

Daniel Shifrin Pharmacy Stamp First Day Cover Collection

The U.S. pharmacy stamp was introduced on November 10, 1972. The 8-cent stamp bears the word “PHARMACY” against a black background. The stamp also contains a yellow mortar and pestle and two medication bottles. The stamp honors the men and women in the pharmacy profession.

On the day a new U.S. postage stamp is first introduced, it is the practice of the U.S. Post Office to hold a ceremony at a location with some tie to the stamp. The pharmacy stamp was introduced in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the American Pharmaceutical Association (now known as the American Pharmacists Association) was then holding its annual meeting.

In stamp collecting parlance, a “first day cover” (FDC) refers to postal card or envelope bearing a stamp postmarked on the day of its issuance. Sometimes the postal card or envelope used for the first day cover may contain a printed design or inscription – called a ‘cachet’ (pronounced “ka-chay”) – related in some way to the new stamp. These cachets may be designed and produced by specialized design firms for organizations, businesses, or individuals with a particular interest in the commemorative stamp. Such “cacheted FDCs” are highly collectible.

An extensive collection of cacheted FDCs for the 1972 pharmacy stamp has been compiled by pharmacist Daniel Shifrin. His collection began with encouragement and advice from George Griffenhagen, a noted historian of pharmacy and a longtime AIHP member who died in 2019. Mr. Griffenhagen, an avid pharmacy philatelist, wrote the captions describing the cachets in Mr. Shifrin’s collection

AIHP thanks Mr. Shifrin for sharing his collection with the Institute and allowing us to exhibit it in our digital library.



A **first day cover (FDC)** is an envelope or post card bearing a stamp, which is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities.

This slide identifies the components of an FDC. An FDC with the pharmacy stamp (A) is shown above with a Cincinnati, Ohio, "First Day of Issue" cancellation (B). The location of the stamp's issuance is the only place where the "First Day of Issue" cancellation is used.

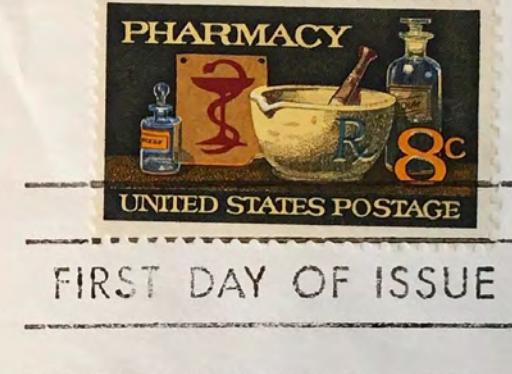
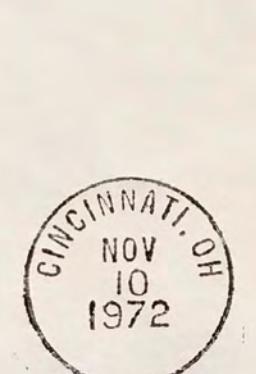
The FDC **cachet** (C) is a design or inscription related to the subject matter of the stamp.



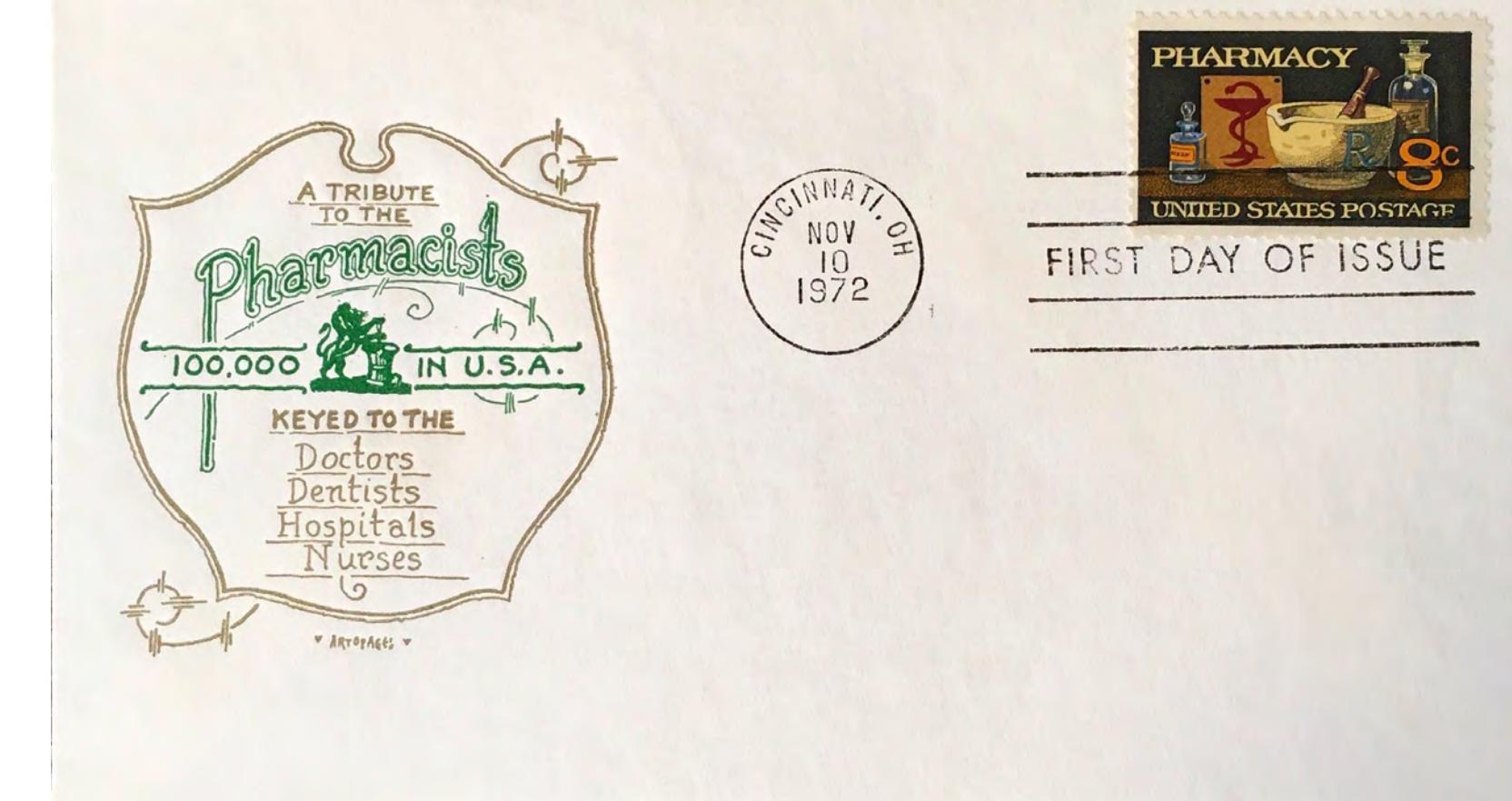
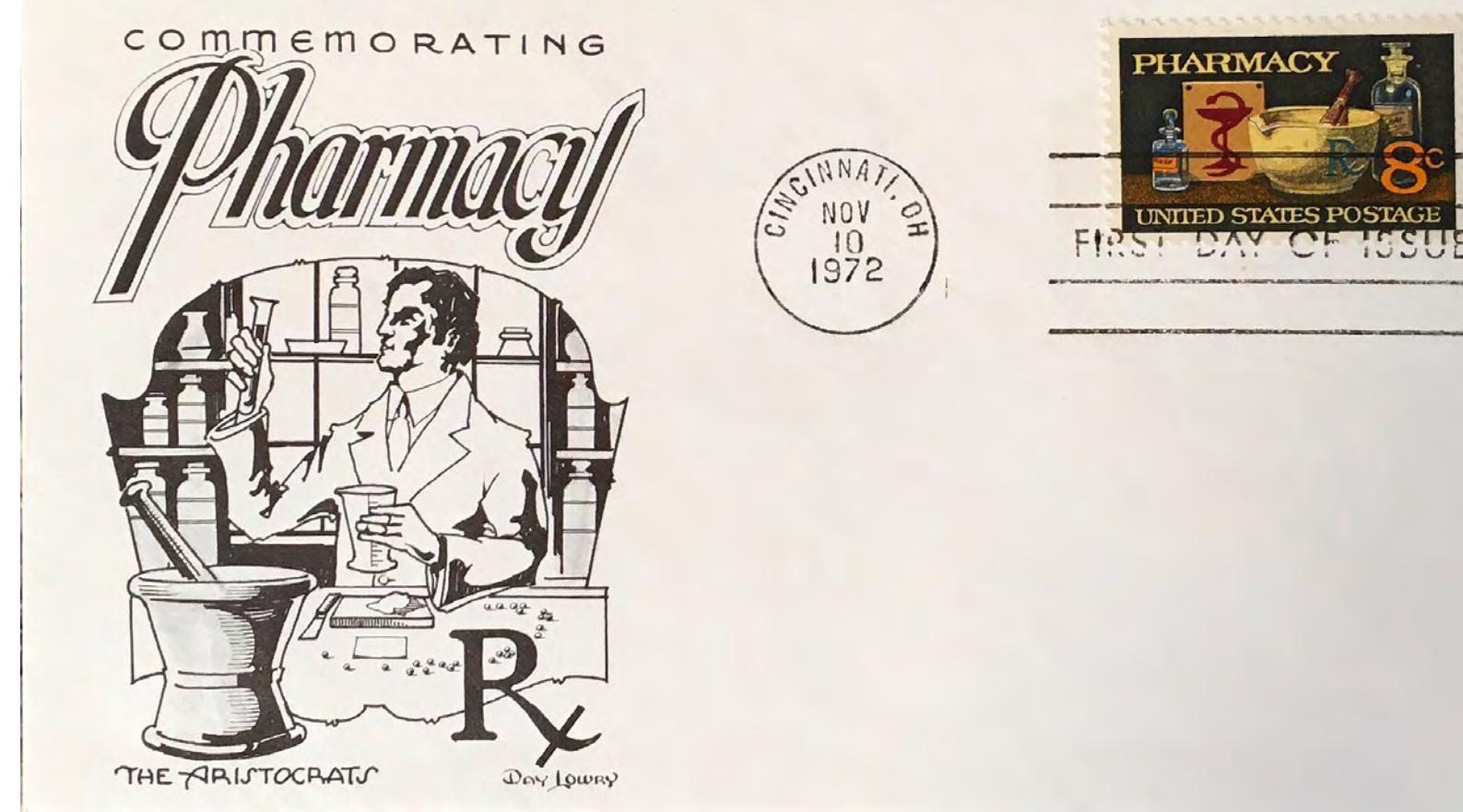
PHARMACY STAMP

WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE PHARMACY STAMP THE PHARMACISTS OF UNITED STATES JOIN THE DOCTORS, DENTISTS, NURSES AND HOSPITALS AS "PARTNERS IN HEALTH" WHO HAVE BEEN HONORED BY POSTAL TRIBUTES. THE PHARMACY STAMP WAS ISSUED IN HONOR OF THE NATION'S 100,000 PHARMACISTS AND THEIR DEVOTED AND CONSCIENTIOUS SERVICE.

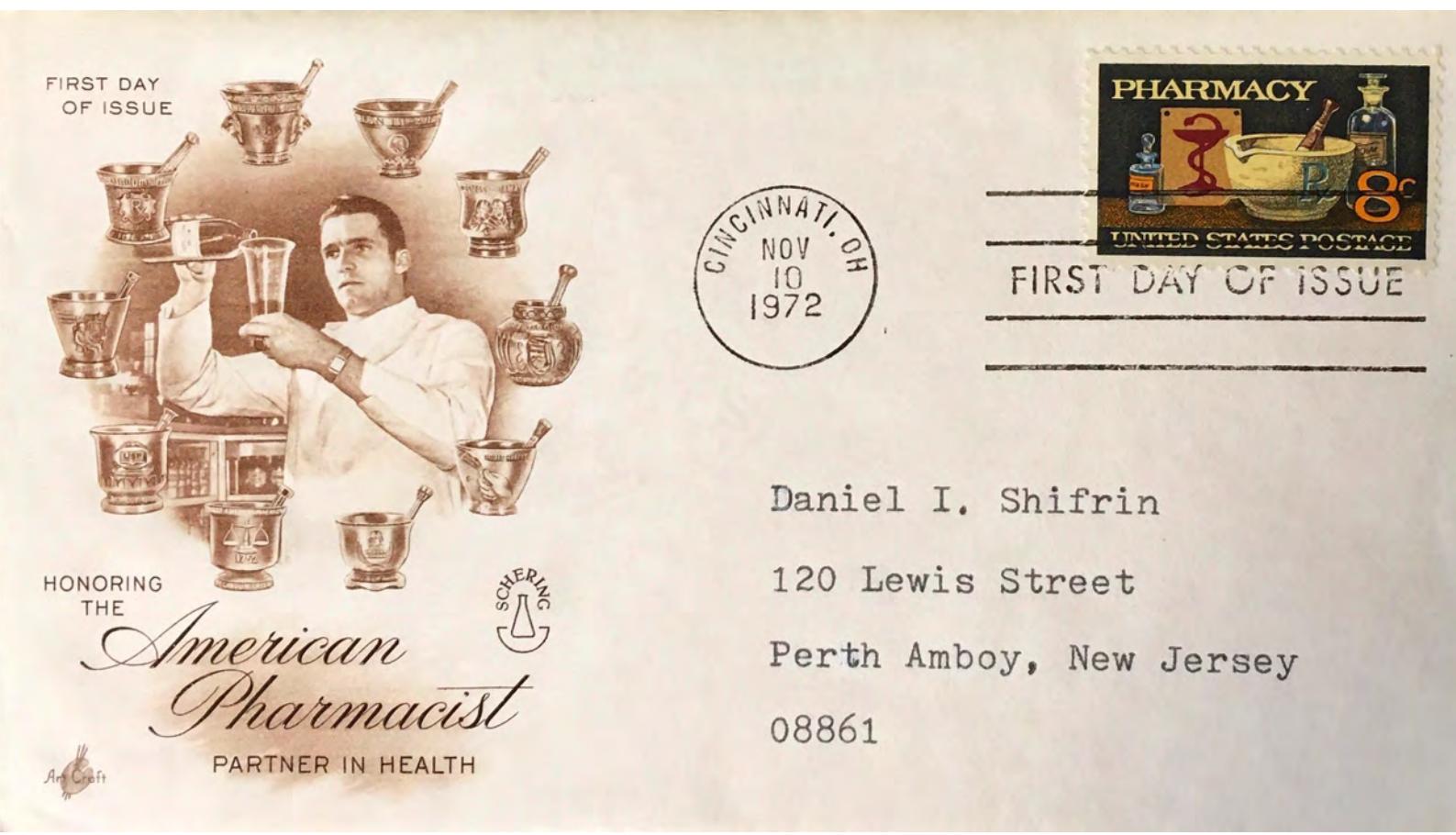
C. STEPHEN ANDERSON



Anderson Historical First Day Covers
with cachet printed in both black and purple by pioneer designer C. Stephen Anderson.



Artoptages, operated by Jim Novotny of Bowling Green, OH, featured the cachets of pioneer designer Alton A. Weigel.



