

## Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs

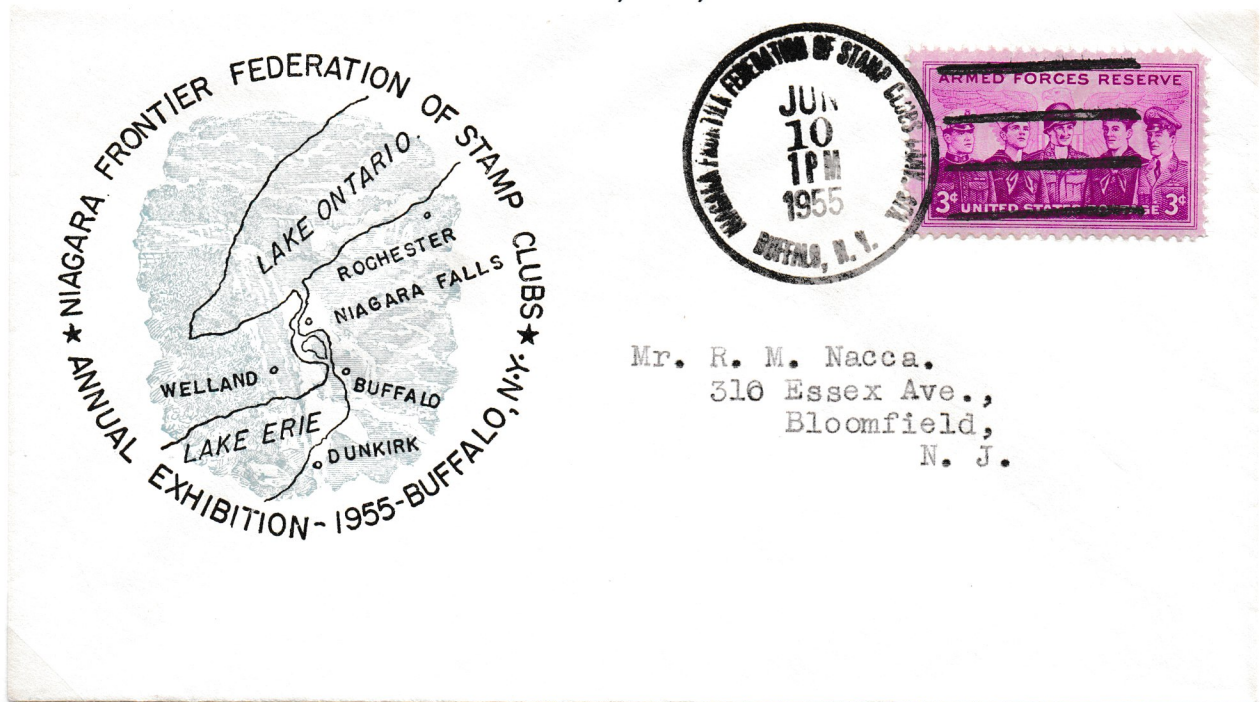
### A brief story

The intent of this story is to cobble together as much of the history of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs as possible. There are very little archival records available save for the bits and pieces on the Rochester Philatelic Association's web plus what can be gleaned from the covers and other material that appear for sale from time to time (quite limited). By definition, the area of the Niagara Frontier encompassed the Niagara Region of Ontario and part of upper state New York as the membership details unfold. Extra emphasis has been put on the two Ontario Exhibitions.

### The Beginning

On March 4th, 1950 a meeting was held in Buffalo for the formation of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs (NFFSC). Today, some 2 plus generations later no record exists to indicate what clubs were represented outside of Rochester and Buffalo. While the Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA) web-site indicates their first hosted exhibition was in 1951, later show covers argue for a 1950 exhibition simply through numbering (no covers have surfaced for shows prior to 1955).

