

First Days of the 1929 George Rogers Clark Commemorative



THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON
February Twenty-One
19 29

Mr. John Kay,
Book Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

My dear John:

I am sending you herewith a block of four of the George Rogers Clark commemorative stamps, the first day's issue of which is to be on sale at Vincennes, Indiana, February 23.

This will be the last block to which I can affix my official certification and I am glad to send it on to you in the hope that it may fill a place in your album.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Letter from Postmaster General Harry S. New (1858-1937) and marginal inscription block signed on February 21st — 4 days before the date of issue.

Issued at Vincennes, Indiana on February 23rd, 1929, the 2¢ commemorative honoring George Rogers Clark is one of America's favorite stamps yet few are aware of the event it depicts. Based upon a 1923 painting by Frederick C. Yohn, the stamp shows the 1779 surrender of Fort Sackville by British Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton to Col. George Rogers Clark. This allowed the then Northwest Territory to join the United States.

This was the first stamp issued that was not available in Washington, D.C. on the first day — it was only available in Vincennes, becoming available at the Philatelic Agency and in Charlottesville, Virginia on the 2nd day. It was not available nationwide until the 3rd day. A first day record was set when 397,300 stamps were sold in Vincennes totaling \$7,946 in sales.

Presented is a study of the George Rogers Clark Commemorative through the use of first day covers. Production methods as well as domestic and foreign usages are shown. A study of cachets follows throughout the exhibit.

EXHIBIT PLAN

1. PRODUCTION & ISSUANCE	6. UNOFFICIAL FIRST DAY CITIES
2. DOMESTIC USE	7. FAKES & FORGERIES
3. FOREIGN DESTINATIONS	8. SECOND DAY OF ISSUE
4. FIRST CACHETS	9. "SOLD OUT"
5. PHILATELIC FIRST DAY USES	

Items of note
are matted in gold.

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

- EARLIEST & 2nd EARLIEST DOCUMENTED USES
- FIRST & SECOND LARGEST FIRST DAY MULTIPLE
- LARGE AND SMALL DIE PROOFS & UNIQUE SODIUM-LATE DIE PROOF
- 1st POSTED RIGHTFIELD AND SPECIAL DELIVERY ON DAY OF ISSUE
- EARLIEST 4¢ CACHET ON FOUR DIFFERENT SIZE ENVELOPES
- UNIQUE FDR HYBRID POSTHUMOUS LARGE DIE PROOF
- FDC'S SIGNED BY PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE & PMG HARRY S. NEW
- UNIQUE FIRST CACHETS BY HOWARD COOPER
- FIRST COVER POSTED ON 2nd DAY OF ISSUE FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE
- FIRST DAY USE TO EGYPT

