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THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Mystic Reflects on 95 Years of Stamp Buying

CAMDEN, N.Y. The year 2018 marks the 95th anniversary of Mystic Stamp Company, America's leading stamp dealer. A lot has changed since it opened its doors, but two things remain the same – Mystic's small-town values and its commitment to being the most active buyer of stamps in the US.

It's obvious that old-fashioned values and big business can go hand-in-hand when we look back at Mystic's history. Let's step back in time – to the Roaring Twenties when Warren Harding was president, Prohibition was raging and Mystic opened its doors...

Humble Beginnings

Lawrence K. Shaver founded Mystic in 1923 in the tiny upstate New York village of Camden. Shaver sold his own collection of US 3¢ 1851s for two hundred dollars, using the funds to buy stamps for resale. He began his business in a one-room office over the Camden Post Office.

Today, Mystic operates out of a 50,000 square foot headquarters, employs 150 colleagues and reports it has spent over \$70 million on stamps and coins over the last five years.

Purchased by the Sundman Family

In 1974, Maynard Sundman bought Mystic. Sundman, a pioneer in the stamp and coin approval business, put his youngest son, Don, in charge. Mystic grew quickly under Don Sundman's leadership, earning a solid reputation for paying collectors and dealers more for stamps. The motto "Mystic Pays More For Your Stamps" became the company's tag line in ads in stamp publications.

Major Acquisitions

1998 saw Mystic setting a record for highest price ever paid for a US



President of Mystic Donald Sundman is a lifetime stamp collector with over four decades in the stamp business.

stamp. For just under one million dollars, Mystic became the owner of the 1868 1¢ Z Grill, America's rarest stamp.

Since then, Mystic has made several headlines acquiring rare stamps. In 2005, Sundman traded the 1¢ Z Grill for the unique 1918 Jenny Inverted Error Plate Block. This transaction – called the "\$6 million dollar trade" – was featured by news outlets worldwide.

When the National Postal Museum held two auctions to sell deaccessioned US Revenue stamps, Mystic was the main buyer. The company spent over \$3 million on the Revenue stamps and paid over 60% of the prices realized.



In recent years, Mystic has also focused on buying worldwide stamps. The company bought the rare China #64 stamp (less than 10 are known to exist) for over \$85,000 – over three times the stamp's *Scott Catalogue* value at the time. Mystic was also the highest bidder at a private sale for the rare "Levante Italiano" 1874 5 centesimi without overprint. This stamp is believed to be unique. Mystic paid \$84,232 for the stamp, winning it in a highly competitive auction. Likewise, in 2012, Mystic purchased the unique 1918 Black Honduras for \$165,000.

Mystic Buys All Kinds of Stamps – And Pays More to Get Them

The majority of the firm's purchases are made from individual collectors and small dealers. However, Mystic

also purchased Fleetwood, America's premier First Day Cover producer and moved the entire operation from Wyoming to upstate New York.

Asked how he and his buyers manage to be so active in a competitive business, Sundman says there's no secret to Mystic's success. "People want a high market price for their stamps – and we pay it."

Sundman also emphasizes the professionalism of the company's stamp buyers. "I receive hundreds of letters from collectors and dealers describing how pleased they are with the honesty and professionalism of our stamp buyers and the stress-free convenience of our service."

What the Future Holds

Mystic serves thousands of collectors each week. So its need to buy both US and worldwide stamps continues. Although Mystic buys all kinds of stamps, of particular interest are British Colonies and other European Colonies. The stamps of Asia, specifically China and Japan, are of special interest.

Mystic is looking to purchase stamps and coins from private collectors, plus entire store inventory and dealer stocks. The company's buyers are prepared to travel and pay high market prices for high-quality collections. They pay with a check "on the spot" and remove the stamps, leaving only a satisfied client.

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Mystic's stamp buyers are anxious to speak with prospective sellers. They can be contacted toll-free at 1-800-835-3609. They'll guide you, helping you to make a smart decision about the sale of your stamps and enjoy peace of mind after the transaction.

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Background image from H.R. Harmer's 1930-1931 Annual Resume

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Different aspects of stamps and postal history can be traced to the world wars in the Faroe Islands, a necklace of 18 volcanic islands in the North Atlantic that are linked heavily to Denmark.



240 VISITING THE BRITISH EMPIRE

By Noel Davenhill

We travel to Dominica in the Caribbean's Leeward Islands, first found by Christopher Columbus during his second voyage to America in 1493. Dominica has a history of early-use British stamps and some Leeward Islands stamps and was a presidency and a colony before gaining independence in 1978.