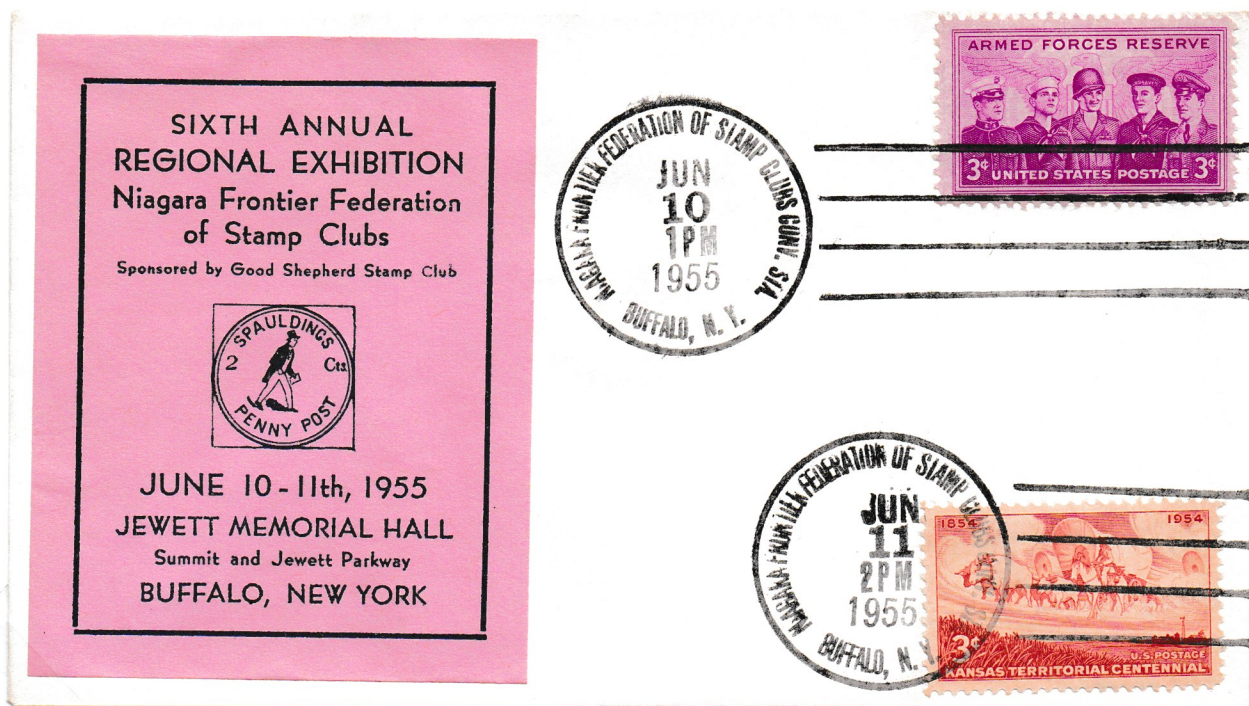
June 10-11, 1955, Buffalo



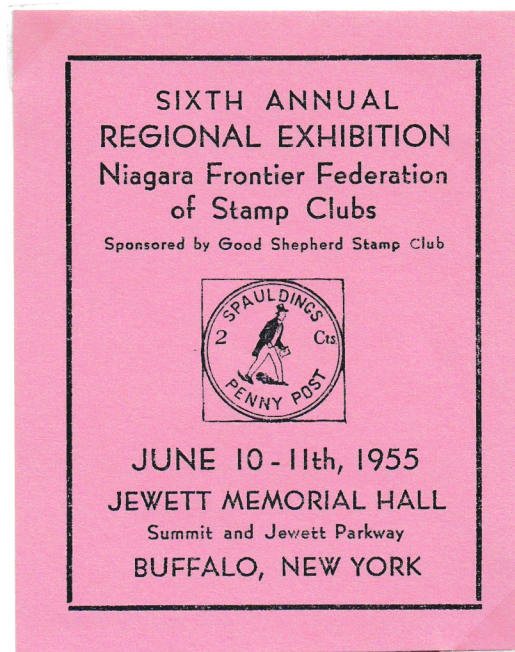
Mr. R. M. Nacca,  
310 Essex Ave.,  
Bloomfield,  
N. J.

The cachet on this cover, cancelled on the first day of the exhibition confirms at least five club members in the NFFSC at the time, being the New York stamp clubs of Buffalo (today's Buffalo Stamp Club), Rochester (RPA), Dunkirk and Niagara Falls plus Welland, Ontario.

Buffalo, June 10-11, 1955



The second format for the commemorative covers for this exhibition identifies the second Buffalo Club involved: 'Good Shepherd Stamp Club', (no history available). The show label affixed to the cover and illustrated in three colours below tells us that the exhibition was held in the Jewett Memorial Hall that no longer exists.



Buffalo Oct. 13-14, 1956



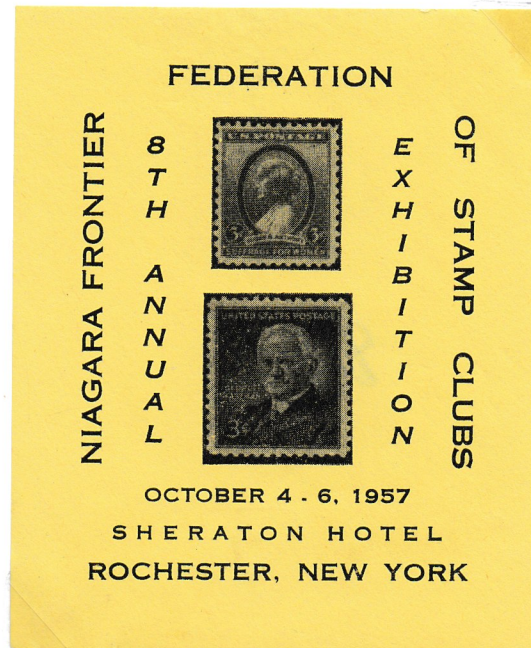
A very similar cachet was used for the commemorative cover in 1956. This show was hosted by the Buffalo Stamp Club. No changes, to this point, in the member clubs.

