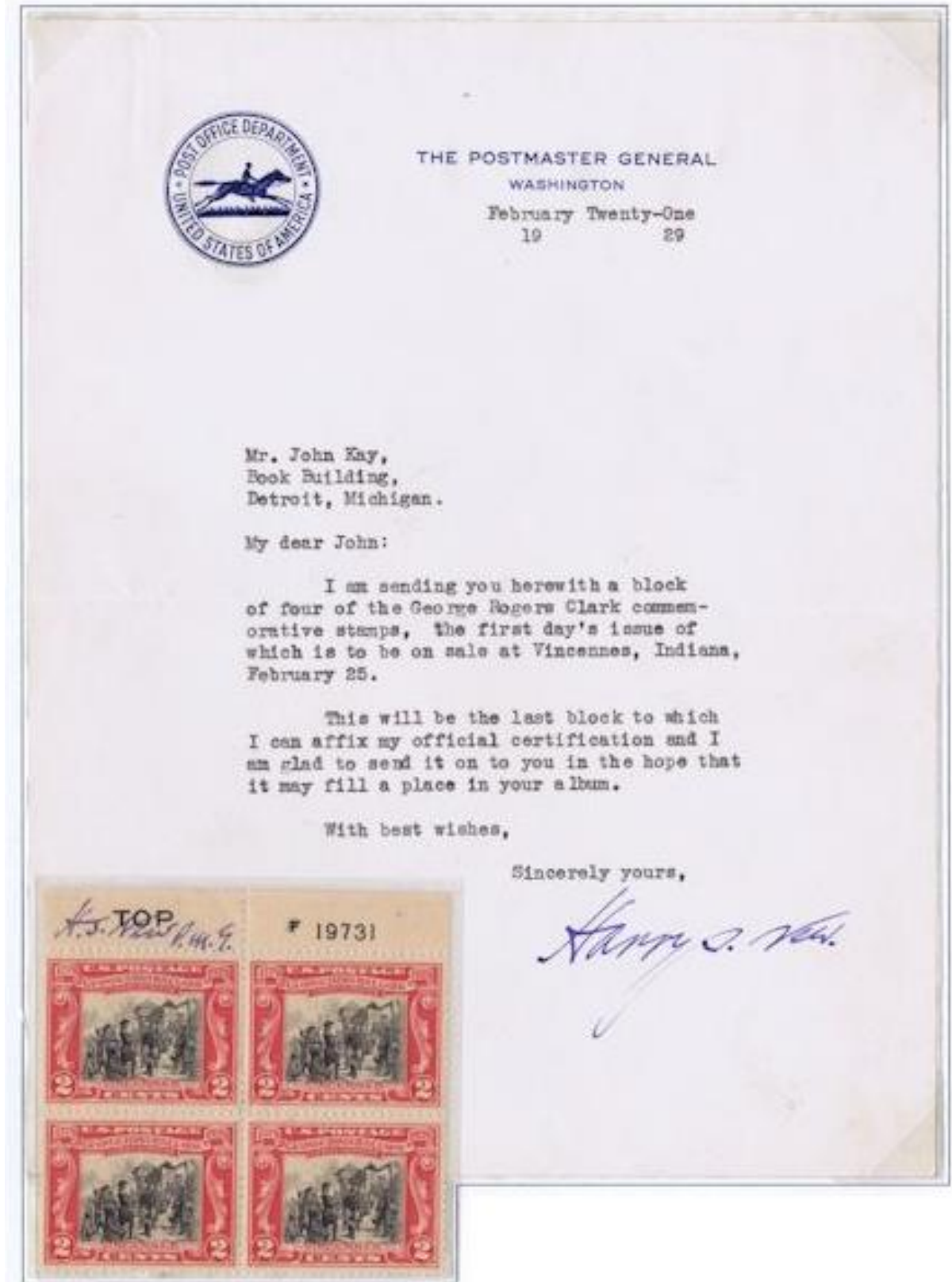
- General Class – Postal Division: First Day Cover Exhibits in the Postal Division

From the manual under the category of ***Treatment***:

“Within these overlapping categories, first issues serviced by a pioneer or first cachets prepared for a stamp should be shown along with these varieties of cachets or envelopes as appropriate. An exhibitor should differentiate between generic cachets and those prepared specifically for the stamp. Generic cachets should not be present in high numbers unless there is no alternative. Likewise, recent add-on cachets should be modestly represented and identified as such.”

Basic Info

- Issued on February 25, 1929 in Vincennes, Indiana
- Design based on a 1923 painting by Frederick C. Yohn
- Postmaster General Harry S. New was from Indiana and this was to be the last stamp issued under his administration – he wanted one to remember.
- The Clark Sesqui-Centennial celebration was a major civic event throughout the upper mid-west region.



Who Was George Rogers Clark?

- Born in 1752, Charlottesville, Virginia
- In July 1778 he and his men crossed the Ohio River and marched to Kaskaskia (now SW Illinois) and captured the British fort. Other villages and forts in the area were also taken during 1778.
- In February 1779 Clark's men marched to Vincennes (now SW Indiana) and re-took Fort Sackville from the British after a two-day siege.
- Surrender of the fort to Clark by British Major Henry Hamilton is the subject of the stamp.
- Died 1818, outside of Louisville



1



CHAPTER ONE

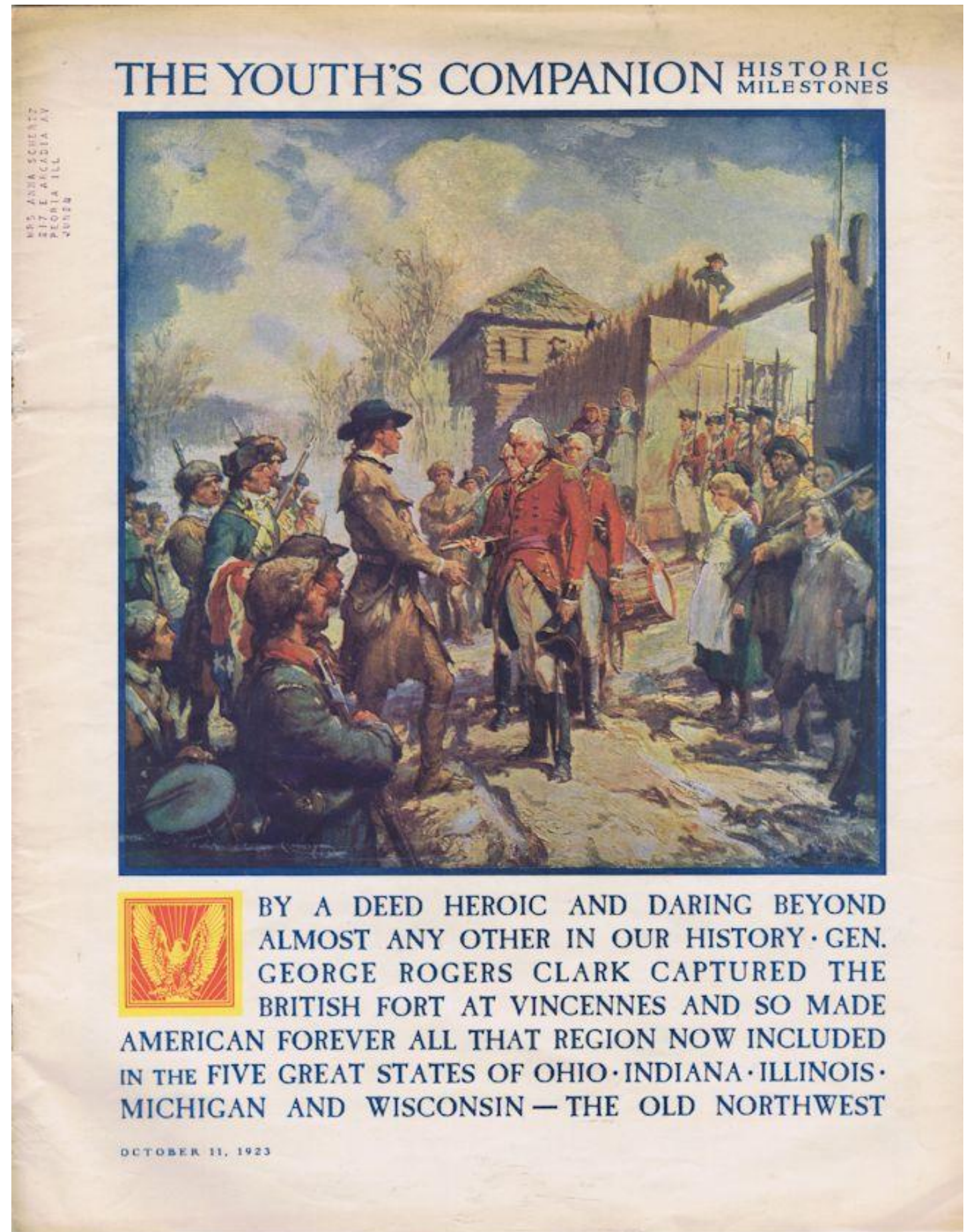
Production & Issuance

Production & Issuance

- Drawings & Essays
- Color trials
- Progressive proofs
- Die proofs
- Plate proofs
- Photos of essays
- Printing method
- Sheet plate layout
- Marginal markings
- Paper watermarks
- Gum
- Perforations
- EFOs
- Introduction including first day of sale
- Promotional material –
POD announcement ,
press releases, photos
- First day ceremony
program
- Cancells

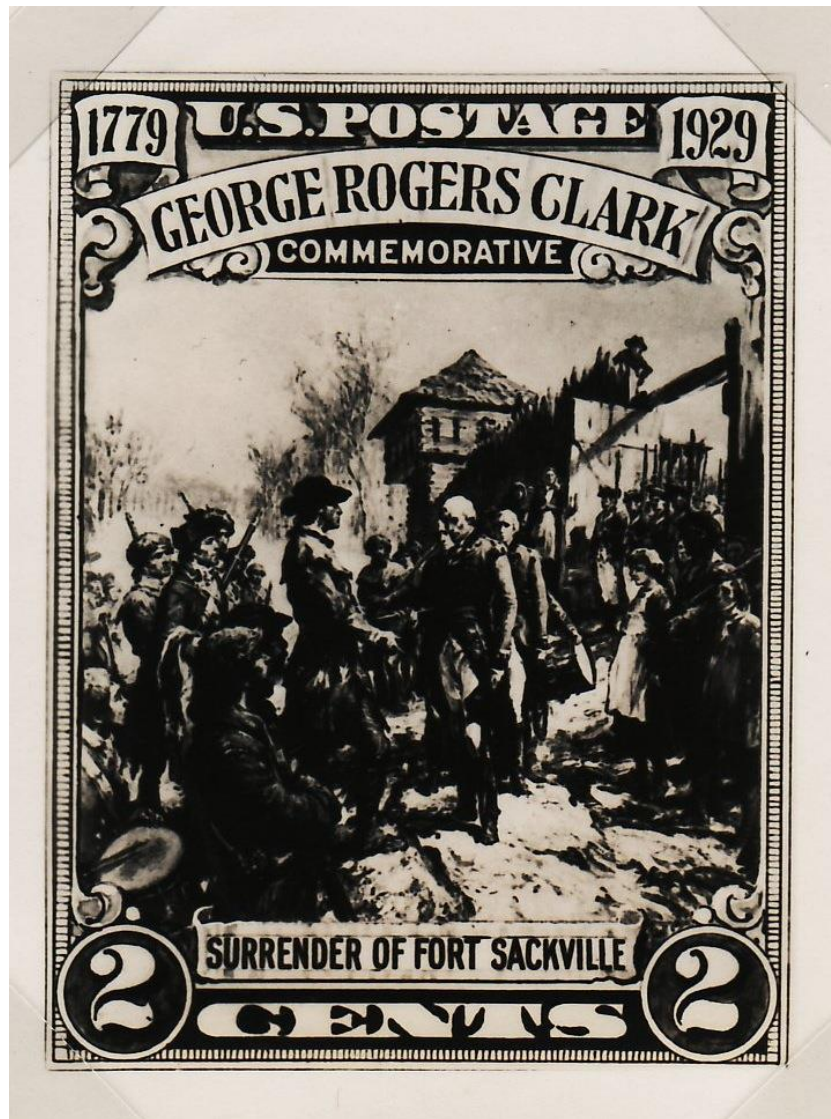
Design Source

- Painting by Frederick C. Yohn (1875-1933)
- Commissioned by *The Youth's Companion* magazine for the October 11, 1923 cover
- Painting now hangs in the Indiana State House.

