

The Iowa Territorial Stamp

The first postage stamp that directly commemorated the Hawkeye State was issued in 1938 in honor of the Iowa territorial centennial. This stamp holds a unique position in American philately, since Iowa was the first Territory to be so commemorated.

The first efforts on the part of the Iowa Territorial Centennial Committee and other Iowans to secure a commemorative stamp met with an emphatic refusal by the Post Office Department on the ground that stamps had never been issued in honor of Territories. On May 9, 1938, President Roosevelt expressed sympathy with Iowa's desire for a stamp but regretted he could not overrule the decision of the Post Office Department. When the entire Iowa delegation rallied around Senator Clyde Herring and Congressman Fred Bierman in their fight and threatened to introduce a bill in Congress to compel the Post Office Department to issue an Iowa stamp, the Department finally capitulated and Senator Herring jubilantly wired the Centennial Committee of the success of his long fight.

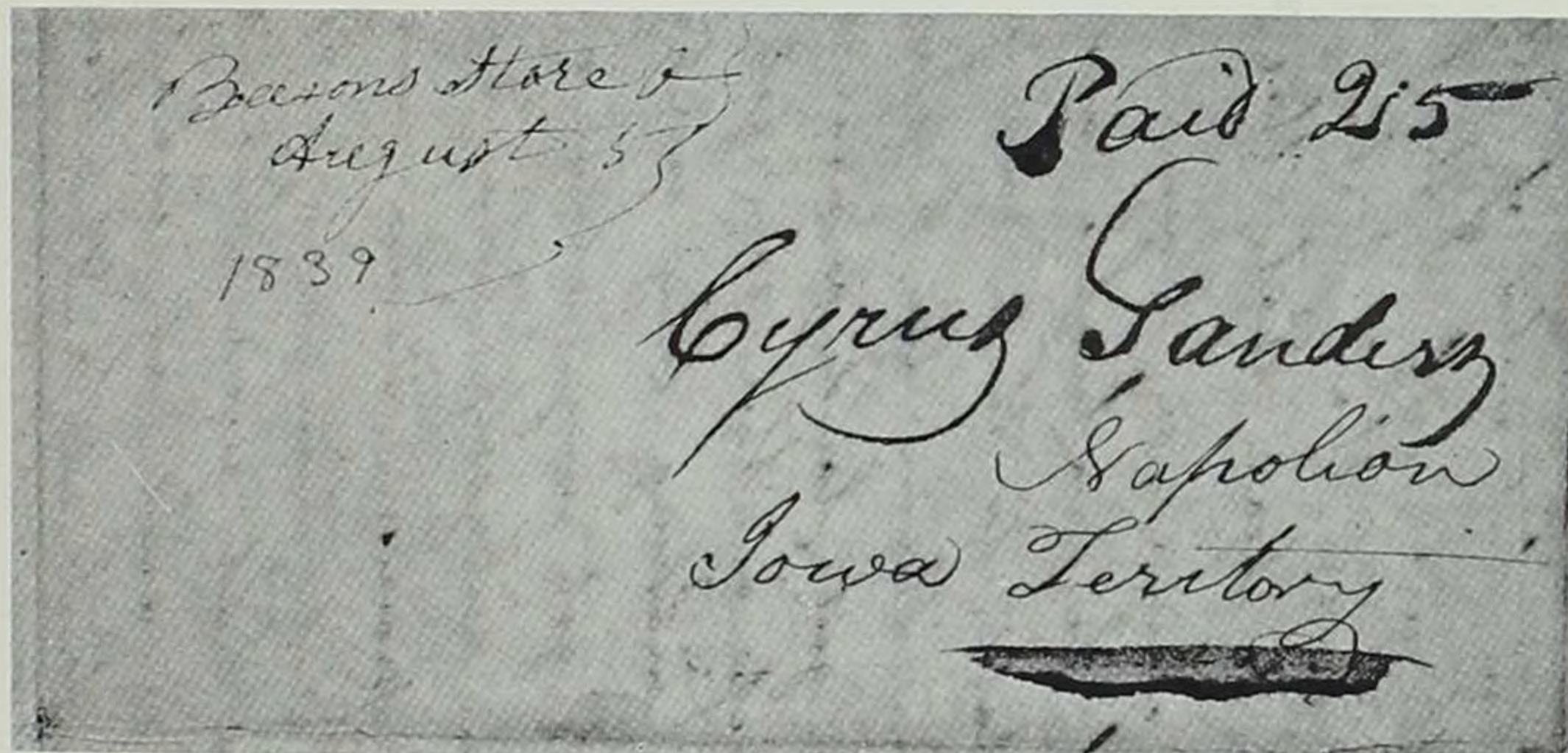
A number of Iowa towns promptly requested that the honor of the first day's sale of the terri-

torial stamp be granted to them. Burlington was a logical choice since it had been the territorial capital in 1838. Dubuque stressed her claim of being the oldest city and was actually celebrating her 150th Anniversary when Iowa was observing its territorial centennial. Iowa City's claim rested on the fact that it served as the capital for three-fourths of the territorial period and for the first eleven years of statehood. Moreover, the Old Capitol at Iowa City had been selected as the central design for the stamp. Des Moines was the State capital and the largest city.

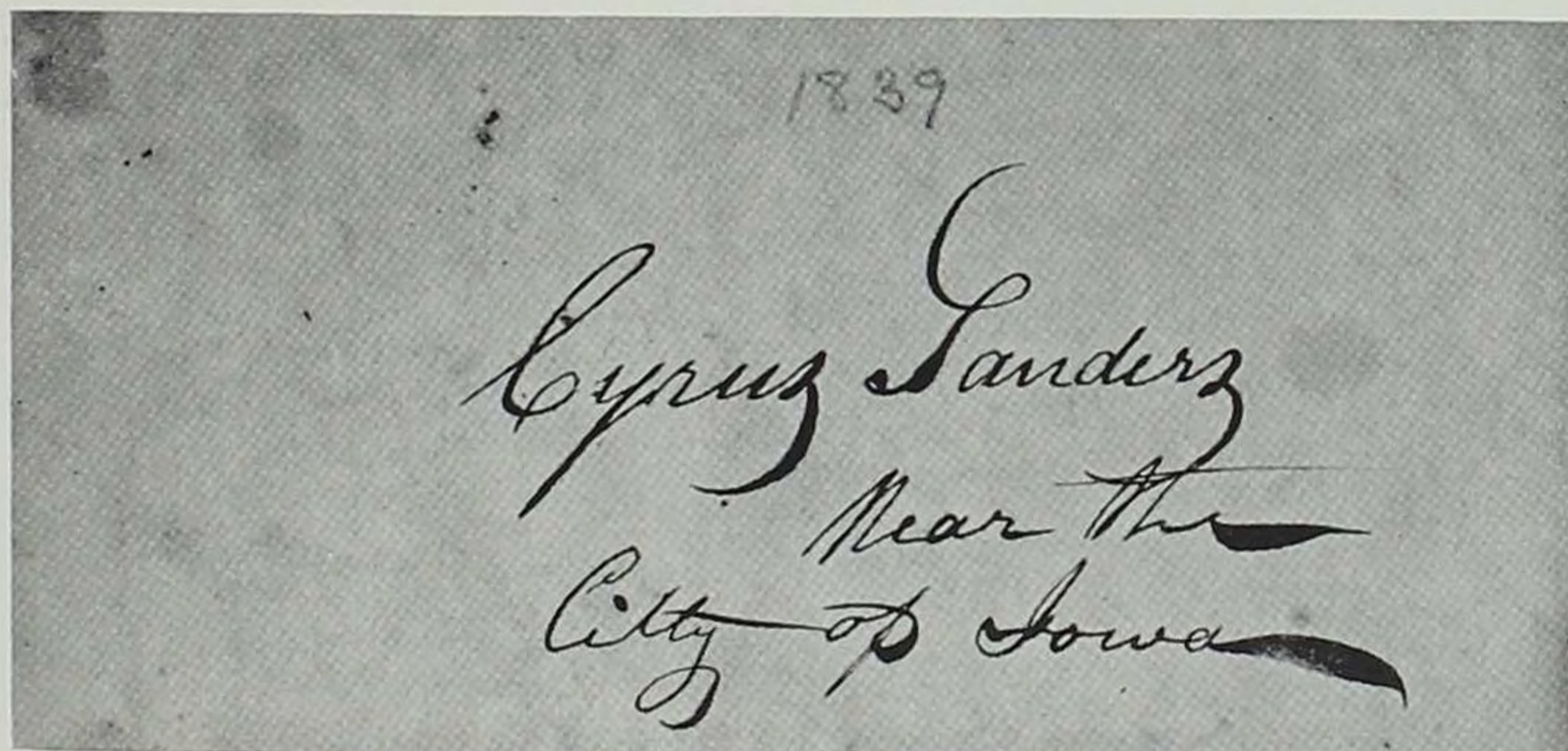
The Centennial Committee at first sought to have the stamps placed on sale simultaneously in all Iowa post offices in order to avoid discrimination against any city, but the Post Office Department declared this would be unprecedented, extremely expensive, and unfair to stamp collectors. After considerable delay the Post Office Department finally wired the Iowa Centennial Committee on June 6 stating that one place would have to be designated and suggesting August 24 at Des Moines during State Fair Week. The Committee agreed and awarded the first day's sale of the stamps to Des Moines.

Iowa received nationwide and even international publicity from its first commemorative stamp, a purple three-cent stamp of special delivery size featuring the Old Capitol at Iowa City. A total of 47,064,300 were printed, of which 245,200

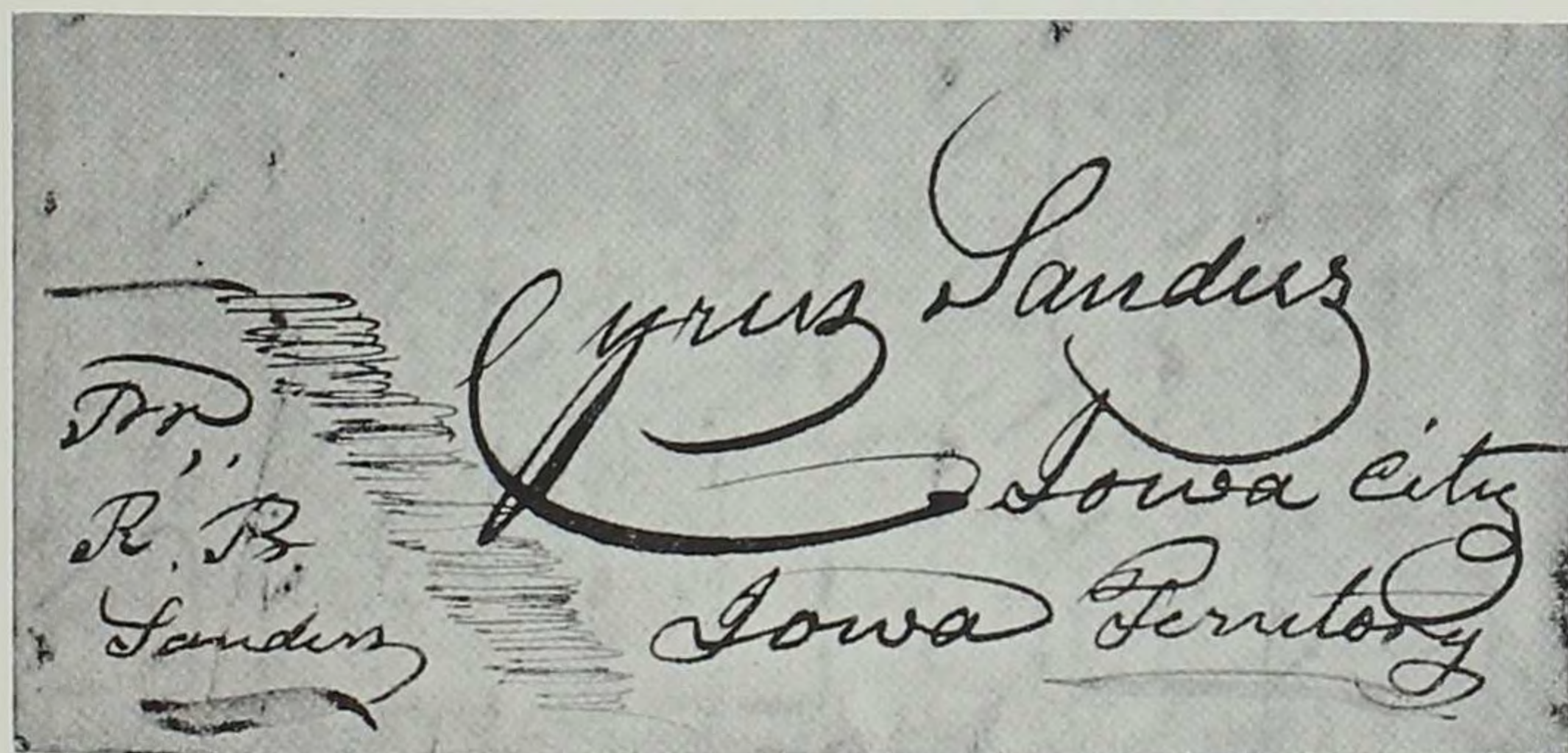
EARLY POSTAL COVERS OF IOWA CITY



Post office established at Napoleon (3-2-1839) changed to Iowa City Nov. 14, 1839.



John Plumbe's MAP of the surveyed part of IOWA TERRITORY showed the "City of Iowa" on the "only Map" exhibiting the location of Iowa City.



