



Postmark Atlanta
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583
September 2021 Newsletter

Back to two zoom meetings for September. Scott sent an email alert that Manuel's is closed on September 6 – but hopefully October will be back to first MONDAY at Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta. This is just a block from our previous Java Vina meeting location. We will have the "back room" which is to the right when you enter the front door. There are a couple of lots marked for Manual Tavern parking. We will continue our Third TUESDAY as a "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting hosted by member Lloyd Nutter. Lloyd sends out a Zoom invitation a couple days before the meeting. If you do not get an invitation for the meetings, please contact Lloyd to make sure he adds you to his list. Emailing him: trains56@charter.net. Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

September 7 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. This will be a member show-and-tell.

September 21 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom. There will be a program.

September 22 7:00 pm Joint meeting with Button Gwinnett Club and Cobb club at Mountain Park United Methodist Church, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Meetings are in the Youth Fellowship Hall. If you are facing the church this is on the right side of the main building. (If you came to the stamp show that was on the opposite side of the church campus). Joint meetings include food and auction. Please limit to 5 lots with \$5 minimum per person. Their church location does require masks on all attendees.

#

REMINDER – new postage rates effective August 29, 2021

1 oz standard envelope increased to 58 cents.

2 oz standard envelope now 78 cents

3 oz standard envelope now 98 cents

3.5 oz standard envelope now \$1.18 (over that weight refer to large flat rates.

Postcard rate increases to 40 cents.

Non-Machinable surcharge is now 30 cents so square cards will be 88 cents.

Large flat up to 1 oz now \$1.16. 2nd and subsequent oz to 13 remain 20 cents each.

The full 75 page notice is at

<https://pe.usps.com/resources/PriceChange/August%202021%20-%20Notice123.pdf>

pages 6, 40 and 49 are most helpful for retail.

#





ANNOUNCING that Club member Colin Clark has two (2) one-page exhibits in the **ATA virtual** one-page exhibition, in conjunction with the **APS Great American Stamp Show (GASS)** of August 12 – 15 2021 (and National Stamp Collecting Month):

The **ATA** is hosting “**My One-Page Exhibit!**”. There are **over 200** exhibits, in multiple categories, at:

<https://americantopical.org/My-One-Page-Exhibit>

The exhibits are available for viewing for an extended period of time, until **October 31st 2021**, being the final day of National Stamp Collecting Month.

The two (2) Colin Clark one-page exhibits are:

-  Mr. Abbott’s Big Idea (found in the **Philately** category)
-  Building Victorian Bridges (found in the **Science and Technology** category)

NOTE: This is **not** a judged exhibition, or one where viewers can vote on a most favorite. It’s simply an opportunity to get philatelic gems and research out into the public view, and participate at GASS and during National Stamp Collecting Month.

Rodgers Aerial Post Semi-Official Stamp

By Steve Swain

Kelleher's July 13-16, 2021, Flagship Series auction offered an on-piece example of the 1911 25-cent black Rodgers Aerial Post Vin Fiz Flyer imperforate airmail semi-official stamp, Scott CL2 (*Figure 1*). The stamp is only one of 13 known survivors of the issue.

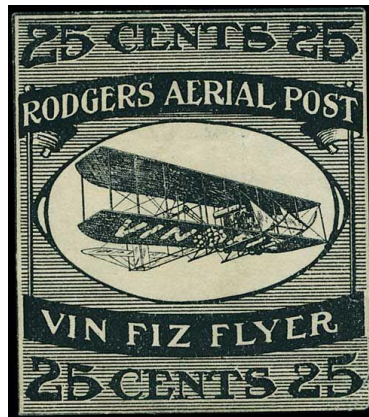


Figure 1. Rodgers Aerial Post Vin Fiz Flyer imperforate airmail semi-official stamp.

The Vin Fiz Flyer issue was the first stamp in the world that featured an airplane as its pictorial element. The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers calls the stamp “semi-official,” but the CL numbering prefix classifies it as an airmail equivalent of stamps and postal stationery franks issued by private local and express carriers. Such carriers operated out of the mails, though often conveying cards and letters to and from post offices. That was how the Rodgers Aerial Post functioned.

The stamp's origin traces to October of 1910 when newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, an early fan of aviation, announced he would award a \$50,000 prize to the first pilot to complete an aerial crossing of the United States in 30 days or less. One of the three competitors for the prize was 32-year-old Calbraith Perry Rodgers (January 12, 1879 – April 3, 1912) who took flying lessons from Orville Wright amounting to all of 90 minutes.

When hearing about the \$50,000 competition, Rodgers realized he needed a sponsor and visited J. Ogden Armour, the president of the Armour Company. At that time, Armour was releasing a new carbonated grape drink, Vin Fiz, and needed a promotional gimmick. Armour agreed to pay Rodgers \$5 for every mile he flew east of the Mississippi River. And, because the west was more sparsely populated, \$4 dollars for every mile west of the river.

In addition to the Vin Fiz endorsement, Rodger's wife, Mabel, who attempted to obtain the official title of “postmistress,” raised money by selling special 25-cent postage stamps. The stamp was designed either by either by the Amour Company or by Rodgers and his wife. It is believed the stamps were ordered by Rodger's brother, Robert S. Rodgers, from a printer in Kansas City, Missouri.

The \$50,000 competition flight began at 4:30 pm, September 17, 1911, when Rodgers took off from the Sheepshead Bay Racetrack in Brooklyn, N.Y. There were 75 stops, including 16 crashes, and Rodgers was injured several times. A team of mechanics rebuilt the *Vin Fiz Flyer* when necessary, and only a few pieces of the original plane made the entire trip.