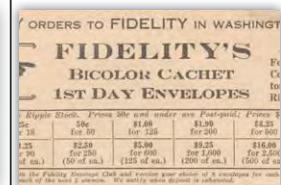


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By Rick Herman

A 1938 U.S. cover from the Fidelity Stamp Co. carries an interesting letter and story and was likely one of the earliest – perhaps the first – serviced first-day cover of a Prexie stamp.



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By Jeff Stage

A lawyer from Minnesota who made a mark in New York and Washington, D.C., created an interesting stamp company that sold stamps, offered a new issue service and peddled covers.

228 COLLECTING COAST TO COAST

By Wayne Youngblood

A cover that offers a true philatelic foursome: four stamps – three of them with the same face, but all with different Scott numbers – that were issued on the same day.



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By Bob Lamb

Visiting historic Poland is incredibly interesting and a look at its postal history adds even more to your enjoyment of this central European country.

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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French Korytsa, the rare 25c/50L value (1916)

CANDIA Russian Post, beautiful negative seal



Principality of Samos,
1pi blue (1878)



Heraklion, rare soldier's letter



Greece, double control number of 40L used at Volos (Turkey) (1878)



Ottoman Post, 1890 unique cover from SOUDA (Crete)

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BY MICK ZAIS president
mzais@newberry.edu

Event Covers

'Tis a Fine Way to Celebrate Any Holiday

For this March issue of *The American Philatelist* it might be appropriate to look at some philatelic aspects of one of our nation's biggest campus party days – St. Patrick's Day. This ethnic and religious-based holiday is not an official federal holiday, although it is celebrated on campuses and in cities with large Irish-American populations such as New York, Boston, Savannah and Seattle.

Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a fifth-century Christian missionary and bishop. The exact dates of his life are unknown. Most of what we know of St. Patrick comes from one writing attributed to him, the *Declaration*, which provides most of the accepted details of his life.

Saint Patrick is regarded as having introduced the Irish to Christianity, although, like most aspects of his life, this too is debated among scholars.

March 17 is celebrated as St. Patrick's Day because it is accepted as the date of his death. In the early 17th century it became an official Irish feast day celebrating the arrival of Patrick and Christianity to Ireland. And, since the 1640s, the color green has been associated with Saint Patrick and all things Irish.

With this short introduction, let's look at some fun philatelic covers from 1937 and 1938 which commemorate this day of modern merrymaking.

The first cover [Figure 1] is canceled at Saint Patrick, Missouri. It was prepared by William Gable of Cleveland, Ohio, with a cachet showing Irishmen in traditional dress playing the pipe and fiddle with similarly attired couples dancing in the background. The stamps are tied by a rubberstamp shamrock, significant to Irish Catholics as a symbol of the Trinity and representative of Ireland.

The second cover [Figure 2], prepared by E.F. Mezwin, of Maspeth, New York, is postmarked in Shamrock, Missouri with a matching cachet.

The third cover [Figure 3] has an extensive text cachet with a shamrock overprint. The cachet was prepared by Gilbert Brown, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania and commemorates the first anniversary of the devastating flood that covered some of Johnstown's streets with 16 to 18 feet of water. The flood left nearly 30,000 homeless, almost half the city's population.

The next four covers were canceled aboard ships of the U.S. Navy. The first of these naval cachets [Figure 4] is from



[Figure 1]

