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# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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# Selling Stamps to Mystic was an “Excellent Choice,” Says Collector

Making the decision to sell a collection can be difficult and emotional. Knowing where to turn and who to trust can be a concern. When the time came for one collector to part with his stamps, he called Mystic Stamp Company. It proved to be an “excellent choice,” he says.

## Learn Why He Called Mystic...

This collector went to the Washington 2006 stamp show with a mission. He knew then he'd be selling his stamps eventually and wanted to meet the dealers personally. That's because the Florida native wanted top dollar for his collection, but he also wanted more. “When all is said and done, selling a stamp collection built with loving care over a 65-year time frame really comes down to a matter of trust and reflection of your personal values mirrored in the company's...”

The collector made a point of meeting with Mystic President Don Sundman and the company's chief buyer at the show. He was impressed with their knowledge. But just as importantly, he appreciated Mystic's dedication to the hobby and support of the American Philatelic Society. Years later, when the time came to sell his stamps, the collector didn't hesitate. He called Mystic first.

## ...And What Happened When the Buyer Arrived

Mystic's chief stamp buyer met with him in his home. The collection was large and extensive – a valuable holding accumulated over a lifetime. “The valuation process was all-encompassing... executed in a very

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professional manner...” He also reports the meeting was enjoyable, calling it a “transaction held between two stamp enthusiasts... characterized as a day-long friendly discussion of stamps... (and) the many benefits of the stamp collecting hobby...”

Rather than “cherry picking” the gems in the collection, Mystic made an offer for every stamp he wanted to sell, which is the company's policy. He accepted the offer, which he describes as “fair and reasonable,” and received payment on the spot.

## “Integrity and Professionalism”

The Collector felt so strongly about his experience with Mystic's chief stamp buyer that he took the time to write to Don Sundman about his experience. In his letter, he also credited his faith in the company's values. He cited the integrity and professionalism of its chief buyer, expressing the opinion that he had brought great credit to the company and enhanced its claim as “America's Leading Stamp Dealer.”

Sundman was happy to get this letter, and noted that he receives many like it. “Mystic needs to buy millions of dollars worth of stamps every year to satisfy our customers – \$72 million in the past five years alone. The market is competitive, so we have to pay high market values or we would lose out and have to close our doors. Paying collectors what their stamps are really worth is also part of the reason Mystic has a great reputation – one that we value and will protect.”

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# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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*Stan Fairchild*

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cancellations of France from its first postage stamps through the end of the 19th century.

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*Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris*

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*Ron Lesher and Tim Wait*

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imprinted documentary stamps.

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*Ron Lesher ad Tim Wait*

Why were there so many proprietary stamps issued during the Civil War? Find out as you explore the world of Civil War Era general and private die proprietary stamps.

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*Gerry Robbins*

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Additional  
information at:

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BY STEPHEN REINHARD president  
sreinhard1@optonline.net

# Thanks to All Who are So Dedicated

## Volunteers, Officers, Dealers, and Staff Make APS a Success

I am writing this on Christmas Eve, one week prior to New Year's Eve. I began to think about what, as APS president, I am thankful for as my three-year term of office draws to a close in August.

What immediately comes to mind are the hundreds of people who give service to this wonderful hobby and society. Some are paid employees, many of whom having worked for the society for decades. Our employees have given of themselves far and above what might be expected for the remuneration earned. Most, if not all, truly love the society and have treated the members, and fellow employees, as family. To our employees, I say thank you for everything that you have done over the years to make this the wonderful society that it is.

Then there are the volunteers, collectors at every level of the hobby, who continuously give of themselves. Not for the financial benefits but simply for the joy of helping their fellow collectors. There are board members, committee members, people who help at our shows and at our headquarters, members of local chapters who represent us at meetings and events and workers of all types. To you we owe our deepest gratitude. Without you we couldn't exist.

Not to be forgotten are the dealers



Several people helped out during Volunteer Work Week 2015 at the American Philatelic Center.

who strive to provide us with interesting material for our collections. Many of these dealers do this as a labor of love rather than to make a huge profit, which most do not make. Thank you for your help in building our collections.

The message here is that this hobby is made up of people who go out of their way to help each other. As APS president, I appreciate everything that you do for each of us.

### Consider Helping at World Stamp Show-NY 2016

Talking about volunteers makes me think of the huge philatelic event quickly approaching us. I am thinking, of course, of World Stamp Show-NY 2016. The number of volunteers needed is tremendous. Help is needed at every level. You do not need a specific skill to

volunteer your time. A list of volunteer opportunities can be accessed on the show website, ny2016.org.

You can help make this show one that will be remembered for a lifetime.

### Still Time to Run for Office

Time is running out for filing to run for a position on the APS or American Philatelic Research Library boards. If you feel that you have ideas that are needed as we move forward you should consider running for a position on one of the boards. Information can be found within this issue of *The American Philatelist* as well as at stamps.org.

I will end this month by urging each of you to become an active participant as we work hard to revitalize this great hobby. You owe this to yourself, if not to others.

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# Now Taking Consignments for Our May 2016 Sale and June World Stamp Show New York 2016 Rarities Auctions

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BY JAY BIGALKE editor  
jbigalke@stamps.org

## MonacoPhil Adventure

### Show Highlights Shared With APS Members

Much excitement in the philatelic world brought many stamp collectors to MonacoPhil held in Monaco in early December. I was thrilled to be able to join in the excitement and will provide a few of the highlights here, as promised I would in my November column.

For three years now, auction house Christoph Gaertner of Germany hosted its C.G. International Philatelic Promotion award event. The goal is to encourage the promotion of philatelic research and preservation of philatelic knowledge.



The American Philatelic Research Library was presented with an award for digital media by auction house Christoph Gaertner during MonacoPhil 2016.

with €1,000 that will be put to good use by the library for future projects.

For the complete list of winners, visit the website [cg-award.com](http://cg-award.com). I would like to personally thank Christoph Gaertner for his strong commitment to philatelic literature and our research efforts.

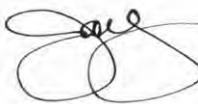
Other highlights of the show included seeing the Club de Monte-Carlo exhibition of world-class rarities. The British Guiana 1-cent Magenta, one of the rarities, captured your attention as you walked in the room. The owner, Stuart Weitzman, was also at the show and it was a pleasure being able to meet him.

Polar philately was the reigning theme of the show. The gala dinner was even decorated with icebergs to complement the theme. Items from two APS members, Alan Warren and Hal Vogel, were on prominent display in the exhibition hall, which also received similar decoration flavor for the theme. Both were kind enough to share with me the highlights of their exhibits during the show.

Additional highlights and photos from MonacoPhil are located in the Letters to the Editor and Philatelic Happenings section of this issue.

The February issue of *The AP* includes a variety of features, ranging from Indian definitive stamps to Algerian postal history. Additionally, Charles Posner's series of 1950s stamp issues continues with the International Red Cross stamp and another article takes a look at snapshots of U.S. philately as viewed through Leap Year.

Your philatelic adventure awaits. I hope you enjoy this issue.

  
Editor,  
*The American Philatelist*

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order...we are still looking for the two stamps on  
the right side of the famed McCoy block of four  
that were stolen.



We are Still Hunting for Our  
Two Inverted Jenny Stamps

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Young Philatelic Fellows Thankful for Opportunity

This December, a group of four Young Philatelic Leaders Fellows embarked on an unforgettable trip to Monaco to attend MonacoPhil 2015. The event, held every other year, is sponsored by the Club de Monte-Carlo and attended by notable philatelists from around the world.

We four Americans, ranging in age from 17 to 22, were excited but apprehensive in the weeks leading up to the event. After all, we would be rubbing elbows with such people as H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and Stuart Weitzman, owner of the famed British Guiana 1-cent Magenta stamp. While the four of us take philately very seriously, we never expected to find ourselves among the hobby's elite. However, upon our arrival we were welcomed with open arms. Perhaps it was our ages that made us a novelty, but everyone we met was encouraging and supportive of our youthful engagement in the hobby.

It was also exciting to learn that there were other young people from around the world in attendance, which provided us with fantastic networking opportunities. We met collectors our age who had flown in from Belgium, Russia, Eng-



Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship members Owen Chun, Casey Cook, Charles Epting, and Katie Vasicek, with Patrick Maselis (center), president of the Club de Monte-Carlo.

land, and India — a truly unique gathering that gave a peek at the future of philately.

Monaco itself was simply wonderful, more like a city-sized amusement park than an actual place. From the Monte Carlo casino to the stately Prince's Palace, our schedules afforded each of us time to take in the sights of the country. But the highlight of the trip was, by far, the philatelic exhibi-



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**ASA-847**

\$12.95

**\$10.36**



Three-pack cutter set includes SA847 for 10mm (3/8") round corner, plus a smaller 5mm (3/16") round corner plus a scalloped edge corner cutter (looks kind of like this ~~).

**ASA-847SP**

\$26.95

**\$21.56**



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**ZLH836A3**

\$16.95

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tion itself. From a show floor featuring high-end dealers and postal administrations from around the globe, to several exhibit halls of world-class philatelic material, MonacoPhil was unlike any stamp show we had attended before (or are likely to soon attend).

When the four of us applied for the APS fellowship over the past few years, none of us could have anticipated such a remarkable opportunity. Hopefully our involvement in an event with worldwide reach may speak to the crucial role that youth engagement plays in the hobby.

The four Youth Fellows in attendance — Owen Chun, Katie Vasicek, Casey Cook, and Charles Epting — would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Patrick Maselis, president of the Club de Monte-Carlo, for the opportunity to attend such a vaunted event, as well as the members of the club for their hospitality.

**Charles Epting, Owen Chun,**

**Katie Vasicek, and Casey Cook**

*APS Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship fellows*

## Articles Prompt Philatelic Hunt and Memories

After reading the Coast to Coast column titled “Notes from the Bottom Drawer” by Wayne L. Youngblood in the January edition of *The American Philatelist*, I decided I had better start looking through my philatelic bottom drawers, too. At the last count, I have at least 10 (items) and still counting. I can’t wait to get started. I wonder what I will find?

Also, the “Attilio Gatti, African Adventurer” article brought back many memories of my visits to Africa and my never-to-be forgotten visits to the sometimes weird and wonderful post offices there, especially those not usually visited by curious tourists of the philatelic kind.

One thing in the article did catch my eye. Being an active amateur radio operator (my call sign is G4OWY), the featured QSL card — “VQ4-EHG” sent to W1AVY — was particularly interesting to see. And not unexpectedly perhaps, I collect QSL cards that have been sent through the mails. Having looked through my collection, I do have many Kenyan QSL cards but I don’t own a VQ4-EHG item. But you never know, one might come my way one day.

**Ray J. Howes**

*Weymouth, Dorset, United Kingdom*

## Possible Solution: Traveled for Health Reasons

Vincent Centonze describes “a most mundane cover to a most interesting addressee” in the December 2015 issue



Back of the QSL card shown in the January issue of *The American Philatelist*.

## Auction Announcement

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of *The American Philatelist*. The envelope was sent to a World War I officer, Major General Johnson Hagood, in France by his wife, a resident of Charleston, South Carolina.



Cover to Johnson Hagood.

Centonze notes that the “time and date (midnight on the 14th) and year (1919) are legible, but the month is not” on the postmark. He is puzzled as to “why the cover was mailed from Flat Rock, North Carolina, 259 miles from Charleston. One can only speculate that perhaps Mrs. Hagood was visiting the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains in early spring, 1919, as she waited for her husband to return from the war in Europe. It must have been early spring because Hagood was home from Europe by late May 1919,” and the postage on the cover would only have been valid from November 2, 1917 to July 1, 1919.

Western North Carolina became a popular spring and summer resort for people from Charleston, South Carolina in the 19th century. The first reason was to escape the heat. The second was the prevailing medical theory of the time that infectious diseases such as yellow fever, malaria, cholera, smallpox, and typhoid were related to miasma or “bad air,” and that one might escape the miasma by repairing to the

fresh mountain air of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Well into the 20th century, Charlestonians “summered” in western North Carolina. To this day many people maintain summer homes in Asheville, North Carolina, and the surrounding area. If, as the author describes, the Hagoods were prominent Charleston citizens, it is highly likely that Mrs. Hagood was following this pattern.

**Edward C. Halperin**

Greenwich, Connecticut

## POW Covers Linked to Article About World War I Sea Battle

I am writing in regards to the story, “Large Registered Cover” in the January 2016 issue of *The American Philatelist*. I am [not convinced] that a war being waged in

*Letters to the Editor Continued on Page 228.*

## Contact *The American Philatelist*

*Send us a Letter to the Editor by mail to The American Philatelist, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 or e-mail us at [lettertotheeditor@stamps.org](mailto:lettertotheeditor@stamps.org).*

*Have a suggestion for an article? Write to the above mailing address or e-mail [aparticle@stamps.org](mailto:aparticle@stamps.org).*

*The American Philatelist reserves the right to edit letters for length and content. We are not able to print all of the letters received.*

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# APS Election



As of January 4, 2016, 17 nominees are seeking election to the APS Board of Directors for the 2016–2019 term. Two American Philatelic Research Library board positions are to be filled by the vote of APS members for the 2016–2022 term. One APRL board position is to be filled by a vote of the founders, patrons, fellows, and Vooys Fellows for the 2016–2022 term.

**All nominations and seconding endorsements must be sent to Election Monitor, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 to be received by March 31.**

Personal photographs, candidate statements, and a ballot listing all qualified candidates will appear in the May issue of *The American Philatelist*.

An asterisk has been placed before the names of those candidates who have secured the seconding nominations required to be placed on the ballot. Ten seconds are required for the APS Board positions and one second is required for candidates for the APRL Board of Trustees position. Nominees for the founder, patron, fellows, and Vooys Fellows position must be made by a Committee appointed by the APRL President or five (5) founders, patrons, fellows, or Vooys Fellows within 60 days prior to any election.

Rules and other election information are available from the APS website at stamps.org/elections or by contacting the society at 814-933-3803.

## American Philatelic Society (2016–2019)

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- \* Mick Zais, Columbia, South Carolina

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- \* Jeff Shapiro, Fayville, Massachusetts
- \* Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann, Lincoln, Delaware

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### Secretary

- \* Mark Butterline, Maynard, Massachusetts
- \* Stephen Schumann, Hayward, California

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Edwin Andrews, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

\* Bruce Marsden, Short Hills, New Jersey

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- \* Michael Bloom, Portland, Oregon
- \* Rich Drews, Palatine, Illinois
- \* Gordon Eubanks, Pebble Beach, California
- Peter McCann, University Park, Florida
- \* Mark Schwartz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## American Philatelic Research Library (2016–2022)

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Steven Zwillinger, Silver Spring, Maryland

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## PHILATELIC HAPPENINGS



BY KEN MARTIN chief operating officer

[kpmartin@stamps.org](mailto:kpmartin@stamps.org) • Share your photos of your stamp show, club, or affiliate activities with us via e-mail at [aparticle@stamps.org](mailto:aparticle@stamps.org) for possible use online and in print.

Two local clubs celebrate 100 years as American Philatelic Society chapters during 2016. Congratulations to the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society and the Michigan Stamp Club.

We now have 14 chapters that have belonged to the APS for at least 100 years. The Reading (Pennsylvania) Stamp Club reaches 75 years of APS membership this year. A large group of chapters reach 50 years during 2016. Congratulations to the Black River (Ohio) Stamp Club, Bowie (Maryland) Stamp Club, Calhoun County (Alabama) Stamp Club, Germantown-Chestnut Hill (Pennsylvania) Stamp Club, Jackson (Mississippi) Philatelic Society, Manchester (Connecticut) Philatelic Society, North Shore Philatelic Society of Milwaukee, St. Joseph

(Missouri) Stamp Collectors Club, Samuel Osgood Stamp Club (Massachusetts), the Sno King (Washington) Stamp Club, and the Williamsburg (Virginia) Stamp Club.

New 25-year chapters include the Bloomington (Indiana) Stamp Club, the General Francis Marion (South Carolina) Stamp Club, the Clara Barton (Massachusetts) Stamp Club, the Owensboro (Kentucky) Area Stamp Club, the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, and USA en Canada Filatelie.

We hope each of these clubs is doing as well as the Knoxville (Tennessee) Philatelic Society whose membership recently exceeded 100 members. The Knoxville club recruited 23 new members during 2015. A YouTube of its holiday party can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/eMXrEmU5tik>.



YouTube video by the Knoxville Stamp Club.

## COROS

We have only one affiliate (national specialty organization) reaching a multiple of 25 years of membership in 2016; COROS, or Collectors of Religion on Stamps. Unfortunately, the front cover of the November 2015 journal reads, "Officers, Directors, and Advisors Unanimously Vote to disband COROS In 2016." Apparently the group could not find a



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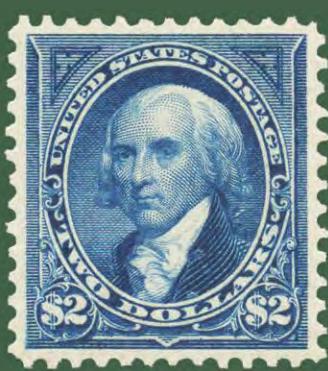
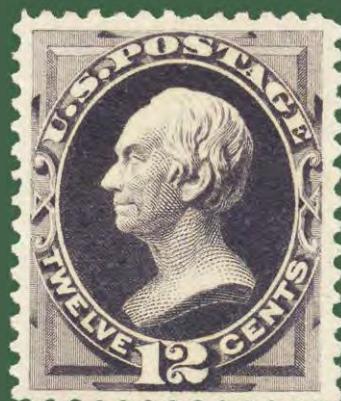
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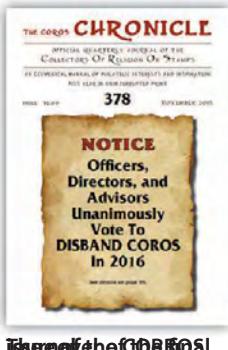
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## Journal of the COROS

single candidate to run for elections for board terms, which begin March 1. While the group has generously offered to turn over its archival information and records to the American Philatelic Research Library, this is one donation we would rather not receive; instead, we hope the organization revives.

Chapters and affiliates are very important to the APS and philately. Chapters provide a local connection and often serve a mentoring role for new collectors. Affiliates help members meet other collectors with similar collecting interests. In each month's e-newsletter we try to mention one way we can help chapters and affiliates. For examples, see stamps.org/club-benefits.

## Florex

December is traditionally a light month for stamp shows, but two major events overlapped at the beginning of the month. Several years ago, Florex, held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Exposition Park in the Orlando suburbs, nearly suffered the same fate as COROS. A lack of volunteers caused the show to briefly drop its status as a World Series of Philately show. Thankfully, under the leadership of Francis Ferguson and others, the show was resurrected as a WSP show. While Florida in December is pretty appealing to many from



The dealer bourse (sales area) of the Florex stamp show in Orlando, Florida.

colder climates, at this year's event both the multiframe and single frame grand award exhibit winners came from Florida. Congratulations to Alfredo Frohlich who won the show grand for "Panama, the Path Between the Seas," and to Robert Hisey, who won the Single Frame Grand for "The 1918 'Vassa' War Time Provisionals of Finland."

## MonacoPhil 2015

The second event, held from December 3 to 5, also featured an attractive venue, the country of Monaco, and was offered under the patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, whose collection was one of many highlights at the show.

The exhibition also featured 100 world rarities contributed from the collections of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 10 national postal museums (including an item from the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum), and the members of the Club de Monte-Carlo (a number of whom are APS members).

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Top row from left to right, Pradip Jain showing his Gandhi exhibit, the MonacoPhil bourse area, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco with Alex Haimann and Stuart Weitzman during the prince's official welcome to the exhibition. Bottom row, Marc Achterhof, table of many APS members that attended the gala dinner at MonacoPhil, and Hal Vogel and Alan Warren next to the polar exhibits.

de Monte-Carlo, a number of young collectors, including several past APS Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship members also attended MonacoPhil 2015. This included YPLF alumni co-

ordinator Casey Cook (Class of 2013), Owen Chun (Class of 2014), Charles Epting (Class of 2015), and Katie Vasicek (Class of 2013).

The world-class show also had

many APS members in attendance including Marc Achterhof, Pradip Jain, Akthem Al-Manaseer, Carol Bommarito, Peter McCann, Eddie Bridges, Mark Haimann, Alan Warren, Leonard Hartmann, Gordon Eubanks, Omar Rodriguez, Ian Gibson-Smith, Hal Vogel, Wade Saadi, Charles Schreve, Scott Trepel, Patrick Maselis, James Weigant, Santiago Cruz, Chris and Birthe King, Dick Colberg, Don Sundman, Douglas Muir, Alex Haimann, Sebastien Delcampe, Gary Dubro, Willard Allman, and many others. Vogel, and Warren's exhibits were part of the polar philately that was showcased throughout the entire exhibition.

#### Gaertner Awards

Congratulations to the Collectors Club of Chicago, which received



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Leonard Hartmann (right) accepts the award for the Collectors Club of Chicago during the MonacoPhil show. *Photograph by James Weigant.*

the Christoph Gaertner international philatelic promotion award presented at MonacoPhil 2015. Hartmann, of the Chicago club, was present to accept the award during a special ceremony. The American Philatelic Research Library received a special prize for best performance in digital media and *The American Philatelist* also was recognized with a top-10 finish.

## Visitors

Because of the holidays and anticipated bad weather, December is normally a light month for visitors at the



The APS/APRL team with visitors during the Bellefonte Victorian Christmas tour.

American Philatelic Center but we were pleased to welcome several, including members from Texas (David Heberling), Kansas (Paul Weidhaas), California (Christopher Shaw), and Vermont (John Berghurst).

The weekend following Florex and MonacoPhil, the American Philatelic Center welcomed about 300 visitors, many for the first time, as we hosted three events for Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. This included our first time as part of the Victorian Christmas "home" tour. Thanks to show director Megan Orient for organizing our in-



clusion, to Membership Manager Judy Johnson for showing off the Headsville Post Office, library reference assistant Scott Tiffney for providing an overview of the library, editorial associate Jeff Stage for sharing the evolution of U.S. holiday stamps and sharing examples of early greeting cards, and to Megan for

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**JUNE 2, 2016**  
**Deadline for proposals extended to February 15, 2016**

*Call for Papers*  
**"How Postal Treaties Influenced Post Office Reforms"**

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The symposium seeks papers addressing any aspects of treaties affecting Universal rates and carriages and their resulting impact on post office reforms. How was payment or reimbursement to other countries to transport and deliver it accomplished? What were the differences between French and British Treaty implementation? What was the impact of the UPU on postal regulations?

Proposals for symposium papers may be submitted either as individual papers or in panels. Proposals should be no more than one page and be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vita with contact information (e-mail, phone, and address).

Please e-mail complete proposals to [symposium@stamps.org](mailto:symposium@stamps.org) by February 15, 2016. Notification of accepted papers will be issued in early March. Papers must be submitted by May 1, 2016. Conference papers will be posted on the American Philatelic Society and Smithsonian National Postal Museum websites.

Proceedings of the Symposium will be considered for publication by the Smithsonian Institution Press and for the David Straight Award, which includes a cash award and a stipend to attend the following Postal History Symposium.

More about the Postal History Symposium and How to Submit Papers:

[stamps.org/postal-history-symposium](http://stamps.org/postal-history-symposium)



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# The Collectors' Secret Weapon –



# Deploy Yours NOW ...Join Me

Andrew with Alan on the ITV Alan Titchmarsh Show Promoting Philately

I bumped into an astute collector at Swinpepx this year. Unlike other companies I never take any stamps to sell – so all you'll see is an empty table and me with time to spare talking with collectors like you ... (fortunately a few of you recognise me by now!)

"I'm enjoying watching the fight you're taking against the Buyer's Premium" he said, "and in particular the reaction from other auctions" ... and that was it – he didn't need to say any more, and he didn't

Pernicious Buyer's Premiums at other auctions can cost you up to 25% more than the cost of the stamps, in one case inclusive of VAT we paid 27% extra to take delivery of our stamps – yet if you have a valuable collection and 'talk nicely' to most of the big players they'll cut you a deal so thin on their seller's commission that you'll wonder why they have to take all their costs in charging you, the buyer for what you win ...

## I've never met a collector yet that doesn't object to 'buyer's premiums'

Personally I can't understand why things have to be done this way and it seems that other auctions are starting to feel the same. Some major philatelic auctions offer No Buyer's Premium – not just my company U P A, and others make attempts to hold their buyers'



premiums down. But fortunately there's a solution, I urge you to seek stamp auctions defying pernicious buyer's premiums and deploy your secret weapon – your 'custom' with them

Therefore, if you are new to U P A I'd like to invite you to test my next 20,500+ lot U.S. \$2,500,000 (GBP £1,700,000) auction closing on the 12th April and in return I'll give you your 1st U.S. \$82 (GBP £55) auction winnings absolutely FREE ... so that you can see why 1,943 different collectors and some dealers bid in our last auction, 90% successful with absolutely NO BUYER'S PREMIUM

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guiding visitors through Kramer Gallery and Sundman Hall.

### Connie Swartz

Earlier the same week, we honored our most senior employee, Connie Swartz, who began working for the APS the Monday following her high school



Connie Swartz.

graduation in 1967. While Connie retired December 31, we hope to continue to see her frequently.

(Note: for the benefit of my health I should qualify that although Connie began working for the APS before executive director Scott English was born, she is only the most senior in terms of years of service, not age.)

### Cheryl Ganz

Congratulations also to Cheryl Ganz who has been selected by the Collectors Club of New York as the recipient of the 2016 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award. Cheryl is perhaps best known as chief philatelic curator for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and lead curator for the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery. Cheryl is a current member of the U.S. Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and a past president of the American Air Mail Society. She is the author of a half-dozen books and has been published in more than a dozen journals. Her exhibit, "Come Take a Ride on the Hindenburg," also was the first display class exhibit to win a World Series of Philately grand award. Congratulations, Cheryl!



Cheryl Ganz.



Bob Markovits.

### Bob Markovits

I will end on a sad note. Almost exactly one year before writing this, on December 26–27, 2014, I visited Bob Markovits at his home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, returning with a van load of his personal research papers for our library. Sadly, Bob passed away December 20. He was a world-renowned philatelist, who assembled and presented collections that won gold medals both nationally and internationally. He was the author of many scholarly articles on stamps. Bob's contributions to the hobby as a dealer, researcher, author and exhibitor were immense, and he will be greatly missed.

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A poster for the TexPex 2016 philatelic show. The poster features a map of the southern United States and Mexico with a barbed-wire fence border. Overlaid on the map are several illustrations: a bison in the upper right, a longhorn cattle in the lower left, and a postage stamp featuring a star in the bottom left corner. The text on the poster includes "BUFFALO, BEEF AND BARBED WIRE", "TEXPEX 2016", "American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately Show", "February 26-28", "Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center", and "Grapevine, Texas". The website "WWW.TEXPEX.ORG" is also listed.

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# HOW I BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR

BY PRIIT REBANE

**I**t was May 1945. My parents, older brother, and I found temporary shelter in a small German village when — miracle of miracles — American troops finally marched in, liberated and occupied the town. The evening before, German troops were busily encamped in the village square. When dawn cast its misty light, we discovered that the Germans were gone. It all seemed surreal to a 9-year-old. Not a shot was fired. All was peaceful and quiet. The U.S. Army had taken charge.

The war in Europe was finally over. For us, displaced persons living in capitulated Germany, life became easier — we no longer feared bombs falling and exploding during constant air raids by Allied air forces. But at the same time, life became harder as food was scarce or often not available. People scrounged for any possible firewood gathering twigs or dead limbs of scrawny trees to keep fires going in home ovens.

However, this was also the magnificent time when I was baptized with little pieces of paper called stamps.

It is no exaggeration to say that Europe was teeming with refugees of all sorts and backgrounds. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (which operated from 1943 to 1947) established numerous camps in Germany to house the homeless, and we were fortunate to be placed in a camp designed to house mostly Estonian displaced persons. Next to the house where my family had a room, an elderly avuncular gentleman lived in a small broom closet size space. He took an interest in us youngsters who so often got into trouble with nothing constructive to occupy our time, and who got into trouble with adults who also had nothing else to do except “police” the neighborhood children. This kind old man (to us anybody over 21 was old) often invited us to come to his room and he showed us stamps. I was absolutely fascinated.

There were pictures of exotic ani-

mals, lions and tigers. There were people in their colorful native dress and even to my excited amazement some even in lack of dress. I was introduced to far off places with mountains and rivers and large cities. I loved to visit this man. He often gave us, children, some stamps to take home and we received a stockbook and tongs, and he taught us how to use those unwieldy tweezers. He taught us how to line up the stamps by sets. It was just so wonderful.

In retrospect, I have a feeling that this man was formerly a stamp dealer who, when the Russian front was advancing toward Estonia, grabbed a suitcase full of philatelic material instead of food, and like so many of us fled to Germany and relative safety.

My family and I lived in this camp for five years before immigrating to the United States.

Before leaving Europe, though, I became an advanced stamp collector. From February to May 1946, the American, British, and Soviet occupation authorities issued a set of Numeral stamps (Scott 530–556). Whenever I got a few pfennigs, I would rush to the post office and I would buy a couple of the numeral stamps. Quite soon, I had the low-denomination stamps, but the set needed completion. That presented a financial challenge for a 10-year-old. It was slow going, but I finally completed the set except for the elusive green 42-pfening stamp, which was issued February 11, 1946. For some reason the post office did not have it. My friends did not have that stamp. I soon discov-



Registered cover (bottom) from 1948 franked with all of the high-denomination stamps in the 1946 Germany numeral series and a 1947 cover (top) opened by a British censor.

ered that the green 42pf was a very desirable commodity.

That marked the time when I graduated from being a stamp collector to start being a philatelist. I learned that if the post office no longer had a particular value, I could visit a stamp dealer and, for a premium, I could buy the stamp from him. Or, I could trade with a friend who had two — but that never happened — and getting an allowance from parents was a modern peace-time invention that did not affect me. So, I did without the 42pf stamp for a long time.

I was well into adulthood when I finally obtained what has become my all-time favorite stamp. I cherish the couple of 42pf franked covers I now have. As a matter of fact, the possessing of that stamp has paralleled my maturing as a philatelist. When I see that lovely green 42 somewhere, I buy it. I love that stamp.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Rebane was born in Estonia in 1937. During World War II, his family fled the oncoming Russian front that drove the occupying Germans to retreat. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1956. Rebane is a retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

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# WORLD STAMP SHOW-NY 2016

BY MARK BUTTERLINE volunteer chairman

## Volunteers Needed

### Many Opportunities for You to Help at the Big Show

Volunteers are a vital part of any stamp show. Without them, stamp shows do not happen. A local show can be staged with just a few volunteers while most World Series of Philately stamp shows typically involve several dozen individuals.

But in May and early June, our country will be the host nation for an international stamp show and World Stamp Show-NY 2016 needs more than 500 volunteers. It is important for the American philatelic community to stage the best show we possibly can. And volunteers are a key part of a successful international stamp show.

So what sort of people will volunteer for WSS-NY 2016? They are anybody and everybody. Some of them are the leading experts in their area of philately, but most of them are intermediate or beginner collectors. Some are even non-collectors (typically, spouses or other family members of collectors attending the show).

But whatever your background, there is a volunteer position that will match your talents and interests. Would you like to greet attendees as they enter the show? Do you want to prepare show covers, mount exhibits, or work with philatelic literature? Assist new collectors or post to social media, perhaps? We have volunteer positions in all of those areas.

#### What do you get by volunteering?

A lot of fun and new friendships with folks with interests similar to yours from around the country and the around the world. You will definitely make contact with people that you likely would not see at your annual World Series of Philately show. You will also see first-hand how an international stamp show comes together and operates from behind the scenes. And all this will happen in the Big Apple, New York City, one of the world's most exciting cities.