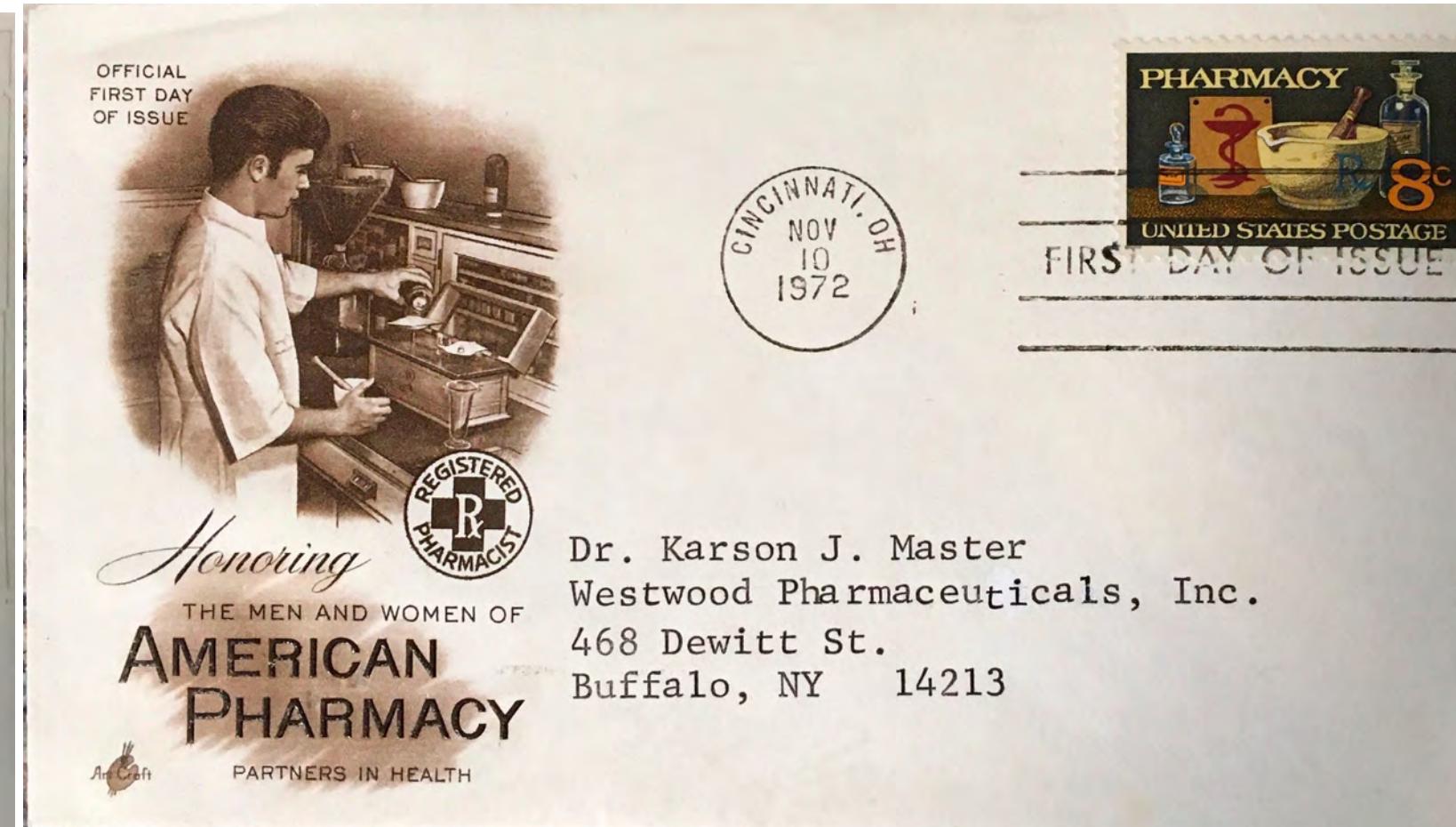
Artmaster, with C.A. Zoeller of Louisville KY at the helm, produced quality FDCs, including this black cachet.

Schering Corp. created its own cachet, which was printed in sepia by Artcraft. Schering used the same illustration on a large souvenir plaque.

Ortho Pharmaceutical Corp. created this orange and black cachet for their FDC.



Arcraft, Washington Press (Maplewood, NJ), founded by Leo August with his brother, pharmacist Samuel August, produced this cachet.



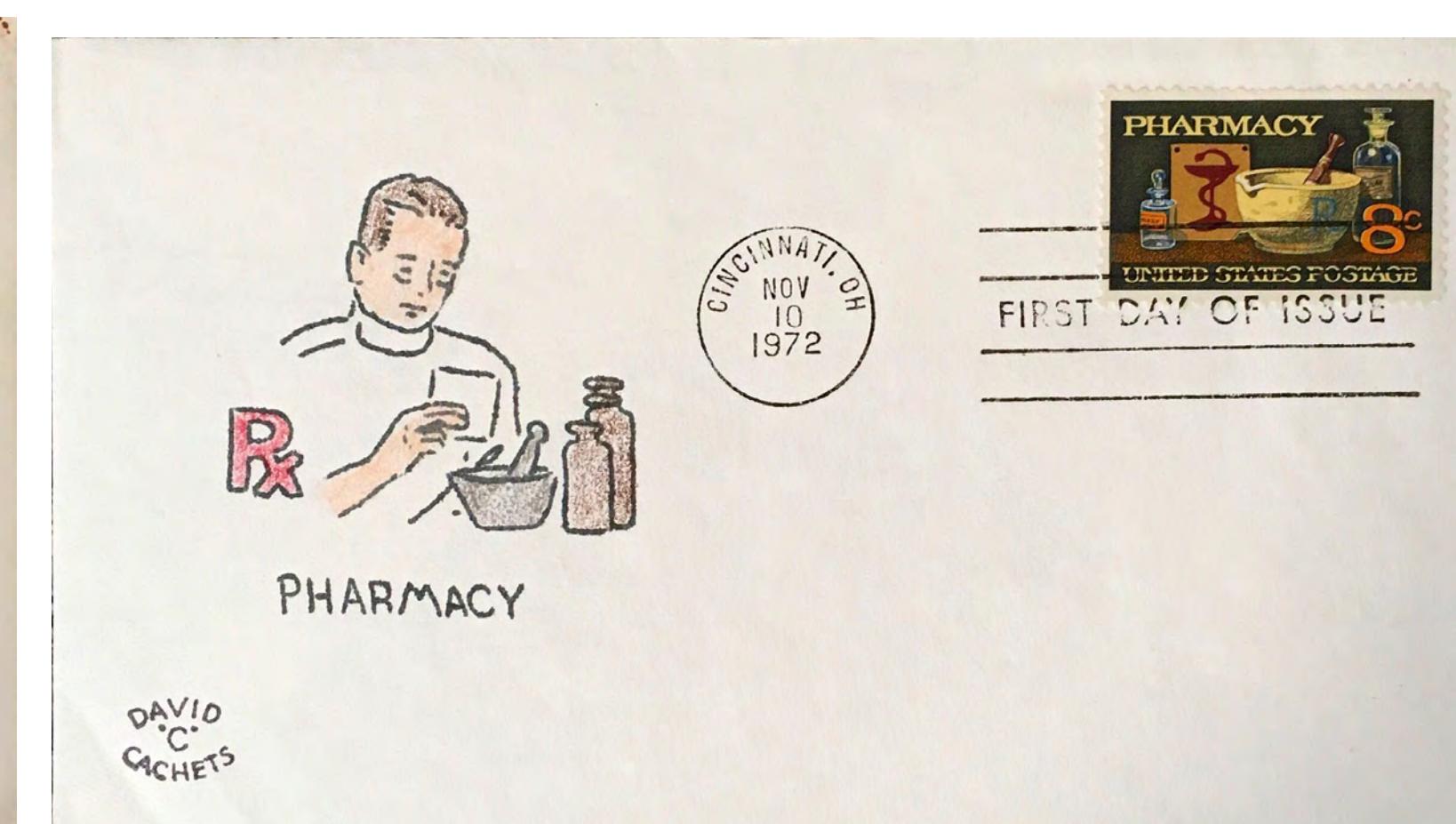
Dr. Karson J. Master
Westwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
468 Dewitt St.
Buffalo, NY 14213



Drug Topics adapted the Arcraft cachet printed in blue for its FDC of the pharmacy stamp.



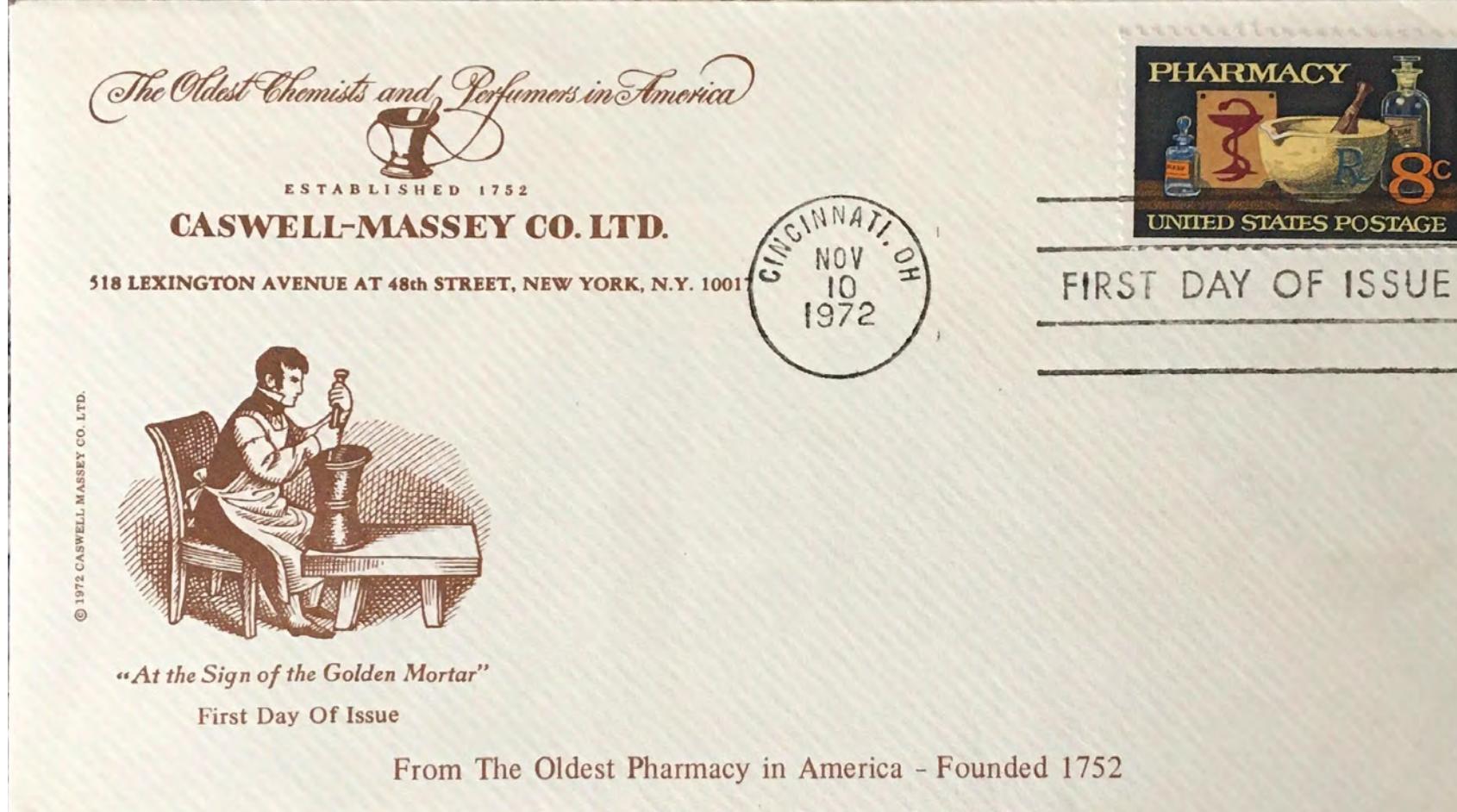
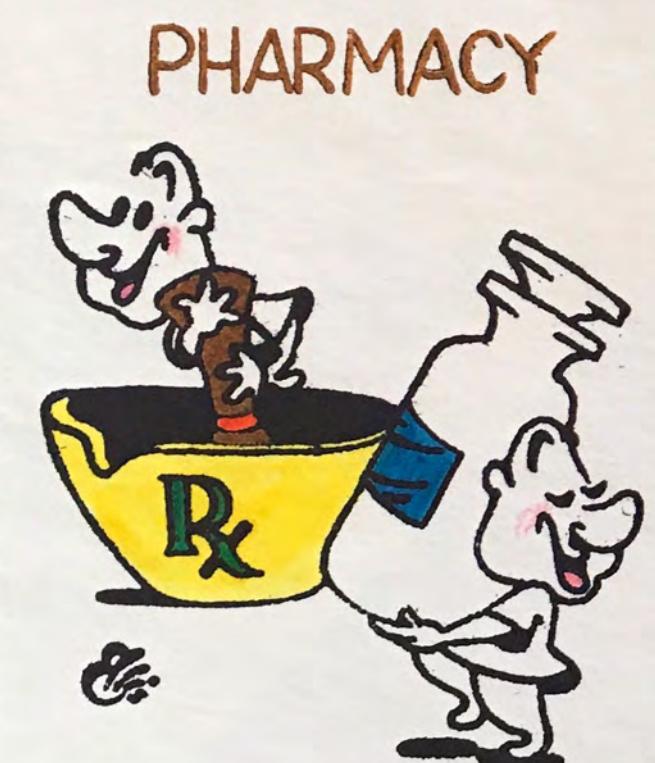
Pharmacy Times had Stevan Dohanos create a special cachet entitled "Pharmacy Memorabilia." Insert signed by Irving Rubin, Editor.



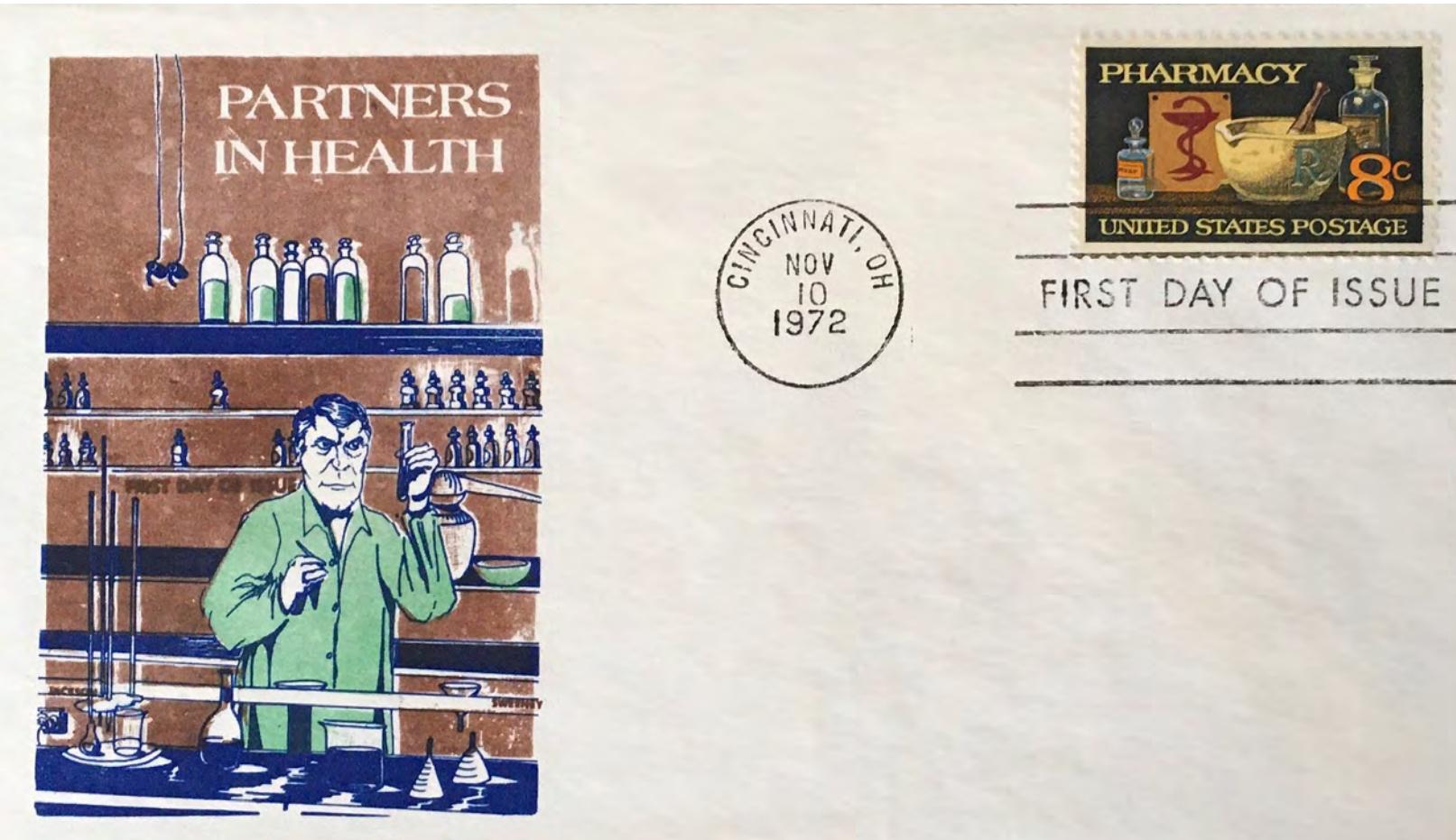
David "C" Cachets offered an alternate printed cachet which was hand colored by David Pritchard, Jr.



