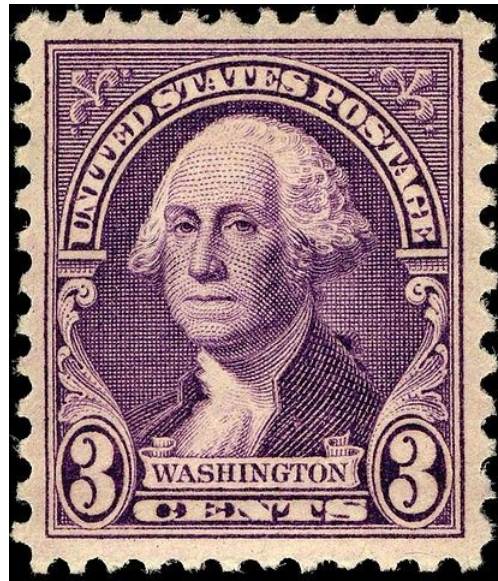


# Washington Bicentennials of 1932



# How and Why?

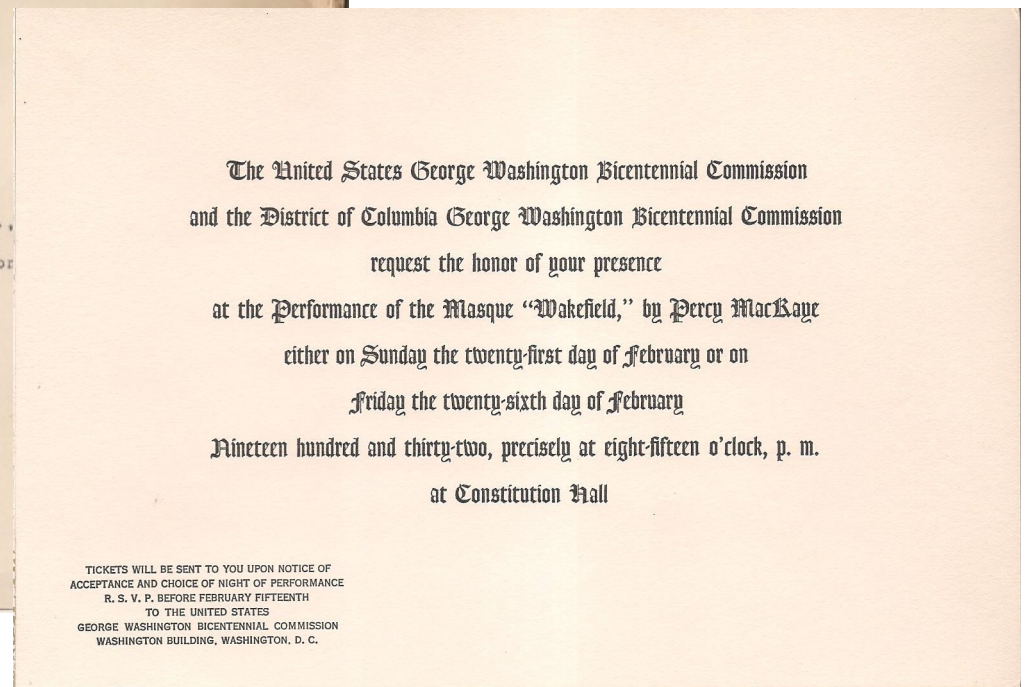
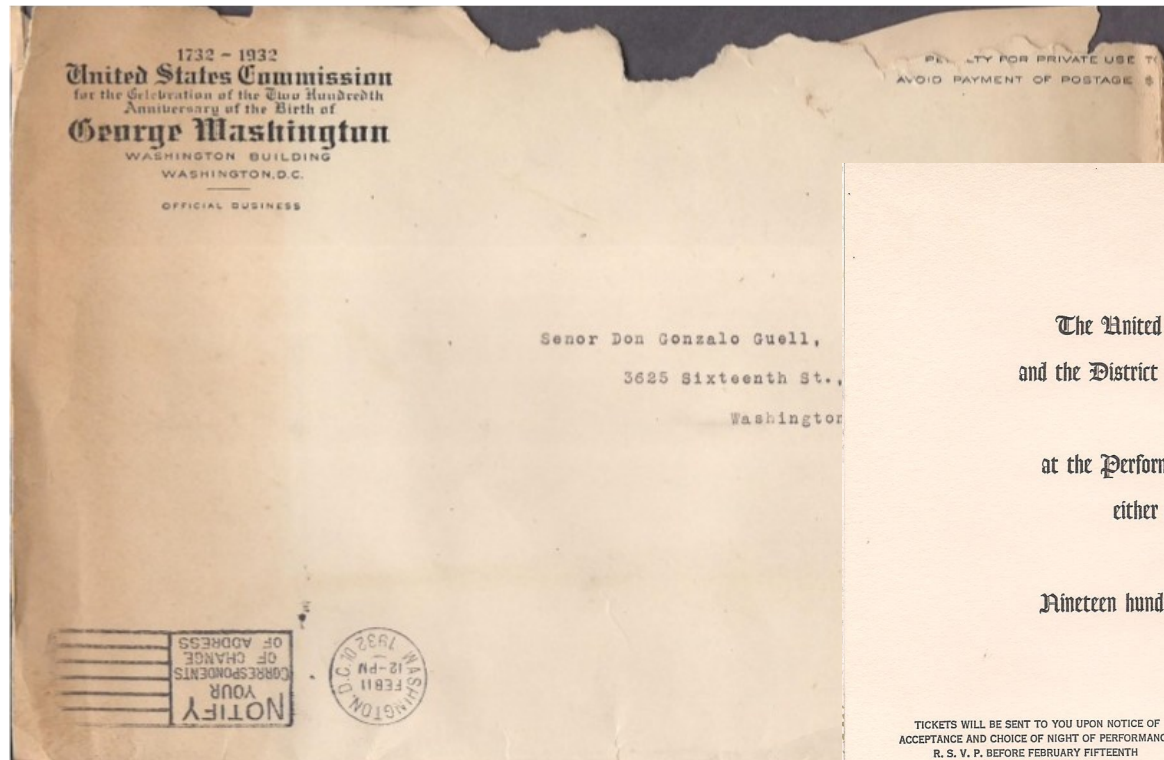
- In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge created the Washington Bicentennial Commission to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's birthday in 1932. The Commission launched a flurry of lectures in association with the American Historical Association. Among other things they produced a 5 volume history of George Washington.
- It was still 7 years to the event; politics and infighting among historians, politicians, and artists developed and then the whole enthusiasm petered out.

# More How and Why!



- In 1930, then president, Herbert Hoover, reenergized the planning by appointing a “Washington Bicentennial Committee”
- This Committee worked within the Commission on the planning of stamps, coins, medals, and all sorts of pamphlets and materials for cities to use as guidelines for local celebrations.

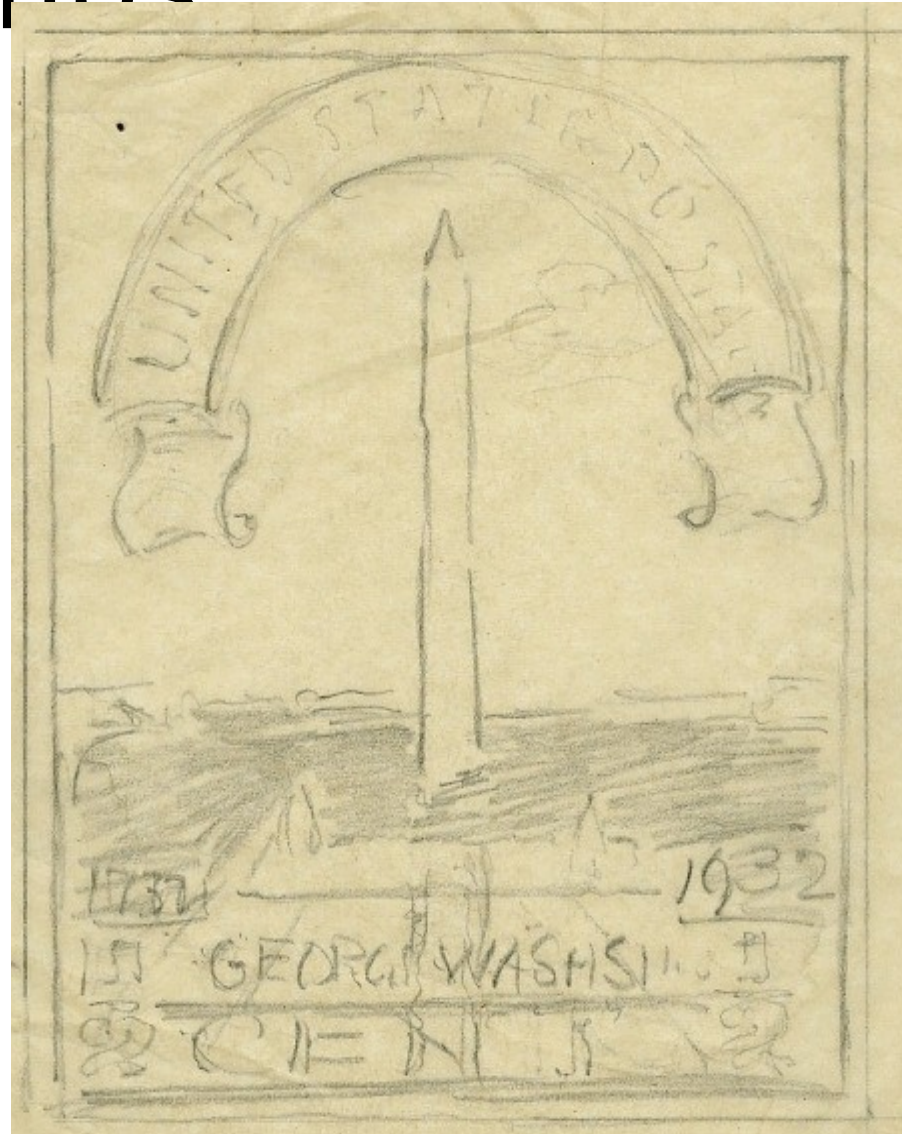
# “United States Commission of the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington”



# Washington Bicentennial Stamps

In November 1930, the Post Office Department started making plans for the Bicentennial stamps. The projected series of stamps were modeled on the Columbian Exposition stamps of 1893. They were originally to consist of 16 large format stamps, based on famous paintings, valued from 1/2¢ to \$5.

Preliminary sketch by W. Curtis Livingston  
for the 1/2¢ Bicentennial.  
(National Postal Museum)



Due to historical inconsistencies of many of the paintings proposed for the larger formats, smaller images of just Washington were selected from famous and not so famous paintings. And the number of stamps was reduced.



The most recognized image of Washington was from the Atheneum Painting by Gilbert Stuart. This image was proposed for the 2¢ stamp, because **two cents** was the postage for first-class letters.

January 1, 1932- 12 stamps (#704-715) and 5 stamped envelopes (#U523-5 & #U527-8) were issued.



The Washington  
Bicentennials were the  
largest set of stamps issued  
on the same day up to  
1932.

The Columbia Exposition set  
was larger, but they were  
not all issued on the same  
day.



# Postal Bulletin of 9-29-1931

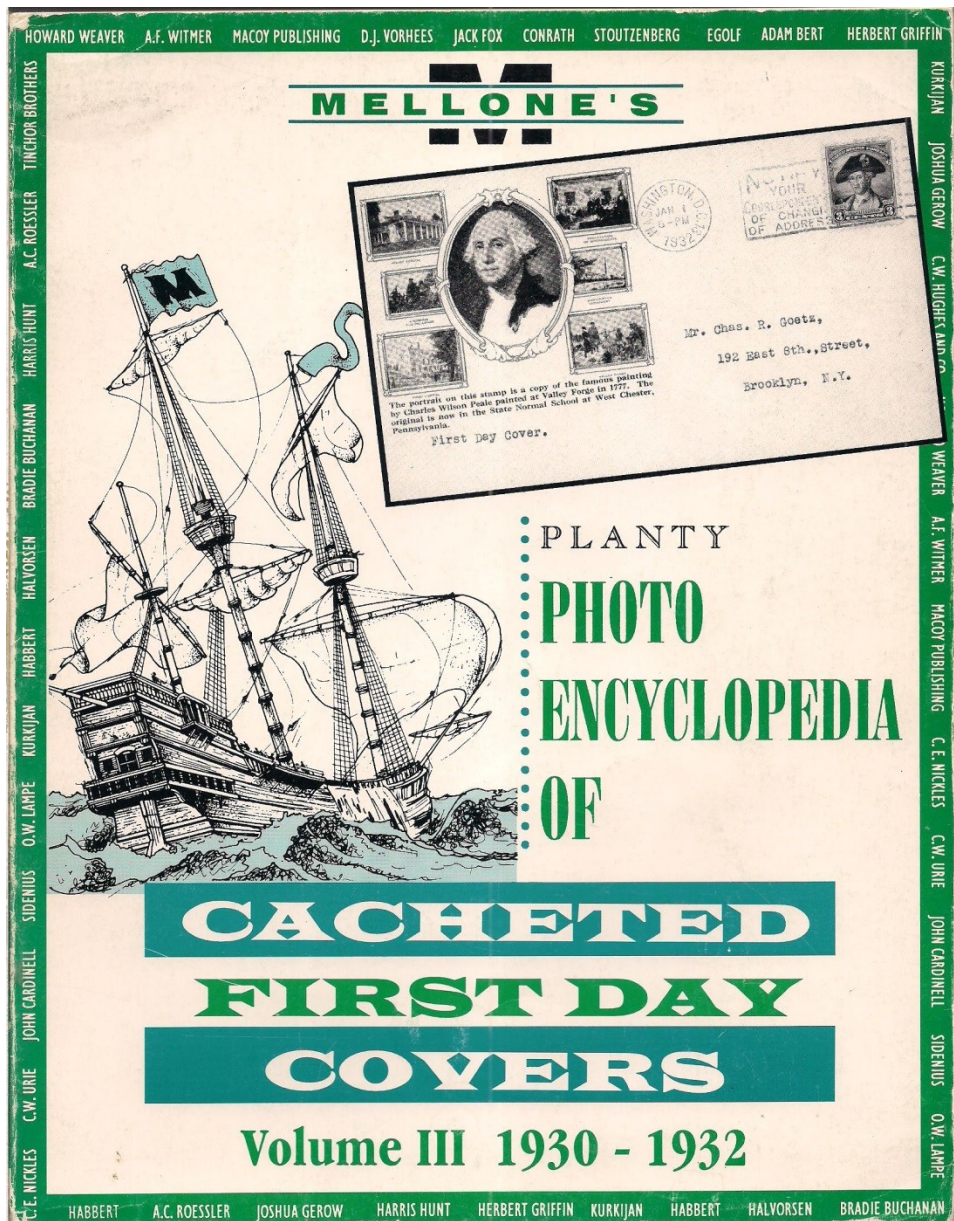
- The Post Office planned for the Washington Bicentennial stamps to kick off their year of postal events. And they expected the collector response to be huge!
- In September 1931, they informed the public (via the Postal Bulletin) that the Washington PO Bureau would not apply stamps to envelopes submitted by customers for First Day Cancels.