State Historical Society Collections

Letter dated Sept. 17, 1841, from John C. Sanders, father of Cyrus Sanders.

LETTERS TO GOVERNOR LUCAS

Paid 6
His Excellency
Robert Lucas
West Point Ia
March 31st
Burlington
Iowa

Letter from West Point (Lee County) dated March 31, 1839. A post office was established at West Point on Sept. 7, 1838, with Orrin Dodd, first postmaster.

Rockingham Ia
28th Mar 1839
His Excellency Robert Lucas
Governor of Iowa
Burlington
I. I.

A post office was established at Rockingham (Scott County) on Feb. 26, 1844, with Willard Barrows first postmaster. Discontinued Dec. 16, 1847.

Dubuque Ia
Mar 14th
Gov. Robert Lucas -
1844
Burlington,
Iowa Ter.

State Historical Society Collections

In the fall of 1833 George Ord Karrick carried the weekly mail from Galena to Dubuque where it was delivered from a candle box in Mr. Pfozter's store.

FROM VARIOUS IOWA TOWNS

Camanche May 24 1839 *Box 25*

His Excellency Robert Lucas
Governor of Iowa
Burlington

A post office was established at Camanche (Clinton County) on Dec. 17, 1838, with Simeon Gardner first postmaster.

Department of State

To His Excellency
The Governor of Iowa
Burlington I. T. Redwood

DUBUQUE
OCT 4

A letter from Jackson, Mississippi, dated March 30, 1839, was misdirected to Governor Lucas at Dubuque where it was redirected Oct. 4, 1839 to Burlington.

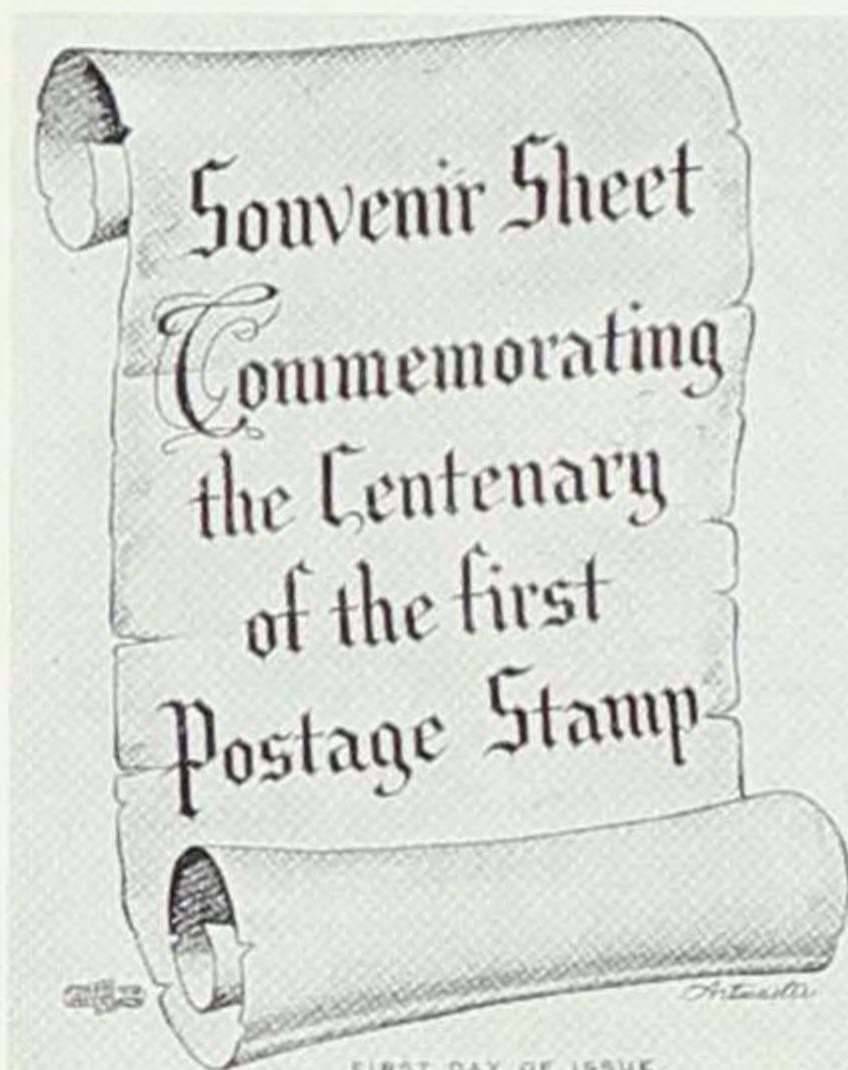
free *J. Galland P.M.*
Commerce Ill

His Excellency
Robert Lucas, Governor of
Iowa Territory
Burlington
I. T.

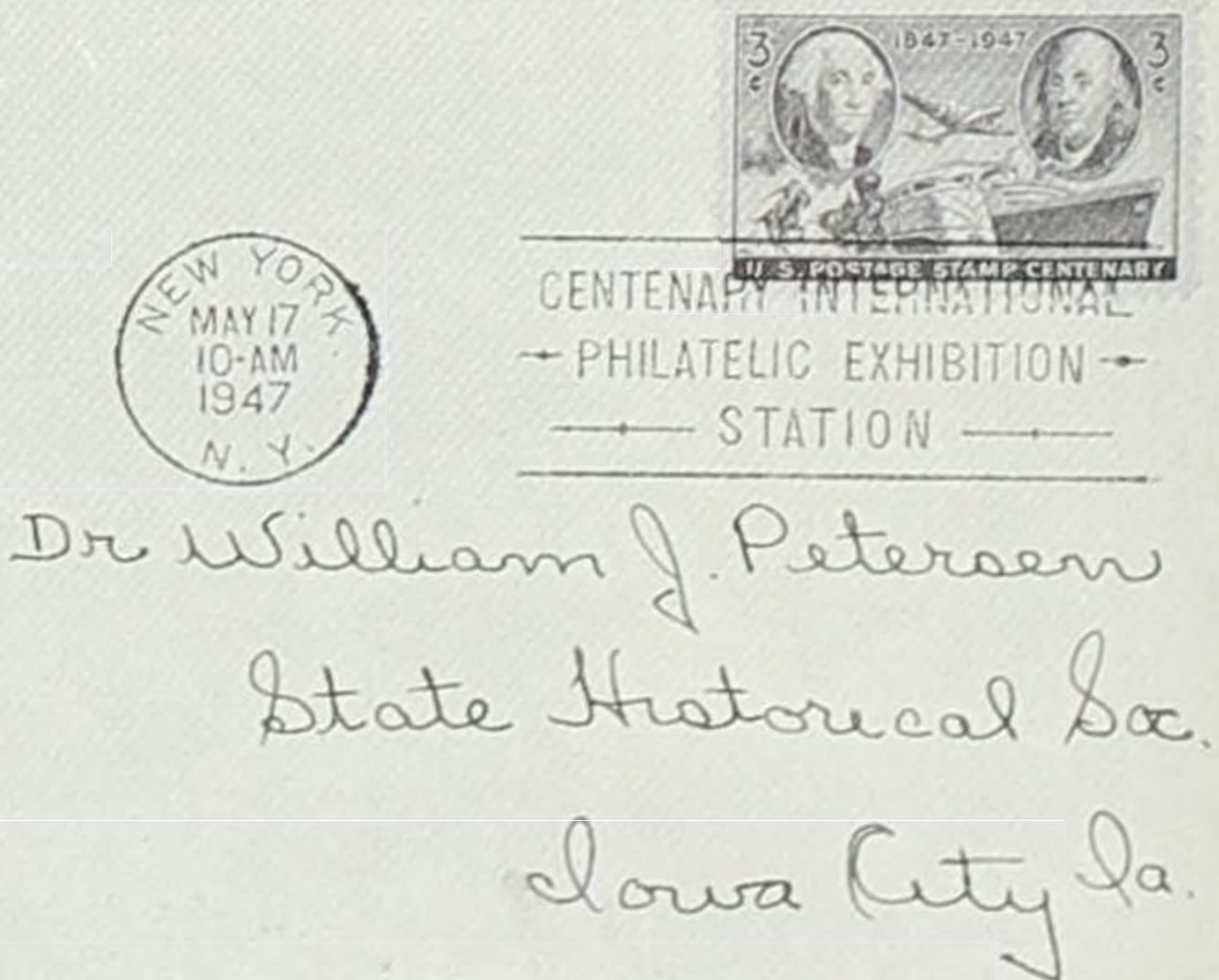
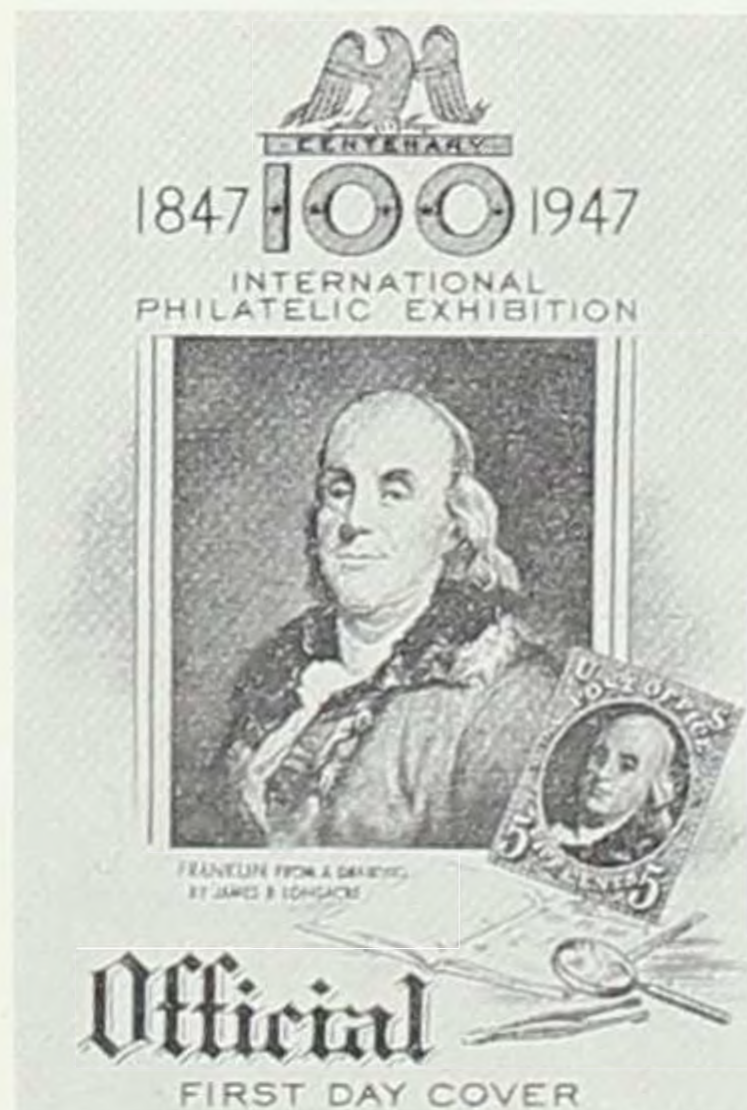
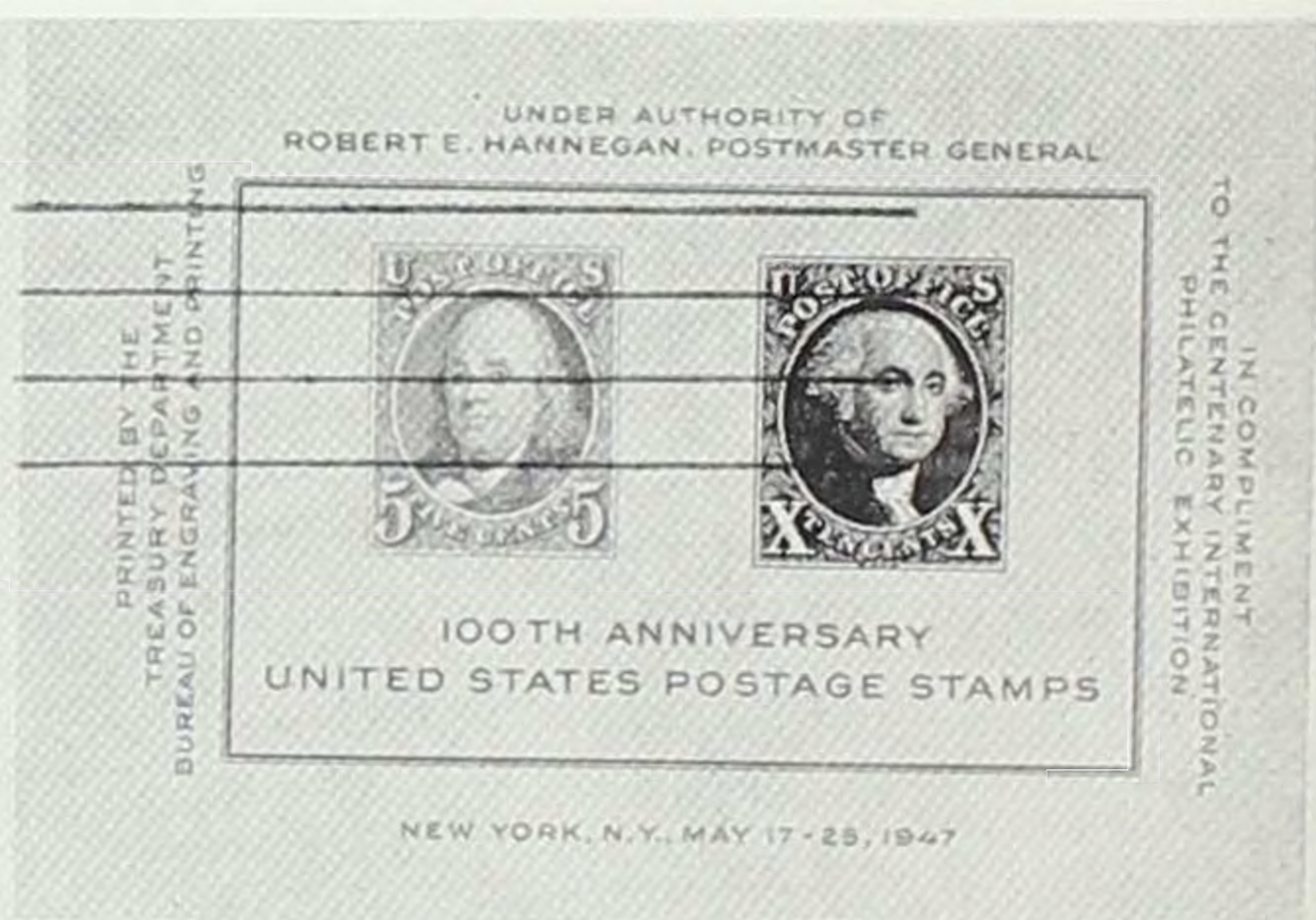
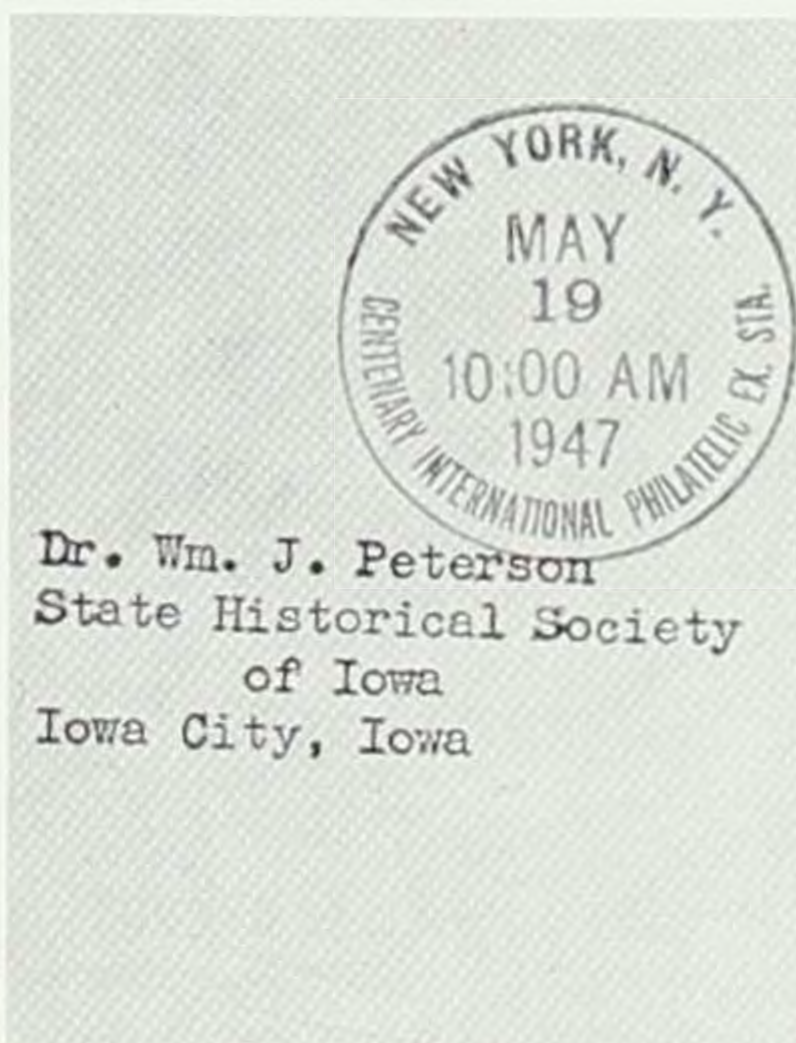
State Historical Society Collections