Rochester Oct 4-6, 1957



The second time that the Rochester Philatelic Association hosted the NFFSC exhibition was in 1957. In all cases to this date the cachet format was followed. RPA hosted a three-day exhibition and bourse well past the year 2000. It is no surprise when RPA hosted the NFFSC it was a three-day event because many of the NFFSC events appear to have been tied into the local club's exhibition and bourse.

Rochester Oct. 4-6, 1957



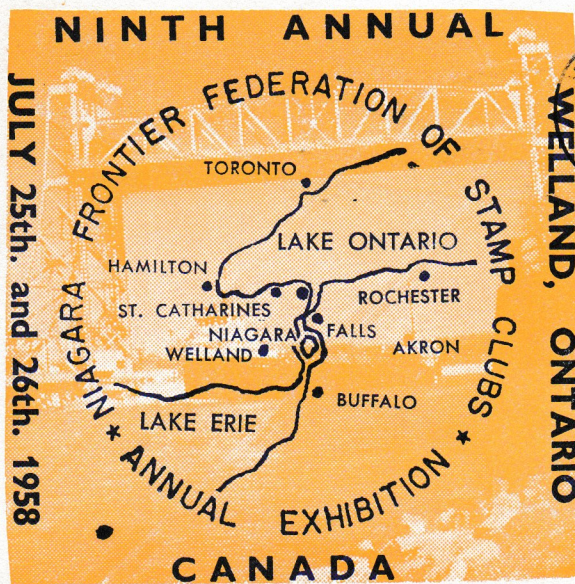
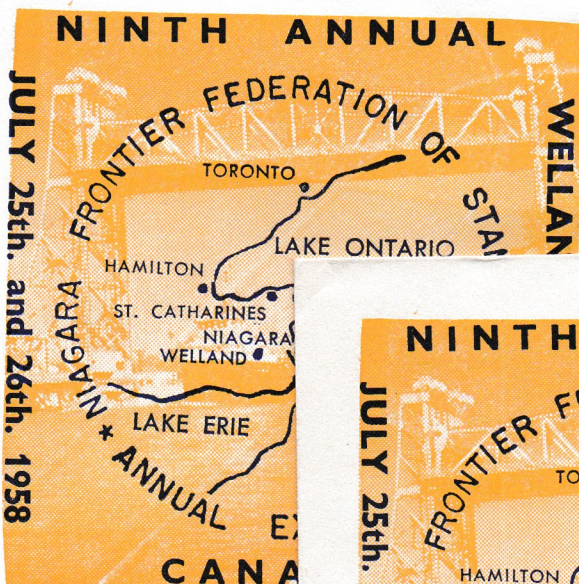
The philatelic seal tells us that the 1957 exhibition was the 8<sup>th</sup> thereby confirming the start date as 1950. The venue was the Sheraton Hotel which no longer has a presence in Rochester.

Welland July 25-26, 1958



There were two seals issued for the Welland NFFSC Exhibition. The same map is featured and from it we learn that the Dunkirk club has left the fold with Akron and St. Catharines being added.

Welland July 25 – 26, 1958



E. W. BUTTON  
156 EDGAR ST  
WELLAND  
ONTARIO

RR#2  
Wainflat SHOW

There was a cover printed for the show illustrated above with cancels for each show day. The city of Welland celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary July 20-27 so the NFFSC event was an integral part of the celebrations (see cancel). The two postcards illustrated below and on the top of the next page show usage of the seals.

View from Main Street bridge showing Park, City Hall and Barclay Hotel, Welland, Ontario

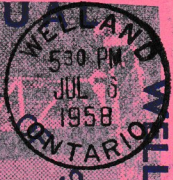
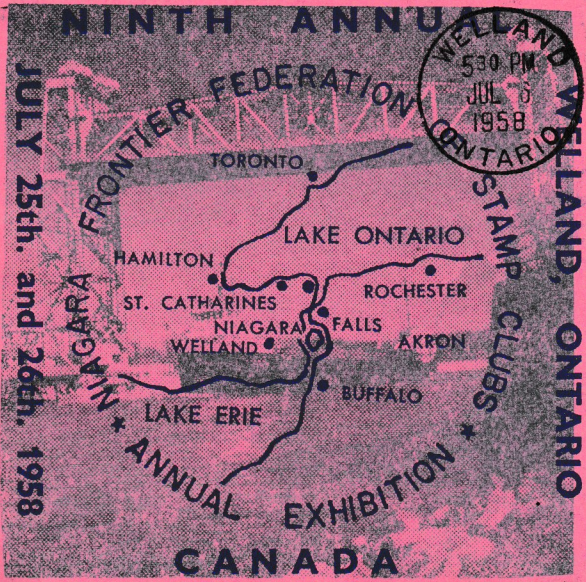


