

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

America's No. 1 Stamp Collector

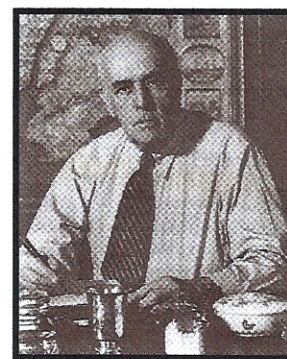
FDR was the most widely known stamp collector in the world during the second quarter of the 20th century. He used his political fame to tirelessly promote the hobby to young people and saw the popularity of the hobby increase by millions of collectors. He always referred to himself as a stamp collector, never a philatelist. Even during his busy schedule as president he always tried to spend at least 30 minutes a day with his stamps as they were a major source of relaxation and enjoyment. He was introduced to philately at an early age by his mother's family.

FDR's maternal grandfather, Warren Delano II, lived abroad for a few years prior to the Civil War while building his trade business in Hong Kong. He sent stamps home to his daughter Sara hoping they would take her mind off of his absence. The hobby of collecting postage stamps was in its infancy at this time and only a few hundred postage stamps existed worldwide.

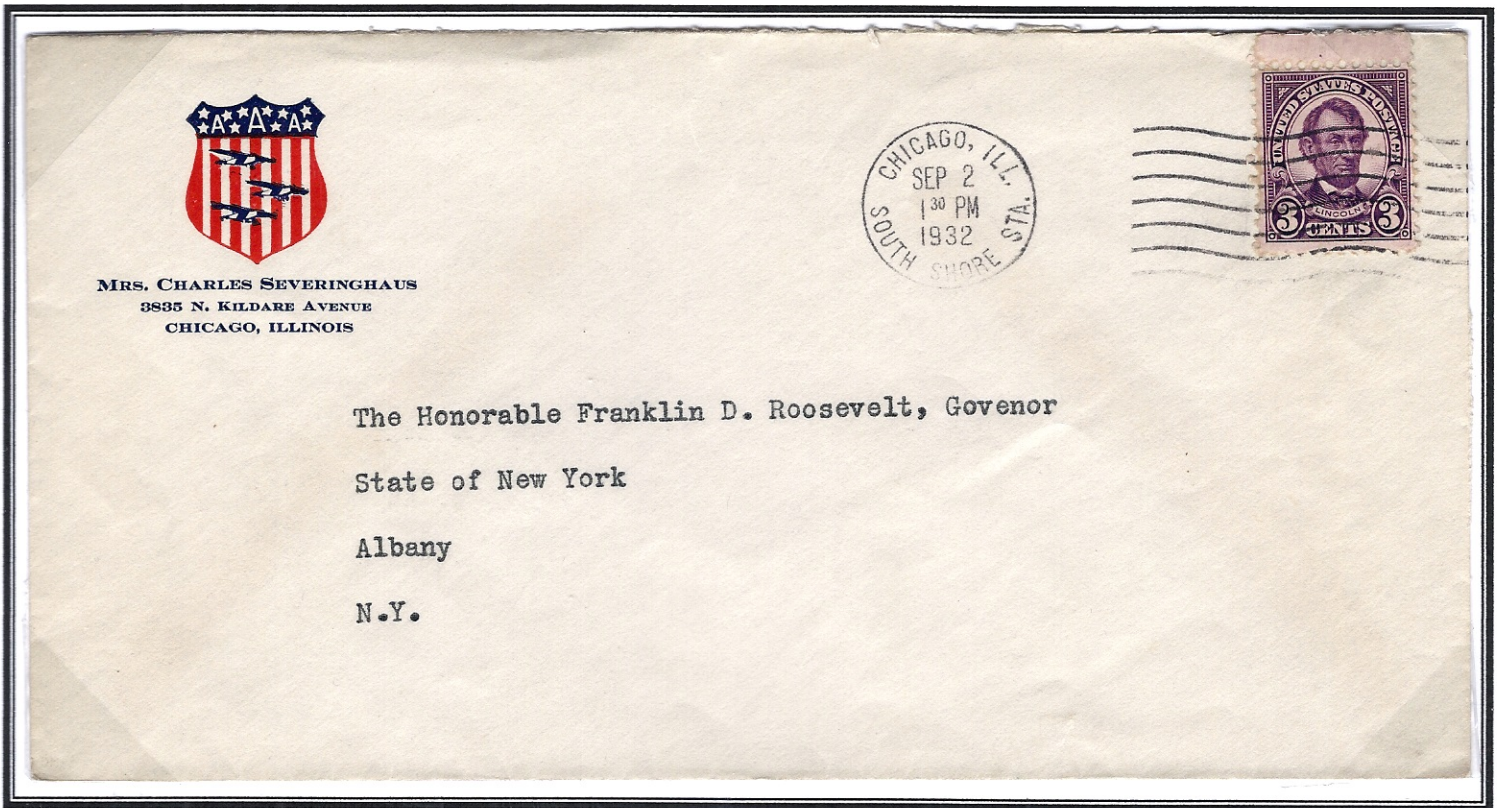


Eventually Sara joined her father in Hong Kong and continued adding to the collection. As her father's wealth increased she was able to travel around the world adding stamps from the many counties she visited. The first postage stamp catalogue published in 1861 listed 1080 stamps worldwide.