David "C" Cachets, operated by David Pritchard, Jr., of Thomas, KY, selected the pharmacy coat of arms as the black printed cachet.



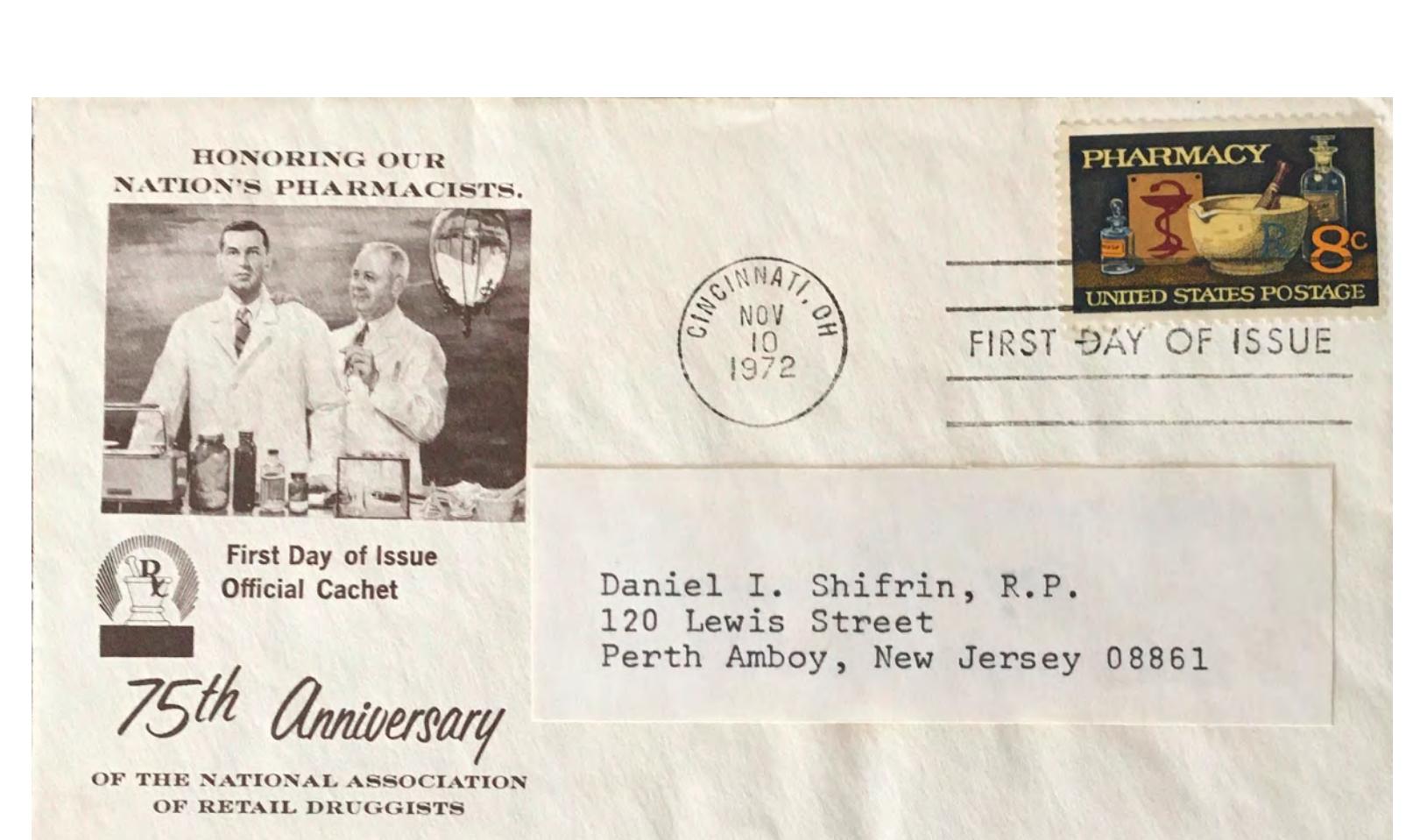
Ellis Animated Covers offered a humorous approach with a multicolor cachet by Richard Ellis of Mountain Terrace, WA



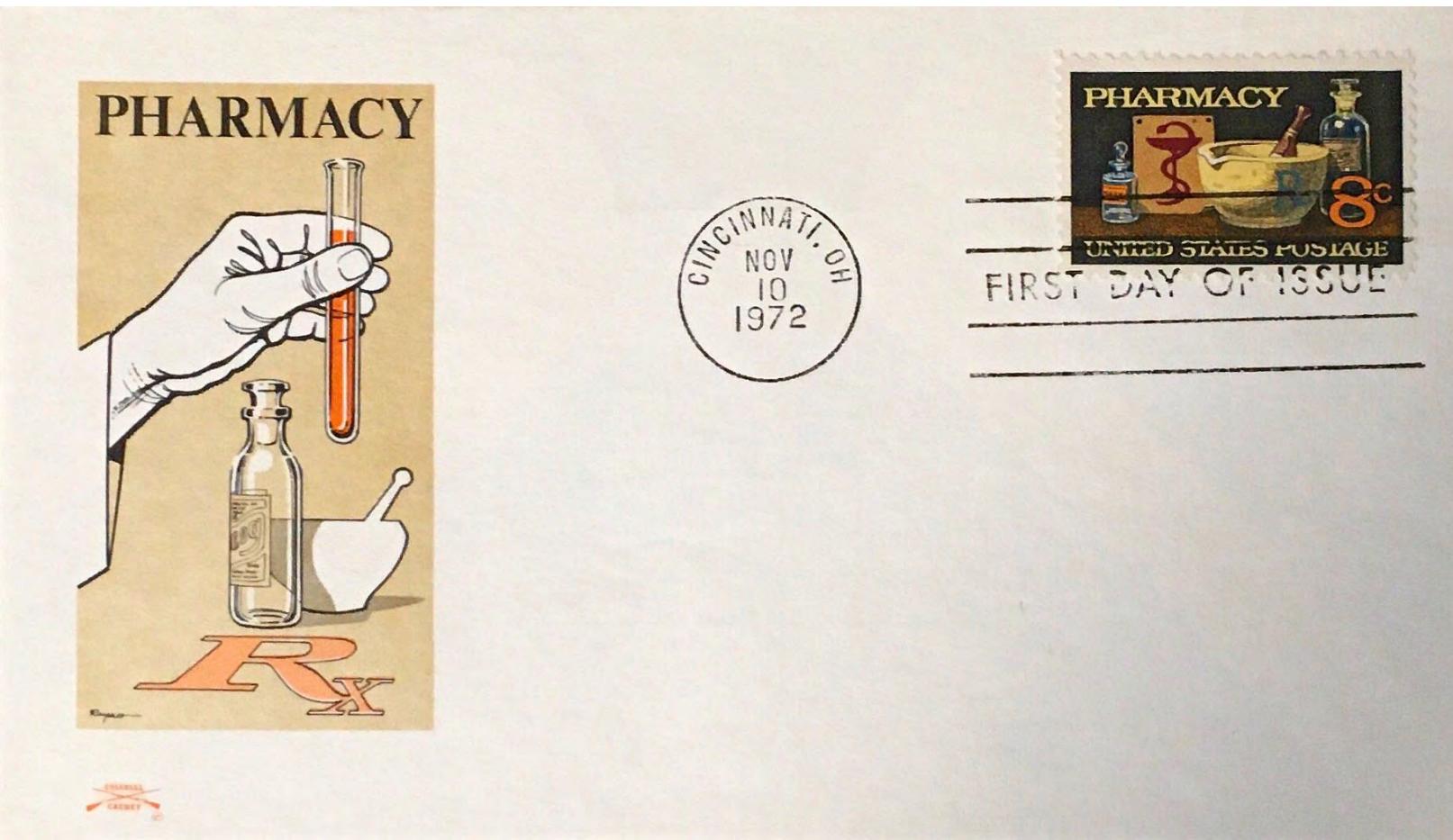
Jackson Cover Service of Plainfield, NJ, provided this brown, green, and blue cachet inscribed Jackson Sweeney First Day Of Issue.



The National Association of Chain Store Drug Stores prepared this black and tan cachet "Honoring Pharmacy".



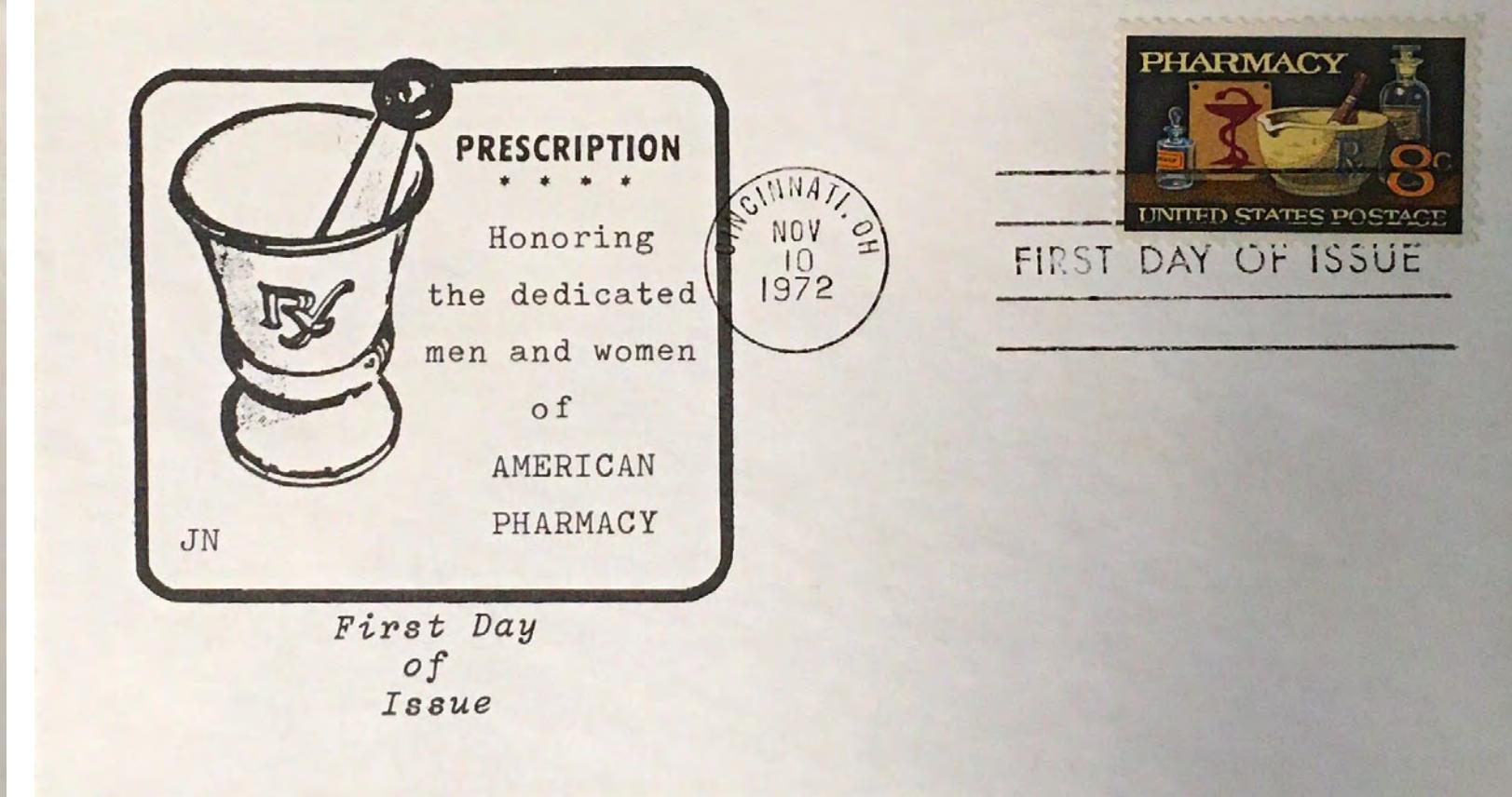
National Association of Retail Druggists developed this brown cachet from Parke-Davis.



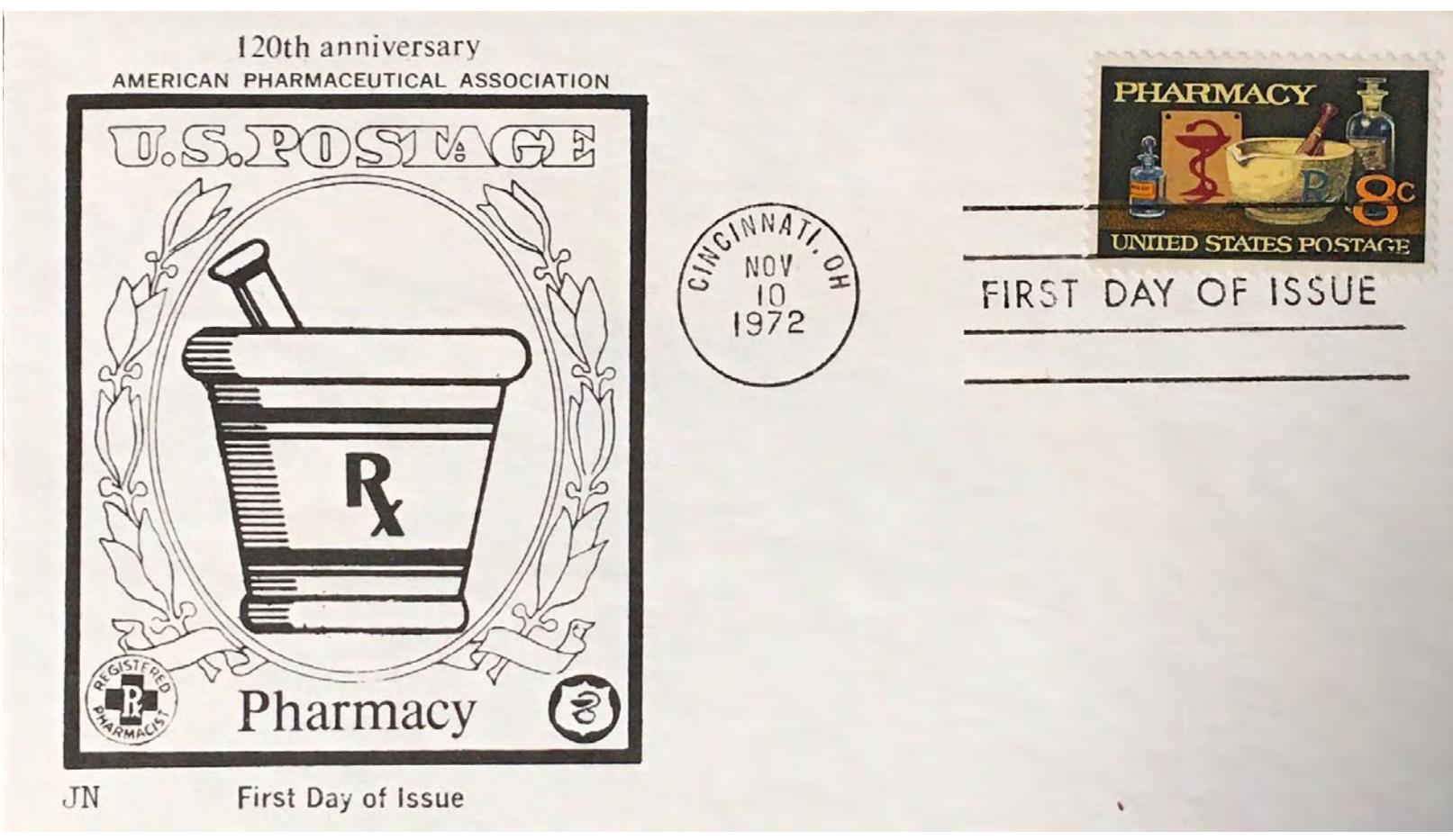
Colonial Cachet by Robert F. Rinse of Warren, MI created this black, tan, and orange cachet.