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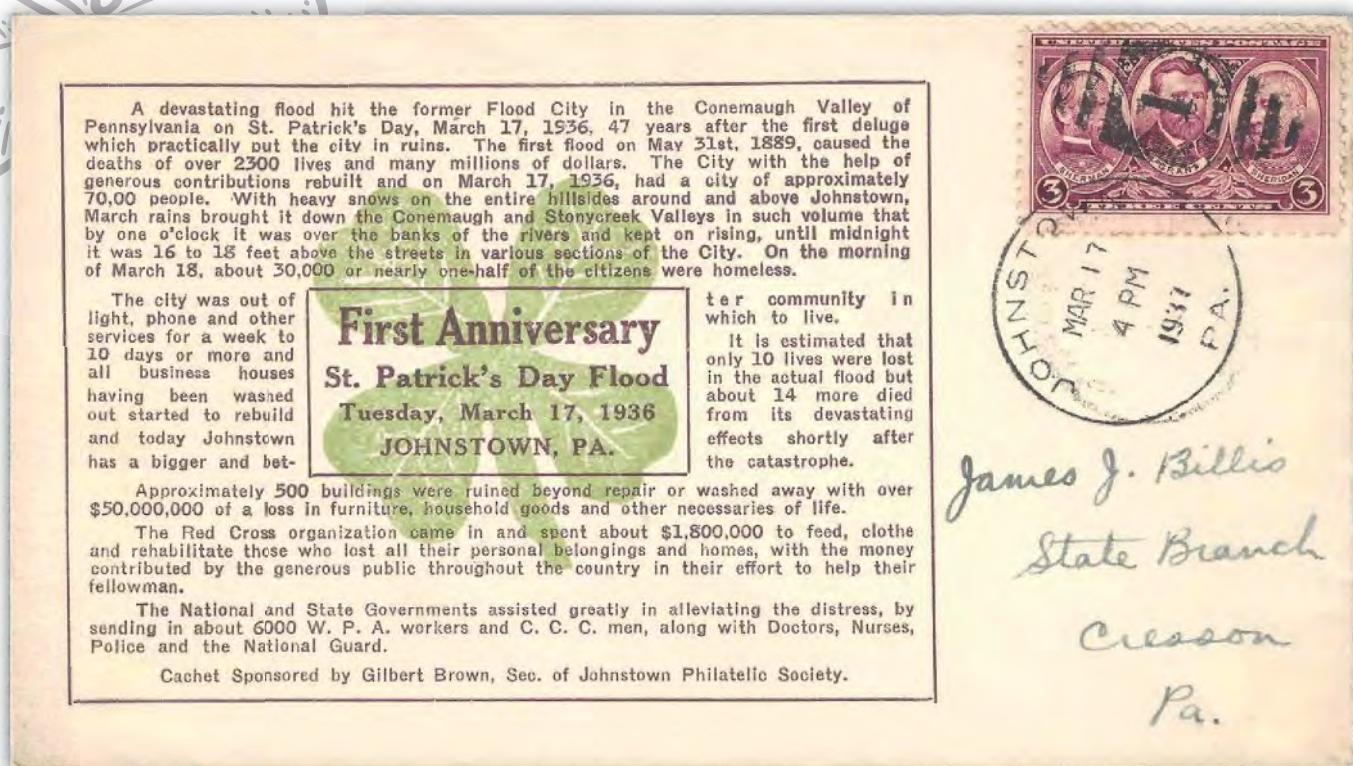
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[Figure 2]



[Figure 3]



[Figure 4]

the U.S.S. *Mississippi*, a battleship commissioned in 1917. The cachet was prepared by Ted DeNyse and shows a presumptive image of Saint Patrick overlaid on a large shamrock. The cancel contains the phrase "Erin go bragh," an anglicized version of an Irish phrase which roughly translates as "Ireland forever."

The second naval cover [Figure 5] was canceled aboard the U.S.S. *Reina Mercedes*, a cruiser captured from the Spanish Navy in Cuba in 1898 during the Spanish American War. She was used as a receiving ship at Newport, Rhode Island until 1912 when she was towed to Annapolis, Maryland, where she re-

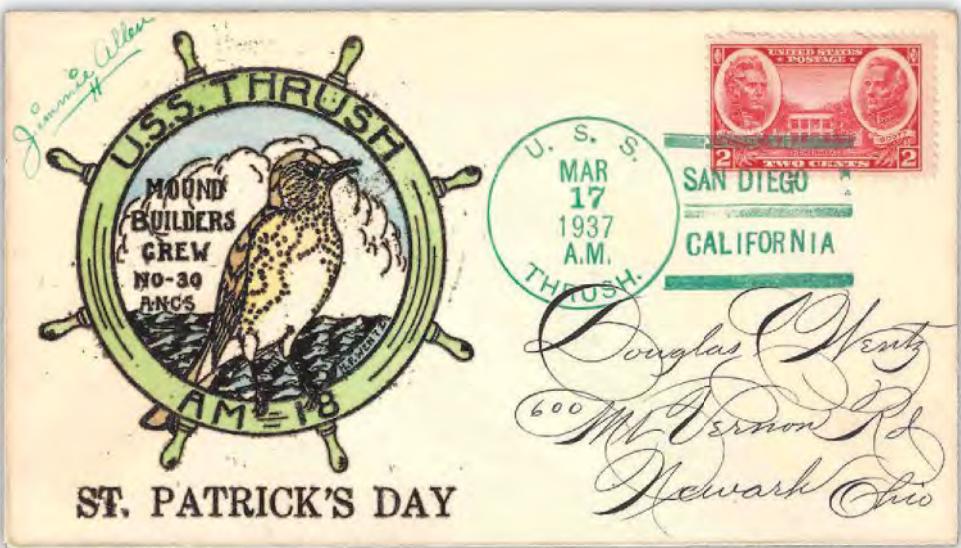


mained until 1957. Until 1940, it was customary for midshipmen at the Naval Academy who were being punished to take all their meals aboard the *Reina Mercedes* and to sleep aboard in hammocks. Thereafter, she served as quarters for enlisted sailors working at Annapolis. The cachet, by A. Kaufman, depicts a sailor holding a weapon with bayonet and encircled by a ship's wheel.