# Postal Bulletin *continued*

Stamp collectors were referred to make inquiries to advertisers in philatelic publications such as:

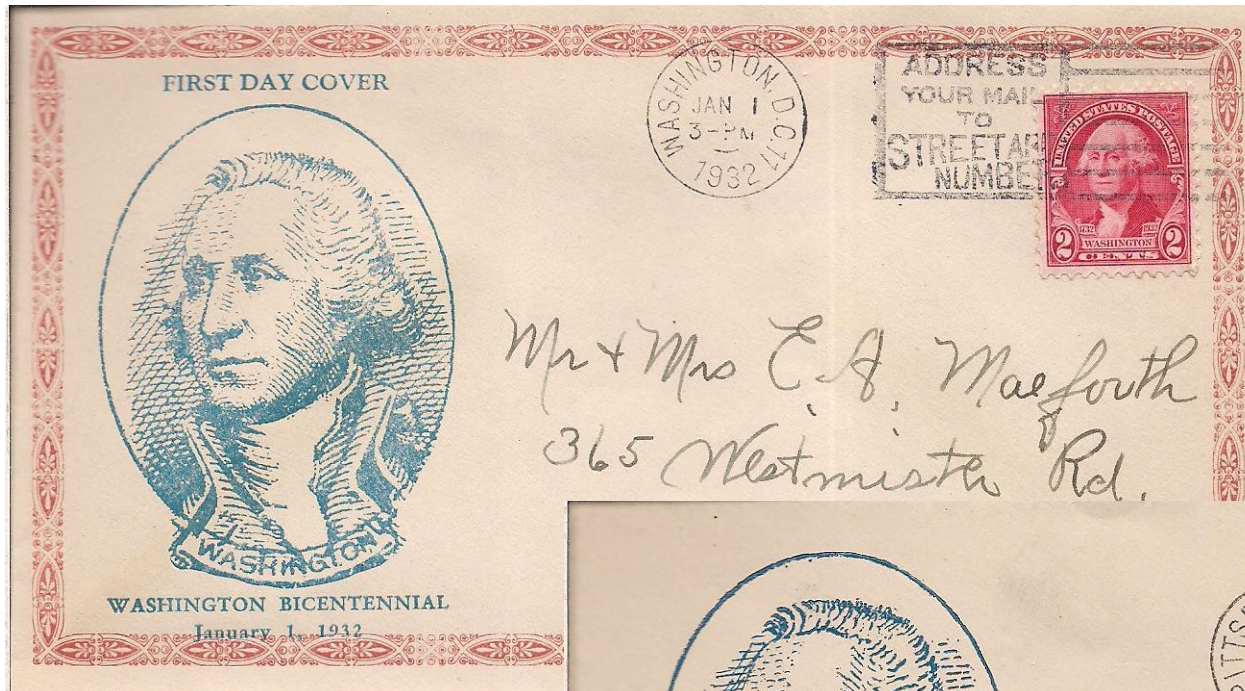
- Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News (Portland ME)
- Linn's Weekly Stamp News (Columbus OH)
- Stamp Collector's Magazine (Richmond VA)

So many, many printers of first day covers produced cachets, including a lot of new cachetmakers.



Covers -  
Volume 3 lists  
 111 different  
 cachets, and 8  
 general  
 purpose  
 cachets (not  
 including  
 varieties) for  
 #704-715.  
 And, of course,  
 there are  
 unduplicated

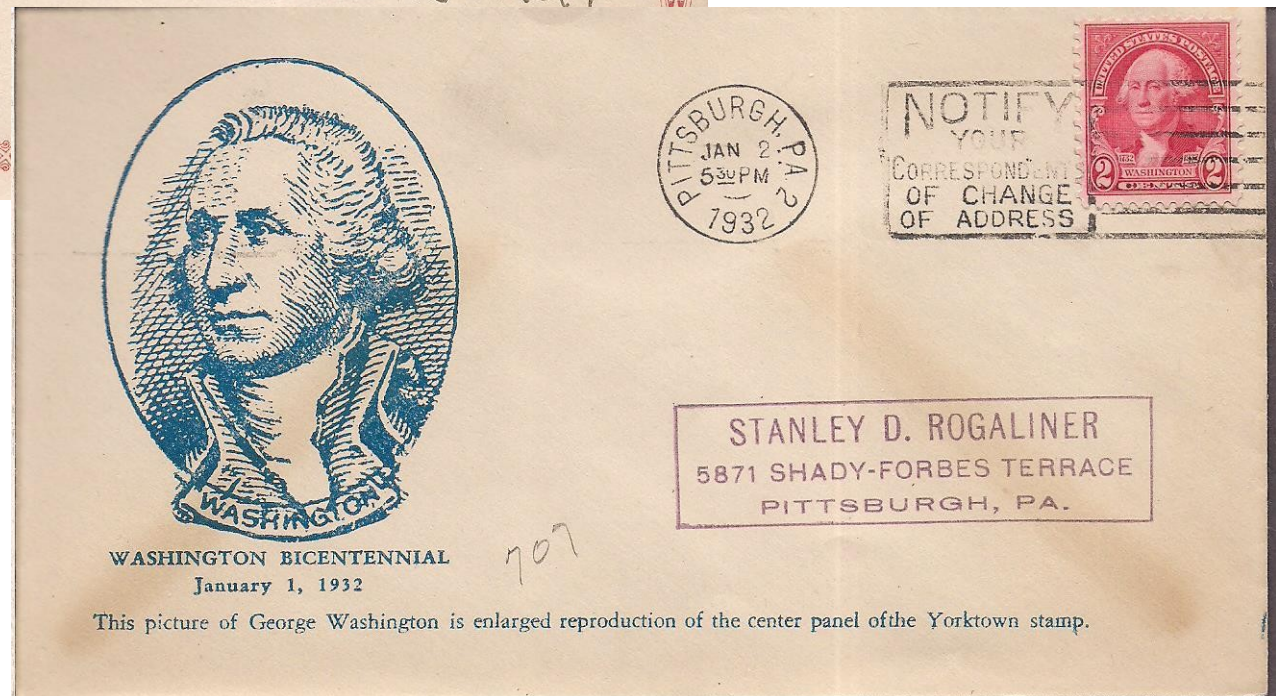
# Roessler Cachets



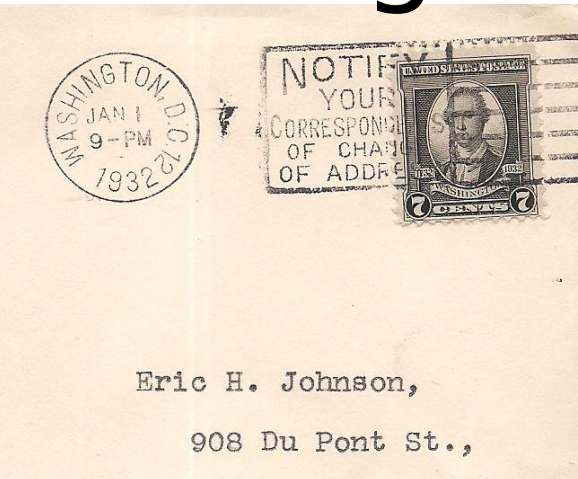
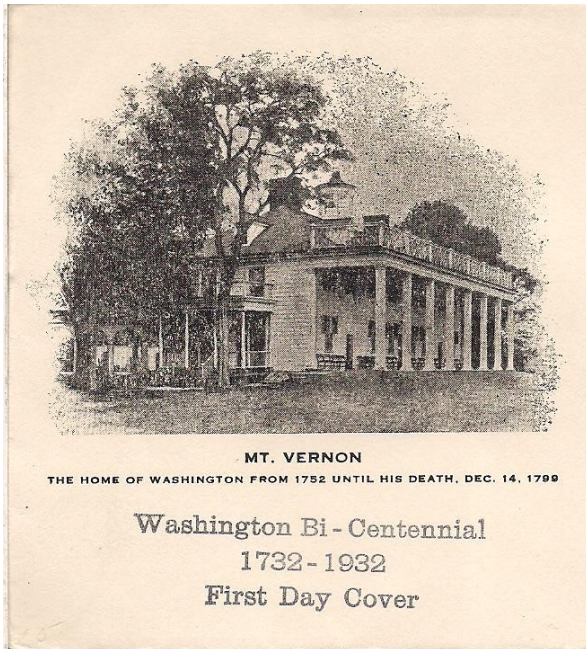
707-1b  
Fancy  
Border

Note the machine  
Cancel slogans!

707-1a  
Plain envelope-  
different  
wording  
(This is a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Day cover  
postmarked in  
Pittsburg, PA.)



# Stoutzenberg Cachets

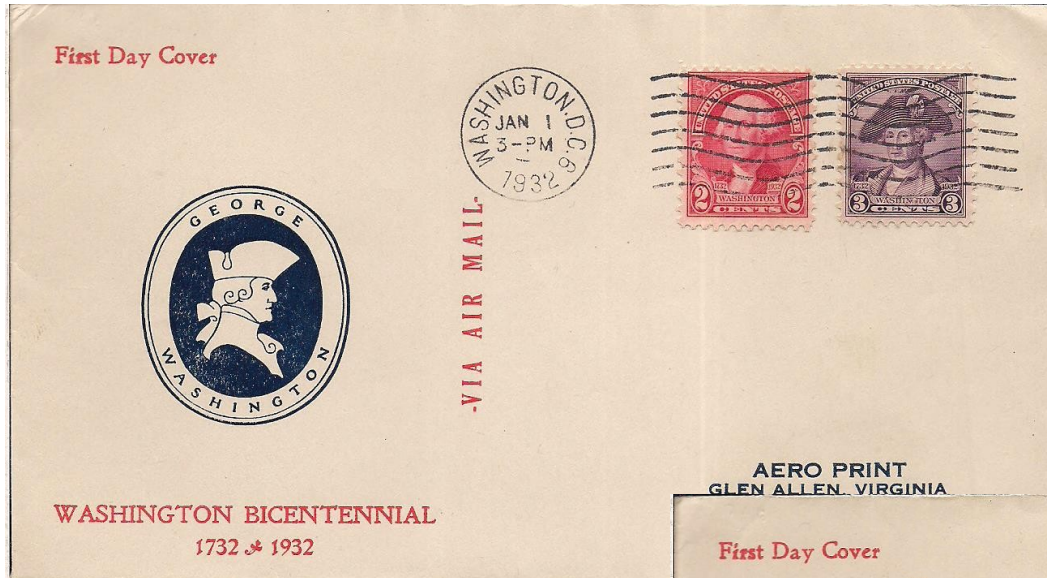


712-15  
Mount Vernon-  
Variant not listed  
3 Line rubber  
stamp below  
photo is not in  
the catalog.

707/8-16a  
Three Portraits- 5¢  
Airmail Rate- Hand  
cancelled. This  
Airmail border of  
lines is a cataloged  
variety.