POST CARD  
ADDRESS ONLY

A. Mocsan  
24 RANDOLPH ST.  
WELLAND

Welland July 25 – 26, 1958

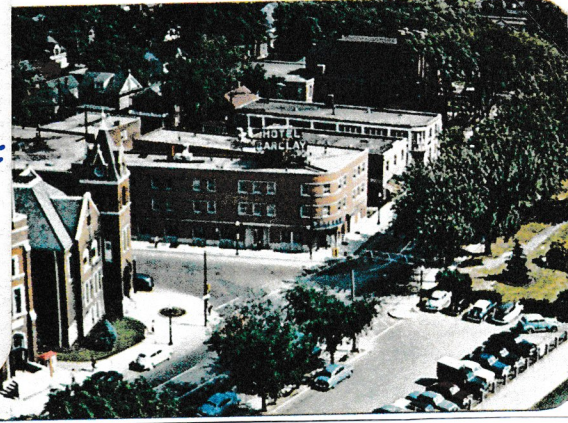
View from Main Street bridge showing Park, City Hall



ADDRESS ONLY

A. MOCSAN  
24 RANDOLPH ST.  
WELLAND

Printed from Natural Color Film © 55-271LV



This is the second seal on a postcard both of which on the face show the Barclay Hotel (see scan above), the venue for this exhibition. The Hotel is long gone.

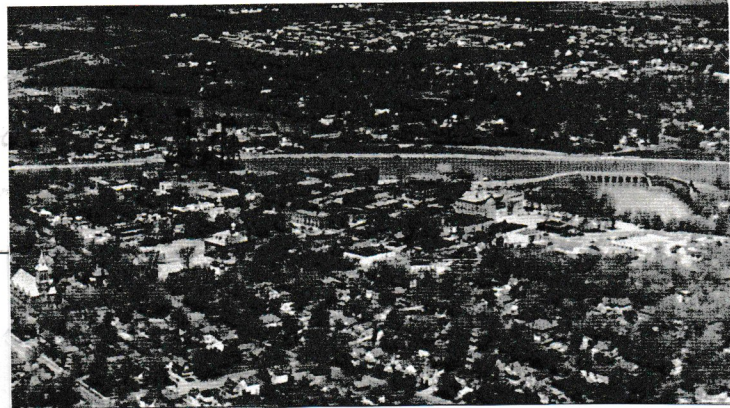
Celebration 1858-1958

Held during Welland's Centennial



Ninth Annual Exhibition  
July 25-26, 1958  
Welland, Ont., Canada

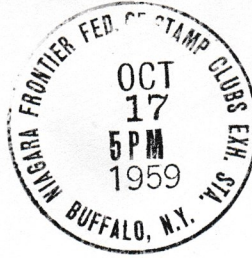
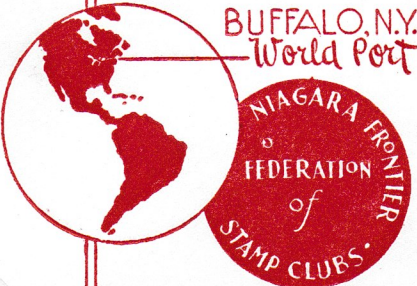
Week of July 21-27, 1958



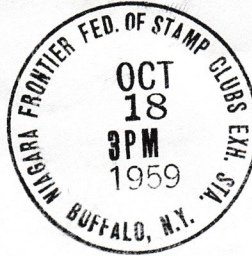
The map, shown on the NFFSC postcard, now includes St. Catharines, Ontario as a member club of the NFFSC. The other side of the postcard is an aerial view of Welland featuring the Welland Canal, part of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the opening of which would be celebrated with a stamp 11 months later.

Buffalo Oct. 16-18, 1959

10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
PHILATELIC  
EXHIBITION  
OCT. 16·17·18-1959  
HOTEL LAFAYETTE  
BUFFALO, N.Y.  
World Port



10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
PHILATELIC  
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BUFFALO, N.Y.  
World Port



A Buffalo stamp club, unidentified, hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Philatelic Exhibition at the Hotel Lafayette. We know it was not the Buffalo Stamp Club for they would be hosts in 1960 (no club hosted to consecutive NFFSC events). The covers (2 illustrated above) featured the U.S.A. issued St. Lawrence Seaway commemorative stamp. Even though Canada also issued the same stamp none appear to have been affixed to covers. Note the cachet is in different colours and it is likely there is a green cachet (undiscovered) for day 3; the seals featured on the next page indicate this to be.