Dr. Isaac Galland, postmaster, wrote Governor Lucas from Commerce (later Nauvoo), Illinois, on February 24, 1839.

CENTENNIAL OF FIRST POSTAGE STAMP



DR. William J. Petersen State Historical Society Iowa City Ia

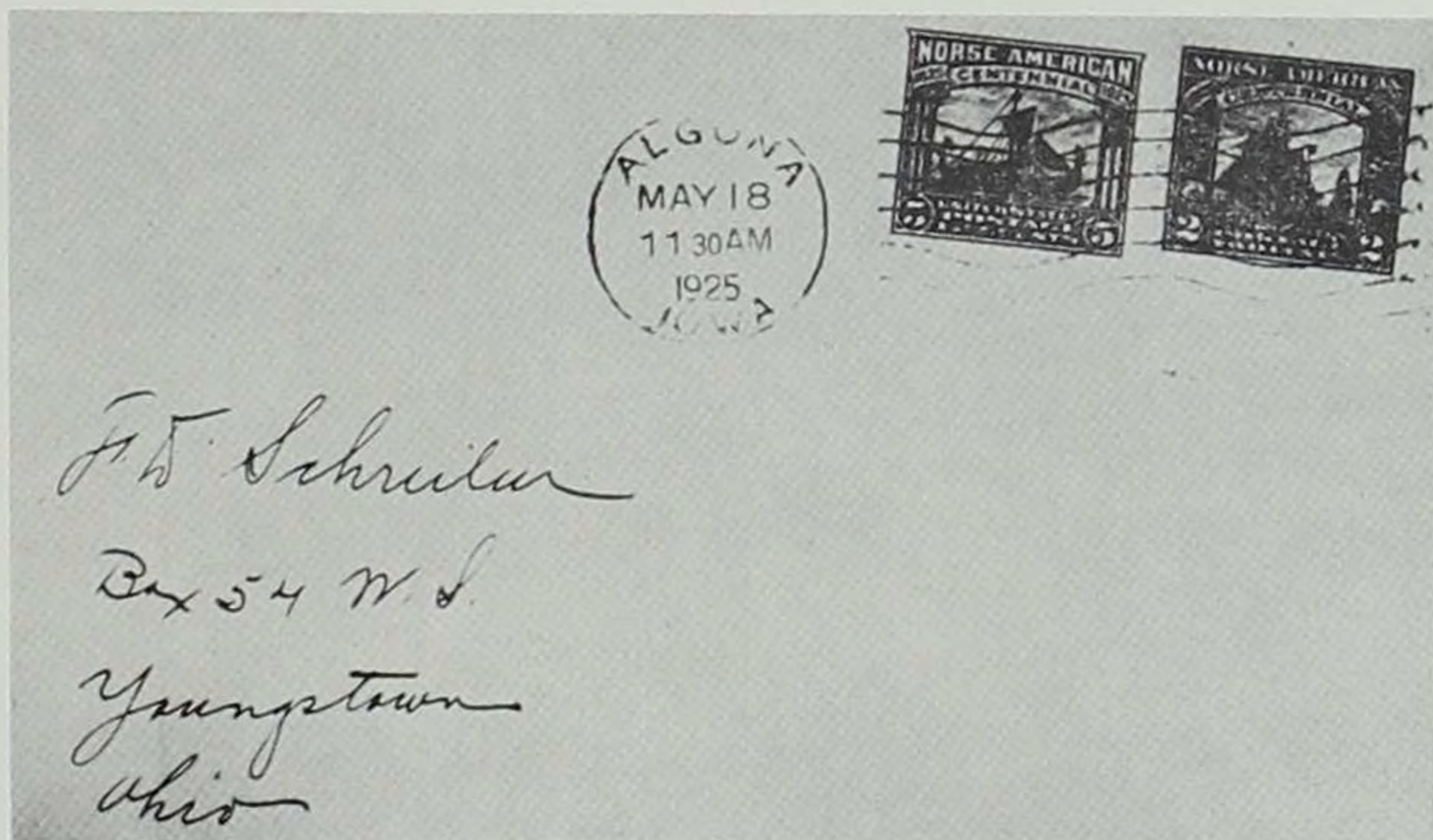
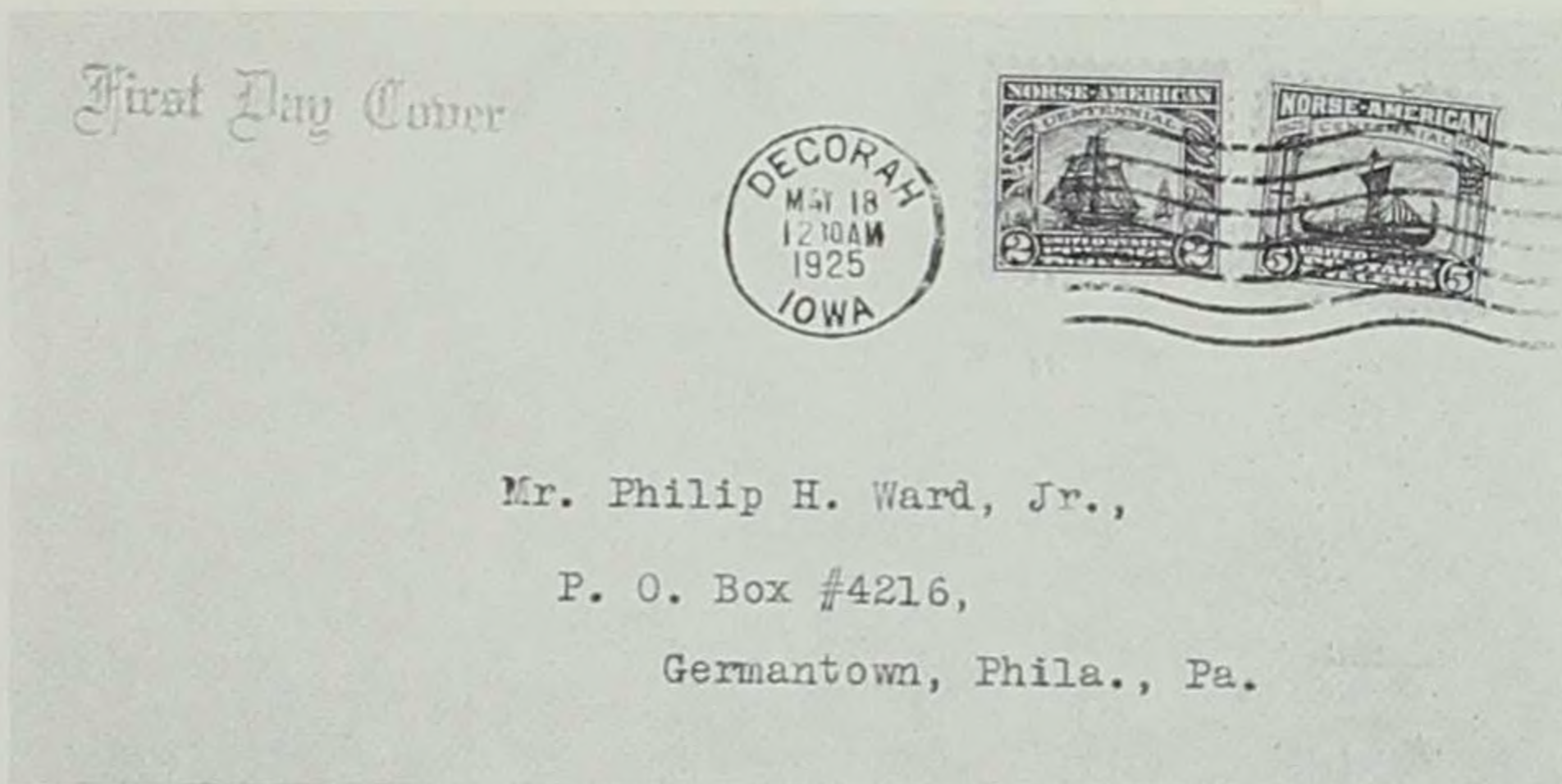


Dr William J. Petersen
State Historical Soc.
Iowa City Ia.