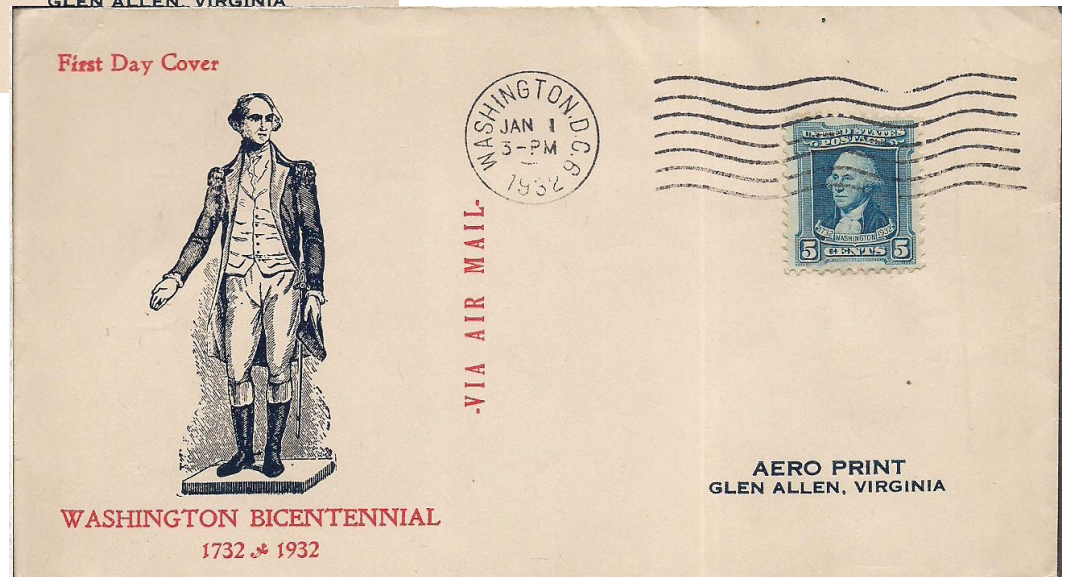


# Aeroprint #24 (12 different cachets) FDC's sent Airmail (5 cents)

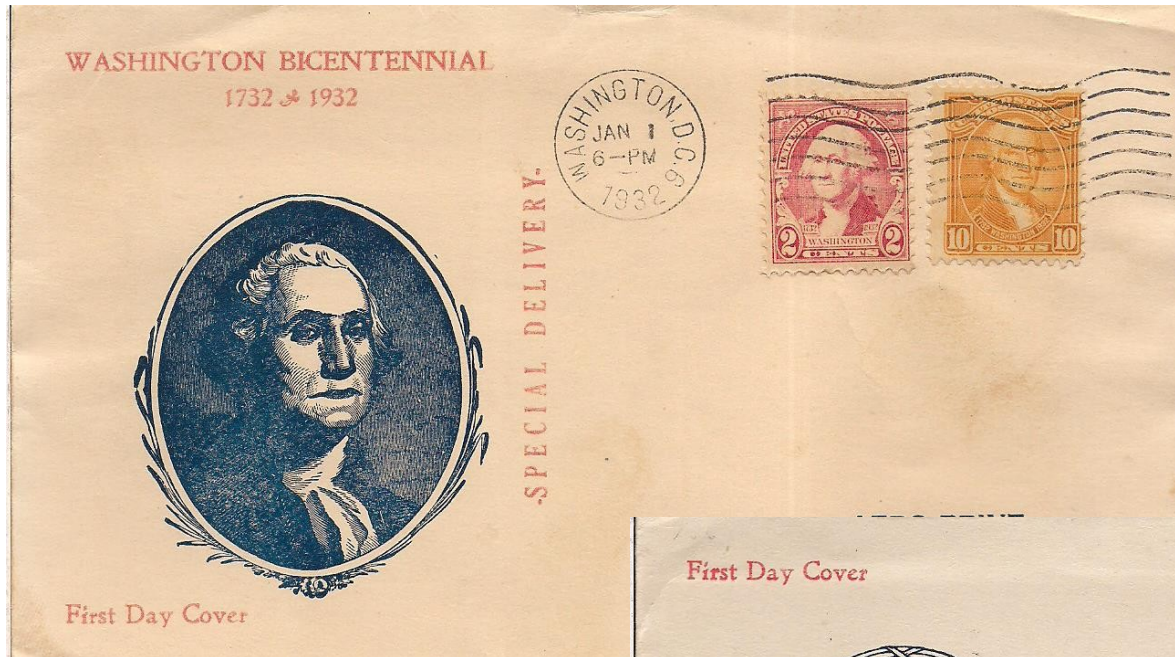


707/708- 24E

710- 24G



# Aeroprint #24- more varieties



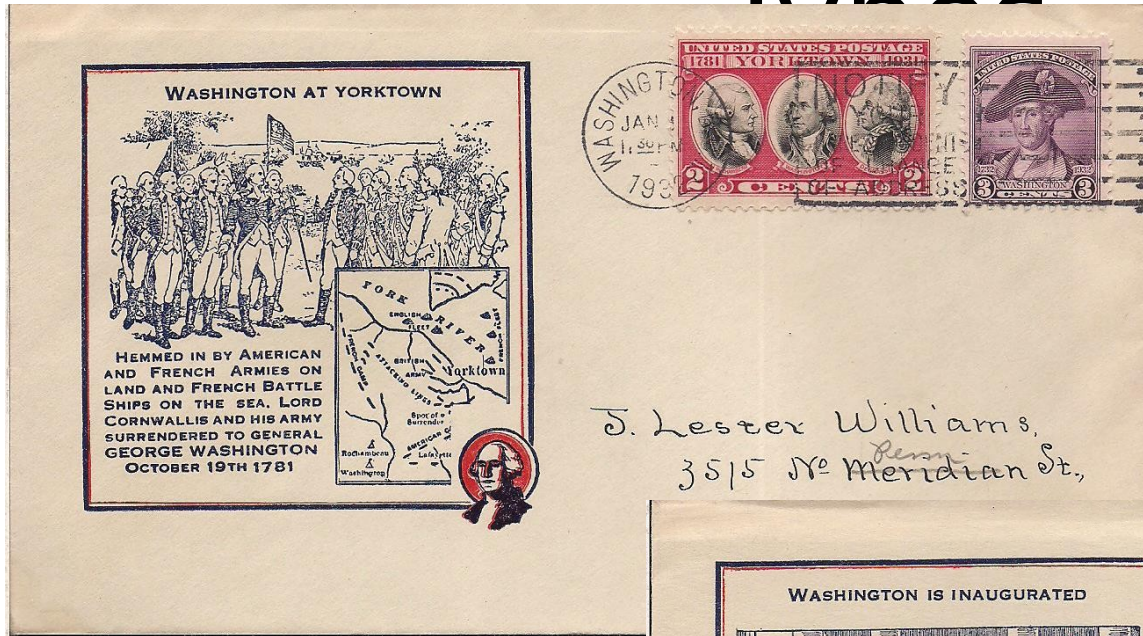
707/715- 24K  
Sent "Special  
Delivery"

706/707- 24D  
Used a picture of  
Thomas Jefferson  
instead of  
George  
Washington...  
*oops!*



# Henry Ioor #20 - 12 Basic

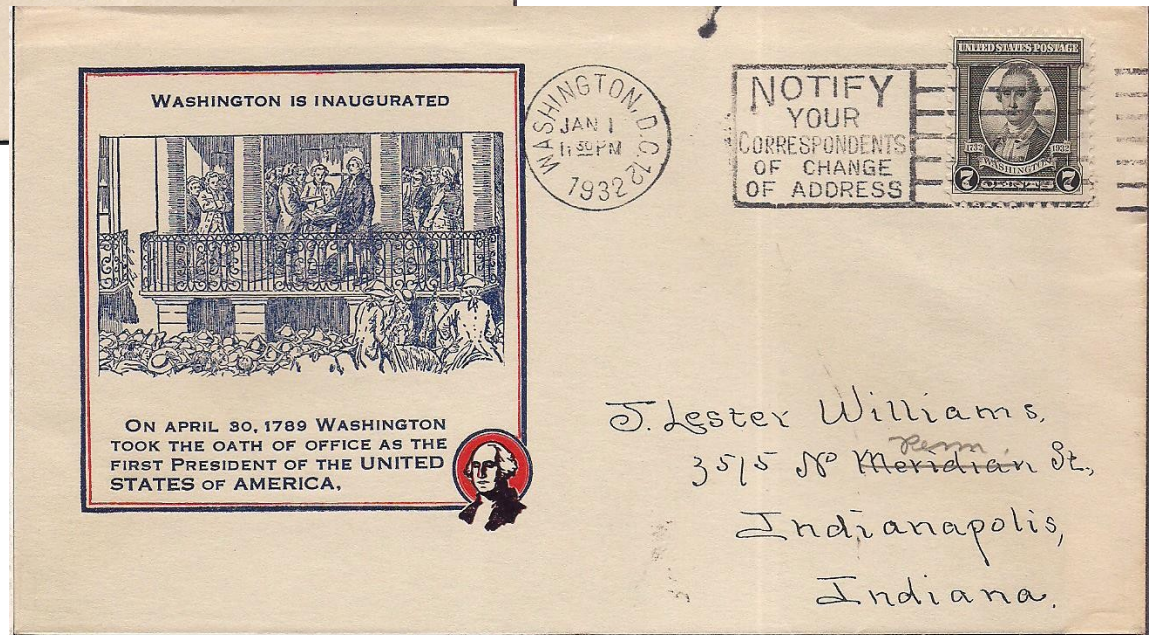
Types



“Washington at Yorktown”

707 (with 703)- 20c  
Not uncommon to see previous Washington stamps in combo on these 1932 FDC's.

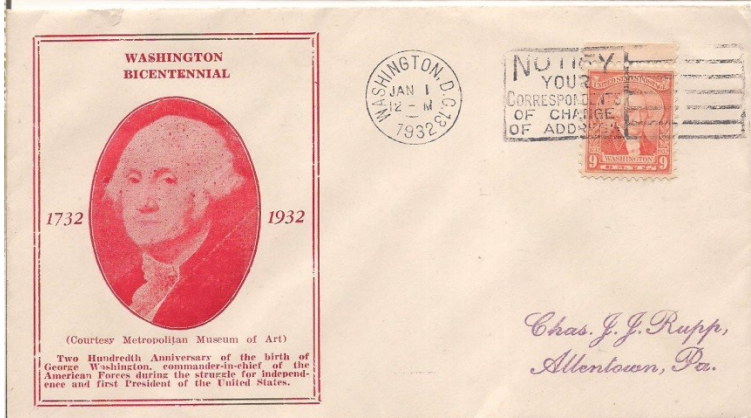
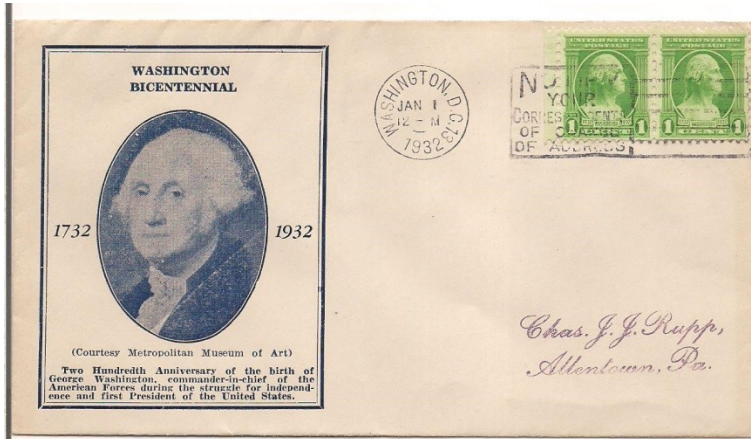
“Washington is Inaugurated”  
712- 20 I



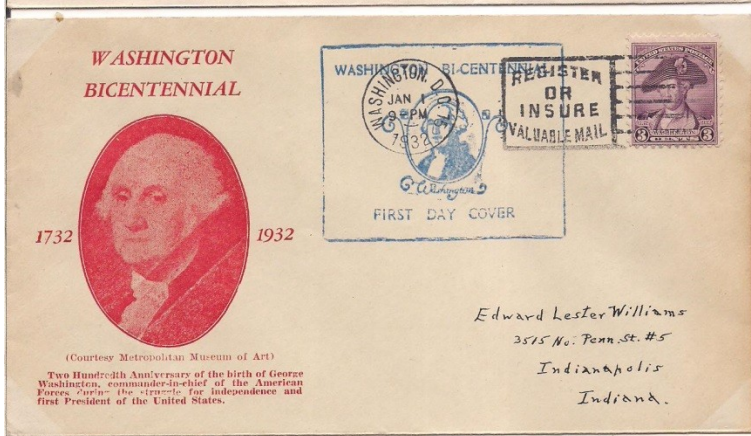


# Washington Stamp Exchange

704-13 (Blue)



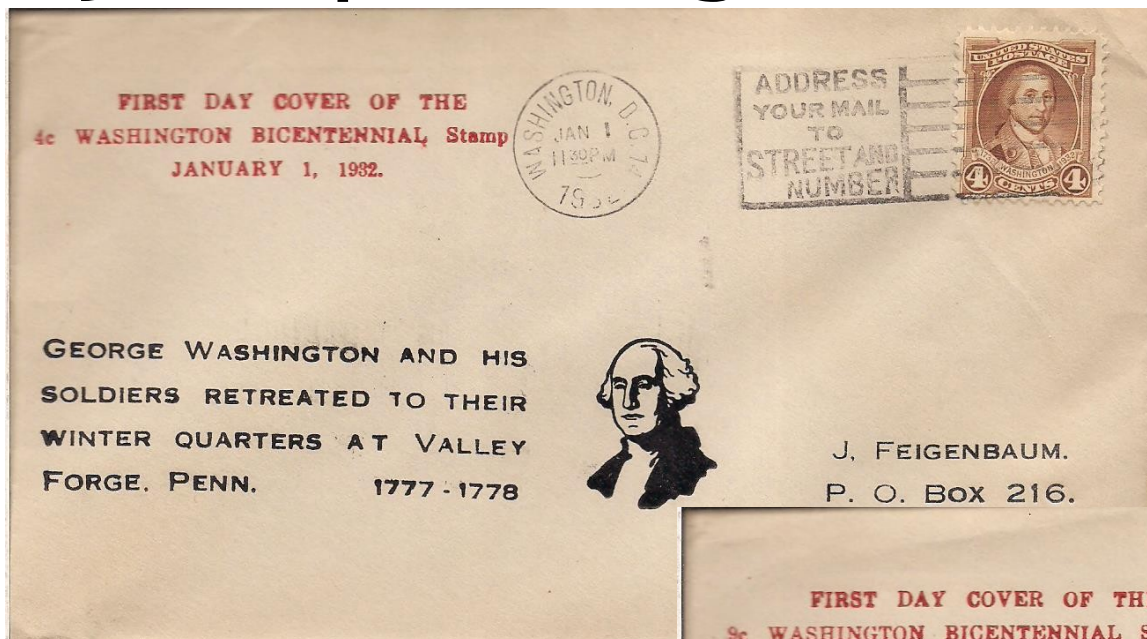
714-13 (Red)



There are 2 more varieties listed in Mellone's. All the varieties have the same listed value.