The Hamilton County Pharmaceutical Association, Cincinnati OH, issued this black cachet designed by E. Inman. It credits William Davies as opening the first American pharmacy in Boston.



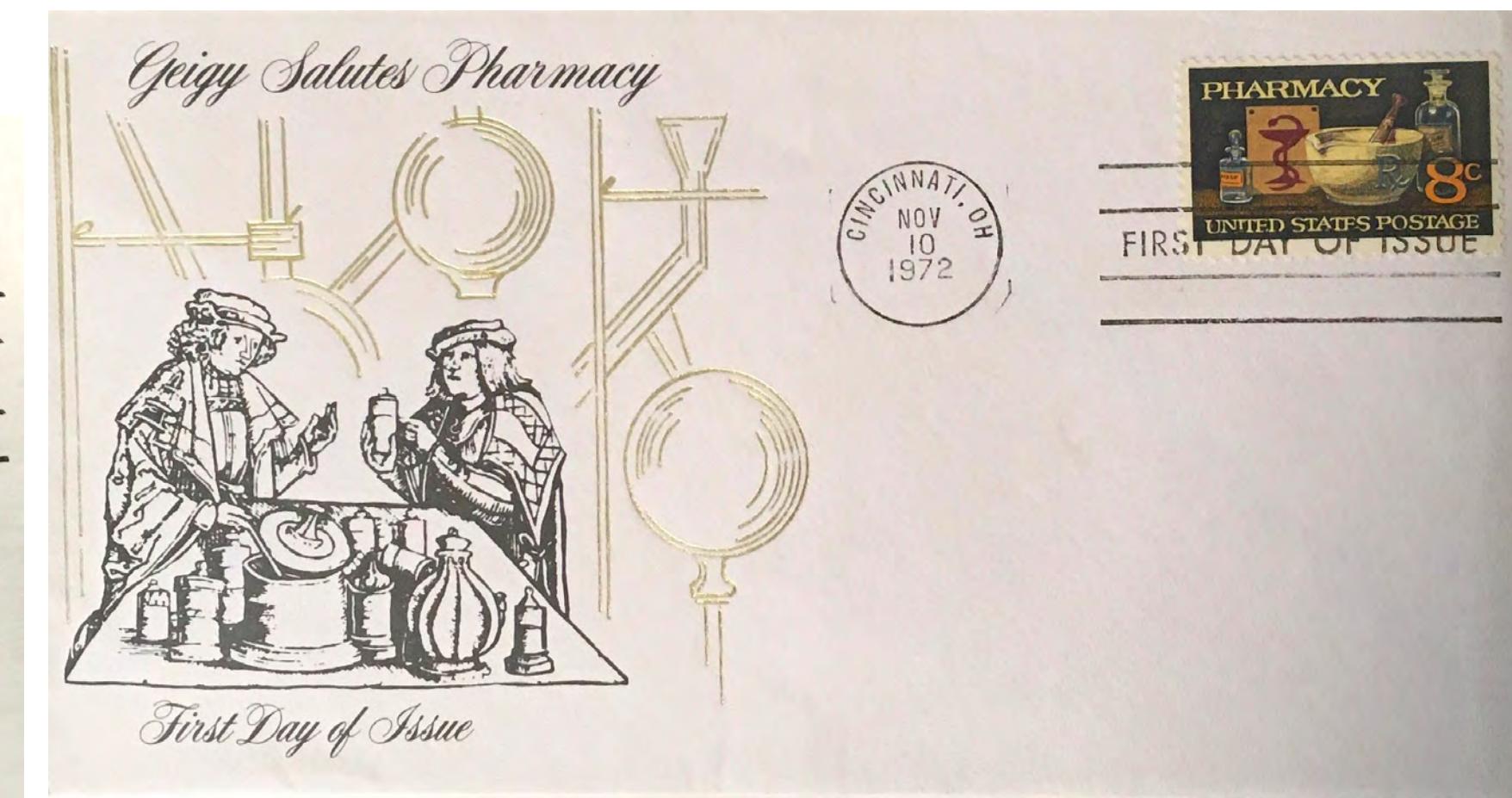
JN Cachets, operated by Charles E. Nicklin of Muncie, IN, promoted this black cachet via the American Pharmaceutical Association Journal.



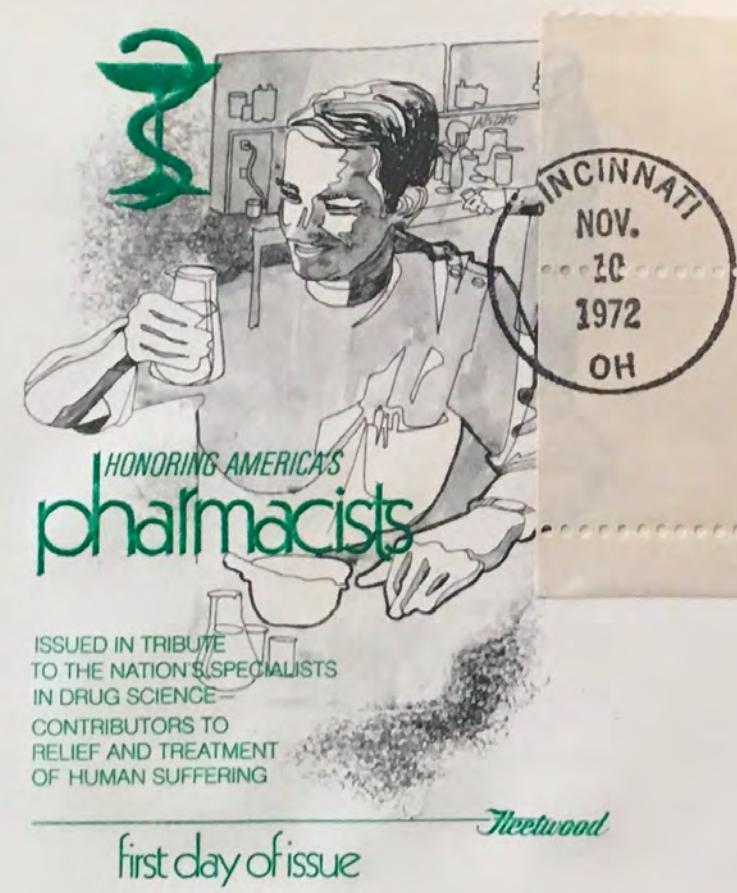
JN Cachets added a second black cachet recognizing the 120th anniversary of the American Pharmaceutical Association.



JN Cachets offered a third black cachet with the APhA logo.



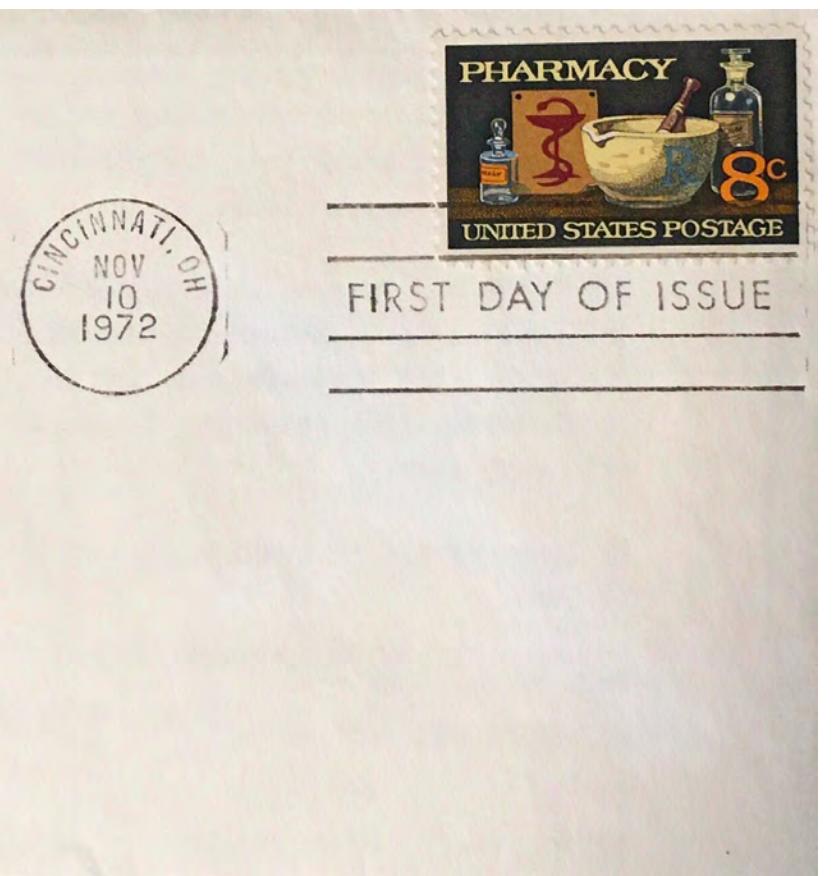
Geigy Pharmaceuticals used this black and gold cachet for its FDC with insert signed by Jack Shotsberger, VP, Marketing.



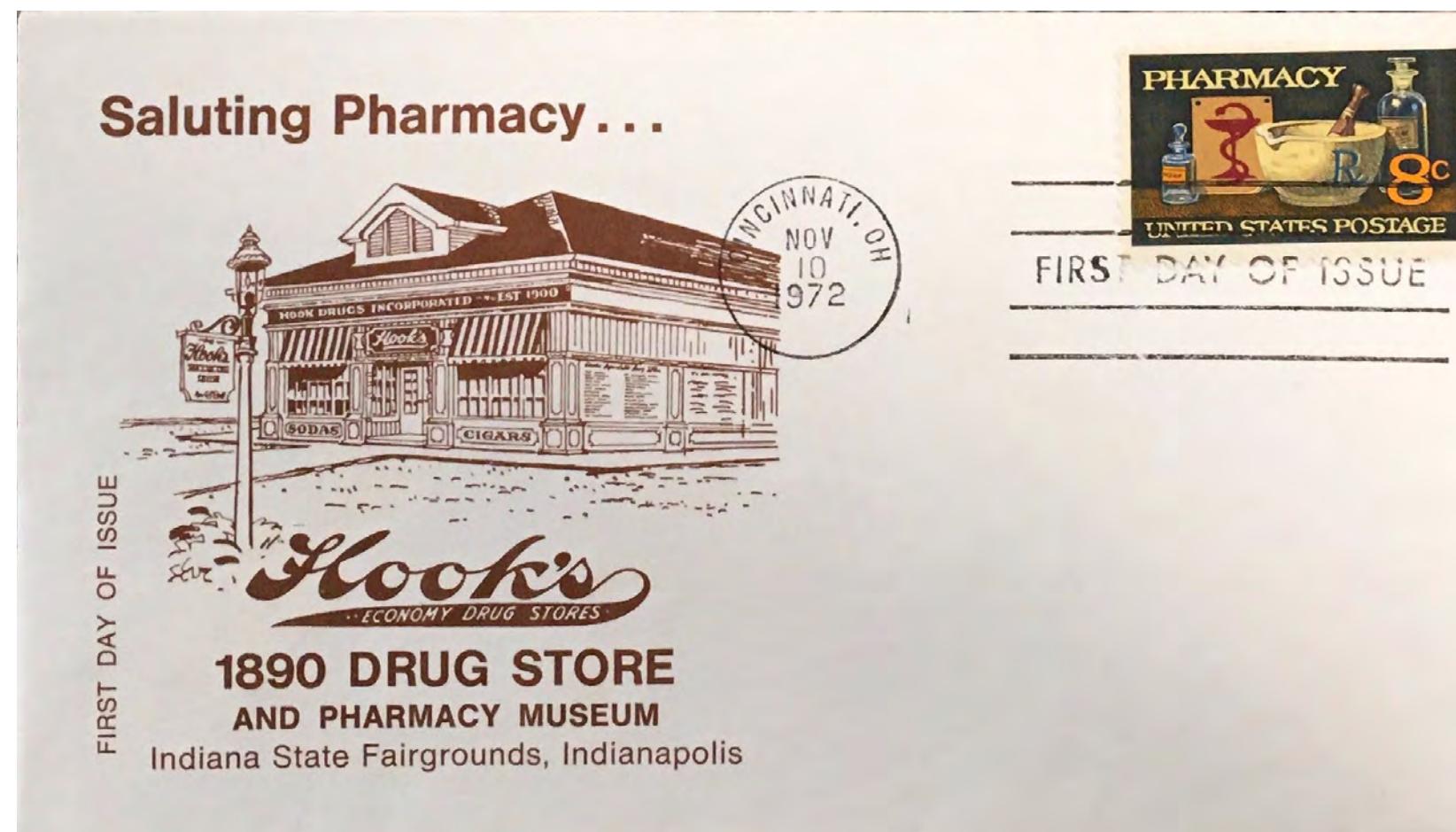
first day of issue

Fleetwood

Fleetwood of Cheyenne, WY, produced this engraved black and green cover. The same cover was also made with a silver or bronze medallion.



Bazaar Cachets, launched by Herb Benjamin of West Newton, MA, produced this black, sepia, and orange cachet.



Eli Lilly and Company used this black, burnt orange, and blue cachet to honor the profession of pharmacy.

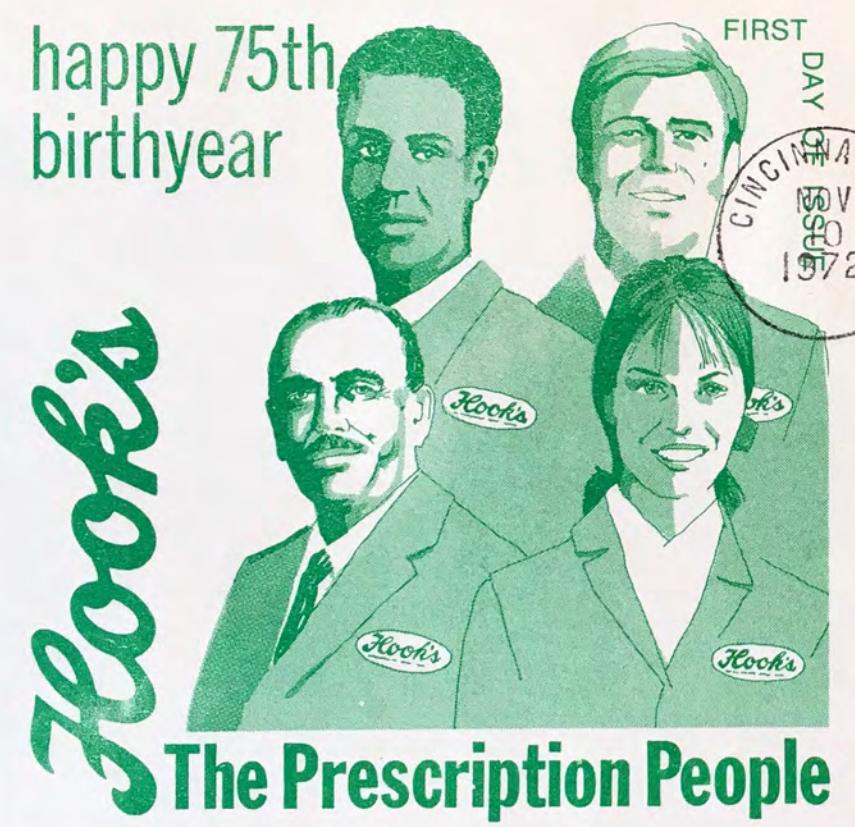
Hook's 1890 Drug Store and Pharmacy Museum is featured on this brown cachet "Saluting Pharmacy." The museum is located on the Indiana State Fairgrounds.