Buffalo Oct. 16-18, 1959



The philatelic seal issued for the 1959 NFFSC exhibition was done in three colours. From the covers illustrated on the previous page, red was for Oct. 17, blue for Oct. 18 and green for Oct. 19.



Buffalo Oct. 15-16, 1960



Mr. William V. Stockdale.  
61 Broadway,  
New York 6,  
N. Y.

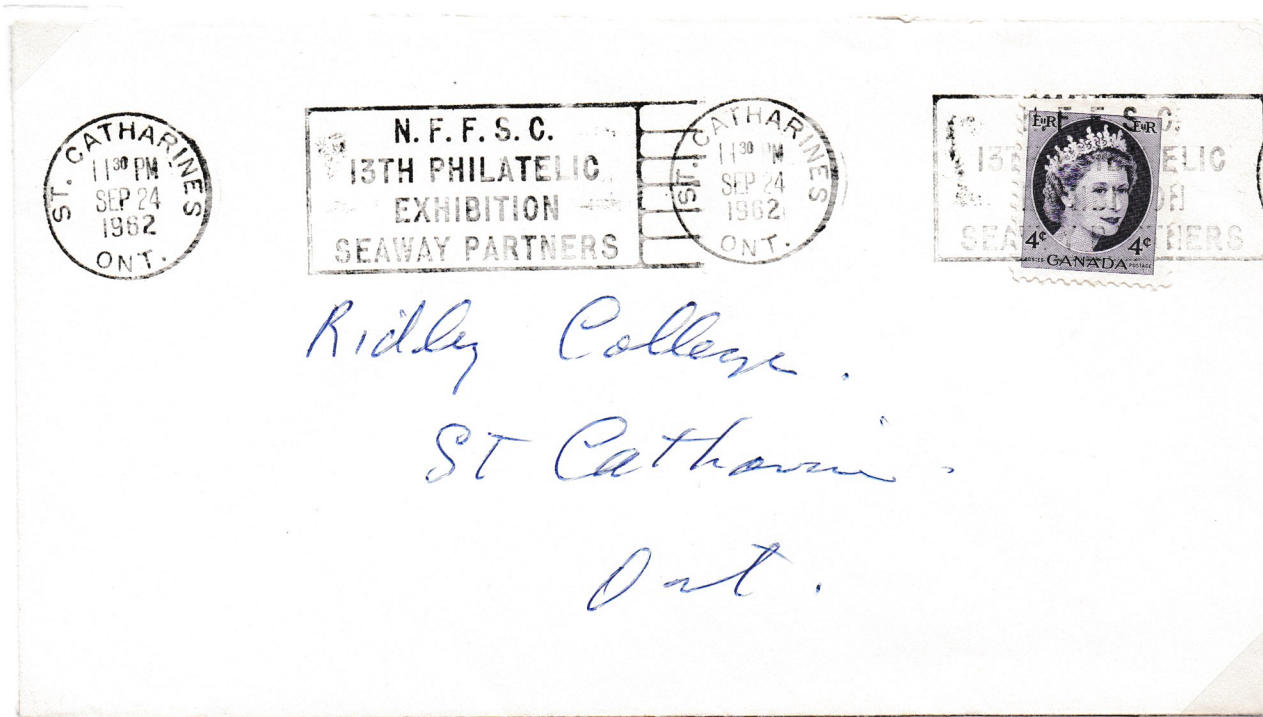
The Buffalo Stamp Club hosted the 1960 NFFSC 11<sup>th</sup> annual stamp show (& exhibition) at the Adam Plewacki Post (still exists) on 385 Paderewski Drive. Today the Buffalo Stamp Club meets and holds 2 shows a year at the Leonard Post on Walden Ave.

Rochester Oct. 20-22, 1961



The seal issued for the 1961 NFFSC exhibition in Rochester details the location of the show. The hotel no longer exists.

St. Catharines Oct. 12-14, 1962



The St. Catharines Stamp Club hosted the NFFSC Exhibition in the Merriton Community Centre (still there). Merriton and Welland exchanged names in 1858 (hence the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1958 for Welland). In 1960 Merriton became a part of St. Catharines. The cover illustrated shows the promotional cancel used for the 13<sup>th</sup> Exhibition but does not provide dates. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> is an early use and this was the cancel used until the end of the event.



There was a seal designed for the show as illustrated above that had two printings (this is the second printing).