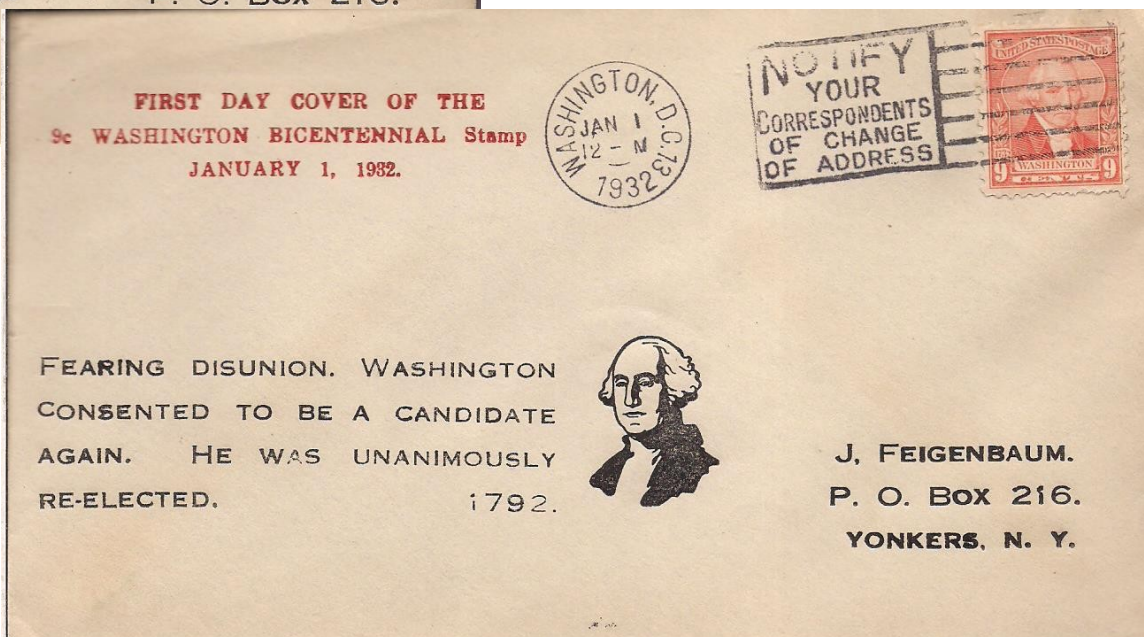
718-13a (Red) no border.  
Larger heading at top.  
This one also has two cachets!

# Joseph Feigenbaum Cachets



709-61F

Mellone's #61  
AT LEAST - 10  
Varieties  
(Different Black  
Lines)



709-61K

J. FEIGENBAUM.  
P. O. BOX 216.  
YONKERS, N. Y.

# Multiple Cachets



“First in War. First in Peace. First in the Hearts of his Countrymen.”

From: Eulogy written by “Light Horse Harry” Lee,

- 712- 84 Rubber stamp. Described in Mellone’s as black, this was seems to have been made using blue ink.
- The Envelope border is Red and Blue for Air Mail but customized for Washington Bicentennials, and printed by Ioor. This border is shown in Mellone’s as part of Ioor Cachet #32, but not given a

# Printing FDC Cachets in 1932

- First Day Covers were often printed on “printing presses”, both large and small, and printed by people that did other printing work.
- Illustrations could be purchased from Companies which sold “metal type”. So more than one cachetmaker may use the same basic image.
- I haven’t seen a real catalog that was available from 1932, but I do have a brochure from a type sales company.

# American Type Founders Co.

CAST IN TYPE MOLDS



CUTS for  
GEORGE WASHINGTON  
BICENTENNIAL  
PRINTING



AMERICAN TYPE FOUNDERS  
COMPANY

Twenty-five Selling Houses in Principal Cities

SET IN CASLON ANTIQUE AND ITALIC

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



Washington  
108112—\$2 10  
108111 One color \$1 20

For  
One or Two  
Colors



1081852—\$1 90  
108185 One color \$1 05

For  
One or Two  
Colors



10807—65c



721852—\$1 35  
72185 One color 75c



7207—40c



72162—\$1 35  
7216 One color 75c



Washington  
72112—\$1 35  
7211 One color 75c



721802—\$1 10  
72180 One color 65c



722572—\$1 35  
72257 One color 75c



1081802  
\$1 85

Cast  
in Type  
Molds

108180  
One color  
\$1 00



1082572  
\$1 85

108257  
One color  
\$1 00

Cast  
in Type  
Molds

1082512  
\$1 50



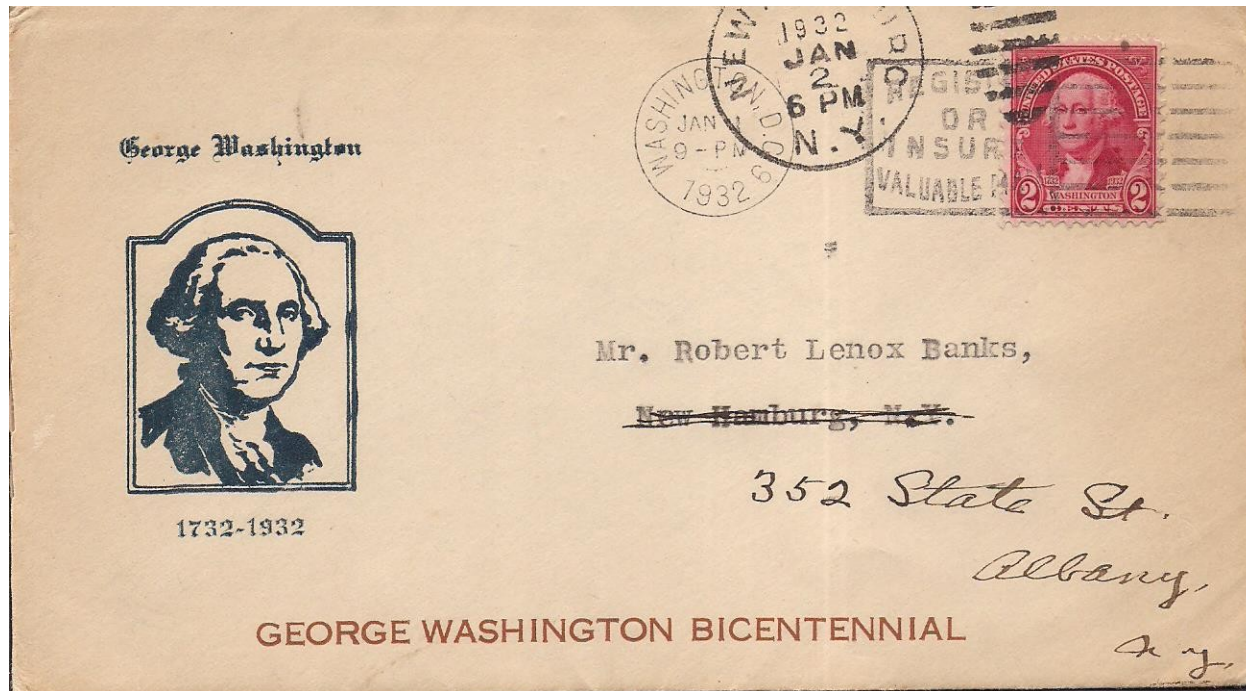
108251  
One color  
85c

Sets the Type Fashions

AMERICAN TYPE FOUNDERS COMPANY

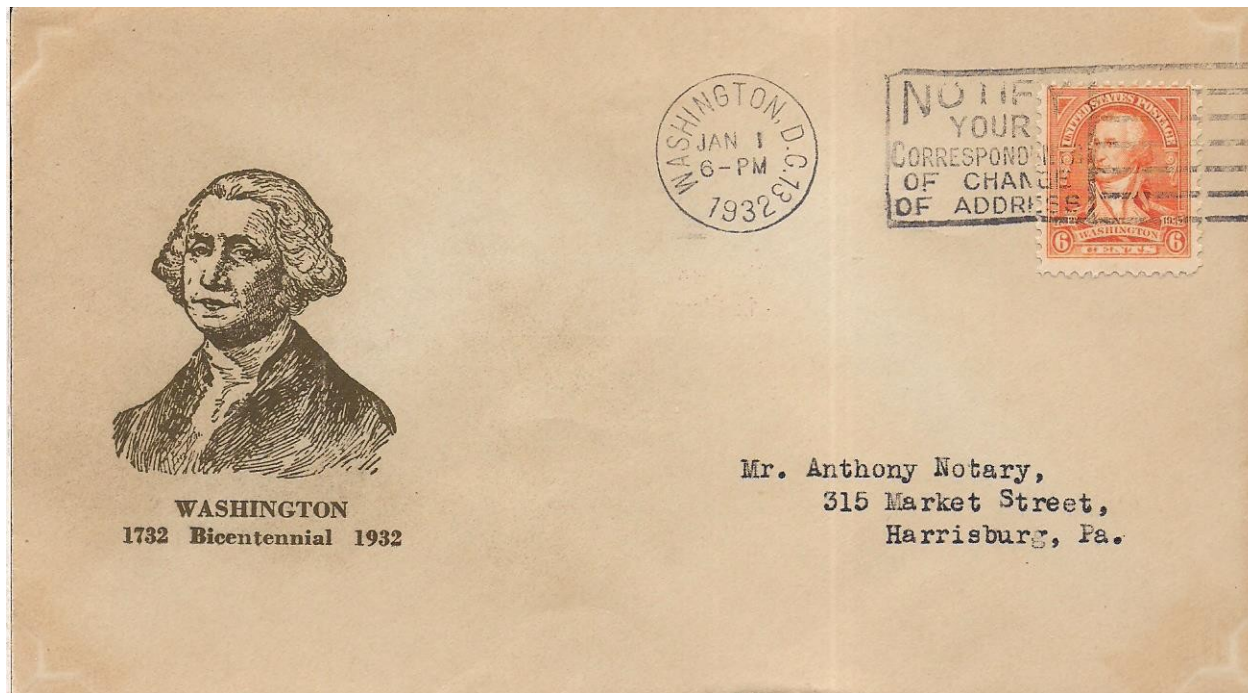
Sets the Type Fashions

# L. A. Bebee



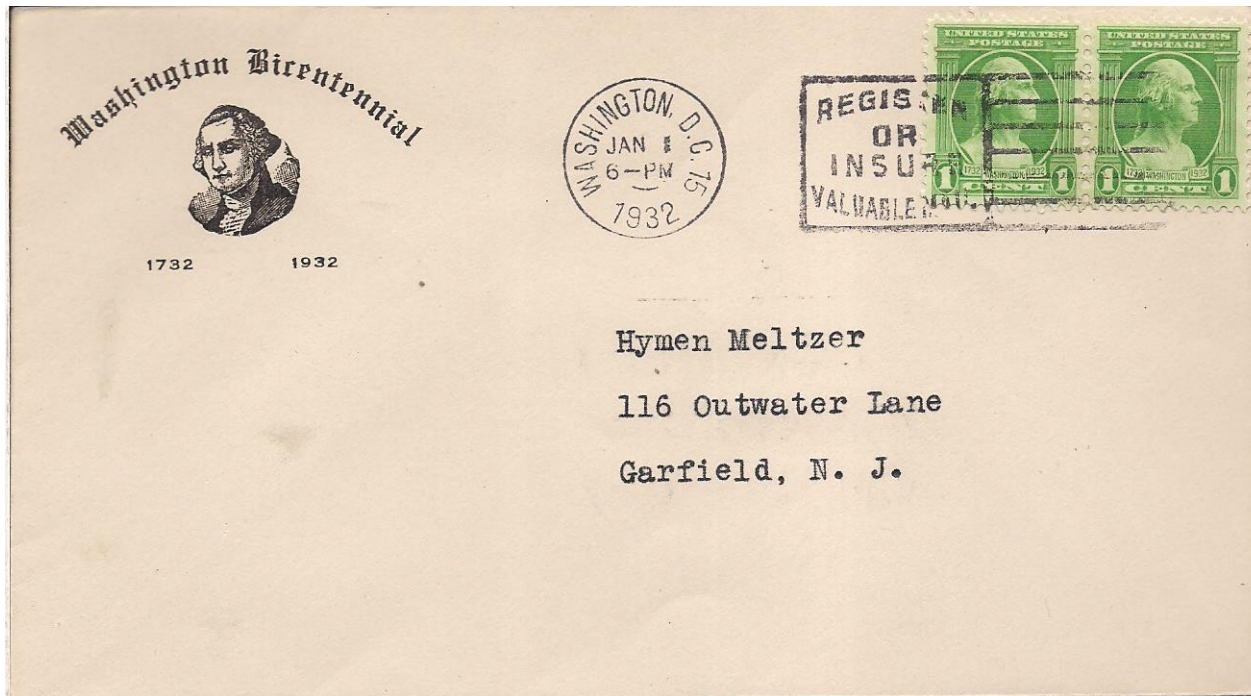
707-29- Sort of a generic Washington image, but text printed in two colors. And the receiving back stamp of its original destination, "New Hamburg, NY" got stamped on the front.

# A.C. Schaedler & Wm. Houseman 1<sup>st</sup> Cachet



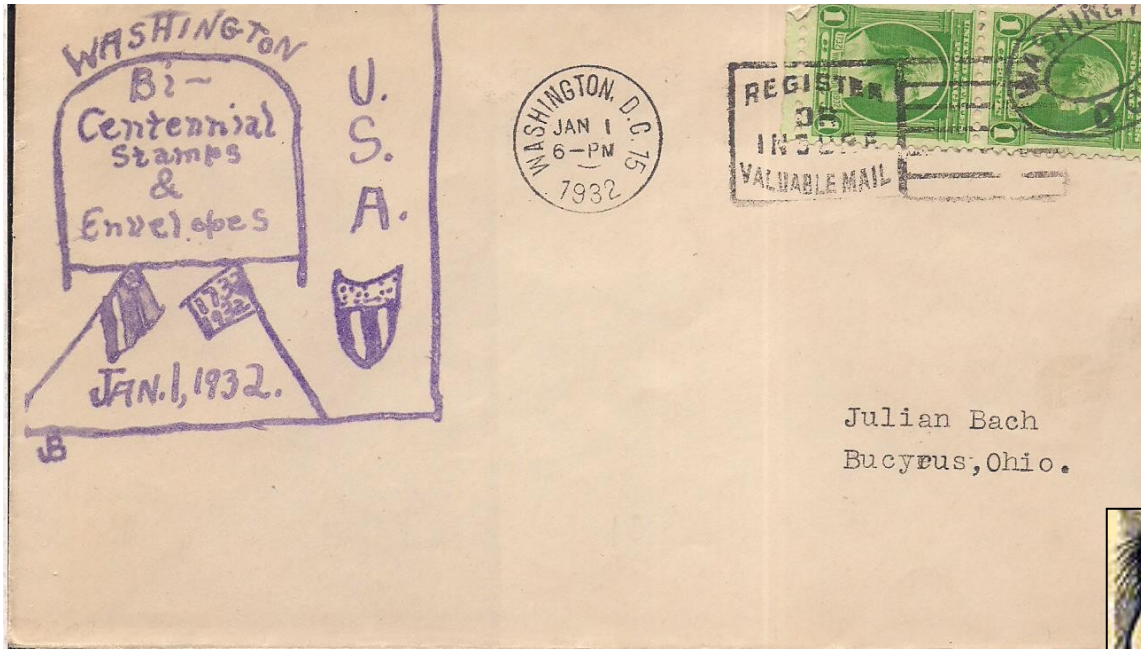
711-76. Mellone's doesn't mention print color, but this appears to be printed in 2 shades of brown.