The most important benefit from volunteering is the satisfaction of knowing that you contributed to the greater good of American philately. So how can you get more information on volunteering?



Registration area at APS StampShow 2015 in Michigan, that was staffed with the assistance of volunteers.

## World Stamp Show



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[www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org)

Show opens in  
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wssny2016](https://www.pinterest.com/wssny2016)

Go to the WSS-NY 2016 website, [ny2016.org](http://ny2016.org), and at the top of the page click on "Show Information" and then select "Become a Volunteer." There, you will see links to view the Directory of Volunteer Opportunities (with a description of each position and any special qualifications) and the Volunteer Handbook. To sign-up, click on the link to the Volunteer Application Form and fill in your name, contact info, any special skills or abilities you have, and what positions you would be interested in. Then hit the submit button. We will get back to you in a few days.

For those without Internet access, just write a note describing what you would like to do and send it to me, WSS-NY 2016 Volunteer Chairman Mark Butterline, 6 Carbone Circle, Maynard, MA 01754. You can also e-mail your questions and comments to [mark.butterline@ny2016.org](mailto:mark.butterline@ny2016.org).

# UNITED STATES STAMPS

**639a** 7¢ McKinley VF/LH – vertical pr, Imperf between, Unusually well centered. APS Cert – says disturbed gum but really LH (cv \$600.00) ..... \$475.00

**720c** 3¢ Wash. F-VF/NH, vertical pr, Imperf between, (cv \$1,400.00) .... \$1,150.00

**734a** 5¢ Kosciuszko – horizontal pair, imperf between, left stamp tiny thin (cv \$1,750.00)..... \$950



**740a** 1¢ Yosemite Park F-VF/LH vertical pair, Imperf horizontal, PFC, (cv \$1,750.00 as pair) ..... \$1,150.00

**741b** 2¢ Grand Canyon XF/NH Horiz. pair, imperf between. 2 nat. gum creases visible on reverse only (cv \$1,850.00) ..... \$700.00

**805b** 1½¢ Martha Washington F-VF/NH LR corner block of 4 imperf vertically between top pair + rt margin, blind perfs at bottom margin, (cv \$100.00) ..... \$90.00

## Time Payments are Always Available!

**807** 3¢ Jefferson F-VF/NH top margin pair with full gutter ..... \$200.00

**834** \$5.00 Coolidge, XF/ Used UL corner block with freak perfs..... \$100.00

**966a** 3¢ Mt. Palomar Observatory XF/NH – Vert. pr, Imperf between – Rare so Nice! (cv \$300.00) .. \$200.00

**1055d** 2¢ Jefferson, F-VF/NH Imperf pair, tagged & shiny gum (cv. \$450.00) ... \$285.00

**1137a-d** 8¢ Reuter VF-XF/NH Each variety exist in block of 8 plus strip of 5. PFC for full sheet, (cv \$14,250.00) ..... \$8,750.00

**1151a** 4¢ Seato VF/NH vertical pair, Imperf between, Scott too low at \$125.00

F-VF/NH ..... \$110.00  
XF/NH ..... \$130.00  
Pair XF/NH ..... \$250.00

**1271a** 5¢ Spanish Explorer-Joint Issue-VF/NH yellow omitted, (undervalued in Scott at \$200.00) .... \$150.00

**1355a** 6¢ Disney VF/NH missing other ..... \$300.00

**1355d** 6¢ Disney VF/NH missing black, APS Cert, (1,800.00) ..... \$1,500.00

**1363b** 6¢ Christmas Angel VF-XF/NH, Imperf pair, tagged ..... \$115.00



**1556a** 10¢ Pioneer XF/NH dark blue omitted (cv \$550.00) ..... \$400.00

**1557a** 10¢ Mariner VF/NH red omitted ..... \$260.00

**1570c** 10¢ Apollo-Soyez vertical pair, Imperf horiz. horiz. from bkt pane. Rare!! (cv \$1,300.00) ..... \$1,000.00

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Full Souvenir Sheet  
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**1610a** 1.00 Candleholder XF/NH (cv \$200.00) ..... \$95.00

**1687t** 18¢ Bicentennial S/S VF/NH 18c missing due to perf shift ..... \$200.00

**1688o**. 24c Bicentennial S/S VF NH Untagged unpriced in Scott ..... \$1,000.00

**1695-98b**. 13¢ Olympics XF/NH Imperf block of 4 (cv \$400.00)..... \$350.00

**1743a** "A" coil, F/NH Imperf Line Pair, close at bottom but scarce as a LP..... \$70.00

**1789g** 15¢ John Paul Jones VF/NH imperf pairs .... \$25.00

**1804** 15¢ Benjamin Banneker F-VF/NH Imperf pair..... \$35.00

Same with bottom plate ..... \$45.00

**1804a** 15¢ Banneker XF/NH Horizontal pair, imperf vertically ..... \$250.00

## Many Full Airmail Error Sheets Available! Please Ask!

**1811a** 1c Quill VF NH Imperf Pair ..... \$39.50

Imperf Line Pair. (cv \$100.00) ..... \$99.50

**1830b** 15¢ Coral Reefs XF/NH Imperf block of 4 ..... \$295.00

**1856d** 14¢ Sinclair Lewis VF/NH, Vert Pair Imperf between, in a strip of 14 ..... \$1,000.00

**1863f** 22¢ John Audubon, Horiz. Pair, Imperf between, faint blind perfs ..... \$100.00

**1894b** 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court, VF/NH Transition block of 4 Imperf horiz. from bkt pane.

Center perfs are the variety. Extremely Rare! ..... \$600.00



**2721a** 29¢ Elvis VF/NH Left margin vertical imperf pair, vertical/crease at left side of stamps Scott unlisted

..... \$3,750.00

**2747b** 29¢ Oregon Trail, XF/NH, vert. right margin pr, blue omitted on right stamp PFC

..... \$1,350.00

**2833c** 29¢ Garden Flowers – bkt pane of 5 XF/NH, black

omitted ..... \$125.00

**2863-66b** 29¢ Marine Life, Imperf Plate Block \$400.00

**2904c** (5¢) Mountains VF/NH imperf pair ..... \$175.00

**2980a** 32¢ Women's Suffrage Fine+NH, black missing Single ..... \$200.00

Plate Block ..... \$900.00

**3003c** 32¢ Christmas-Madonna XF/NH block black omitted (engraved).... \$375.00

**3007d** 32¢ Christmas-traditional XF/NH imperf strip of 4 ..... \$275.00

**3363c** 33¢ Reindeer XF/NH blk of 4 die cutting omitted from pane of 20 ..... \$70.00

**3843b** 37¢ American Choreographers, VF/NH Full Sheet imperf ..... \$1,550.00

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**4133a** (41c) First class Flag XF/NH Imperf plate# strip of 5 APS Cert, 1 of only 2 known ..... \$2,950.00

**4141** 26¢ Florida Panther XF/NH imperf pair ..... \$500.00

**4481d** (44c) Pine Cones double sided bklt pane, VF-Pristine—die cutting omitted on side with 12 stamps, Unpriced in Scott. Very Rare

..... \$750.00

**C23a** 6¢ Eagle & Shield F-VF/h vertical pair imperf horizontal, light toning

..... \$135.00

**C23var** 6¢ Eagle & Shield VF/LH horizontal perf shift

..... \$40.00



**C76a** 10¢ Man on the Moon VF/NH red missing completely – single. \$450.00

Plate # single ..... \$500.00

Patch mostly missing ..... \$40.00

**C82a** 11¢ Jet Airliner imperf coil pair ..... \$150.00

**C98c** 40¢ Philly Mazzei XF/NH Imperf prone of the rarest Airmail Errors (cv \$4,500.00)

..... \$2,500.00

**C115a** 44¢ Transatlantic Airmail VF/NH yellow appears completely missing but tiniest trace ..... \$100.00

**C128a** 50¢ Harriet Quimby XF/NH vertical rt. margin pr Imperf horizontal ..... \$750.00

**C150a** \$1.05 Lancaster, PA XF/NH plate blk – die cutting omitted. On eBay at \$2500.00 PFC (cv \$2,200.00+) ..... \$1,350.00

**RF24a** 10¢ Playing card F-VF/N horizontal pr, imperf between ..... \$130.00

**3281b** 33¢ Flag & City VF/LH-NH Horizontal pair, light blue & yellow omitted, dark blue & red misregistered & shifted design (right stamp missing bit of backing), PFC

..... \$350.00

**U642** 33¢ Flag legal size stamped env XF – Red omitted, APS Cert... \$450.00

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# The 1968 \$1 Airlift Stamp and Elusive Uses

## Stamp Meant Specifically for Vietnam-era Service Correspondence

Many of us who enjoy modern postal history love a good challenge. One United States issue that has provided no small amount of that factor is the \$1 Airlift stamp of 1968 (Scott 1341) [Figure 1]. For decades, postal history specialists have sought, mostly unsuccessfully, to locate proper and contemporaneous uses of this stamp, which was created primarily to frank parcels to and from active servicemen and the military (the PAL, or Parcel Air Lift system).

Although the stamp itself is far from scarce in either mint or used form (and first-day covers are common), locating anything that approaches an intended use of the stamp has proven to be an almost overwhelming task for collectors. In fact, most any documented, contemporaneous use (that is, any use from roughly 1968–1972, while the stamps were fairly current) is difficult to find, likely due in part that there was some confusion regarding the stamp's validity almost from the beginning. More on that in a bit.

The biggest factor contributing to the scarcity of airlift uses, no doubt, is because most servicemen and women (particularly those on the battlefield) did not find it particularly convenient to save full parcel wrappers. Indeed, it was not only inconvenient, but apparently not allowed.

According to retired Army Sgt. Maj. Michael Vining, writing in response to an article written several years ago by John Hotchner (*Linn's Stamp News*, April 6, 2009, page 6), "After we read our letters we had to burn them including envelopes and wrappers. That was the policy in case we were overrun/captured. The enemy could use our family's addresses for harassment and propaganda purposes." Vining was stationed in Phuoc Vinh during most of 1970.



Figure 1. \$1 Airlift stamp (Scott 1341).

He also reflected that "If I were smart, I could have mailed those wrappers with the \$1 stamps home, but I was young."

This was, apparently, a battlefield order because other veterans (including my own brother-in-law) did not have the same orders. Still, saving future postal history was not foremost on many servicemen's minds at the time.

As issued April 4, 1968, the \$1 Airlift stamp's primary purpose was to pay a special fee (surcharge) for the air transport of parcels to and from U.S. ports for servicemen stationed overseas and in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico (but generally intended for Vietnam). Airlift, or PAL, mail was carried on a "space available" basis. As such, no parcel (to be marked prominently "PAL") could exceed more than 30 pounds in weight, nor add up to more than 60 inches in combined length and girth. Space was severely limited on many aircraft headed for Vietnam.

Despite the \$1 surcharge, the actual rate of postage paid was that of surface mail, providing a significantly discounted overall rate, while speeding delivery of parcels to active service men and women. The service itself was begun January 7, 1968, several months before the stamp was issued.

The following is the actual description of the stamp and service from the March 14, 1968, *Postal Bulletin*: "Parcels weighing up to 30 pounds and measuring no more than 60 inches in combined width and girth will be airlifted

all the way upon payment of \$1 plus domestic parcel post rates from point of mailing to Army and Fleet post offices. The \$1 stamp will also be valid for paying regular rates for other types of mail. The preferential rate for servicemen has been in effect since January 7." Note the comment that the stamp would be valid for other mail.

From the beginning, as specified by the March 14 *Postal Bulletin*, the Airlift stamp also could be used to pay any other fees and services. There was no restriction on its use. Because of this, the Airlift stamp is not listed with other airmail issues in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* even though its intended use was for airmail. Still, there was a great deal of confusion regarding its use. In fact, almost two years later, the following notice was published in the January 1, 1970, *Postal Bulletin* regarding the Airlift stamp:

"\$1 Airlift Postage Stamp. There has been some misunderstanding about the use of the \$1 airlift postage stamp. See sections 141.1 J and 141.126, *Postal Manual*. Employees at stamp windows should inform patrons who purchase the \$1 airlift stamp that it can only be used to pay the airlift fee or toward payment of postage or fees on airmail articles. — Bureau of Finance and Administration, 1-1-70."

Indeed, something had changed. The January 1, 1970, *Code of Federal Regulations* (Title 40, published by the Office of the Federal Register and produced by the Government Printing Office) stated: "the \$1 airlift stamp may be used to pay the airlift fee on PAL parcels ... or it may be applied as payment, in whole or in part, in the amount of the postage charges or fees for special services on airmail articles." According to Hotchner, this ruling was made April



Figure 2. This pair of \$1 Airlift stamps, postmarked in 1969, originated with ACTIV, the Army Concept Team in Vietnam, and almost certainly originated on a PAL wrapper.

26, 1969. Still, I have never seen any attempted use of the Airlift stamp that was challenged or refused and their use many years after the fact is common. But back to the primary story.

As a young collector, I unsuccessfully searched high and low for used examples of the Airlift stamp for my album and pulled out all the stops asking friends of the family to be on the lookout for them (I would have likely soaked one off, anyway). I did not begin to find used examples until many years later, as they began to turn up on parcels and other classes of mail sent by collectors.

A used pair of Airlift stamps I discovered in an accumulation several years ago led down an interesting path, and represents the closest thing I have found to an intended use.

The stamps, shown [Figure 2], were

ing most technological advances in warfare, including the Airmobile, night vision goggles and much more. According to the *History of Operations Research in the United States Army, Volume II: 1961–1973* (CMH Pub 70-105-1), by Charles R. Shrader (published by the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for Operations Research, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., and produced by the Government Printing Office — undated), the Army Concept Team in Vietnam maintained (throughout the war) combat development programs in South Vietnam.

U.S. Army teams, large and small, conducted a wide variety of studies, analyses, and field tests to find new weapons, equipment and concepts suitable to the unique physical and operational environment of Vietnam. ACTIV served in theater from October 1962 to

postmarked January 2, 1969, from "Army & Air Force Postal Service, APO San Francisco, CA 96384." A bit of research into APO numbers of the Vietnam era led me to the source, the Army Concept Team in Vietnam (ACTIV), which was responsible for test-

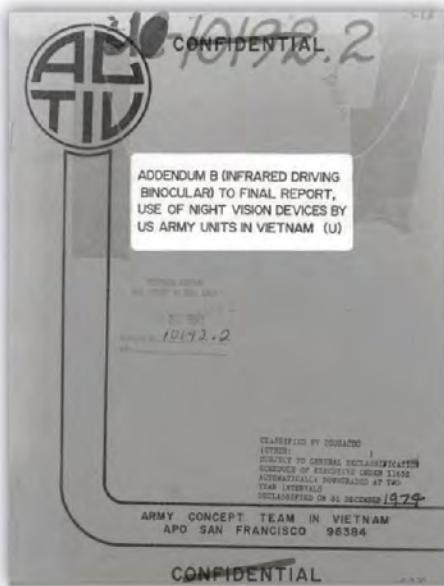


Figure 3. Cover of a declassified 1968 CTIV report for the testing of night vision goggles.

April 1972. A copy of the cover of one of ACTIV's reports is shown [Figure 3]. At the time the Figure 2 pair was used, this ACTIV station was likely based in Long Binh, Vietnam. The pair almost certainly originated on an Airlift parcel and is, apparently, one of only two known actual Airlift uses to have surfaced. It would be interesting to know what was inside the parcel, based on the sender.

The second example of the stamp as an airlift use, shown [Figure 4], the

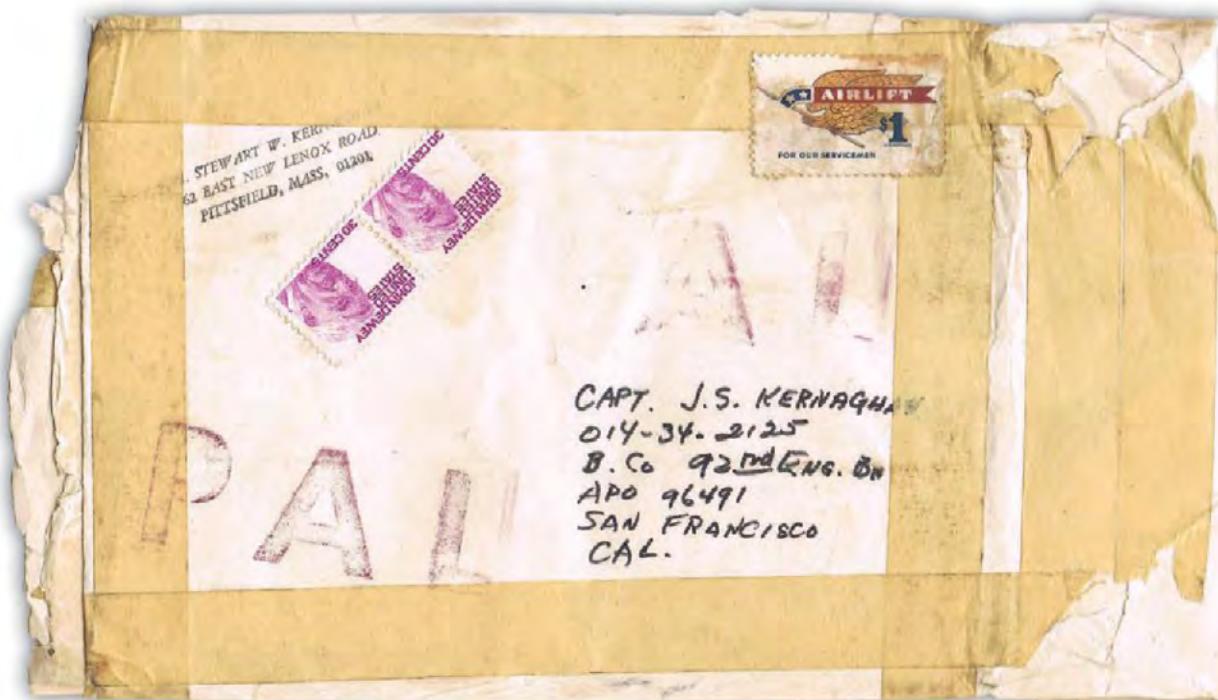


Figure 4. This uncanceled wrapper is almost undoubtedly from a contemporaneous intended use of the \$1 Airlift stamp. Bearing the required "PAL" marking, this item, mailed to Vietnam, stands as the only known parcel wrapper. Cover image courtesy John Hotchner.

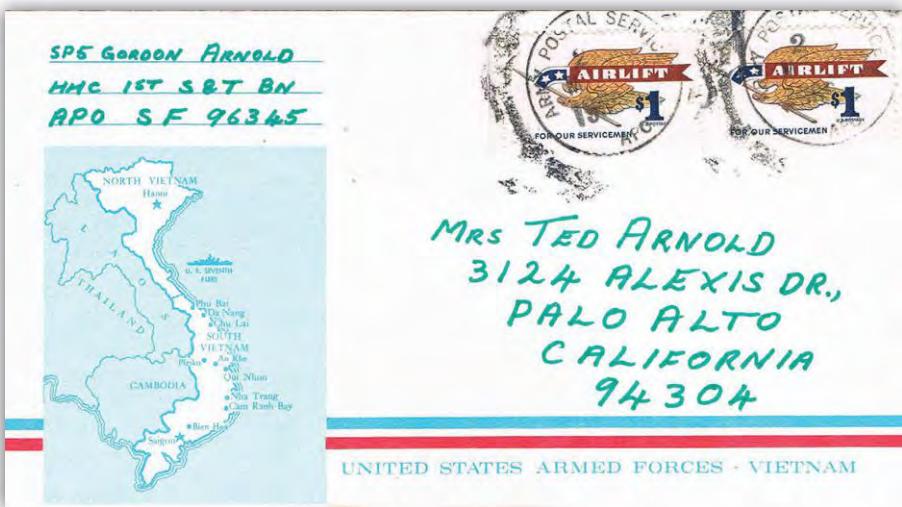


Figure 5. This 1969 cover, from Vietnam, bears a pair of \$1 Airlift stamps. Evidence suggests this is a philatelic use, but that does not lessen its scarcity. *Image courtesy John Hotchner.*



Figure 6. A registered airmail use to Munich, West Germany, postmarked May 8, 1968. This cover, posted slightly more than a month after the stamp was issued, represents the earliest documented non-FDC use of the stamp. *Cover image courtesy Chad Snee.*



Figure 7. A 1969 solo use of a \$1 Airlift stamp on an airmail cover from a woman in Wisconsin to another in Germany. Although this represents a contemporaneous use of the Airlift stamp, it does not represent the primary intended use.

large part of a wrapper addressed to APO 96491, which was also likely based at Long Binh at the time the wrapper was mailed. Although the wrapper is not canceled, it does bear the required "PAL" marking and shows every sign of having been properly used. It currently stands as the only-known parcel wrapper and resides in Hotchner's collection.

Another related Hotchner goodie is a cover [Figure 5] bearing a pair of Airlift stamps, mailed from APO 96345, which was a Saigon location in 1969 when the cover was mailed. The date itself is indistinct, but was likely either March or May, and the flap is never-sealed, having been tucked inside. Although the case could be made this was the cover piece on a parcel mailed stateside, the cover itself is a bit too pristine and, as Hotchner points out, was likely a philatelic favor. Still, it is a contemporaneous use of this issue from a Vietnam address.

But what about other uses? There are a few out there and may be more, if collectors know what to look for. The cover shown [Figure 6] represents what currently stands as the earliest-documented non-first-day use of the \$1 Airlift stamp. Courtesy of dollar-denomination specialist Chad Snee, managing editor of *Linn's Stamp News* and the Scott catalogs. It is a registered airmail use to Munich, West Germany, postmarked May 8, 1968, just more than a month after the stamp was issued. Although it was not used for PAL services, it is a significant find. Snee also notes he has several additional non-PAL uses of the stamp to other exotic locations.

Another cover [Figure 7] presents another mystery to me. It was postmarked in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on February 3, 1969. It represents a single-franking use of the \$1 Airlift stamp to Germany, but is not a parcel and does not appear to have been an overly bulky piece of mail. Still, it represents a contemporaneous airmail use of this stamp, although neither to or from a military post office.

Another contemporaneous cover [Figure 8], again courtesy of Snee, was mailed in 1970 to the



Figure 8. This 1970 cover to Chile represents another scarce airmail use and is similar to one owned by John Hotchner. Cover image courtesy Chad Snee.



Figure 9. An oversized 1971 cover sent by a stamp dealer that was mailed via registered airmail. This represents a valid use of the \$1 Airlift stamp.



Figure 10. A small-sized registered airmail cover from 1973, which utilizes the Airlift stamp to cover the registry fee.

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same addressee as a similar cover owned by Hotchner.

Two other nearby covers illustrate the type of contemporaneous cover one is most likely to find for this issue, when one can be found. The first [Figure 9], is a March 22, 1971, oversize registered airmail cover from stamp dealer Fritz Billig, with the Airlift stamp utilized to pay the registry fee. Similarly, the small-sized registered cover, mailed September 11, 1973, [Figure 10], also relied on the Airlift stamp to pay the registry fee.

There are, of course, more contemporaneous uses of this stamp out there,

as well as those used many years after the fact, but any early use of this stamp continues to prove highly elusive.

Reports of additional covers or — more specifically — properly used PAL wrappers with the \$1 stamp are earnestly requested. What will your search turn up?

# Modern Definitive Stamps of India

The India Postal System's Workhorse Stamps

BY KISHORE K. YALAMANCHILI

*“... A stamp must be clean and easy to read, it must convey all the information it is destined to convey: country of origin, value and word meaning postage ... It is only when a label becomes a picture that stamp degenerates.” — Edmund Dulac<sup>1</sup>*

Definitive stamps, the longtime workhorses of many a postal system, hold a special place in the pecking order of postage stamps. They often present the iconic, not the flashy; the traditional, not trendy; the revered, never a loose cannon. For U.S. collectors, think flags and Americana, not Music Icons or Harry Potter. Indeed, as Andrew Wyatt<sup>2</sup> noted in his article, “The images (on definitive stamps) seep into our consciousness and we hardly notice them. Their ubiquity helps persuade us that the nationalist images they convey are part of our daily experience. Thus, the construct of the nation becomes a normal or a banal part of our everyday lives.”

It is therefore interesting to see what images the modern definitives of India portrayed over more than 60 years and the reasons behind them.

Since India gained independence in 1947, it certainly has some of those traditional attributes among its definitives, but also has taken its own unique path, presenting everything from great and minor archaeological wonders to “modern temples,” like dams and steel mills. A primary theme has been national unity with a focus on everything from family and health advances to alternative energy and unusual flora and fauna.

After becoming independent from Great Britain, India had to decide on new icons to feature on postage stamps in place of the British king [Figure 1]. The Ashokan lion capital or Mahatma Gandhi’s image could have served as icons. But, as it turned out, the use of Ashokan capital was limited to official stamps only. The image of Gandhi has been used on currency notes as well as definitive stamps. Both symbols have been intermittently used on postal stationery. Notwithstanding what Dulac thought, India Post chose to go the



Figure 1. British colonial stamps — such as this Silver Jubilee Mandalay Pagoda (Scott 148) at left and the Dak Bullock Cart (Scott 155) at right — influenced some of the earliest Indian definitive stamps issued in the country.

pictorial route for regular definitives as early as 1949. This decision served India Post well as it showcased the country’s historic monuments and scenic views, and helped in promoting a developmental agenda. In fact, it could be argued that the ground had been prepared for pictorial definitives by the first King George VI definitive issue, which depicted different forms of mail transport. India Post has largely succeeded in using the pictorial format, with the Archaeology issues and some of the issues of 1970s being the best examples.

## Homage to the Past

Even though India became independent in 1947, the first definitives of independent India were not issued until 1949. The then current King George VI definitive series remained in use. The first modern definitive series of 16 stamps was launched on the second anniversary of independence. It showcases the various archaeological wonders of India [Figure 2 and 3]. The low-denomination stamps in the first series showed Ajanta elephant from Ajanta caves in Maharashtra<sup>4</sup> (3 pies)<sup>5</sup>, Konark horse from Puri, Orissa



Figure 2. India’s first set of 16 definitives, the Archaeological series, was issued in 1949. It included the 9-pies Trimurti (Scott 209).



Figure 3. A first day cover with the 13 lowest denominated stamps of the Indian Archaeological series. The 1- and 2-rupee stamps have a lotus border.

(6p), Trimurti head from Elephanta caves near Mumbai (9p), Bodhisattva from Lucknow Museum (1 anna), and Shiva Nataraja from Tiruvelangadu, Tamil Nadu (2a). The Bodhisattva issue was again produced later because it was initially printed with its image reversed. The middle denominations in this series featured Sanchi Stupa from Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh (3a), Bodh Gaya temple from Bihar (3½a), Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Orissa (4a), Gol Gumbad in Bijapur, Karnataka (6a), Kandarya Mahadeva Temple in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh (8a), and Golden Temple at Amritsar, Punjab (12a) [Figure 4].

The high denominations in this series comprised of Victory Tower in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan (1 rupee), Red Fort in Delhi (2re), Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (5re), Qutb Minar also in Delhi (10re), and Shatrunjaya temple in Palitana, Gujarat (15re). The Qutb Minar issue exists in two different versions, with the blue color appearing in two different shades.<sup>6</sup>

The high-denomination stamps in the series have a lotus border design while the low values have a line border. The country name is shown only in English, a practice that is continued in the next two series. The captions also were in English. Interestingly, stamp values were shown in a dual (Indo-Arabic and Indian) numerical system, a feature not seen in later issues. Because of changes in postal rates, the Bodh Gaya and Lingaraj Temple stamps were printed again in different denominations and colors in 1951.

This series showcases Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Muslim religious places. As the first definitive series of the independent nation, this issue was used not only to showcase the ancient monuments but also convey the message of unity in diversity. Although it is a commemorative issue, the King George V Silver Jubilee set can be considered as a forerunner to the Archaeology issue. The Silver Jubilee issue featured monuments across British India. Although much shorter than the archaeological series, the Silver Jubilee issue nicely balanced various regions and religions in depicting its subjects.

It is instructive to see what other former members of the British Empire portrayed on their stamps upon gaining independence. Ireland was the first of the countries to become independent of British rule in the 20th century. After using overprinted stamps for some time, Ireland issued the Sword of Light, Map of Ireland, Celtic Cross, and, Arms of the Four Provinces definitives. These stamps featured symbolic designs. Pakistan issued a series using a mix of symbolic and pictorial designs. The symbolic designs included a crescent and star design and scales of justice, and pictorial designs included the Khyber Pass and other views of the country. Sri Lanka, which also became independent in 1947, issued a pictorial definitive issue in 1950 showing some archaeological sites along with other designs. The 1948 definitives of Burma used a mixed set of designs showing a stylized bird, agricultural activities, logging, people playing on a field, and other scenes on them. The Archaeological series is deeper in scope than the issues of oth-



Figure 4. An Archaeological series first day airmail cover. The stamp is franked with the 2-annas Shiva Nataraja and the 12-annas Golden Temple stamps.



Figure 5. The front and back of the Archaeological series philatelic bulletin. The back side shows a simulated first day cover addressed to Mr. Kidwai, minister for communications.

er countries and its pictorial format successfully highlights some of the majestic monuments of India.

Most stamps of this series were designed by T. Archer and I.M. Das of India Security Press. The 3p stamp was based on the drawing of Veeramati Jadav and the 3a issue was based on the drawing of Karoona Saha<sup>7</sup>. India Post issued first-day covers and a philatelic bulletin for this series. A statue of Vishnu was used as the cachet on the specially designed first-day cover for this series. The elaborate philatelic bulletin [Figure 5] is quite lavish for its time. It has reproductions of the stamps as well as brief descriptions for each of them. It was printed by the Survey of India, which was unusual. The bulletin shows a first-day cover addressed to Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the minister in charge of Post and Telecommunications Department.

India's Archaeological series was printed at India's Security Press in Nasik in typography (lower denominations) and lithography (higher denominations). Except for a few stamps printed in offset, later series have been printed in photogravure at India's Security Press.

### Five-Year Plans

While the first definitive set showcased temples of old India, the next set showcased Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's "Temples of Modern India." The idea of central planning appealed to the left wing of the Indian National Congress party, which was led by Nehru and Subhas Chandra

Bose. Nehru visited the Soviet Union in the 1920s and was impressed by the rapid industrialization under Soviet five-year plans. Bose, who served as Congress president in 1938, initiated a national planning committee headed by Nehru. After independence, Nehru established a planning commission and a system of five-year plans. As part of the five-year plans, the country embarked on developing industries and large scale irrigation systems.

Issued in 1955 as the second five-year plan started, the second series initially featured 18 stamps and is the first definitive series printed in photogravure. It depicts the following "modern" temples: power loom (6 pies), dam (1 anna), locomotive factory (8a), aircraft factory (12a), rare earth factory (2 rupees), fertilizer factory (5re), and a steel factory (10re). The stamps with an agriculture theme are the 3-pies tractor [Figure 6], well irrigation (9p), and bullocks and plough (4a) issues. Small-scale industry and agriculture were not ignored even as the focus is on large-scale projects. Small-scale industry was highlighted by the spinning (2a) and weaving (3a) issues. The public health theme was showcased with a stamp on malaria control (6a).

Other stamps show scenic views from across the country with an airplane over Mumbai (10a), Kashmir (14a), Kanya Kumari (Cape Comorin, 1re 2a), and Kanchenjunga (1re 8a). These last issues were intended for foreign airmail usage and were labeled as "Transport and Communications" issues in the information brochure produced for the series. The series used Hindi for captions while the country name is in English, a solution of sorts to what language to be used on stamps of a multi-lingual country. The malaria control stamp is the exception with the caption also appearing in English. This practice was not carried out in later series.