St. Catharines Oct. 12-14, 1962



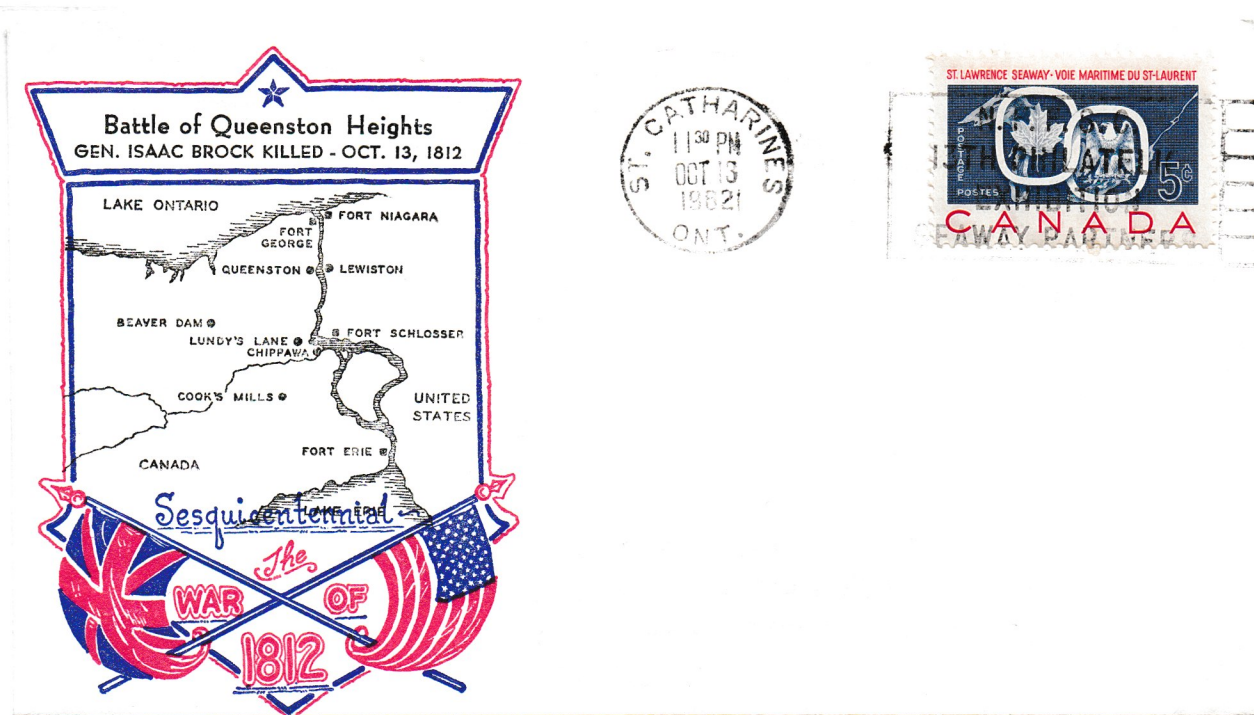
The cover above has the seal from the first printing while the cover below is the second printing. The latter is found either mint or affixed to an Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> cover (the last day) indicating a last minute re-print. Examined carefully there are font differences, alignment differences and so forth for the careful eye to spot. There are no covers with the USA Seaway stamp.