The third naval St. Patrick's Day cover [Figure 6] was canceled in San Diego aboard the U.S.S. *Thrush*, a minesweeper commissioned in 1919. The cachet was prepared by Harry F. Wentz, the brother of the addressee, Douglas



[Figure 5]



[Figure 6]



[Figure 7]

C. Wentz. The signature of the naval mail clerk aboard the *Thrush*, Jimmy Alan, appears in the upper left corner.

The final cachet [Figure 7] was hand drawn and painted by Paul R. Parrish. It depicts crossed Irish smoking pipes and an Irish harp on a green shield. The cover was canceled in Norfolk, Virginia aboard the U.S.S. *Blue*, a destroyer named in honor of Rear Admiral Victor Blue, who distinguished himself in 1898 in the Spanish-American War.

Event covers such as these celebrating St. Patrick's Day are an interesting and fun collecting area. The covers tend to be reasonably affordable and readily available from dealers and online auctions. The types of events commemorated are extensive: from airport dedications to anniversaries, from holidays to exhibitions, from post office dedications to philatelic happenings. If you're looking for a new collecting area, you might consider the fascinating field of event covers.

And don't forget to drink a little green beer on St. Patrick's Day. ☺





THE PHILATELIC EXPERIENCE

BY MARTIN KENT MILLER editor
martin@stamps.org



Connecting With Greg Considering the Needs of the Hobby

At the Southeastern Stamp Expo in late January, I had the opportunity to represent the APS at the show and to conduct the APS Town Hall meeting. During that standing-room-only meeting, in addition to answering questions, I spoke about the importance of two words — “balance” and “connections.” Within the context of managing this journal, balance involves a continual pursuit of knowledge and scholarship, while also maintaining a high degree of readability. The challenge is to balance the depth of the content while appealing to the broadest possible audience. New readers, especially younger ones, need to find something in philately that interests them without intimidating them.

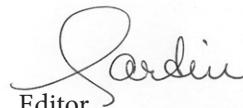


Stamp shows like the Southeastern Stamp Expo and February's AmeriStamp Expo are times to connect with fellow philatelists, encourage new collectors and discover a new collection focus like this example of U.S. Army emergency issues.

“nerds” who shared what they collected and why. In short, Greg was able to make a connection.

After his last shift, Greg walked the floor until the show closed. He came by the APS table to share what he had bought and to talk about collecting. The connections he made converted a skeptic and, although by a single person, grew our community.

So, as you peruse this edition, evaluate an upcoming show or consider your next purchase, don’t lose track of your role in making connections. Regardless of the depth of our philatelic knowledge, our financial resources or our collecting focus, we have a responsibility to balance our interests with the needs of the hobby — take time to talk and listen to the Gregs we all encounter.


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Chapter Celebrating 125th Anniversary

Thank you for mentioning the Midwest Philatelic Society, of Kansas City, Missouri, in the "Philatelic Happenings" column of the January edition of *The American Philatelist*.

Our name has changed over the years; however, we recognize the club as Chapter No. 10 of the APS, originating in 1893. We will celebrate our 125th anniversary this year. At one time we were the third-oldest active chapter, but I am not sure if that is still true.

Bob Baltzell

Independence, Missouri

Editor's Note: Ken Martin is always pleased to mention chapters, their news and deeds in his column. We have to disappoint you slightly, but among more than 470 active chapters, the Midwest club is actually the sixth-longest active chapter, according to APS records. The Chicago Philatelic Society and St. Louis club both joined October 10, 1887. They were followed by the Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh and San Francisco-Pacific Philatelic Society on April 10, 1889, and the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club (Cleveland) on July 10, 1890. The Midwest Philatelic Society, having joined November 30, 1894, is the last active chapter to have joined the APS in the 19th century.



Frank Bescher of Kansas City.

The philatelic career of Frank Bescher of Kansas City, is so closely interwoven with the philatelic history of Kansas City that the one can hardly be written without including the other. The first local club was the Stamp Club of Kansas City, organized in 1889. Mr. Bescher was the prime mover in the organization but held no office. The club lived a short but useful life and passed away. Enthusiasm was again aroused in 1893 owing to the Columbian Commemorative issue. The new club was known as the Philatelic Society of Kansas City, and was affiliated as Branch 10 with the A. P. S. Mr. Bescher acted as treasurer and as exchange superintendent. This club was composed almost entirely of business and professional men and continued for about five years. No effort at an organized club was

Early history of the Midwest Philatelic Society as published in the November-December 1911 issue of *The Collectors' Journal*.