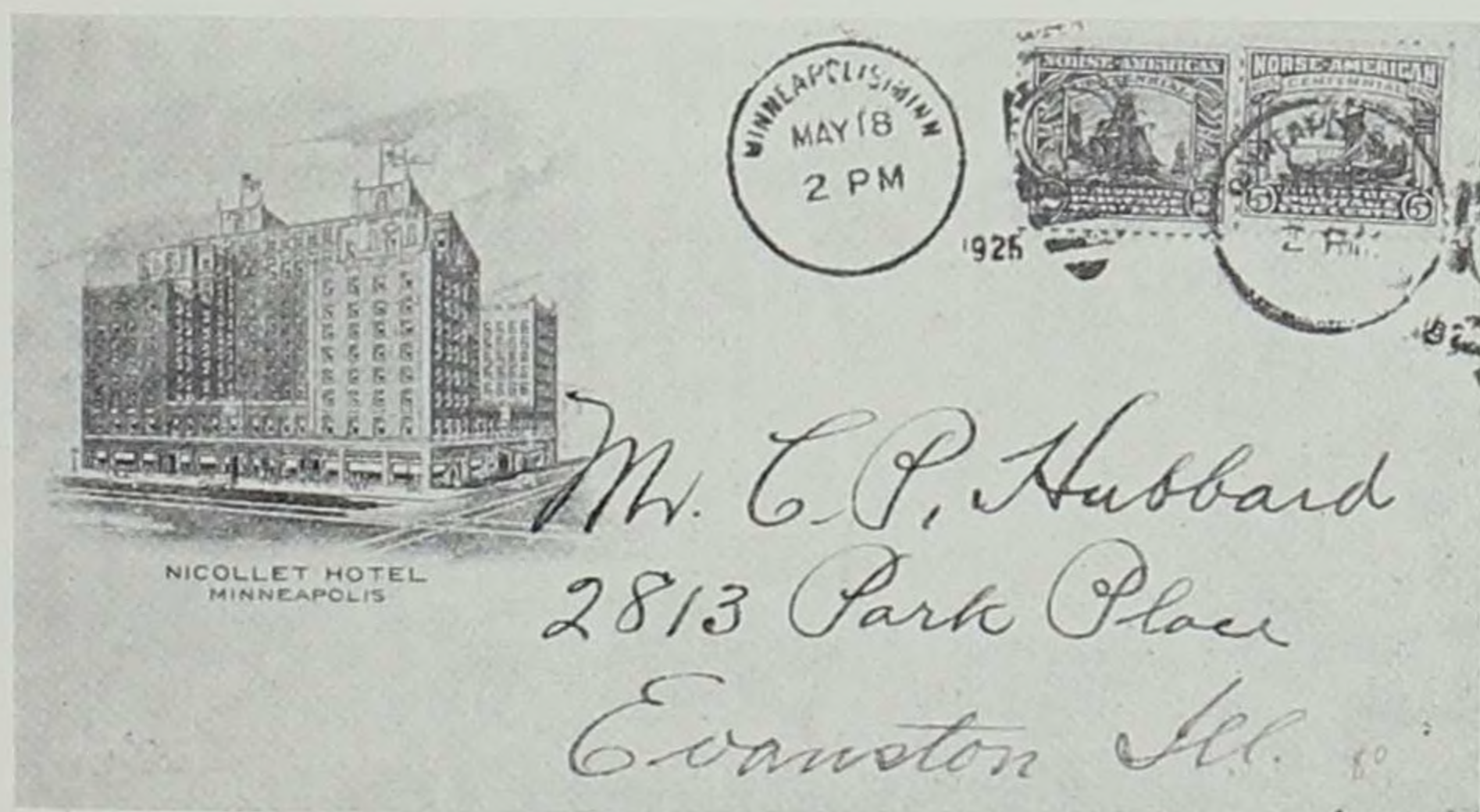
Souvenir Sheet and a First Day Cover commemorating the Centenary of the first United States Postage Stamp.

William J. Petersen Collections

NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL STAMP



Norman E. Erickson Collections



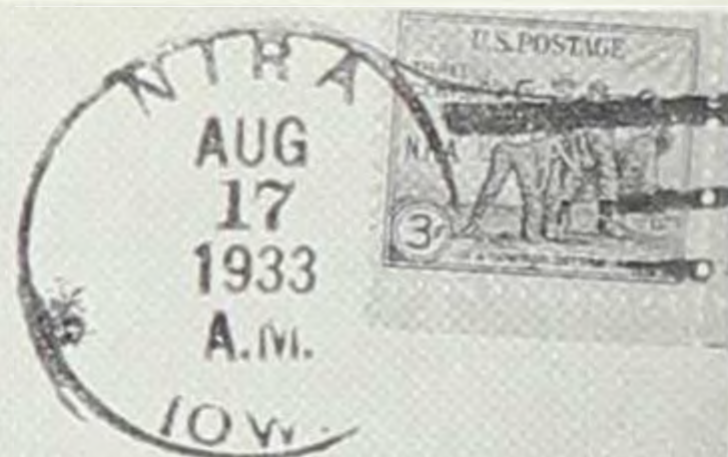
First instance where two Iowa towns (Decorah and Algona) were designated with four Minnesota towns and Washington, D.C. as joint First Day of Issue cities for Norse-American Centennial Stamp.

WHEN LITTLE NIRA BASKED IN

First Day Cancellation

OF THE
*National Industrial
Recovery Act
Commemorative Stamp*
At

Nira, Iowa



Ed Kee
P.O. Box 1234
Washington, D.C.

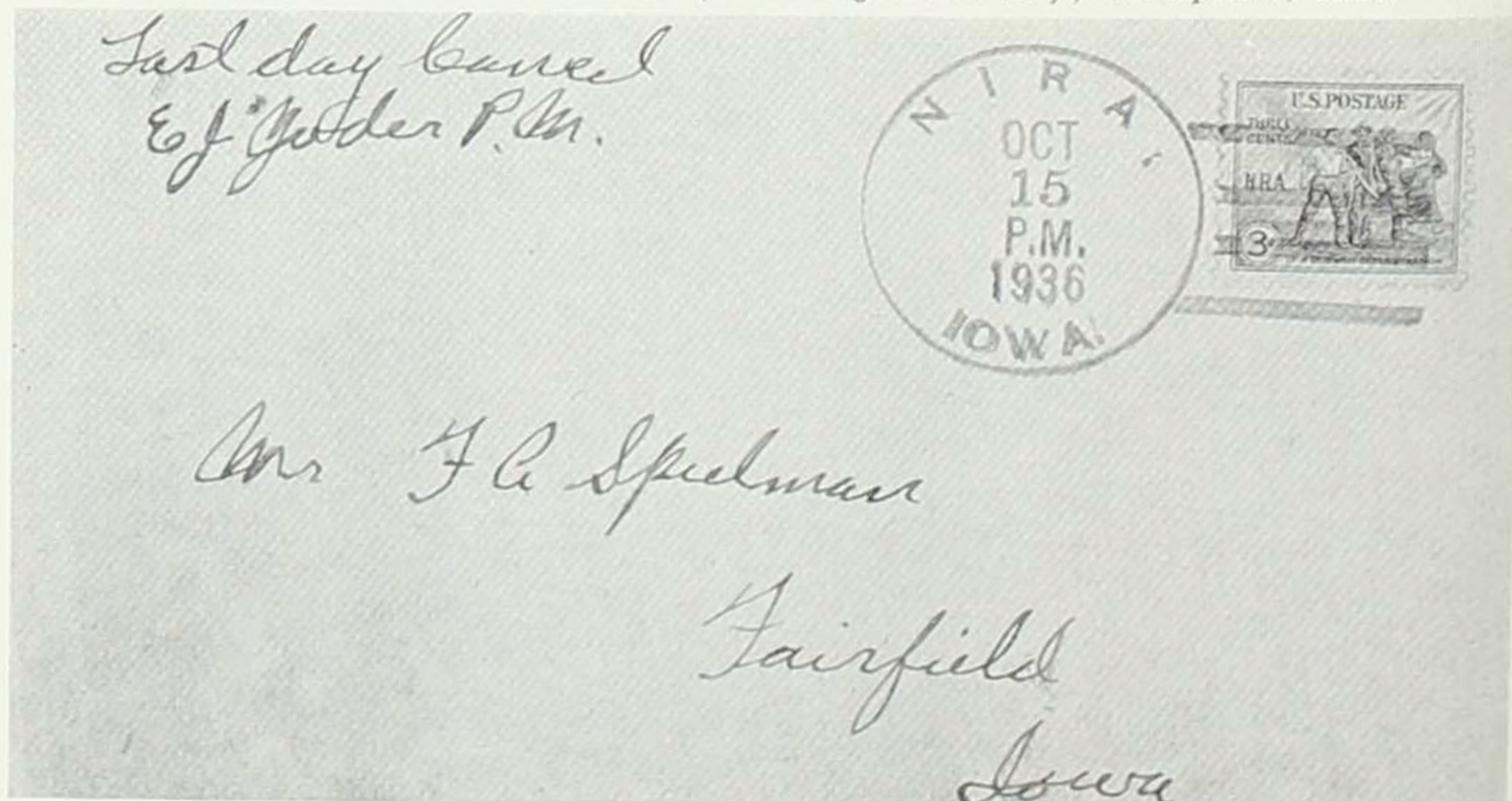
William J. Petersen Collections

Nira was granted a second day of sale for the NRA Stamp on August 17, 1933.



F. A. Spielman
502 E. Burlington St
Fairfield Iowa.

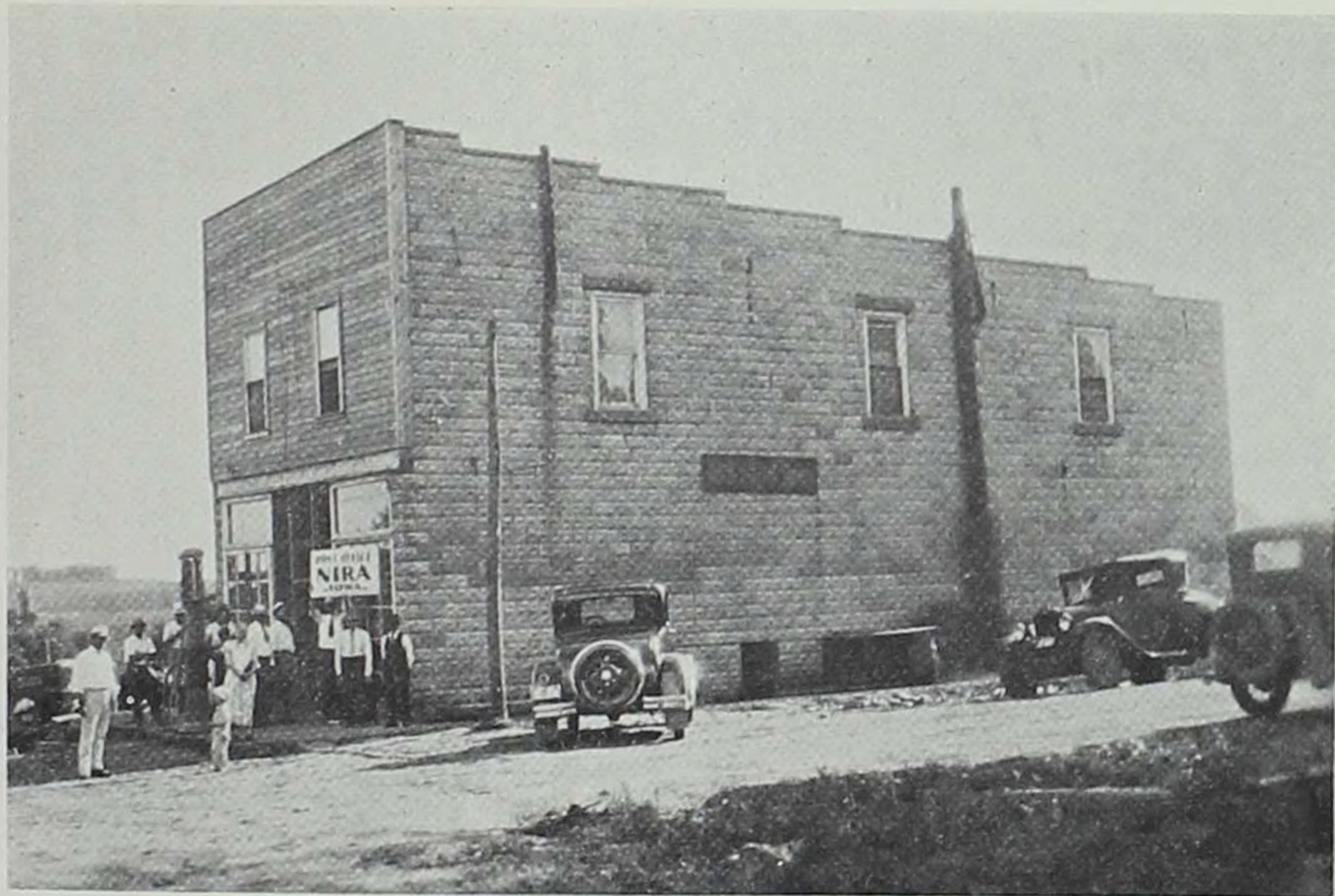
Post office established at Nira (Washington County) on April 8, 1880.



Dillon S. Turney Collections

Last day cancellation for Nira on 10-15-1936, while Yoder was still postmaster.