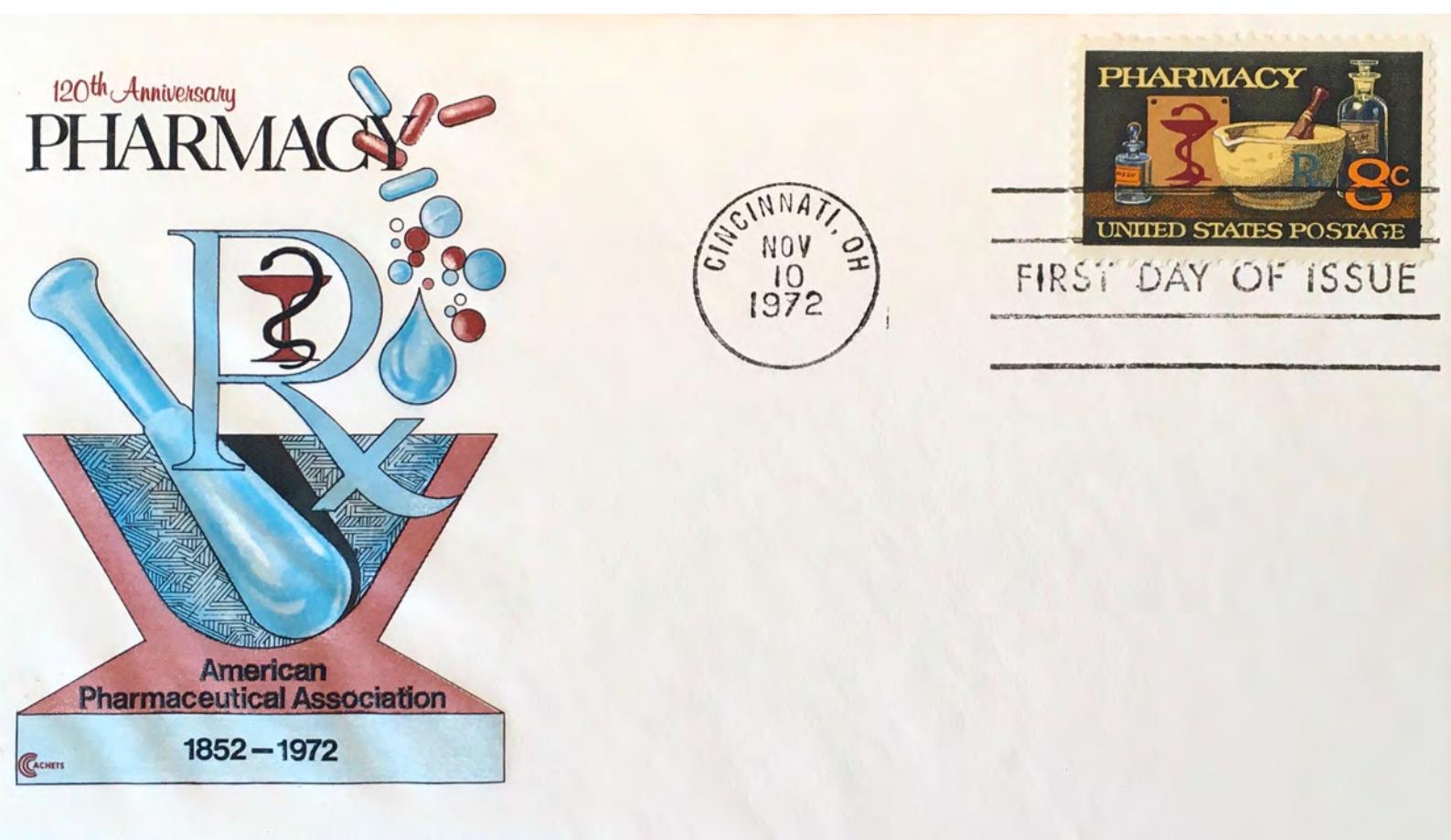
House of Farnham is America's oldest steel die engraved FDC producer. This red and blue cachet was designed by Ralph Zimmerman.



Hook's Drug Stores of Indianapolis, IN, issued a brown cachet which records the company's first pharmacy, founded in 1900.



Hook's Drug Stores added this green cachet recognizing the chain's 75th anniversary.



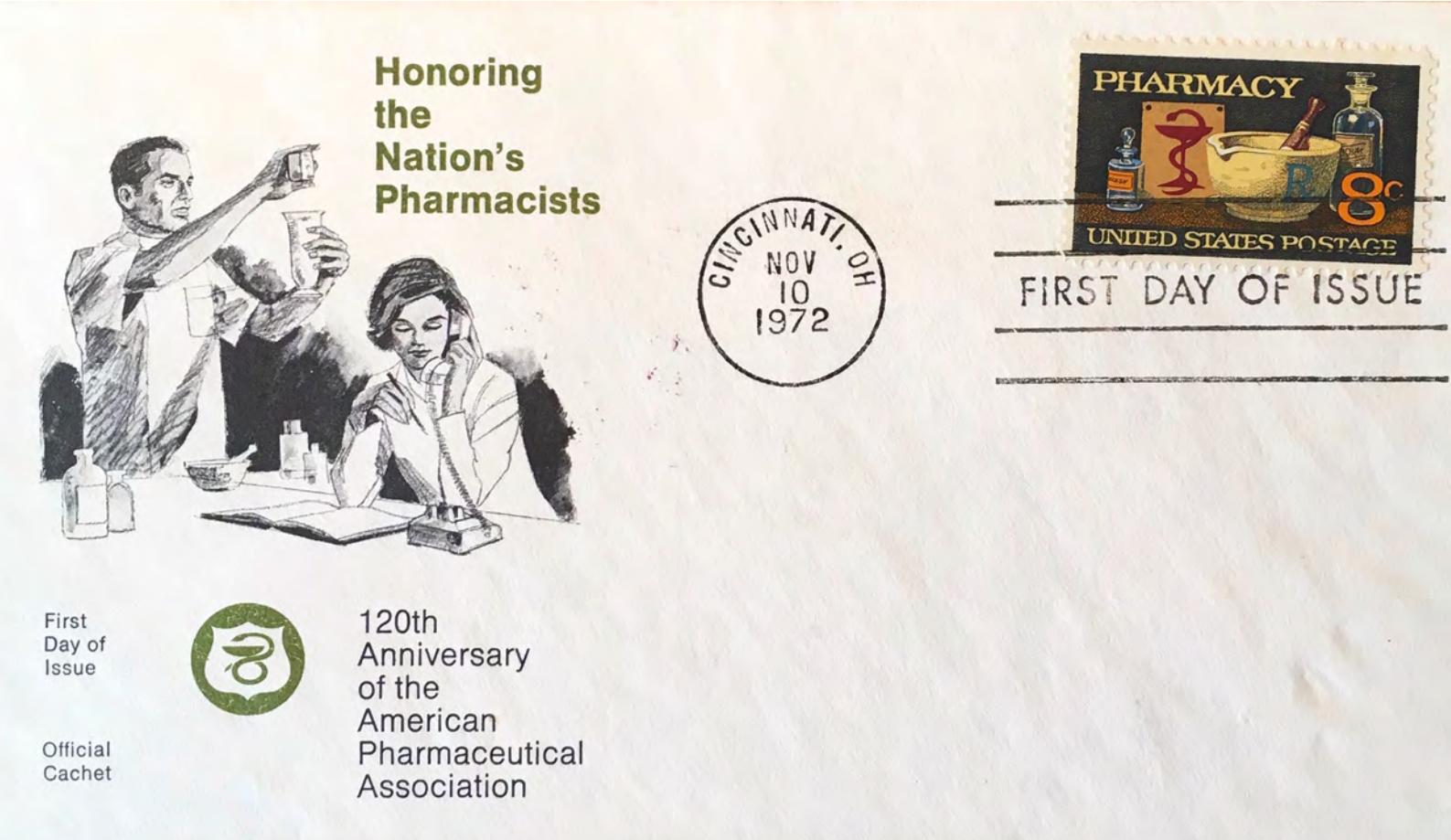
Cover Craft Cachets of Patterson, NJ created this red, blue, and black cachet with an insert describing the symbols of the pharmacy stamp.



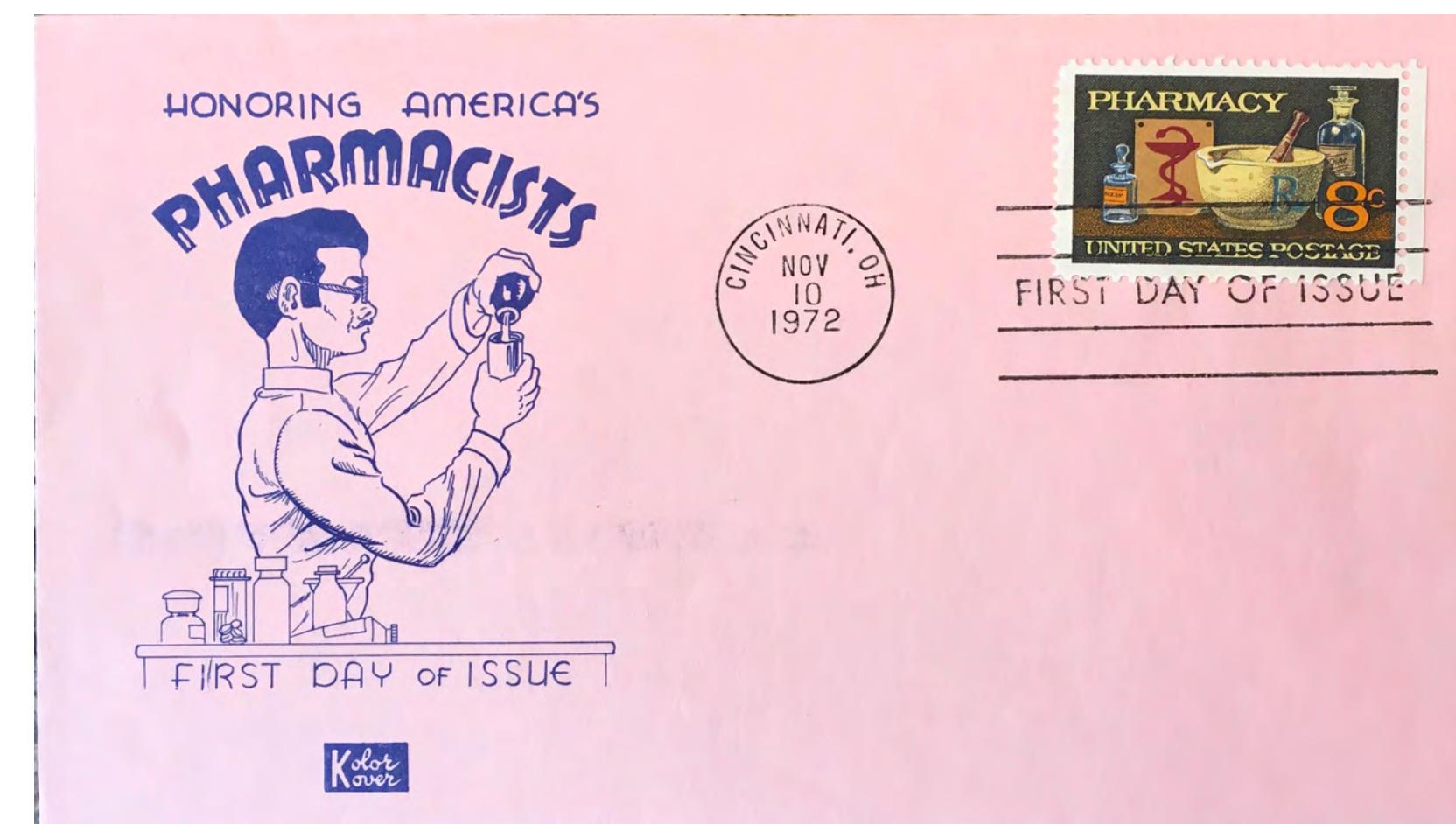
Unknown green, orange, and violet cachet hand drawn on an air mail envelope.



American Druggists' Insurance Co. of Cincinnati, OH produced this black cachet with blue eagle and insert.



The American Pharmaceutical Association's "official" cachet, in black and green, was designed by Bernard Sanders.

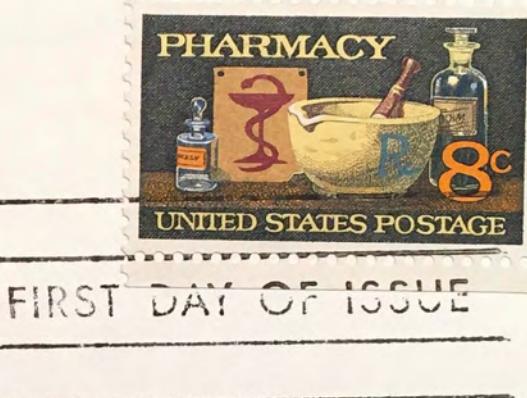


Kolor Kover, Norman Thomas of Jackson, MI, obtained the services of Hiriam I. Swindall to create this cachet printed in blue on both white and pink covers.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10 1972



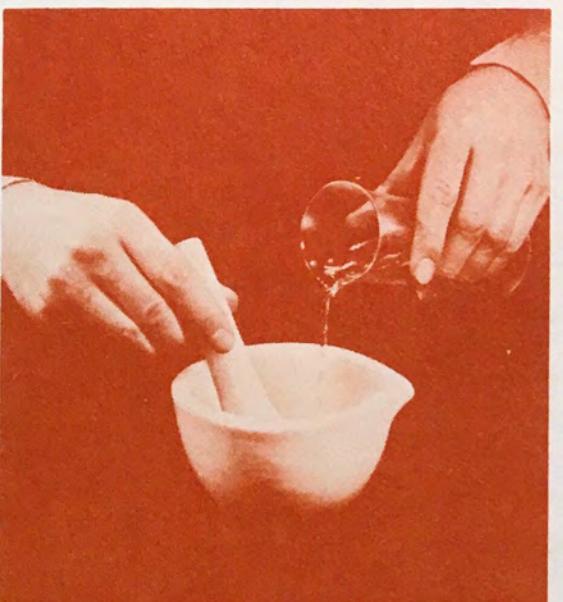
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Honoring the more than 100,000
Registered Pharmacists who fill over
two billion prescriptions annually,
keeping America in good health.