Cards and letters bearing the stamp were carried aboard the various legs of Rodgers' flight. Two such covers are shown in **Figure 2**. The U.S. Post Office tolerated the *Vin Fiz* stamps but required that the mail had to also carry regular stamps if the writers wanted them delivered. Rodgers' semi-official stamp was not legal for paying the postage rate at the time.



Figure 2. *Vin Fiz Flyer* stamps affixed to covers postmarked in California and Texas.

Other Rodgers Aerial Post items include covers with a special handstamp. Offered at the May 1999 Sale No. 811 of Seigel Auction Galleries, the **Figure 3** postcard sent on September 24, 1911, from Salamanca, N.Y. to Atlanta, Georgia carries an Aerial Rodgers Post circular handstamp. However, this card could not have been flown, given the fact that Rodgers did not depart from Salamanca until September 28.



Figure 3. Aerial Rodgers Post circular handstamp on cover to New York.

On November 5, having missed the prize deadline by 19 days, Rodgers landed in Pasadena, California, in front of a crowd of 20,000. On November 12, he took off for Long Beach, California, but crashed at Compton, with a brain concussion and a spinal twist. He was hospitalized for three weeks. Finally, on December 10, he landed on the beach, and taxied the *Flyer* into the Pacific Ocean, completing the unprecedented journey of over 4,000 statute

miles. Actual flying time was under 84 hours. Rodgers was killed in an exhibition air crash on the Pacific shore of the U.S. several months after his historic flight.

An outstanding article written by Ken Lawrence showcasing the Rodgers Aerial Post Vin Fiz Flyer stamp appeared in the August 19, 2019, issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. The article can be accessed as an Adobe PDF file from <https://www.linns.com/docs/default-source/content/pdf/20190819-linns-stamp-news-vin-fiz-ken-lawrence.pdf>.

Button Gwinnett Stamp Club is starting in person meetings on third Wednesdays. Their church location does require masks on all attendees. If you plan to attend, please contact club president Mack Will at 770-381-5956 so he knows who all is planning to attend.

#

Arago change

If you have used the National Postal Museum site Arago to research stamps you will want to know that it has been replaced by "Search the Collection" at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/search-the-collection>. This was necessary because the 14 year-old software was no longer supported.

Allen Johnson with the Button Gwinnett Stamp Club has created a Facebook Group for their club. Contact him to get invited to the group to see their process of buying and selling stamps. Ajrj1957@yahoo.com is his email.

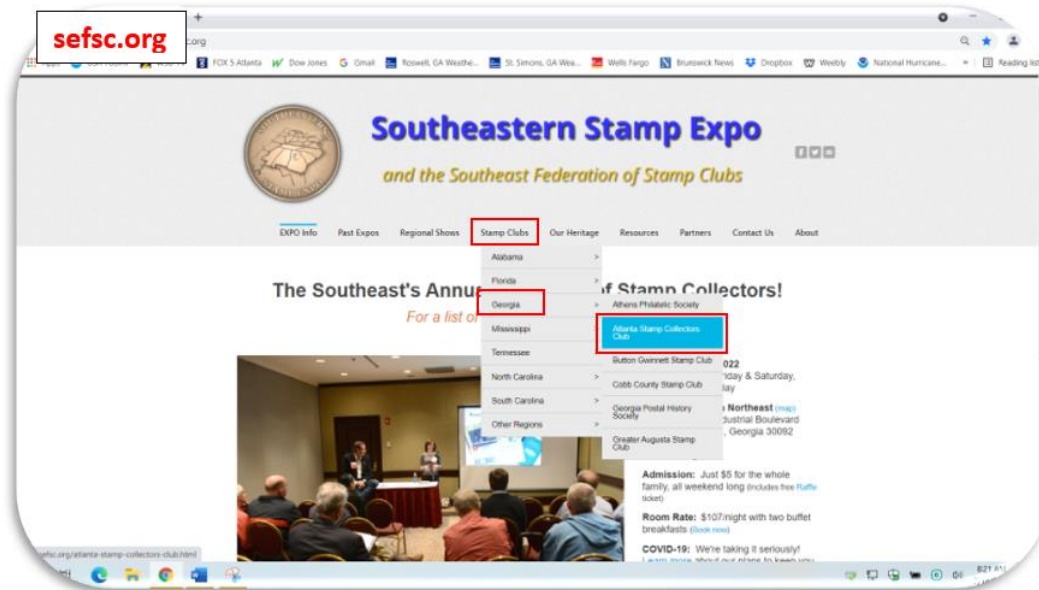
If you have not visited the National Postal Museum, you should check out their YouTube site. There are links to lectures and videos of museum exhibits.

The National Postal Museum continues to engage with the public during the COVID closure online at their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNPM>

The museum is interested in what needs to be collected to document life under COVID much like they have items from the 1918 Flu Pandemic era. If you have ideas or items contact the Chief Curator, Daniel Piazza at piazza@si.edu.

To access the club's website page (per the below image):

1. Enter sefsc.org in your browser.
2. From the main top-of-page menu, hover over Stamp Clubs.
3. Hover over Georgia.
4. Click Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club.



There are online Stamp Chat events sponsored by American Philatelic Society using Zoom that you can access information on at this link: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/aps-to-host-live-stamp-chats-on-zoom-beginning-monday-march-23>

There are Stamp Chats scheduled all through the end of 2021. There are replays of these chats available on YouTube. The variety of subjects now available is amazing. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericasStampClub> is the link to check out all the stored Chats.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

leacoe@bellsouth.net