St. Catharines Oct. 12-14, 1962

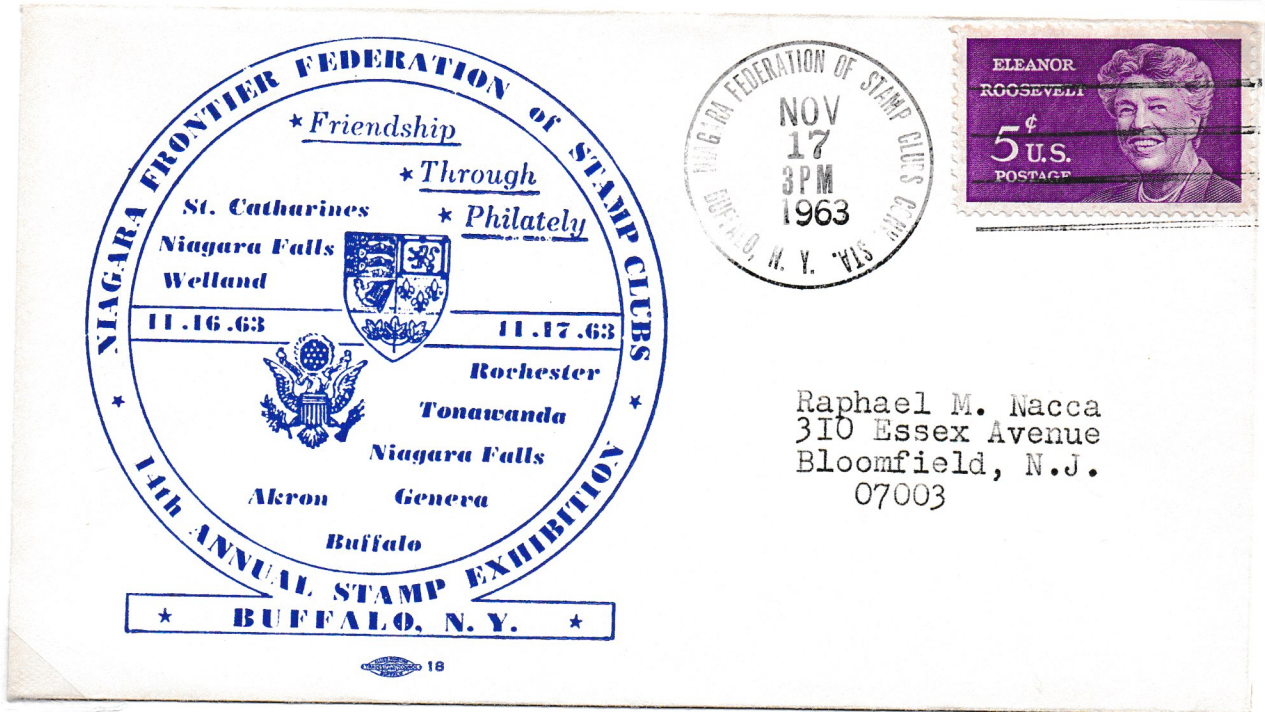


The 'official' cover for the NFFSC 13<sup>th</sup> featured: 'Seaway Partners' which was the theme for this exhibition celebrating the one local feature important to the Niagara area on both sides of the border.



The second cover, while celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the Battle of Queenston Heights that happened on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1812, also shows key forts and 1812- 1814 war battle sites in the area on either side of the border. This cover was only available cancelled Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. Alfred Berger Covers (Toledo, Ohio) prepared this cover as part of a series of covers commemorating the war of 1812-1814. The show committee was not involved in designing this cover.

Buffalo Nov. 16-17, 1963



Back to Buffalo in 1963 with no indication of which club was hosting. The show covers illustrated above tell us that subsequent to the St. Catharines exhibition three clubs were added to the NFFSC: Geneva and Tonawanda in New York and Niagara Falls, Ontario. The theme of the NFFSC was 'Friendship Through Philately'. The show cancel is consistent with those used in prior years in Buffalo.

Buffalo Nov. 16-17, 1963



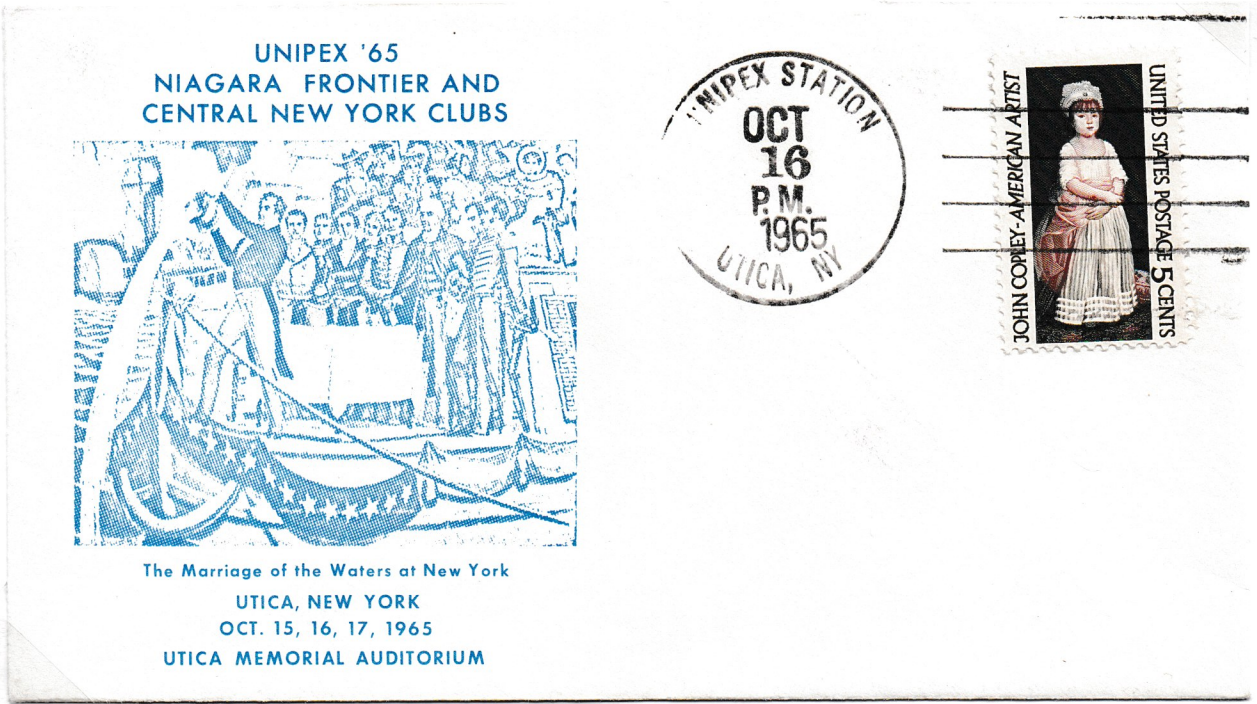
The seal shown above would have been available for affixing on cover. To date no cover with the seal has been seen.