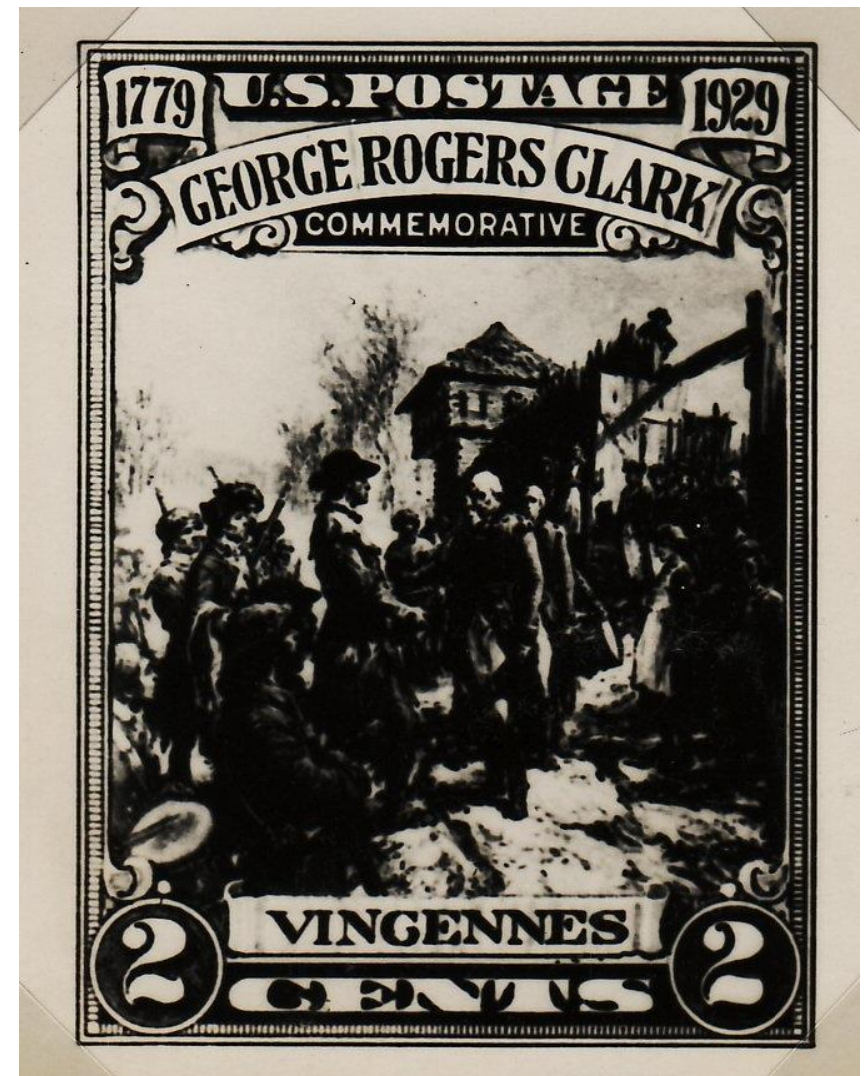


Preliminary Designs

- Original models preferred a vertical format



"Surrender of Fort Sackville"



"Vincennes"

Die Proofs

- Small Die Proof (2 known)
- Large Die Proof (3 known)



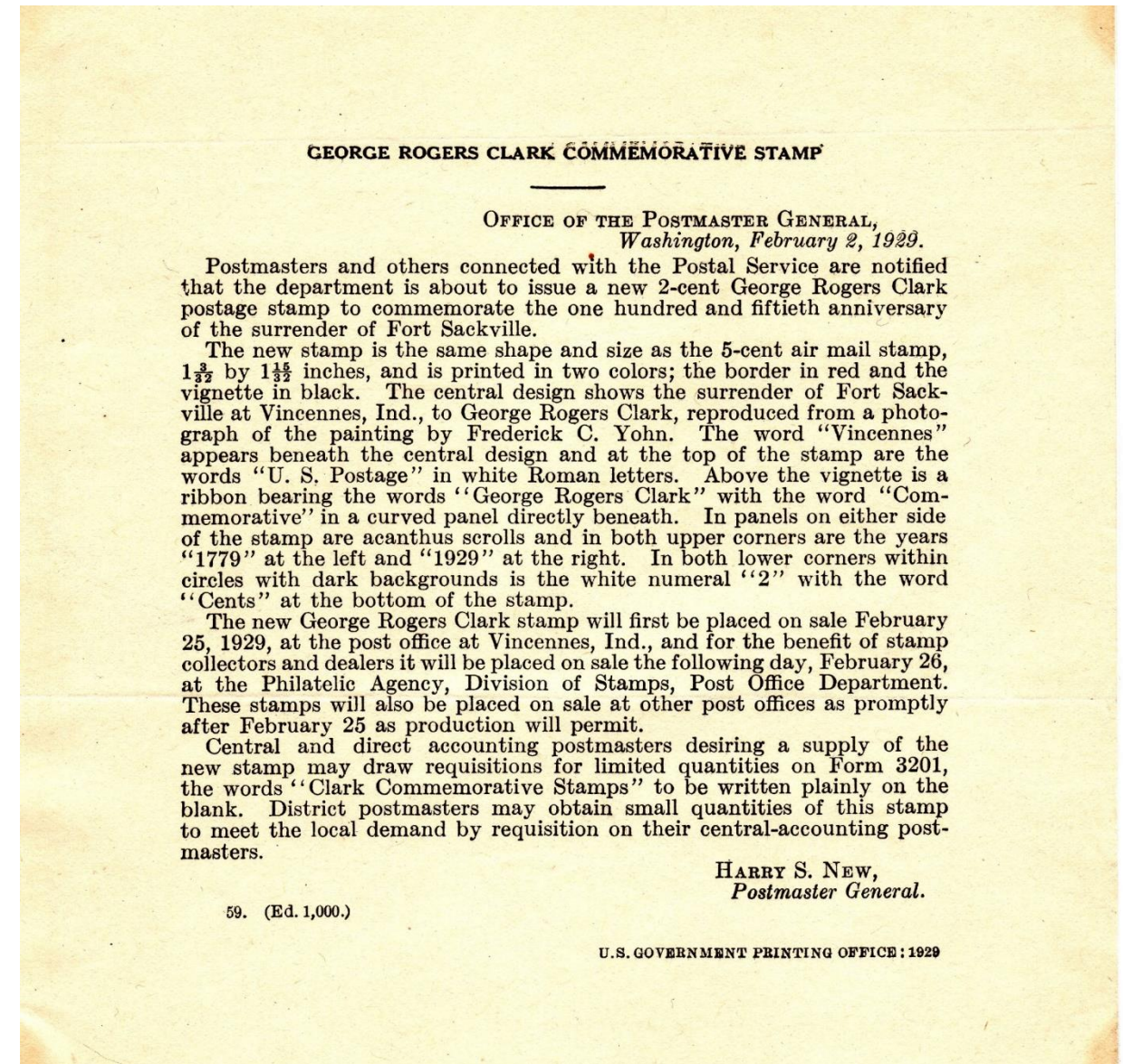
Die Proofs

- FDR Hybrid Large Die Proof (unique)
- Hugh Southgate Die Proof (unique)



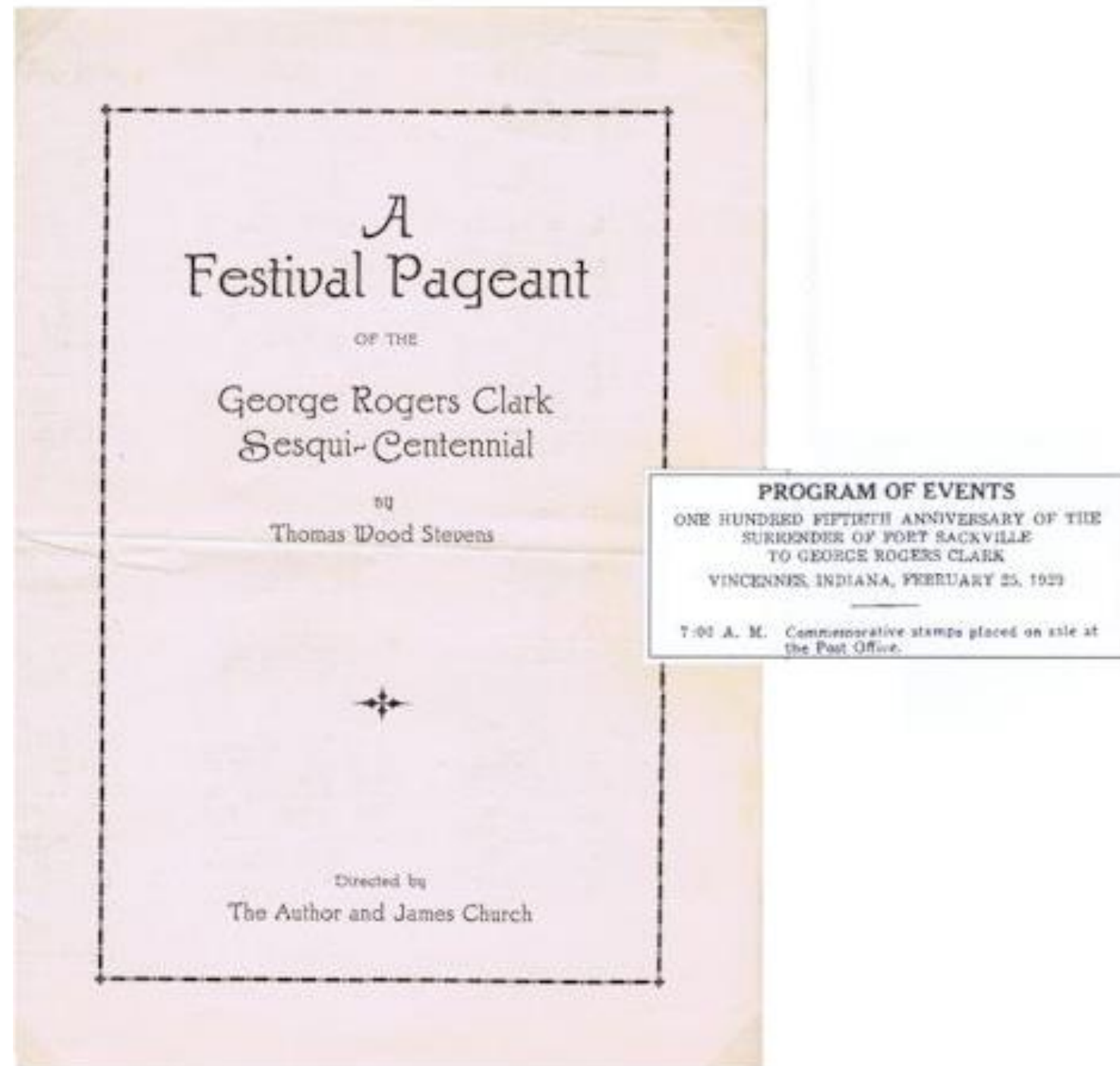
Post Office Announcement

- Officially announced by the P.O.D. on February 2nd.
- Usually only a 1,000 notices were printed.



First Day Celebration

- Release pre-dates the use of First Day Ceremony programs
- Celebration of the Clark Sesqui-Centennial was a large civic event throughout Indiana – and especially in Vincennes.



POD Packaging

- Shipped to Post Offices in packages of 500 panes -- \$500 face value
- This piece came from a package purchased on February 24th – the day before the date of issue



Largest First Day Multiple

- Full pane of 50 mailed from Vincennes to Chicago
- Backstamped Chicago on Feb. 26th.



Constant Plate Flaw

- “Dot on 2”
- Right-side of frame plate #19720 – 4th position



UPU Presentation Book

- 9th Congress of the U.P.U. held in London, May 10 – June 28, 1929
- A presentation book with all current U.S. Commemoratives were given to the delegates by the U.S.P.O.D.





