

# THE 9-CENT ALAMO STAMP AND ITS FIRST DAY COVERS

## SYNOPSIS

April 2016

### KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH:

Gillis King was appointed chairman for the Alamo 9-cent stamp's first day ceremony by the United States Post Office Department (USPOD). He also represented the Texas Heritage Foundation, Inc.

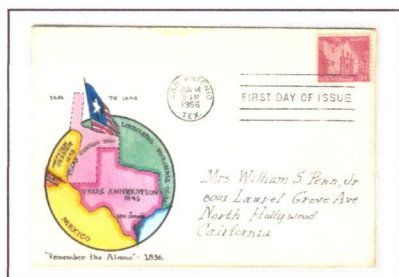
The first day of issue for the Alamo stamp was June 14, 1956 in San Antonio, Texas.

Included in the exhibit are some letters from the USPOD giving King planning details for the first day event. On issue day he received a Commemorative Stamp Album, ceremonial programs, and some other memorabilia.

The Alamo 9-cent stamp was issued to pay the first class rate on three-ounce letters. It is generally shown in this presentation making up the required postage on mail. Some material has late usage as the stamps were used until supplies ran out.

A pre-dated cover or a first day cover from a place other than San Antonio has not been found. Unofficial towns have not been located. A Dorothy Knapp cachet has not surfaced. The earliest usage is June 21, 1956 to West Germany (Chapter 20, Page 5). The latest use found is January 28, 1977 (Chapter 21, Page 1).

### PENN FDC DESIGNER QUESTIONED



Mark Learner saw this FDC in the exhibit at AMERICOVER 2015 and contacted me about the designer. The cover was identified as a "William S. Penn, Jr."

The James T. McCusker, Inc. auction catalogue had the artist identified as "William Penn," and on the sleeve when I received the cover, "Mrs. William S. Penn, Jr." Notes on reverse are McCusker's lot number "629," and "ZYOS."

Mark, having doubts about the artist, researched

"Penn" for definitive information.

He found William S. Penn's son (born in 1949) by the same name. Mark telephoned and e-mailed him. Penn acknowledged that his father collected FDCs.

Penn said he was very young when the covers were produced and he had no knowledge of them. He was sure that his father could not "draw a crooked line." His mother was more artistic and a more likely possibility—Penn had no firsthand knowledge that she had ever produced a FDC. Penn's sister does not remember either of their parents producing the covers; and noted the address is not her mother's handwriting.

Penn concluded that neither his mother nor father was the artist behind these covers.

With a third party cachet maker likely, this FDC has been designated "Designer Unknown" (Chapter 12, Page 27).

Information about the designer of this FDC is being sought in Alan Warren's "Question Box" in *First Days* (January-February 2016).

(Continued)