# Hymen Meltzer- 1<sup>st</sup> Cachet





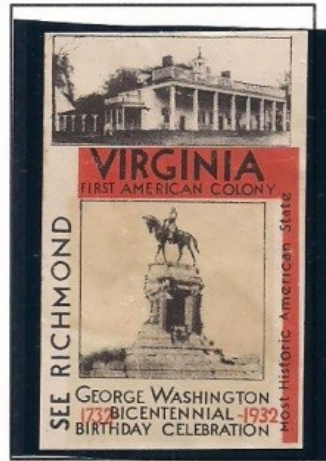
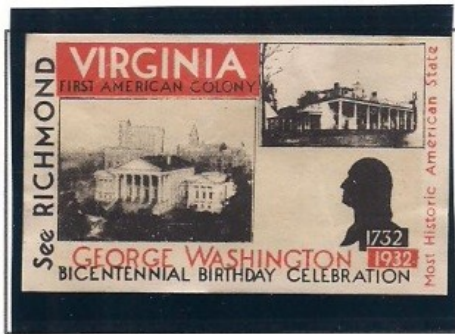
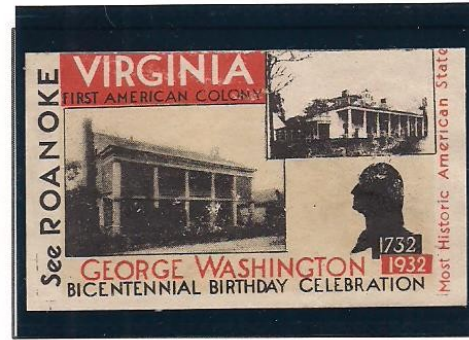
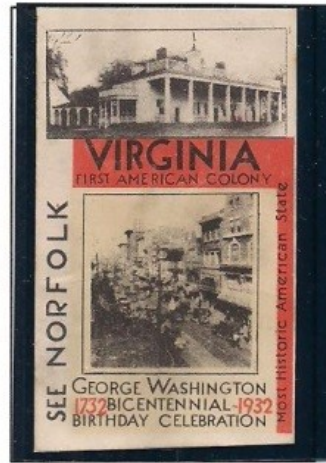
# Julian Bach Cachet



705-101

Bach made his cachet with a hectograph; a device using special inks and a tray of gelatin (*seen right*).

# Bicentennial Poster Stamps

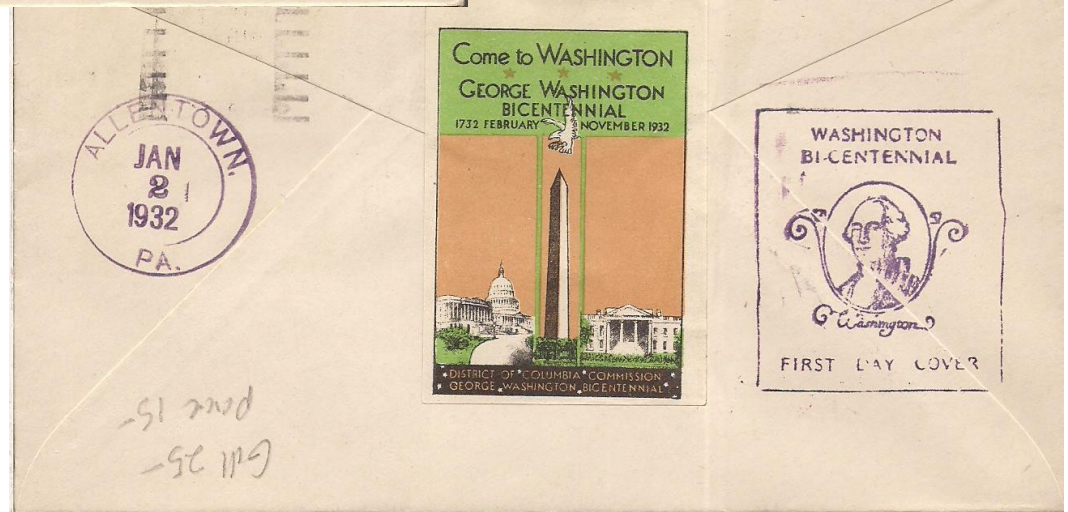


# John Gill- 1<sup>st</sup> Cachet



705 #90  
This red and blue  
image of  
Washington may  
have come from  
the type  
company shown  
earlier.

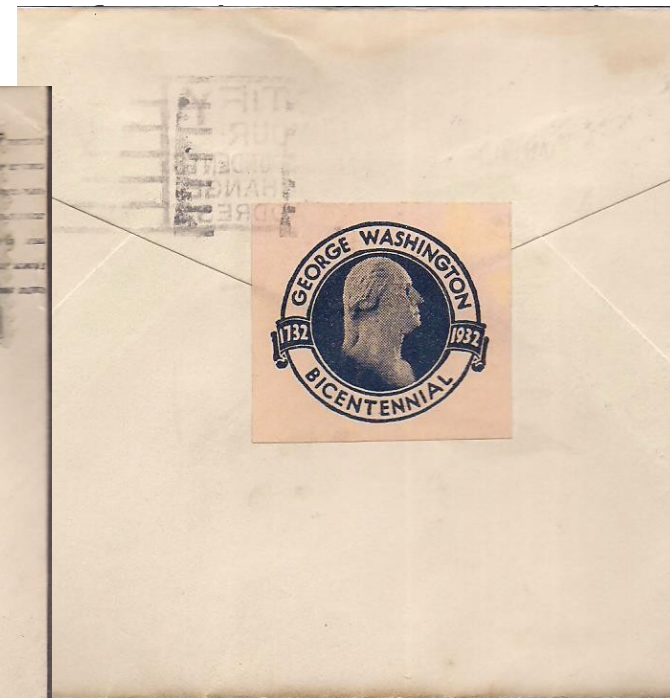
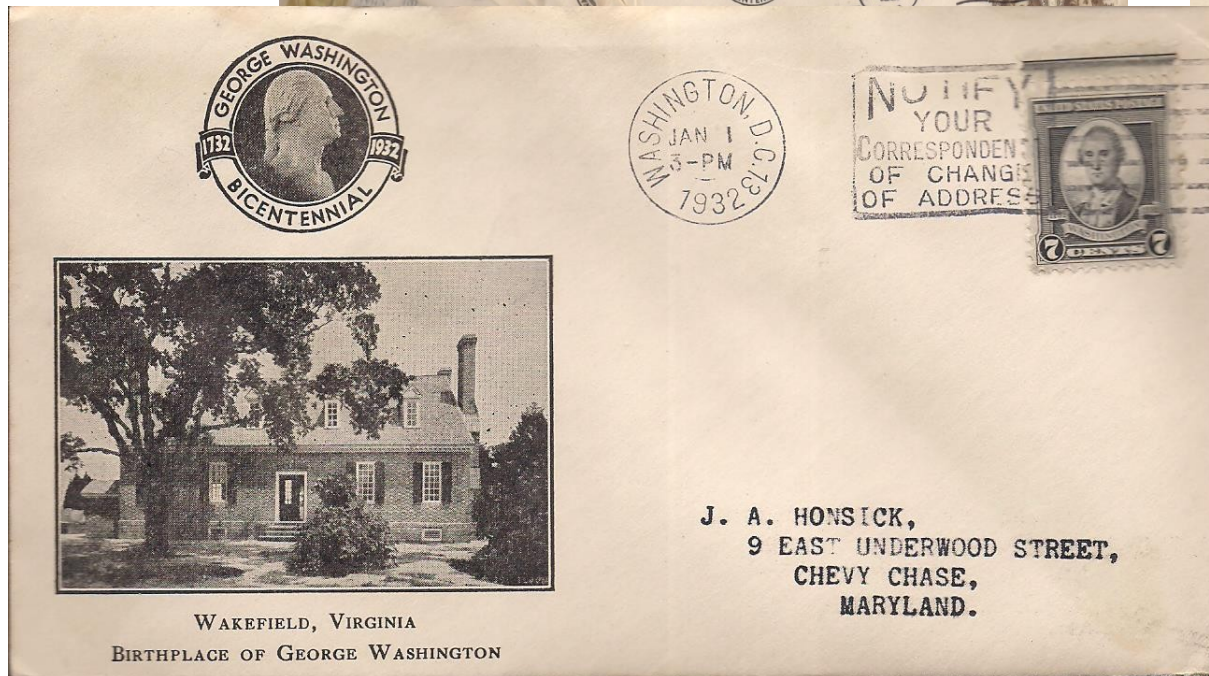
The back has a  
Poster stamp of  
Washington  
Monument, and a  
rubber stamp.

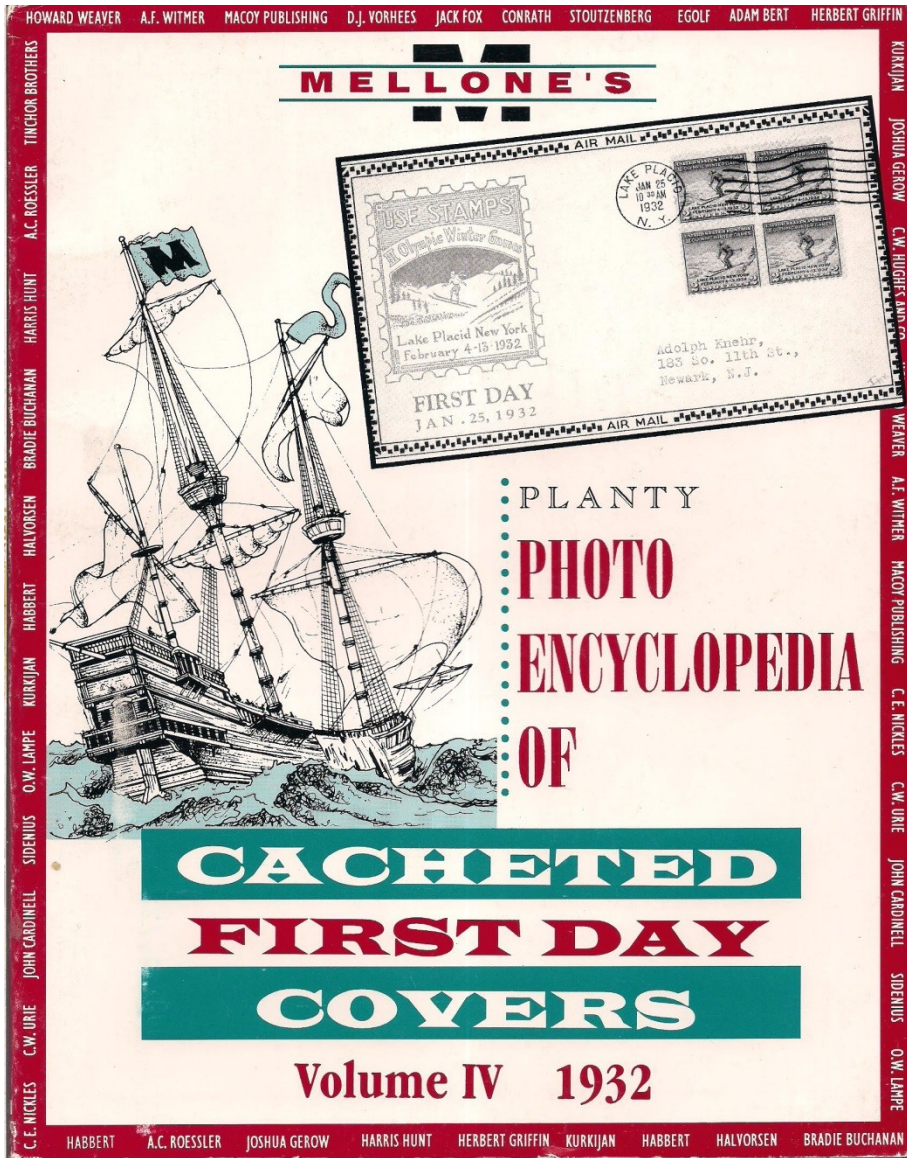


# Entire set - addressed to same person - 1<sup>st</sup> Cachet of Leslie Kerr - Mellone's #8



Something every FDC collector hopes to find: a set of FDCs all addressed to the same collector. (Still together