Figure 6. The low-denomination 3-pies tractor stamp (Scott 254) from the 18-stamp Five Year Plan series of 1955.

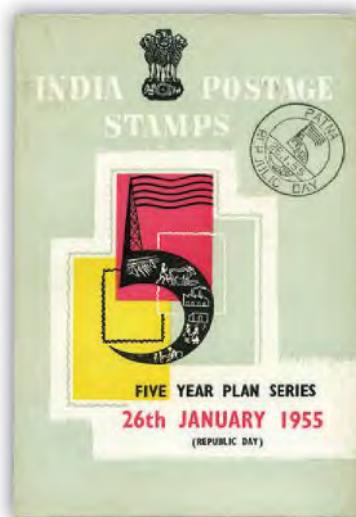


Figure 7. Cover of a philatelic informational brochure for the Indian Five Year Plan stamp series.

The multi-page philatelic informational brochure for this series [Figure 7] is notable because it was printed in English and Hindi versions. It contains pictures and descriptions of the various stamps in the series.

A specially designed first-day cover, featuring a stylized numeral 5 depicting industrial and agricultural activities, also was issued for this series [Figure 8]. An interesting feature of this series is the fact that high



Figure 8. A Five Year Plan series first day cover franked with a single stamp.

denominations of this set were issued in single color in the small definitive format.

Echoes of the Five Year Plan series can be seen in the issues of newly independent African countries. Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya's first definitives covered multiple themes similar to India's second series. Curiously, both Ghana's and Kenya's leaders appeared on some of the definitive stamps. Ghana's leader explained his appearance on postage stamps as a way of signalling the transfer of power to the common man.<sup>8</sup>

### National Unity

The second series was short lived as India converted to a decimal currency system soon after it was issued. A new series was launched on the 10th anniversary of independence with denominations in the new currency system. The currency designation for issues in this series was "naye paise" (np, or new paisa).

This is another series with a single theme. A map of India is the subject on all 14 stamps in this set that ranged from 1 np to 90 np [Figure 9 and 10]. A decorative motif appears on the left side of the stamps. While



Figure 9. The lowest denomination in the Map series, the 1 naye paise (Scott 275).



Figure 10. Three of the 14 stamps in the Map series of 1957–1958 frank this first day airmail cover. The stamps share a similar design.

it shows the rivers and mountain ranges, it does not show any internal borders, thus repeating the message of national unity. It also does not feature Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

There are no rupee values in this

set that was issued in two different watermarks. India issued what

might be called a subset of the second and third series between 1958

and 1963. It features the 14 map

stamps with a new watermark and

some slight color changes (Scott

302–315) along with four stamps

carrying the industrial theme from the second series (Scott

316–319).

### A Potpourri of Themes — Fourth and Fifth Series

In contrast with the previous series, multiple themes were showcased in both the fourth and fifth series.

The fourth series of 1965 to 1968 offers 18 stamps covering the modern temples and archaeology themes, but also introduces the themes of commercial crops, wildlife, handicrafts, and family planning [Figure 11]. This series started the practice of having the country name as well as descriptive information printed both in Hindi and English.

Bakra Nangal dam (5re) and the atomic reactor at Trombay (10re) are on the two highest denominations of both series. Similarly, the archaeology theme was revisited by the Konark elephant (6p), Somnath temple (60p), Hampi chariot (70p), and medieval sculpture (1re) stamps. The 4p and 15p stamps showing tea and coffee showcase two of the significant commercial crops of India. Mango,

the region's king of fruits, makes an appearance on the 50p issue.

The Calcutta General Post Office is featured on the 40p issue. Although part of a definitive series, it was issued for the GPO's centenary. Walter Grenville designed the GPO's building. It is an architectural masterpiece representing the buildings constructed during the British period.

Other themes explored in this series include wildlife, handicrafts and technology. Wildlife makes its first ap-



Figure 11. Three stamps from the 18-stamp fourth definitive series of 1965–68 that featured various images including a vase (Bidriware) (Scott 405), Electric Locomotive (411), and a Gnat aircraft (413).

Figure 12. Six of the 11 definitives of the fourth series that were issued in 1967, including the high-denomination blue stamp featuring Dal Lake, appear on this first day cover.



pearance with the Chital (8p) issue. Indian handicrafts were showcased in the Bidriware (2p) and Dolls (30p) stamps. The remaining stamps depict an Electric Locomotive (10p) and Gnat aircraft (20p). The single-seat Gnat was originally made by Folland Aircraft of Great Britain. It was manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. after initially being imported. The later versions of this jet are named Ajeet. This aircraft was successfully used by the Indian air force in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani wars.

The high denomination 2-rupee stamp showcases the scenic beauty of Dal Lake in Srinagar [Figure 12]. Overall, this is another well-designed series. Although the subjects are diverse, the stamps have a common design with braided frames surrounding the subject for low values and a single line frame used for the four high denominations.

The fifth series (1975 to 1988) is a continuation of the fourth series with the Tiger (15p) from 1974 [Figure 13], and Flying Crane (50p) from 1975 added to the set. Designed by Binoy Sarkar, this series breaks with the homogeneous look of previous series with some stamps framing the subject and some not using any frame. Sarkar's designs have a clean and uncluttered look. It's also interesting that currency designations have been



Figure 13. There are two versions of the 15-paise Tiger stamp. One, issued in 1974, has a dark background and a noted currency (Scott 622). The other (Scott 671), issued in 1975, has a light background and the number "15," but no currency named.



Figure 13. There are two versions of the 1-rupee Veena stamp, the first (Scott 674) with a currency note of "re," the second (Scott 682) from 1975, without the notation.

dropped starting with this series. The stamps are quite striking and have a format similar to the safety definitives of Germany and British commemorative issues of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The social welfare agenda is again featured with a stamp on Family Planning (5p). The 100p denomination replaces the Medieval Sculpture stamp with one showing a veena, a musical instrument [Figure 14]. The 200p features a mountain landscape from Kashmir. The Tiger and Veena stamps were issued in two different versions, one with currency designations and the other without. Also, the Tiger stamp has two different backgrounds, one light and one dark. The



Figure 15. A fifth series first day cover from 1975. Stamps include the second Tiger and Veena, and the Himalayas, Wooden Toy Horse, and Flying Crane stamps.



Figure 15. The sixth series, 1979–1985, includes 17 stamps plus varieties. The 2-paise Adult Education is the low denomination (Scott 836).



Figure 17. A sixth series first day cover from 1981. Only the four stamps at the right are part of the series.

Tiger design saw extensive use on postal cards as well.

The first-day covers produced for both series were very functional in design, without any special cachet used on the cover.

The fourth series cover used the logo of the old P&T department. The numeral “5” was used as the main feature of the cachet for the fifth series [Figure 15].

### Focus on Agriculture

The sixth series [Figure 16], featuring 17 stamps, marked a return to the single-theme series. Reflecting the fact that India is still an economy that is largely dependent on agriculture, this series includes stamps depicting bumper harvest (30p), minor irrigation (10p), hybrid cotton (100p), and agriculture and rural development (25p).

The agriculture related industries of pisiculture (5p), poultry (25p) and dairying (50p) are showcased on stamps of the sixth series. The cashew (225p), apple (280p), orange (325p), and rubber tapping (500p) stamp issues, which emphasize commercial farming, have been printed in multiple colors on a white background. These issues are some of the most well executed stamps in this series. The use of a multi-color subject on white background works well in highlighting the subjects on the stamps.

Social welfare agenda is advanced again with stamps on adult education (2p), family welfare (35p), and child nutrition (20p). For the first time, an environmental issue has been highlighted with the afforestation stamp (1000p) that replaced the long running atomic reactor stamp. Other stamps feature technology transfer (15p) and handloom weaving (200p) themes.

The first-day cover [Figure 17] used for this series features a large numeral “6,” maize field and a farmer on tractor. The mock-stamp design on the

first-day cover exists with and without a color frame.

### Science and Technology

The seventh series mainly focuses on science and technology with TV and Antenna (40p), Oil Conservation (100p), Solar Energy (500p), Bio Gas (2000p) and Wind Energy (5000p). Afforestation is the theme for the 10-rupee stamp. The highest denomination for a definitive stamp increased from 10 rupees to 50 rupees. Social welfare themes include Communal Harmony (200p), Family Welfare (75p and 100p), and the 300p Polio Immunization [Figure 18].

Apparently due to the forgery of the Solar Energy issue, India Post in 1994 issued another 500p stamp. It is the Sanchi Stupa issue, which revisits the perennial archaeology theme. The first-day cover [Figure 19] used for this series features a composite picture of an atom, chemicals,



Figure 18. The 300p Polio Immunization stamp (Scott 1712), issued in 1998, is part of the Seventh series.

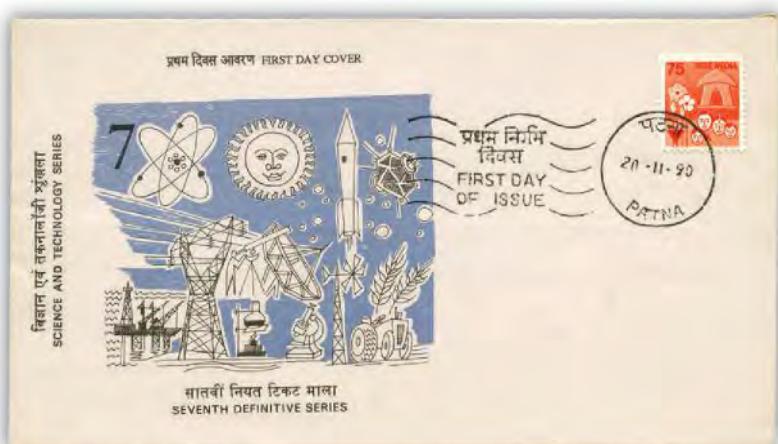


Figure 19. A 75p Family Planning stamp (Scott 915) issued in 1990 is part of the seventh definitive series, 1979–1990. The first day cover shows the numeral “7.”

microscope, oil rig, rocket, satellite, satellite dish, transmission lines, and a tractor.

## Flora and Fauna

India's flora and fauna is the theme of the Natural Heritage series, which features the Blackbuck (25p) [Figure 20], Smooth Indian Otter (300p), Leopard Cat (500p), and Tiger and Sunderbans Bio Reserve that was established to preserve the natural habitat for tigers (1000p).



Figure 20. The 25p Blackbuck (Scott 1820) is part of the 10-stamp eighth definitive series issued in 2000.

Three birds were included in this series: Saras Crane (100p), Painted Stork (400p), and Paradise Flycatcher (5000p). With the Rose (200p), and Amaltas (2000p) stamps, flowers and trees make their first appearance on a definitive series. But the stamps do not do justice to the subjects that were featured in a much better way on several thematic issues. The last stamp in this set is the Butterfly stamp (1500p).

The first-day cover [Figure 21] for

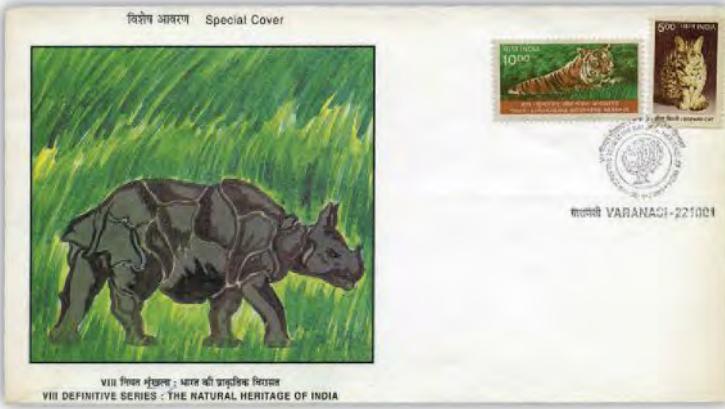


Figure 21. An eighth series first day cover features Leopard Cat and Tiger stamps, Scott 1825 and 1826, respectively.

this series features a multi-color drawing of an Indian rhinoceros drawn by a child artist.

## Builders of Modern India

The Builders of Modern India series of 2009 is a significant departure from the previous series in that people are the subjects. Although special definitives showing Gandhi and Nehru had been issued before, there had been no definitive series devoted exclusively to persons. The series is similar to the U.S. Prominent Americans series (1965–1978) and Germany's Famous Germans series (1961–1970). All of the subjects are quite familiar to the collectors, because they have appeared on Indian stamps before.

Of the personalities featured, Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru (the first prime minister), and Bhimrao R. Ambedkar (first law minister and framer of



Figure 23. The 500p Indira Gandhi stamp (Scott 2282) is part of the 12-stamp Builders of Modern India definitives series issued in 2009.

the Indian Constitution) had both appeared on earlier definitives and commemoratives. Interestingly, Nehru is featured on the lowest denomination stamp. The Indira Gandhi [Figure 22] and Rajiv Gandhi (both served as prime ministers) stamps have been issued in the most commonly used denomination of 5 rupees. The only precedence to the issuance of two designs for one denomination is perhaps the previous issuance of Gandhi and Nehru special definitives, which I will address later.

The significance of the series lies in the other stamps that honor E.V. Ramasami, a social reformer from Tamil Nadu; Satyajit Ray, a movie director; and Mother Theresa, a missionary. The series also features two scientists, C.V. Raman, a Nobel prize winner; and Homi J. Bhabha, father of the Indian nuclear industry. J.R.D. Tata, an industrialist and aviation pioneer, is featured on the 15-rupee stamp. The highest value of the series features Rukmini Devi Aurundale, a dancer who revived the "Bharata Natyam" art form. A theosophist, she was also an activist for prevention of cruelty against animals. Due to their high denominations, both Mother Theresa and Aurundale stamps would see heavy usage on airmail.

Significantly, despite the name of the series, Vallabhbhai J. Patel, the first home minister, who played a key role in merging the numerous princely states into the Indian Republic, is not included. Given the series' title, it's also surprising that engineers such as Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1860–1962), who was knighted by King George V and received the Republic of India's highest honor, were not included. Visvesvaraya is one of the few persons to be honored on an Indian stamp during their lifetime.

Departing from past practice, India Post did not produce official first-day covers for this series [Figure 23]. The quality of printing has deteriorated in this series because we can



Figure 23. Five of the 12 stamps in the series appear on this unofficial 2009 Builders of Modern India first day cover. The government did not issue an official first day cover for this series of stamps.

## Builders of Modern India Series and Current Postal Rates

| Stamp                 | Denomination | Applicable Rate & Equivalent 1949 Rate   |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| J. Nehru              | 25 p         | Registered Newspaper rate — wt. to 50g.<br>(1949 rate: 3 pies)   |
| E.V. Ramasami         | 50 p         | Post card rate<br>(9 pies)   |
| Mahatma Gandhi        | 1 re         | Book packet, printed books (9 pies)  |
| B.R. Ambedkar         | 2 re         | Book packet — Periodicals wt. to 100g (“sample packets” - 1 anna)  |
| Satyajit Ray          | 3 re         | Late fee for unregistered article (“Late fee for RMS carriage” – 1 anna)<br>Certificate of posting (6 pies), registered acknowledgement fee (1 anna),<br>Late fee for registered article |
| H. J. Bhabha          | 4 re         | Book packet — Sample packet wt. to 50g.  |
| Indira Gandhi         | 5 re         | Letter rate to 20g.<br>(2 annas)   |
| Rajiv Gandhi          | 5 re         | Letter rate to 20g.<br>(2 annas)   |
| C. V. Raman           | 10 re        | Letter rate to 40 g., Insurance fee  |
| J. R. D. Tata         | 15 re        | Letter rate to 60g., aerogramme rate<br>(6 & 8 annas)  |
| Mother Theresa        | 20 re        | International letter rate, does not cover the Rs. 5 airmail surcharge<br>(12 annas to United Kingdom)  |
| Rukmini Devi Aurundel | 50 re        | This issue does not seem to cover any specific rate  |

clearly see white spots and fuzzy areas on the stamps. It is disappointing that even with the availability of better printing technology and more resources, production quality seems to be deteriorating.

The table above maps the stamps in this series to current postal rates using information from India Post's website. Where available, the approximate 1949 equivalents<sup>9</sup> are noted.

In some political upheaval that has touched the philatelic realm, India's new National Democratic Alliance government has decided to replace the Builders of Modern India definitive series with a new Makers of India series. Some personalities — particularly prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi — will be removed from the series while Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru will be retained. The new stamp series will honor other personalities, including Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay, that the ruling party identifies with, according to articles in September 2015 in the Indian Express and Outlook India.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, the communications minister, defended the changes by stating: “In our government, looking at country will not be a family. Ideology may be different but will honor everyone.”

This move was criticized by the opposition Congress party as an “attempt on the part of the (political alliance) led by Prime Minister Modi to sidestep and expunge a powerful legacy of sacrifice and selfless nation building.”

### Special Definitives

Special definitives were issued depicting Gandhi and Nehru starting in the 1970s. They were issued in different sizes with basic letter rate denominations through the years. The Mahatma Gandhi definitive issue [Figure 24], which uses D.N. Wadia's photo, was issued in 25p, 30p,

35p, 50p, 60p, and 100p denominations.

The Nehru definitive issues, which use Yousuf Karsh's photo, were issued in 25p, 30p, 35p, and 50p denominations as part of the fifth series [Figure 25]. The Hindi language on Nehru's issue was corrected in subsequent issues. Similar to some of the sixth definitive series stamps, the special definitives have been printed without a frame on white background.

Although India Post classifies most Gandhi and Nehru



Figure 24. There are two sizes of the 25p Gandhi special definitive, Scott 676 (larger), issued in 1976, and Scott 677 (smaller), issued in 1978.



Figure 25. A Nehru special definitive first day cover from 1976. There are three color varieties of the violet stamp, according to the Scott catalog.

definitives as special definitives, first-day covers for regular definitive series were used for these stamps. Interestingly, the 100p Gandhi stamp is included as part of the seventh series by India Post. After the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance coalition came into power, special definitives featuring Subhash Chandra Bose (100p), who served as Indian National Congress president and led the Azad Hind government in exile, Patel (200p), and Ambedkar (300p), were issued. This may be because the new administration felt that philatelic recognition should be given to other heroes of independent struggle as well.

A stamp featuring Albert Einstein (500p) was issued in 2005 on the occasion of International Year of Physics [Figure 26]. Surprisingly, India Post designated the stamp as a definitive. It is not clear if it is part of a new series or it is an extension of the current series in which it does not topically

belong. This is the second time Einstein appears on an Indian stamp; his first appearance was on a stamp issued in 1979.

Another special 25-rupee definitive was issued in 2009 featuring Gandhi

**Figure 26.** The 500p Einstein International Year of Physics special definitive stamp (Scott 2102) of 2005.

in a multi-color format. The stamp was issued to recognize the International Day of Non-Violence, which is observed on Gandhi's birthday to honor his contributions in the philosophy of nonviolence. Other definitives designated by India Post as special definitives are a pin code stamp issued in 1989 and two family planning stamps issued in 1987.



**Figure 27.** Eight different Indian high-denomination stamps from left to right: the 15-rupee Satrunjaya Temple stamp (Scott 222), the 10-rupee Steel Factory stamp (Scott 271), the 10-rupee Atomic Reactor stamp (Scott 422), the 50-re Rukmini Devi Arundale stamp (Scott 2287), the 1000p Afforestation stamp (Scott 900), the 2000p Bio Gas stamp (Scott 917), the 5000p Wind Energy stamp (Scott 900A), and the 50-rupee Paradise Flycatcher stamp (Scott 1829).

## APS SPECIALITY SOCIETIES

Those interested in India philately might be interested in checking out the India Study Circle, APS affiliate 0111. The group's mission is to study the stamps, postal history and postal stationery of all portions of the Indian Sub-continent. The group offers study groups, auctions, and exhibition awards, along with its quarterly journal, the India Post.

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## STAMPS.ORG/SPECIALTY-SOCIETIES

### High Denomination Definitives

The high-denomination stamps [Figure 27] in the definitive series have been usually well designed and the subjects are chosen with care. In the first definitive set, a stamp showing Shatrunjaya temple, a somewhat lesser known temple, is nevertheless well executed. Unlike high-denomination stamps issued prior to 1947, the subject is shown in horizontal format.

The 10-rupee steel mill and Trombay reactor issues are similarly chosen well.

The recent high denominations of Afforestation, Bio Gas, and Wind Energy put emphasis on environment and alternative technology. While the highest denomination in pre-1947 stamps is 25 rupees, the highest denomination post-1947 had been 15 rupees until the issuance of the 20re Bio Gas and 50re Wind Energy stamps in the late 1980s. The high-denomination stamp remains at 50 rupees in the current series with the Rukmini Devi Arundale issue in 2009 replacing the Paradise Flycatcher stamp.

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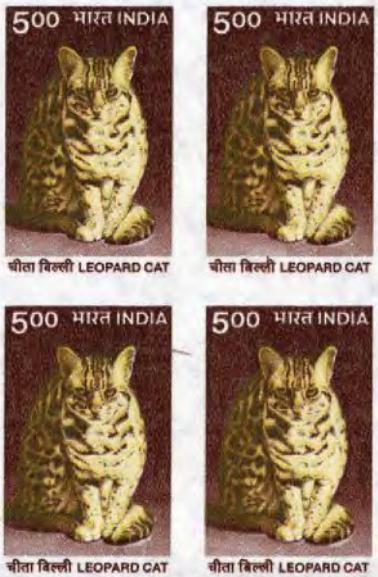


Figure 28. An imperforate block of four of the 2000 Leopard Cat stamp (Scott 1825) and a misperforated block of the 2008–2009 Rajiv Gandhi definitive (Scott 2283).

on the highest denomination stamps in the pre-1947 period, the Arundale stamp is unique in that it is the first time a person appears on the highest denomination definitive stamp in the post-1947 era.

### Errors and Varieties

Given the large printing runs of definitive stamps, various cataloged and un-cataloged errors and varieties exist. Common varieties include printing on gum side, margin shifting, imperforate stamps, watermark variations, and more. The incidence of errors appears to be increasing in the recent is-

### STAMP LIBRARY RESOURCES

*Stamps of India / / Cooper, Jal. 2d ed. April, 1951; 228 pp.  
hardcover book. Location: APRL G7650 . C777st [1951] c.1.*

**About the book:** The author created the first edition (1,000 copies) before India's independence and the revised enlarged edition after, thus allowing an expansion and several new chapters on the many changes in then-new, and now classic, Indian philately.

Chapters include "A Short Postal History of India," "Early Handstruck Stamps," "Overland Route to India," "1854 Issues," "General Issues (De La Rue)," "General Issues (Security Press, Nasik)," "General Issues (After Indian Independence)," "Indian Air Mails," and "Forgeries of Indian Stamps."

All illustrations are black and white, but there are good reproductions of letter stamps, watermark sheets, essays, general issue varieties, close-ups of dies, and postal stationery.

More Indian philatelic references can be found online in *The American Philatelist* Bonus Content section.

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Figure 29. Normal and color shifted J.R.D. Tata definitive stamp of 2008–2009 (Scott 2285).

sues. The Natural Heritage and Builders of Modern India series had various errors and varieties resulting from perforation shifts and absence of perforations.

A few of these examples are shown nearby [Figure 28 and 29].

### Conclusions

Overall, Indian definitive issues have been designed well. They have been used to celebrate the past as well as to advocate the country's developmental and social agenda, show case flora and fauna and technological achievements. The archaeology series towers over the later series in effec-

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## Research on Indian Definitives

The number of articles published on modern Indian definitives is relatively small. Cooper's<sup>10</sup> and Jain and Kothari's<sup>11</sup> works contain only a brief discussion of post-1947 issues. The recent work of Thakkar<sup>12</sup> also does not contain any in depth discussion of the modern definitives. The archaeology series stamps were dealt with by Jal Cooper<sup>13</sup> who discussed inverted watermarks. V. E. Simms<sup>14</sup> wrote about rupee values of this series. The articles of R. D. Green<sup>15,16,17</sup> covered the third, fourth and fifth series. Brahm Mehta<sup>18</sup> discussed a variation in the marginal inscriptions for the Bhakra Dam definitive. R. M. Makoojina's letter on the fourth series mentions several varieties of the Himalayas stamp<sup>19</sup>. R. Pamnani<sup>20</sup> discussed marginal inscriptions in the sixth series. The sixth series was also the focus of articles by R. K. Varma<sup>21</sup> and S. P. Bansal<sup>22</sup>. The Rubber Tapping definitive [Figure 30] was studied in a recent article by S. P. Gupta.<sup>23</sup>

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**Figure 30. The 500p Rubber Tapping stamp (Scott 849) is the high denomination of the sixth definitive series of 1979–1985.**

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## The Author

Kishore Yalamanchili, of Princeton, New Jersey, trained as an engineer and now works in the financial industry. His collecting interests include India, the United States, British Commonwealth, and several European countries. His interest in philately started with a collection of India definitive stamps.

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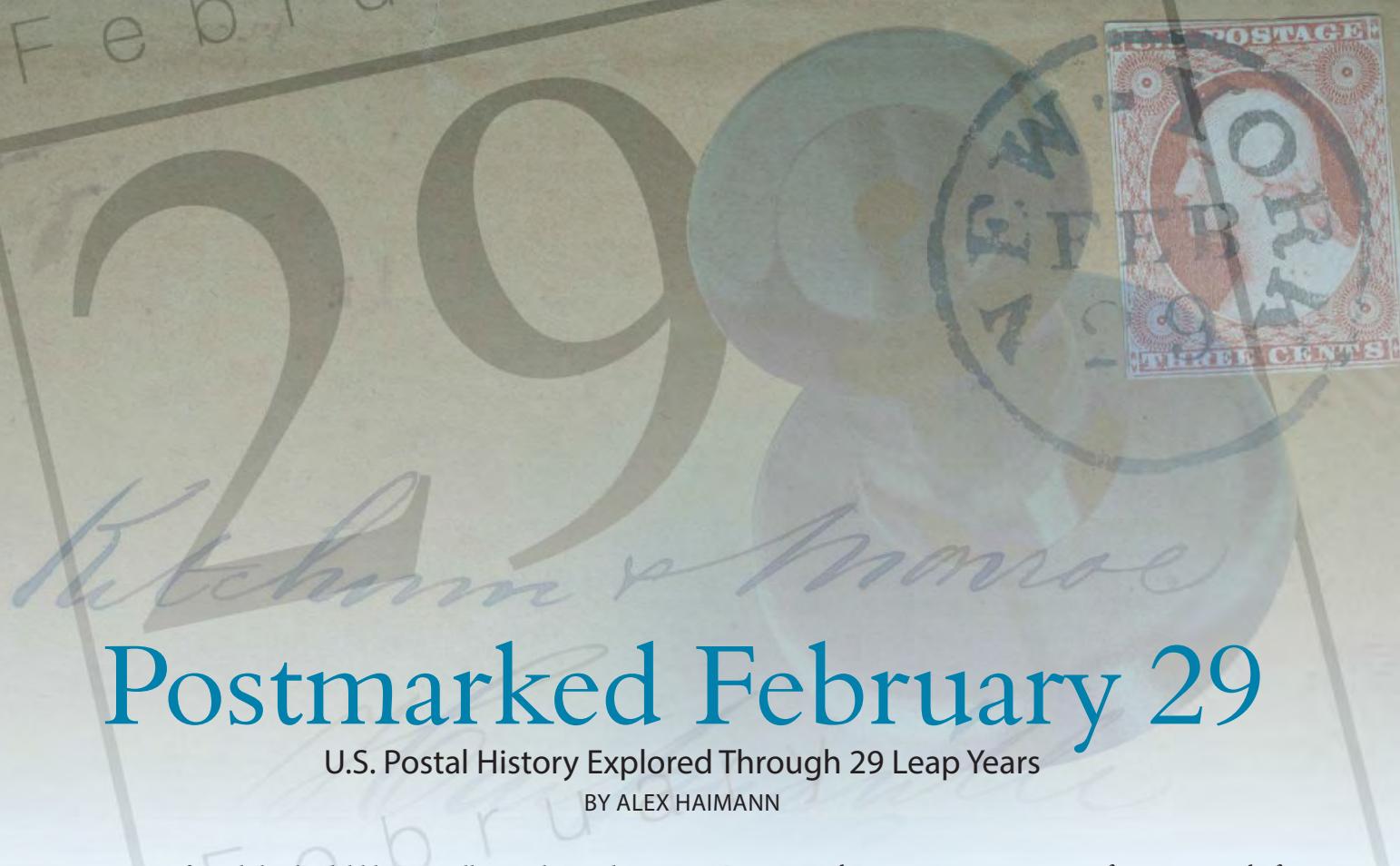
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# Postmarked February 29

U.S. Postal History Explored Through 29 Leap Years

BY ALEX HAIMANN

My first philatelic dabble into collecting beyond mint and used stamps or first-day covers came around the age of 10 when I poked through a box of covers at a dealer's booth at a local show in Michigan. What I came across that day in that box permanently altered my collecting trajectory. I found a regular commercially used cover sent between two cities in New York in 1926 priced at \$3. For the first time, it wasn't just the stamp affixed on the cover or the printed cachet that caught my attention, it was the postal history elements of the cover.

First up was the date in the cancel: February 9, 1926. February 9 happens to be my birthday and the date of that cover's cancellation corresponded to exactly 60 years before the day of my birth, February 9, 1986.

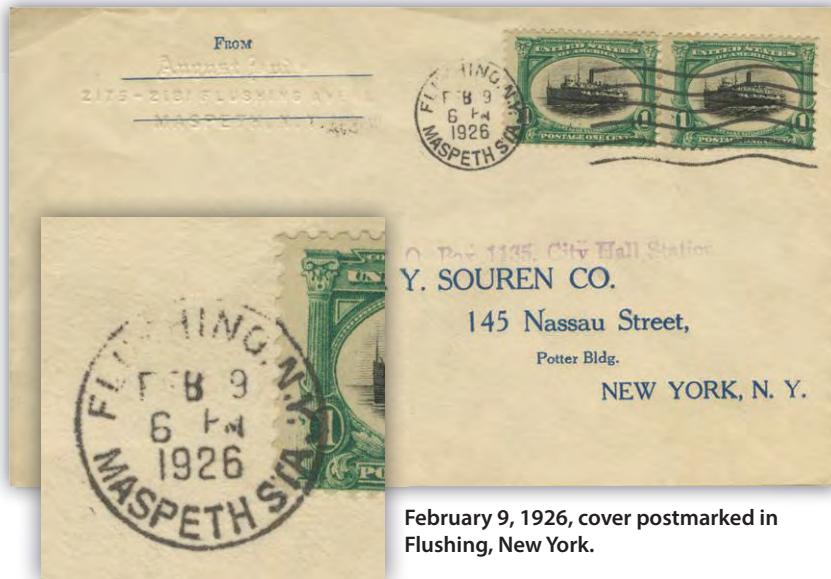
Additionally, to my shock, I recognized the name of the addressee — Y. Souren at 145 Nassau Street, New York City. I had just recently finished reading Herman Herst's *Nassau Street* and Souren makes several appearances. Finally, I recognized the 1901 1-cent Pan-American stamps and realized that they were being used on this cover 25 years after their issuance. At the time, I didn't understand if this was good, great, or of minimal consequence; I just liked the cover.

All of these different elements of the cover came together in this moment and a light bulb went on for me. I realized that I was holding something that was a confirmed postal artifact sent to a famous Nassau Street stamp dealer

representing that exact moment in time from 60 years before my birth.

As I passed over \$3 to the dealer to purchase the cover, my birthday postal history collection was born.

The idea of collecting covers sent on February 9 of different years appealed to me because I could collect all time periods, all stamps, and covers from any country. I was the sort of 10-year old philatelist that didn't see the need to focus or specialize yet. What's the fun in having a narrow focus when there is a whole huge world of philately to explore? I had my mission — February 9-dated postal history, and I began scouring dealer booths at local shows in the months



February 9, 1926, cover postmarked in Flushing, New York.

that followed. Without needing to spend more than a few dollars on each cover I acquired, my collection began to grow.

