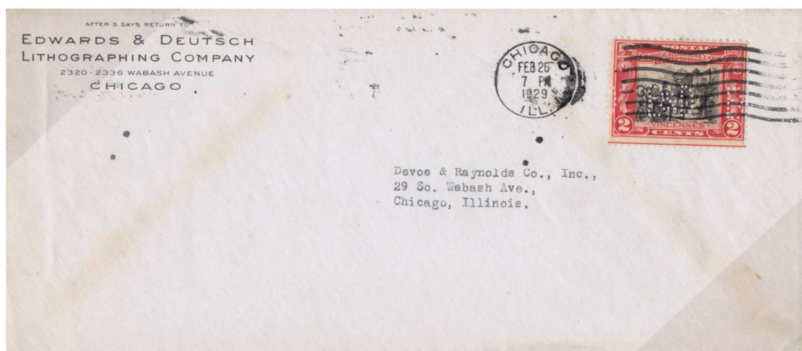


**Why the First Days of the GRC Commemorative are Important to Philately**

There are several reasons why the first days of the George Rogers Clark commemorative are important to philately. Perhaps the most prominent is that this was the first U.S. commemorative that was not available in Washington, D.C. on the first day and was available only in Vincennes, Indiana. This helped in setting a precedent for releasing stamps in cities around the country rather than just at the Philatelic Agency. Also unique to the Clark Commemorative is that on the second day it was only available in two places; the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C. and the post office in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Arguably as important is the introduction of new cachetmakers to the first day cover world as first day cover transitioned out of the pioneer period. Twenty cachetmakers are credited with having the Clark commemorative as their first cachet. Several of these cachetmakers, such as Harry Ioor and Walter Crosby went on to have long, successful and influential careers in cachetmaking. ■



SECOND DAY USE FROM CHICAGO IS THE EARLIEST DOCUMENTED USE OF A CLARK COMMEMORATIVE PERFORATED INSIGNIA (PERFIN).

Canada. Scarce FDCs sent to Austria (via the Ile de France) and the Philippines (with a fake Rothblum cachet) round out the Foreign Destination chapter.

Many cachet makers prepared their first covers with this issue. Two unique 1<sup>st</sup> Cooper cachets and scarce copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ross, Walden Press, and Ioor cachets are another highlight of the exhibit. While Emleigh's cachets did not vary, he did use envelopes that differed in size and composition — four of these are included in the Exhibit. Several of these first cachet covers are the actual covers illustrated in the standard FDC catalogs.

Fake cachets on Clark FDCs exist and the Exhibitor has discovered many while preparing this exhibit. Reasons for including them are twofold; first, they are interesting and are appropriate when considering the complete history of Clark FDCs; second is to make other collectors aware of their existence.

Unofficial cities are also well represented,

mostly from Indiana and Illinois, although examples from as far away as Kansas and Minnesota are here. (See "Why So Many 'Ploch' FDCs?")

This commemorative was the first stamp not available for sale at the Philatelic Agency on its first day since the Agency opened in 1921. Some cachet makers produced special 2<sup>nd</sup>-day cachets for this and are included in the exhibit. The issue was unique in that Charlottesville, Virginia was selected as an additional 2<sup>nd</sup> day city. Rumors in the philatelic press speculated that Charlottesville was also to be a first day city — causing the Postmaster in Charlottesville to be inundated with first day requests that he could not accommodate until the second day — and even then only a small fraction of these orders could be filled before they ran out of stamps.

**WHAT'S NOT HERE & WHY ?**

Both Scott's and Griffith list a variety with a missing Red "TOP" inscription. This is not

*(Continued on page 4)*

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