

Prologue

This reference work, and inventory check list is a list of the covers I produced as a cachetmaker from 1978 to 2023. The convenience of your own mailbox makes it possible to easily and systematically expand your personal collection of my individually hand painted First Day Covers. As more collectors “discover” Collins cachets, my back issues will continue to sell out. By receiving this list now, you are in the position of being able to add needed Collins First Day Covers or to acquire extras of those that appeal to you.

Any Collins FDCs you obtain will be significant additions to your collection. As time marches on, these covers will continue to take on historic perspective in terms of both the hobby and Collins. Some collectors are building their collections by adding a few of these “Earlies” each month. This body of covers offers every collector a lifetime of challenges (hunting, finding, acquiring) as bit by bit you fill in needed FDCs. Be organized, be knowledgeable, be persistent, but – most of all – have fun.

Retain this listing and use it as a checklist. It will then be a ready reference for which covers you have and which ones you still need. A good strategy for collectors still missing items is to purchase several at a time as your hobby budget permits, on a regular basis. Dedicated collectors order a few at a time, and this is what I would suggest. The covers still available today are the “sold outs” of the future

COMMITTED TO FIRST DAY COVER EXCELLENCE

Collins First Day Covers are produced by Fred G. Collins: Life Member and former National Board of Directors Member of the American First Day Cover Society; Co-founder and Charter Member of the National Cachetmakers Association; Elected to Earl Planty’s First Day Cover Hall of Fame; Member of the American Philatelic Society; Member of the American Stamp Dealers Association; Charter Member of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society; and Honorary Lifetime Member of the Molly Pitcher Stamp Club of New Jersey.

Thoughts to Consider

Collins covers have become the most sought-after cachets being produced today. The reasons are quite basic. The individual hand painting of each cachet has brought to the hobby a standard of excellent quality. Today’s high-speed, high-tech society thinks in terms of mass production and “computer generated art.” I think in terms of original thought, traditional craftsmanship, and limited production.

Another reason is that since 1978 I have traveled unimaginable miles to obtain philatelically precious and often exclusive First Day of Issue postmarks for Collins collectors. P701 in 1984

was serviced by me in January of that year in Anchorage, Alaska for the Statehood stamp and

then in March was taken by me across the Pacific to Hawaii for a Captain Cook (Collins exclusive) First Day cancel for that Statehood issue. P701 is the “most traveled” United States First Day Cover ever made (from New Jersey to Alaska to New Jersey to Hawaii and back to New Jersey) and is a perfect example of my “on the road” philatelic journeys. By obtaining my 340-page book, you can share many of my past adventures as you join me on the incredible path I have traveled during my first twenty years of cachetmaking.

The quest I have followed is that of consistent quality and hobby excellence. Since 1978 I have “walked the walk” in terms of producing beautiful covers. Consider the countless hours of new issue research. Consider the countless miles in rental cars and airlines. Consider the countless brush strokes. Consider my bulldog commitment to bringing the covers on this list into being. My continued motivation is knowing that covers like those on this list will provide many in our hobby with years and years of fun-filled activity. Thank you for collecting Collins.

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CLASSIC PERIOD – 1978-1979
EARLY PERIOD 1980 – 1989
CENTURY’S END PERIOD –
1990-1999 NEW CENTURY PERIOD
2000 – 2023

AWARD WINNERS

In 1992 the American First Day Cover Society began a National Contest open to all cachetmakers. Entries are from covers produced in the preceding calendar year, and awards are announced at the annual AFDCS Convention. During the last decade I have had more winners than any other cachetmaker. I am grateful for this recognition and eagerly look forward to the next contest which will include entries from the current year.

THE BOOK

In 1999, I wrote a 340-page book about my first twenty years of cachetmaking, covering the years 1978 through 1997. Within its pages, I relate many of my adventures in securing special Day of Issue postmarks, often Collins exclusives. It also relates, supplemented by many photos, how our cachetmaking business evolved as a true family enterprise. An important part of the book is the illustrated catalog section. In it, I picture all of the covers I produced during my first twenty years. It is a “must own” if you intend to pursue my sold out covers on the open market. Beyond its reference value, I’m sure you’ll find it an enjoyable “read” as you join me on my twenty-year cachetmaking journey. If you would like details on this informative and interesting publication, please inquire.