Every so often while digging through a box of covers, I would come across one canceled with a February 29 postmark. At first, I didn't think anything of it because I was focused on my birthday and nothing else. As my search for February 9 items continued, I realized that finding a February 29 cancel was much less common than locating a February 9. Around the age of 12, I made my first February 29 cover purchase and decided to begin a side collection of Leap Year Day postal history. Since my birthday postal history collecting was already so open and broad, I decided to discipline myself (no small task) and just focus on acquiring one example of each Leap Year Day between 1848 and 1948.

In the same way that collecting February 9 postal history appealed to my interest to explore many different areas of stamps and postal operations in use, collecting February 29 postal history has afforded me a similar opportunity. Including some pre-1848 Leap Year covers, the goal of my collecting is to showcase the many ways sending and receiving mail in the United States evolved over the years. My hope is that every collector can find something that appeals to their own interests in the stories and covers presented here.

## Leap Year's Origins

The origins of leap year date back to the ancient Egyptians, who recognized that adding an extra day once every four years would greatly assist in aligning their calendar with the solar year. The modern version of Leap Year and Leap Year

Day originated with Julius Caesar in approximately 45 B.C. In what became known as the Julian calendar, Caesar created a 12-month, 365-day year, with an extra day inserted at the end of February every fourth year. Prior to Caesar's changes to the Roman calendar, it consisted of a 12-month, 355-day year with an inserted 22 or 23 day month in between February and March in certain years. The Julian calendar produced a far more predictable and accurate calendar system.

The Julian calendar resulted in the average year having 365.25 days. But with any rough calculation of this nature, there is room for refinement. The length of the solar year is more precisely 365.242216 days. Caesar's Julian calendar was too long by 0.0078 days (11 minutes 14 seconds) per year.

Major changes to the calendar did not occur again until the late 16th century. By this time, the 11-minutes-too-long years of the Julian Calendar had added up, causing the calendar to get out of phase with the seasons. The vernal equinox was occurring on March 11 instead of March 21.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the innovation that made the Gregorian calendar (as it came to be called) an improvement over the Julian calendar. Gregory adjusted the leap year rules very slightly.

Thereafter, a year divisible by 100 would not be a leap year unless it was also divisible by 400. Thus, between the years 1600 and 2000, leap years occurred every four years except in 1700, 1800 and 1900, and there were leap years in 1600 and 2000. This calculation is much more accurate, creating an average year of 365.2425 days, much closer to the actual solar year.

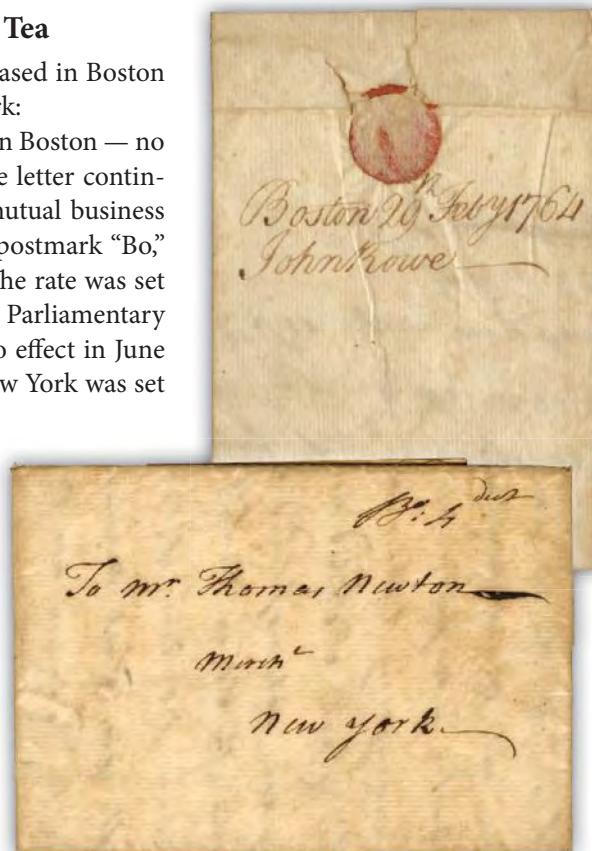
## February 29, 1764, a Wednesday. Smallpox, Shipping, and Tea

In a February 29, 1764-dated letter, John Rowe, a merchant based in Boston begins his message to Thomas Newton, a fellow merchant in New York:

"I can not get any entrance to Marblehead — the small pox being in Boston — no person is admitted there without undergoing a severe smoking." The letter continues with a discussion of a shipping matter of importance to their mutual business interests. Above the address at top right, the marking expresses the postmark "Bo," for Boston, and "4 dwt" (4 pennyweight of silver), for the postage. The rate was set based on the 1710 Queen Anne Act, which established the British Parliamentary postal system in the North American colonies. These rates went into effect in June 1711. The single weight rate for the distance between Boston and New York was set at "One Shilling." The common notation of these rates on letters was in statutory sterling rates, hence "4dwt" with 4 pennyweight of silver equaling 1 shilling. The letter was carried on the Old Post Road through Connecticut down to New York.

Rowe was a prominent figure in the business community and in the early political happenings of pre-Revolution Boston. Rowe also had an ownership interest in the *Eleanor*, one of the ships boarded and cargo dumped into the harbor on December 16, 1773 as part of the Boston Tea Party. On that day in connection with the events, Rowe reported, "Perhaps salt water and tea will mix tonight!"

In the same year that Rowe sent the folded letter shown here, he bought land and began construction on a wharf to service commercial shipping in Boston. This area in Boston still bears John



Rowe's name as Rowes Wharf with the Boston Harbor Hotel as its most prominent present-day property.

### February 29, 1836, a Monday. American Rate, Spanish Payment

The subject of this February 29, 1836-postmarked folded letter focused on several business matters and transited between Monson and Brimfield, Massachusetts, just seven miles apart. The postmark represents a particularly fancy datestamp cancel for the stampless period. The Monson, Mass Baker's Hat with scrolls and manuscript applied month and day in the middle is known in black, red and green. Datestamps and cancels expressed in a green color throughout this period are particularly unusual and this is no exception.



A look at the top right corner of the address side notes "6" with a superscript "4." The official rate for a single-weight letter sent under 30 miles was 6 cents. What does the "4" represent? The answer lies in the use of coinage in the United States during the first half of the 19th century. Coinage produced by other countries was in widespread use throughout the country due to a lack of adequate supplies and variety of denominations of U.S.-produced coins. One of the most common non-U.S. coins used to pay postage was produced in Spanish America.

The 6-cent rate aligned almost perfectly with the Spanish  $\frac{1}{2}$ -silver real, known as a Picayune (pictured here), which equaled  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents. These coins were in such regular use at the time that everyone, including postmasters, viewed this fewer-than-30-miles rate as being  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents, so the letter was marked for postage due at  $6\frac{1}{4}$  — the equivalent in cents for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -silver real coin.

### February 29, 1840, a Saturday. A Thrifty Leap Day

On October 26, 1839, an attorney in Mercer, Pennsylvania, penned a letter to a bookseller in Pittsburgh about a pending legal matter involving a claim by the bookseller against one of the attorney's clients. The bookseller took the outer cover sheet from that letter and used it to write his reply back to the attorney on February 29, 1840. Notice the red circular wax mark in the center of the address panel — that is from the original use of the cover on October 26. The manuscript "10" marking at top right indicated the 10-cent rate for a letter sent between 30 and 80 miles. Pittsburgh and Mercer are approximately 62 miles apart. A part of the "10" manuscript rate marking from the cover's first journey can be seen at top right. Before 1845, a single letter was a single sheet of paper. Reusing a blank area on a sheet was common, since paper was relatively costly. Envelopes were not often used, since they counted as an additional sheet of paper and made a double rate.



### February 29, 1844, a Thursday. The Last Truly Stampless Period Leap Year

The Hanover, New Hampshire, post office was established in 1792. Fifty-two years later, on February 29, 1844, this cover was dispatched to Arthur Fletcher, an attorney practicing in Concord. Fletcher graduated from Yale College in 1836 and was admitted to the practice of law in 1840. The distance between the two cities was approximately 63 miles warranting the 10-cent rate in use for single-weight letters traveling between 30 and 80 miles. The letter was prepaid at this 10-cent rate indicated by the manuscript "10"



at top right along with the two paid markings, one in manuscript and the other as a blue handstamp.

## February 29, 1848, a Tuesday. Two 10-Cent Covers, Same Day But Different Payment Methods

This leap year has a special significance for U.S. stamp collectors because it was the first where a U.S. postage stamp could be used to pay a rate. Even more significantly, it was the only Leap Year Day that the first U.S. postage stamps could have been officially used.

The 5- and 10-cent stamps, printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, were issued July 1, 1847, and demonetized, prohibiting their further use, after June 30, 1851. Representing this first Leap Year Day of the U.S. stamp era, the cover shown here is franked by a single 10-cent Washington 1847 issue stamp (Scott 2), prepaying the rate for more than 300 miles for this cover to travel from Philadelphia to Auburn, New York. The stamp is tied to the cover by a blue Philadelphia integral-rate circular datestamp. Unfortunately, at a point in the distant past, but sometime after the original use of the cover, an eager postal history enthusiast wrote "rare" and "1848" on the front of the cover. They were not wrong in their notation or excitement; only 10 covers bearing an 1847 Issue stamp are known sent on February 29, 1848, four franked with 5-cent stamps and six with 10-cent stamps.

During the time of the 1847 issues' use, prepayment of postage was not required so stampless covers are also known sent on Leap Year Day in 1848. An example is shown here with a cover sent from Farmer, New York, to Waverly Place in New York City. Because this was a distance less than 300 miles, the "10" rating indicates a double-weight cover.

The evolution of the Farmer, New York, post office is interesting. The post office at this cover's origin was established in 1815 as McCall's

Store, the first post office in Seneca County, New York.

Four years later, on May 8, 1819, the name was changed to Farmer. On November 20, 1865, the name was changed to Farmer Village. In 1892, the name was changed back to Farmer and remained Farmer, New York until July 1, 1904, when it received its current-day name, Interlaken.

There was an unusual incentive for the village to choose a new name. A deal was set with the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which agreed to create a stop in the town if it adopted a name more inviting and memorable for tourists. As its Swiss namesake had done, Interlaken took advantage of its location between two of the Finger Lakes. Though the name changed in 1904, the station was not completed until 1910.

## February 29, 1852, a Sunday. Which Leap Year?

The imperforate 3-cent Washington stamp was in use for leap years in 1852 and 1856. The contractor delivered more than 270 million before February 29, 1856. Over that span, the stamp characteristics changed due to the need to create new printing plates to keep up with the growing demand. The stamp on this cover has inner and outer frame lines, a characteristic more common in the early years of this stamp and the color appears to be a shade used in 1852.

Fortunately, the original accompanying letter (not shown) is still with the cover.

Its February 29, 1852 dateline confirms that this is the 1852 leap year. It is fair to say that the letter's writer is not happy. The writer reminds the recipient's firm that when a principal from their firm, Mr. Hull, had visited them last, they had promised to deliver a payment of \$150 by the



middle of February, and as of the composition of this letter, the promised funds had not arrived. The letter concludes “Don’t forget to do so in haste.”

### February 29, 1856, a Friday. Leap Day Junk Mail

Similar to the 3-cent stamp, the 1-cent stamp had slight changes in appearance between 1852 and 1856, but the date of this circular makes it easy. On February 29, 1856, the Heroy, Struthers & Co. mailed a printed circular advertising their current prices for “Chance’s English Sheet, Crown, Ornamental & Colored Window Glass.”

The cost for mailing this printed circular between New York City and Norwich, Connecticut was 1 cent, paid for by a 1-cent Franklin 1851 issue stamp. This printed circular rate came into effect on July 1, 1851 following the passage of the Act of March 3, 1851 allowing 1 cent in postage to be prepaid in cash or by postage stamp for printed materials (excepting newspapers) being sent up to 500 miles, and weighing 1 ounce or less.

### February 29, 1860, a Wednesday (Four Covers). Dating Just Got Easier

#### 10-cent Transcontinental Rate

This cover postmarked in Napa City, California, on February 29, 1860, was sent to Hartland, Vermont, franked by a single 10-cent Washington Type V stamp (Scott 35). The 10-cent stamp prepays the rate established through the Act of March 3, 1855 for mail weighing a half-ounce or less being sent more than 3,000 miles. The black circular datestamp cancel clearly shows the date as February 29, but how do we determine the year? Perforation of this series of stamps did not begin until 1857 and were demonetized in 1861, so any February 29 use is from 1860. This series of U.S. stamps was demonetized to prevent their use in the seceded states and a new series of stamps was issued.

#### 3-cent Advertising Cover

The May 5, 1848, issue of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* newspaper notes the start of construction of a new hotel at Frankfort and Chatham streets in New York City. “Mr. Richard French, the enterprising conductor and proprietor of ‘French’s Hotel,’ is to be the conductor and proprietor of the new structure. ... It will be seven stories high, of the Corinthian order of architecture

and warmed in every part by heated air. ... The plan of management is after the European style, rooms and lodging furnished, and meals furnished to order.” The hotel opened the following year and on February 29, 1860, the French’s Hotel advertising cover shown here was sent to Miss Mary Brown in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts.

The cover’s advertisement highlights many attributes of the hotel including the single room daily rate of “50 Cts.” and promotes the helpful advice, “Do not believe Runners or Hackmen who SAY we are FULL.” The cover is franked by a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott 26) and tied by a February 29, 1860, New York City circular datestamp cancel.



#### 30-cent Prussian Closed Mail to Germany

In 1852, the United States and Prussian governments concluded an agreement for direct exchange of closed mail bags by American and British packets between exchange offices in New York, Boston, and Aachen (in modern Germany). The single-weight rate was 30 cents from any place in the United States to any place in the German-Austrian Postal Union. Prepayment of the 30-





Chicago, Illinois datestamp cancels. The letter made its last U.S. stop in New York before departing across the Atlantic. A red March 3, New York American packet marking was applied at that time (seen below the righthand Chicago datestamp). The letter was loaded onto the *Arago*, a ship on the Havre Line, arriving in Southampton on March 16 then continuing transit across the channel through Belgium and arriving in Aachen on March 18, 1860 before proceeding to its final destination.

The United States retained 23 cents of the 30-cent rate to pay for U.S. postage, carriage by sea, and British transit. Prussian Closed Mail paid covers from the United States bore an exchange-office marking specifying whether it was sent by American or British packet and crediting the remaining 7 cents to Prussia for its postage and transit across Belgium. When the letter was processed in Prussia, it was stamped with the distinctive marking of the Aachen Exchange Office giving the date of receipt, March 18 and showing it was paid (Franco).

#### 15-Cent French Mail Rate Cover to Nantes, France

On the same day as the previous folded letter was sent from Chicago on its way via Prussian Closed Mail to Germany, the folded cover featured here began its journey from New Orleans, Louisiana, sent by a local merchant with its handstamp at bottom left.

The cover traveled under the terms of the U.S.-French Postal Convention of 1857 allowing for a piece of mail weighing a quarter ounce or less to be conveyed the entire journey from the United States to a destination in France fully prepaid for 15 cents. The 15-cent rate for this cover was prepaid by a strip of three 1857-61 5-cent Jefferson stamps (Scott 29) and tied to the cover by two "New Orleans Feb. 29 1860" datestamp cancels. The first segment of the journey took the cover to New York City, where the red "March 6 New York PAID 12" datestamp was applied, indicating 12 cents due to the French side of the agreement.

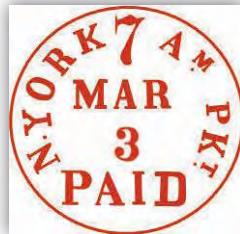
The 15-cent rate was composed of four elements:

- 3 cents for U.S. domestic transit (New Orleans-New York City)
- 6 cents for carriage across the Atlantic to Great Britain
- 2 cents for transit by British postal authorities to France
- 4 cents for French internal transit from the port to the final destination

The double circle "20 MARS 60 ET. UNIS SERV. BR. A.C. J" handstamp at the center of the cover indicates the first contact with the French postal system through the traveling post office between Calais and Paris (A.C. means *ambulant Calais*) on

cent postage rate was not required. Frequent, reliable steamship service made Prussian Closed Mail the most commonly used means to send mail to the German states. This agreement lasted until it was superseded on January 1, 1868, by an agreement between the United States and the North German Union (later the German Empire).

On February 29, 1860, a sender in Chicago, Illinois, affixed a strip of three 10-cent Washington Type V stamps (Scott 35) with a visible part of the sheet's Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co imprint in the far left margin to a February 29-dated folded letter bound for Detmold, Lippe Germany. The stamps are tied by blue February 29,



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March 20, 1860 from the service bringing mail from the United States by British (BR) transit. The "J" at the bottom of the marking denotes which mail crew handled the cover. The black boxed "P.D." handstamp indicated prepayment all the way through to destination.

Two transit backstamps explain the remaining part of the journey. The cover arrived in Paris on March 21, 1860, as shown by a double-circle transit marking and then finally arrived at its final destination of Nantes on March 22, 1860, evidenced by a dated Nantes receiving backstamp.

## February 29, 1864, a Monday. Across Lines and Borders

### Civilian Flag of Truce Cover

Following the full suspension of U.S. postal service activities in the recently formed Confederate States of America on May 31, 1861, nothing was simple about sending mail across the lines between the United States and the newly formed Confederate States of America. Soon after the suspension of official postal operations and for the purpose of exchanging communications between the two sides as well as mail to and from prisoners of war, various flag-of-truce routes were established. These routes were not regular and had periods of ceased operations throughout the Civil War. Mail sent among civilians through these flag-of-truce channels was not officially authorized, but during periods throughout the war, was allowed to go through.



unusual form — the sender in the U.S. had possession of some Confederate stamps and affixed the 10-cent blue Jefferson Davis, Die B (CSA Scott 12) to pay the postage within the CSA. Additionally, the sender applied an 1861 3-cent Washington (Scott 65) to pay the postage from Rowlandsburg, Maryland, to the lines.

The cover began its journey February 29, 1864, from Rowlandsburg, accounted for by the datestamp cancel. Next, it traveled by a water route to arrive at federal Fortress Monroe in southeastern Virginia. The "via Fortress Monroe" manuscript at bottom left was applied by postal authorities at the time of mailing. The cover proceeded by the sender's intention, "for flag of truce" and was exchanged in early March 1864 with Confederate authorities. The cover was taken to Richmond, where the 10-cent CSA stamp received a March 9, "Richmond, VA" datestamp (on the Davis stamp) and proceeded into the regular Confederate postal system for delivery to Miss Emilie Smith in Columbus, Georgia.

Because the Civil War began in 1861 and concluded in 1865, only one Leap Year Day — February 29, 1864 — is possible for Civil War postal history. A piece of mail transmitted by civilian flag-of-truce with a Union stamp and a Confederate stamp affixed for the purpose of paying the rates on both sides of the conflict and starting the postal journey on February 29, 1864, has all of the essential elements for an extraordinary Civil War Leap Year cover.

### 10-cent Cross-Border Cover

Beginning its journey in Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 29, 1864, this cover franked by an 1861 10-cent Washington stamp (Scott 68) prepaid the rate for single-weight mail going cross-border to a destination in Canada. The rate for single-weight letters traveling from most places in the United States to any destination in Canada went into effect in 1851. The year for this cover is confirmed by the two transit postmarks on the reverse side. The cover crossed the border





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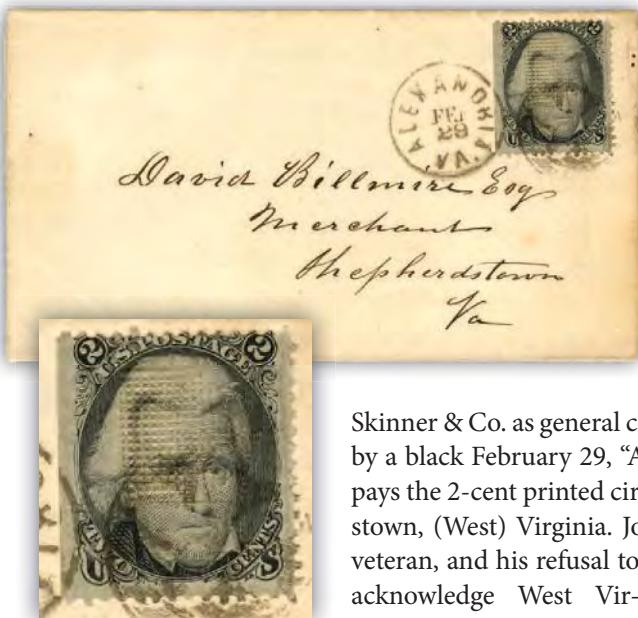
at London on March 4, 1864 and arrived at Oil Springs, Canada West (located in present day Ontario) the following day.

## February 29, 1868, a Saturday. Leap Day Grills

### Grilling

In an effort to prevent the reuse of postage stamps, postal officials authorized its current contract printer, the National Bank Note Company, to begin “grilling” U.S. postage stamps. The concept behind the grilling process was to emboss a waffle-like pattern into the paper of a stamp to improve the absorption of cancellation ink. The hope was that this practice

would greatly frustrate efforts by individuals intent on removing cancels by various means and illegally reusing the stamps. The production of stamps with grills was relatively short-lived, but succeeded in creating a series of grill types and varieties.



Skinner & Co. as general commission merchants. The stamp is tied by a black February 29, “Alexandria, VA” circular date cancel and pays the 2-cent printed circular rate for transmission to Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia. John Newton Harper was a Confederate veteran, and his refusal to acknowledge West Virginia may have been deliberate.



### 2-cent Z-Grill Circular

Following the two experimental grill types (A and C), National Bank Note Company began producing the first regular-production grill type, today classified as the Z grill. The January 1868-dated circular advertises the recent formation of a co-partnership between J. Newton Harper & Co. and Albert T

have been used to pay the postage.

## February 29, 1876, a Tuesday. First Leap Year for Postal Cards

The first official U.S. postal card was issued in May 1873. The example shown here shows the second postal card design (Scott UX5) without a watermark sent within New York City on February 29, 1876.

As a result, this Leap Year Day is the first one where postal cards were available for use. The sender's dated message reads, "Please send for a keg of olives that was returned to us." The postal card is canceled by a large black Maltese cross and accompanying "New York Feb 29 9AM P.O." datestamp.



## February 29, 1880, Another Sunday. Finding The Last Leap Year Day Puzzle Piece

When I set the goal of acquiring a piece of postal history sent on every Leap Year Day for the first 100 years of U.S. stamps, 1848–1948, I would never have predicted that February 29, 1880, would be the most difficult for me to find. The date falling on a Sunday doesn't help but the element that made it most tricky was that it was not going to be highlighted in any dealer's stock or auction catalog.

The regular issue stamps in use in 1880 are not expensive to collect and it was likely to cost from \$1 to \$10. All of this meant that a significant amount of time and luck would be required while searching the Internet and dealer booths in the hopes of finding one.

A few years ago, the philatelic gods shined favorably on me when I came across an 1880 Leap Year Day cover in a mail bid sale. The listing was text-only with no picture and only identified it as a 3-cent Bank Note issue stamp used on a February 29 cover. I took a chance and bid as the 3-cent Bank Note stamps were in use during 1880. Fifteen dollars later I had in my possession the cover shown here.

A combination of the cancel and the rate timeline are the keys to confirming this as a February 29, 1880, cover. The earliest recorded use of the Philadelphia four-circle duplex canceling the 3-cent stamp (Scott 184) is November 1879. The first-class rate in 1880 was 3 cents,

matching the need for the 3-cent stamp used on the cover. The first-class rate was reduced to 2 cents in 1883.

### Surprise: A Second 1880 Cover

Many collectors experience in their collecting journey, when you finally find the item you've been searching long and hard for, another pops up soon afterward. That is exactly what happened to me.

Less than one month after finding my first 1880 Leap Year cover, I found another for a similar price at a stamp show. Fortunately, this time around, the confirmation of the year was much easier as it still had the original letter accompanying the cover with a February 29, 1880, dateline. The 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott 184) is tied by a large "6"-ball killer cancel



with accompanying "Boston, Mass Feb 29 12PM" datestamp.

### February 29, 1884, a Friday. 1-cent Stamp Paid Local Rate

Beginning in 1865, a first-class rate of 1 cent for locally mailed and delivered letters in non-carrier cities was initiated.

The cover shown here demonstrates this rate in use with an 1881 1-cent Franklin stamp (Scott 206) tied by a black cork cancel and a February 29, 1884, Waterloo, Iowa, circular datestamp on a locally mailed and delivered cover.

### February 29, 1888, a Wednesday. News Flash: Lower Postage Rate

The first-class letter rate decreased from 3 cents to 2 cents per half-ounce in 1883. The permitted weight doubled in 1885 to 2 cents for each ounce.

The cover representing the 1888 Leap Year shown here features an American Bank Note Company-produced 1887 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott 213) tied to an Adams Express Company envelope by a New York "Feb 29 430PM 1888" datestamp with duplex "2" cancel.

A Buffalo, New York, March 1, receiving datestamp appears on the cover's reverse side (not shown).

### February 29, 1892, a Monday. 1-cent Paid Third-Class Rate

The first embossed stamped wrappers were issued in 1861. The 1-cent Franklin (Scott W301) example shown here, sent from Avoca to Beatty, Pennsylvania, on February 29, 1892, probably paid the single-piece third-class rate for an item weighing up to 2 ounces.

The Avoca post office was established only a few years earlier in 1884.

### February 29, 1896, a Saturday. Columbus Sails Back to Europe

The issuance of the first official commemorative stamp series produced by the United States, the Columbian Exposition Issue, coincided with the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

This set of 16 stamps was the only U.S. commemorative series issued in the 19th century. With their issue date in 1893, the first Leap Year Day possible use for a Columbian Issue stamp was 1896. The cover shown here highlights a 1-cent Columbian stamp (Scott 230), which is sandwiched between two First Issue Bureau of Engraving and Printing-produced 2-cent Washington stamps.

The combination prepays the 5-cent overseas Universal Postal Union (UPU) postage rate. The stamps are tied by three "Feb 29 1 PM 1896, Los Angeles, California" duplex "3" datestamp cancels on cover to Hautes-Alpes, France.



## February 29, 1904, a Monday. Overseas Rate Held Steady for 50 Years

The 2-cent rate for a postcard sent from the United States to most overseas destinations was in place for half a century, from the introduction of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) rates in 1875 to September 30, 1925.

The multi-color postcard shown here that was sent to Norway highlights a scene from Riverside Drive in New York City.

The postcard began its journey on February 29, 1904, with two 1-cent Franklin Second Issue Bureau stamps (Scott 300) prepaying the 2-cent rate. The Norwegian receiving datestamp appears at left of the stamps, indicating arrival on March 11, 1904.

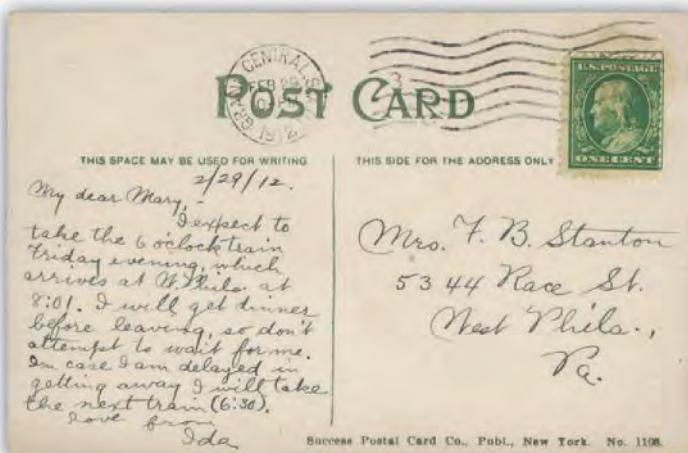
## February 29, 1908, a Saturday. Registered Cover to North Wales

The 1908 Leap Year Day is represented by a registered cover sent from Bismarck, North Dakota, "To The Manager/Old Bank/Bank of North Wales & Chester/Opposite Nixon & Jarvis/Bangor/North Wales/Great Britain." The two Second Bureau Issue stamps — the 3-cent Jackson (Scott 302) and 10-cent Webster (Scott 307) — are tied to the envelope by a February 29, 1908, Bismarck, North Dakota, circular datestamp and the New York Registry Exchange label, applied in New York on March 3.



## February 29, 1912, a Thursday. Quick Regular Mail Service

On Thursday, Ida wrote from Grand Central Station giving Mary in Philadelphia an update on her itinerary for the next day. She sent the message by a postcard franked with a 1-cent Franklin stamp (Scott 374). The stamp is tied by a "Feb. 29 10-PM, 1912 Grand Central Sta. New York" wavy-line machine cancel.



The cover's reverse shows a registry receiving datestamp for Birmingham, England on March 11, followed by the March 12, 1908, Bangor receiving datestamp on the bottom right of the address. The 13 cents in stamps covered the 8 cents for the registered mail fee and 5 cents for the UPU rate. The fee for registry service for first-class mail in the United States had been 8 cents since January 1, 1893, in addition to a short period between January 1, 1874, and June 30, 1875.



This is the first Leap Year Day where a Washington-Franklin Issue stamp could be used to pay the postage.

## February 29, 1916, a Tuesday. "I Said 'Pay Up'"

On February 29, 1916, the embossed stamped envelope (Scott U406b) shown here began its quest to find Mr. L. Ravenport of Phoenix, Arizona. In 1916, the cost for sending a first-class letter between cities was the same (2 cents)



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as sending one within a city. Several auxiliary markings, including a large purple pointing-hand "return unclaimed" handstamp, on the cover testify that Ravenport did not claim the letter. Because the sender applied a National Pay-Up Week label on the reverse backflap, maybe the contents of this cover focused on Ravenport paying a debt? Because the contents are no longer accompanying the cover, we will never know for sure.

So what was National Pay-Up Week? According to the December 23, 1915, Thursday Afternoon edition of New London, Connecticut's *The Day* newspaper, the concept for National Pay-Up Week began in the small town of Waukon, Iowa, population 2,000. The principal of the local high school who also held the position of Secretary of the Commercial Club suggested that for the week of January 9–15, everyone in Waukon pay down their debts. The news of Waukon's successful week of debt repayment spread following an article published in the *Merchants' Trade Journal*. The article said, in part, "The people of that community are like the people in many another town and community — that is, some of them have, during the past years, bought goods for which they never paid. ... So the week of January 9–15 was advertised as pay-up week and during that time in this little city over \$50,000 in old accounts were wiped off the books of the local business houses." The national concept for a National Pay-Up Week was born.

*The Day* summarizes the rationale for this national effort best: "Our credit is national in its scope. The manufacturer extends credit to the jobber, the jobber carries the retail merchant, the merchant, in turn, extends credit to his customers, and therefore, every business interest should be interested in National Pay-Up Week. If local people in towns would make it a point to pay the doctor, the preacher, the grocer and all other merchants, and the merchant made it a point to pay the wholesaler and the jobber, and the wholesaler to pay the manufacturer during this week, Feb. 21–26, there would be more dollars put in circulation in this country than were ever started moving during the same length of time."

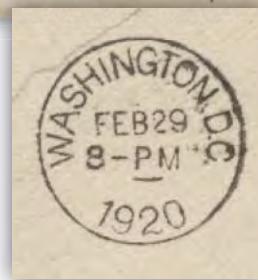
### February 29, 1920, a Sunday. Urgent Mail — Just 2 Cents

The February 29, 1920-dated letter mailed in the envelope pictured here contains the response to a telegram received at 5:15 a.m.: "We are greatly distressed to know of John's illness and await further news with anxiety. Under present conditions it is not advisable for George to make the journey to Burlington but Mason will start tomorrow morning and hopes to reach Burlington without delay. He is strong and capable and can be of more service in this emergency than his father..."

