

Synopsis for

# “Cachetmaker: Tom Mueller”

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Original

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this article was to highlight the life and talent of the Cachetmaker: Tom Mueller. My goals were to share:

- my personal experiences in having known and worked with Tom,
- how he came to become a cachet maker,
- how his hobbies and passion influenced his works,
- the uniqueness of one of the very few cachet makers to use oil paint on paper covers,
- illustrations that support the story in addition to the cachets,
- remind collectors of the AFDCS Rookie of the Year and Best Cachet of the Year for 1991 that Tom was awarded, and
- have the reader get to know Tom and appreciate his talents that he has shared with the world of philately over the last 30 years.

**TREATMENT:** After an introduction and short genealogy, I create a story that shows the development of the artistic skills, chronicles the introduction to cachet making and highlights the influences behind the oil paintings that end up on the covers created by Tom Mueller.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** There have been a few other local features on Tom Mueller but this article was not only my first published article but the first article about Tom published specifically for the Philatelic community. I feel that my personal relationship with Tom allowed me to provide the reader with new information about Tom, his life and the outstanding philatelic covers that he has created for us. My primary challenge in writing the article was to limit the length for the publication as Tom has a million stories.

**ORIGINALITY:** This article is a first-person account. Through my time working with Tom at McDonnell Douglas and hearing his stories, I feel that I was able to bring insight into Tom Mueller, the man, in addition to Tom Mueller the talented artist and Cachet maker. Much of the information presented in this article has not been published before. A brief article on Tom Mueller was previously authored by Gil Celli and published December 1, 1992 issue (VOL 3, Issue 6) of "Cover News".

**RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE:** This article is based on my own knowledge and interviews with Tom Mueller, Gil Celli and Sarah Thompson. Genealogy was created using Ancestry. Other support for the article was provided by Gil Celli, Tony Dewey and Doug Weisz.

**TECHNICAL:** Sources of information are all noted in the Reference section of the article. I would like to especially acknowledge the editing provided by Martin Miller and the encouragement in writing the article by David Zubatsky, Tony Dewey and Martin Miller.