By the 1870's Sara's attention diverted to other pastimes and she gave the stamp collection to her younger brother Frederic Delano. He became a serious philatelist and was able to add considerably to the collection including covers and many rare Chinese stamps on his business travels to the Far East, Europe, South and Central America. During this period collecting postage stamps was mainly a hobby for the wealthy.



Uncle Frederic was so impressed by young Franklin's interest in stamps that he gave the entire collection to him for his 10th birthday in 1892. The stamp collection that had been started by Warren Delano II and added to by his mother Sara, had now grown into an impressive collection with many rare stamps and covers that was the envy of many philatelist.



FDR's campaign manager, James A. Farley, let it be know that FDR was a stamp collector while he was running for governor of New York in 1928 . After he was elected governor the public started sending him stamps and covers for his collection. The mail clerks and secretaries were instructed to save all covers and stamps for him to review. This cover was sent to him while he was campaigning during the presidential election of 1932. It is not marked as being from his collection although it is said he could never throw away a envelope with a stamp on it.



George Linn, editor and publisher of the four year old Linn's Weekly Stamp News, created these poster stamps during the presidential election of 1932 when FDR was running against Herbert Hoover. His goal was to get one million stamp collectors to vote for FDR. These stamps sold as 12 sheets of 20 for 25 cents prepaid or 50 sheets for 75 cents. Fifty letter size cachet envelopes with the same design, printed in two colors, could be purchased for 45 cents. Although the APS did not officially endorse either candidate, Mr. Linn inventively included the society's name by inserting the word 'member' in small letters above *American Philatelic Society*.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection



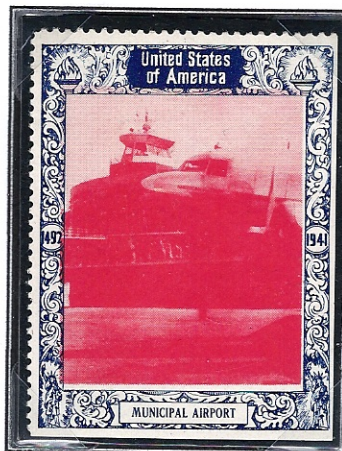
FROM THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
 AUCTIONED FEB., APRIL, 1946 BY H. R. HARMER INC., N.Y.

The above GOLD COAST 1884/9 1/2d bearing the
 auctioneer's authentication of origin is guaranteed to be
 from the stamp collection of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt
 London, W.1.

David Field Ltd.

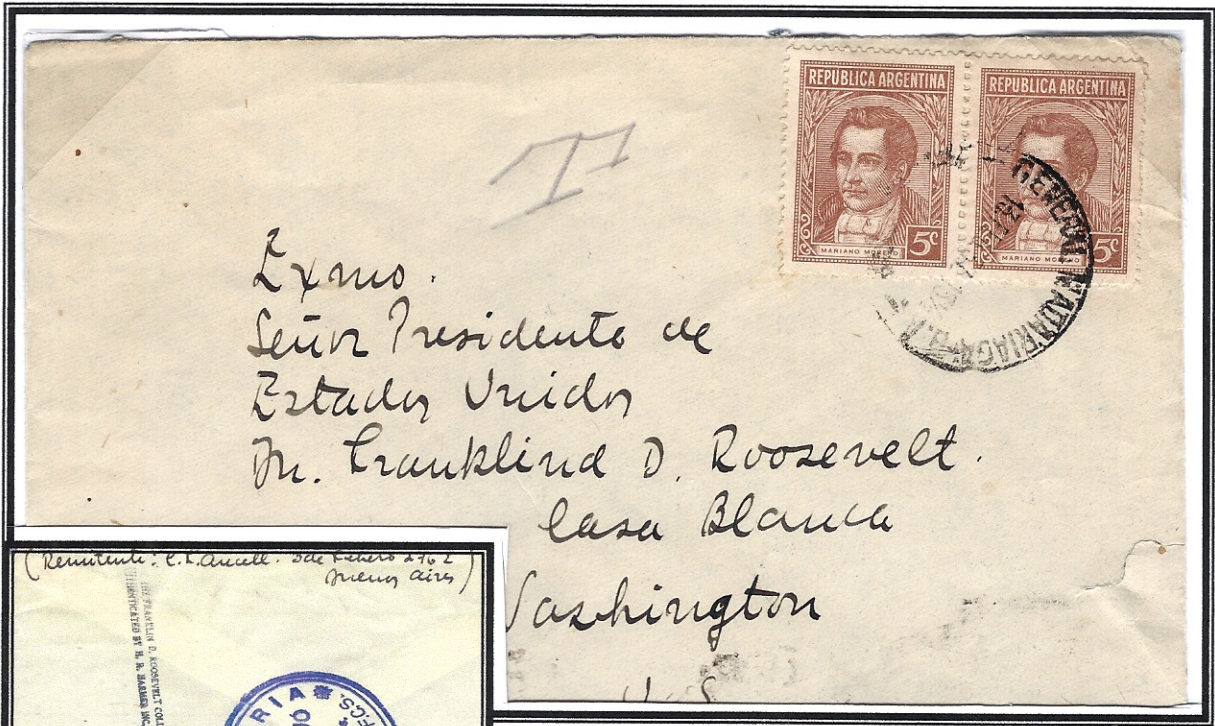
After his death the collection was auctioned in New York by H.R. Harmer in four sessions during February, March and April, 1946. Buyers could request to have their purchases authenticated using a rubber stamp furnished by the auctioneer. Dealers bought boxes of inexpensive material and mounted them on cards for resale to collectors.

