

Introducing D.A. Lux A New Ries Chapter Member

Thank you all for allowing me to join your chapter. My name is D.A.--yes, people call me by my initials! This is the second AFDCS chapter of which I am a member; my home chapter is the Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter and I have been an AFDCS member for 25+ years. I have only recently started attending Americover shows and doing more than just buying FDCs by mail from dealers and auctions. I am a retired U.S. Navy Chief Electronics Technician who spent his career in submarines. I am married to a wonderful wife, Dee, who tolerates my hobby but also enjoys the excursions we have participated in during the last two Americover shows. I am also active in my local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post supporting the needs of local veterans in my community.

My main collecting interest is FDCs, paraphilatic material and ephemera related to the Brooklyn Bridge (BB) stamp issued in 1983 [Scott No. 2041]. After 25 years of collecting this issue, I have most of the FDCs produced for this stamp, excepting some one-of-a-kinds and add-ons. Recently I have been trying to find contemporaneous postal usages of this stamp for a possible exhibit; I have a few items but am always on the lookout for more. Other FDC interests, though not nearly as in depth as the Brooklyn Bridge FDCs, include the Jackie Robinson stamp [Sc. No. 2016], the Negro Leagues se-tenant [Sc. No. 4465-4466] and the various EID stamps.

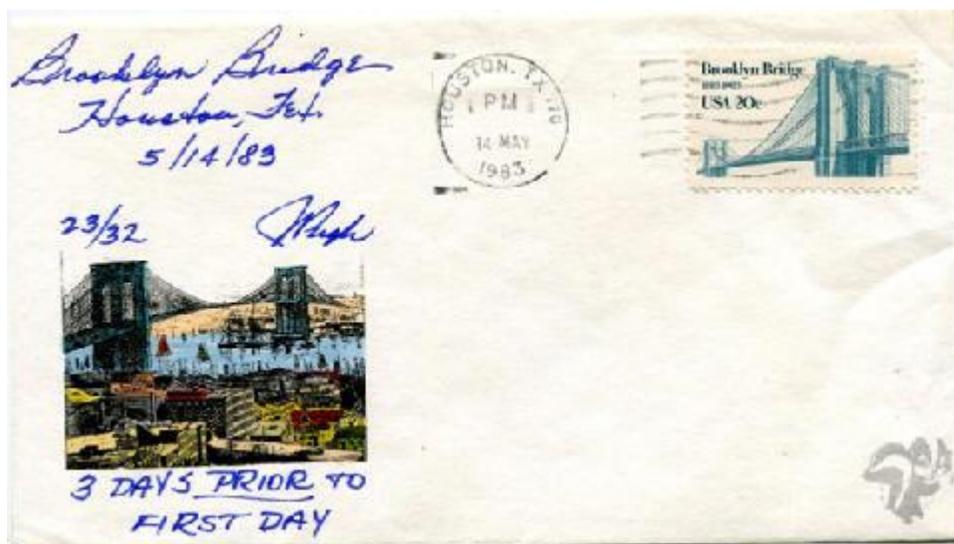
Some of you may ask, "Why collect FDCs of the Brooklyn Bridge?" I reply, "Why not?" I had collected some Fleetwood FDCs back when I was in high school, but by 1983, they were just collecting dust on the bookshelf in my old room at my parents' home. When the collecting bug hit me again in 1983, I had to decide if I wanted to collect a specific cachetmaker like some people do or to collect a specific topic. I picked topic. Now I had to choose something I liked, something I thought would be popular with cachetmakers and something I thought might be popular with other collectors. Well, two out of three, I have found some fellow BB collectors, but not as many as I thought would be out there. As many different BB FDCs as I have found over the years, I still occasionally find something new that is not a recent add-on cachet.

The early 1980s was an interesting time to start a topic collection. Some of the early classic cachetmakers--like Dorothy Knapp, Don Kapner, Ed Hacker, Clarence Reid, Ralph Dyer and Adam Bert--were winding down their careers but still producing the occasional cachet. Other cachetmakers--like Fred Collins, GAMM (Gerry Adlman), Freda Dickie Weaver, Julian Pugh and Lois Hamilton--had only recently started producing FDCs a few years earlier and the BB stamp was one of their early cachets. Some cachetmakers--like Torkel Gundel, Tammy Lee Thompson, DRC Cachets, Glen Cachets--skipped the BB stamp even though they produced FDCs during this time period. And finally, some--like Dragon Cards, Dome Cachets, Vaughn Hord, and Mille Cachet--did not start their cachet making career until just after the BB stamp was issued.

Let me share a couple of my favorites. First is Dorothy Knapp, the most valuable BB cover that I have. This cover, a combination cover with the Verrazano-Narrows stamp [Sc. No. 1258] is completely hand painted and addressed to her son in Texas.



The second FDC is by Pugh Cachets. By chance, a week before the scheduled FDOI of May 17, 1983, Julian Pugh was given some BB stamps when he went to the post office to buy stamps. After he left the post office and he realized what had happened, he prepared some pre-date covers--7, 3 and 1 day prior to scheduled release--for this stamp in addition to his regular FDOI cover. Although philatelic in nature, these are, so far, the only known pre-dates for the BB stamp. I have often wondered if BB stamps were sold early to other postal customers in the Houston area; if so, then the existence of commercial (non-philatelic) pre-date covers is very possible. But, so far, I have not found any!



The last cover I would like to share with you is a Computer Cover FDC by Paul Filipkowski. Today, designing cachets by computer is quite common, perhaps even the predominate means of producing FDCs. In 1983, not so much. Paul had to program the design on his computer and print the design on an envelope using his multi-colored dot matrix printer; that is, he had to program where each of the printer pins would strike which of the four color bands of the multi-color ribbon to produce the desired design. If interested in knowing more about his technique, you can read

more about Paul in the "Cachetmakers Spotlight--XXIV" in the July One 1983 issue of First Days on page 793 and in "Computer Covers' Explained" in the October One 1983 issue on page 1170.



It looks so simple to us now, but it was the beginning of a revolution in the design and production of the modern FDCs that define our hobby.

Ries chapter members who had produced BB FDCs include: Doris Gold [1 printed cachet, 2 later HP add-ons], Carol Gordon, Bernard Goldberg, Pete McClure [Cuv Evanson, add-on]. Please let me know if you are aware of other current or former Ries members who produced a cachet for the Brooklyn Bridge stamp.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and my collecting interests. I will look forward to seeing many of you at future Americover shows and perhaps other stamp shows also. If you are ever in north Texas during the second Saturday of each month (except during the summer), you are always welcome to attend our Fred C. Sawyer chapter meetings.