Buffalo Oct. 23-25, 1964



The theme of music was adopted for the 1964 exhibition. This cover has a very recently issued (Oct. 15 was the First Day) USA stamp affixed that fit the theme (knowledge of issue dates well ahead assisted the committee with a theme that could be tied to this new issue). The three-day format fitted what the Buffalo Stamp Club's exhibitions of the era were.

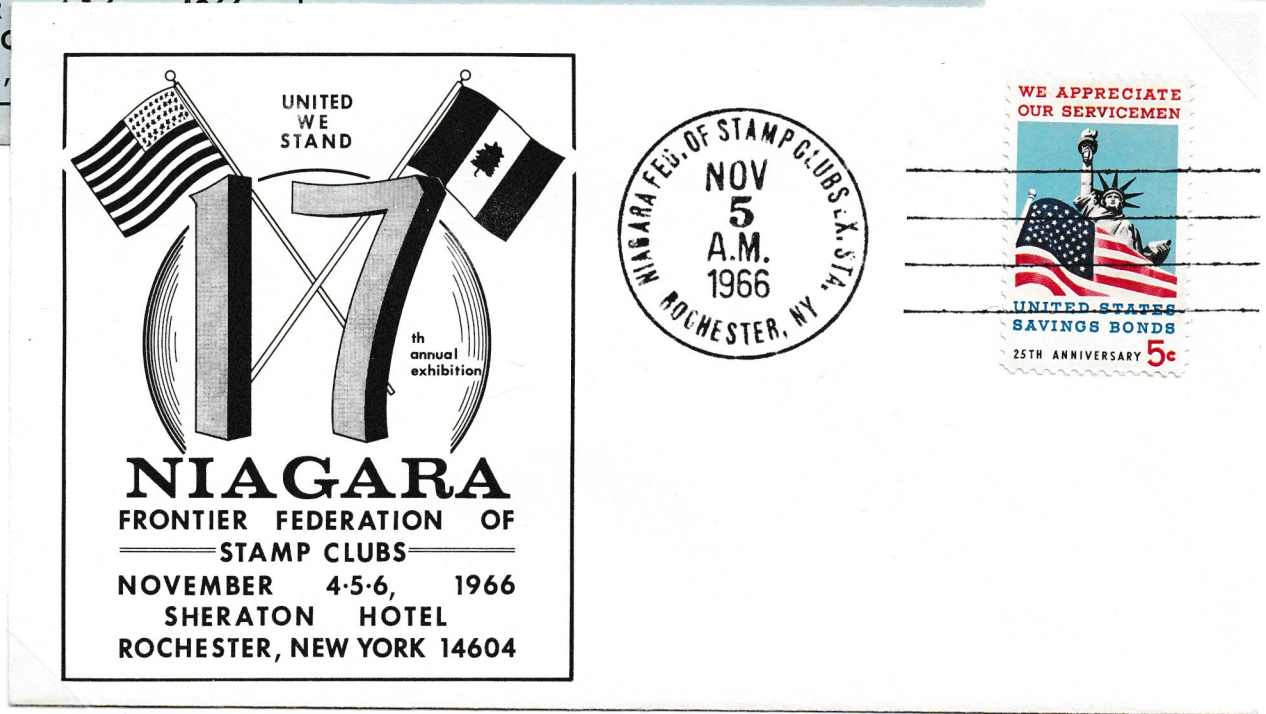
Utica Oct. 15-17, 1965



The only NFFSC event to have a show name: UNIPEX was held in Utica. Two covers are known for the event with second day cancel shown above and a third day cancel below. Utica was the last club to join the NFFSC.



Rochester Nov. 4-6, 1966



The 17<sup>th</sup> NFFSC annual exhibition was to be the last one and hosted by Rochester with a commemorative covers as depicted with Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> cancels. The cachet reflects the friendship between Canada and the U. S. A. It also speaks of a time when stamp collectors and philatelists travelled across the border to share in, discuss, socialize and enjoy the comradery of their hobby.

### The Year 2000

Officially the NFFSC ceased to exist in the year 2000 (disbanded is the terminology). While there had been on events for many years this action officially closed the books on the NFFSC.