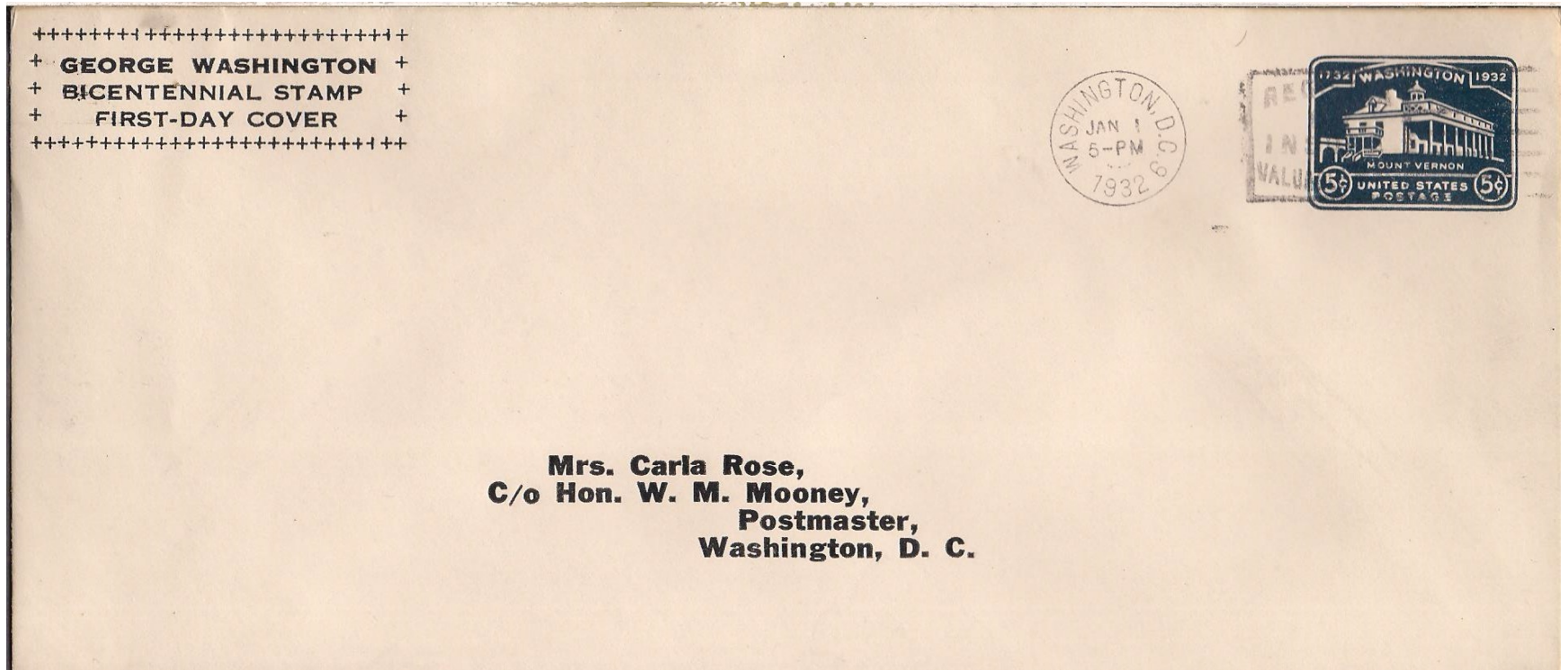




Mellone's Cacheted Covers - Volume 4 lists 29 different cachets for U524-526, U527-U528 (not including varieties).

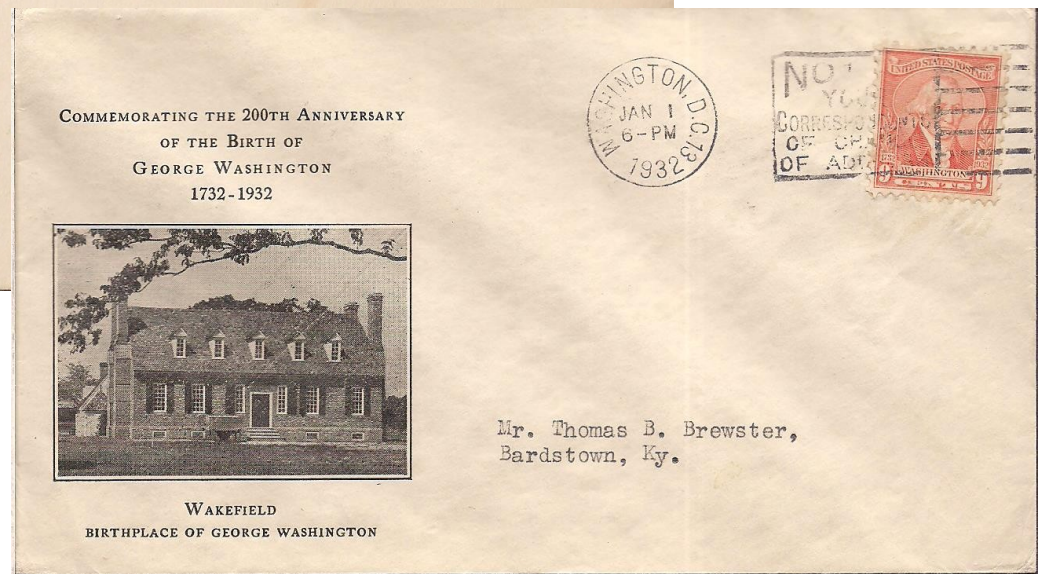
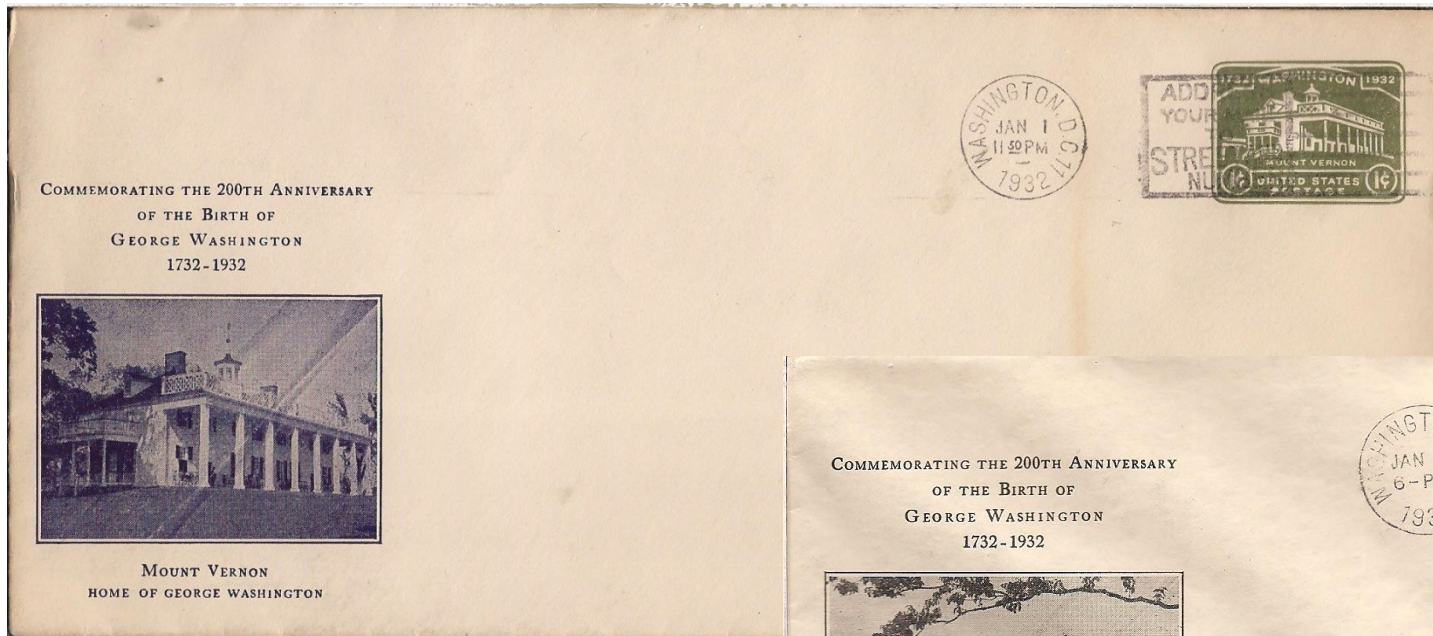
Some are the very similar/identical to the ones produced for the stamps, some different. Still some are unlisted. Numbering between the two volumes is not consistent.

# Carla Rose Cachet



U528-5 Carla Rose used a different corner border on her cachets for 704-715.

# Rice Cachets



Top: U523-3 \*Blue\* - but cataloged as black **only**, (If the top cachet of Mount Vernon was on 704-715 it would be cachet #4.)  
Bottom: 714-3 Black (this cachet is also known in blue) Another variant has different wording.

## Ist Cachets by Rice

# Uncataloged FDC's



The Southern Hotel was erected on the site of the famous Old Fountain Inn of Colonial days, where General George Washington and his staff were entertained.



# New England Philatelic Exchange?

This cachet is 704/715-#31. However it is listed as a GREEN rubber stamp.

I have 10 different FDC's with this round purple rubber stamp. (I also have 3 postal stationary FDC's with the rubber stamp in green. U523/8-#9)

No attribution of purple in Mellone's. Back address is in green.



# Hand-drawn FDC's

Hand-drawn and painted FDC's are definitely sought after for the 1932 GW Bicentennials, and they can be **very** expensive. Here is one that I came across on eBay, which no one else seemed to notice.



Hand-drawn in Black  
Pencil

# One of my most interesting: Train 3 of Wash. & Grafton Railroad Post Office



This is considered an Unofficial FDC city cancellation.

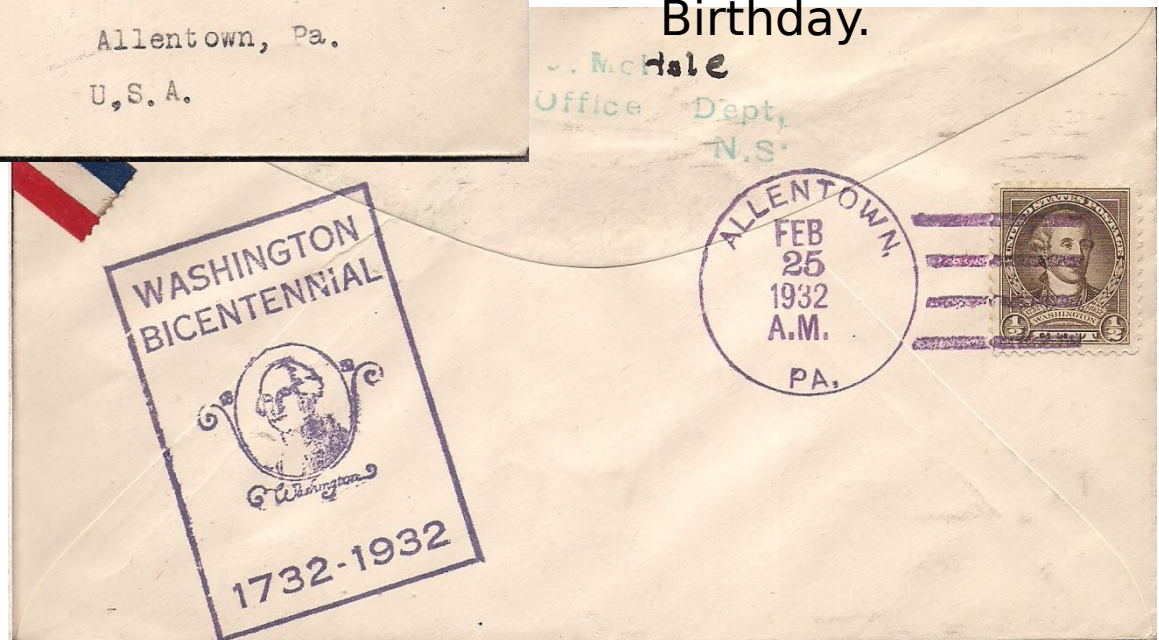
\*

# Canada C-3 issued

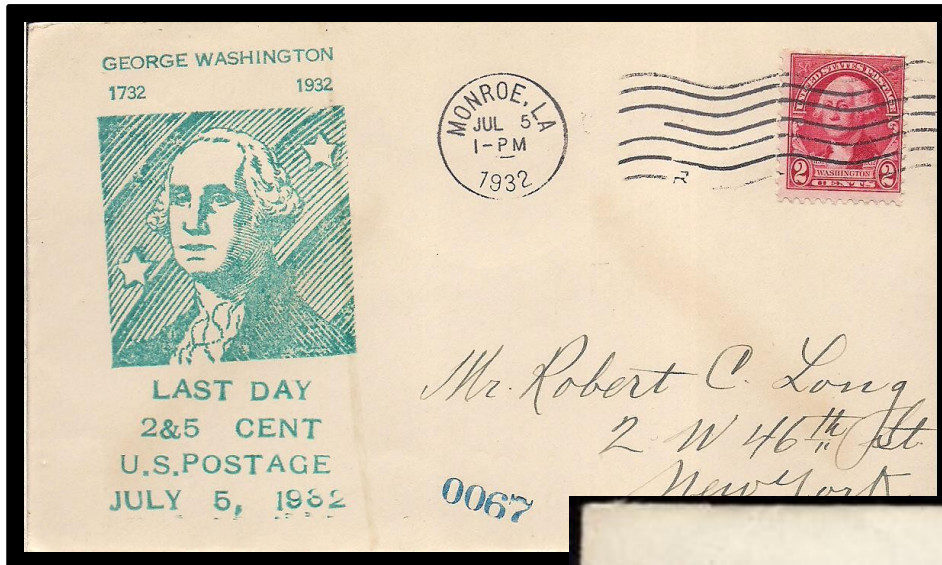
2/22/1932



Many FDC collectors received this from Canada and put some sort of hand stamped cachet to relate it to George Washington's Birthday.



# All went well until June when the postal rate increase was announced



The regular letter rate went from 2¢ to 3¢ on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Airmail also increased from 5¢ to 8¢ for the first ounce.



The 3¢ Peale painting stamp (#708) was deemed to not be as “popular” as the 2¢ Stuart painting (#707). **AND** because stocks of 3¢ stamps would become an issue after the rate change, a 3¢ purple stamp similar to the 2¢ was designed. #720 was issued on **June 16, 1932** and so was a 3¢ stamped envelope (#U526).