Lorstan

**Lorstan Cachets of Stratford, CT,
offered this black engraved with blue
printing cachet.**

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
PHARMACY STAMP



CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10 1972

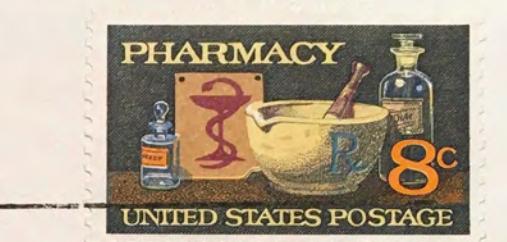


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Official Cover of
Motor City Stamp & Cover Club



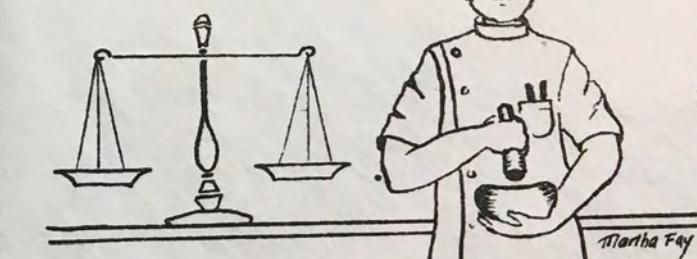
CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10 1972



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**Marg, the trade name of Edmund J. Shea of
Wellesley, MA, operating as Shea
Advertising, featured duo tone cachets such
as this one.**

120th Anniversary
of the American
Pharmaceutical
Association

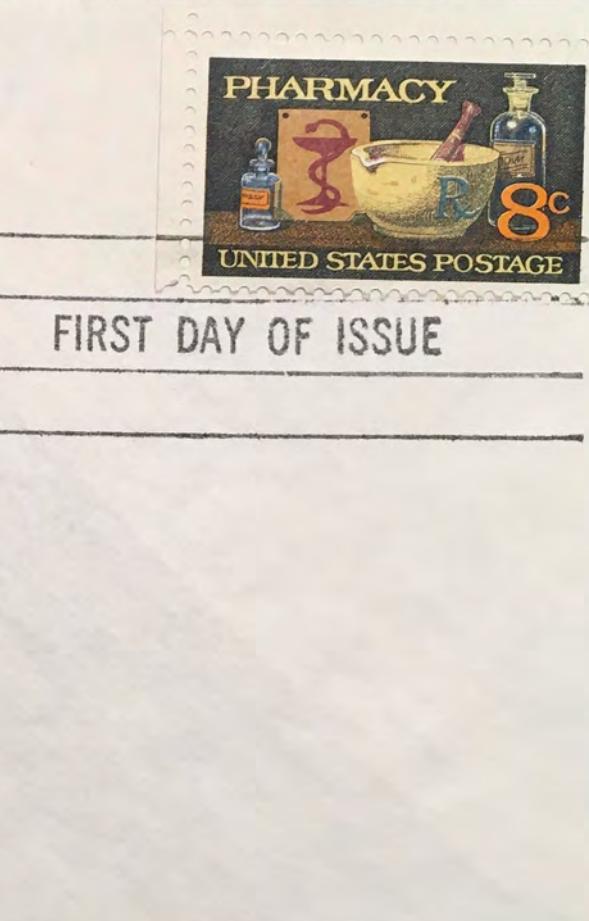


CINCINNATI
NOV.
10
1972
OH

First Day of Issue
NOVEMBER 10, 1972

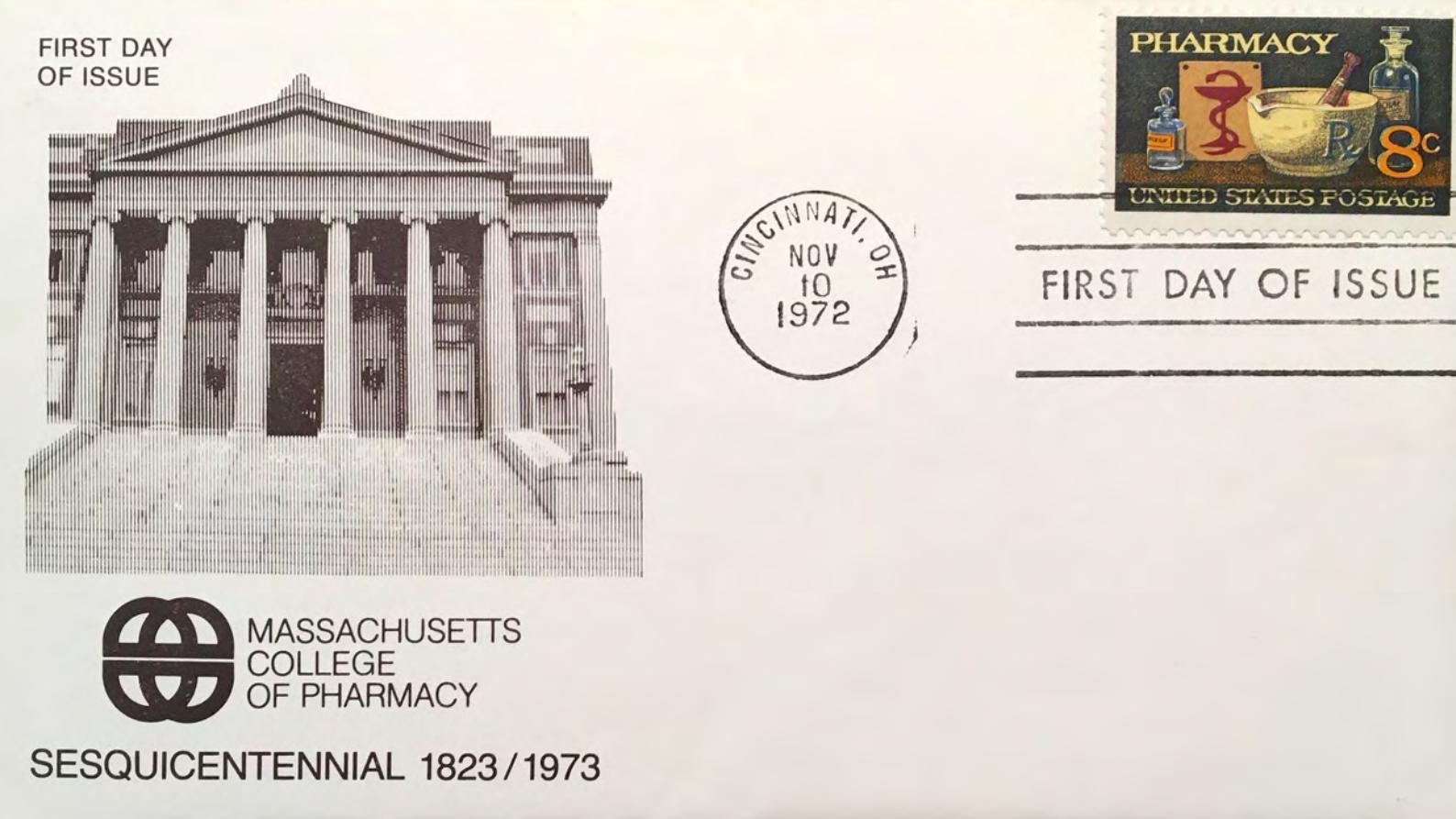
A TRIBUTE
to the
**NATION'S
PHARMACISTS**

CLIFF'S COVERS



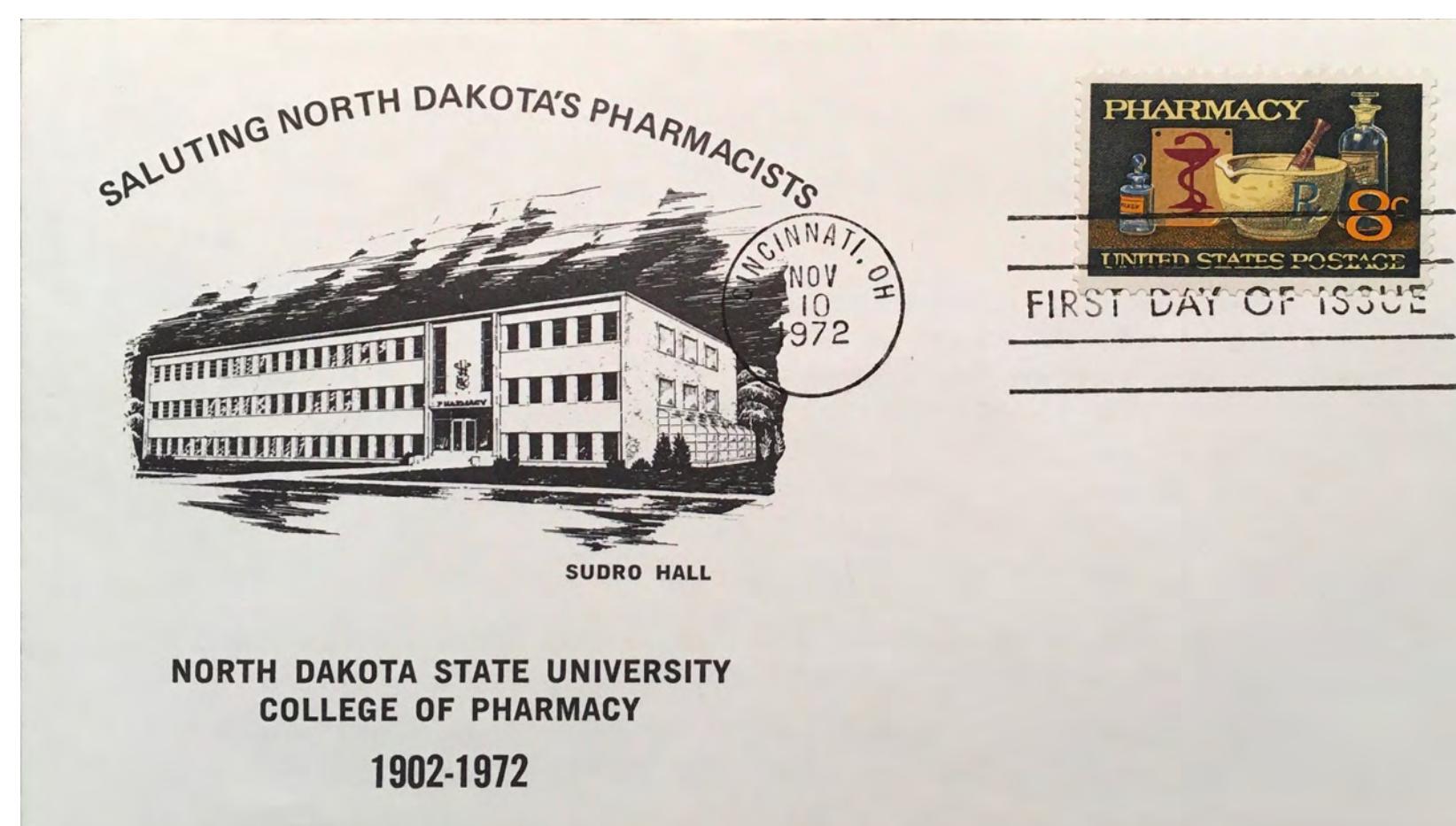
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**Cliff's Covers, operated by Clifford
Elliot of Sycamore, IL, had Martha
Fay design this black cachet.**

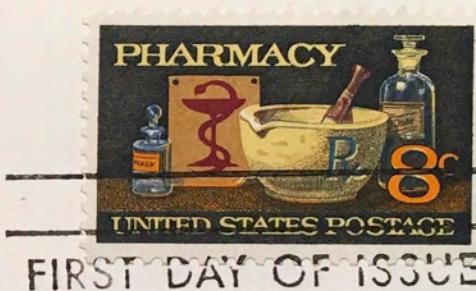


MASSACHUSETTS
COLLEGE
OF PHARMACY

SENUCENTENNIAL 1823/1973



SALUTING NORTH DAKOTA'S PHARMACISTS



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

CINCINNATI
NOV
10
1972

SUDRO HALL

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

1902-1972

**Motor City Stamp & Cover Club FDC was
prepared by Maurice L. Ouellette of Allen
Park, MI. The cachet is burnt orange.**

**Massachusetts College Of Pharmacy's
black cachet observes the beginning of its
sesquicentennial year.**

**North Dakota State University College Of
Pharmacy's black cachet was developed by the
Fargo-Moorhead Stamp Club.**

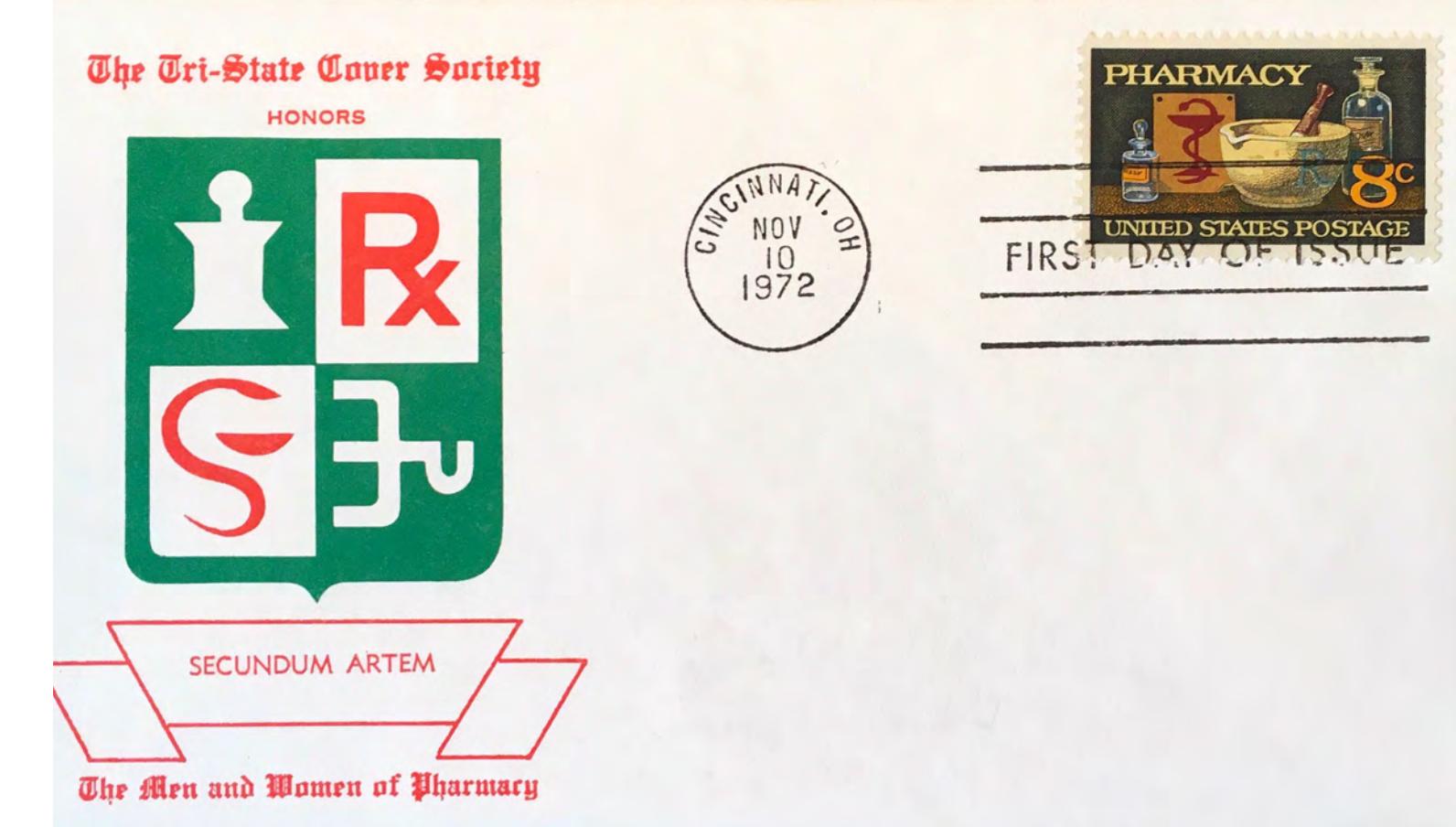
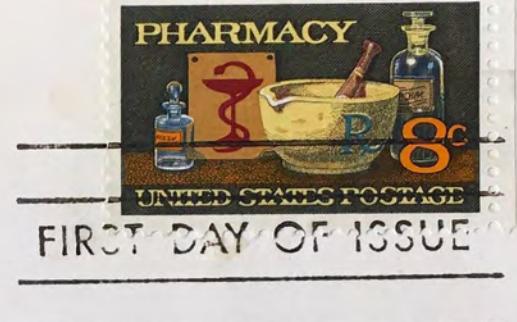
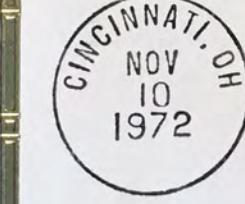
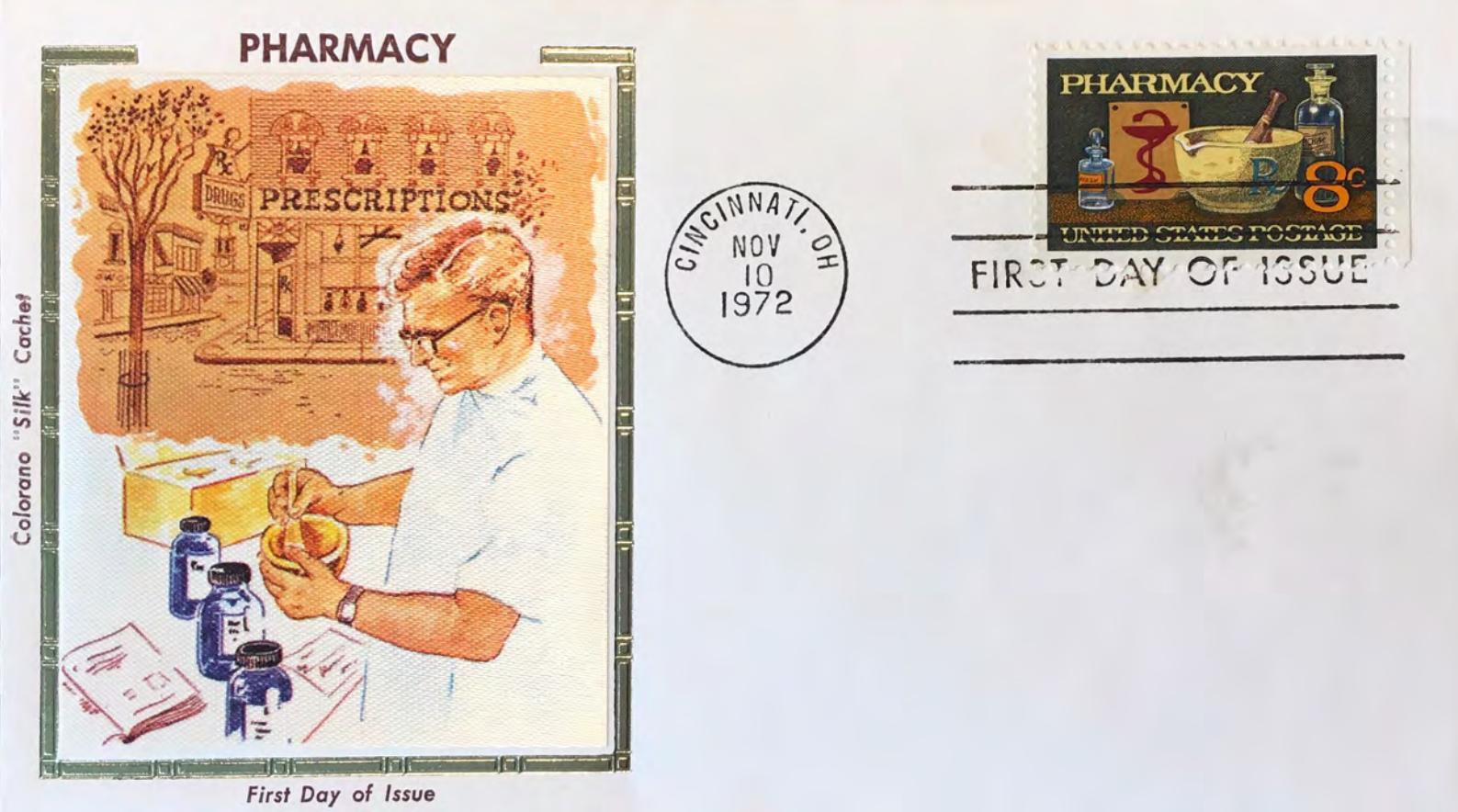
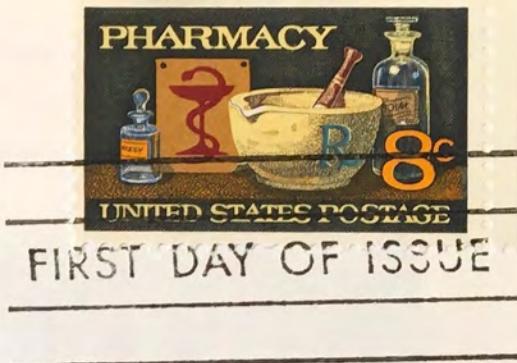