Stamp Collectors Faced Big Troubles in Stalin's USSR

I enjoyed the article on "Welcome to the USSR" in the January edition of *The American Philatelist*.

I also finished reading a book on the siege of Leningrad during World War II. A point that was brought up was that stamp collectors were subject to death by Stalin and the NKVD, especially those who collected U.S., Great Britain and Germany. They were considered guilty of spying – no trial, just guilty; and no gulag as an alternative sentence, just a bullet! Scary times to lick stamp hinges to say the least.

Bob Brandt

Gillett, Pennsylvania

Mystery 'Station' on Soldier's Letters Could Be a Delivery Zone

I enjoyed the article "Dissecting Letters from a Soldier" in the February edition of *The American Philatelist*.

I have several covers from the Civil War era and the best part of acquiring them was doing research to find out as much as possible about them. Unfortunately, only one has an enclosure or any indication of the sender. The one I have is a soldier's letter endorsed by the unit chaplain, so I at least know the unit the sender was in. I was surprised by how much information is available online about long-departed people, both soldiers and civilians.

Camp Sheridan seems like it was a huge place. When I was in the Army, I was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, which is a large post and, at the time, contained two divisions and several non-division units, so it probably had as many troops as Sheridan.

You mentioned that the "Station 9" handwritten on each cover is a mystery. Could that actually be "Station a"? Perhaps it was the post office station in East Liverpool that covered the postal route where the addressee lived or where she had to pick up her mail (but I imagine East Liverpool would have had city mail delivery at that time).

I also greatly enjoyed the following article by John Young about the Mooresville Post Office. It was nicely written and illustrated, and it makes me want to visit that town. If I were going to AmeriStamp Expo, I would definitely make a side trip to Mooresville.

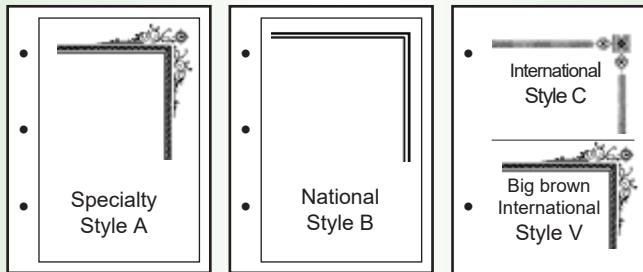
Ron Breznay

Hanover Township, Pennsylvania

Story of Brave and Doomed Polish Mailmen Told in Book

APS member Edward Krolikowski, of Georgia, recently wrote the following:

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Not Responsible For Typographical Errors

While translating a book from Polish to English on World War II, there was one chapter that I think the APS, and stamp collectors of Poland – Office in Danzig (Port Gdańsk) as well as Danzig, of which I am one – would be interested in. It relates to the fate of the Polish mailmen in Gdańsk/Danzig, something I knew nothing about.

The title of the book is *Westerplatte – Oksywie – Hel 1939* and is by Piotr Derdej. It was published in 2009. My translation follows the language of the Polish author, therefore it will not read as fluidly as if it was written originally in English.

Following is a summary of the six-page chapter translated by Krolkowski:

The chapter focuses on Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Gdańsk (Danzig; also known as the Free City of Gdańsk) and its peninsula, Westerplatte, was the first city attacked by Germany at the start of World War II. The German invasion included shelling from the battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* and an incursion by German army troops

and Nazi storm troopers (the SA or "Brownshirts"), who were supported by local police. (Danzig, though it was considered a free-city state had a dominant German population and Germany had a strong and growing influence, even holding as much as 38 percent of the Parliament by 1933).

In preparation of the attack, Polish authorities and military devised a plan to repel the invaders within six hours of the incursion. The Post Office – which included several buildings,



The German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* played an active role in the 1939 invasion of Poland.

including an imposing three-story stone structure originally built as a hospital – was correctly perceived as a prime target for the invaders.

Those on hand were primarily postal employees, including supervisors, sorters and carriers, many who were members of the Riflemen's Association, and a small number of army personnel, who had earlier been assigned to help hold the building in case of riots or invasion. These men, under the leadership of Reserve 2nd Lt. Konrad Guderski, were given a small cache of arms.

[Note - The book states 110 men were on hand, which included some railroad workers seeking refuge; other independent sources put the number at 55 to 57, including the building keeper, his wife, and their 10-year-old daughter.]