CHAPTER TWO

Domestic Use

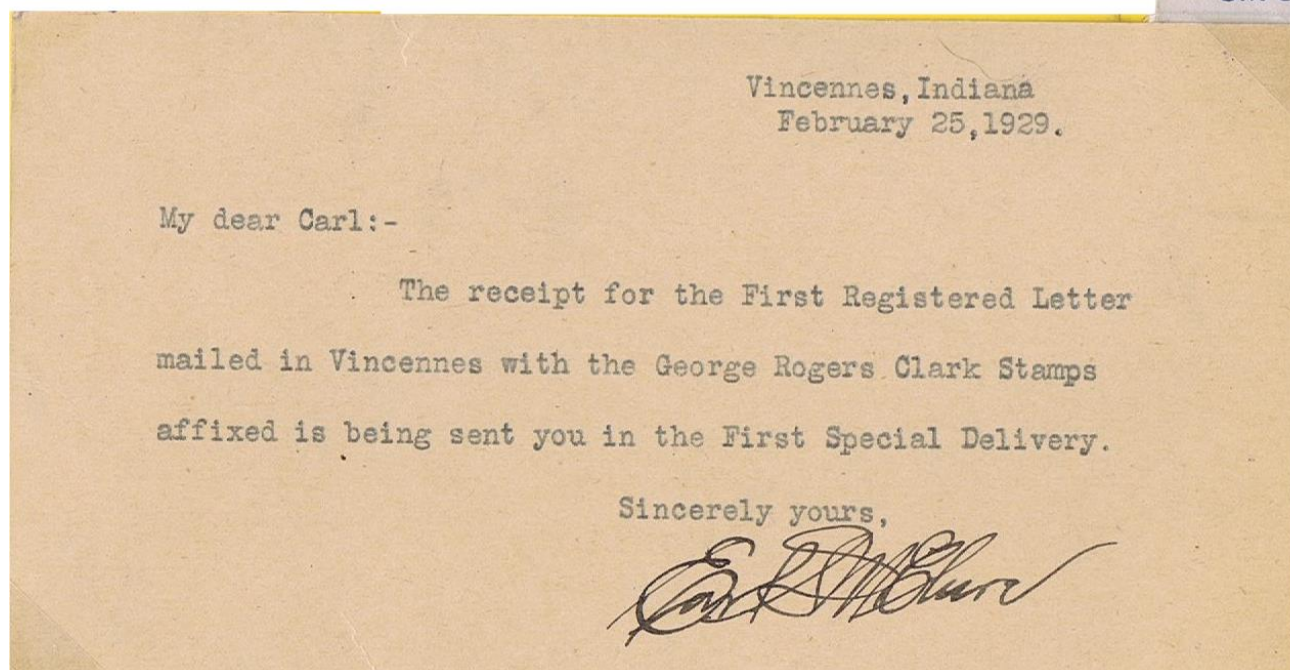
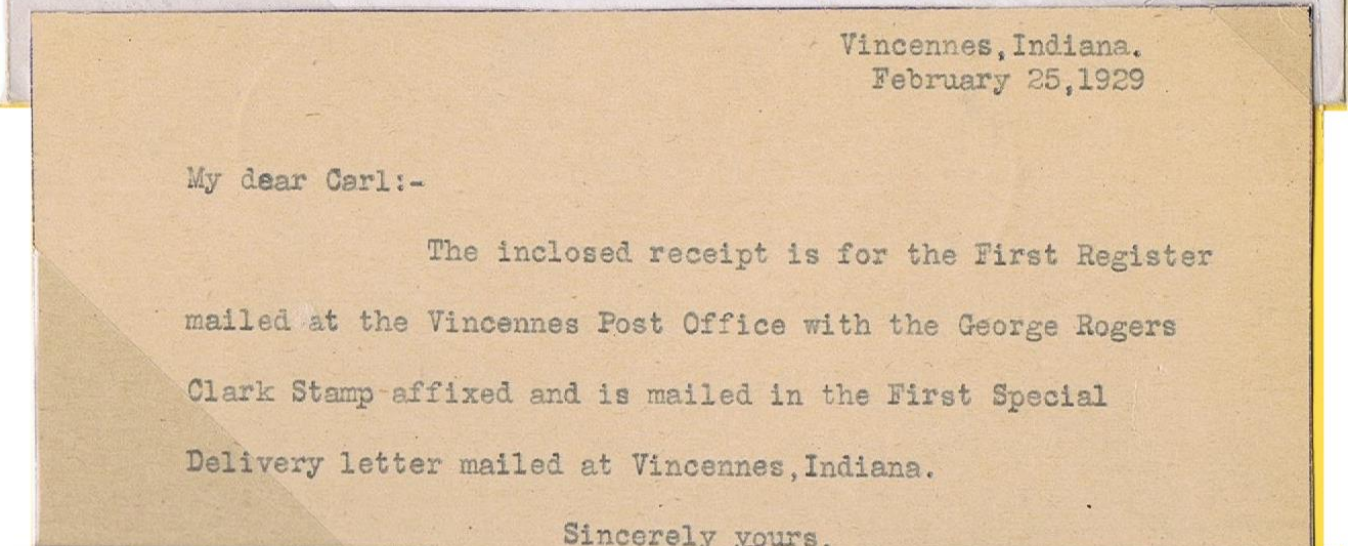
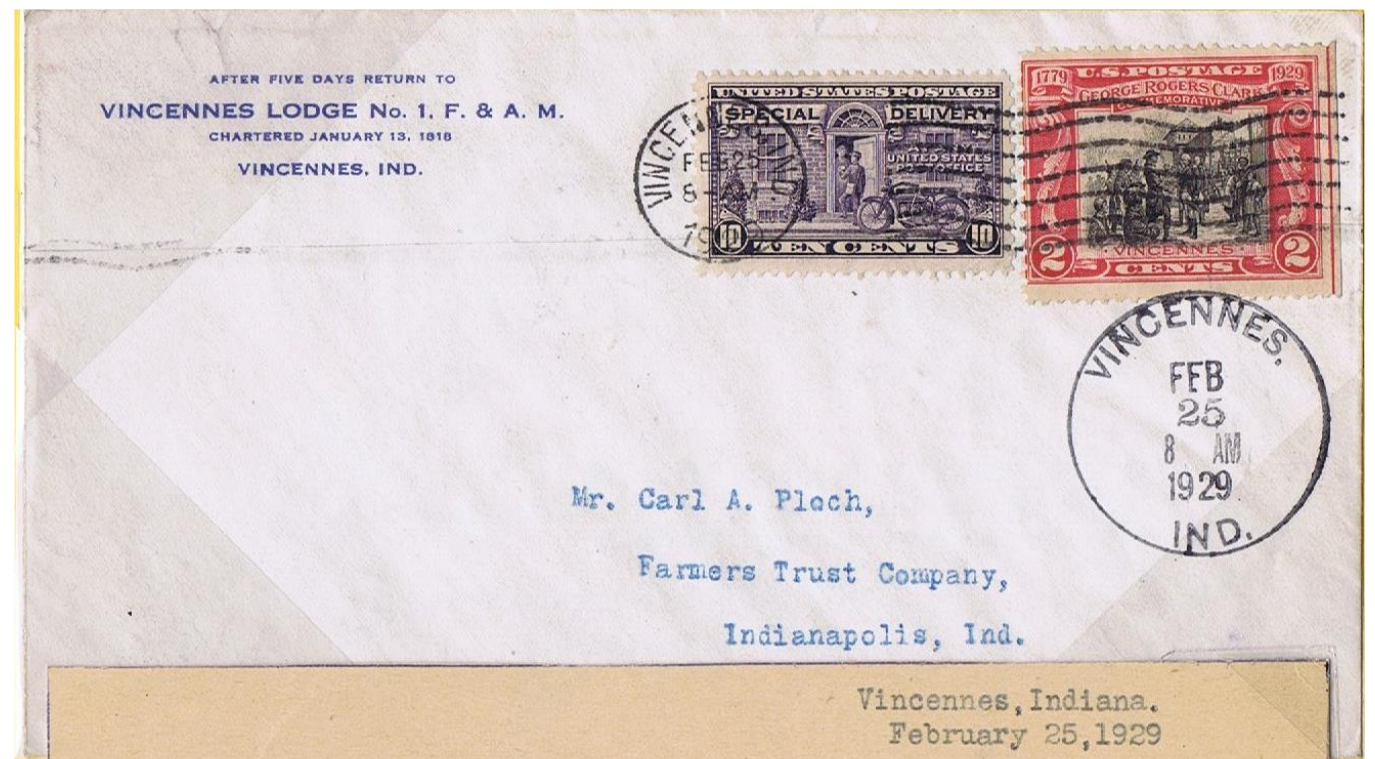
Earliest Known Use

- Registered letter to Kansas City sent by the Vincennes Postmaster on February 23rd — two days before the issue date.
- 8 Clark stamps and a 1¢ stamp (on reverse) paid the 15¢ registry fee and the 2¢ first class rate



1st Registered & 1st Special Delivery Uses on the 1st Day

- The registered cover was sent first, and the special delivery cover contained the registry receipt
- Both covers have a PM signed statement on the back attesting to the “firsts”



1st Registered & 1st Special Delivery Uses on the 1st Day

#1 **8601**

Receipt for Registered Article No. _____
Registered at the Post Office indicated in Postmark

Fee paid 15 cents Class postage _____

Return Receipt fee _____ Spl. Del'y fee _____
Delivery restricted to addressee:

in person _____, or order _____
Accepting employee will place his *initials* in space
indicating restricted delivery. *ND*

POSTMASTER, per _____ **(MAILING OFFICE)**

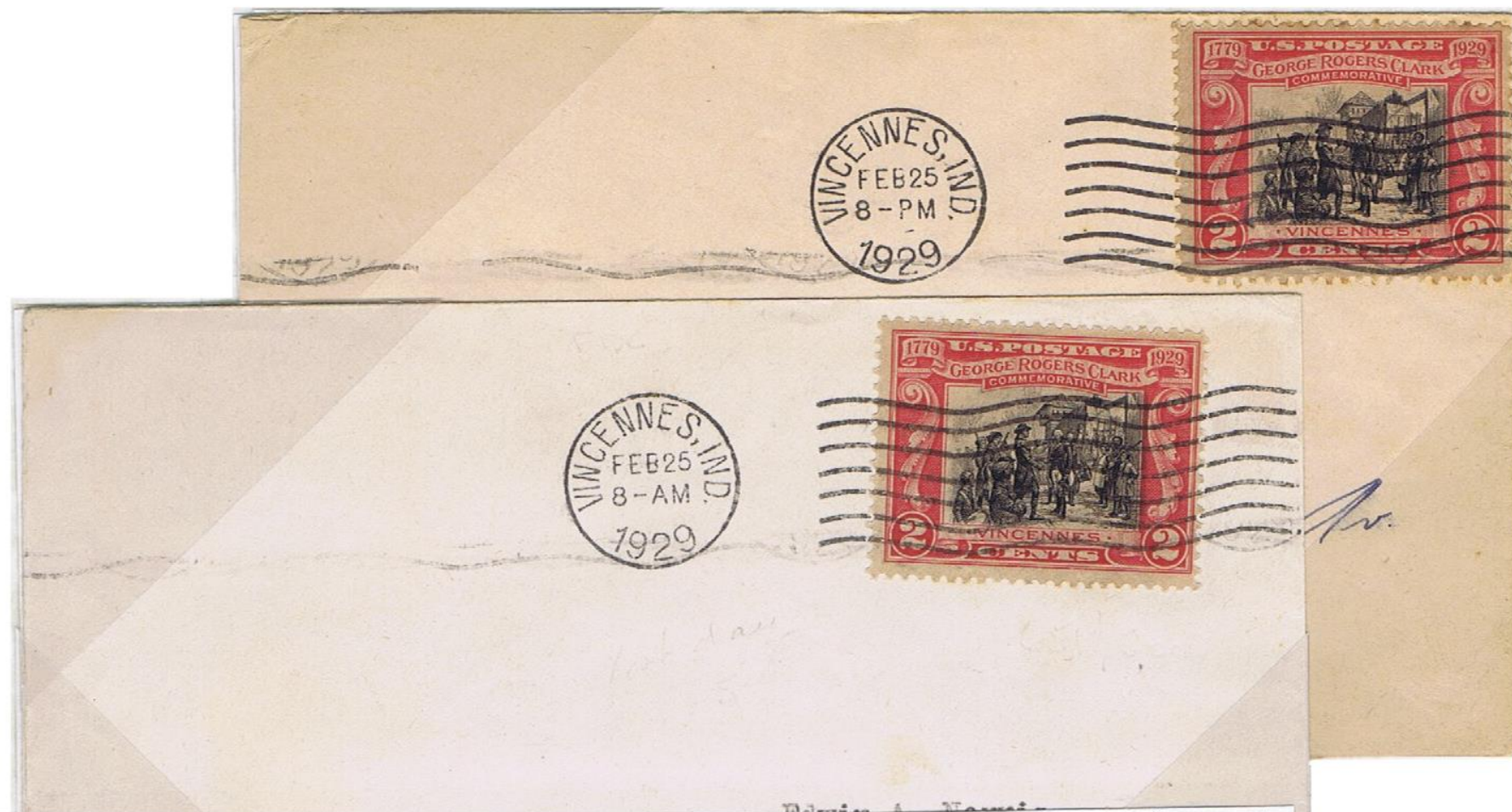
(POSTMARK OF)
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
FEB 5 1929
REGISTERED

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry or application for indemnity.

Registry Fees and Indemnity.—Domestic registry fees range from 15 cents for indemnity not exceeding \$50 up to \$1 for indemnity not exceeding \$1,000. The fee on domestic registered matter without intrinsic value and for which indemnity is not paid is 15 cents. Consult postmaster as to the specific domestic registry fees and as to the registry fees chargeable on registered parcel-post packages for foreign countries. Claims must be filed with postmasters within one year from date of mailing.

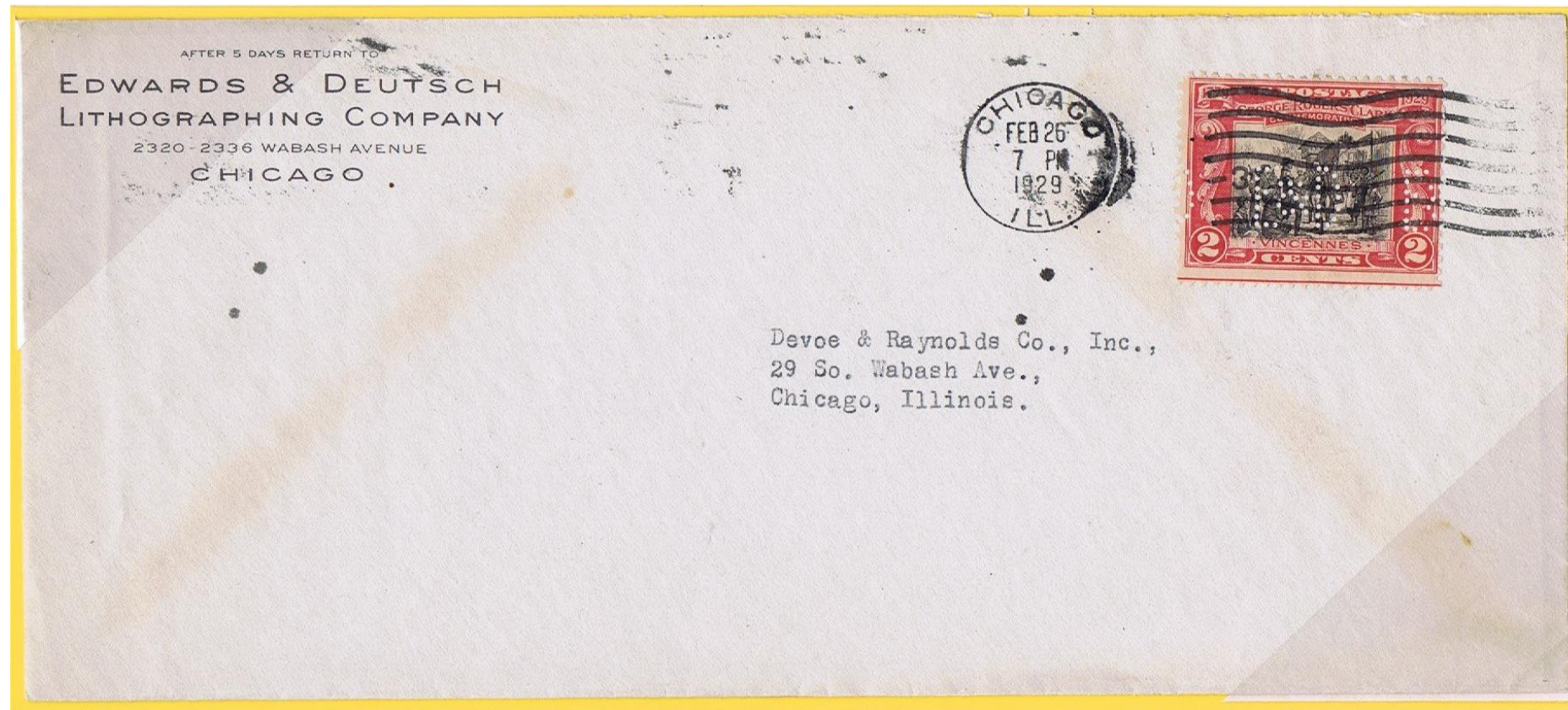
Form 3896 (Rev. 7-4-28) c5—6852 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1928