McDOWELL APOTHECARY SHOP

DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

1795-1972

First Drug Store West Of The
Allegheny Mountains

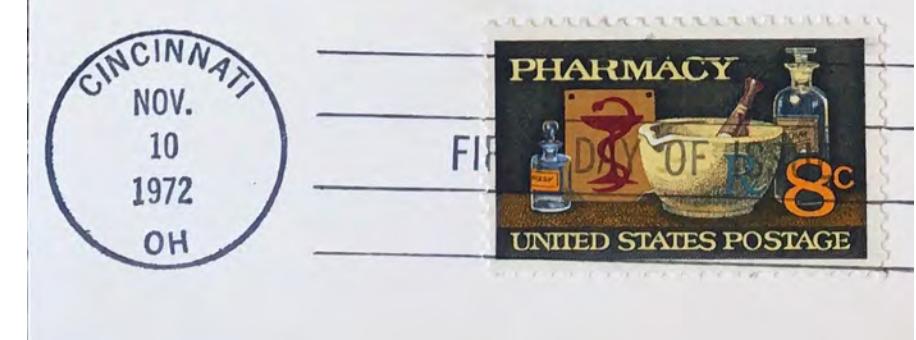
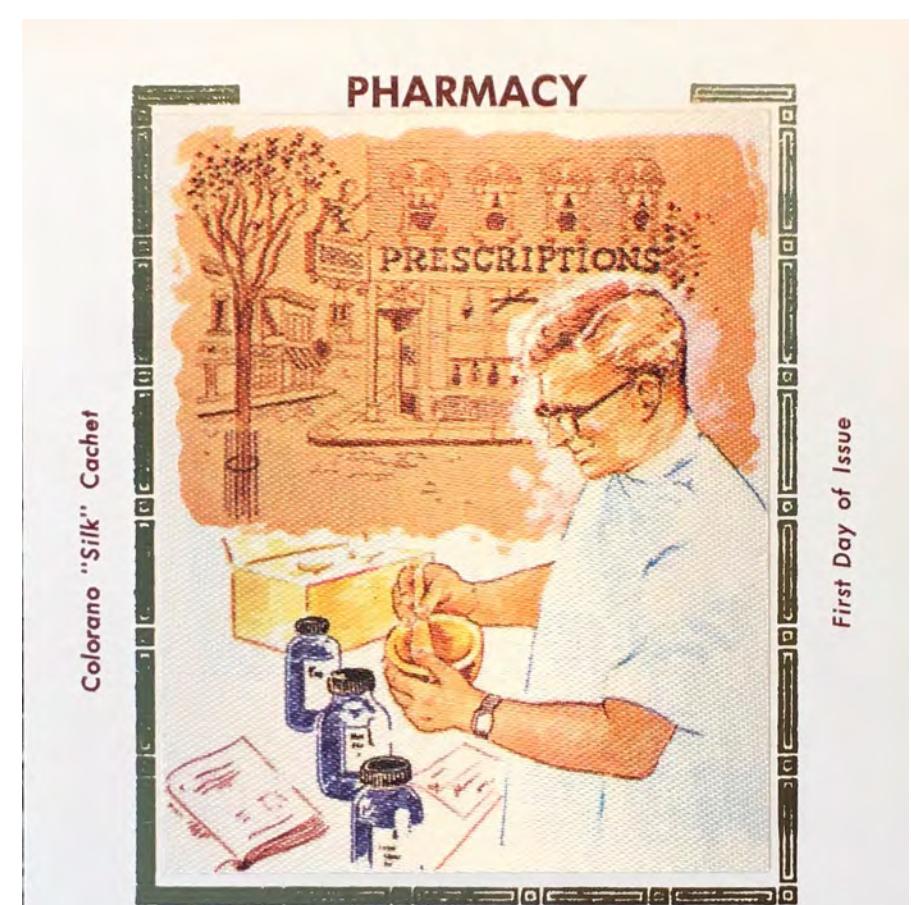


George W. Grinder of Danville, KY,
had this black cachet of the McDowell
Apothecary Shop.

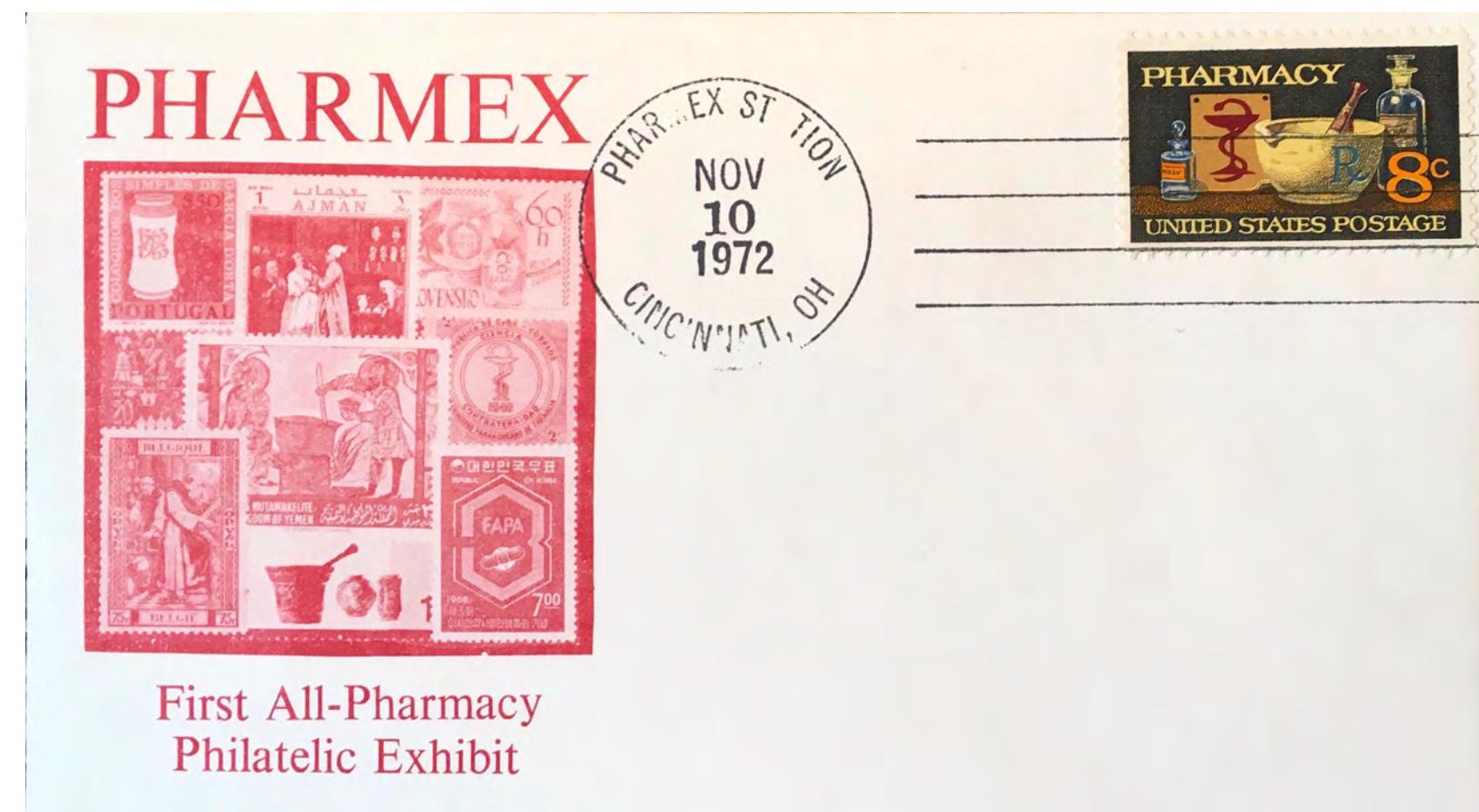


INTERIOR OF THE A. SPIEGEL DRUG STORE MILWAUKEE, WIS.

This maximum card displays the interior of
the A. Spiegel Drug Store of Milwaukee,
WI.



Colorado
“Silk” Cachets
also issued an
FDC as a 3
1/4" by 5 1/2"
card.



This red cachet received a special
“Pharmex Station” cancellation in
conjunction with the “First All-
Pharmacy Philatelic Exhibit.”

RICHARD M. NIXON



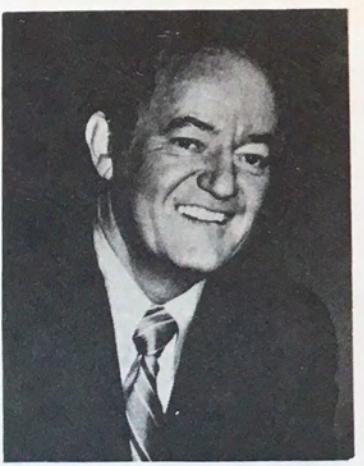
CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10
1972



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

NIXON SALUTES
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOC.

Hon. Hubert S. Humphrey
Pharmacist
Vice President, U.S.A.
Senator, U.S.A.



CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10
1972



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Graduate 1933
Denver College of Pharmacy

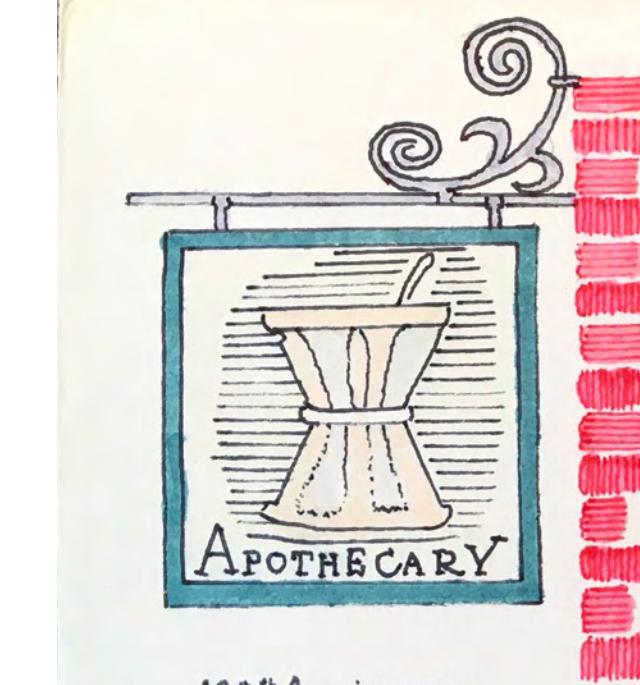
**George H. Golden Of Canton, TX,
prepared this black cachet having Richard
M. Nixon saluting the (American)
Pharmaceutical Association.**