This group (no matter the number) were told they would only need to repel invaders for five or six hours before reinforcements – the Polish army – arrived.

The battleship started shelling Danzig at 4:45 a.m. and

soldiers and police, which had been under Nazi control for some time, almost immediately started an assault on the solidly built Post Office. Postal authorities tried contacting Polish authorities, but the national minister serving locally had already been arrested.

Those inside the Post Office barred the doors, took up arms at windows and opened fire before dawn as German soldiers and Danzig police stormed the front gate. A siege began. The small, trapped Polish force rebelled the invaders at the gate, but once the sun rose, the German forces advanced again on three sides, including blasting through from an adjoining building.

"Fighting didn't stop because the mailmen knew ... that capitulation (would) mark them for death."

Again, the Polish defenders held out, including fighting back soldiers who blasted through the wall of an upper floor. Guderski, pistol and hand grenade in hand, led the counter-attack at the wall. He tossed the grenade. The explosion killed and drove back invaders, but shrapnel killed Guderski.

Alfons Flisykowski, a postal worker and former reserve officer who was already wounded, took command. The invaders pulled back and fired from inside a building across the street. The Germans brought in cannons and started blasting from about 55 yards away.

The battle of attrition was clearly in the Germans' favor. More and more Polish defenders were wounded or killed. "The (Poles') ammunition diminished. There was absolutely no medicine. ... Every place was full of biting smoke and dust from rubble. It was difficult to breathe. Bloody mailmen in tattered clothing and on straining legs constantly defended themselves. Water was lacking."

Flisykowski ordered everyone to the basement to make a last stand. The Germans acted quickly by pumping oil onto and into the building and setting it ablaze. The defenders could no longer last and Flisykowski ordered a surrender.

Forty-five wounded defenders emerged from the smoking Post Office. The director of the Post Office and telegraphs waved a white flag as he emerged. A German sniper immediately shot and killed him. The postmaster left the basement slowly and was punished by having a flamethrower set fire to him. "The German policemen and SS men immediately beset those surrendering. After a brutal frisking" the prisoners were taken away.

The small group had been asked to defend the Post Office for five or six hours. They had lasted 15 against a much greater force. Help never came because the Polish military had changed its strategy, preparing for the full invasion of the country.

The survivors were held prisoner until October 3 when a military tribunal convicted them of terrorism. Two days later, the survivors, now numbering 39, were executed by firing squad. [Online sources say the 10-year-old daughter of the building supervisor was wounded and taken with about a dozen other prisoners to a hospital, where they all died.]

"The location of their graves to this day remains unknown

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because the Germans deliberately erased its trace. However, the memory of their heroism survived the war and is alive to this day."

[In 1979, a *Defenders of the Polish Post* monument was unveiled in Gdańsk.]



The *Defenders of the Polish Post* monument. Photo by DerHexer.

Magazine Text Backgrounds Seemed Too Dark to Read

I have just finished reading *The American Philatelist* for January 2018. I was really interested in the article on joint issues.

I found several pages difficult to read due to the busy or dark background. I noticed the background becoming darker and darker as I progressed through this issue. Please see these pages: 28, 46 and 70, which was a particular challenge. The background is almost as black as the printing!

I was really interested in this article on the new book on telephone stamps. This is the first book I have encountered which lists telephone stamps.

You could do the membership a real service if you could maintain an easily readable AP.

Jason Manchester

Columbus, Ohio

Editor's Note: I am always interested and open to readers' feedback. As we work to produce the finest philatelic journal in the hobby, we occasionally try some things to add visual interest to the layouts. In this case, the effect may have been too heavy and we will carefully monitor the balance between visual impact and readability.

Article on Soviet Travel Agency Helped Recall 'Trip of a Lifetime'

I really enjoyed the article on the Soviet travel agency Intourist in the January edition of *The American Philatelist*. I especially related because I booked an Intourist trip from Tehran, to Yerevan, Moscow and Leningrad in 1973. I was stationed in Tehran, Iran at the time with the Military As-

sistance Advisory Group (Air Force Section). My wife and I wanted to visit the USSR. Everyone in the MAAG who visited the USSR then went by commercial aircraft to Moscow upon being reassigned back to the United States.

We didn't like that approach. I decided to see if there was another alternative. There was. It was to travel by rail. Due to my security clearance I did not know if I could get permission to make the trip in that manner. I asked my superiors, but they did not know. I went further up the military chain of command and no one seemed to know.

I was referred to the U.S. Consulate. There, I was told that it would be OK so long as we were part of a tour group. I then asked what size the tour group had to be. No one knew. So, I went down to the local (Tehran) Intourist office and asked about booking a trip to the USSR by rail for a tour group of two (my wife and me). I was told that all I would need was the cost of advance booking and our passports.