Poor Machine Cancels



- Almost all machine cancels show a black line across the covers – due to a piece of rag caught in the cancelling machine mechanism
- Could not be removed without taking the machine offline, which was not possible due to the volume of covers that needed to be processed.
- Line became more prominent as the day progressed

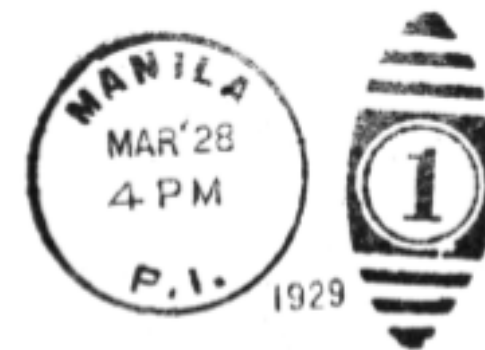
Earliest Known Perfin Use



- 2nd day use from Chicago
- Perforated insignia (perfin) of the Edwards & Deutsch Lithographing Company (founded June 1896). This second day use from Chicago is the earliest documented use of a Clark Commemorative perfin.

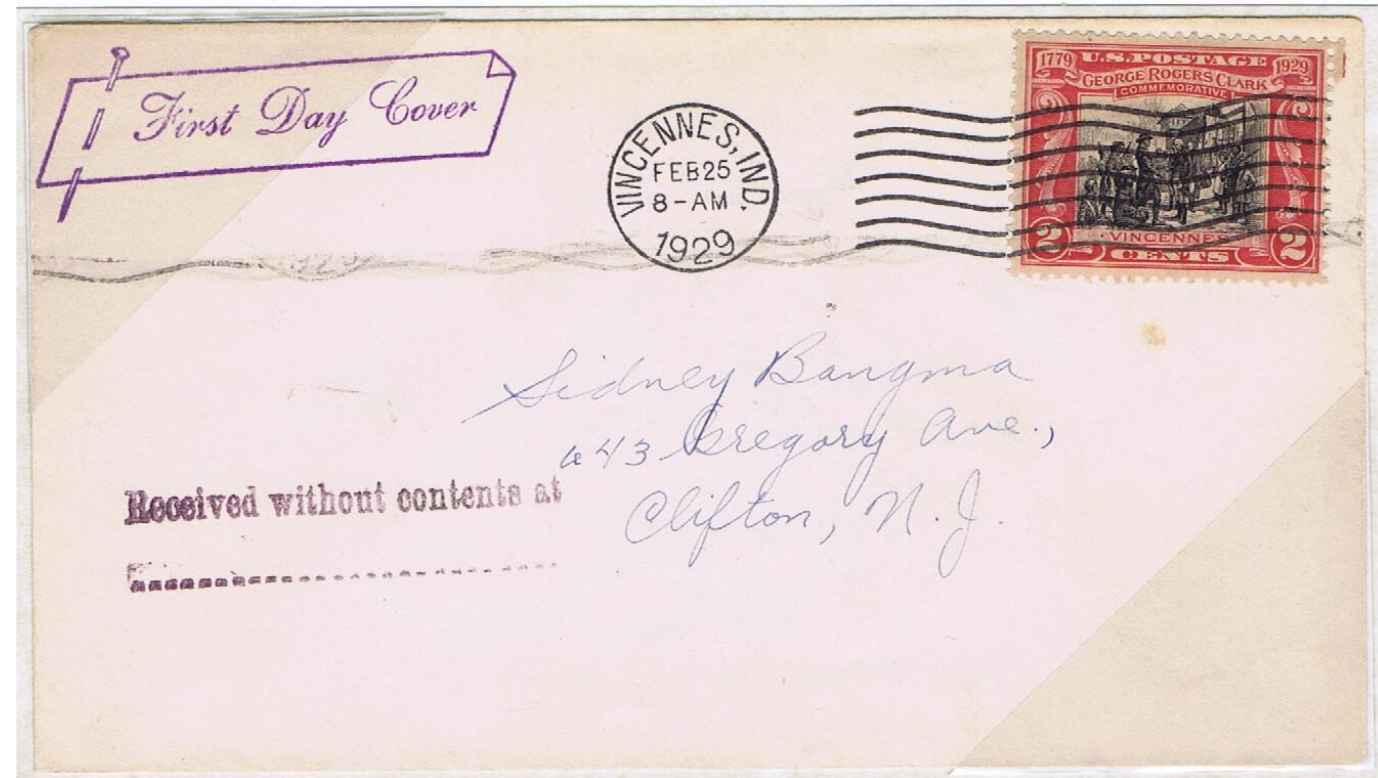
1st Day Use to U.S. Territories

- The Post Office also treated mail to the Philippine Islands, a U.S. Possession at the time, the same as domestic.
- 1st day use, on a bogus Rothblum cachet, required only 2¢ postage.
- Backstamped MANILA P.I., / MAR 28/4 PM/1929.

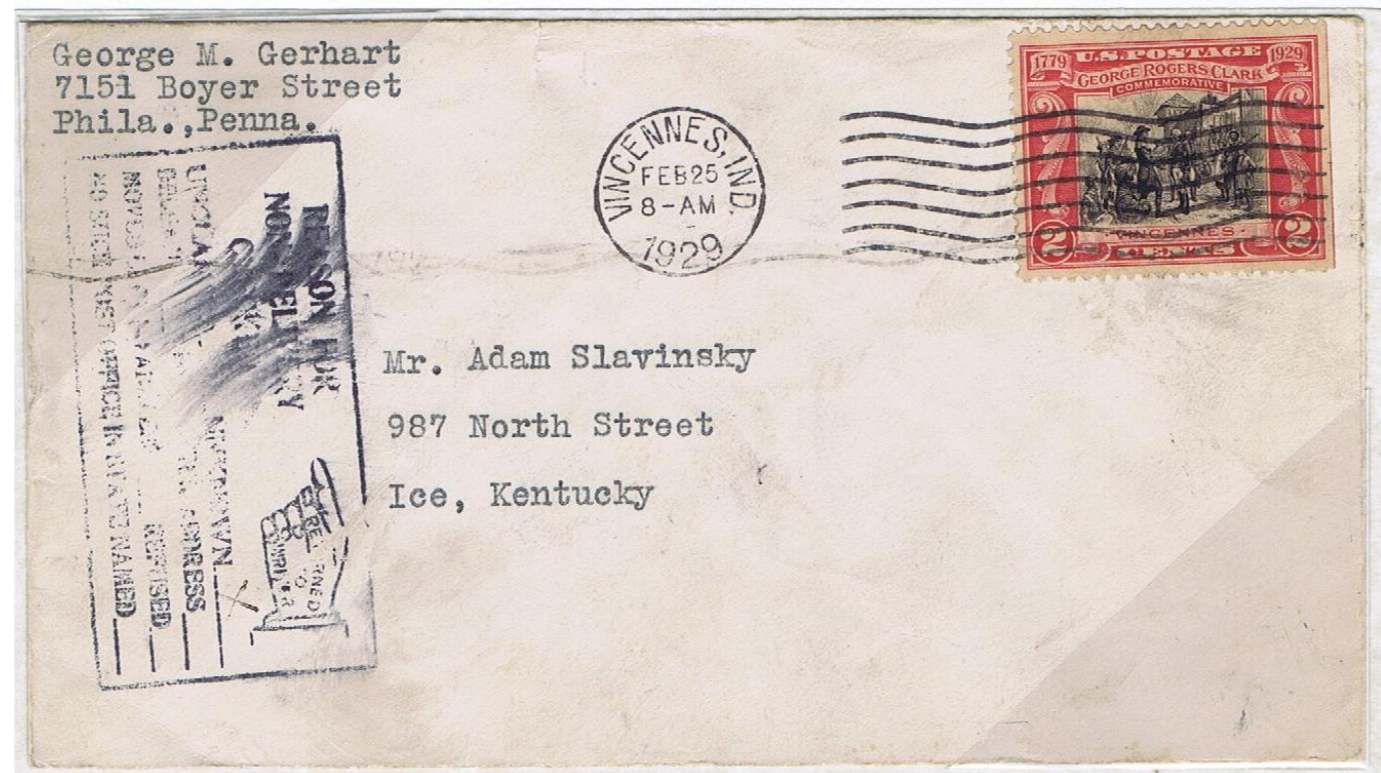


Auxiliary Markings on 1st Day Use

- "Received without contents at /
_____"



- "Return to Sender" due to
unknown address



3

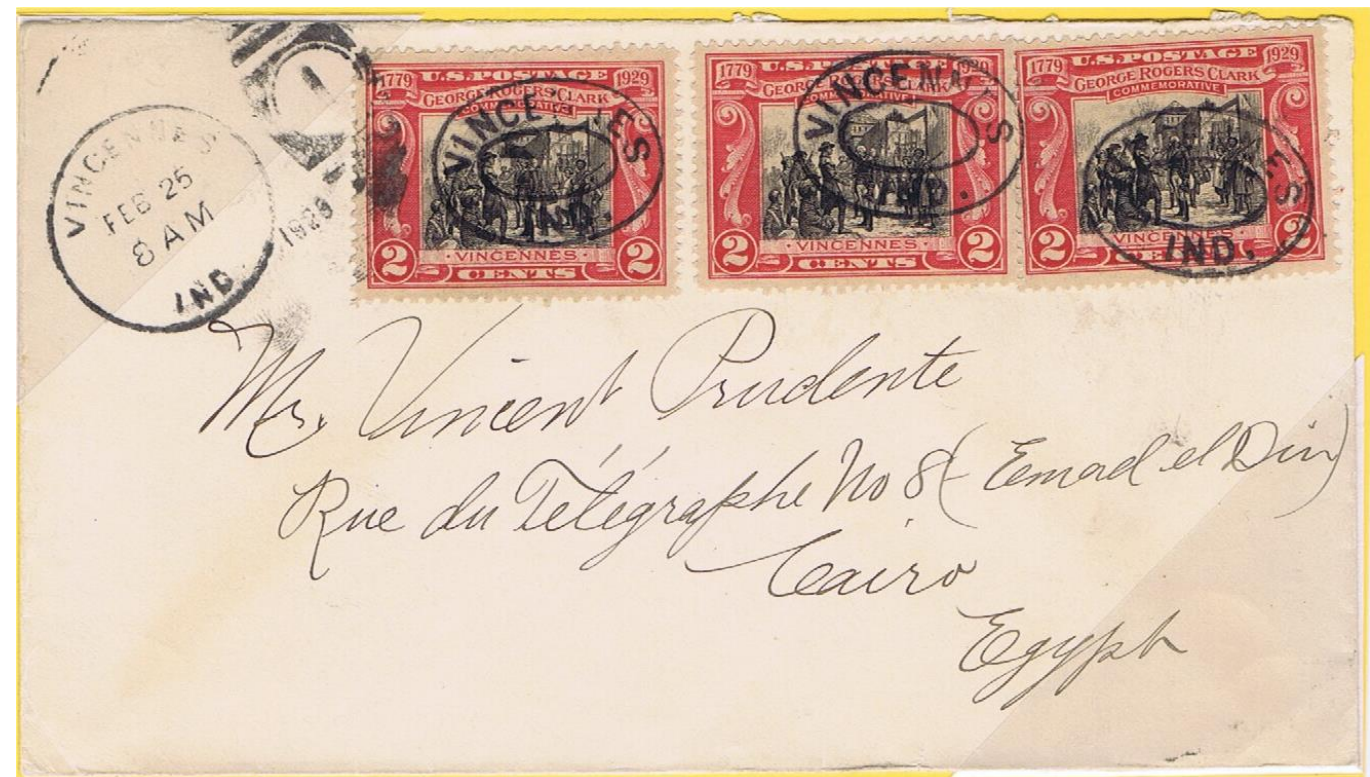


CHAPTER THREE

Foreign Destinations

1st Day Use to Foreign Destinations

- To Egypt
- UPU surface rate was 5¢ – 1¢ overpaid



1st Day Use to Foreign Destinations

- To Chile
- Treaty rate of 2¢ was in effect from 1925 until 1932
- “MISSENT TO JACKSONVILLE, FLA.” auxiliary marking



1st Day Use to Foreign Destinations

- To Austria via the Ile de France
- Ile de France left New York on March 2nd – mail arriving in Paris on March 9th and Innsbruck on March 11th.
- 15¢ franking
 - 4¢ for US airmail
 - 5¢ for surface to Paris
 - 4¢ for airmail from Paris
 - 2¢ overpaid



