

“My 5¢ Worth” : 928 First Day Covers

By Fran Adams

The first day of issue of modern postage stamps is normally accompanied by a cacheted first day cover. The cachet (illustration) is clearly relative to the stamp's subject and usually added on the left side of the envelope; 928 being no exception. 928 has its share of cachets both privately and commercially produced. Some designs utilize more than only the left side and turn the cover into a canvas whereon the artist produces a colorful work of art. Some may even be hand tinted such as this design by Dorothy W. Knapp (Figure 1). Collectors



Figure 1: First day cover with cachet by artist Dorothy W. Knapp

of FDCs are always interested in cachets, such as this Knapp, which are produced in very limited editions.

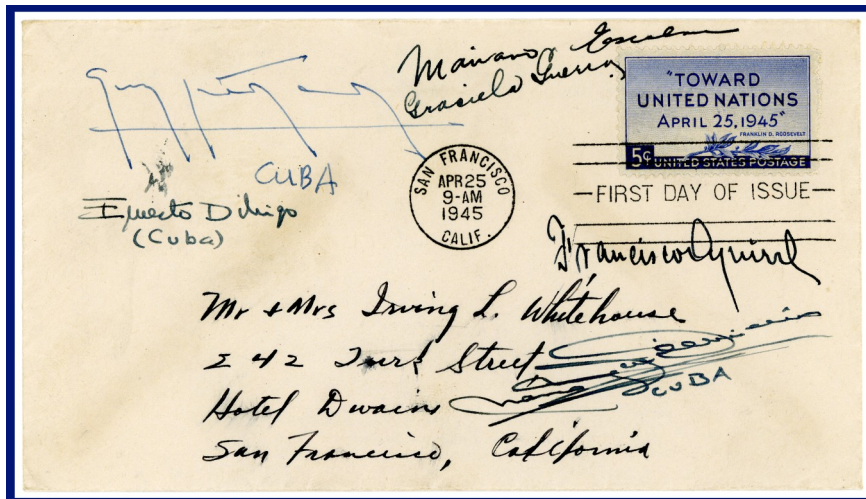


Figure 2: First day cover signed by members of the Cuban delegation

Things get much more interesting however when the unusual occurs and a plain envelope is used to gather autographs of the people associated with an event. The first day cover below (Figure 2) bears the signatures of several members of the UNCIO Cuban delegation. Two signatures are reasonably straight forward - Dr. Ernesto Dihigo y Lopez Trigo (Charter signatory and Professor of Roman Law at Havana University) and Francisco Aguirre Vidaurreta (Delegation member and General Organizer of the Cuban Federation of Labor.)

The Cuban delegation was composed of four representatives, the foregoing two along with Guillermo Belt y Ramirez (Delegation Chairman and Cuban Ambassador to the U.S.) and Dr. Ramiro Guerra y Sanchez (Delegate and Representative to the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee). Three signatures remain for only two delegates. That suggests other personnel signed the cover as each delegation had a staff. The puzzle now becomes how to identify who the other signatures might be? In comparing the remaining signatures to those found on the signed Charter reproduction, no additional signatories were identified. Regardless of this, such covers are each unique and wonderful additions to the collection and who knows, perhaps the identities behind those signatures may come to light as research continues.

References:

1. Who's Who - Delegates to the UNCIO, UN Information Office, 1945
2. Reproduction of Charter of the United Nations 1945, Historical Documents (Amazon)