FAME FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS



Dillon S. Turney Collections

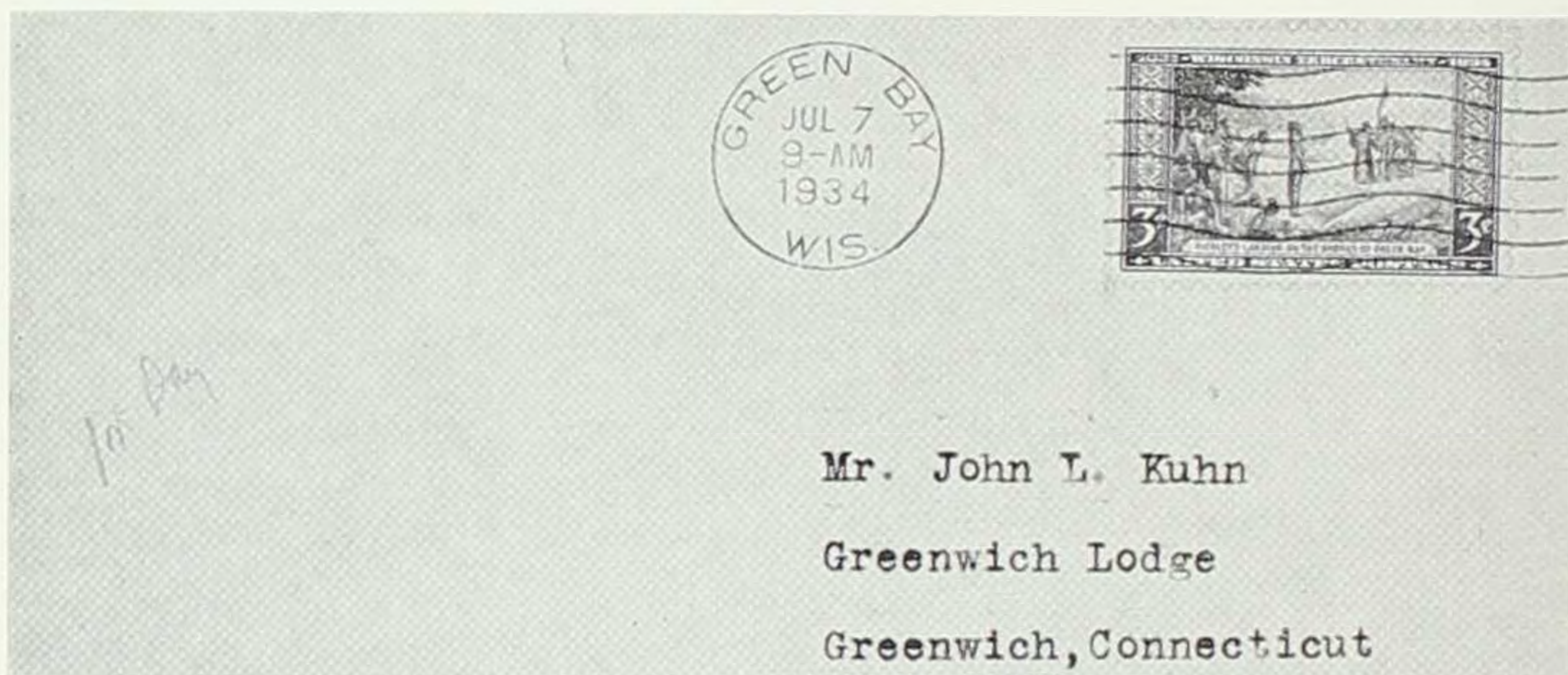
The Nira Post Office was located in Yoder's General Store. The photo was taken on Aug. 17, 1933, when the Second Day of Issue was observed at Nira.



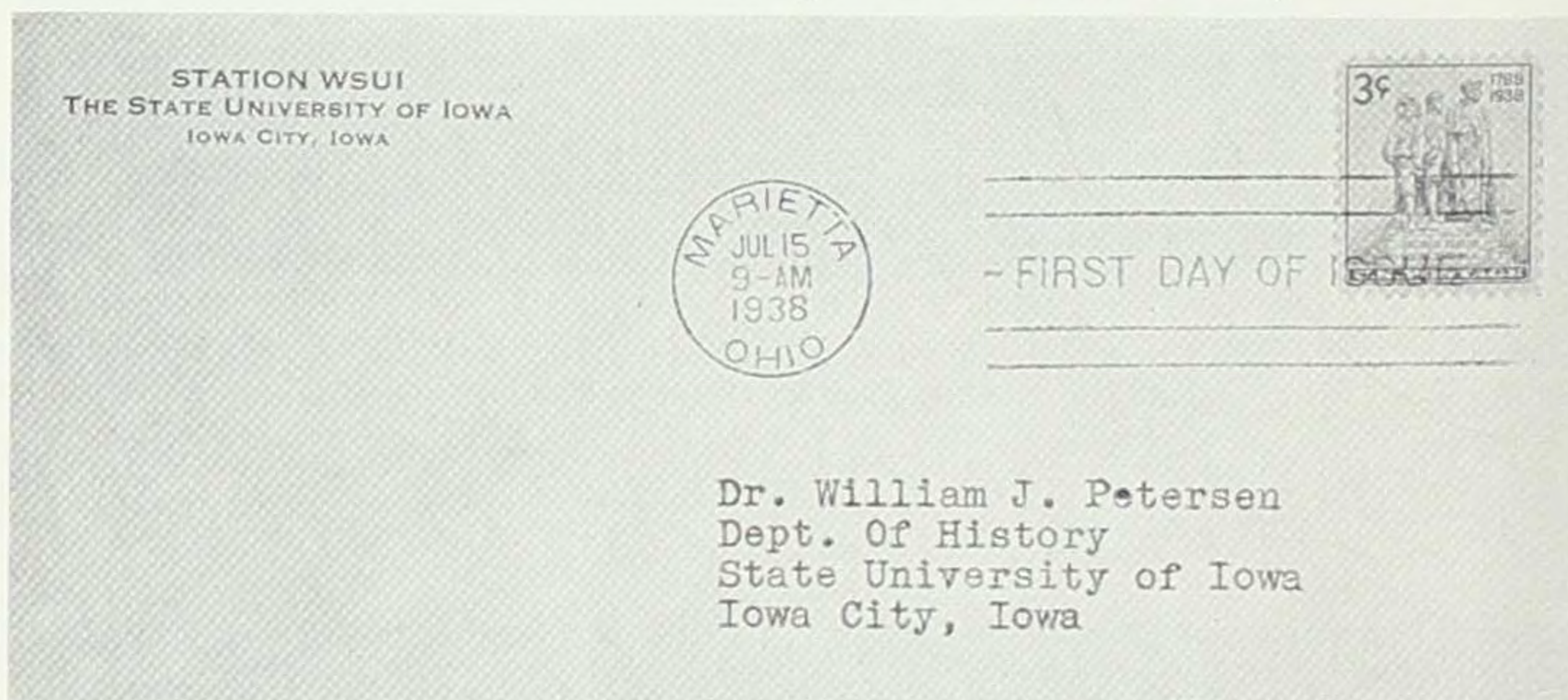
Dillon S. Turney Collections

A Bird's-Eye View of Nira in 1933 at the time the NRA Stamp went on sale.

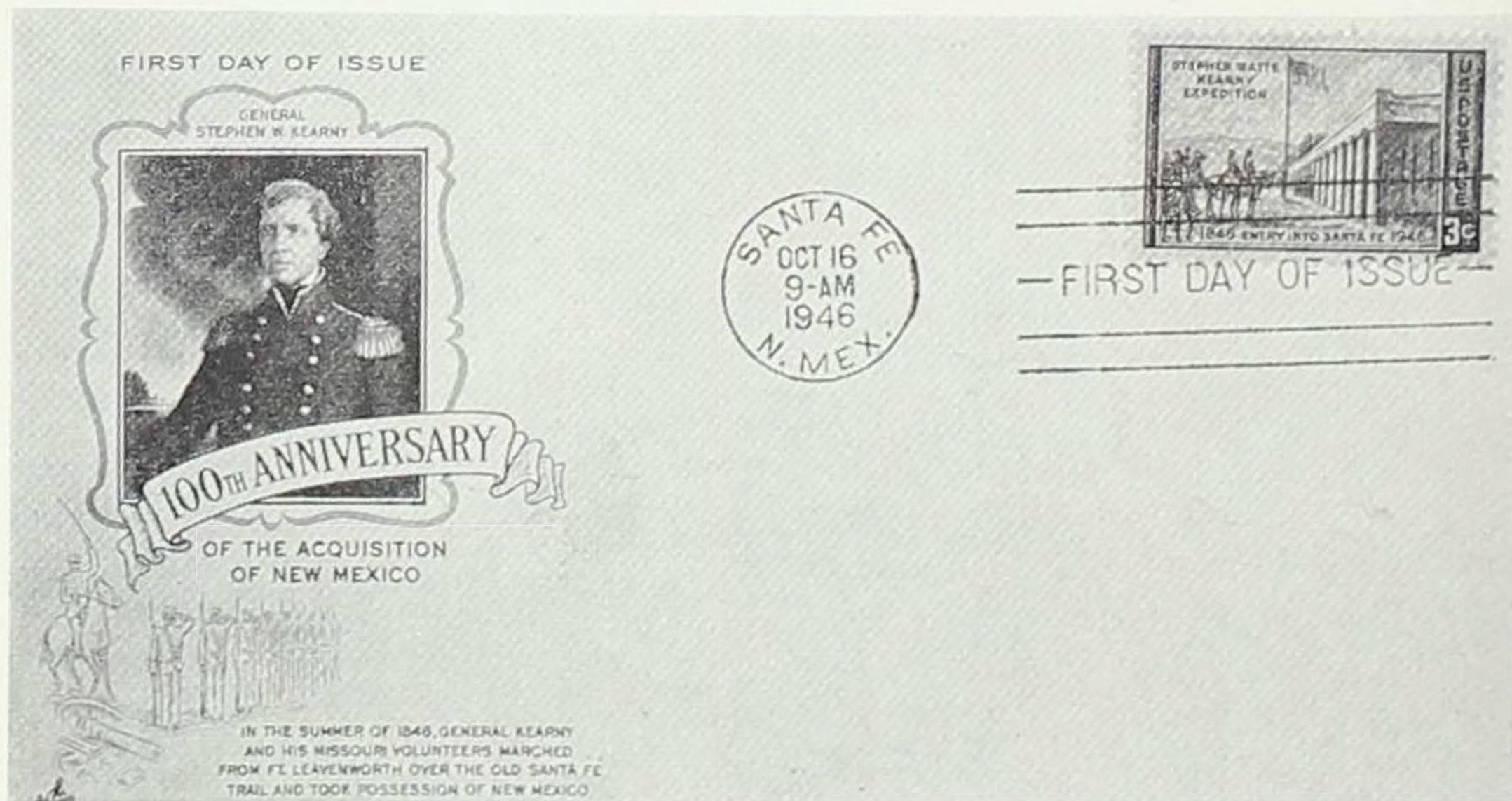
SOME HISTORIC STAMPS POINTING TO IOWA



Wisconsin Tercentenary Commemorative Stamp—Landfall of the white man in Wisconsin—Jean Nicolet meets the Winnebago Indians at Green Bay.



Northwest Territory Commemorative Stamp—150th Anniversary of the settlement of the Northwest Territory under the Ordinance of 1787.



Stephen Watts Kearny Commemorative Stamp—issued on 100th Anniversary of the entry of Kearny into Santa Fe with his Mormon Battalion.

William J. Petersen Collections

IOWA TERRITORY COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IOWA CITY IOWA



—FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—

FIRST RAILWAY POST OFFICE
JULY 28, 1862



This cachet sponsored by the Burlington Railroad and applied in replica of original post office car on exhibition at Iowa Territorial Centennial State Fair, Des Moines, Iowa, August 24, 1938.

Dr. William J. Petersen
State Historical Society
Iowa City, Iowa

This stamp commemorated the centennial of the establishment of the Territory of Iowa on July 4, 1838. The cornerstone of the Capitol building was laid by Governor Robert Lucas on July 4, 1840. The engraving was from a photo by F. W. Kent.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IOWA CITY IOWA



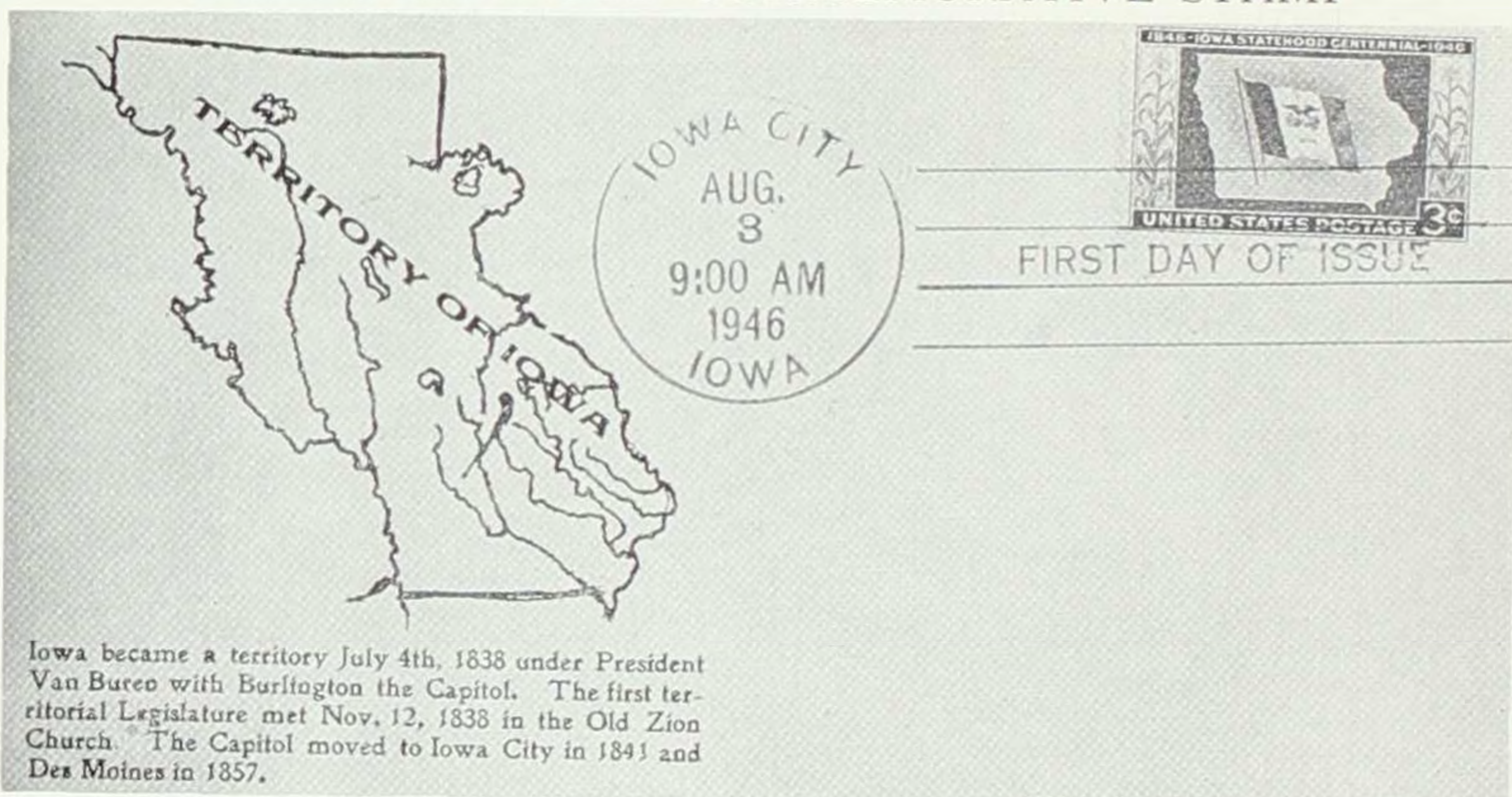
—FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—