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CHAPTER FOUR

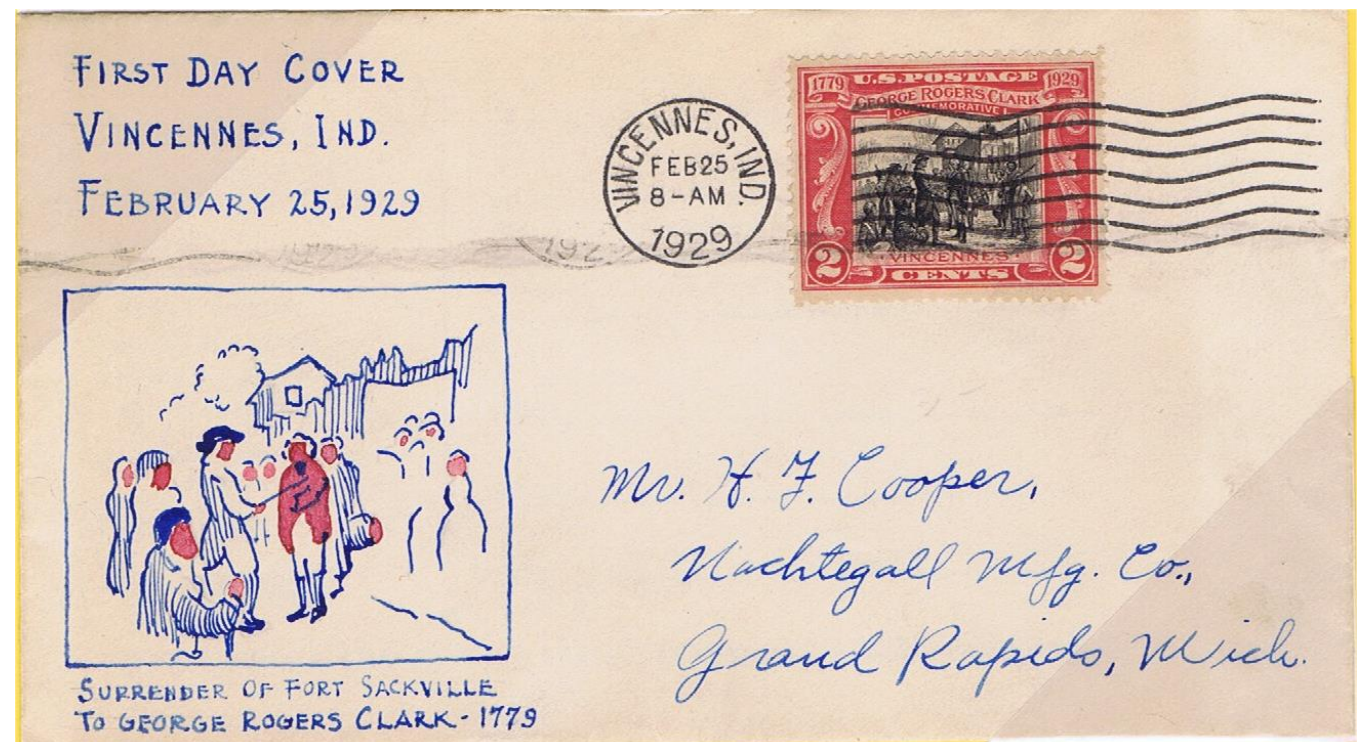
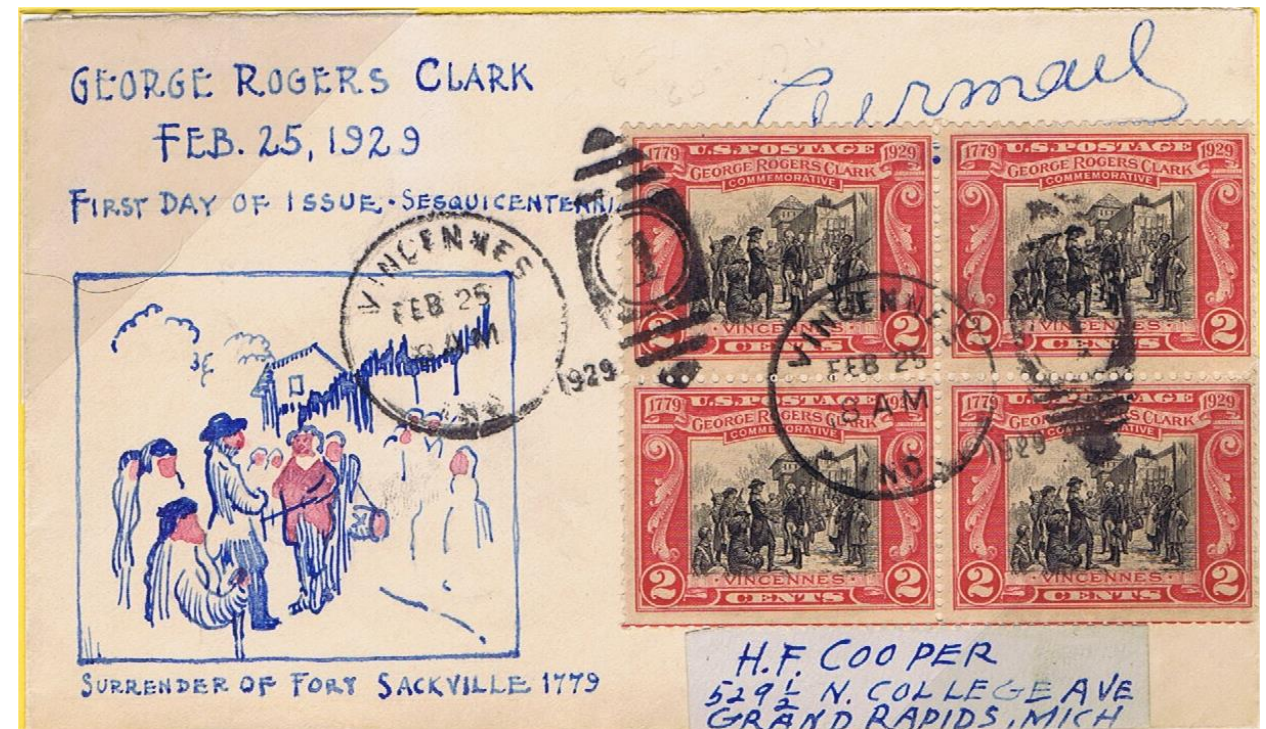
First Cachets

First Cachets

- *Mellone's First Day Cover Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets*
- The initial cachet commercially produced by a cachetmaker.
- Q: Can a cornercard really be considered a “cachet”?
- 22 different cachetmakers have their first cachet with the Clark issue.

First Cachets – Howard Cooper

- Howard Cooper (1891-?)
- Worked as a draftsman for the Nachtgall Manufacturing Company in Grand Rapids
- Hand-drawn cachets were produced for his own collection and not for commercial gain.
- Cooper produced only one each of three different designs.



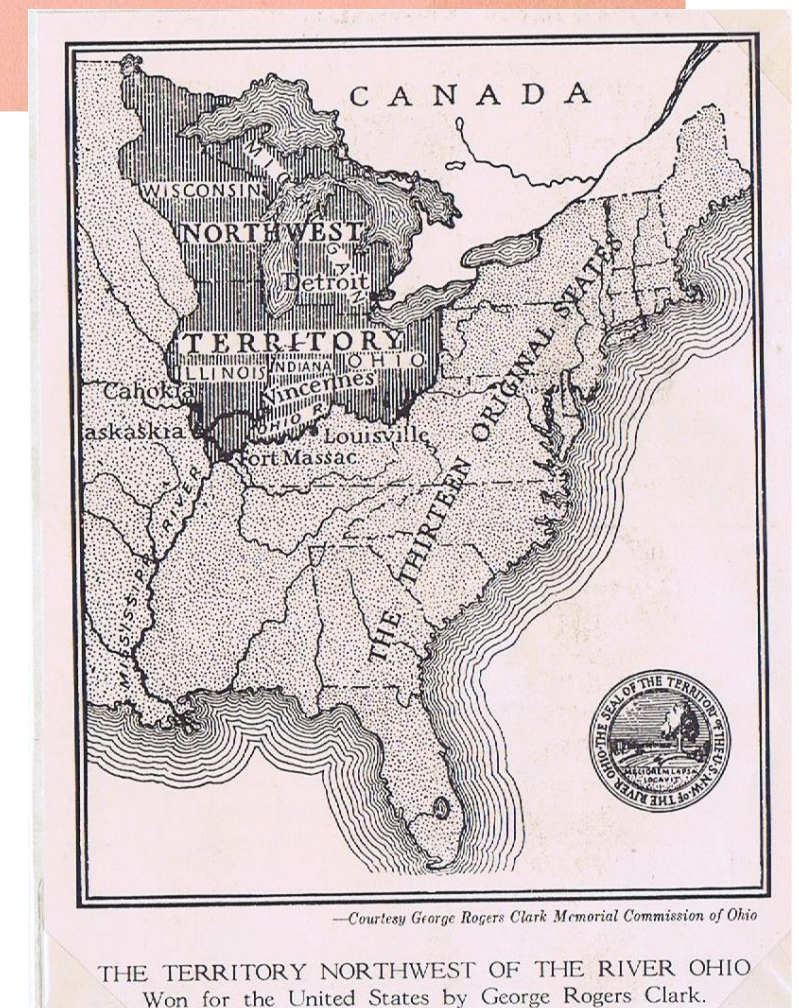
First Cachets – William F. Ross

- Hand-drawn pen-and-ink cachet by William F. Ross of Chicago.
- Ross was in Vincennes on the first day as part of a delegation from the Chicago Area Philatelic Society.
- One of three documented examples



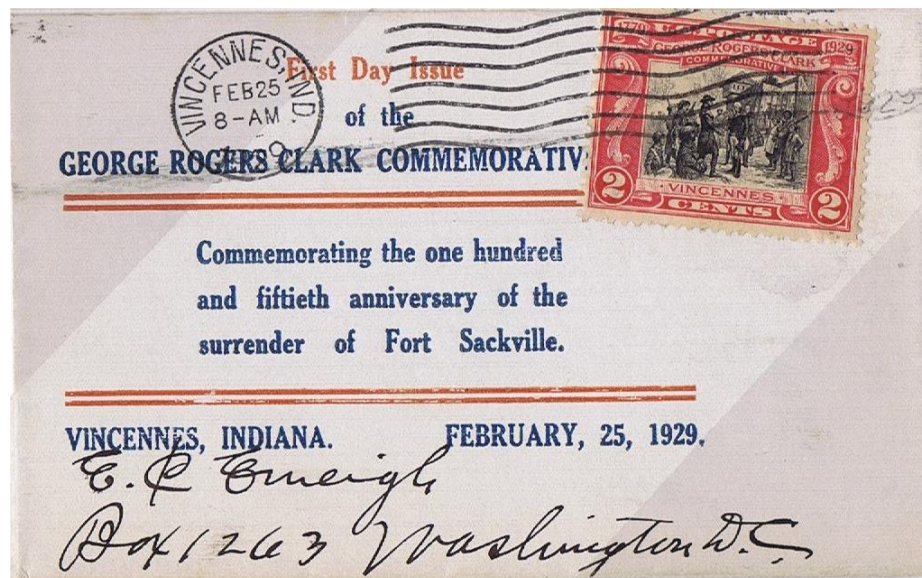
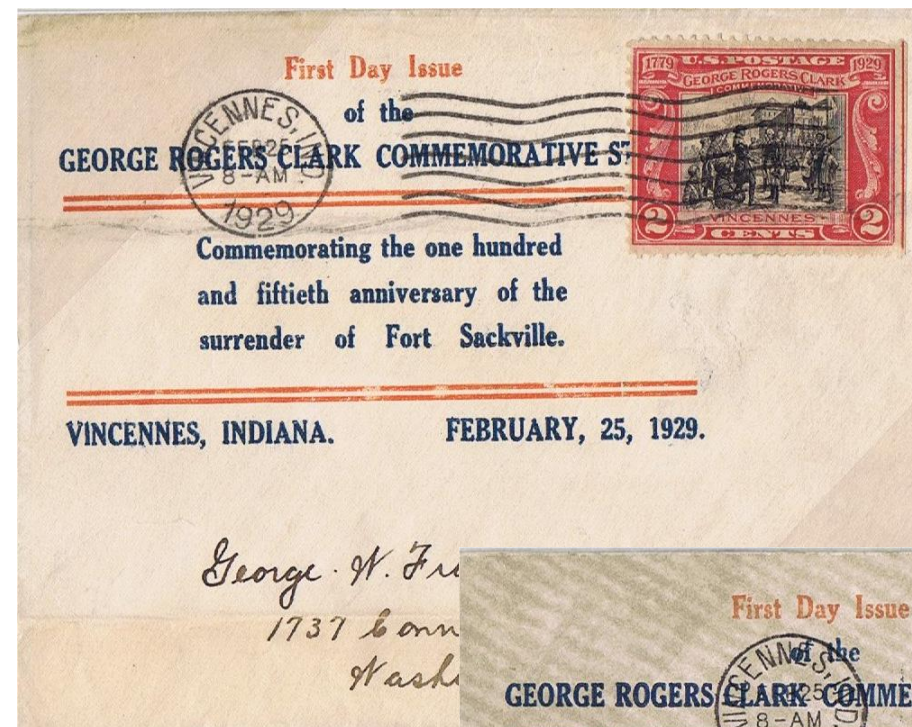
First Cachets – Floyd Shockley

- Floyd Shockley (1905-1986), a young Indianapolis banker only made cachets for the Clark issue.
- A map created by the GRC Memorial Commission was used to create three variations. black ink on white and pink envelopes, and blue ink on white envelopes



First Cachets – Edgar C. Emeigh

- Edgar C. Emeigh (1885-1968). Emeigh worked for the Government Printing Office and used the government's presses to produce his cachets.
- Emeigh used different sized envelopes comprised of different paper types; it is unknown if this was a mistake or by design.