#708

#707

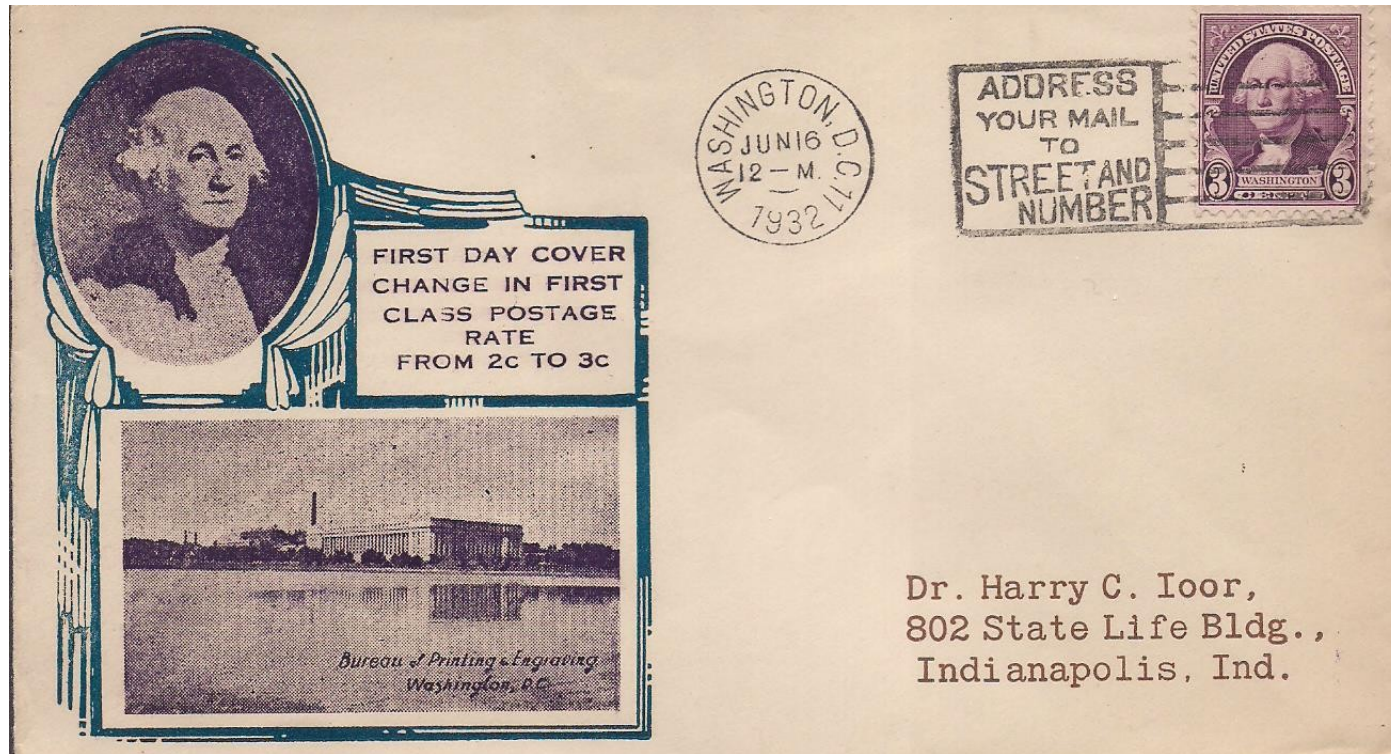


#720



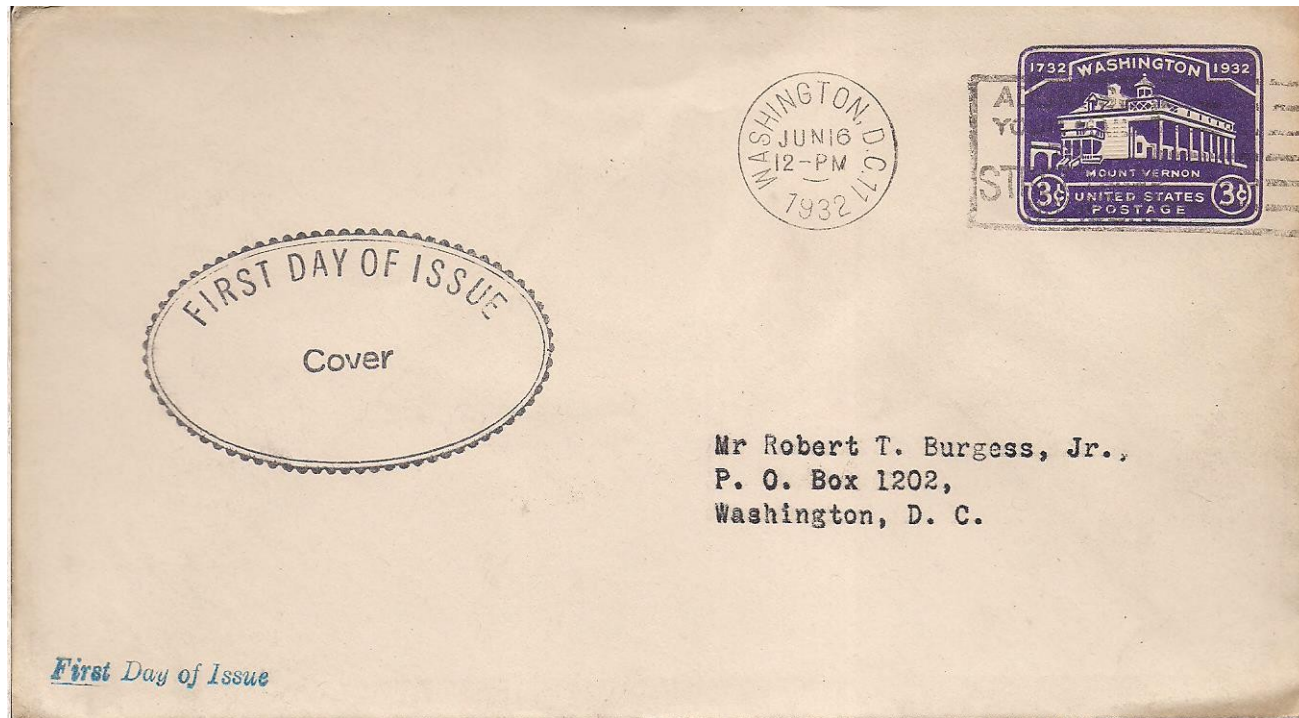
#U526

# 720-2 Harry Ioor



720 First day of issue was June 16, 1932.  
This cachet was also used on July 6<sup>th</sup> as a  
change-of-postal-rate event cover.

# U526- Unlisted Cachet



U526 First  
day of  
issue was  
June 16,  
1932

The back lists DuMouchelle  
Art Galleries Co of Detroit.  
This may have been the  
cachet creator.





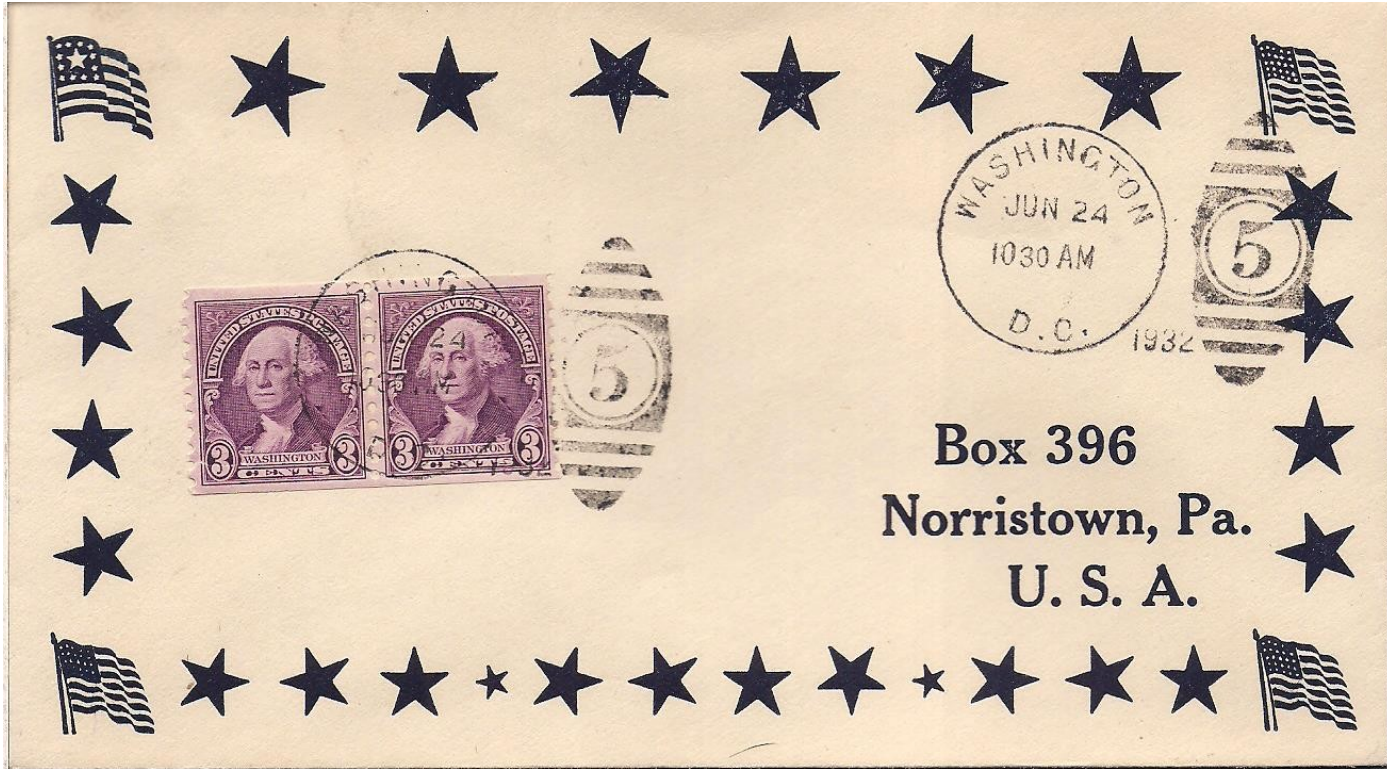
Because of anticipated demand, a booklet and 2 different coil stamps were also issued in the 3¢ purple.



**Booklet- July 25,1932**  
**Vertical Coil- Oct. 12,1932**  
**#722**

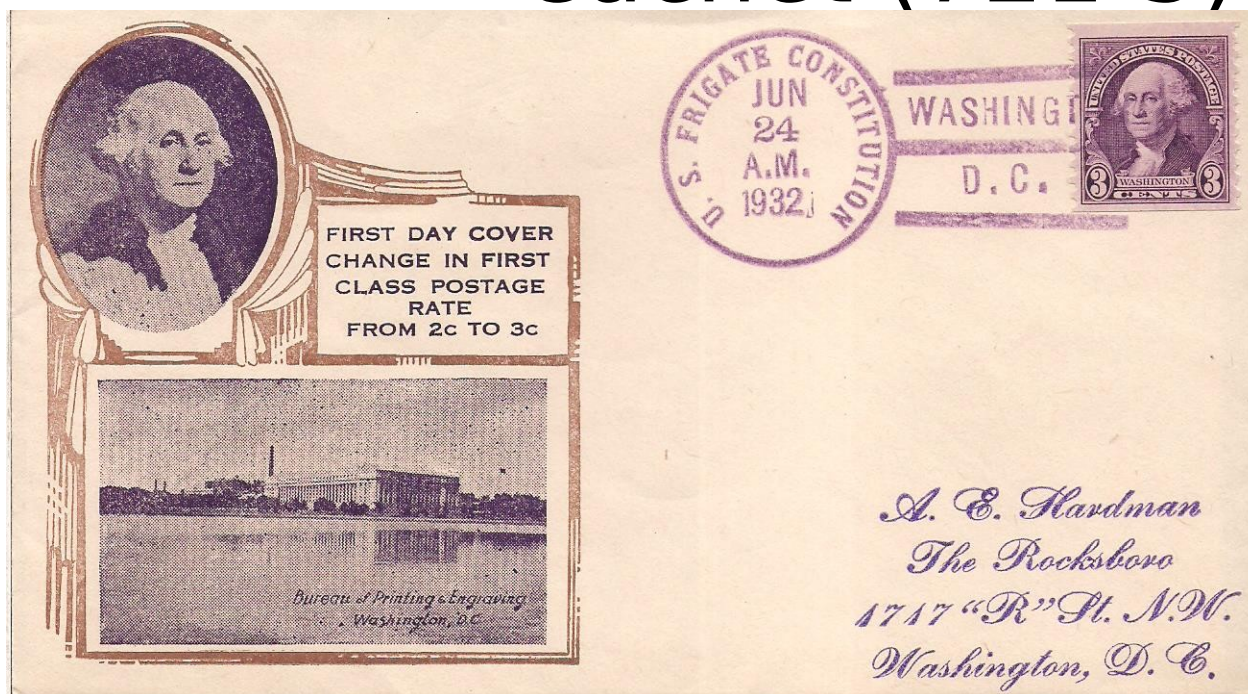
**Horizontal Coil- June 24,1932**  
**#720B**                      **#721**