Dr. William J. Petersen
State Historical Society
Iowa City, Iowa

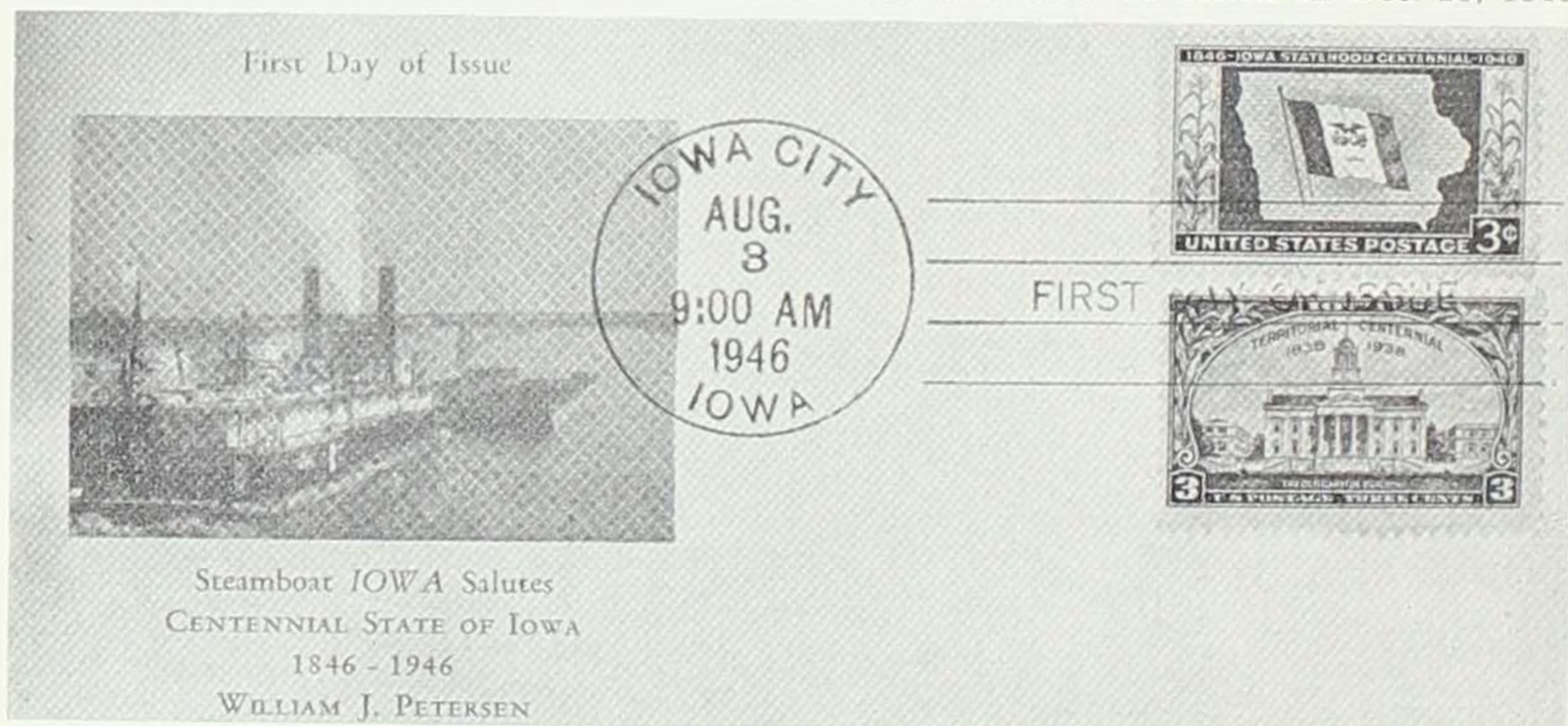
William J. Petersen Collections

The Territory of Iowa was created on July 4, 1838, and extended to the Canadian Line, including most of Minnesota and approximately half of North Dakota and South Dakota. Burlington served as the first capital from 1838-1841, and Iowa City as the second capital from 1841-1846. The Old Stone Capitol continued as both the Territorial and State Capitol to 1857. The Governor and the Supreme Court had their offices in the Old Stone Capitol and the Territorial and State laws between 1842 and 1857 were enacted in this historic building. Today Old Capitol is the administrative building of the University of Iowa.

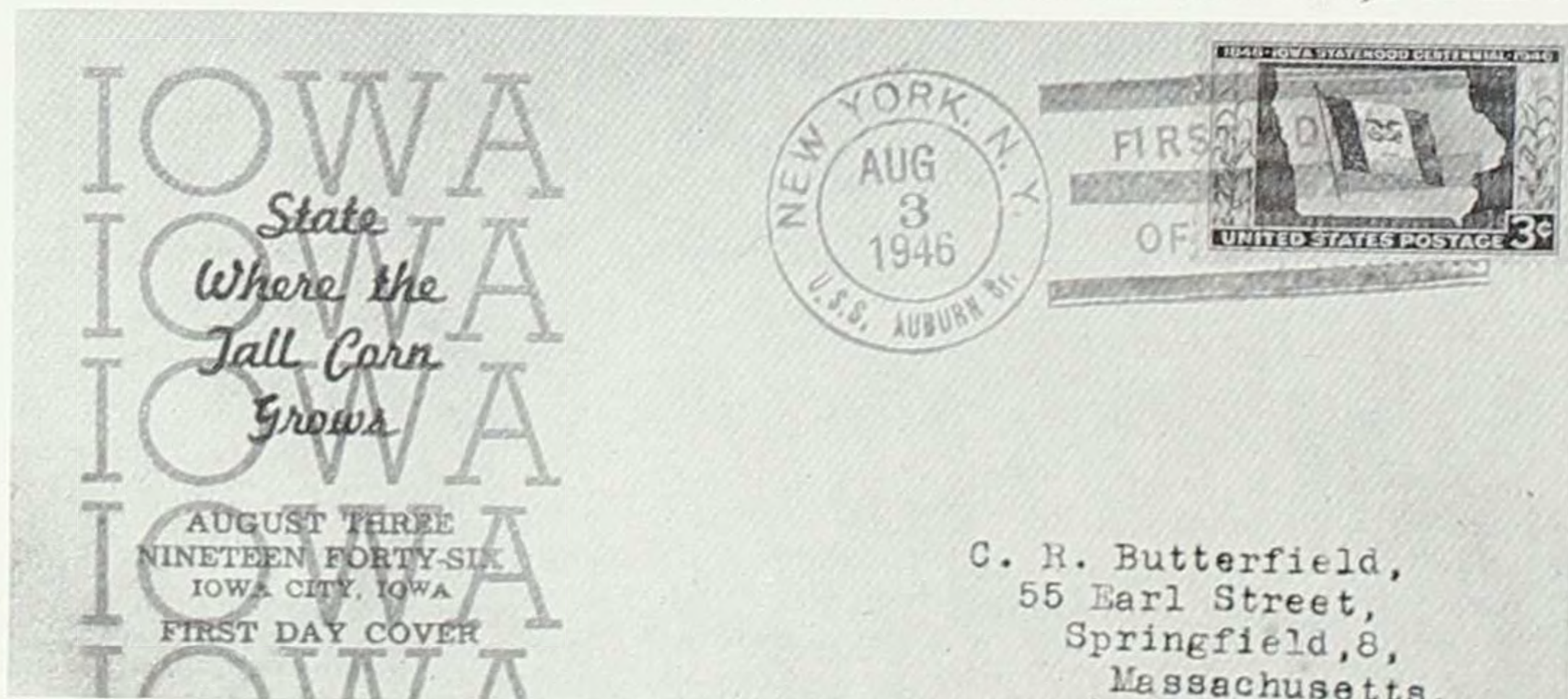
IOWA STATEHOOD COMMEMORATIVE STAMP



Issued to observe the Centennial of the Admission of Iowa into the Union on Dec. 28, 1846.



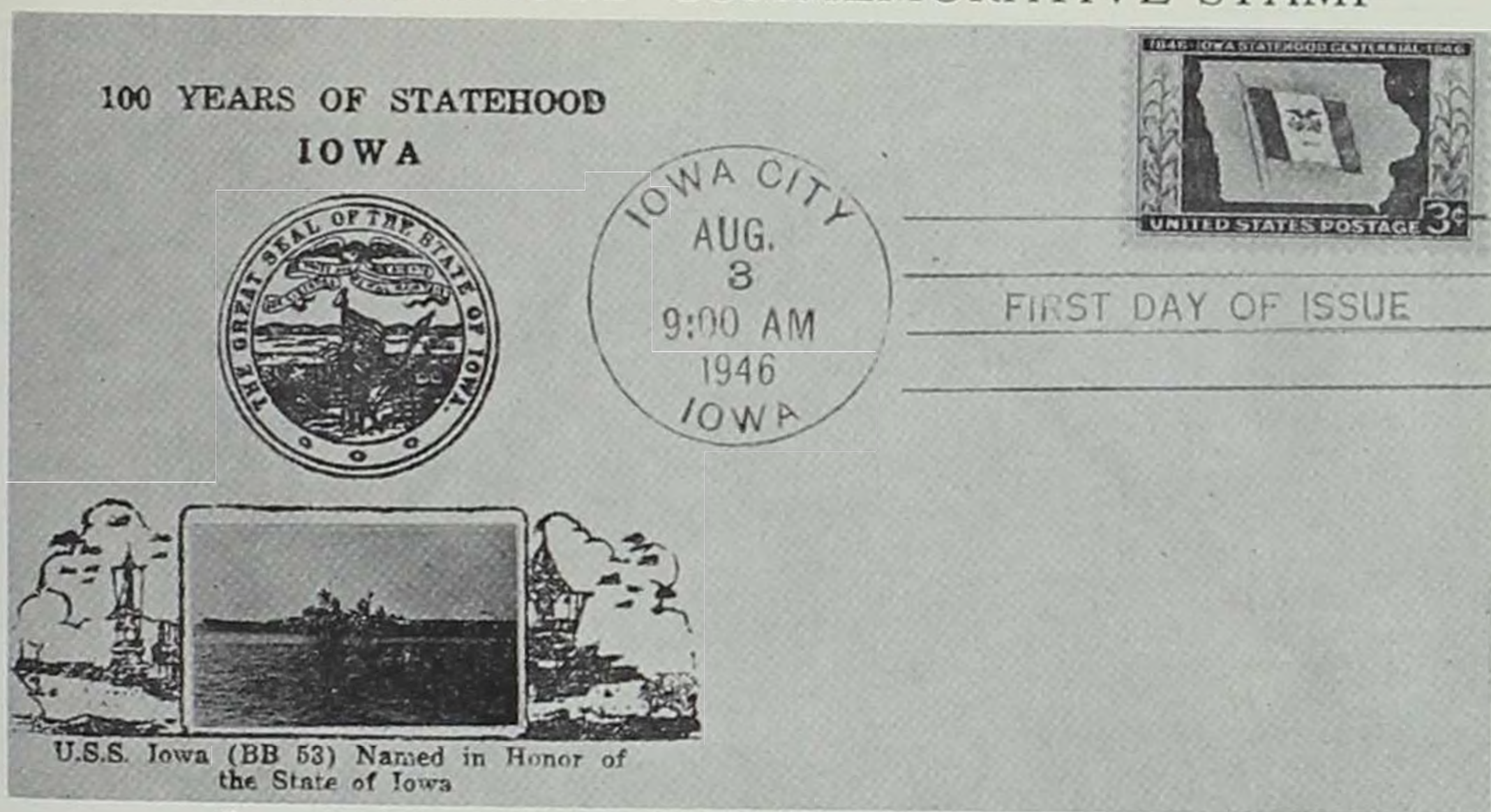
A special personal First Day of Issue using both Territorial and State stamps on the cover.



Illegal mailing from the U.S.S. Auburn on August 3, 1946.