So, we planned the two-week trip stopping in Yerevan (Armenia), Moscow and Leningrad, staying at two of the hotels mentioned in the article (Metropol in Moscow and the Astoria in Leningrad).

Thanks again for publishing the very interesting article.

Don McDaniel

University Place, Washington

P.S. It was a fabulous trip with hardly any travel restrictions; a trip of a lifetime.



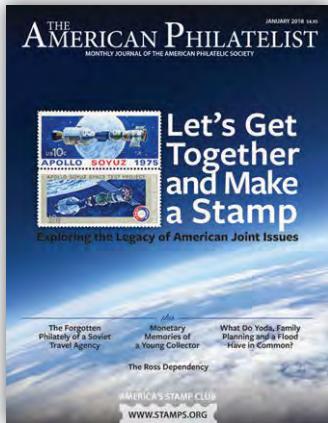
Larry Nelson shared this Intourist card in his collection.

Intourist Cards Found in Collection

I very much enjoyed the above article, "Welcome to the USSR" in the January edition of *The American Philatelist*. I have attached an Intourist card that I ask that you forward to author Alexander Kolchinsky because it may be of interest to him. I also have in my collection a number of World War II-related cards to World Tourists, Inc. and Peltours.

Larry Nelson

Mantoloking, New Jersey



Compliments on the January Issue

I just finished reading the January issue and wanted to tell you that I very much enjoyed articles on Soviet-era tourism and joint issues.

Thanks again for the good read.

John Schlitt

Morris Plains, New Jersey

Editor's Note: It is always nice to hear complimentary feedback. Interestingly, the articles mentioned reflect the work of a seasoned writer and a first-time author.

Corrections to December Stories

I am writing about some errors in the December issue.

In Ronald Blanks' article, "Father Flanagan's Boys Town Turns 100," the third full paragraph on Page 1148 starts, "it is an apparent non-hobby use, from an architectural firm to a university's graduate office." The cover referenced is Figure 16. The return address on the envelope is clearly from Franklin and Marshall College's Department of Art, long located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I do agree with the asserted mystery why the composition of stamps was selected.

In Noel Davenhill's article, "Sierra Leone," the text on page 1170 discusses Figure 3, but the caption on Figure 3 does not match. As a reader, I would have enjoyed seeing all 13 denominations of the Welch set in Figure 8.

Milton Smith

Burlington, New Jersey

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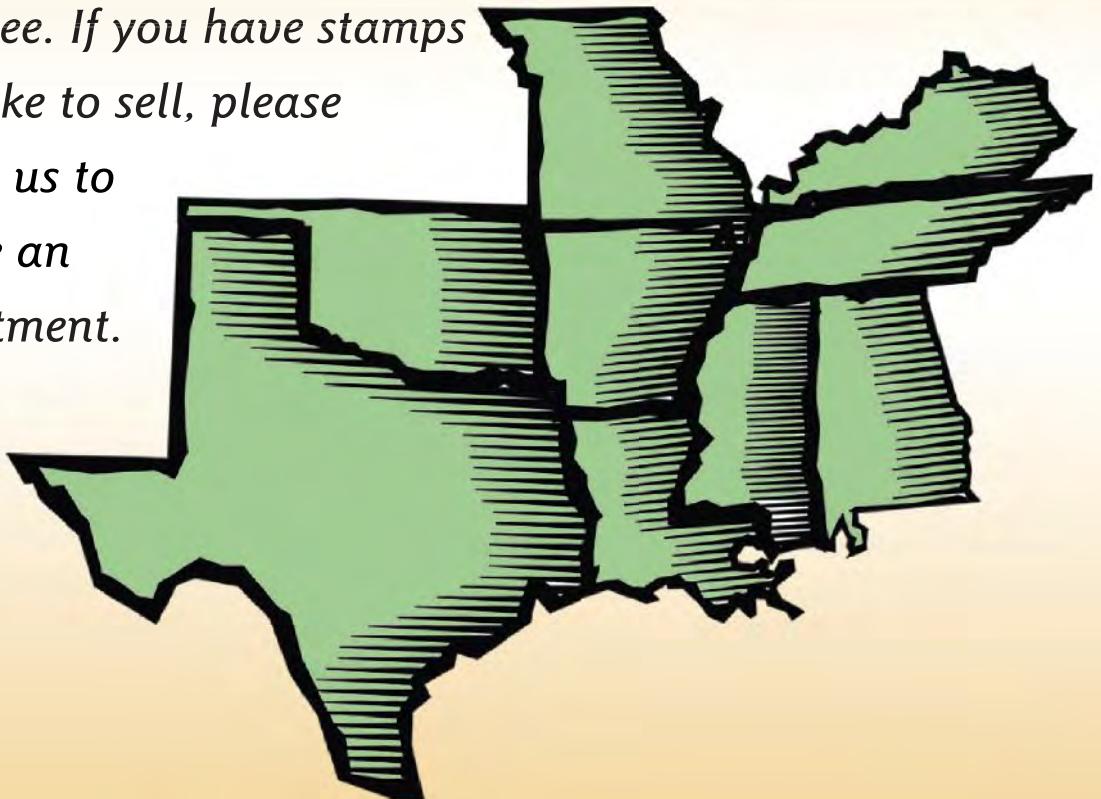