The receipt of the telegram and the need for a thoughtful and caring response beyond the transactional nature of a telegram explains the Sunday posting of this letter. The 2-cent Washington stamp is tied by an 8 p.m. February 29 Washington, D.C. wavy-line cancel.

### February 29, 1924, a Friday. Four Washingtons on Registered Letter

In 1924, the Pinellas Park Post Office was still relatively new, having opened in 1910. Pinellas Park, Florida is north of St. Petersburg on the peninsula across from Tampa on the western side of the state. The cover featured here was sent by registered mail and franked with three different Washington-Franklin Issue stamps. The two 3-cent Washington coil stamps (Scott





Bob Prager

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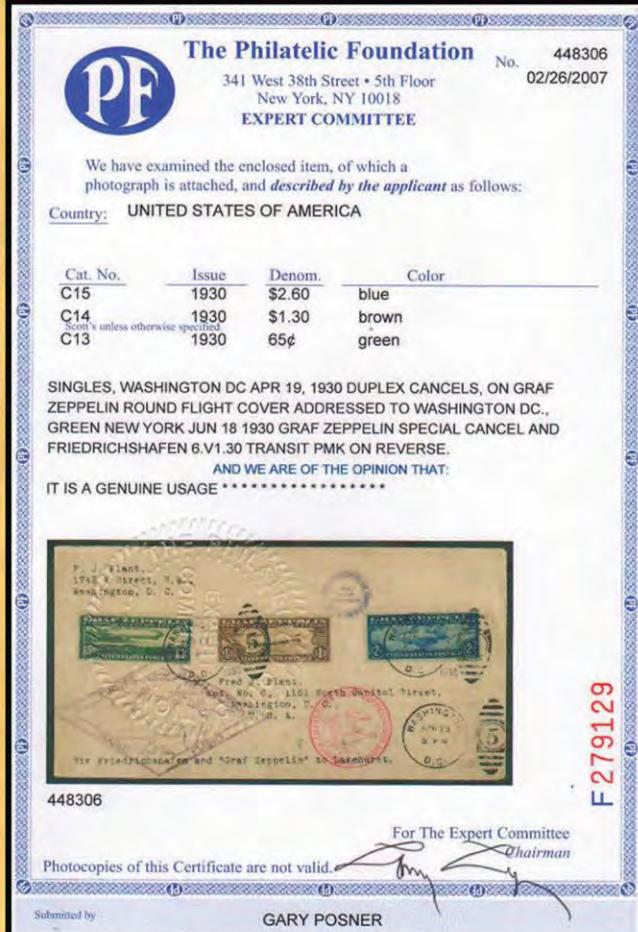
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493) are canceled by a Pinellas Park, Florida circular four-bar datestamp at 8 p.m. February 29, 1924. The 6-cent Washington (Scott 506) and the 2-cent Washington (Scott 554) stamps are canceled with a dual Pinellas Park, Florida, straightline handstamp.

The circular four-bar datestamp is repeated on the cover's reverse along with a Worcester, Massachusetts, registered mail received handstamp. The 14 cents in postage prepaid by the four stamps covers the then current registered mail fee of 10 cents and the first-class rate for a letter weighing between 1 and 2 ounces.



### February 29, 1928, a Wednesday. Canal Zone Overprints from Booklet

A major offshoot of U.S. postal history involves the many possessions and territories that fall under various arrangements of U.S. administration and/or semi-independence. One of these territorial possessions was the Canal Zone, under U.S. control from 1904 to 1979.

By 1928, regular sophisticated mail service had been initiated between the Canal Zone and the continental United States. The six stamps used to prepay 12 cents in postage are from a 2-cent Washington booklet pane (Canal Zone Scott 101a) issued earlier that month and tied by an 11:30 a.m., February 29, 1928, Balboa Heights machine cancel. A matching Balboa Heights February 29 duplex cancel sits to the left of the stamps. Five of the stamps compose a partial booklet pane with one additional booklet stamp totaling 12 cents in postage. This amount includes 2 cents for paying the carriage by steamer to the United States, and 10 cents for the half-ounce airmail within the United States. The cover's reverse side shows a March 6 New Orleans transit handstamp, March 7 Chicago Air Mail transit marking, and March 7 Roosevelt Park Station, Detroit receiving datestamp.



### February 29, 1932, a Monday. Congressional Free Frank

Philip David "Phil" Swing came to the U.S. Congress in 1921 representing California's 11th District, which at that time covered Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Swing assumed office on March 4, 1921, as only the second person to represent this district following its creation in 1913. Swing sent this featured cover from Washington, D.C., to someone in his district

free of charge under the franking privilege granted to him as a member of Congress. Swing's signature was pre-printed in blue on the envelope with the February 29, 1932, Washington, D.C., cancel applied at the time of mailing.

The franking privilege for public officials has a controversial history dating back to the earliest days of the U.S. government's formation. During the 19th century, a growing sense that free mail to and from members of Congress was being abused and amounted to a waste of public resources led to severe restrictions in the years after the Civil War. By the turn of the century, many of the most severe



restrictions had been lifted but many rules still remained in place. Limited franking privileges exist today for members of Congress, former presidents, and spouses of former presidents with their signature affixed in lieu of postage.

### February 29, 1936, a Saturday. Hand-addressed Junk Mail Forwarded

On February 29, 1936, the Media Research Bureau in Washington, D.C., sent Mr. A.C. King a 1-cent Jefferson postal card (Scott UX27) with a preprinted message on the back. The message titled "King Family History — \$2.00" continued, "Our research staff has completed preparation of a manuscript dealing with the KING FAMILY, which we believe will be of considerable interest to you and your kin." The remainder of the message touts the many benefits of having the information contained in the manuscript.

The Media Research Bureau got its start in the 1920s but by the post-World War II period, the organization gathered more and more criticism for its less-than-ethical practices when it came to compiling and selling the family genealogical information the preprinted card featured here advertises. Because it was their practice to send to anyone with the last name matching the most recently created "manuscript," A.C. King was not at the Binghamton, New York, address and the postal card was forwarded to Fort Lauderdale, Florida with the March 2, 1936, Binghamton datestamp placed right over the 1-cent Jefferson postal card imprint design.



### February 29, 1940, a Thursday. Origin of 1940 Envelope Still Going Strong

The Hotel Traylor in Allentown, Pennsylvania, opened for business in 1917. Approaching its 100th anniversary in 2017, the property is still open with a combination of hotel rooms, apartments and offices in its portfolio of operations.



On February 29, 1940, the sender of the cover shown here, likely a former guest, used one of the hotel's stationery envelopes to send a letter from Philadelphia to Smith, Kline & French, Inc., also in Philadelphia. The sender affixed a 2-cent John Greenleaf Whittier stamp (Scott 865), which was issued just 13 days prior to this cover being sent. As the cover was being sent within Philadelphia for local delivery, the rate was 2 cents versus the typical inter-city first-class rate of 3 cents.

The addressee firm, involved in the research and manufacturing of pharmaceutical products, could trace its origins to John K. Smith opening a pharmacy in Philadelphia in 1830. Over time,

as partnerships formed and other businesses came into the fold, the firm took its then current form of Smith, Kline & French in Philadelphia. Today, the firm is part of the British-based multinational pharmaceutical company — GlaxoSmithKline plc.

### February 29, 1944, a Tuesday. Philatelists Go to War.

On Saturday evening, February 5, 1944, the Philatelic Societies of Michigan hosted an event at the Book-Cadillac Hotel in downtown Detroit. During the event, an auction of special philatelic materials with all proceeds ben-



fiting the “armed forces” took place. A few weeks later, one of the consignor-donors to that auction received an acknowledgement of that donation contained in the World War II patriotic cover showcased here. Since the cover was mailed for intra-city delivery within a carrier city, a local rate of 2 cents applied. This cover was sent within the final month of the local rate for cities with mail carriers. The rate was abolished on March 26, 1944.

The block of four 1938 Presidential Issue ½-cent Franklin stamps (Scott 803) prepaid this 2-cent local mail rate. The cachet honors Poland as the “First to Fight” reminding the viewer of the September 1, 1939, invasion by Germany and the start of significant military activities on all sides that continued in the European Theatre until May 1945, still more than a year away from the time this cover was sent. Considering that the D-Day Normandy invasion still had not taken place at the time of this cover’s transit through the mail, an Allied victory in World War II was far from certain.

## February 29, 1948, a Sunday. Leap Year Tradition Portrayed on Leap Year Cover

The final cover in this tour of the first 100 years of U.S. postage stamp Leap Years celebrates an old Leap Day tradition.

The stamp used to pay the then current 3-cent first class rate is the 3-cent California Gold Centennial Issue (Scott 954), canceled by a “Give Red Cross Fund” slogan cancel at 9 p.m., February 29, 1948. The cover features a preprinted cachet depicting a woman getting down on one knee to propose marriage to a man. The essence of the Leap Year tradition shown here is that on this one day every four years, a woman can propose to her gentleman friend instead of waiting for him to make the offer. Many different European countries have varying conditions and origins for this marriage proposal role-reversing tradition, but it became a more common part of popular culture in the 19th century.

Philately and cultural traditions remain forever interwoven as seen through this final Leap Day cover.



### An Invitation To Start Your Leap Year Collection

There is no time better than the present to start your own Leap Year Postal History Collection!

In honor of the 2016 Leap Year, I would like to invite you to receive a complimentary special 2016 Leap Day postmarked item for your budding collection.

To receive this item, please e-mail me your mailing address to haimannat@gmail.com or send me a letter with your mailing address to: Alex Haimann, 1017 Olive, #801, St. Louis, MO 63101.

Mailing addresses must be received before February 20, 2016.



### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Robert Boyd for his invaluable advice and editorial guidance in the preparation of this article. A special thank you to Mike Miley Jr. and Mike Pappas for their help over the years in sourcing great Leap Year Day material.

Additional thanks to John Barwis, Richard Frajola, and Alex Gill for their

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8 p. m. February 5, 1944

counsel on topics featured in this article that overlapped with their areas of expertise. A second vote of thanks to Richard for making available and maintaining the wide array of postal history research resources on his PhilaMercury website.

Thank you to Scott Trepel for igniting the author’s interest in the study of postal history many years ago through his mentorship and auction catalogs. A

concluding thank you to the whole Robert A. Siegel Auctions team for continuing to provide the tremendous resources found on its website.

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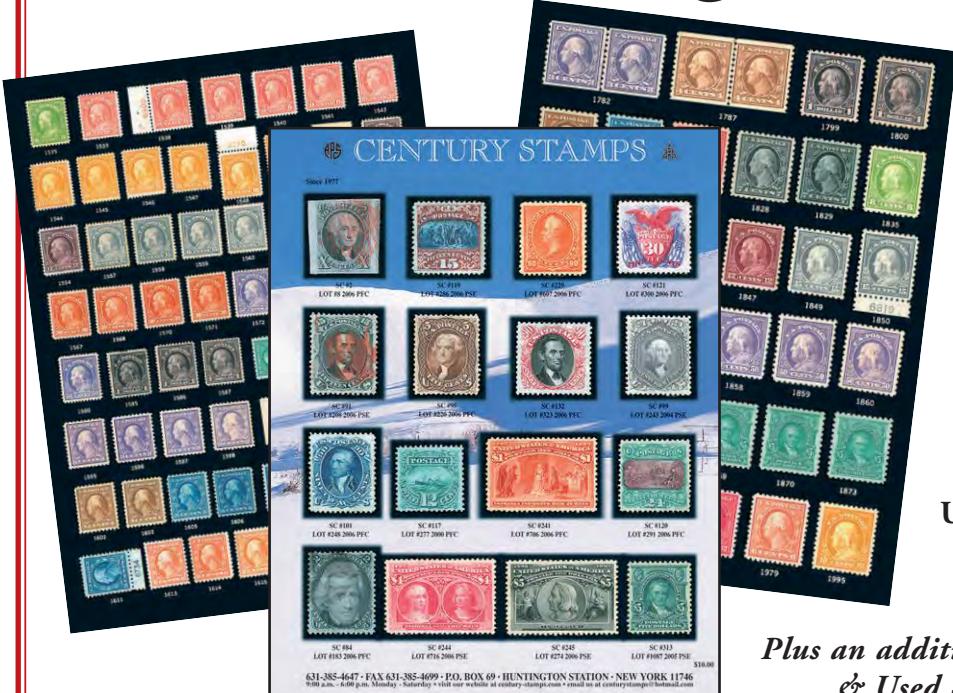
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#### The Author

**Alex Haimann** has never met a stamp or cover he didn't like. He is a collector of pre-1947 United States stamps

and a variety of U.S. and worldwide postal history areas. Additionally, he specializes in the postal history of 19th century southern Africa with particular emphasis on the mails of the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War. He started collecting stamps with the encouragement and support of the West Suburban Stamp Club in Plymouth, Michigan. He is the founder of the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship program and currently serves the American Philatelic Society as the chair of the Board of Vice Presidents.

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# algeria postal context

Don't Judge a Cover by Its Stamps

BY KEN NILSESTUEN

**M**ost of us are at least marginally interested in history, part of the appeal of stamp collecting. I have found postal history to be an even stronger draw than stamps. The Internet has expanded our ability to associate more history with postal history than ever before. I hope I can encourage your own forays into the stories represented by your collections.

We accept that postal history from an exhibiting standpoint is rates, routes, markings, and usages. But the senders and recipients were people, some of note, others ordinary folks. In addition to letters having a postal context, they also have a personal and sometimes a historical context. With that in mind, let's use Algeria as a means to explore this.

We start with a mess of a folded letter (contents no longer there) from Oran, Algeria, to Ravenna [Figure 1]. Right away, we have to differentiate between today's unified Italy and the various states that were still independent of each other in 1835. Ravenna changed political hands several times over the centuries, but from 1814 to 1861 it was part of the Papal

States. So that's why we see "Italia par Pontifijo" in the upper-right corner, a direction to the postal service.

That isn't really the starting point, though. The first marking was the roughly sideways "E/ARMÉE EXPÉDRE/D'AFRIQUE" applied in Oran. (The "re" was cut off the cover because of where the cancel was struck.) This is one of five straight line cancels used by the French expeditionary army when it invaded Algeria in 1830.

International Algerian mail went through France. This letter went to Toulon, where it received the "TOULON-SUR-MER" circular datestamp (at the right) on April 10, 1835. It probably took about a week to cross the Mediterranean from Oran.

At this time, folks thought that diseases — particularly yellow fever, cholera, and the plague — could be carried on these letters. The postal solution was to disinfect mail when it arrived in France. You can find other articles that discuss this in some detail, but usually letters were cut with a knife and exposed to mustard gas or a similar poisonous agent. To

show this had been done, this letter received a faint red disinfection marking, barely visible in the center on the face.<sup>1</sup>

To get the letter to Ravenna, the French sent it to Antibes, its exchange point with Sardinia. Nice, now a French city, was part of Sardinia at the time, and applied its "NIZZA" marking (near the top left) just to the right of the Oran marking.

Antibes had already handstamped "C.F.2.R." on the letter, indicating that it was "French correspondence, second rayon." Rayon referred to a distance or zone system, important because postal rates depended on both weight and distance. At the right of that mark is "TF" (atop the Toulon-Sur-Mer postmark), standing for French transit, also applied in Antibes.

Well, I could continue analyzing this, but



Figure 1. This somewhat complex cover, a folded letter, is heavy with multiple postal markings that trace its origins to Algeria in 1835.

I want to avoid pedantry. Let's wrap this one up by saying it was disinfected again by the one of the Italian states, and delivered on April 20 to Stefani Pavlick, notary, in Ravenna. He paid 42½ baiocchis, the currency of the Roman states, upon receipt.

Look at the image again. Ravenna is in the Papal States, Nice was part of Sardinia. Currencies were different from each other and from today. This little folded letter can teach us a lot about history, not just postal history, even without its contents.

Now to a less interesting, at least on the surface, folded letter [Figure 2]. Louis Levy, a merchant in Oran, sent this letter in April 1873 to Florent Pauwels in Anvers. Looking carefully at the stamps, one can see that the two stamps are tête-bêche, or one inverted in relation to the other. This was a constant plate variety, highly prized by French area collectors and with an especially rare use in Algeria. That's what caused me to purchase this delightful item.

There is more to this than meets the eye. After looking at the rate and markings, I was satisfied that this letter went through the mails, arriving in Anvers on May 5. Then I started looking at the addressee and the letter's contents.

The first word I searched for online was "Anvers," the town name. You probably never heard of it, right? That's because it's the French name for Antwerp, Belgium. I found it interesting that Levy addressed the letter simply to Anvers, not to Belgique, the French version of "Belgium."

Then I tried Louis Levy. I poked around online for quite a while, but I didn't find any trails that provided any information about him. That's no surprise, because anything older than about 1990 seems to be ancient history on the Internet, and the idea that someone might put information about late 19th century Algerian merchants on the web seems to be a stretch.

If you try your own search, don't be fooled into thinking that the Algerian postcards produced by "LL" were those of this merchant.<sup>2</sup> There is an explanation that LL, often thought to be Louis Levy, actually stands for Leon and Levy, a Parisian photo studio founded in 1862 or 1864.<sup>3</sup>

My next search was on Florent Pauwels [Figure 3], the recipient of the Figure 2 cover. Here I had more luck, once



Figure 2. This 1873 letter's destination was Anvers, a well-known destination that probably is not found on a modern map using that version of the location's name.

I linked Anvers to Antwerp. Pauwels was the son of a cigar-maker who made quite a name for himself, at least in Antwerp. After taking over his father's business, Florent stopped making cigars and turned it into a tobacco trading firm. He also owned plantations in the Philippines, Mexico, Borneo, and Brazil. According to the Internet biography, in the late 19th century, his two sons took over the business, while Florent devoted more time to local politics. There's a photo of Pauwels and also his grave monument



Figure 3. The Figure 2 letter recipient Florent Pauwels was a wealthy and successful businessman who dealt in the tobacco trade.

online, because he was a very wealthy and successful businessman.<sup>4</sup>

That exhausted what I could find online, so I studied the letter itself. It turned out that Levy was writing about tobacco. Apparently, Pauwels had offered some [Asian] Indian tobacco to Levy, but Levy didn't know anything about it and was awaiting a sample before placing an order. Levy mentions that he is having some tobacco shipped from Dunkerque (Dunkirk) to Oran, and is awaiting other samples from Marseille. Levy goes on to ask if Pauwels has any Russian tobacco, which Levy had used in the past with satisfaction. He also tells Pauwels that he is selling some inferior Dutch and Hungarian tobacco in Spain.

Levy asks for 5 to 10 kilos each of tobaccos that Pauwels

# France's Numeral Cancels

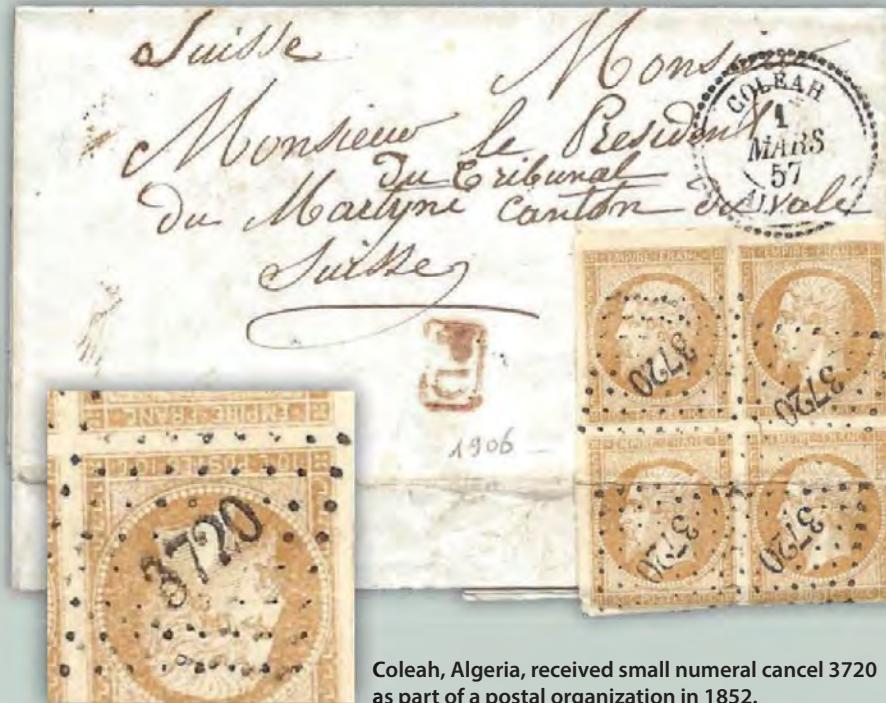
BY KEN NILSESTUEN

When France issued postage stamps in 1849, it adopted a system for obliterating them that was similar to England and the United States. Each town had a circular datestamp (or similar marking) that clerks applied to the folded letter.

To ensure the stamps would not be reused, the clerks applied a separate "grille" cancel to the stamps. There were exceptions for Paris, which always considered itself special in some way, whether because of the volume of mail passing through or the many post offices and variety of postal services available in the city.

Effective January 1, 1852, the French postal service substituted a new system for canceling the stamps. While the town circular datestamps stayed the same, a diamond shaped cancel of dots with a 4-millimeter tall numeral in the center replaced the grilles. The post office intended for the dots on the canceller to pierce the stamp and render it unusable. The "small" numerals in the center of the dots were assigned to all French post offices, including those in Algeria and the French offices, but not to colonial post offices. The numbers were matched with an alphabetical list of post office names, with 3710 through 3739 assigned to Algerian post offices. Coleah received small numeral cancel 3720 as part of this original assignment.

As time went on



Coleah, Algeria, received small numeral cancel 3720 as part of a postal organization in 1852.

and more post offices opened, more numerals appeared. The final small numerals were assigned in 1861, which became the rarest, since these were often assigned to small villages and the numerals were not in use very long.

On January 1, 1863, the French post

office retired the small numerals and replaced them with similar cancels that had 7mm tall numbers in the diamond. These are known as the "large" numerals.

This time, the Algerian series started with 5000 and extended to 5078. The



In 1865 two large postal numerals, 5113 and 5114, were assigned to Algerian post offices Mondovi and Barral. The post office retired the large numeral cancels on March 31, 1876.



Figure 4. This is an uncommon classic cover from 1865. It was mailed from Algeria with a destination of New Zealand.

had offered in his previous letter, apparently expecting that the quality would satisfy Algerian tobacco users. It isn't clear if Levy is brokering for cigar manufacturers, intending to make cigars, or otherwise retailing (or just smoking) the tobacco.

So, with a little bit of research I learned a lot about the recipient and was able to put the letter, one with a terrific pair of stamps on it, into context between Messrs. Levy and Pauwels. This letter became a lot more interesting than just the tête-bêche stamps.

The third item [Figure 4] got my attention for its address. It is the only mail from this period that I have seen originating in Algeria sent to New Zealand. The three-color franking is very unusual, too, so much so that it is often emphasized in French auction lot descriptions.

While I am disappointed that the letter is long gone, the Internet helped me piece together quite a story. Note the "Via Suez" at the upper left. In 1865, the canal was well under construction but not yet open. However, Lieutenant Thomas

Waghorn had established an overland mail route through Egypt in the 1830s that shortened the England-to-India route by about 10,000 miles.<sup>5</sup> That was the reason this envelope could find its way from Algiers through Marseille, France, to New Zealand in just over two months (March 16 to May 22).

There is no indication of the sender, so I focused my research on the recipient. This envelope was addressed to M.J. Perston, Esq., at the firm of Ridings and Dowden, Auckland. It turns out there is a terrific source for information about New Zealand. At PapersPast, a National Library of New Zealand website, there are nearly 4 million pages of archived New Zealand newspapers, starting in 1839 and continuing through 1948. The site is easy to use and search, so I was able to learn quite a lot.<sup>6</sup>

There were probably approximately 13,000 people living in Auckland at the time this letter was sent in 1865.<sup>7</sup> It had been the national capital since 1842, although in 1865 the capital moved to Wellington.<sup>8</sup> The newspapers in circulation included the *New Zealand Herald*, *The Daily Southern Cross*,

5000 series was reserved for Algeria and French offices, and again new numerals were assigned in batches as new offices opened. Two large numerals — 5113 and 5114 — were assigned to Mondovi and Barral, respectively, as part of a group assigned in 1865. The post office retired the large numeral cancels on March 31, 1876, although the numbers continued to appear for many more years in registry markings and return-to-sender handstamps.

Collecting and studying these nu-

meral cancels is an interesting part of French postal history. Algeria had about 85 small numerals and 140 large numerals assigned during these years. Some covers showing these numbers are extremely rare, and a few are unknown because the cancelers were not in use very long.

Four Algerian post offices continued to use small numerals long after the large numerals were assigned, and some were reassigned from one office to another.

## STAMP LIBRARY RESOURCES

**Look for *The Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues 1849–1876*, by Raoul Lesgor and Meade Minnegerode, for a good general discussion about these markings, and *Catalogue des Marques Postales & Oblitérations d'Algérie*, by ab der Halden and de Beaufond (in French). Both are available from the American Philatelic Research Library.**

**HTTP://CATALOG.  
STAMPLIBRARY.ORG**

and *The Auckland Evening Star*, all of which are included in the PapersPast website.<sup>9</sup>

In the 1860s and early 1870s, much of the second page of these daily newspapers was usually devoted to advertisements for public auctions taking place that day and over the next few days. Ridings & Dowden was an auction firm operating at this time. Ridings had been in the business for a while, evidenced by a series of notices on January 16, 1863. These notices announced the retirement of Connells and Ridings as a firm at the end of January and the formation of a partnership between Henry Ridings and Walter Dowden. The new firm was continuing the auctioneering and general commission agent business formerly conducted by Connells and Ridings at the same location.

Ridings and Dowden auctioned all kinds of goods, from earthenware to drapery to real estate. A search for these two names in the database turned up more than 3,600 hits, many of which are announcements of the same auction in several different newspapers, auction results, short commercial announcements in the “news” portion of the papers, but it is clear that this firm was an active business selling whatever was brought to them.

The letter also shows that Ridings and Dowden had at least one employee in addition to the partners, Matthew J. Perston.<sup>10</sup> While I didn’t look at every occurrence of his name on the PapersPast website, one that caught my attention appeared on December 29, 1865: “On Friday the 15th inst, at her residence, Grafton Road, the wife of Mr. M.J. Perston, [the birth] of a son.”<sup>11</sup>

Sadly, on December 3, 1865, Perston’s name appears again in the only death announcement that day. “On the 30th November, at Grafton Road, Mathew Bell, youngest child of Mr. Perston. Aged 11 months.” The short funeral announcement followed. The death announcement did not include cause, but we know that there were many childhood diseases that claimed their victims at tender ages.

Between those two announcements, *The New Zealand Herald* published a front page ad that alerted the city to the dissolution of Ridings and Dowden effective May 28, 1865 (six days after the letter arrived). Just below that followed a “Notice of Partnership” between Henry Ridings and Mathew Perston. They expressed their hope “...that by unremitting attention to business, we shall merit the support so freely accorded to the late firm.”

The ads and announcements continued, now referring to Ridings and Perston auctions. However, it lasted less than two years. Notices of the dissolution of their partnership appeared in October 1866.<sup>13</sup> Henry Ridings announced that he would carry on the business on his own.

Perston and his family presumably fell on hard times after he left the partnership. On March 30, 1869, Henry Ridings advertised that on the next day he would be auctioning “[a] seven-roomed cottage and allotment in Grafton Road, at present in possession of Mr. Perston...” at the request of the mortgage holder.<sup>14</sup> Perston had apparently been unable

to make his house payments. The property failed to sell on March 31, and a second ad appeared two weeks later, stating that an April 14 auction, the same property would be held “Without reserve.”<sup>15</sup>

The history of Mathew Perston is ultimately a sad one. It appears that after losing their home, Perston and his family left Auckland for Thames, New Zealand. On July 17, 1872, an unfortunate story appeared in *The Auckland Evening Star*, repeating an item from the *Thames Advertiser* of the previous day. It occupied nearly two-thirds of a column, starting off with “Matthew John Perston, well known in this community as secretary and collector for the Kauwaeranga Highway Board, committed suicide at his office last evening by blowing out his brains with a rifle.” Perston had been at this position for “two or three years,” so he probably took the job soon after the auction of his foreclosed home.

The article lays out in some detail that Perston had overstated the available funds of the highway board and had recently written some checks against the missing funds. When the chairman of the board heard about this he approached Perston and encouraged him to make efforts to restore the balance. The board was meeting on the evening of July 15, and the chairman wanted everything made whole by then. When the meeting convened, Perston did not appear, and it

## APS SPECIALITY SOCIETIES

If you are interested in the study of Algeria, France or other French colonies, you might consider joining the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (APS Affil #0045). The society produces a quarterly journal. Dues are \$20 a year (\$25 outside the U.S.). Contact: Edward J.J. Grabowski, 111 Prospect St., Apt. 4C, Westfield, NJ 07090; e-mail: edjigrabowski@gmail.com; website: franceandcolps.org.

## STAMPS.ORG/SPECIALTY-SOCIETIES

took just a short time to realize he was locked in his office. The newspaper’s description of what they found was significantly more detailed than modern readers have come to expect. One could have written the autopsy report from the newspaper account.

The article concluded that the reasons for Perston’s suicide were clear. He had a wife and five young children and was not making enough to support them. His theft to try and fill the gap was discovered, and he had no means to repay the shortfall. At the inquest held the following day the jury found that he had indeed “... committed suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.”<sup>16</sup>

What an interesting story from a simple, fragile envelope. Thanks to the Internet and especially the people of New Zealand, who have made so many newspapers available to all of us, I was able to add a great deal of the human story surrounding Matthew John Perston.

So that’s a small taste of why I enjoy postal history, and especially Algerian postal history. Being able to hold that history in my hands, set a computer in my lap and learn about a real person, is very satisfying. It’s like solving a crossword



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or completing a jigsaw puzzle, with the added enjoyment of the serendipitous historical knowledge one accumulates while searching.

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- Ibid.
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- Isn't clear whether his correct given name was spelled "Mathew" or "Matthew." It varies in the newspaper mentions of Mr. Perston.
- The New Zealand Herald*, Friday, December 29, 1865. The scanned version at PaperPast is incomplete. It is apparently Vol. III, No. 665.
- The New Zealand Herald*, Monday, December 3, 1865, Vol. IV, No. 953.
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#### The Author

**Ken Nilsestuen** is the current American Philatelic Society treasurer and president of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. His exhibit of Algerian postal history was in the APS Champion of Champions in 2009.



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## — CATALOGING U.S. STAMPS —

BY CHARLES M. POSNER

# International Red Cross (Scott 1016)



United States 3-cent International Red Cross commemorative stamp.

### The Making of the Stamp

Two Swiss citizens, Jean Henri Dunant (1828–1910), known as Henry or Henri Dunant, and Gustave Moynier (1826–1910), founded the International Committee of the Red Cross on February 17, 1863. Eighteen years later, on May 21, 1881, after considerable effort, Clarissa Harlowe "Clara" Barton (1821–1912) and a group of her colleagues were able to set up the American affiliate. Since the early 20th century, Red Cross organizations have frequently been honored and supported by scores of postal authorities.

The organizations' immediately recognizable red-cross symbol (the reverse of the Swiss flag) appeared on a charity stamp for the first time in 1907, on the first Christmas seal, designed by Emily Bissell and issued by the Delaware chapter of the American National Red Cross. In 1908, a variation of the design appeared on the seal issued by the national organization itself.

The first time the red cross appeared on a postage stamp was in 1914, when France issued a semipostal stamp on behalf of the work of the organization, first as an overprint (Scott B1) and then as an integral part of the design itself (Scott B2).