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CHAPTER FIVE

Philatelic First Day Use

Philatelic First Day Use

- Cachets Specific for the Issue
- General Purpose Cachets
- Cachet varieties
- Cachetmaker info
- Autographs
- Add-on cachets
- Stuffer cards
- Corner cards
- Servicers

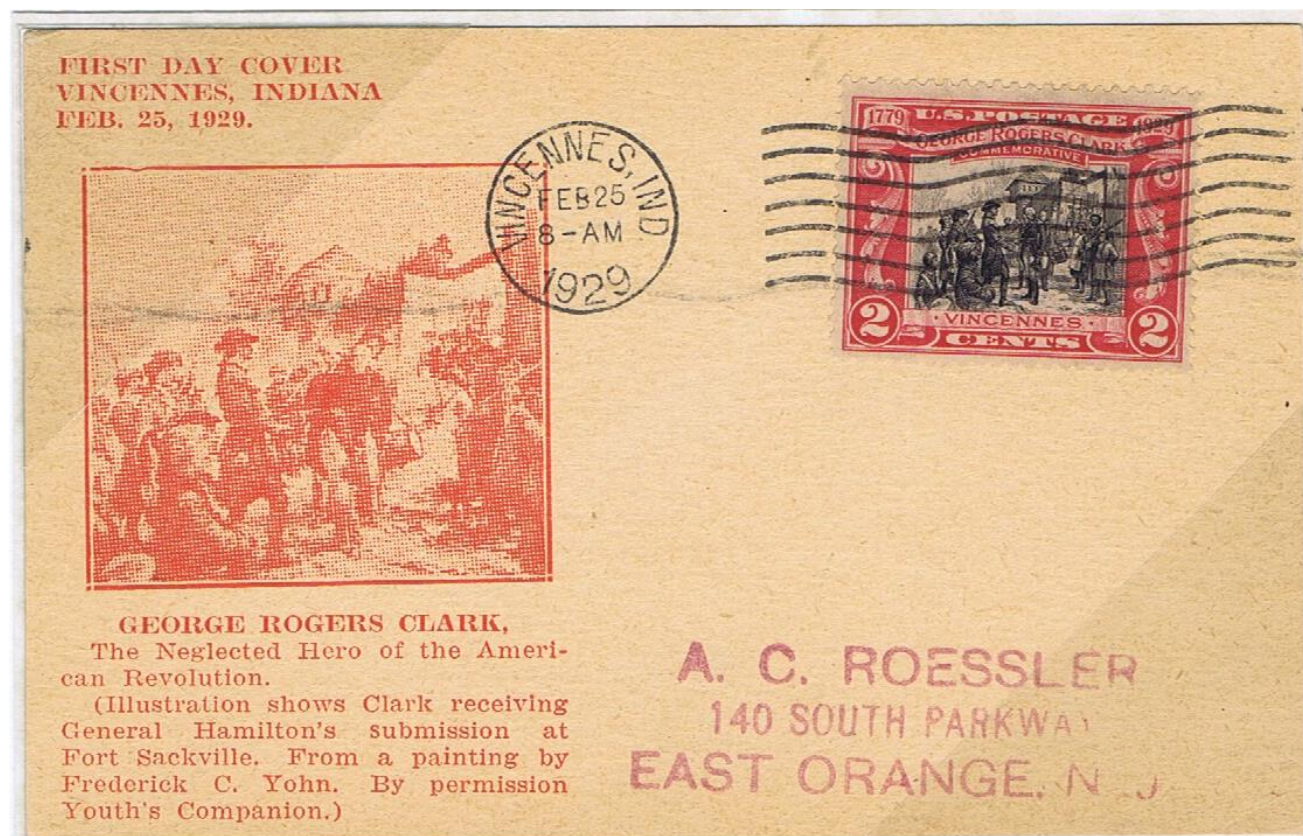
Cachets – Specific to Issue

- Milton Mauck (1895-?) of Lyndhurst, New Jersey, used a “Hux” cut from the Huckins-Smith Company of New York City to produce cachets for the Clark issue.
- He eventually went bankrupt following Lindbergh around the country servicing first flight and event covers.
- Later became a vacuum cleaner salesman in the southern United States.



Cachets – Specific to Issue

- New Jersey stamp dealer Albert C. Roessler (1883-1952) produced several cachet variations for the Clark issue.



Cachets – Add-Ons

- A thermographic cachet added-on by C.W. George. Fewer than 100 of these were made.
- The production date of the C. George cachets is one of the most debated in the first day cover collecting.
- Evidence points to the cachets being added many years later. However, the George family, notably his son C.W. George, were steadfast in their assertions that the cachets were produced before the stamps were issued.



Cachets – General Purpose

- First day use on an Henry Hammelman serviced cover.



- Generic cachet from the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club of Cleveland (founded 1890).



Cachets – Stuffer Cards

George Rogers Clark Commemorative

February 25, 1929

¶ Vincennes, Indiana, is to-day celebrating the 150th anniversary of the capture from the British of Ft. Sackville by the Virginia militiamen, led by Col. George Rogers Clark.

¶ In commemoration of the event, the Post Office Department has issued this handsome stamp, the motif of which is the famous painting "The Capture of Vincennes" by the artist Frederick C. Yohn, of Boston, Mass. Vincennes is the only P. O. at which this stamp is on sale to-day.

¶ This first day cover is presented with the compliments of the sender, in the hope that it will be of some interest.

BERNARD E. CHARTER

P. O. Box 278

Milford, Conn.

Clark Postage Stamp

This commemorative stamp is a reproduction of a painting by Frederick C. Yohn, "The Surrender of Ft. Sackville." It shows Col. Henry Hamilton, British commander in the Northwest, just as he marched out of Ft. Sackville at Vincennes, surrendering his sword to Col. George Rogers Clark, commander of Virginia troops in the West.

This achievement added the territory now comprising the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin to the Union.

This stamp issued on the 25th day of February, 1929, the sesqui-centennial anniversary of the capture of Ft. Sackville "On the Banks of the Wabash," February 25, 1779, and placed on sale on the first day of issue at Vincennes, Ind., and consequently "First day covers" bear the postmark: Vincennes, Ind., February 25, 1929.

Compliments of E. W. Determann, Vincennes, Ind.
Member A. P. S. No. 5374.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK STAMP

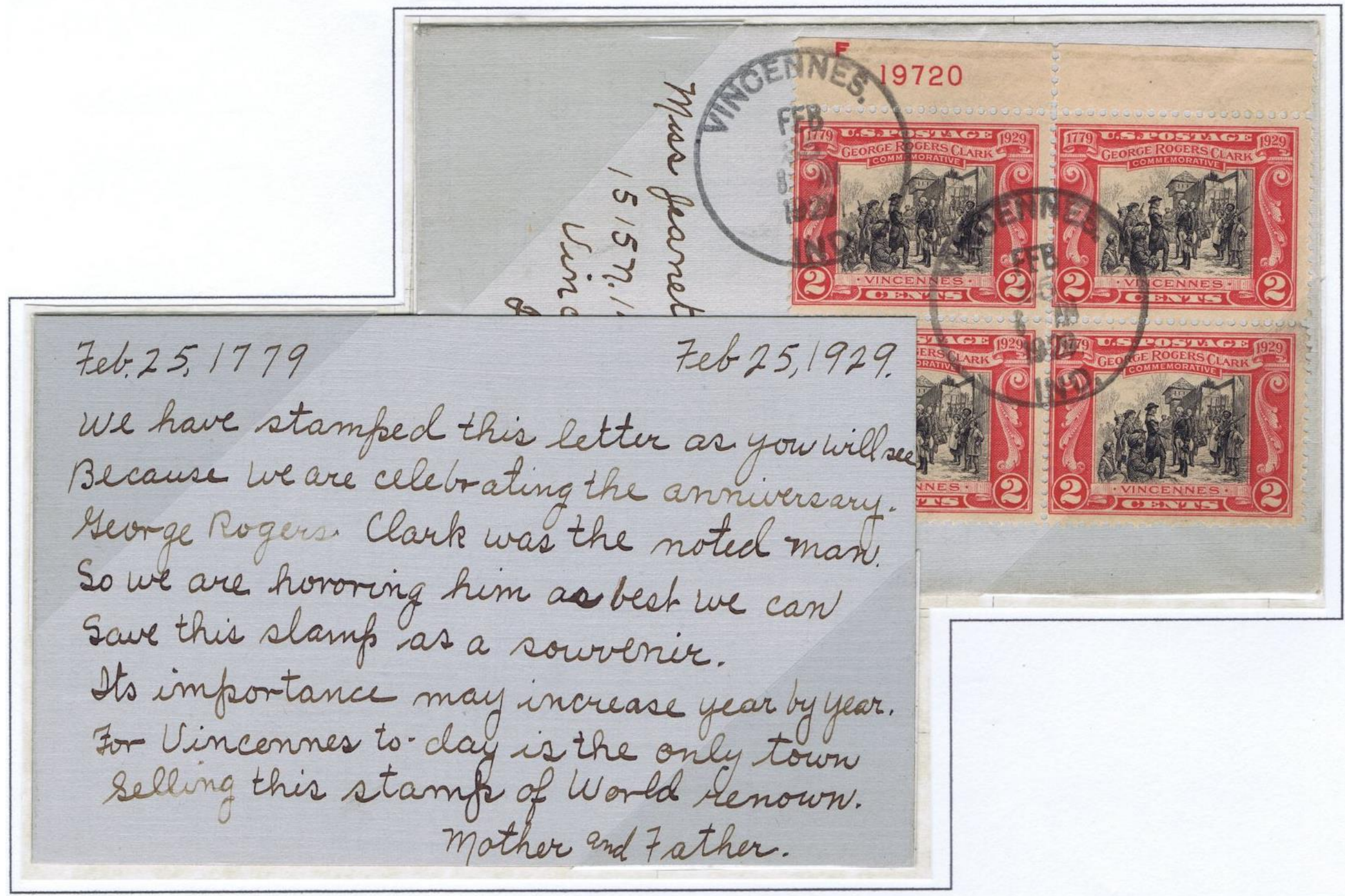
This commemorative stamp is a reproduction of a painting by Frederick C. Yohn, "The Surrender of Ft. Sackville." It shows Col. Henry Hamilton, British commander in the Northwest, surrendering his sword to Col. George Rogers Clark, commander of Virginia troops in the West.

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Compliments of Carl A. Ploch, Indianapolis, Indiana
Life Member A. P. S. No. 45-4711

Cachets – Stuffer Cards

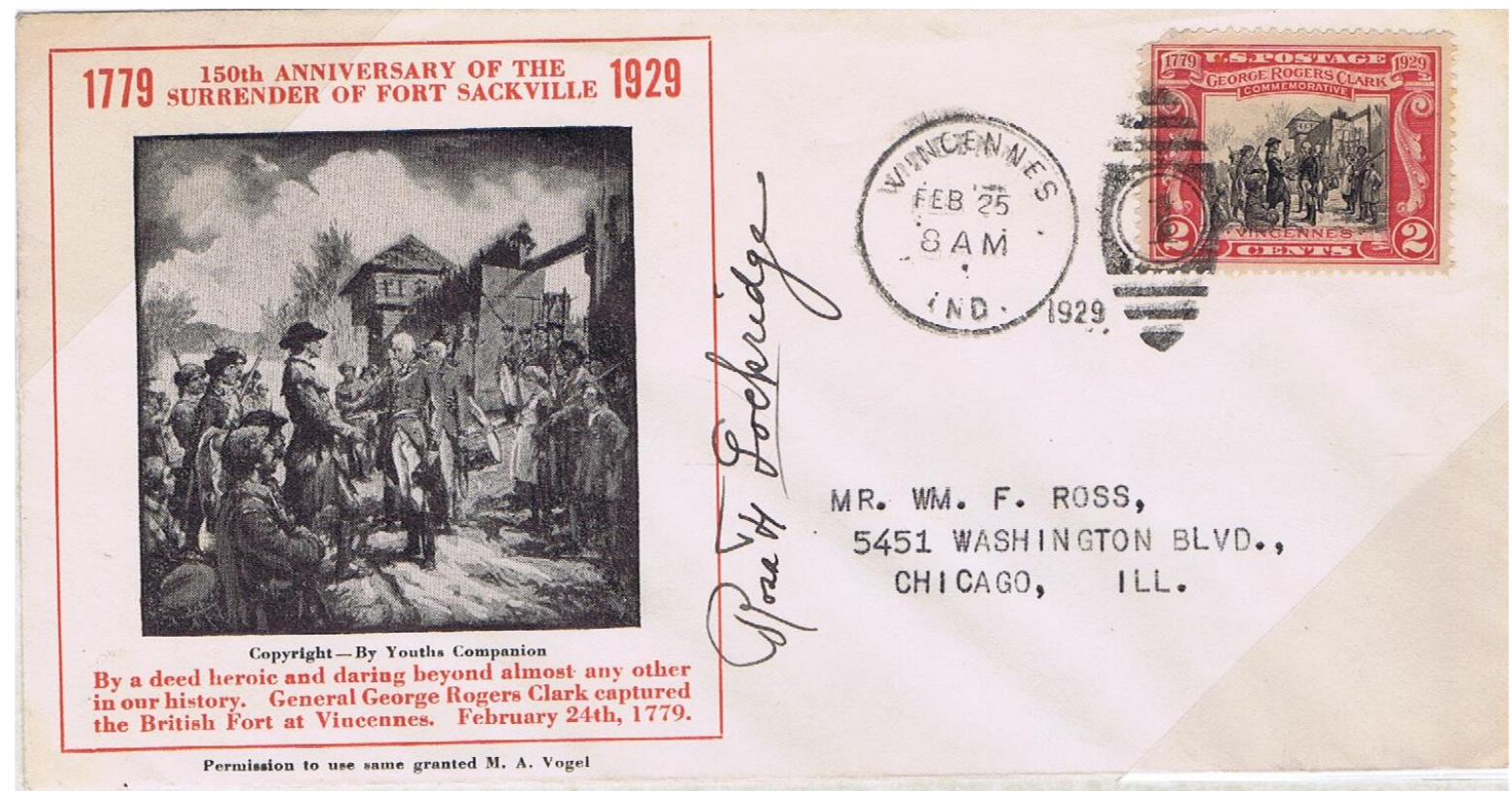


Cachets – Autographs

- President Calvin Coolidge



- Ross F. Lockridge (1877-1952) biographer of *Clark, George Rogers Clark, Pioneer Hero of the Old Northwest*, published in 1927.