William J. Petersen Collections

IOWA STATEHOOD COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

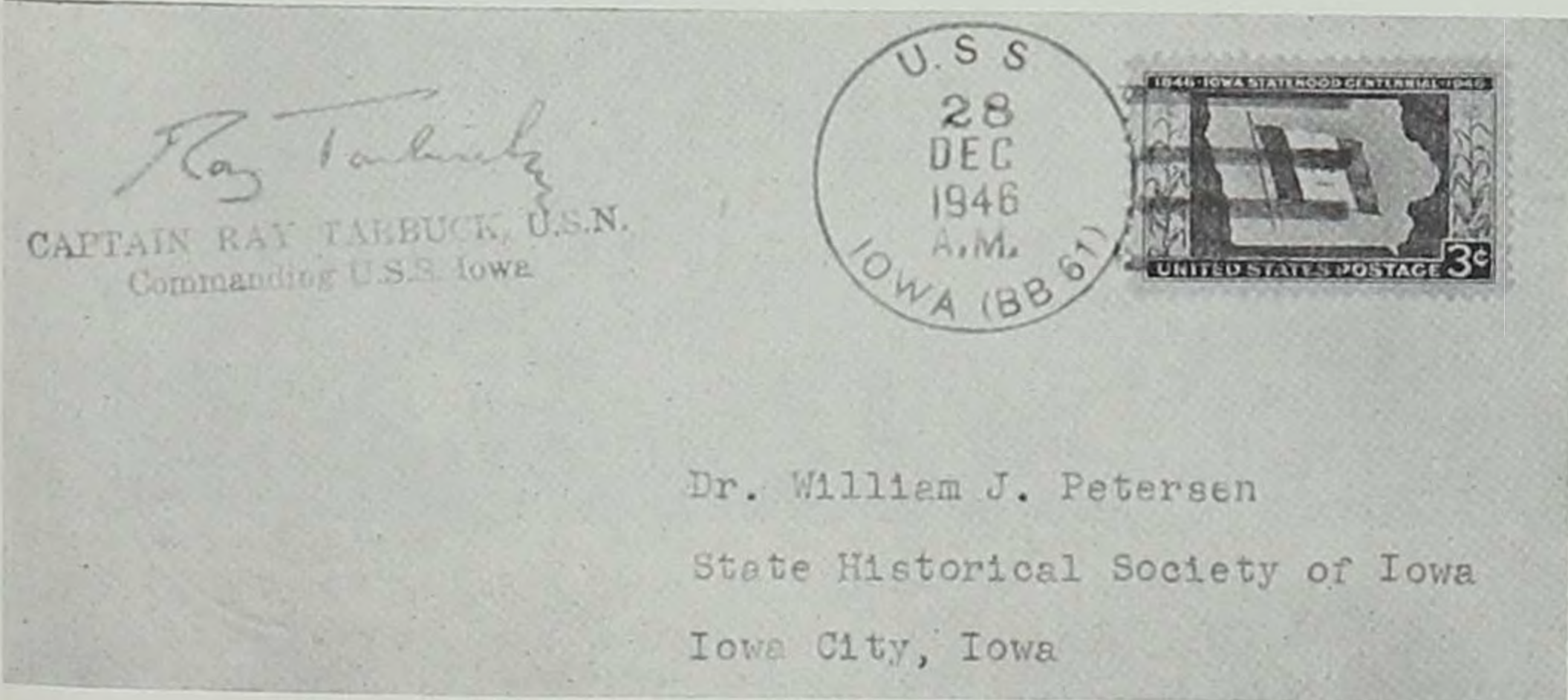


Special cachet honors the battleship *Iowa* on August 3, 1946.



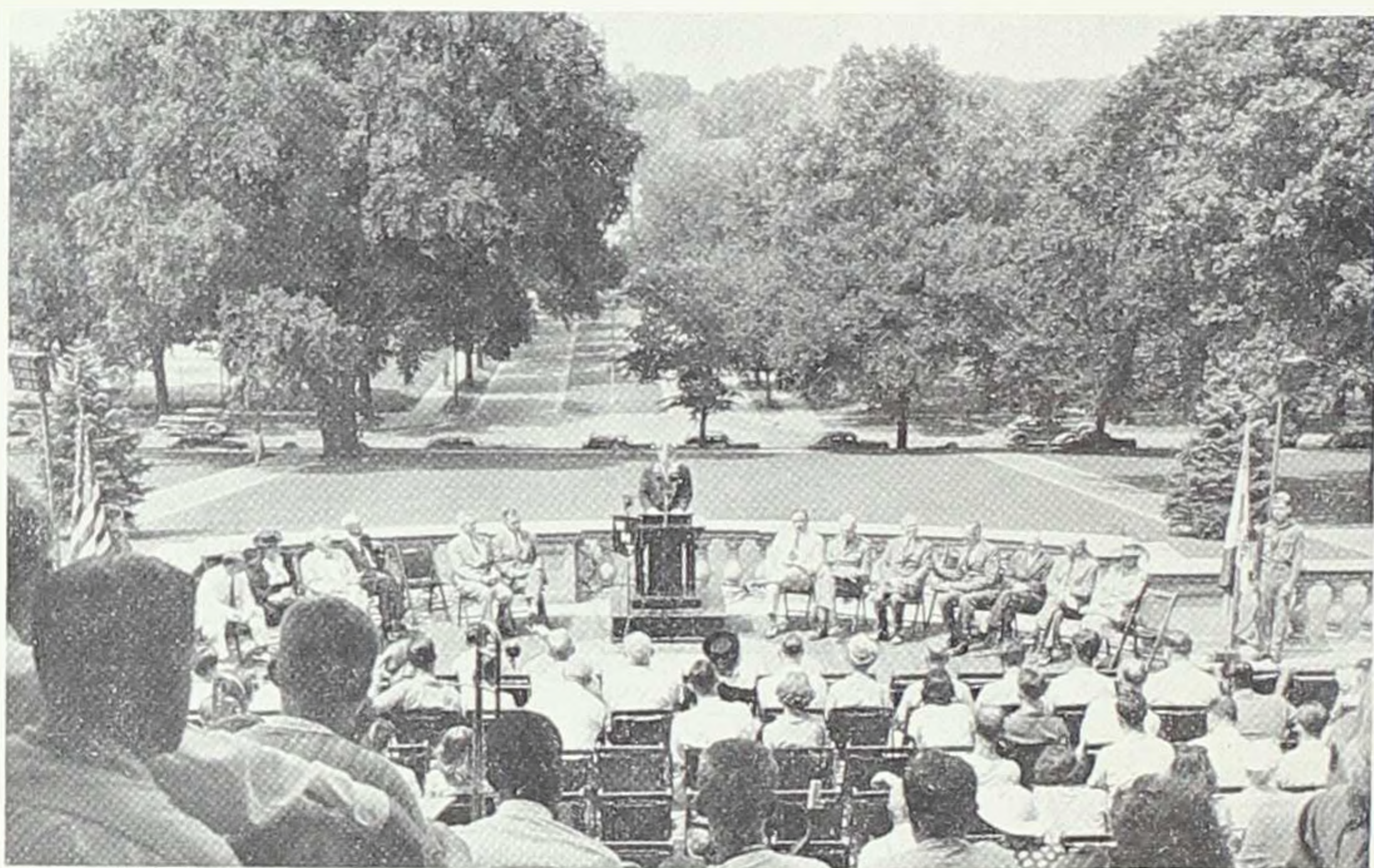
Hawkeye Stamp Co.,
321-322 O R C Bldg.,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The battleship *Iowa* was also honored on this cachet accompanying the Navy Commemorative Stamp of the Armed Forces Series.



William J. Petersen Collections

"Steamboat Bill" saw that history was kept straight by having the Captain of the battleship *Iowa* postmark the Iowa Commemorative Stamp on Dec. 28, 1946.



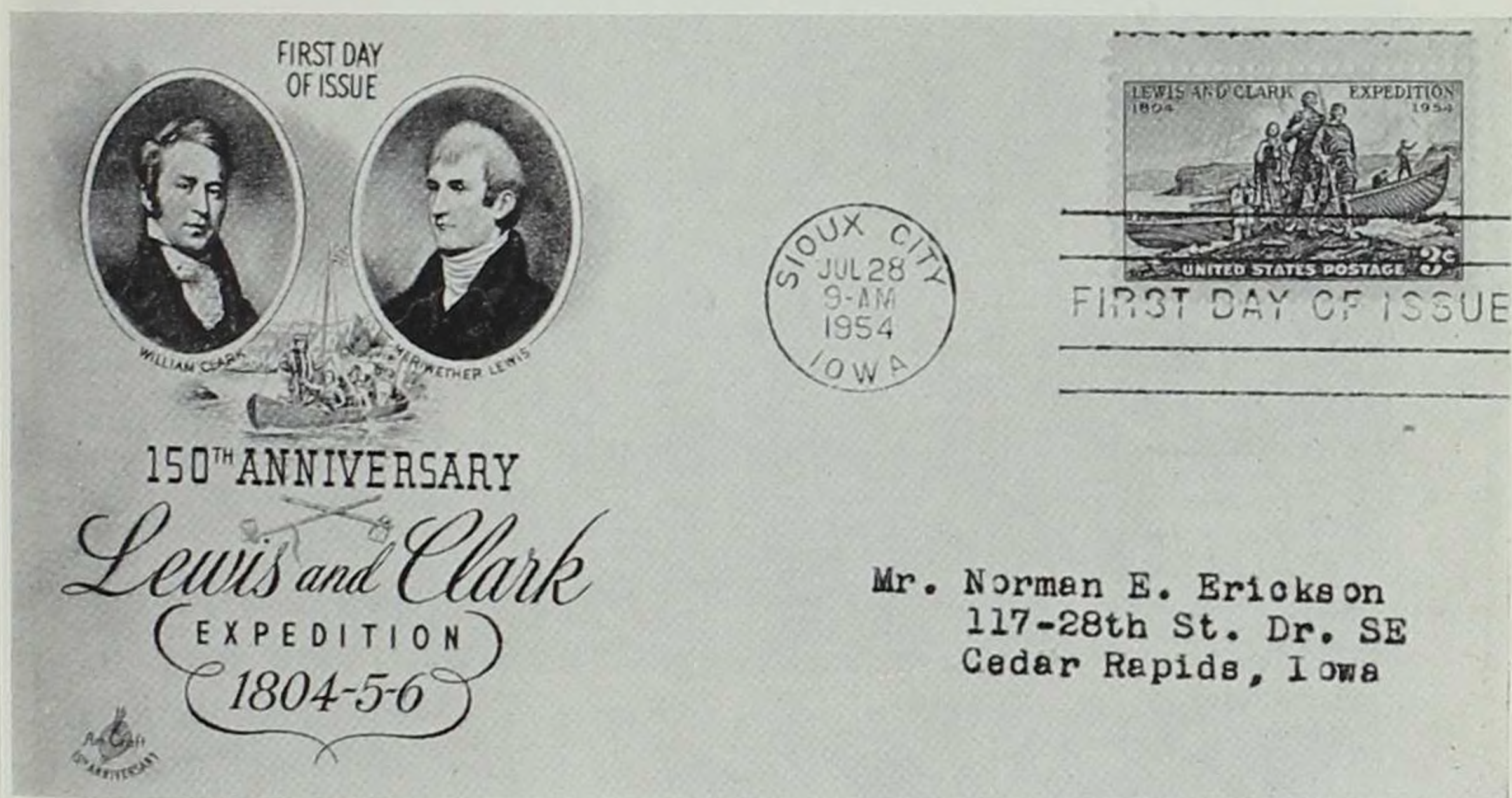
Ceremony on west side of Old Capitol in Iowa City during the First Day of Issue of the Iowa Statehood Commemorative Stamp on August 3, 1946.