In 1930, Finland embarked on a tradition of is-

suing sets of semipostals almost every year on behalf of the Red Cross.

In 1931, to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the American branch of the Red Cross, the U.S. Post Office Department instructed the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to issue in its honor a bicolor commemorative designed by Clair Aubrey Huston and Alvin Meissner. The original intention had been to recognize the work of Clara Barton, the founder and long-time president of the American Red Cross, but the postmaster general found the idea "lacking in decorum." Instead he opted for a motif taken from a poster that was called "The Greatest Mother" (Scott 702). Seventeen years

later, on September 7, 1948, a stamp was issued in honor of the work of Barton herself. The date of issue did not correspond to any important event either in her life or that of the Red Cross.

Just four years later, on January 4, 1952 Jesse Donaldson, the postmaster general, announced that still another stamp would be issued in honor of the Red Cross. The postmaster general set the date of issue as November 21 of that year. To issue three stamps within the space of 21 years to commemorate the same organization was unprecedented. One could nitpick and argue

### 3-CENT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

**Date of Issue:** November 21, 1952  
**First-day site:** New York, New York  
**First-day covers serviced:** 439,252  
**Scott catalog number:** 1016  
**Designer:** Victor McCloskey Jr.  
**Vignette engraver:** Charles A. Brooks  
**Frame engraver:** John Edmondson  
**Letter engraver:** John Edmondson  
**Color:** Deep blue and carmine (Scott catalog); blue and red (U.S. Post Office Department)  
**Format:** Electric eye plates of 200 divided into four post office panes of 50 by horizontal gutters — arranged 5 horizontally by 10 vertically  
**Perforation:** Gauge 11 x 10.5  
**Size:** 1.44 x 0.84 inches (36.58 x 21.34mm)  
**Printing:** Bureau of Engraving and Printing using the new Experimental Bicolor Rotary Press (EXBIROW) popularly called the Huck Press. The cross was printed in red by typography from rubber plates affixed to a roller.  
**Quantity:** 136,220,000



There were nine proposed designs of the International Red Cross stamp that were not used, though elements of several are found in the final design. The images here are photoessays of the proposed designs. *Images courtesy the American Philatelic Research Library.*

not very successfully that one stamp honored the American Red Cross, one Clara Barton, and the third the International Red Cross. It took the philatelic press by surprise. Commentators were bewildered. Yet Donaldson gave no reason for his late addition to the post office's yearly program.

The holding of the 18th International Red Cross Conference from July 23 to August 9 of that year in Toronto was regarded as a very important event. Indeed, the last time an International Red Cross Conference had been held in the Western hemisphere was 40 years previously in 1912. Naturally, the Canadian authorities commissioned a special stamp to mark the occasion. But there was no indication that the U.S. Post Office Department chose to commemorate that

event. Some writers suspected that the reason behind the commitment to print a stamp might be to mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Convention. Others suggested that 1952 corresponded to the 88th anniversary of the organization but added that it was "a rather peculiar number to commemorate." Still others surmised that it was in honor of the 90th anniversary of the publication of Henri Dunant's book, *Un souvenir de Solferino*, in which he proposed the founding of such a universal and humanitarian organization. More cynical observers reasoned that the thinking behind choosing the Red Cross had little to do with history and much to do with testing a new technology. The Red Cross was an ideal experimental subject for bicolor printing because such a simple geometric shape was relatively easy to print in a second color.

On April 23, Charles Chickering submitted three models to the Post Office Department for their consideration. These first efforts bear absolutely no resemblance to the Canadian stamp (Scott 317). In the center of one is a red cross superimposed on a white circle, and to the left is a letter box with letters extending toward the bottom of the stamp, where on the right are two waiting hands. In the other two designs the post box is larger and placed on the left as clasped hands lay to the center and right side of the stamp. These were rejected.

On July 30, three of the bureau's artists submitted five new designs to the postal authorities. One was a preliminary sketch by Robert Miller comprising of a wide ribbon with a

#### PLATE NUMBER REPORT

| Plate. No. | Impressions | Printed                            |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 24701      | 158,427     | October 15, 1952                   |
| 24702      | 158,428     | October 15, 1952                   |
| 24703      |             | Experimental, all plates destroyed |
| 24704      |             | Experimental, all plates destroyed |
| 24719      | 152,916     | October 13, 1952                   |
| 24720      | 152,917     | October 13, 1952                   |
| 24725      | 141,648     | October 20, 1952                   |
| 24726      | 141,648     | October 20, 1952                   |

cross affixed that circles the globe. Chickering submitted two further sketches. One has as its centerpiece clasped hands and a red cross located at the upper right of the composition. The other shows the northern hemisphere with a red cross at its center. These, too, were rejected.

As part of the submission, Victor McCloskey sent in two designs. On the left side of each is a globe upon which one can see the western hemisphere and to the right a red cross superimposed on a white sun emitting rays. As a matter of courtesy, the Post Office Department submitted all the designs to Gaile Gaub, the assistant director of the foreign section of the American Red Cross in Washington, and to Ralph Dudrow, the director of public information of the international headquarters in Geneva. On August 29, the Post Office Department announced that one of McCloskey's concepts had been accepted, and the chosen design was made public during the second week of September. Because of technical difficulties in getting the new press to register two colors, the Post Office Department refrained from announcing that the stamp would be printed in two colors until October 29.

## The Design

"The basic design of the stamp will be produced in blue and the famous International Red Cross symbol will be printed in red," said postmaster general Jesse Donaldson.

With those words the postmaster general had, in effect, stated that the United States would be issuing its first multi-

colored stamp since 1944, when the last of the Overrun Nations stamps was issued. More importantly, it was to be the first stamp to be printed by the new web-fed rotary press with which the bureau had been experimenting for many months.

Looking at the stamp itself: on the left side is a globe featuring the Western hemisphere. The motif is composed of the symbol of the Red Cross surmounted on a white sun spreading light over the world and to the four corners of the stamp. The entire vignette is enclosed within a dark frame upon which the words "Honoring the International Red Cross Founded, 1864" are inscribed along the left side, the top and right side of the stamp in white face modified Gothic. "United States Postage" written in the same type occupies the bottom part of the frame and the denomination "3¢" in dark faced modified Gothic is found within the lower right portion of the stamp. Three laurel leaves decorate each corner of the frame.

The date of the founding year of the Red Cross is wrong. Somehow the Bureau and the Post Office Department overlooked the fact that the Red Cross was founded in 1863 and not in 1864. However, for the 1963 centennial year they got the date right. No explanation or apology was ever issued.

The red cross superimposed on a white sun emitting rays that descend to the Earth is first found on a Canadian stamp the design of which was available in January 1952 (Scott 317). It was the work of well-known and prolific Canadian designer Herman Herbert Schwartz (1885–1962), responsible

The International Red Cross stamp running through the Huck Press with the red cross being applied by the plate below. *Image courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.*

for 154 stamps, including the ever-popular Bluenose issue of 1929, produced as a design at the behest of the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. Schwartz drew his inspiration from the back cover of the current Canadian Red Cross pocket calendar. The stamp was issued on July 26 and was printed in light blue and red.

While the American stamp also includes a similar design concept of the superimposed red cross and the rays of the sun descending to Earth, it has other elements that make it more cluttered than the earlier Canadian stamp.

## The Production Process

Because of the wish to continue to issue stamps using intaglio rather than photogravure or lithography printing, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing could not issue multicolored stamps as early as other countries unless it resorted to using once again the slow and expensive flat-bed presses or having the printing outsourced. Within these constraints, Henry Holtzclaw, the dynamic head of the Office of Research and Development Engineering, began investigating multicolor printing after the end of World War II. He realized that the 29 Stickney rotary web presses that he had helped to develop at the beginning of his career, having been in service for up to 37 years, were coming to the end of their useful lives.

The bureau's choice of presses was not determined solely by the needs of the production of postage stamps. In many ways stamp printing was almost a sideline. One should not forget that the primary function of the bureau was the production of the nation's currency, and therefore most innovations were what we can call "currency driven." For that reason, new presses were designed and purchased with that priority in mind. Some of these presses could be adapted to the printing of postage stamps, but there were delays in making these adaptations.

In 1948, a contract for devising and constructing a new press that could conform to bureau specifications was awarded to the design engineers of the Huck Company, and the press was manufactured by the Rutherford Machinery Company. It was originally called the Experimental Bi-Color Rotary Web-Fed Press (EXBIROW) but was more generally known as the Huck Press. The bureau took delivery in June 1950, and from that time until the autumn of 1952 its engineers conducted many series of experiments and trials.

When the necessary modifications had been made, it was possible for the new press to do the following in one continuous operation: moisten the moving web of paper; ink and wipe the engraved plates; print the intaglio impression on paper; dry the intaglio ink and paper; ink the typographic plate that would supply a second color; print with the typographic plate to marry up with the intaglio impression; dry the new impression; apply adhesive to the back of the moving web; dry the adhesive; determine the thickness of the gum, and wind the finished printed product in a uniform concentric roll.

The availability of new quicker drying printing inks



The International Red Cross stamp plate proof of the intaglio blue ink. *Image courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.*

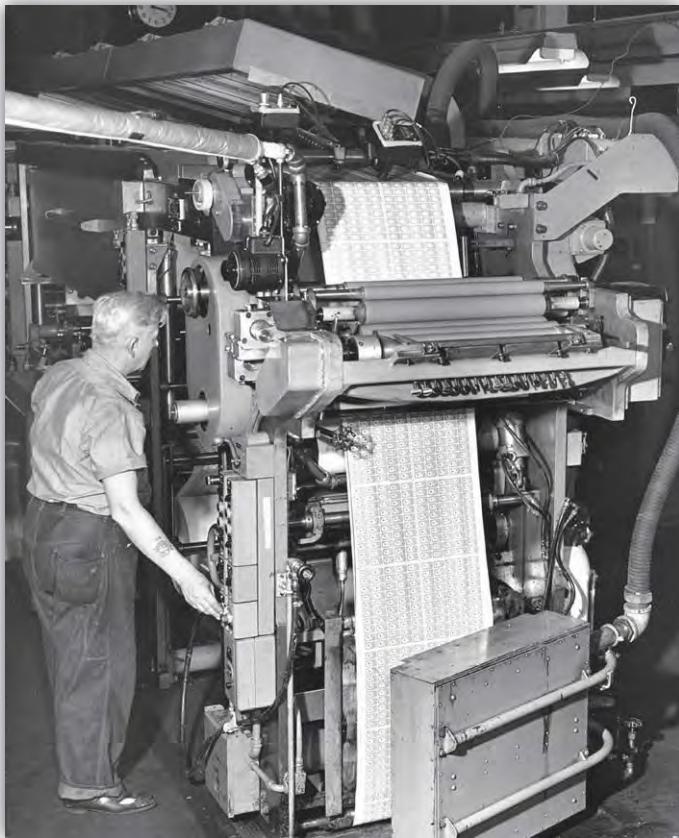
meant that the press could be operated at higher speeds than the Stickney presses. In fact, the rate of production was about three times greater than the Stickney press.

In order to guarantee that two colors would be properly sited and registered, it was necessary to change the electric eye markings on the margins of the intaglio plates. Twenty bars were placed on each of the outside margins of the uncut sheet, and a registry guide in the form of a cross was placed on the outside margins directly opposite the gutter between the fifth and sixth stamps.

The bureau's quandary was that while the Huck press had many advantages, a signal disadvantage that threatened to compromise the production of the International Red Cross stamp was that it was designed for two intaglio printings, but only in sequence. The problem that they found difficult to solve was that bi-color intaglio printing was simply not practical where the web of paper is moistened to the extent it had to be until "dry" printing became a viable option about three years later.

At this point officials raised the possibility of using offset or photogravure. Offset had been used as an economy measure during World War I and the experience was not one that the post office, philatelists, and the general public were fond to remember. There was a general feeling, if not outright prejudice, that typography and photogravure produced decidedly inferior impressions to those of intaglio. Moreover, a major and expensive redesign of the Huck Press would be necessary to allow offset-lithographic or photogravure printing. There was neither time nor the volition to do so.

Hence, when Charles Brooks recess engraved the cross,



Pressman operating the Huck printing press at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the International Red Cross stamp. *Image courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.*

his engraving could not be used because the bureau finally realized that they could find absolutely no way to modify the Huck press so that the intaglio portion of the new press could deal with two colors at the same time. It was decided that, given the constraints of time and pressure from the Post Office Department, there was no option other than to print the second color by resorting to the use of a typographic imprint cylinder. Even this process was cumbersome. To accomplish the task, two hundred soft rubber mats about the size of the stamp itself and four register marks, two for the left and two for the right margins, were found to be necessary.

Moreover, the BEP did not have the facilities to make the rubber mats. Hence, a steel plate, engraved in relief by John Edmondson, was sent to the Government Printing Office where such work could be done. Once the rubber mats were manufactured, the new press could add the typographic impression to the stamps.

Fortunately, the authorities had selected the International Red Cross stamp for the experiment because the cross's shape and size made typographic reproduction feasible. Even then, during the experimental period two plates and all printings from them were judged unacceptable and had to be destroyed.

Despite patience and care the symbol of the Red Cross did not necessarily appear in exactly the same position on all sheets.

Undeterred by their frustrations with the limitations of the Huck press, the bureau and the post office were relatively content with their achievements. They were convinced that

the constraints could be overcome. For that reason, bureau engineers worked closely with the Cottrell Company to build upon their experiences and produce a more suitable press that could print intaglio stamps to their specifications. The faster, better-designed, and cheaper-to-run Cottrell Presses became the workhorse for the production of postage stamps. Nonetheless, the Huck press was far from abandoned. It was used when the Cottrell presses were overloaded and when a special adhesive additive to stop the stamps from curling was used, and in 1955 a new Huck press capable of printing in multiple colors was purchased.

One should not criticize the bureau for the problems it encountered. Trial-and-error is more often than not the key to progress. The BEP could have easily installed typographical and photogravure presses such as were successfully operated in other countries. However, the bureau took what many regarded as a principled decision that it wished to continue with the production of engraved stamps, and for that reason it had to take a veritable leap into the unknown. Learning from their mistakes, within five years the bureau also had the Giori multicolor intaglio press in operation that could more easily reproduce color.

## The Subject

From its inception, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement has sought to serve all combatants in all wars irrespective of politics and to respond to all local, national, and international disasters through the provision of aid and relief. It is a truly international organization, transcending all social, ethnic, and religious differences. So deeply ingrained is its commitment in the social consciousness that it needs no introduction. It is the humanitarian network par excellence that strives to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity. As such, it is supported by millions of volunteers throughout the world.

The Red Cross is, in fact, not a single organization but is composed of 189 individual national societies, each with its own role but subscribing to the fundamental principles underlying the work of the organization: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

To become a recognized member of the international organization, each national body must enjoy an autonomous status underwritten by national legislation, adhere to the principles above, and must be based in the territory of an independent state.

The national societies and their federation meet biannually in a general assembly, after which the International Conference of the Red Cross joins them in what is known as the Council of Delegates to discuss strategic issues of importance. Every four years the entire movement meets under the umbrella of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to discuss current problems and possibilities and to coordinate their activities.

At the time of the issue of the American stamp honoring

# Mick Zais for APS President

Dear APS Members,

I am running for President of the American Philatelic Society in the coming 2016 election. I'm running because I believe the APS, while facing challenges, has significant opportunities to grow membership and expand member services. To this task, I'll bring 45 years of diverse leadership and financial management experience.

For the past four years, I served as South Carolina's State Superintendent of Education, overseeing policy for 1,250 schools, 51,000 teachers, and 720,000 students, while managing a budget of \$4.0 billion.

For ten years, I served as President of Newberry College in South Carolina, a liberal arts, residential, undergraduate institution founded in 1856, with an annual budget in excess of \$20 million. During my tenure the College almost doubled enrollment, constructed new facilities, and more than doubled its endowment. During the last three years of my tenure, the College was nationally recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Colleges."

For 31 years, I led organizations of increasing size and complexity in the U.S. Army, culminating in promotion to Brigadier General. My assignments included Commanding General of all U.S. and Allied Forces in Kuwait and as Commanding General of Operation Provide Refuge which brought 4,000 Kosovo refugees out of Macedonia for settlement in the U.S. I was also the Pentagon's Chief of War Plans.

My entire professional life has been dedicated to leadership through service to others.

Since the age of eight, I have collected stamps from around the world. Over the past 15 years, my focus has been on stamps and postal history related to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as well as the U.S. Army stamps of 1936-37. Next year will mark forty years of continuous APS membership. In 2013, I was elected to the APS Board of Directors as a Vice President. Most recently, I served as Chairman of the search committee that found and hired the APS's new Executive Director.

As your President, I will be a force for change. This means I will work to reverse declining membership by building new outlets for growing our membership and reaching out to more diverse groups. I'll work to strengthen the partnership between the APS and the 30 World Series of Philately regional shows, our 195 specialty societies, and the hundreds of local chapters across the U.S. I'll also work to enhance relations with philatelic organizations in other countries and to grow the number of international members.

Most importantly, I'll work with our new Executive Director, the dedicated staff, the APS and APRL Boards, and the leaderships of many other philatelic organizations, large and small, to build a stronger hobby. Working together, I'm confident we can improve the business operations of the APS while enhancing services to our members: including our StampStore, sales circuits, expertizing, education programs and fundraising to complete the world's premiere philatelic library.

The success of the APS depends upon the health of our hobby; and the health of our hobby depends upon dealers who find and provide material to collectors. As President, I will dedicate myself to strengthening the partnership between the APS and the professional philatelic community.

In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting more of you, learning about your experiences, and hearing your ideas about how we can work together to build an APS that will last for generations. To this end, I would welcome your ideas for the future of the Society at the website below.

It would be an enormous honor for me to serve as your President. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Thank You,

Mick Zais

[mickzais.org](http://mickzais.org)

I Respectfully Ask For Your Vote  
APS Society Election - 2016

A Stamp Collector FOR PRESIDENT



THE STAMP OF APPROVAL

Mitchell M. Zais  
member  
American Philatelic Society



**Mick Zais, Ph.D**

*APS Member Since 1976*

1969–2000 — Officer, U.S.

Army — retiring as  
Brigadier General

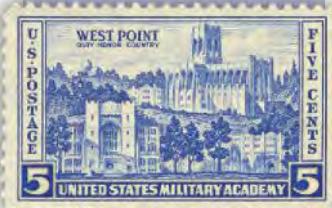
2000–2010 — President,  
Newberry College in  
Newberry, SC

2011–2015 — State  
Superintendent of  
Education for South  
Carolina

2011–Present — Member,  
APS Campaign For  
Philately Committee

2013–Present — Vice  
President, APS Board of  
Directors

2014–2015 — Chairman,  
APS Search Committee  
for Executive Director



the International Red Cross, a bitter war was being waged in the Korean peninsula as a result of the forces of the interestingly named Democratic People's Republic of Korea crossing the boundary that was the 38th parallel and invading the Republic of Korea in the south.

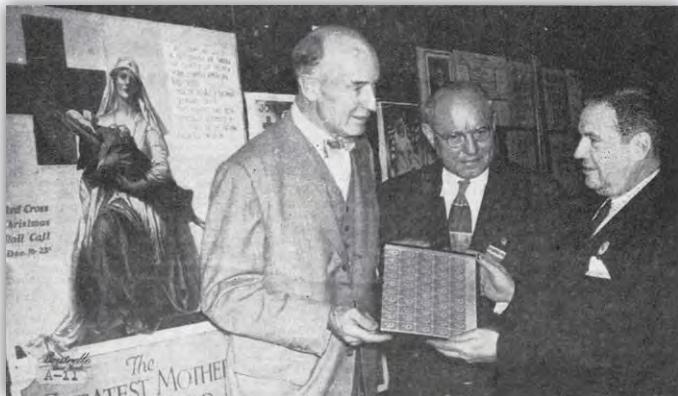
Despite noncompliance by North Korea and China, the American Red Cross provided services to the American occupational force, and on request to all United Nations troops, as mandated by its 1905 charter, to act "in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States" and their armed forces. In the United States, the Red Cross organized the collection of nearly 5 million pints of blood for the armed forces.

The Red Cross was limited to inspecting United Nations prisoner-of-war camps and providing for the needs of Chinese and North Korean prisoners, because efforts to cooperate with North Korea were thwarted, in part because North Korea had not signed the 1949 Geneva Convention. Some help reached United Nations prisoners through the Eastern European Red Cross organizations, but on the whole, there was little cooperation.

Prior to the 1953 Korean armistice, eight months after the stamp was issued, the Red Cross was involved in the exchange of the sick and wounded and was on hand for such exchanges to distribute comfort kits and other supplies to United Nations prisoners who had been denied such help during their captivity. Many more services were provided when the released soldiers reached medical facilities. In all, more than 1.1 million soldiers received Red Cross assistance during the war. Unfortunately, two Red Cross workers were killed in service.

### First-Day Ceremony

The first-day ceremony was held at 10 a.m. Friday, November 21, in the 71st Regiment Armory in New York as an integral part of the fourth annual Stamp Exhibition organized by the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA).



The assistant postmaster general (left) presenting the International Red Cross stamps to the president of the American Red Cross during the American Stamp Dealers Association show in New York City.



A first day cover canceled at the ASDA National Postage Stamp Show in New York City. The cachet shows the International Red Cross symbol and pays tribute to Jean Henri Dunant, founder of the IRC movement.

The theme of their three-day show was "The Story of the Red Cross in Postage Stamps." The ceremony coincided with Stamp Collecting Week, which ran November 17 to 23.

Peter G. Keller, the executive secretary of the ASDA, served as master of ceremonies. The proceedings began with an invocation by Monsignor Gustav Schultheiss, who was secretary to Francis Cardinal Spellman. William J. Bray, assistant postmaster general, delivered the principal address, emphasizing President Truman's endorsement of the new stamp and how much the people of the United States were beholden to the International Red Cross. Edward Roland Harriman, the philanthropist and president of the American Red Cross, spoke about the challenges facing the organization and how the issuing of a postage stamp at a crucial time in its history was of tremendous help to the organization.

Bray then presented special souvenir albums containing sheets of stamps autographed, as always, by the postmaster general, to Harriman and other officials of the American Red Cross, representatives of the Canadian, Swedish, and Swiss consulates, the president of the New York chapter of the American Red Cross, the acting postmaster of New York City, and Schultheiss. Other recipients included the executive secretary and the president of ASDA and Harry Lindquist, the chair of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs. Faye Emerson, who had been elected Queen of Philately for 1953 at the show, also received a signed album.

To return the compliment the president of the ASDA presented a specially designed silver plate to be given to Donaldson in recognition of his work on behalf of philately.

Special exhibits had been organized in a "Court of Honor" in accordance with the theme of the show. There were more than 60 frames of stamps sent from the four corners of the globe honoring the Red Cross. One exhibit in the form of a book was composed of more than 1,000 pages of Red Cross stamps, artists' sketches, proofs, photographs and related material. In addition, a colored poster, designed by John W. Nicklin was put on sale.

George Bragolini, acting postmaster of New York, supervised the organization of a special postal station set up in the

# Experience is the Key Factor When Voting for the APS Board of Vice Presidents.

Your 3-member Board of Vice Presidents is entrusted with the critical responsibility to oversee the integrity of our Society—in all matters concerning member discipline in philatelic transactions. It's a serious duty. The three of us have a wide & deep background in leading philatelic organizations...

**and a combined 122 years involved in the American Philatelic Society**

Bob Zeigler



**B**ob's service includes serving as a philatelic judge on more than 90 WSP shows, many as Chief Judge; over 30 years on the APS Expert Committee; as a Director on the APS Board, the Youth Activities Committee, and various committee assignments. President of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society, and helped write and edit Richard Hall's *Philately of Switzerland: An Introductory Handbook*. He has also been active for many years with Indiana Stamp Club, serving as President as well as other capacities.

Background: 35-year law career as a trial attorney. Still actively involved in trying cases. He has served as Chair of the Indiana State Bar Ethics Committee, and named Indiana Defense Lawyer of the Year in 2000 by the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana.

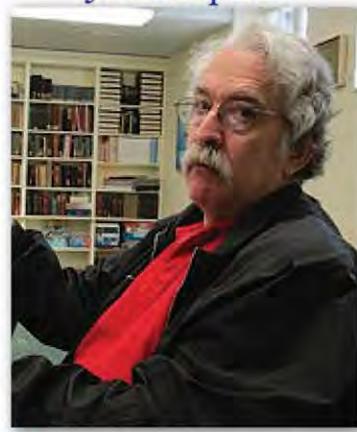
*"We want to give back to our hobby. We're life-long philatelists who bring diverse business and collecting experiences which would allow us to be a help our members, to our great organization and to ensure the future of the hobby we all love. With our cumulative 122 years of APS membership, we bring both experience and enthusiasm to the job."*

Trish Kaufmann



**T**rish is—an APRL life member, former trustee and Tiffany Donor since 1981. Past president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Active financial supporter of the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship. Has served on the boards of numerous philatelic organizations. Memberships in ASDA, CCNY, RPSL. Exhibitor at the Grand Award level in the 1970-80s. She was editor-in-chief of the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, the Grand Award for Literature at APS StampShow '13. Columnist/contributing editor for 4 philatelic journals and other publications. She was editor (1973-87) of *The Confederate Philatelist*, a member of the CSA Authentication Service 1996-2014 and member of the Smithsonian Council of Philatelists, NPM, during the creation the William H. Gross Gallery.

Jeff Shapiro



**P**ast president of the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, and for the past 20 years, chairman of "Philatelic Show," an annual APS Champion of Champions show, the largest stamp show and exhibit held in New England. He is also an accredited APS Judge, a Mentor for the APS Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship and has served as an instructor at the APS Summer Seminars. He has been vice president of the United States Stamp Society as well as a member of the USSS Board of Governors, and the chair of the USSS Prexie Era Committee.

Background: Bachelor of Science in Management from Boston University and a Masters degree in Public Management from New York University. He is recently retired from a thirty-year career in non-profit management.

*"Our hobby's at its best when we make connections and friendships with others through organized philately. I support APS policies that will build the Tiffany Fund (its endowment); 'Finish the Job' of building out the Library and paying off the debt incurred by the Match Factory project; do a better job of fundraising; retain our talented staff, and avoid the use of donations to fund operating expenses."*

—Bob Zeigler



Please visit our website—[www.apsvp.com](http://www.apsvp.com)—to learn more about us!

Armory, and during the first day more than 15,000 visitors made purchases, and more than 3 million stamps were sold. The Red Cross arranged for Bloodmobiles to be at the Armory. Visitors who donated a pint of blood for the Armed Forces were given a mounted first-day cover of the stamp framed on a sheet that included a facsimile of a blood donor card. On one single day, 1,333 pints of blood were collected with West Point cadets giving 359 pints. The Typographical Union 6 contributed 346 pints.

On the next day, Saturday, November 22, more than 30,000 enthusiasts attended the show. Throughout the day, staff of the BEP, headed by Donald Tolson of the Division of

Stamps, ran off sheets of colored make-believe stamps demonstrating how flat-bed and rotary press processes were used to produce the bureau's postage stamps. The bureau also exhibited proofs of all United States stamps from 1847 to 1950.

The Red Cross announced that the New York chapter would set up a permanent display of all of the 1,100 Red Cross stamps issued by 150 governments.

Curiously many newspapers did not seem particularly impressed, either by the new printing press or the fact that the stamp had been printed in two colors. However, they advised their readers to affix the "exceptional" new stamp to the envelopes in which they sent their Christmas cards.



The International Red Cross article is the sixth in a series by Charles M. Posner on the nearly 120 United States stamps issued from the 1950s to the mid-1980s. Because of the large number of annual stamp issues, and the detailed information provided, the articles on the stamps below are found online as bonus content on *The American Philatelist* webpage.

### Service Women (Scott 1013)



This was a belated thank you to the 350,000 women who served in the military during World War II. The women served in all branches of the military, though none officially for combat duty. For many years, there was confusion and disagreement whether the women shown on the stamp were models, members of the armed forces, or just an artist's creation.

### Newspaper Boys (Scott 1015)



Proponents of this commemorative boasted that the young entrepreneurs learned business and self-reliance, helped their families, received an education, and, according to one supporter, were therefore so entrenched on the American path that they "didn't become communists."

### Printing of First Book (Scott 1014)



The stamp is known unofficially as the Gutenberg Bible issue, as the Holy Bible was indeed the first full book printed from movable type. It also was unclear whether Johann Gutenberg actually had printed the bible by 1452, or whether he actually invented the movable type press. With some controversy, the stamp was issued September 30, 1952 to coincide with National Bible Week.

### National Guard (Scott 1017)



The National Guard, a direct relative of voluntary military units making it the country's oldest military unit, is honored for its duties in both times of war and peace. The stamp carries the rare omission of the full phrase, "United States (or U.S.) postage" in the design.

# Unparalleled Service to Philately



**Ken Nilsestuen**  
for APS President  
**Bruce Marsden**  
for APS Treasurer



## Vote for Experience Where It Counts.

### Ken's Service History

- APS Treasurer since 2013
- APS Finance committee member since 2011
- APS accredited judge since 2006
- APS accredited chief judge since 2011
- Co-founder, Institute for Analytical Philately 2010
- Chairman, Review Committee for new edition of *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging* 2015
- Co-owner, Summit Auctions
- President, France & Colonies Philatelic Society since 2009
- Secretary-Treasurer, Collectors Club of Akron since 1989
- Treasurer, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club since 2009
- APS StampShow committee member, 1999
- National organization(s) officer since 2007
- Local club(s) board and show committee member since late 1970s
- Author/writer since 1970s

### Bruce's Service History

- APRL Treasurer since 2012
- APRL Trustee since 2010
- APS Search Committee 2015
- Collectors Club of New York President 2015
- Collectors Club NY Governor since 2010
- Secretary—World Stamp Show-NY2016 Organizing Committee
- NOJEX Committee member since 2011
- American Helvetia Philatelic Society (AHPS) Treasurer since 2009
- AHPS Webmaster since 2004
- Organized \$5,000 AHPS fundraiser for APRL—2012
- Organized All China Philatelic Exhibition in New York - 2015
- Presented Pacific '97 groundbreaking Seminar "Philately and the Internet"
- Local show cachet/cancel designer since 1983
- Exhibitor since 1982
- Established several 501(3)c tax-exempt entities for philatelic groups

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE IN MAY 2016!



# www.aps-future.org

Please visit our website to learn more about us!



# Planning a Stop in Pennsylvania?

## Perusing On-site Circuit Sales Just Many Perks of Visiting Bellefonte

A trip to the Circuit Sales division at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, could be just the cure for cabin fever. It gets better when there are special events happening at the center, especially this year. Consider the following:

**World Stamp Show-NY 2016.** While this is not in the APC, many travelers to the show will stop here going to and from New York City for the big international show scheduled for Memorial Day weekend through the next week (May 28–June 4). We will have plenty of material available for stamp browsing.

**Scopex.** The annual local stamp show in this area, will be held June 18 and 19. The 19th is significant in that the APS Summer Seminar on Philately begins that day, so many of the show attendees are seminar participants as



When circuit books are not in circulation, they are available for viewing at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Sales book pages typically have stamps mounted with notes and catalog values, along with the asking price.

well. Plan your visit to take advantage of what the dealers have to offer and get a sense of the atmosphere that develops as the seminar approaches. Circuit Sales is open on the first day of the Scopex show.

**APS Summer Seminar on Philately.** The seminar is in session from June 19 to 24. The atmosphere at the APC is just plain electric and vibrant when the seminar starts. You have to be here to experience it at least once. The seminar schedule includes time to visit and use our services and many people sit and browse through sales books.