Servicers

- Ernst W. Determann (1860-?), a local Vincennes businessman, was affiliated with the Hack & Simon Brewery and produced first day covers on the company's stationery.
- It is unclear if the covers were addressed to the company's clients, or to Determann's personal mailing list.
- Cover contained one of Determann's stuffer cards.



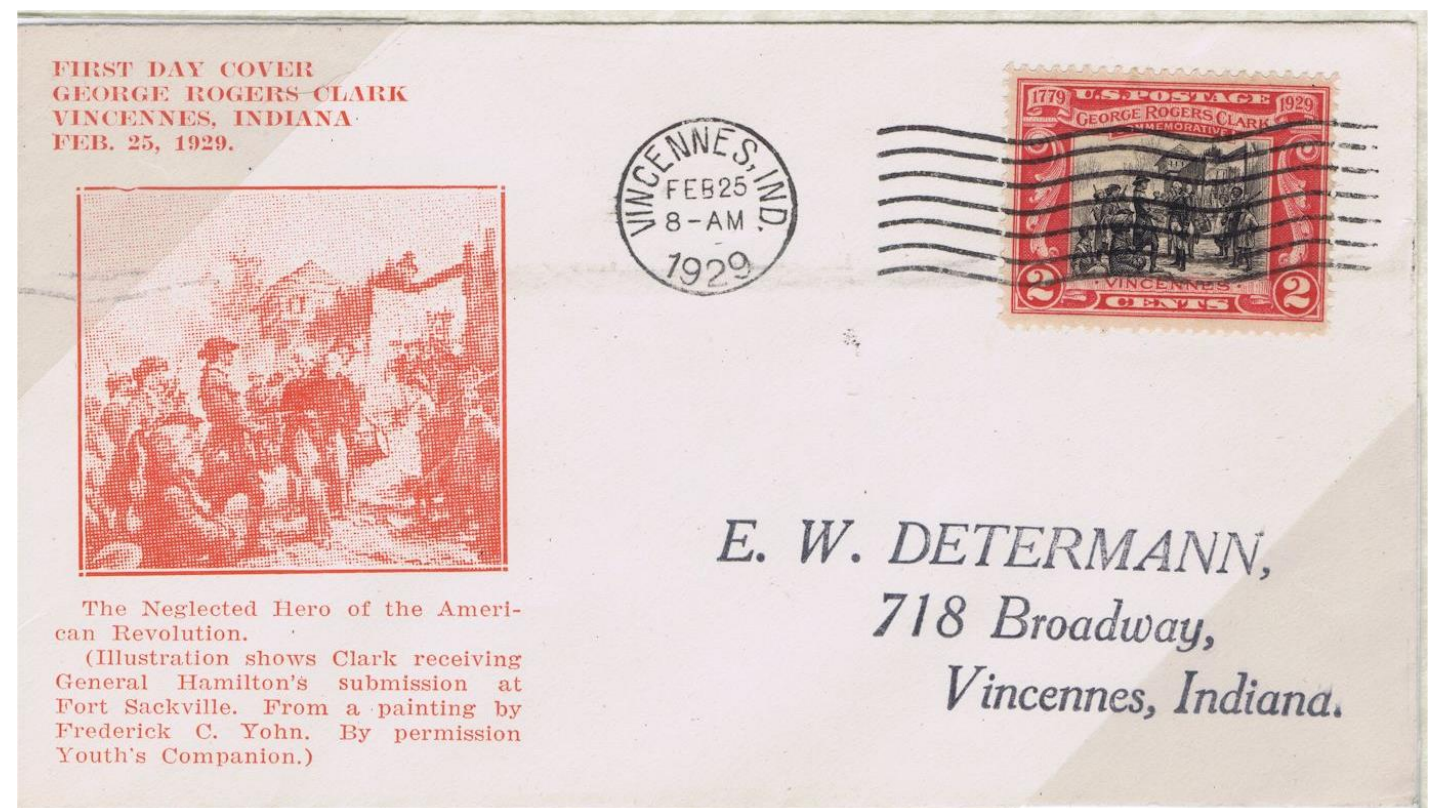
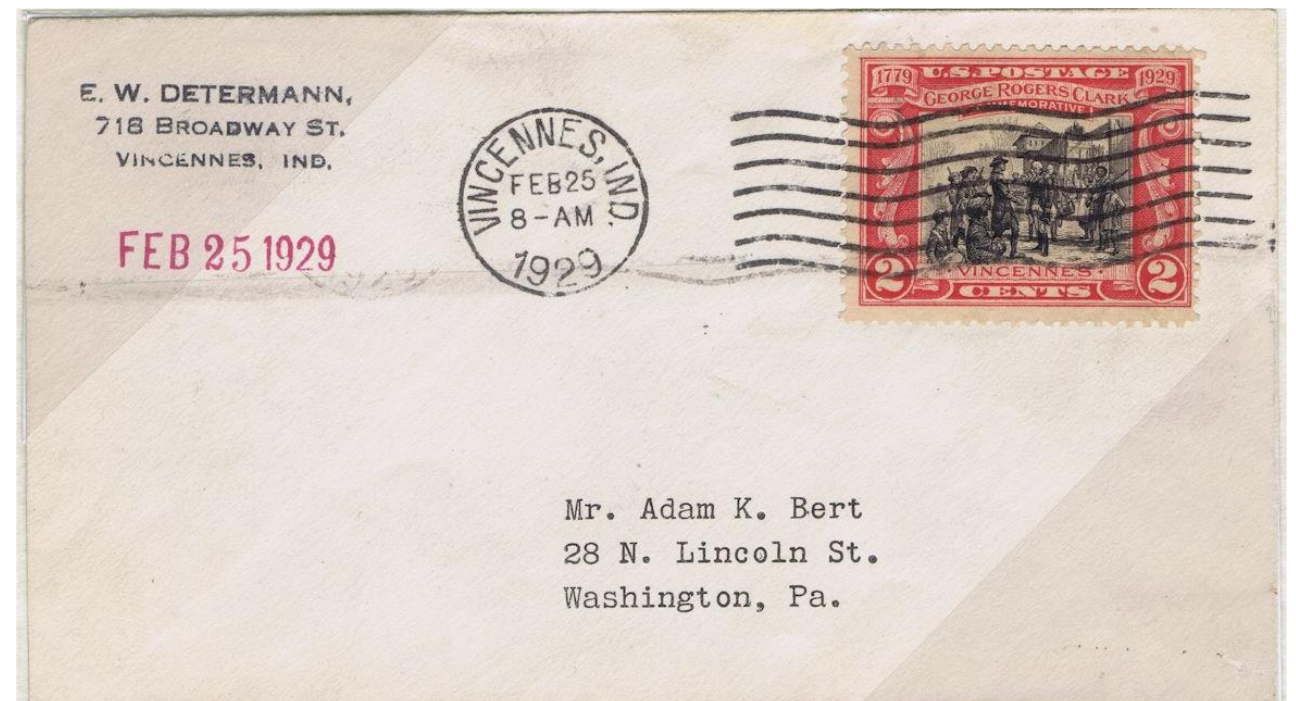
Servicers

- Determann also used cornercards from many local Vincennes business, organizations and municipal departments to service first days covers



Servicers

- Determann serviced covers for Adam Bert and A.C. Roessler





CHAPTER SIX

Unofficial First Day Cities

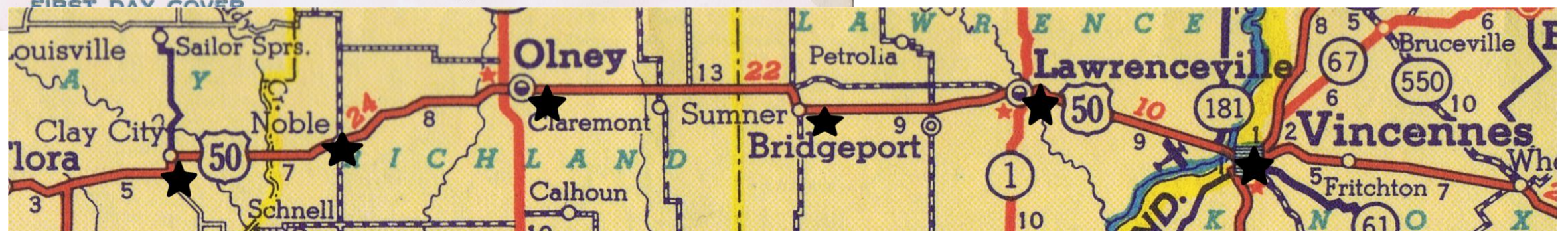
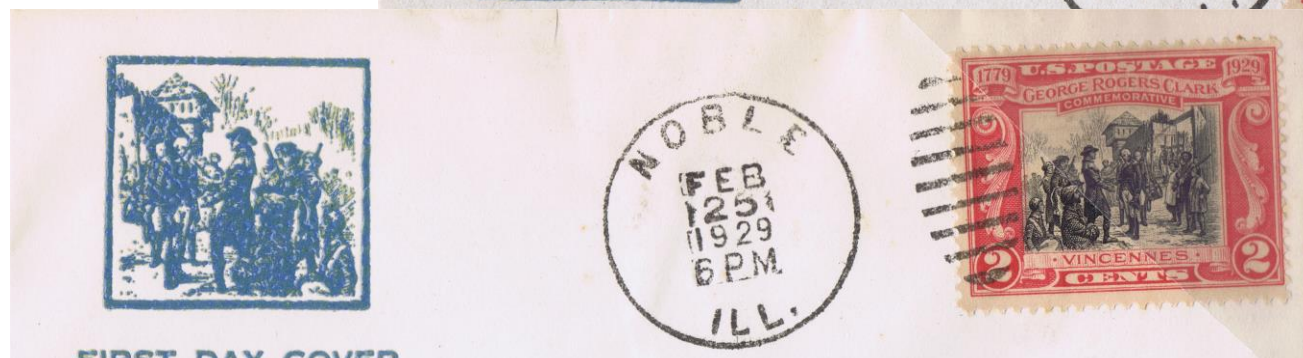
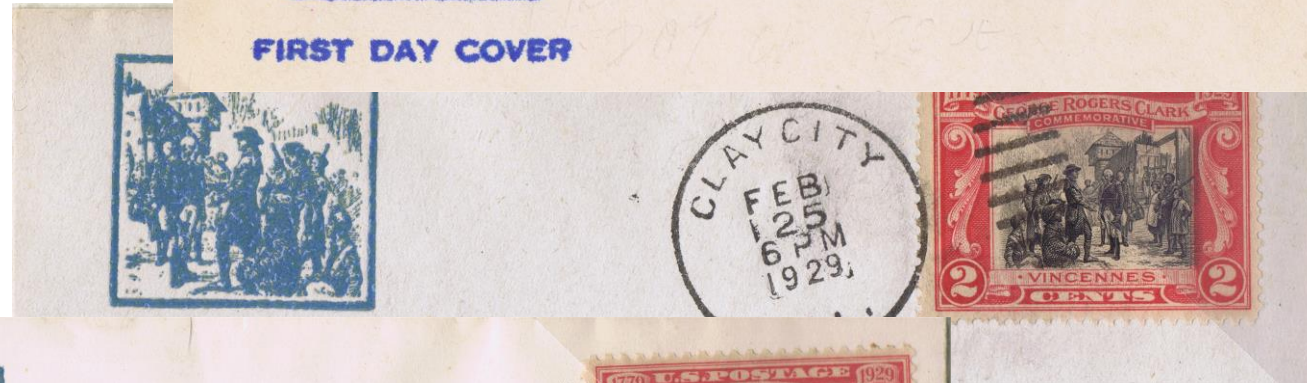
Unofficial 1st Day Cities – Roy Hood

- Roy Hood, a salesman for the Noble Gas & Oil Company, was in Vincennes on the first day and drove back to his home in Clay City, Illinois — servicing covers the entire way.



Unofficial 1st Day Cities -- Roy Hood

- Note that the time of the cancellations gets later as they move further west and away from Vincennes.