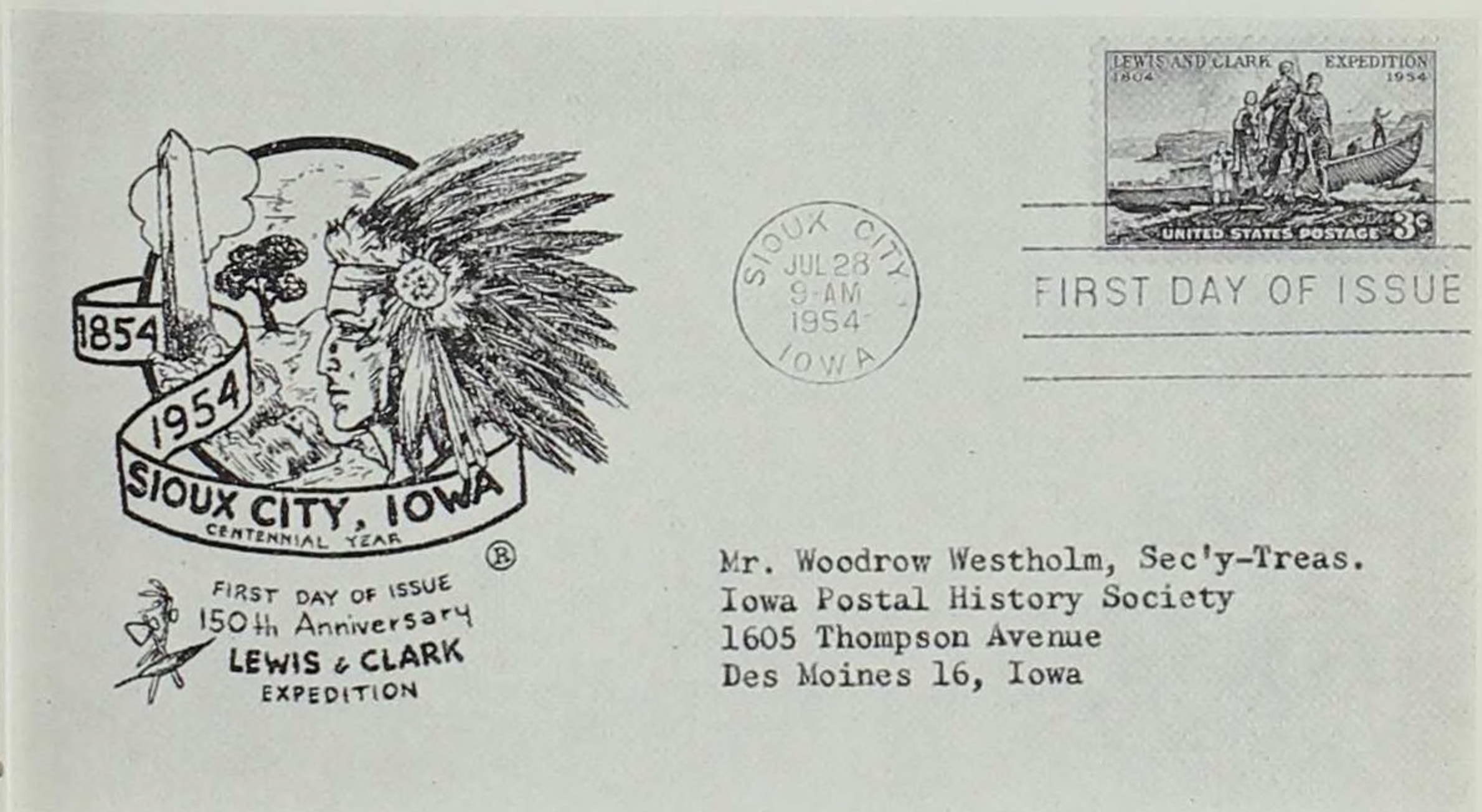
William J. Petersen Collections

Some members of the Iowa State Centennial Committee gathered in front of Old Capitol in Iowa City. Men: left to right: Governor Blue, President Hancher, John Gannaway, William J. Petersen, Ross Burman, Lester Milligan. Women: Mrs. Blue, Mary Humeston, Mrs. F. P. Gernand, Ethyl E. Martin, Mrs. R. R. Roberts, and Mrs. Edith W. McElroy.

LEWIS AND CLARK COMMEMORATIVE STAMP



This special stamp was issued to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri River in 1804. The scene depicts the expedition preparing to go into winter quarters at the Mandan Indian villages above present-day Bismarck, North Dakota, on Oct. 26, 1804.



Woodrow Westholm Collections

The Lewis and Clark expedition reached the southwestern border of Iowa on July 18, 1804, and left our western border on August 20 after burying Sergeant Floyd on the present site of Sioux City. The expedition spent 33 days passing along the western border of Iowa and it required 160 days to travel the 1,600 miles from the mouth of the Missouri to the Mandan villages. At the time of the First Day of Issue the intrepid explorers were about to hold their famous "council" with the Oto and Missouri Indians.

HERBERT HOOVER MEMORIAL STAMP

HONORING
IOWA'S NATIVE SON

Herbert Hoover

31st PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IOWA

Established by law
at Iowa City in 1857.

WEST BRANCH, IA
AUG
10
1965
52358

HERBERT HOOVER
HUMANITARIAN • ENGINEER • PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES POSTAGE 5¢

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Mrs. Bessie Petersen

329 Ellis Avenue

Iowa City, Iowa

31st PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES
HERBERT HOOVER
1874 - 1964

BORN IN WEST BRANCH, IOWA, AUGUST 10, 1874. GRADUATED FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN 1895, SPECIALIZING IN MINING ENGINEERING. HE PRACTICED IN AUSTRALIA, CHINA, AND LONDON AND AMASSED A FORTUNE. HE BECAME FAMOUS DURING WORLD WAR I AS FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE AMERICAN RELIEF COMMITTEE. ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1928. HE RETIRED TO PALO ALTO BUT CONTINUED ACTIVE IN REPUBLICAN PARTY AFFAIRS UNTIL HIS DEATH.

BIRTHPLACE OF
HERBERT HOOVER
WEST BRANCH, IOWA

THE AGITATORS

WEST BRANCH, IA
AUG
10
1965
52358

HERBERT HOOVER
HUMANITARIAN • ENGINEER • PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES POSTAGE 5¢

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Herbert
Clark
Hoover*

31st PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES
1929 - 1933

BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY 1874-1965

BIRTHPLACE
WEST BRANCH, IOWA

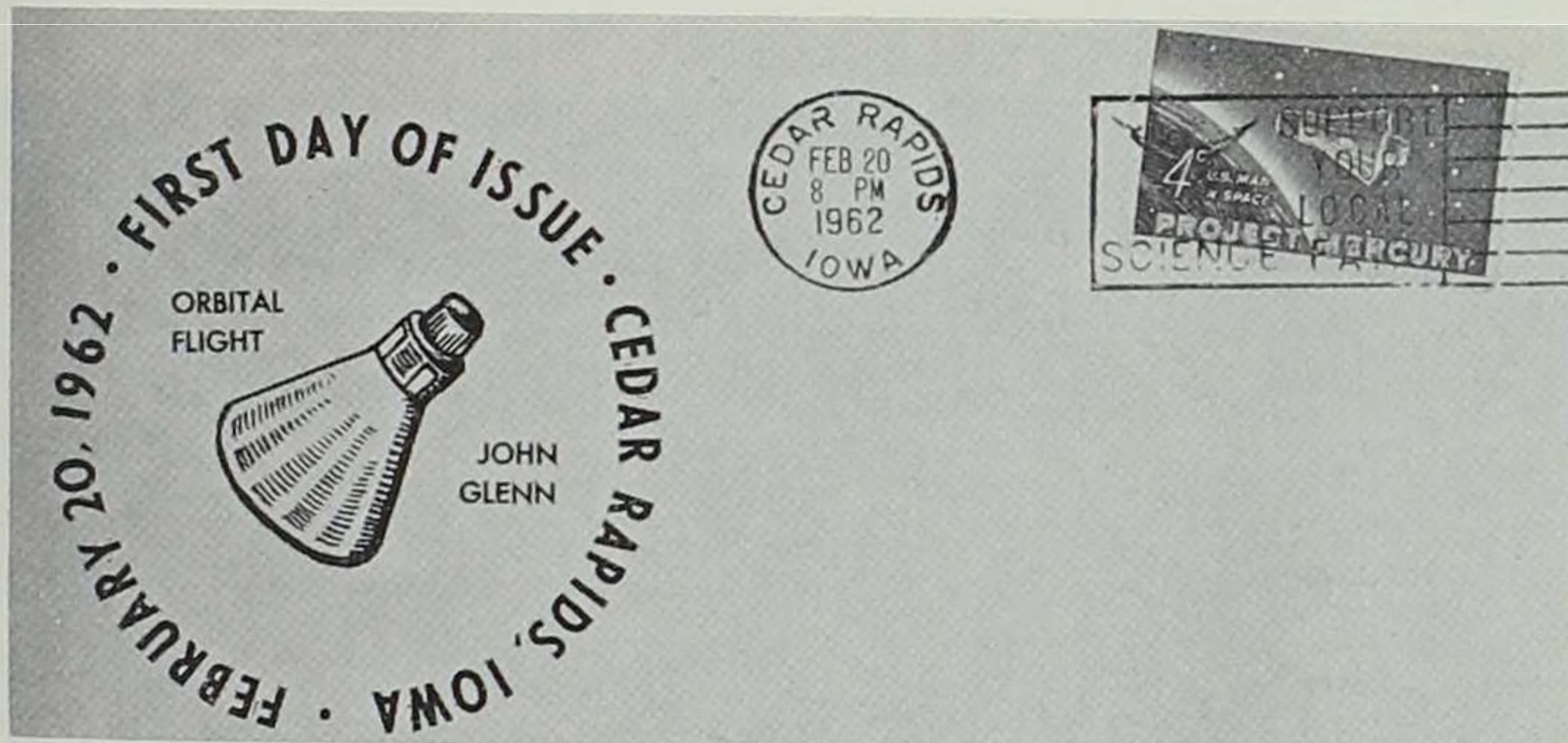
First Day of Issue

WEST BRANCH, IA
AUG
10
1965
52358

HERBERT HOOVER
HUMANITARIAN • ENGINEER • PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES POSTAGE 5¢

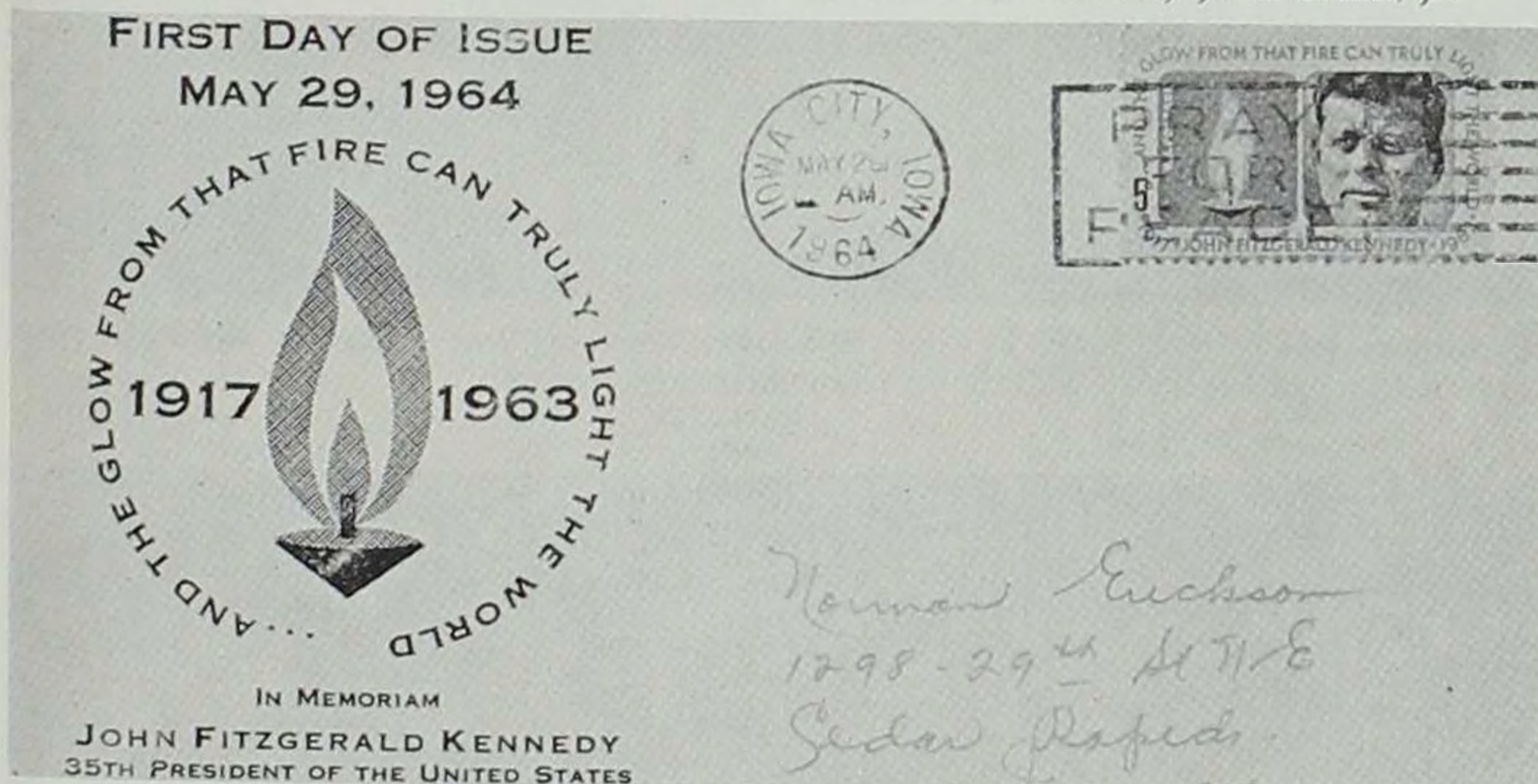
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

TWO RECORD-BREAKING FIRST DAY ISSUE STAMPS



William J. Petersen Collections

Project Mercury signaled the successful orbit of the earth by John Glenn, Jr.



Norman E. Erickson Collections

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Stamp was placed on sale in all post offices.



The West Branch Post Office was busy on August 10, 1965.

TWO NOTABLE STAMP COLLECTORS



Iowa-born movie star John Wayne is shown with his son admiring the new First Day of Issue of the Iowa Statehood Commemorative Stamp.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt was an avid stamp collector who owned one of the largest and most valuable stamp collections in the United States.

were sold at the Fair and in Des Moines on August 24. Among the notables who received one or more of the 209,860 First Day Covers (envelopes bearing the postmark of the office awarded the first day of sale) were President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Harold Ickes, Shirley Temple, Adolphe Menjou, and Mary Pickford.

TERRITORIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Anniver- sary</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>First Day Covers</i>
Northwest	150	Marietta	7-15-1938	180,170
Iowa	100	Des Moines	8-24-1938	209,860
Mississippi	150	Natchez	4-7-1948	434,804
Oregon	100	Oregon City	8-14-1948	365,898
Minnesota	100	St. Paul	3-3-1949	458,750
Indiana	150	Vincennes	7-4-1950	359,643
Washington	100	Olympia	3-2-1953	334,047
Nebraska	100	Nebraska City	5-7-1954	401,015
Kansas	100	Ft. Leavenworth	5-31-1954	349,145