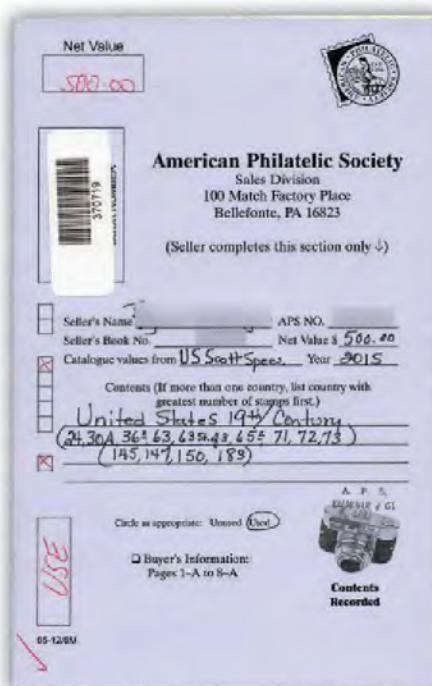
**Volunteer Work Week (July 18 to 22).** This is a great way to help the society and there are many tasks lined up for you to do. You become educated in what we do here and what we have here. The Circuit Sales department is open until 8 p.m. one night during this week, but workers take a break once in a while to look through sales books.

**Color change.** The beauty of autumn leaves is something you do not

want to miss in Pennsylvania. The highways are busy from the first through the third weeks of October, when people get out to see the vistas of color in the mountains. Include a visit to Circuit Sales on your way through the Allegheny Mountains.

**New library.** The American Philatelic Center will hold an open house on October 29 to show off the American Philatelic Research Library's new location in the Match Factory. This major space renovation is expected to be completed this spring and the library will be fully operational this summer. Come in for festivities and visit Circuit Sales.

**A slight caution.** One point we need to make for visits in the fall is that you should check the Penn State University football schedule ([gopsusports.com](http://gopsusports.com)) because the lodging space around a 40-mile radius area is scarce and very expensive beginning the Friday nights before the games. Let us know when you plan to visit us. We can give you some recommendations for lodging,



The owner of this circuit book has noted what kinds of stamps are inside and the book's overall value (upper left). The red markings are by Circuit Sales staff.

# THOSE WHO CAN, DO. THOSE WHO CAN DO MORE, VOLUNTEER!

July 18–22, 2016

Volunteers make a difference in the world. **Volunteer Work Week** participants make a difference at the American Philatelic Society and for the American Philatelic Research Library.

Would you like to make a difference? If so, please join us July 18–22, for Volunteer Work Week at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Put your knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm to work to benefit both the APS and APRL while making new friends and learning new things. Individuals may spend the entire week on one project or help with several different ones. Many tasks do not require special skills and are open to spouses or other guests.

Volunteering can be rewarding, fulfilling, and fun! The reward is the satisfaction of making a positive impact on the APS/APRL while spending time with fellow collectors and taking in the society's resources (research library, circuit sales, stamp and cover shop, and reference collection).

Volunteers make a difference and have a real and lasting impact. We hope to see you in July!

For more information and to register go to: [stamps.org/volunteer-work-week](http://stamps.org/volunteer-work-week).

#### Administration

- Apply stamps
- Prepare member mailing

#### Circuit Sales

- Organize, identify, and prepare Insurance Fund holdings of stamps for sale\*
- Digital imaging of new circuit books

#### Development

- Help sort/organize donated materials
- Filing

#### Education

- Duplicate audiovisual programs
- Organize storage areas

#### Internet Sales

- Data entry for backlog items

- Scan documents

- Clerical work

#### Library

- Inventory archives\*
- Sort periodicals & donations\*
- Label and shift books
- Read shelves to make sure books are in the correct order
- Create finding aids\*
- Index publications (requires half-day training)\*\*
- Update online resource links in the catalog

#### Shows

- Prepare badges for APS StampShow
- Assist with sign preparation

- Enter show registrations

- Assemble banquet programs

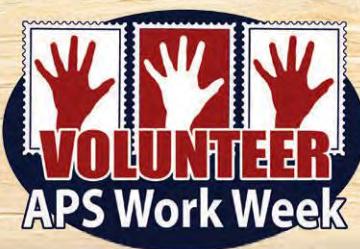
- Exhibit frame repair\*

#### Youth

- Make packets for give aways\*\*
- Trim stamps from envelopes\*\*
- Write article(s) for YSCA Newsletter\*\*
- Prepare Youth Area supplies for StampShow\*\*
- Soak stamps
- Sort Donations

\* Projects not likely to be accomplished without volunteer help.

\*\* Tasks that could be continued after the week from home.



## STAMPS.ORG/ VOLUNTEER-WORK-WEEK

#### APS Education Department

100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: 814-933-3810 • Fax: 814-933-6128  
E-mail: [education@stamps.org](mailto:education@stamps.org)

The 2015 Volunteer Work Week team.



restaurants, activities, and local places of interest.

## New Member Special

Beginning in February, Circuit Sales is offering a special coupon to APS members who sign up for our approvals for the first time. The coupon waives the 5 percent buyer's fee for the circuit purchase of the member's choosing. If you are new to the society or have not used this service during the last five years, send in your completed form to get started. The complete list of categories we offer is on the front mailing cover of January's edition of *The American Philatelist* or check the online circuit request form at stamps.org. This special is applicable to all the types of circuits we offer: regular multiple-name, clearance, and direct circuits. Chapters can benefit from this by making your first request for clearance circuits.

## Sales Book Example

Snowed in this month? This is a perfect time to spend some time mounting sales books to turn your stamps and covers into cash. We will soon have a sample sales book printed with pages of different mounting scenarios that should be followed to help with the

presentation of the material you want to sell. There will also be some clearly marked examples of the most blatant mounting mistakes we have seen in the books. The book will be displayed online and hard copies will be available upon request.

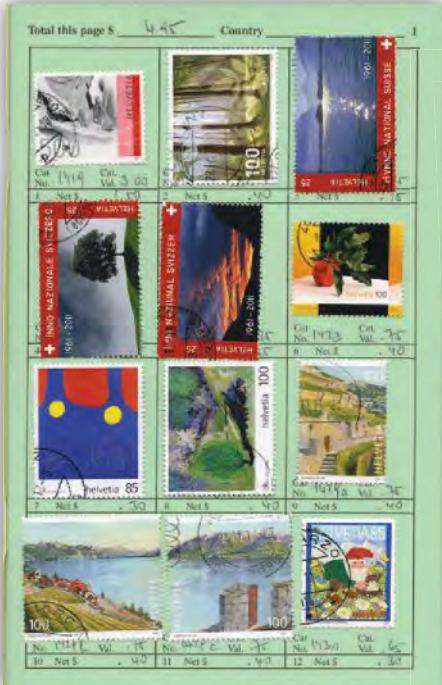
## Dues Paid Late?

February is the month we drop former members from the circuits for not having their dues paid for the year. If you just sent your dues payment within the last couple of weeks, be sure to update your want list for circuits. And thank you for your continued use of our Circuit Sales services.

## Report Sheets

When you purchase items from the circuits, please send your report sheet and payment the same day you forward the circuit to the next address. Quite a few members are receiving circuits from four or more categories and they tend to wait for another circuit to arrive so they can send payment at one time for more than one circuit.

If the member is the last or second



Some Circuit Sales sellers include modern material at relatively low prices. This seller is offering many modern used Swiss stamps.

## Circuit Sales Details

Questions? Contact us via e-mail at [circuits@stamps.org](mailto:circuits@stamps.org), by phone at 814-933-3803, ext. 227, or by mail at APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

from the last name on the list, this presents a problem for processing returning circuits, in that the report sheet will not be here and the purchases not entered. The checkers then calculate the purchases and a \$5 fine is charged for the additional time needed to do that. We encourage one payment for two or more report sheets, but not if the payment is delayed, causing extra processing.

## '5 For 10' Categories (Needs)

You can earn coupons for free blank books for every 10 completed books (Clearance books do not qualify) containing material from a set list of categories. As you earn coupons for free blank books, the coupons can only be redeemed if accompanied by an order for sales books and/or mounts. Each month we list categories that are in particularly short supply. Single-country books usually have better sales.

U.S. Officials

U.S. Plate Number Singles

U.S. Precancels

The Bahamas

Bermuda

Jamaica

Danzig

German Colonies

Netherlands

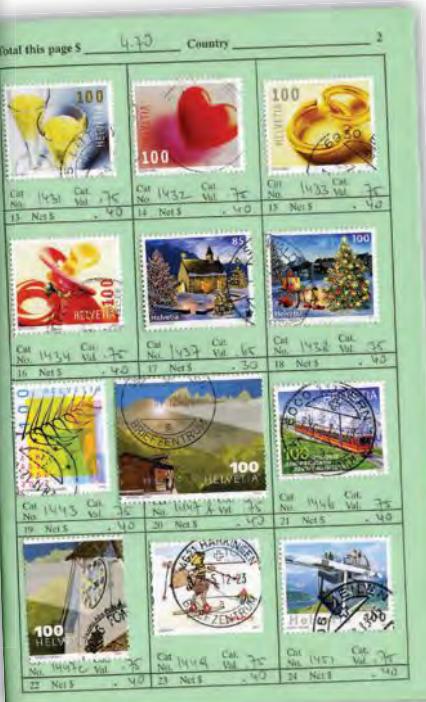
Netherlands Colonies

Saar

China

Israel

Thailand



Single-country circuits with stamps from the Bahamas are in short supply.



## Kouri - Barwis - Haimann

### *Candidates for APS Vice Presidents*



Dear APS Members,

We are running as candidates for the APS Board of Vice Presidents. Two of us, Alex Haimann and Yamil Kouri are running for re-election to that office. John Barwis is joining the slate for election to the 2016-2019 board term. As APS Vice Presidents, we will bring our diverse organizational leadership experiences in and outside of the hobby to advance and improve APS initiatives and membership services that support stamp clubs, local and regional shows, education, new collector outreach, and research through the American Philatelic Research Library.

Each of us developed our passion for stamp collecting in childhood. The thrill of adding a new item to our collection, learning about different areas of the hobby and meeting other collectors continues to drive our commitment to philately in all its forms. American philately is blessed to have the APS, an organization with a rich 129-year history representing the organizational backbone of our hobby. As three lifelong stamp collectors with over 85-years of cumulative APS membership between us, we would be honored to serve the society and its members as APS Vice Presidents.

We know that nothing in organized philately can be accomplished in a vacuum. Any significant effort worth undertaking requires input and work from many people and organizations. As the APS tackles current challenges and prepares for ones that lie ahead, we're excited to roll-up our sleeves and get to work. We are equally excited to work with fellow APS Board Members, Affiliate and Chapter leaders, and other dedicated APS members interested in pushing the boundaries of what is possible to make our Society and hobby better for us today and the generations that follow.

Thank You,

John Barwis, Alex Haimann & Yamil Kouri

#### **Yamil Kouri**

*APS Member Since 1988*

1985–Present — Physician in Hematology-Oncology field  
1992–2014 — Partner, Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology, PC  
2014–Present - Hematologist and Medical Oncologist with Dana Farber Community Cancer Care  
1998–2005 — President, Cuban Philatelic Society of America  
2008–Present — Board Director, Postal History Society – currently President-Elect  
2010–Present — Board Director, Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History  
2013–Present — Vice President, American Philatelic Society

#### **John Barwis**

*APS Member Since 1978*

1966–1970 — Staff, U.S. Naval Arctic Research Laboratory — finishing as Head of Logistics & Station Manager  
1972–1975 — Officer, U.S. Army Engineer Corps  
1979–2003 — Geologist, Royal/Dutch Shell, Retiring as Board Director of Shell U.K.  
2006–Present — Board Member, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society — President since 2012  
2007–Present — Member, APS Finance Committee  
2009–2010 — Member, Long Range Planning Committee

#### **Alex Haimann**

*APS Member Since 1996*

2005–2010 — Collections Specialist, Smithsonian National Postal Museum  
2008–2010 — Board Director, American Stamp Dealers Association  
2008–Present — Founder & Advisory Board Member, Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship  
2012–2014 — Associate Director, Center for Experiential Learning & Adjunct Professor of Management at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis  
2013–Present — Chair, Board of Vice Presidents, American Philatelic Society  
2014–Present — Head of Business Development, Less Annoying Software

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## OUR STORY



BY SCOTT ENGLISH executive director  
scott@stamps.org

# Creating a Winning Lineup

## Hobby and APS Will Benefit by Building and Ensuring Accessibility

In the movie, *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's character, Ray Kinsella, hears a voice telling him, "If you build it, he will come." From that voice, Ray plows through a part of his cornfield to build a baseball diamond. That act of faith for a down-on-his-luck farmer began a transformation in his life. The phrase has been immortalized, often in its misquoted form as "if you build it, they will come" over the years. For some it implies hope and for others, it takes on a more negative meaning.

While movie magic can bring back "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and the other ghosts of baseball's past, the underlying message focuses on actions. In the movie, the act of building the baseball

field was not the end, it would have been a far less compelling movie if it was, but rather it was the beginning. Ray must convince others that this seemingly bold act has purpose. Otherwise, he

would have built a baseball field in an Iowa cornfield that would ultimately lead to losing his family farm. In the end, Ray is able to save his farm as his efforts finally bring people to watch baseball.

At one point, baseball was unchallenged as "America's Pastime." The players were our heroes and we tried to be them on sandlots in small towns across the country. Today, there are those that argue baseball is a thing of the past and those who say the same thing about stamps. While it is true that stamps are not as common as they used to be, they remain relevant today. In the face of that, we can admit that building it, as we did with the APS almost 130 years ago, is the first step.

The very thing that has changed the nature of stamp collecting — technology and the Internet are the things we must continue to embrace. The *Wall Street Journal* recently estimated worldwide stamp collectors at 60 million and roughly a third live in China. While there has been a decline in APS membership over the past 20 years, a topic we will discuss in the next column, we have the ability to reach that larger audience better than



The 2008 42-cent Take Me Out to the Ball Game stamp.



The Osborne Morse Building.

ever before. But first, we have to build it, both physically and technologically. This is the accessibility challenge.

### Challenge One

#### Finishing the American Philatelic Center building.

In 2002, the APRL purchased a former Match Factory in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. After 13 years and \$16 million invested, we have begun what should be the final phases of completing the space. In August 2015, the APRL Board of Trustees approved construction of the new library space in Buildings 3 and 4 in the complex of 18 adjacent buildings, thereby increasing our current library capacity by 50 percent. The project will be completed and operating by summer 2016 and we will have a public opening in October during National Stamp Collecting Month.

At the same time, the current library space, known as the Osborne Morse Building, will no longer be used as library space and will be repurposed. In that available space, we are considering options to include additional education space and space for recent acquisitions and rarities.

### Challenge Two

#### Increasing Access to Philatelic Information for Members and the General Public.

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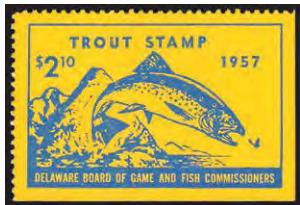
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May 28– Booth  
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*American Philatelist* back to 2007 and the *Philatelic Literature Review* to 2009. We also have digital editions of *Japanese Philately* stored on APRL servers and other scanning projects are ongoing. By 2018, we aim to have complete digital access to *The American Philatelist* and the *Philatelic Literature Review*.

One of the challenges of making other philatelic material available is getting permission for copyrighted material. As we work through those challenges, we will also make as much material as possible available to our members. One of the goals of the 2010 Into the Future report included a searchable database of all of our digital offerings, a project that has not been completed at this time. We will begin this project again and expect to have it at or near completion by the end of 2016.

In terms of physical acquisitions, generous donations of literature have sustained much of the library's collections over the years and will continue into the foreseeable future. One of the challenges with donated

material is not being able to plan for intake of the donations, cataloging, and making the material available to the philatelic community.

At this time, we have collections that are not accessible because we lack the manpower to convert them to usable form. After completion of the library space this year, we will undertake an effort to put the donations into use, both in the library and as digital material available through the web or in searchable format. We plan to eliminate our backlog by 2017.

### Challenge Three

#### Reaching Out to the Collecting World Through Technology and Social Media.

With the introduction and reliance on social media and other non-traditional forums to provide content and information to the general public, it is now easier than ever before to get the message out to the world at large. The APS has a very active website and more than 6,000 followers on Facebook.

Moving forward, we will work to increase our online presence to capture a broader audience to promote not only the APS and APRL but also philately.

We also will work to build a more consistent contact with media, both philatelic and non-philatelic, to promote the hobby and the organization. Specifically for members, we want to offer online Town Hall-style meetings so that members unable to attend our general membership meetings at the winter and summer shows can share ideas with the APS and others. We want to develop an active outreach program to both philatelic and non-philatelic media sources to keep the discussion about stamps and philately going throughout the year.

Finally, we will redesign the APS and APRL websites to create a welcoming place for both members and non-members to access the wealth of resources we have available. We want to give members greater choices with regard to the newsletters they receive. Customizing communications to get the information you want is becoming common today and we will work to provide that same service for our members.

At the end of "Field of Dreams," James Earl Jones' character, Terence Mann, delivers a speech about baseball, "The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time." What he says about baseball could easily apply to stamps and the hobby. One particular line he delivers rings especially true as each one of us looks at our collection. "It reminds us of all that once was good, and that could be again."

We can build it, that's the easy part. The work will come in connecting our members with those millions of other collectors out there to remind them why we do it.

That will be our challenge.

Thanks to the members who contact me and I hope you will, too. I am always available at scott@stamps.org.



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# SHOW TIME

The "Show Time" Calendar features a list of upcoming shows and APS events (shown in green). To obtain a listing, please submit a "Show Time" form, available online at [www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar](http://www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar) or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time.

The listings are free to World Series of Philately and other shows that are sponsored by an APS chapter or affiliate. Other shows/bourses may purchase listings for the month of the show/bourse and the month prior **only**. The listing fee is \$25 per show per issue. Shows designated **\*B\*** are bourse only.

Grand award winners from **\*WSP\*** shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition. Visit [www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar](http://www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar) for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

**Florida** **February 5-7**  
**Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition** Sarasota  
 Philatelic Club, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
**\*WSP\***  
 Contact: Liz Hisey, 941-444-0777  
 Email: [lizhisey@comcast.net](mailto:lizhisey@comcast.net)  
 Website: [www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasotastampexhibition.htm](http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasotastampexhibition.htm)

**South Carolina** **February 6-7**  
**Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show** Myrtle Beach Stamp Club, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 101 Fantasy Harbour Blvd., Myrtle Beach. **\*B\***  
 Contact: Donn M. Ebert, 843-347-0087  
 Email: [lilfort@scocoast.net](mailto:lilfort@scocoast.net)  
 Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/>

**Michigan** **February 7**  
**Lansing Stamp Show** Lansing Area Stamp Club, Royal Scot Golf and Bowl, 4722 West Grand River, Lansing. **\*B\***  
 Contact: Jim Adams, 517-394-5953  
 Email: [48jim15@comcast.net](mailto:48jim15@comcast.net)

**Florida** **February 12-14**  
**ASDA Winter Show** American Stamp Dealers Association, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St, Fort Lauderdale. **\*B\***  
 Contact: Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207  
 Email: [dana@americanstampdealer.com](mailto:dana@americanstampdealer.com)  
 Website: [www.americanstampdealer.com](http://www.americanstampdealer.com)

**Michigan** **February 13-14**  
**Dearborn Stamp Club Stamp Show** Dearborn Stamp Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 West Warren, Dearborn Heights. **\*B\***

Contact: Fred Levantrosser, 313-278-6764  
 Email: [fredlevantrosser@hotmail.com](mailto:fredlevantrosser@hotmail.com)

**Ohio** **February 14**  
**Hudson Stamp Bourse** Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Dean Memorial Parkway, Hudson. **\*B\***  
 Contact: David G. Pool, 330-832-5992  
 Email: [lincolnway@sssnet.com](mailto:lincolnway@sssnet.com)

**Arizona** **February 19-21**  
**ARIPEX** Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., Building "C", Mesa. **\*WSP\***  
 Contact: Kevin Lesk, 480-240-0388  
 Email: [aripe2016arizona@gmail.com](mailto:aripe2016arizona@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.aripepx.org](http://www.aripepx.org)

**Florida** **February 20**  
**Annual Stamp Show** West Volusia Stamp Club, Sons of Italy, 1270 Doyle Rd., Deltona. **\*B\***  
 Contact: Mike Daley, 407-417-7818  
 Email: [miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com)  
 Website: <http://floridacs.com/wvstamp/>

**Kansas** **February 20-21**  
**The Cessna Show** The Cessna Stamp & Coin Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. **\*B\***  
 Contact: Ralph E. Lott, 316-683-6593

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## VOTE Dr. Peter P. McCann, APS Director-at-Large

My prior service on the APS Board, my extensive contacts in the hobby, knowledge from my professional life in both business management and academia, and my knowledge of the recent history of the APS combine as a set of unique experiences that can help the APS to move in a positive direction into the future.

While it is unusual for a past president to return to a Board position, it is clear that APS is at a crossroads, and with new staff leadership, I believe it is poised for a new era of growth. I want to help to make that happen, and would appreciate your vote.

I began collecting stamps at the age of 11, and now focus on the philately of the small islands of the Caribbean and South Atlantic. The hobby has been a major part of my life, and I have been active in the APS for the last 20 years, including service as a vice president, and then president from 1999–2003.

My service on the APS Board was from 1995–2007. I was first elected in 1995 to the Board of Vice Presidents which is the judicial and disciplinary arm of the APS and in my second term became its Chairman. I also have been on the APS Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges since 1993 to the present, and was Chairman from 1997–1999 until I was elected APS President.

Also within the hobby, I have served in leadership positions in specialty societies, serve as a Board member of the International Federation of Philately (FIP), and am a long time exhibitor and philatelic judge at both the national and international levels. I was also a Co-Chairman of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

Some other philatelic activities included President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), President of the American Philatelic Congress, President of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and Trustee of the Philatelic Foundation.

Ppm103226706@aol.com



### Professional Background

- Currently Vice President of Govic Capital of New York-Palm Beach-Sarasota.
- President/ CEO of biotech companies (1993-2003)
- British Biotech USA, Oncostasis Inc, and Mymetics Corporation.
- Research director and executive for world pharmaceutical company now Sanofi-Aventis (1979–1993)
- President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (1998–1999)
- Professor of Cell Biology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (1984–2013).
- A.B. Degree from Columbia University, New York, and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Syracuse University.



Email: ralphlott@sbcglobal.net

**Ohio**

**February 20-21**

**MSDA Southwestern Ohio Show** Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Four Points by Sheraton Cincinnati North, 7500 Tylers Place Blvd., West Chester. **\*B\***  
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
Email: jfb7437@aol.com  
Website: www.msdastamp.com

**Texas**

**February 26-28**

**TEXPEX 2016** Texas Philatelic Association, Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 HWY 26 E, Grapevine. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Vince King  
Email: entech.design@verizon.net  
Website: www.texashphilatelic.org/texpex.htm

**Florida**

**February 27-28**

**FSDA BAYPEX Stamp & Coin Show** Florida Stampdealers Assoc. & Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo. **\*B\***  
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897  
Email: h.rogg@verizon.net  
Website: www.floridastampsh ws.com / www. floridastampdealer .org

**Nebraska**

**February 27-28**

**LINPEX 2016** Lincoln Stamp Club, Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N. 27th St., Lincoln.  
Contact: Kenneth Pruess, 402-464-6939  
Email: kpruess2@unl.edu  
Website: www.lincolnstampclub.org

**Ohio**

**February 27-28**

**Toledo Stamp Expo 2016** Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland.  
Contact: Clifford Campbell, 419-874-6241  
Website: www.toledostampclub.org

**Virginia**

**February 27-28**

**SPRINGPEX 2016** Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield .  
Contact: Gerry Frazier  
Email: frazierg@cox.net  
Website: www.springfieldstampclu .org

**Florida**

**March 4-5**

**NAPLEX 2016** Collier County Stamp Club, Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 295, 5850 Tamiami Trail North (Rte 41), Naples.  
Contact: Robert Hausein, 239-732-8000  
Email: newengstmp@aol.com

**Alaska**

**March 4-6**

**Alaska Philatelic Exhibition** Anchorage Philatelic Society, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage. **\*B\***

Contact: Patrick Hoffmann, 907-346-2717  
Email: phoffmann@alas .net  
Website: http://anchoragephilatelic.org/

**New Jersey**

**March 5**

**Westfield StampShow** Westfield Stamp Club, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield .  
Contact: Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318  
Email: edjg@alum.mit.edu  
Website: www.westfieldstampclu .org

**California**

**March 5-6**

**NOVAPEX 2016** Redding Stamp Club, Redding Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding.  
Contact: Bob Grosch, 530-549-4872  
Email: bobgrosch@frontiernet.net  
Website: www.reddingstampclub.org

**New York**

**March 5-6**

**BUFFPEX 2016** The Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga.  
Contact: George Gates, 716-633-8358  
Email: gghg53@aol.com

**Tennessee**

**March 5-6**

**Knoxpex 2016 -National Parks Centennial Stamp Show** Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Knoxville-West, 9134 Executive Park Dr., Knoxville.  
Contact: Tom Broadhead, 865-696-4803  
Email: broadhea@utk.edu  
Website: http://knoxstamps.com

**Ohio**

**March 10-12**

**Garfield- erry March Party** Garfield- erry Stamp Club, La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 115000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland. **\*WSP\***

Contact: Roger Rhoads

Email: rrrhoads@aol.com

Website: www.garfieldper y.org

**California**

**March 12-13**

**Frespex 2016** Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis.  
Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013  
Email: starstamps@thegrid.net

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# In My Opinion ... by Michael Bloom

Chairman, APS Collector and Student Education Committee

Member, APS Membership Activities,  
Recruitments, and Services Committee

Chairman, NY2016 Entry Level and Youth Committee

I'm a candidate for APS Director at Large. This is the third in a series of essays where I'll tell you what I think about things.

## Why No Headshot?

There is a reason that the photo I use in my campaign is not a headshot. It is a working photo showing a hands-on me working at a StampBuddy booth. This very conscious photographic decision reflects how I view non-profit boards like the APS Board.

**Two Competing Board Philosophies.** One philosophy is what I call the “*good governance*” approach. Simply stated, this approach contends that a board consists of very smart people who pick the right staff. It is a hands off approach, where the board monitors progress and makes corrections where needed. It assumes all creativity lies with the staff. It channels creative input from outsiders back to the staff. This kind of board does not require diversity: just smart people who understand governance.

The other philosophy, the one I subscribe to, is the “*collaborative governance*” approach. This already assumes best-practices governance from its board members, but goes much further. It assumes that the board and staff need to work together to create a better organization. It's a collaborative approach, rather than a top-down, inflexible, hierarchical one. Creativity flows from society members through the staff *and* through the board.

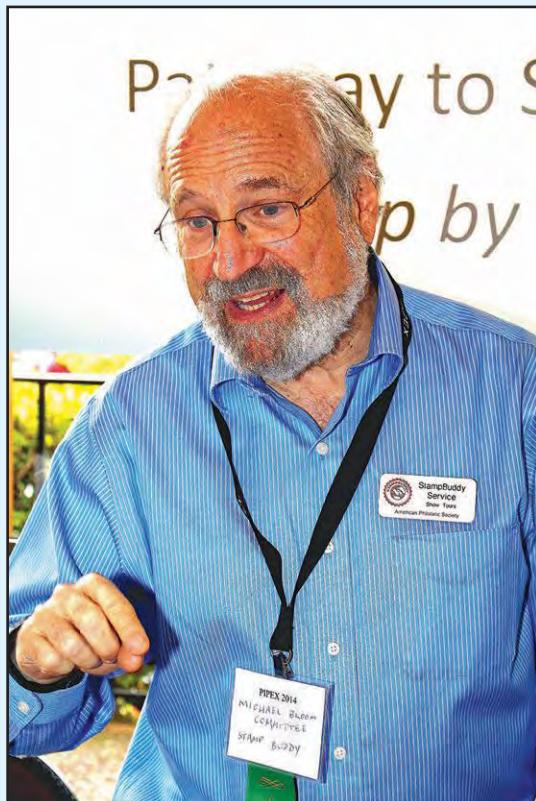
A *collaborative governance* board looks very different from a good governance board in its diversity. A good governance board, for example, could consist of nothing but well-known exhibitors. A collaborative board would require that each member bring different skillsets and interests to the table. Every board member would have a portfolio; one of which might be exhibiting. Other portfolios would include education, finance, technology, and development. Each board member would become expert enough to provide oversight and creative input.

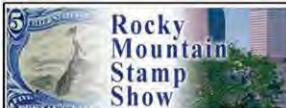
A good governance board is likely to do a good job of preserving the status quo. A collaborative board tends to be more forward-looking and to be more open to out-of-the-box solutions. Let me give you a real case example....

When I promoted the concept of the StampBuddy program, I went directly to the APS board, to its individual members, and asked for a hearing on the program. The Board saw the merit of the program and my willingness to implement a pilot. It agreed, on the spot, to approve it. A *good governance* board would have referred me back to the APS staff. By going to the Board not only did the program get approval, it also got energetic support and one director even joined the StampBuddy committee.

If you vote for me you will move the Board in the direction of being a *collaborative board* with a great deal of transparency. My portfolio will include membership and education. I was the second most successful APS membership recruiter for 2014 and can do even more as a board member. I will work closely with the Education Department, and its new director, Dr. Cathy Brachbill, to provide innovative education for all ages and collector levels.

Be sure to vote.





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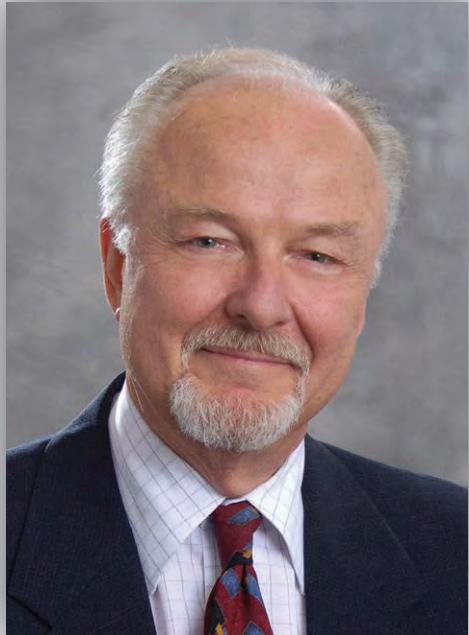
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## Dr. Edwin J. Andrews for APS Treasurer



As someone who has collected stamps since age 8, I value the leadership that APS provides to the hobby. I would be honored to serve as APS Treasurer providing my many years of experience in a wide variety of financial business disciplines to the organization. When consulting for not-for-profit organizations I always emphasize that board members should chart the future course and provide the necessary resources, so the organization can achieve its strategic goals. Boards should not micromanage organizations,

rather, provide executive oversight and direction. I ask for your vote so I can bring to APS my many skills, to help them in achieving future success.

I am a seasoned executive with leadership experience in Fortune 500 companies such as Johnson & Johnson (VP R&D, and Director of Global Marketing) and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals (Senior VP [Global] for Science & Technology). My academic career included Director of a diagnostic laboratory at Cornell University and Professor and Dean at the University of Pennsylvania. Most recently I was global Director of Academic and Educational Programs & Services for the Project Management Institute, the largest membership organization representing project managers worldwide. In all of these leadership positions I had responsibility for large numbers of staff, and budgets often exceeding 50 million dollars. I am grounded in financial management, budgeting and the management of complex organizations.

Since retiring in 2011, I have been the Principle of Andrews Consulting Enterprises LLC, specializing in support of academic and not-for-profit organizations, providing financial planning, budgeting, strategic planning, marketing, international relations, project management and general management consulting. My clients have ranged from Tongji University in Shanghai China to the University of West Indies in Trinidad, where I created a long range (5 year) strategic plan and accompanying financial plan for a medical education program. I have been a board member of many national and international not-for-profit organizations over the years and am very familiar with board responsibilities and oversight.