Unofficial 1st Day Cities – Ploch & Zix

- Carl Ploch, an Indianapolis banker and Joe Zix a Post Office Department employee were driven from Indianapolis to Vincennes on Sunday Feb. 24th
- Persuaded the Vincennes Postmaster to sell them the Clark stamps in the early evening, and then spent six hours preparing their covers at a local house.
- Zix had a working knowledge of the train schedules and prepared letters to many Postmasters with covers asking that they be posted upon receipt.



Unofficial 1st Day Cities – Floyd Shockley

- Floyd Shockley in conjunction with Ploch and Zix, prepared letters to many Postmasters with covers asking that they be posted upon receipt.
- Shockley used several designs of his cachet for these unofficals, this was the predominant design used.





CHAPTER SEVEN

Fakes & Forgeries

Cachet Forgeries

- In 2004 a number of legitimate first day covers with bogus cachets appeared in a major FDC auction.
- These cachets were found to have been added by a “collector” in Iowa who may have created over 70,000 fakes – spanning issues from the 1920’s until the 1990’s.



Cachet Forgeries

- Linn's August 9, 2004 – “Fake cachets discovered in first-day cover hoard” by Carol Shelton



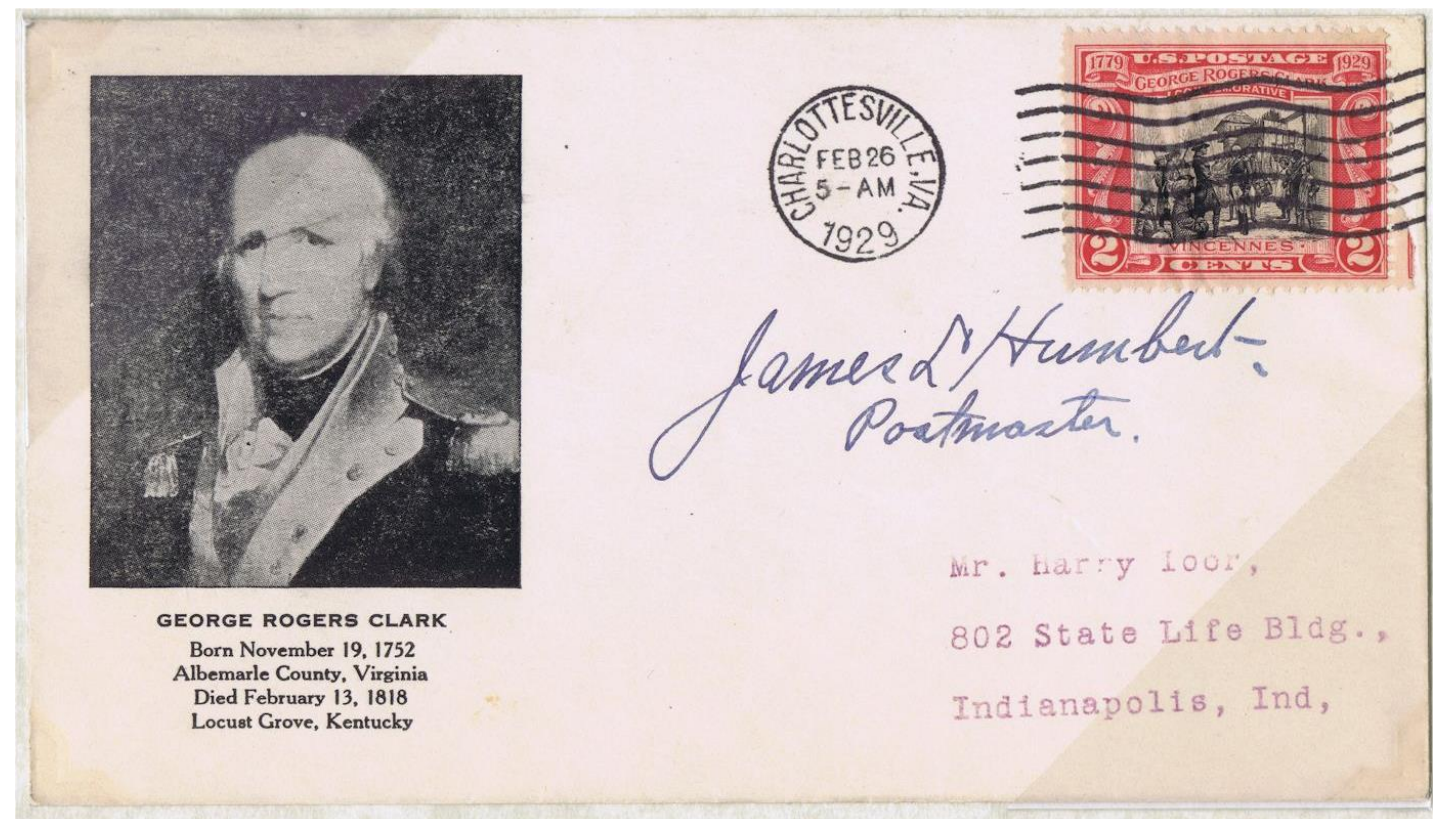


CHAPTER EIGHT

Second Day of Issue

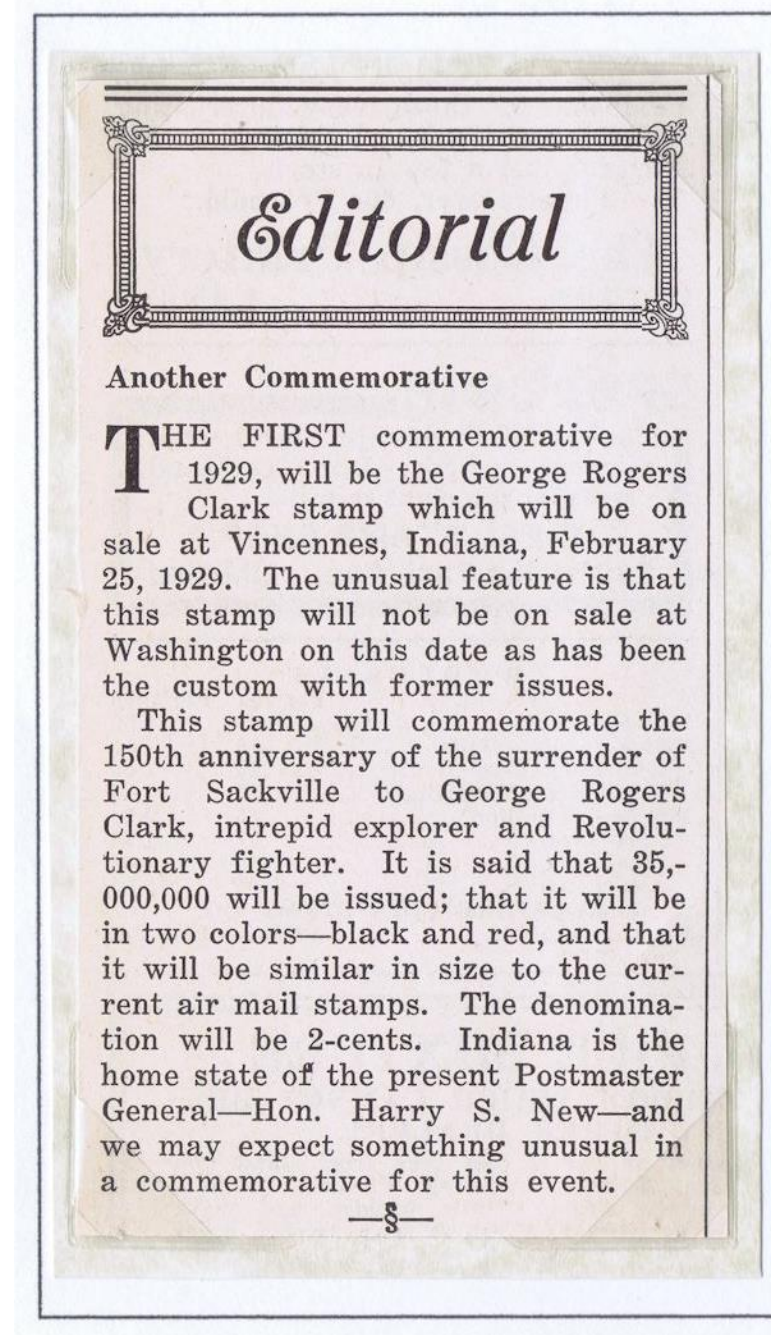
2nd Day of Issue – Charlottesville, Virginia

- The Clark stamp was the first commemorative not available for sale in the Philatelic Agency in Washington on the day it was issued.
- It was placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency as well as Charlottesville, Virginia on the second day (Feb. 26).
- No other cities were to sell the stamp until the third day.



2nd Day of Issue – Charlottesville, Virginia

- Editorial from the January 26, 1929 issue of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip. This was the first mention from the newspaper that “...and we may expect something unusual in a commemorative for this event.”
- Eventually the Editors mistakenly announced that the Clark Commemorative would be available in Vincennes on February 25th — and also in Charlottesville.



2nd Day of Issue – Charlottesville, Virginia

- Only 15,000 stamps were available and were placed on sale just after midnight.
- Only 4 covers are known with a 1AM postmark, 24 at 2AM, 100 at 3AM, 500 at 4AM and the balance at 5AM.
- It is presumed that the stock was exhausted before 5AM as no covers are known with a later postmark.



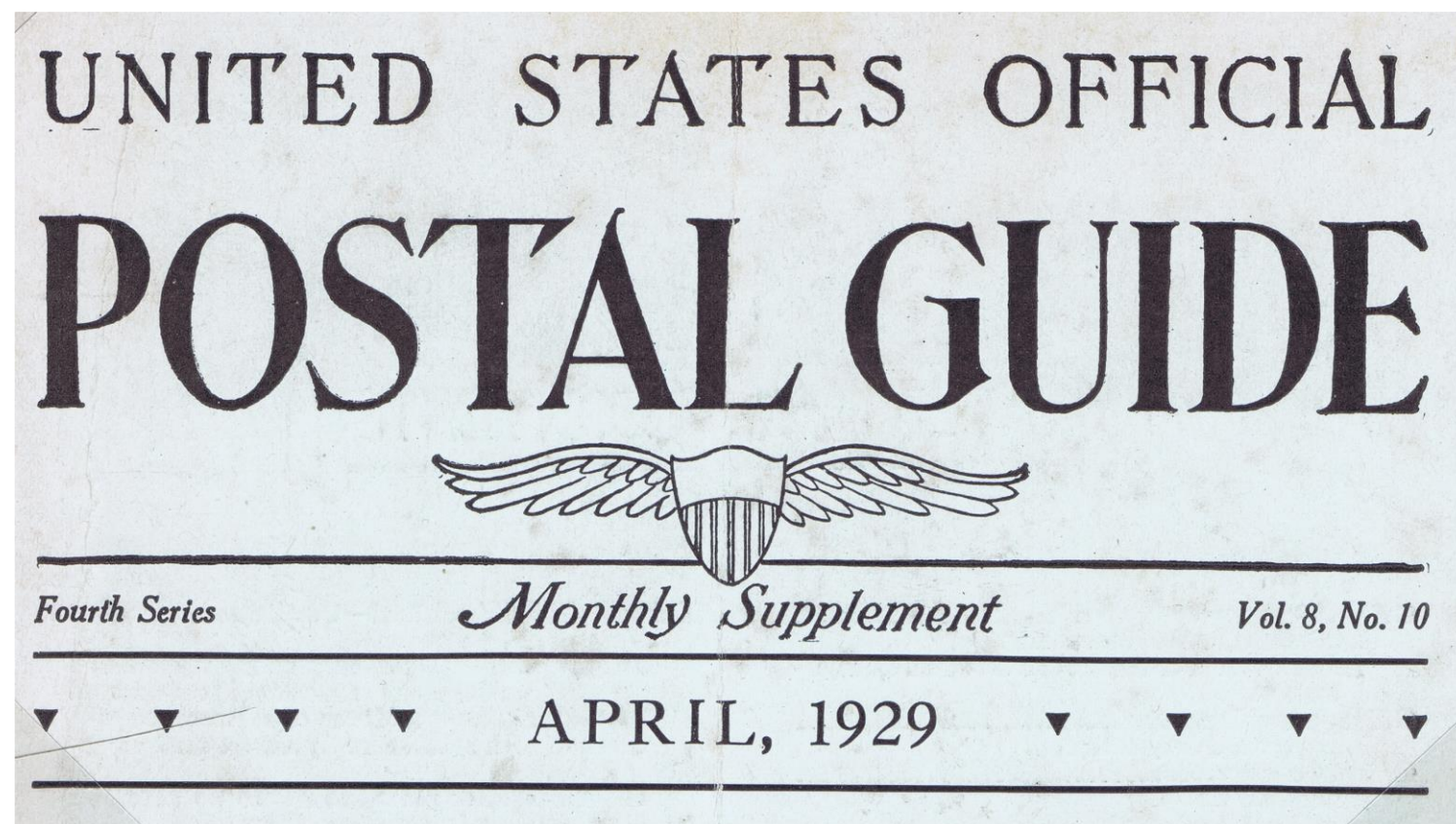
9



CHAPTER NINE

"Sold Out"

“Sold Out”



SUPPLY OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS EXHAUSTED

Postmasters at direct and central accounting post offices are advised that the requisitions now on hand in the department for the George Rogers Clark stamps already exceed the amount of stock that can be made available so that further orders can not be accepted. Postmasters will, therefore, please refrain from submitting further requisitions for this stamp.

Requisitions which can not be reached for shipment will be returned unfilled.



APPENDIX

Resources

Resources

- American First Day Cover Society
www.AFDCS.org
- www.1929Clark.com
- United States Stamp Society
www.USStamps.org