Pharmacy
FRANK J. ULRICH

**Frank J. Ulrich of Sun City, CA produced
this yellow, orange, and blue hand-drawn
cachet.**

**Ross Foil Cachets, produced by Ross
Wetreich of Long Island, NY, featured a
metallic foil cachet.**

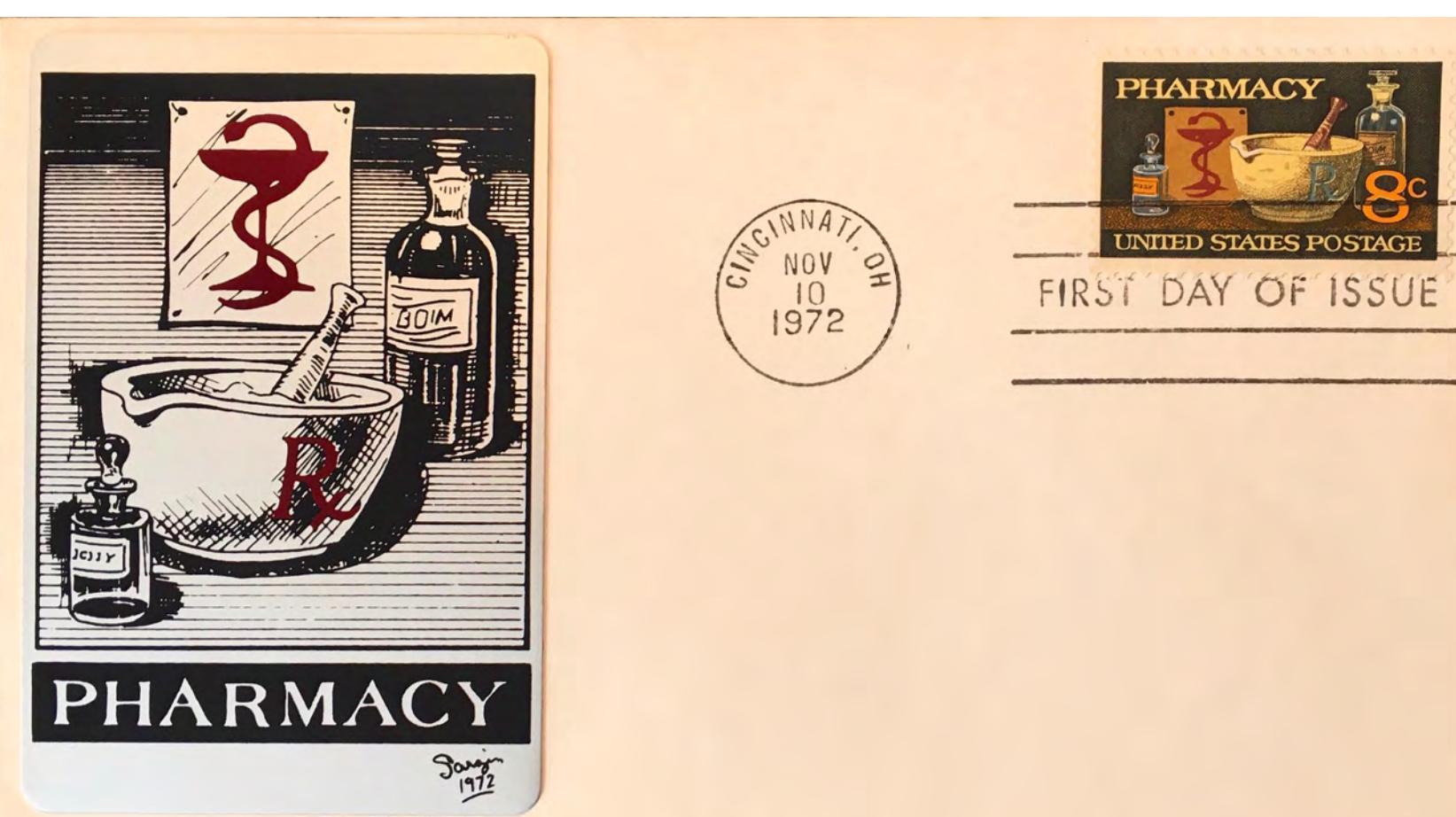


120th Anniversary
American Pharmaceutical Assoc.
First Day of Issue

CINCINNATI, OH
NOV 10
1972



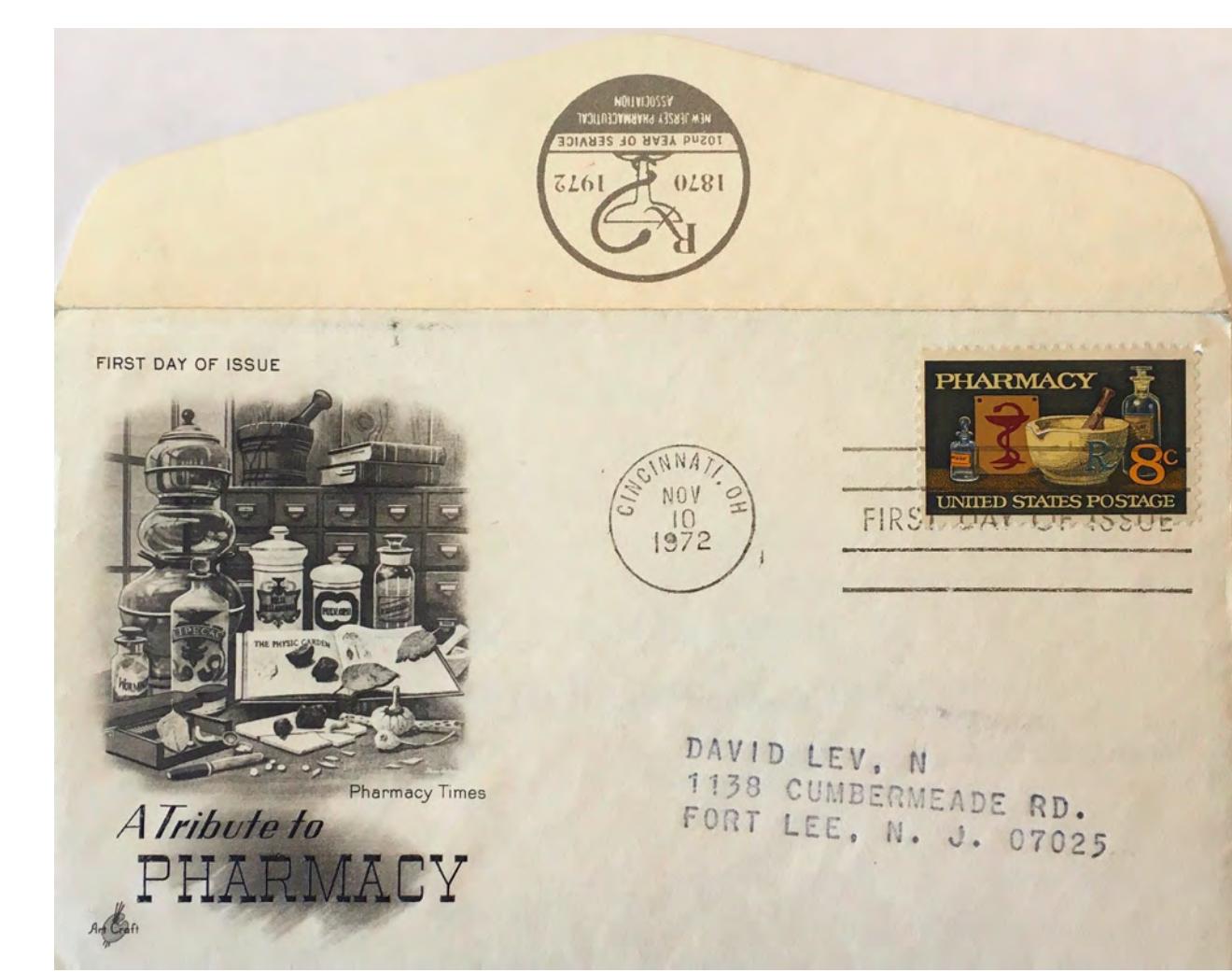
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



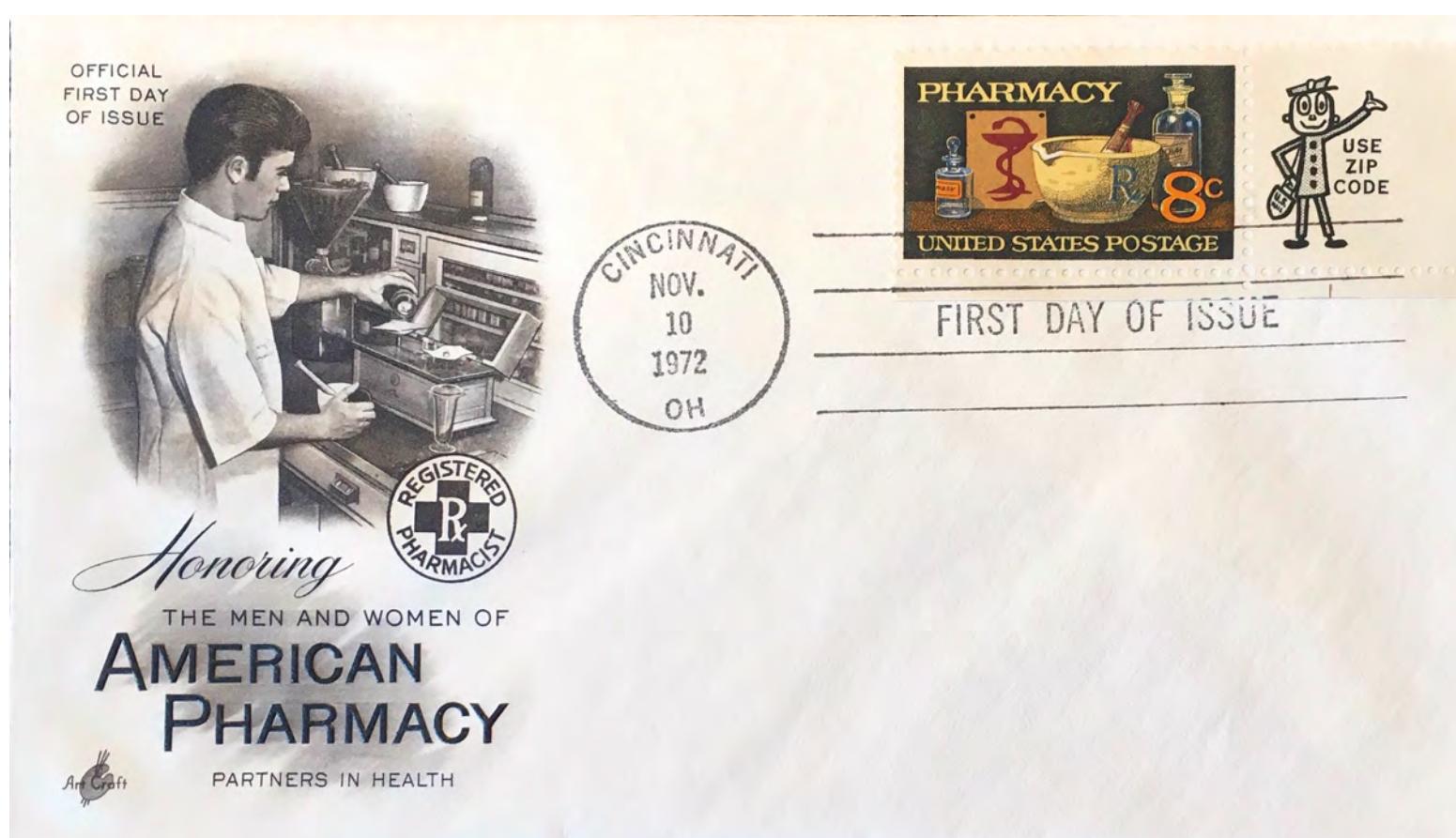
**Sarzin Metallic, created by Clyde J.
Sarzin, offered this black and red metallic
cachet.**



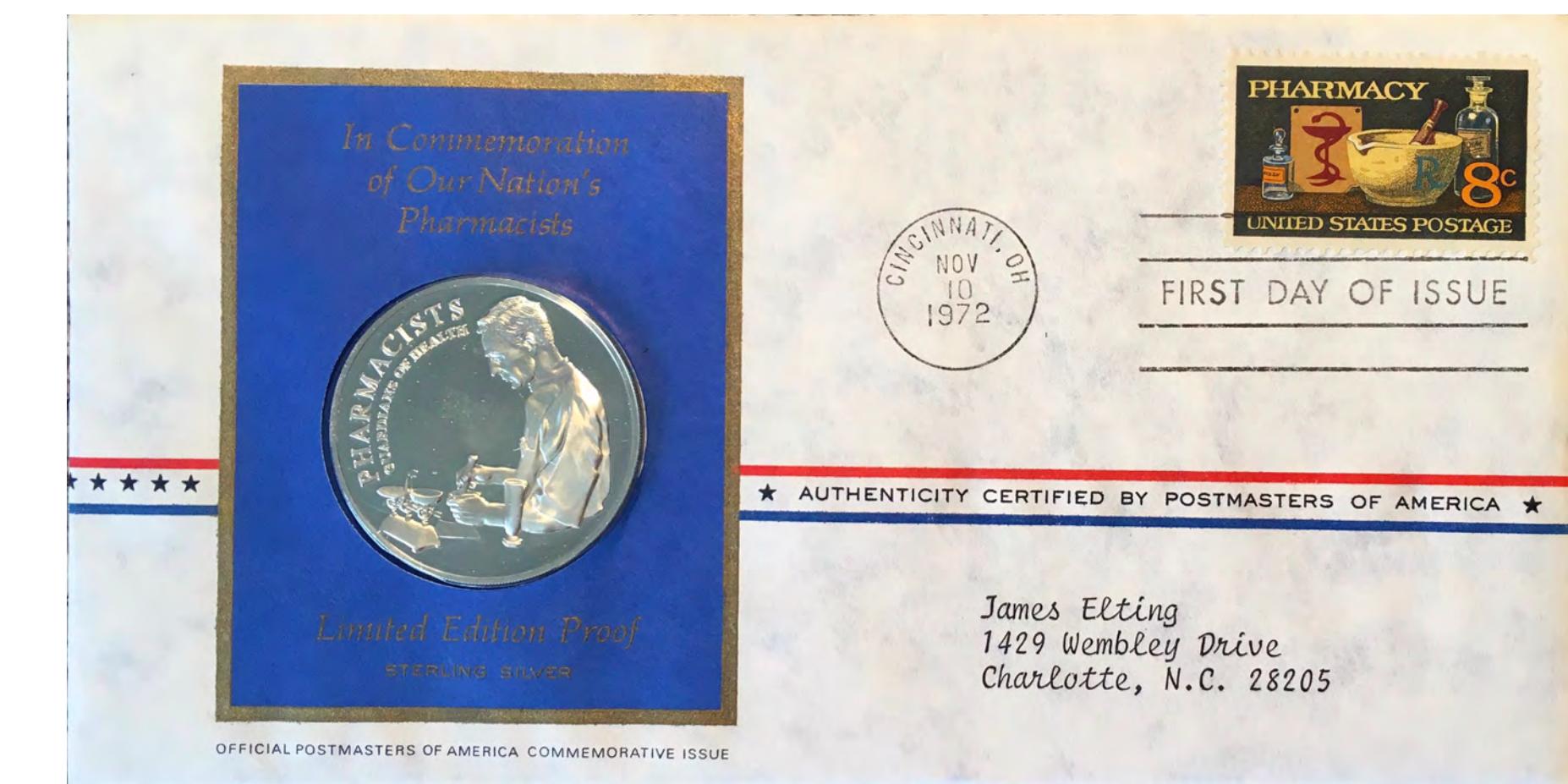
Southern Commemorative Society of Birmingham, AL offered these unique philatelic covers with silver (above) or bronze (below) medallions as well as six different apothecary weights. The cachets are printed in black, blue and red.



New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association used black arcraft "Pharmacy Times" cachet with own logo on the back flap.



Arcraft/Mr. Zip FDC prepared using the pharmacy stamp adjacent to the Mr. Zip image from a sheet of pharmacy stamps.



Postmasters of American Cachet included a sterling silver medallion sculptured by Norman Nemeth and minted by the Franklin Mint.



Arcraft FDC used several U.S. stamps to produce this multiple combination cachet of the pharmacy stamp.

Southern Commemorative Society of Birmingham, AL offered these unique philatelic covers with a...



...half-scruple apothecary weight.

... one-scruple apothecary weight.

... two-scruple apothecary weight.



...half-dram apothecary weight.

... one-dram apothecary weight.



... two-dram apothecary weight.

The pharmacy stamp itself is not without its share of errors. The most notable error is the deletion of the blue and orange color. There are many unlisted perforation and color shift errors. With the actual stamp on the right for comparison, the following are examples of some of these errors.