Presently I am a member of APS CANEJ, an accredited Chief Philatelic Judge, Editor of the forthcoming 7th Edition of the *APS Manual for Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, and a former member of the APS Membership Committee. Also, I am Treasurer of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and am a Board member of the POLONUS Philatelic Society. Formerly, I was a Director of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp and Collectors Club and a Director of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exposition. I am currently a member of the APS, AAPE, ARA, ATA, USPCS, MPHS, The Collectors Club (NY), GPS and the POLONUS Philatelic Society.

Your vote would be appreciated. For direct contact please email me at = afacinc@yahoo.com.



**Indiana April 9-10**

**Spring Stamp Fair** Indiana Stamp Club, Lawrence Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin, Lawrence. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Tom Chastang, 317-913-9319  
**Email:** tchas@sbcglobal.net  
**Website:** www.indianastampclub.org

**Pennsylvania April 9-10**

**WILKPEX 2016** Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville.  
**Contact:** Tom Donohue, 412-373-8697  
**Email:** wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com  
**Website:** www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

**Wisconsin April 10**

**DANEPEX'16** Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison.  
**Contact:** Bob Voss, 608-838-1933  
**Email:** lestamps@charter.net  
**Website:** www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger

**Michigan April 16-17**

**Plymouth Show** West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Tim Strzalkowski, 313-533-7737  
**Email:** mywssc@msn.com  
**Website:** www.plymouthshow.com

**Connecticut April 23**

**MANPEX 2016** Manchester Philatelic Society, East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester.  
**Contact:** John Bereuter, 860-978-7856

**Email:** jrbereuter@cox.net  
**Website:** http://manchesterphilatelic.webs.com/

**Delaware April 23**

**DELPEX 2016** Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy (US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle.  
**Contact:** Bill Clark, 302-322-2719  
**Email:** kmc4076@aol.com  
**Website:** www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com

**Illinois April 23-24**

**MSDA Spring Show North** Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Country Inn and Suites, 600 N. Milwaukee Ave., Prospect Hgts.. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
**Email:** jfb7437@aol.com  
**Website:** www.msdastamp.com

**Mississippi April 23-24**

**GULFPEX Stamp Exhibition 2016** Gulf Coast Stamp Club, St. Martin Community Center, 15004 LeMoyne Blvd., Biloxi.  
**Contact:** John Barrett, Ph.D., 228-896-6784  
**Email:** jstrubelboy@aol.com  
**Website:** www.gulfcoaststampclub.org

**Pennsylvania April 29-30**

**LANCOPEX** Philatelic Society of Lancaster County, Farm and Home Center/Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.  
**Contact:** Lou DiFelice, 717-572-3419  
**Email:** loudifelice@gmail.com  
**Website:** http://lcps-stamps.net

**California April 29-May 1**

**WESTPEX** WESTPEX, Inc., San Francisco Airport

Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Edward Jarvis, 415-387-1016  
**Email:** ejarvis@westpex.com  
**Website:** www.westpex.com

**New Jersey April 30-May 1**

**Clifton 2016 Spring Stamp, Coin, Cover, Currency and Postcard Show** Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Clifton Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Thomas Stidl, 973-471-7872  
**Email:** stidl@verizon.net  
**Website:** www.clifton-stamp-society.org

**Ontario, Canada April 30-May 1**

**ORAPEX 2016** RA Stamp Club, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Peter MacDonald  
**Email:** info@orapex.ca  
**Website:** www.orapex.ca

**Wisconsin April 30-May 1**

**WISCOPEX'16** Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn, 625 Rolling Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac.  
**Contact:** Clarence Davis, 920-929-9194  
**Email:** davisclarence@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.wfscstamps.org

**Massachusetts May 6-8**

**Philatelic Show** Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Jeff Shapi o  
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Contact: Steve McGill, 720-529-5942

Email: [steve.mcgill@comcast.net](mailto:steve.mcgill@comcast.net)

Website: [www.rockymountainstampshow.com](http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com)

#### Ohio

May 14

Trumpex 2016 The Warren Area Stamp Club, St Demetrios Community Center, 3223 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, Trumbull County. \*B\*

Contact: Howard Lutz, 330-282-2860

Email: [howrex2@aol.com](mailto:howrex2@aol.com)

#### New York

May 20-22

ROPEX Rochester Philatelic Association, The Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd., Canandaigua.

Contact: Tom Fortunato, 585-752-6178

Email: [stampmf@frontiernet.net](mailto:stampmf@frontiernet.net)

Website: [www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html](http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html)

#### New York

May 28-June 4

World Stamp Show-NY 2016 General

World Philatelic Exhibition, Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York. Exhibit

Contact: EAST COMMISSIONER: Dr. Yamil Kouri 405 Waltham St, Suite 347 Lexington, MA 02421 [yhkouri@massmed.org](mailto:yhkouri@massmed.org) WEST COMMISSIONER: Mrs. Vesma Grinfelds 3800- 21st Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 [dzvesma@gmail.com](mailto:dzvesma@gmail.com)

Email: [info@ny2016.org](mailto:info@ny2016.org)

Website: [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org)

#### New York

June 2

Postal History Symposium The Ninth Postal History Symposium will be held June 2, 2016 during the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. Theme: How Postal Treaties Influenced Post Office Reforms, Hosted by the American Philatelic Research Library, the American Philatelic Society, and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York City. \*APS\*

Contact: Tara Murray, 814-933-3803 ext. 246

Email: [tmurray@stamps.org](mailto:tmurray@stamps.org)

Website: [www.stamps.org/Postal-History-Symposium](http://www.stamps.org/Postal-History-Symposium)

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**Oklahoma** **June 17-18**  
**OKPEX** Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Joe Crosby, 405-749-0939  
Email: [jocrosby@cox.net](mailto:jocrosby@cox.net)  
Website: [www.okcsc.org](http://www.okcsc.org)

**Pennsylvania** **June 19-24**  
**APS Summer Seminar 2016** Annual APS Summer Seminar on Philately offers instruction in specific areas through a combination of lectures and hands-on workshops. American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. **\*APS\***  
Contact: Cathy Brachbill  
Email: [cbrachbill@stamps.org](mailto:cbrachbill@stamps.org)  
Website: [www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar](http://www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar)

**Wisconsin** **June 25-26**  
**MSDA Summer Show - Milwaukee** Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Crowne Plaza - Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th Street, Milwaukee. **\*B\***  
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
Email: [jfb7437@aol.com](mailto:jfb7437@aol.com)  
Website: [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Illinois** **July 9-10**  
**MSDA Summer Show North** Midwest Stamp

Dealers Association, Country Inn and Suites, 600 N. Milwaukee Ave., Prospect Hts. **\*B\***  
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
Email: [jfb7437@aol.com](mailto:jfb7437@aol.com)  
Website: [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Minnesota** **July 15-17**  
**Minnesota Stamp Expo** Twin City Philatelic Society and Various Local Clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Randy A. Smith, 952-431-3273  
Email: [rasmary4@frontiernet.net](mailto:rasmary4@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm](http://www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm)

**Pennsylvania** **July 18-22**  
**Volunteer Work Week** Hosted at the American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. **\*APS\***  
Contact: Cathy Brachbill, 814-933-3803 ext. 239  
Email: [cbrachbill@stamps.org](mailto:cbrachbill@stamps.org)  
Website: [www.stamps.org/Volunteer-Work-Week](http://www.stamps.org/Volunteer-Work-Week)

**Nevada** **July 23-24**  
**Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show** Nevada Stamp Study Society, National Bowling Stadium Museum, 300 N. Center St., Reno.  
Contact: Harvey Edwards, 775-527-2362  
Email: [show@renostamp.org](mailto:show@renostamp.org)  
Website: [www.renostamp.org](http://www.renostamp.org)

**Indiana** **July 30-31**  
**MSDA Indianapolis Summer Show** Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Lawrence Park and Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd.,

Lawrence. **\*B\***  
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
Email: [jfb7437@aol.com](mailto:jfb7437@aol.com)  
Website: [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Oregon** **August 4-7**  
**APS STAMP SHOW** Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther Jr. Blvd., Portland. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Barb Johnson, 814-933-3803 ext 217  
Email: [stampshow@stamps.org](mailto:stampshow@stamps.org)  
Website: [www.stamps.org/STAMP SHOW-SS](http://www.stamps.org/STAMP SHOW-SS)

**Virginia** **August 19-21**  
**AMERICOVER** American First Day Cover Society, Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Chris Lazaroff  
Email: [showinfo@afdc.org](mailto:showinfo@afdc.org)  
Website: [www.afdc.org/show](http://www.afdc.org/show)

**Kansas** **August 20-21**  
**The Wichita Show** Wichita Stamp Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. **\*B\***  
Contact: Ralph Lott, 316-683-6593  
Email: [berndfr@cox.net](mailto:berndfr@cox.net)  
Website: [www.wichitastampclub.org](http://www.wichitastampclub.org)

**Maryland** **September 2-4**  
**BALPEX** Baltimore Phil. Soc., Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt Valley. **\*WSP\***  
Contact: Michael Carski, 410-381-5322  
Email: [balpex@verizon.net](mailto:balpex@verizon.net)  
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Letters to the Editor Continued From Page 132.*

southern Africa should result in a cover from the British Post Office in Smyrna (Turkey) to the United States via London being censored by authorities in the United Kingdom.

I can see nothing to indicate that the cover was censored either in the United Kingdom or in the United States. Is the large C in a violet cancel a customs mark rather than a censor mark?

**Martin Nicholson**  
*Shropshire, United Kingdom*

## Man in 1950s Construction Photo Looks Like Relative

The article on the Grand Coulee Dam stamp in the December issue brought back some good memories.

The man standing in the large culvert pipe (Page 1134) looks a lot like my late Uncle Charles A. Scott; the stance

is very similar. He left the wilds of Jackson County early in the Depression and worked on the Boulder, Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams as a heavy equipment operator.

**Randy T. Scott**  
*Jacksonville, Florida*

## Letters Column Filled With Worthy Content

The first thing I do when a new issue of a magazine hits my mailbox is turn to the letters to the editor. Why? Because there I found out many stamp collectors' secrets and new developments that can't be found in other places in the issue. The recent reference to microprinting in G.R. Morse's letter in the December issue of *The American Philatelist* is a case in point.

Similarly, the first hint that there were "soaking problems" with newly released stamps first got my attention in

a letter to the editors in another stamp magazine. Many of the tricks to overcome the soaking problem have appeared in the APS letters column.

I have relished the APS's past devotion to the extensive coverage to reader's input and do not mean to detract from the excellent content from the current article writers. However, I did notice the reduction of the numbers of letters to the editors in the recent December issue. I beg you to reconsider this editorial move and continue to publish more of the "collectors' voices."

**Ernest Jung**  
*Uniontown, Pennsylvania*

**Editor's note:** The editorial staff welcomes letters in this section. As a clarification, there has been no decision whatsoever to not publish letters or to cut back on the content here. Simply, there has been a recent distinct dearth of submissions. We ask members to please drop us a line; we would love to hear from you.

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## Corrections and Clarifications

There is a correction and a clarification for the article, "The Battle of the Falkland Islands," in the December issue of *The American Philatelist*.

Ill-fated German sailor Theo Peters was 22 years old, not 24, when he died while serving aboard the *SMS Gneisenau*, which was sunk during the sea battle in 1914.

Wording in the article implied that the British navy was defeated in 1805 at the Battle of Trafalgar. Historians overwhelmingly agree that the British navy confirmed its naval supremacy by defeating the combined naval forces of Spain and France off the southwest coast of Spain.

\*\*\*\*\*

A country was misnamed on the map in the "Worldwide in a Nutshell" column. The country east of Venezuela is Guyana. Brazil is southeast of Venezuela.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY GERRY ROBBINS

# Why Does Membership Matter?

## The Benefits are Many and Invaluable

To join or not? This question is always at the forefront when one is confronted with the opportunity to become a member of any organization, whether to support one's job, hobby, or just a desire to help as a volunteer. Membership does matter for a number of reasons. But there is a cost, both in terms of money as well as time, so you may

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ask, "What's in it for me and do I get a return on my investment of time and money?"

Here are my thoughts. I belong to numerous organizations; the majority related to stamp collecting. I joined the APS more than 32 years ago and continue to learn more about the hobby nearly every day.

As a member, I receive the APS magazine (*The American Philatelist*), which provides numerous articles on many areas of stamp collecting. Over time, I decided to attend Summer Seminar on Philately classes at the APS headquarters to further my knowledge of the hobby and share with fellow collectors. I now attend to learn and also to teach nearly every year. The friendships continue to grow and the sharing of knowledge is invaluable. This also is one of the reasons I plan to settle in Pennsylvania only eight miles from the APS headquarters in Bellefonte, so I can more easily and frequently partake of all of the services (library, sales, expertizing, education, discussions, etc.). In addition, I plan to volunteer to support the society and the hobby and expand my knowledge even further in several areas of interest, and to give back to the hobby.

The APS provides members with access to our website stamps.org with links to many related sites, and with extensive bonus content not accessible to non-members. Members also get discounts on stamp purchases, expertizing services covering most of the world's stamps, and access to a wonderful philatelic library. The classes that are provided are world class and can be attended at the Summer Seminar on Philately as well as at stamp shows around the country. This also provides the opportunity to meet with fellow collectors who share the same interests.

Summer Seminar on Philately and other on-road courses are huge benefits and at a very reasonable price. The knowledge gained has helped me identify several rare stamps and covers and the APS Expertizing Service has validated those

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finds. A more recent benefit — the APS issues fraud alerts to help protect stamp collectors from scams.

Being a member also indicates that you believe in the good work and purpose of your society. It means you have subscribed to the society's code of ethics, and that you have recourse if another member violates that code in dealing with you. It means that you are taking care of business today, but you're also concerned about the future of our hobby. It means that you are committed to ensuring that a healthy, vibrant hobby, and stamp collecting industry is available to those who follow us and who will eventually come to possess all the

No. 12, December 31, 2015

## NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during December 2015. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to February 29, 2016 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the April 2016 issue.

Arneson, Roy A. (225311)  
**Fort Bragg, CA** PRE-1980  
WORLDWIDE-MINT US, PLATE BLOCKS, PNC; 74; Retired  
Baaske, Keith W. (225398)  
**Oakdale, NY** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, DUCK/HUNTING/ FISHING STAMPS-GERMANY- POLAND-VATICAN CITY- COLUMBIAN COMMEMORATIVES

Baer, Thomas (225380) **Erie, PA**; 60  
Bettis, Lawrence R. (225384)  
**Cleveland, OH** US-RUSSIA; 75; Retired

Bick, Douglas K. (225356)  
**Brooklyn, NY** US AIRMAILS, CANCELS, PARCEL POST, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS, CIVIL WAR COVERS; 36; Printer  
Blanchard, Alan (225312)  
**Cumberland Center, ME** US-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN- RUSSIA-GERMANY-INDIA- AUSTRALIA; 53; Supply Chain Manager

Boehm, Alice (225357) **Mendota, IL**; 79; Retired

Born, David (225326) **Saint Paul, MN** US; 71; Social Scientist

Bowerman, Bryce J-(225345)  
**Munising, MI**; 13; Student

Bowman, Helena (225325) **La Crescenza, CA** US, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-FLOWERS/PLANTS- FAMOUS PEOPLE-ART

Boyd, Laurence (225376)  
**Frederick, MD** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, PLATE BLOCKS; 71; Retired

Bozman, John (225364)  
**Gainesville, GA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, COVERS, FD PROGRAMS; 70

Bromley, Robert S. (225313)  
**Essington, PA** DUCK-JFK- HERITAGE; 57; Retired

Brouillette, John (225396)  
**San Diego, CA** US 19TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, CLASSICS, NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS, SAVINGS (POSTAL/TREASURY/ WAR), POSSESSIONS; 55  
Bubna, Niket (225339) **Durham, NC** US JOINT ISSUES, COMMEMORATIVES, SOUVENIR SHEETS-INDIA-PHILATELIC LITERATURE-FOREIGN SOUVENIR SHEETS; 29  
Buijks, Johan C. (225297) **Newbury Park, CA** NETHERLANDS, COLONIES, INDIES, ANTILLES- CZECH REPUBLIC-GERMANY- CLASSIC SURINAME; 43  
Bullock, Diane J. (225327) **Cape Nednick, ME** US-CANADA; 74; Retired  
Cashmore, Kirk (225302)  
**Ringwood, IL**; 38  
Christiansen, Donald (225368)  
**Crystal Lake, IL** US; 68; Retired  
Coarse, Anthony J. (225351)  
**Rutland, VT** US, SHEETS, SINGLES, BLOCKS, COILS; 73; Retired  
Cole, Mark W. (225307) **Barton, NY** TIBET-US DEFINITIVES  
Cottrell, Dale W. (225332) **Bayville, NJ** GERMANY-AUSTRIA- ROMANIA-RUSSIA-POLAND- GREECE-LUXEMBOURG-EAST EUROPE; 70; Retired  
Crocker, Thomas P. (225314)  
**Foxboro, MA** NORTH AMERICA; Manager  
Daye, Charles R. (225315) **Howell, NJ** USED US & WORLDWIDE; 62; Retired  
Doto, Travis (225301) **Middletown, IN**  
Edwards, Ralph G. (225383)  
**Atlanta, GA** US PATRIOTIC COVERS, NAVAL COVERS, HAWAII; 77  
Escalada, Guillermo (225400) **Saint Joseph, MI** FISH/MARINE LIFE- DISNEY-US; 51  
Fay, Bryan P. (225343) **Bradford, VT** CLASSICS-EARLY US- CANADA; Property Management  
Feltz, Joseph E. (225352) **Prospect, PA** US-CANADA-BRITAIN; R. C. Priest

philatelic material we hold dear.

None of this can happen with everyone just sitting on the sidelines. So, is joining the APS worth the money? A resounding yes and every collector should join. Being a member does matter. It makes a difference.

\*\*\*\*\*

*This series of articles was written by Michael Bloom, Don Chenevert, Terry Dempsey, Judy Johnson, Matt Liebson, Ken Martin, Gerry Robbins, and Michael Sales, all members of the APS Membership Activities, Recruitment, and Services Committee.*

## NEW MEMBERS

Applications 225136 through 225238 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

## SUMMARY

|   |                   |        |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| Total Membership  | November 30, 2015 | 31,185 |
| New Members   | ...103            |        |
| Reinstated  | .....40           | 143    |
|   |                   | 31,328 |
| Deceased  | .....34           |        |
| Resignations  | .....65           | 99     |
| Total Membership,   | December 31, 2015 | 31,229 |
| (Total Membership, December 31, 2014 was 32,020 a difference of -791) |                   |        |

Hildebrandt, Robert (225403)

**Rosemount, MN** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS, DUCK/HUNTING/ FISHING STAMPS, BOOKLETS/ PANES; 64

Hoffman, Joel E. (225393)  
**Millersburg, PA** GREAT BRITAIN- US COMMEMORATIVES, FDC- HONG KONG-SCANDINAVIA- MACAO; 59; Project Manger

Hunt, Stephen R. (225308)  
**Sonoma, CA** GREAT BRITAIN; 60; Antique Restorer/Gilder

Johnson, Joan E. (225329)  
**Lancaster, PA**; 74; Retired

Johnson, William R. (225317)  
**Pasadena, TX** US; 69; Retired

Joyce, David (225381) **Overland Park, KS** US BUREAU ISSUES, CANCELS, PLATE BLOCKS, 19TH CENTURY, COVERS-USED WORLDWIDE; 57

Keith, Dennis (225386) **Belmont, MA** US, FANCY CANCELS; 72; Retired

Keto, Karlen (225340) **Knoxville, MD**

Kodis, Peter W. (225318)  
**Mattapoisett, MA** US CONFEDERATE STATES, HAWAII- NORWAY; 78; Retired

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| Kuhnert, Thomas L. (225370) <b>Blountville, TN</b> FDC; 64; Retired   | Rogers, William B. (225346) <b>Hampstead, NC</b> ; 91; Retired   | Vaillancourt, Gerard E. (225330) <b>Reading, MA</b> US, FDC, BUREAU ISSUES, POSSESSIONS, USED, POSTAL CARDS; 69; Retired | Kaunelis, Edward A. (197604), Canaan, CT   |
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| Magnuson, Eric (225375) <b>Seattle, WA</b>  | Schechter, Richard M. (225305) <b>Williamsport, PA</b> UN-PRE-1900 WORLDWIDE; Retired  | Vella, Charles J. (225338) <b>San Francisco, CA</b> US; 71; Neuropsychologist  | Kusinitz, Stewart R. (11577-058867), Tiverton, RI  |
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| McDermott, Patricia (225390) <b>Speed, IN</b> US CLASSICS, BOOKLETS/PANES, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, COMMEMORATIVES, CIVIL WAR COVERS, IN POSTAL HI; 60      | Sivak, John R. (225299) <b>Springfield, IL</b> USED US;  | Williams, Chuck (225372) <b>Georgetown, TX</b> COMMEMORATIVES; 81; Real Estate   | Martin, R. Thomas (179036), Lansing, MI  |
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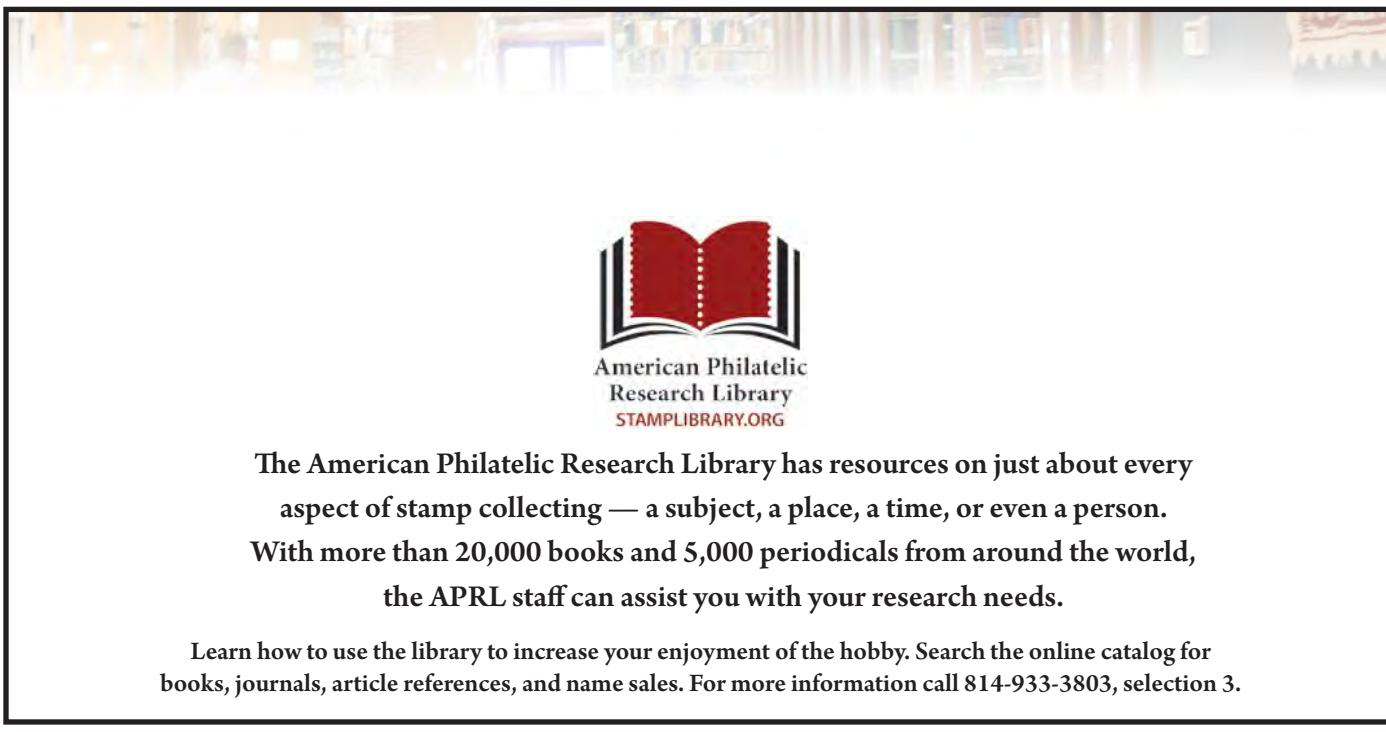
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## ISRAEL

### ISRAELI NOSTALGIA

Israel, on December 8, issued three stamps with decorative tabs that highlight nostalgia in that country. Three of the items depicted on the stylized stamp illustrations include the Tembel Hat, a Soda Siphon, and a Sussita car.



## INDIA

### ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

On December 3, India issued two stamps honoring the centenary year of the Zoological Survey of India. The launch of the stamps took place in New Dehli. The stamps feature a variety of animals across the two stamps including an elephant and tiger.



## MALAYSIA

### TRAINS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Malaysia issued a souvenir sheet of one oddly shaped stamp on December 28, and three additional long rectangular stamps showing different trains involved in Malaysian public transportation.



## MONACO

### ARCTIC EXPLORATION

On December 3, Monaco issued a souvenir sheet of two stamps to celebrate the arctic expedition of Prince Albert I (1848–1922) of Monaco. The souvenir sheet was designed and engraved by Martin Mörck.



## CROATIA

### CROATIAN VISUAL ART

Croatia, on December 1, issued three stamps at different denominations showing works by contemporary Croatian sculptors Dušan Džamonja, Kosta Angeli Radovani, and Vojin Bakić.

# NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at stamps issued in December from 10 different countries around the world.



### PHILIPPINES YEAR OF THE MONKEY

The Philippines postal service issued two commemorative stamps on December 1, in separate panes of 10 and a souvenir sheet. The stamps mark the Year of the Monkey that starts in February 2016.



### JAPAN WINTER GREETINGS

On December 11, Japan issued 20 stamps to be used for winter greeting postcards and letters. The postcard stamps highlight plant arrangements and the letter-rate stamps show generic winter scenes, including a snow globe and a polar bear.



### SINGAPORE ASEAN PARA GAMES

Singapore, on December 3, issued two commemorative stamps for the 8th Asean Para Games that took place December 3–9 in Singapore. One stamp shows the mascot for the games and the other shows three different athlete silhouettes.



### UKRAINE WOODEN CHURCHES

Ukraine and Poland jointly issued two commemorative stamps on December 18, showing wooden churches in the Carpathian region of both nations. The churches were added as UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2013.



### HONG KONG SCIENTISTS

On December 8, Hong Kong issued four commemorative stamps honoring the achievements of four notable ancient Chinese scientists. Some of the items noted in the designs include the seismograph and the value of Pi.



# WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

## Romania

**Status:** Republic in southeastern Europe

**Area:** 92,043 sq. miles

**Population:** 21,666,350 (2015 est.)

**Currency:** 100 bani = 1 leu, \$1 = 4.16 Lei (2015)



6-para carmine stamp from 1862, Scott 12.



2-parale Prince Cuza from 1865 (Scott 22).

Romania is about the size of Oregon and bordered by, clockwise from the east, the Black Sea, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Ukraine and Moldova (once part of Romania). The city of Galați in eastern Romania is the largest port on the Danube. Romania was settled by Thracians about 200 BC and conquered by Rome in the first century of the Christian era. It was Rome's northeastern border province of Dacia for about two centuries. The Goths forced the Romans to withdraw south of the Danube, leaving the area open to wave after wave of Barbarian invasions for the next 500 years. In the 7th century, Bulgar domination allowed a rudimentary civic life to develop and later brought Christianity. The foundations of modern Romania were laid in the 13th century when Vlachs from Transylvania settled in two distinct regions, Walachia, which emerged as an independent state about 1290, and Moldavia, which followed in 1349.

The two new states were soon conquered by the Ottomans. During the 18th century they became the front lines in the struggles between Russia and Turkey. They also developed a sense of national awareness. After the Crimean war, the legislatures of Walachia and Moldavia voted for union under the name "Rumania." De facto union was effected on January 17, 1859, while they remained at least nominally under Turkish suzerainty. The union was officially ratified in 1861. During the Russo-Turkish War of 1878, Rumania declared its independence. The western powers recognized it as a kingdom in 1881.

So, should the country be spelled "Rumania" or "Romania?" Several Internet sources acknowledge that both are technically correct and the "u" version came first. But, by the 19th century, the "o" form came into popular use as a way to acknowledge its Roman roots. Some of the country's earliest stamps spell it "Romania" and by the 20th century, this became the more accepted spelling.

In World War I, Romania sided with the Allies and gained Transylvania from Hungary. In World War II, it joined the axis powers and hoped to recover lands it had lost to the Soviet Union in 1940. In mid-1944, Romania switched sides and joined the Allies. Following the war, Romania became a Soviet-dominated "People's Republic." The repressive dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu ruled from 1965 until his ouster in 1989. Romania joined NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007.

The postal system was more advanced in the Danube principalities than in the Ottoman Empire generally. Around 1827, a Walachian prince established a biweekly courier service to the Austrian border

for communications with Vienna. A postal contract was signed for service within Walachia as early as 1830. Probably influenced by postal developments in Russia, Moldavia issued its first postage stamps in January 1858 soon after the principality gained its autonomy from the Ottoman Empire. (The Ottoman Empire itself did not adopt postage stamps until 1863.)

Soon after the union of the two principalities, stamps were produced locally for use in Moldavia and Walachia. The stamps depicted the two coats of arms side by side. In 1865, stamps were released inscribed "Romania" and depicting Prince Cuza. Cuza abdicated the following year, which necessitated new stamps with the image of the new Prince Carol I.

On April 22, 1867, Romania adopted the leu as currency. This was first reflected on postage stamps in 1868. The leu has remained in use despite several currency reforms.



A 1972 stamp (Scott 2373) promoting the Davis Cup (tennis) finals between Romania and the United States.



The 1-bani from a set of 10 King Carol I stamps of 1906, Scott 186.



They are inscribed "1944," but a set of 11 patriotic stamps, including the 31-lei Gheorge Lazar (Scott 563), were not issued until 1945.



Emperor Karl of Austria is on about four dozen stamps issued from 1917 to 1918 under Austria occupation, Scott 1N32.

## Gordon Eubanks Candidate for Director At Large



I am a life-long collector and have been exhibiting for ten years. My collecting interests range from classic United States to Prexies and World War II postal history.

I am running for office to improve transparency and services for all collectors. I serve as a board member of the U.S. Classics Society and a *Chronicle* section editor, a member of the Campaign for Philately, as well as over a dozen philatelic organizations.

My professional background includes serving as a submarine officer during the Cold War and as CEO of a public technology company for 18 years. I spend time now working with startups and serving on boards.

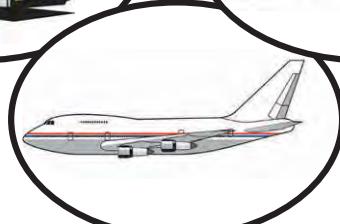
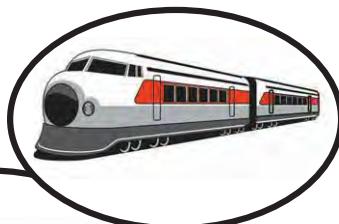
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**I would appreciate your support for APS Director At Large 2016 - 2019. Please let me know what is important to you.**

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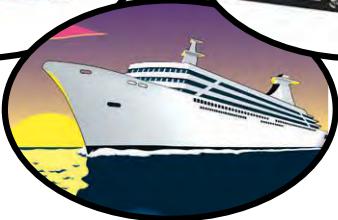
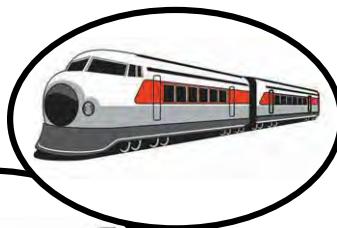
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