This poster stamp is from his 1936 campaign when he ran for re-election against Alf Landon.



The Tuberculosis Association would send him full sheets of their Christmas stamps and ask to have his secretaries place them on outgoing White House mail.

FDR collected all kinds of stamps, both postage and non-postage.
 These stamps all came from his collection.



FDR's collection contained many stamps and covers from South American countries. He was very popular with the people there and the stamps from these countries were some of his favorites.



To publicize the release of the new bi-color 6 cent airmail stamp, U.S. postmaster James A Farley asked the public to send a letter using this stamp to the president during National Air Mail week, May 15-21, 1938. This cover was acquired at the auction of FDR's collection by the supervisor of the Gimbels Stamp Dept., Jacques Minkus.

This philatelic item is from the personal stamp collection of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
 Jacques Minkus Gimbels Stamp Depts.
 New York-Philadelphia

FROM THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
 AUTHENTICATED BY H. R. HARMER INC., N. Y.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection

National AIR MAIL Week
May 15-21, 1938



THERMAL, CALIFORNIA
WHERE DATES GROW

R. M. Wood P.M.

*Roman Warren
Pilot*

THERMAL
MAY 19
2 PM
1938
CALIF.



VIA AIR MAIL

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President United States
Washington
D.C.

Farley asked for the postmaster and pilot carrying a load of airmail from each post office to sign a cover addressed to the president. This cover is signed by postmaster Richard M. Wood of Thermal, California and the airmail pilot Roman Warren, a barnstormer and Hollywood stunt pilot. A stamp dealer from London, England bought this cover at the auction of FDR's collection.



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE.
BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS

**SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.
United States of America.**



The President,
United States of America,
The White House,
Washington,

U. S. AMERICA



The White House mail clerks were instructed to save all mail sent to the president.

The State Department also sent him a large box every week full of stamps and covers.

He selected those he considered interesting and had the rest put aside to be given to children and bedridden collectors.

During World War II he had stamps sent to wounded servicemen in VA and military hospitals throughout the world.



Eleven countries have issued 16 postage stamps and 3 souvenir sheets honoring FDR as a stamp collector. Although the White House issued many photographs showing the president working on his stamp collection, most of the stamp designs were taken from the same official White House photograph. Notice that FDR is not using tongs. He preferred to hold stamps with his fingers.



Turks & Caicos 1982



Cook Islands 1982



Western Samoa 1981



Republic of Rwanda 1970



Nicaragua 1946



Upper Volta 1970



India 1983



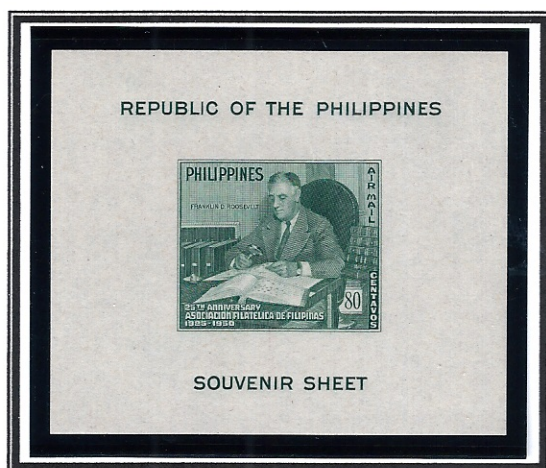
Nicaragua 1970



Philippines 1950



Cook Islands 1982
Souvenir sheet
 issued for centenary
 birth of FDR, 250th
 birth of George
 Washington and the
 bicentennial of the
 Articles of Peace
 honoring
 Benjamin Franklin



Philippines 1950
 Eighty cent souvenir sheet.



Kingdom of Yemen 1968
 Part of a set of ten
 issued to honor
 famous philatelists.



Republic of Dahomey 1970
 A singular design that does
 not show FDR examining his
 stamps. Issued on the 25th
 anniversary of his death.



Monaco 1947
 The only stamp showing FDR from a right
 profile is the infamous six finger design.

Turks and Caicos 1982
 The designer cleverly depicts FDR
 examining a Washington stamp to mark the
 100th birthday of FDR and the
 250th of George Washington.



Numerous cachet covers have been created honoring FDR as a stamp collector. Famed Nassau Street stamp dealer A. August Tiger created this poster stamp in 1947 for the CIPEX show in New York. It contains FDR's famous quotation, "I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting".