# Horizontal Coil - 721 - June 24, 1932

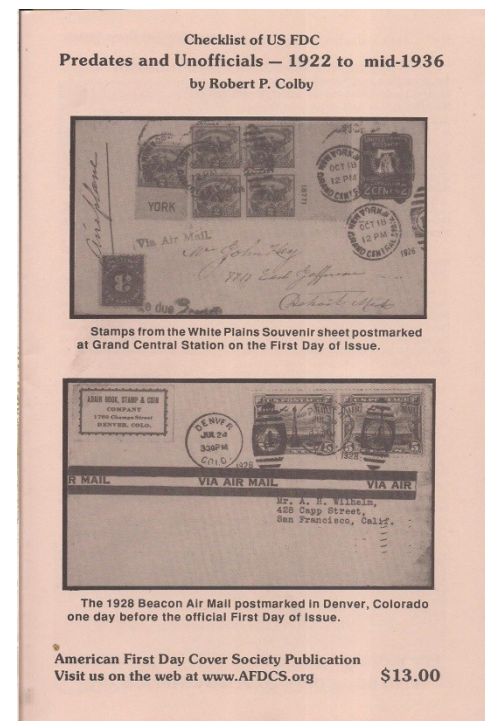


This FDC is a "General Purpose Cachet"  
by Egolf. 721-GP1

# Another 721 Horizontal Coil - this one with unofficial city with an loor Cachet (721-5)

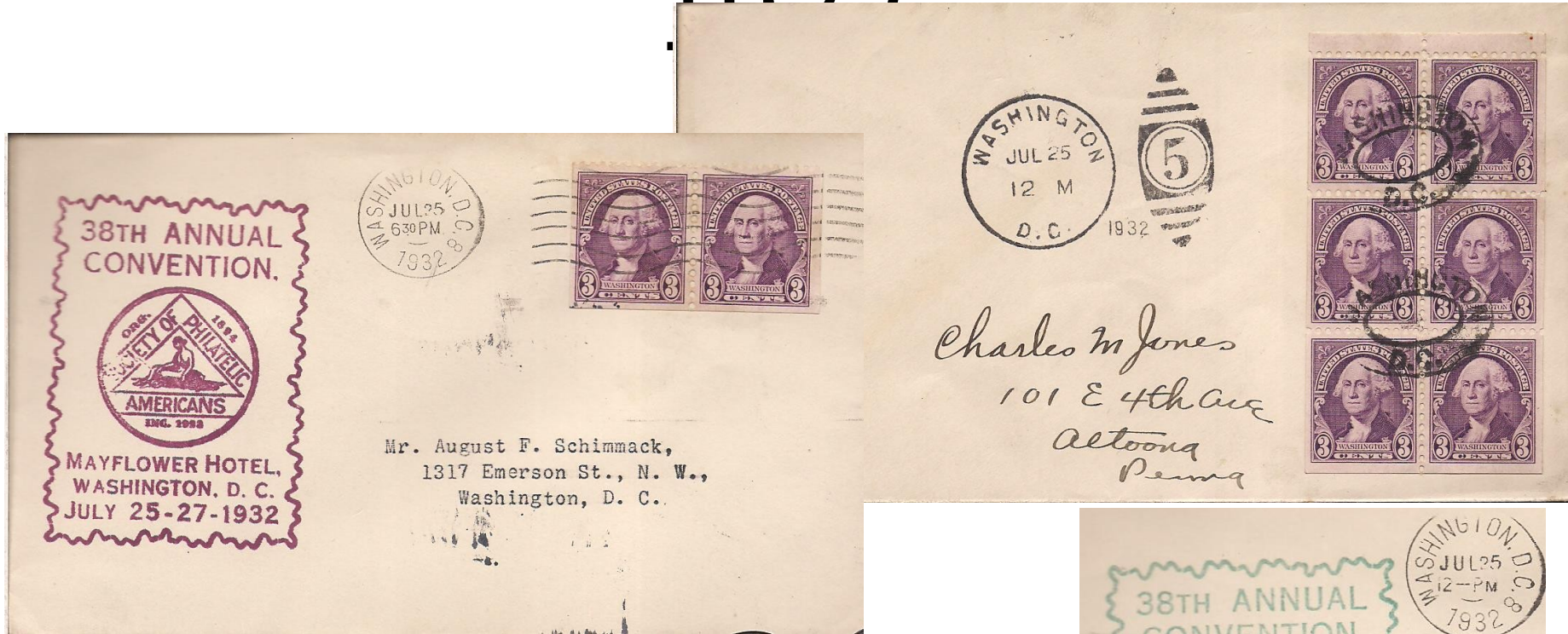


This is a known unofficial city. Listed in "Checklist of US FDC Predates and Unofficials-1922 to mid-1936" by Robert P. Colby. (available from AFDCS).



# 720B---Booklet - July 25,

1932

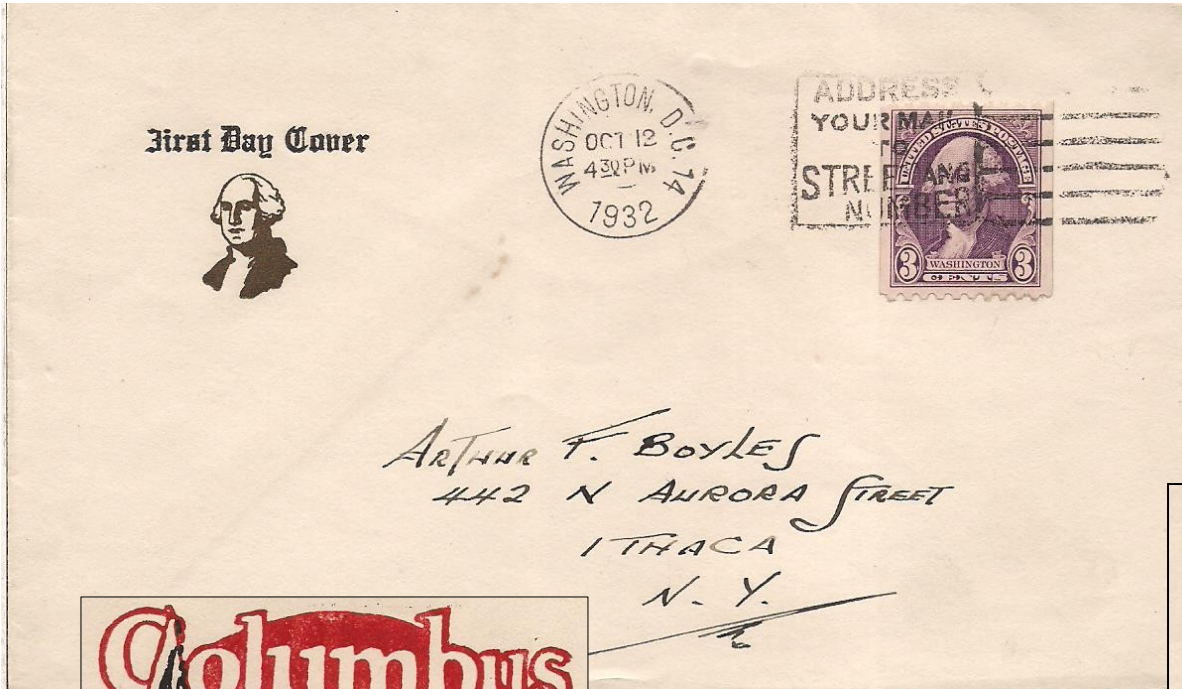


The booklet stamps had their FDOI during the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington DC.

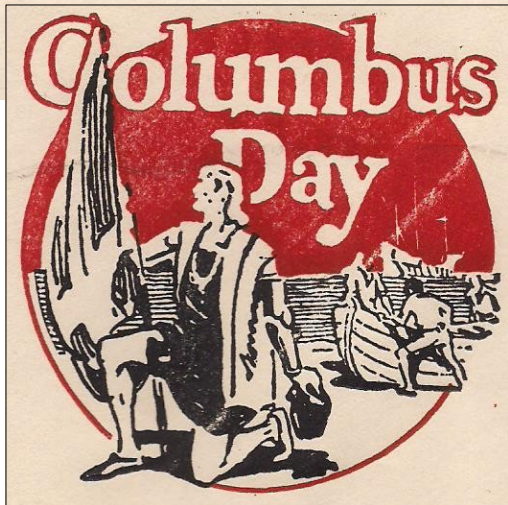
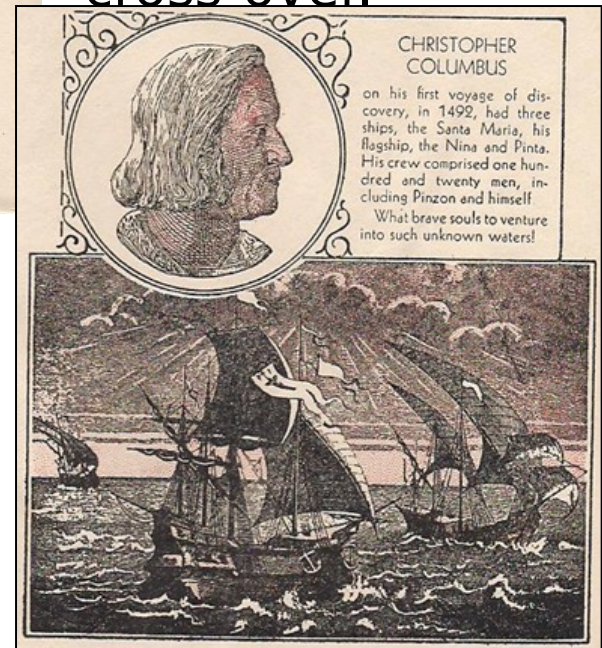
The Magenta rubber stamp is listed as



# October 12, 1932



The Vertical Coil stamp was issued on Columbus Day. So unlike this Fairway Cachet (722-4), there was some holiday cross-over.



Here are just 2 of the General Purpose Columbus Day cachets by Ioor. There are at least 8 by Ioor alone.

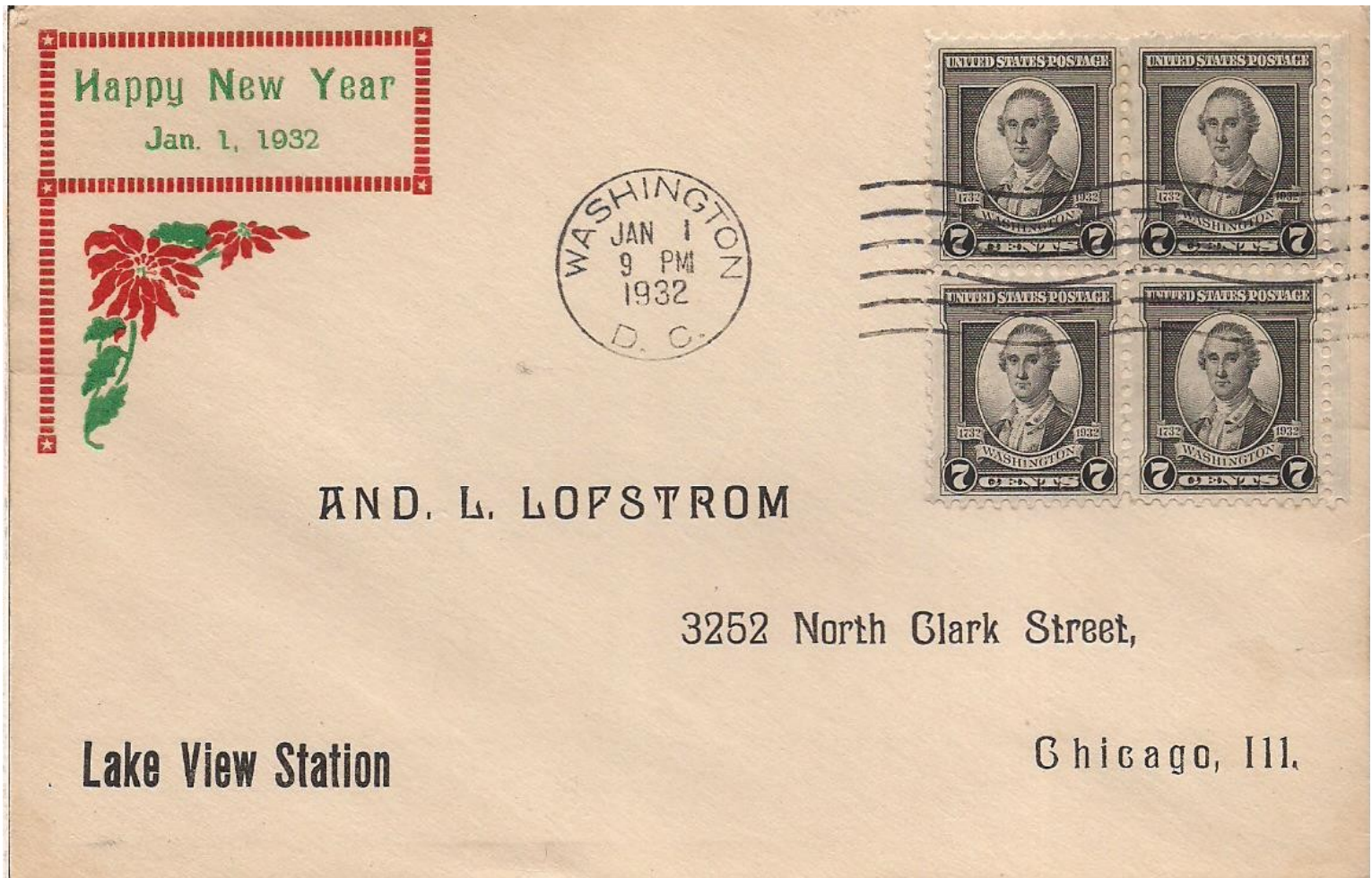
In case you are counting: that  
brings the total of US issued  
George Washington  
Bicentennial stamps up to 15  
stamps,  
plus a booklet pane  
and 6 stamped envelopes.  
*With 4 First Days of Issue.*

# Now to the other Washington Bicentennial Stamp. Poland #267 - Issued May 3, 1932



Stamp pictures: Kosciuszko, Washington & Pulaski – Rice Cachet  
Kosciuszko - military engineer - fought in both Poland and  
American Revolution. Pulaski - “Father of American Cavalry” -  
died Battle of Savannah in 1779.

To finish, this is my favorite  
Bicentennial FDC so far.  
Happy New Year!





# References



## CATALOG OF 1932 WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL EVENT COVERS

R. HOWARD COURTNEY  
MARTIN EDELSTEIN

COPYRIGHT 2018

- If you are more interested in event covers of the George Washington Bicentennial issues, I would recommend you check out:  
Catalog of 1932 Washington Bicentennial Event Covers by Courtney and Edlestein.
- This is available from the APS Library for check out.
- Also an older reference for event covers would be United States Historical Cover Catalog. 1934 & 1935, published by Edwin H. Brennecke.

An earlier version of this presentation that I showed AFDCS Chapter 56 is at <https://www.afdcschap56.org/Files/Washington.pdf>

Also Feel free to email me at:  
[mcintoshcachets@verizon.net](mailto:mcintoshcachets@verizon.net)

# Questions?