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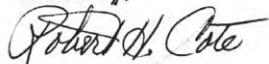
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Dear Mr. Younger:

I just had to take a moment and drop you a line about what a pleasure it was to sell my stamps to your representative. I've had two occasions to sell stamps to him. The first was my plate block collection, and later my mint sheet collection. I found him to be very professional and knowledgeable and he gave me a very fair price for my stamps.

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Rumors of Demise Greatly Exaggerated

Much has been made about the demise of our hobby. Like many, I say not so fast. Recently I had the privilege of attending Sandical in San Diego. The event was advertised on local television no less and proved to be incredibly enjoyable. It was enjoyable for a number of reasons. First, the USPS booth was manned by personnel who really cared about our interests. Second, the exhibits were remarkably entertaining. Third, all dealers that I met and talked with were very positive and helpful; not the condescending attitudes that others have noted in previous letters. Finally, a big hats off to the volunteers who once again produced a great show.

As an on-and-off-again collector for the last 50 years and someone who fully embraces most new technologies, there is still nothing that compares to seeing, smelling, and touching stamps (with tweezers of course) in person. We should always look to attract new collectors to our hobby, but if Sandical is any indication and to quote Monty Python “we aren’t dead yet!”

Bob Bechill

Oceanside, CA

Dick Came Home and Married Florence

Jeff Stage’s “Dissecting Letters from a Soldier” in the February edition of *The American Philatelist* asks “Did Dick make it home? Did he get back together with Florence?” The answer to both questions is yes.

Dick was born Richard T. Ward on October 4, 1879 in Rome, New York.¹ He served as a first lieutenant with the 135th machine gun battalion from August 5, 1917 to February 10, 1919 and was overseas with the American Expeditionary Forces from June 15, 1918 to February 9, 1919.² Dick and Florence apparently married in 1919.³

Dick had served previously during the Spanish-American War, and he was a police sergeant in Youngstown, Ohio, where he died January 8, 1936.⁴ Based on his birthdate, Dick turned 39 years old in October 1918.

Sources:

1. “Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953; digital image, *FamilySearch.org*; Richard T. Ward, died 1936, section 6 for birthdate and section 12 for birthplace.
2. *The Official Roster of Ohio Soldier, Sailors and Marines in the World War 1917-18*; digital image, Hathi Trust (<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000403239>); vol. 18, p. 18160, entry for Richard Thomas Ward.
3. “United States Census, 1930;” digital image, *FamilySearch.org*; Mahoning Co., Ohio, Youngstown, ward 5, enumeration district 50-70, sheet 48A, dwelling 19, family 21, Richard Ward; citing NARA series T626, roll 1846; col. 15 for age at first marriage and col. 31 for Spanish-American and World War I service.
4. “Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953, Richard T. Ward, died 1936, section 5a for wife’s maiden name.

James R. (“Jim”) Miller

Caroga Lake, New York

Editor’s Note: While most of this reconciles with the materials in the original article, it does present a couple of other mysteries. Your research would indicate that Dick Ward would have turned 38 on October 4, 1917 when he wrote his Camp Sheridan letter to Florence, yet he clearly wrote that

“today is my birthday” and “I am twenty nine years young today.” That would be a nine-year difference from your research. Assuming this is the same Dick Ward, could an official document have his wrong birthdate? Did Dick lie about his age at some point to Florence or in an official document? This may be a lesson that shows how one item researched certainly can lead down many paths. Thank you for the additional research, Jim.

Jeff Stage reviewed Jim’s book *Philatelic Genealogy* in the February 2017 AP.

Correction: Ross E. Wiessmann

The APS mistakenly reported that Ross E. Wiessmann was deceased in the January edition of *The American Philatelist*. The APS regrets the error and apologizes to Mr. Wiessmann and his family.

Mr. Wiessmann, 68, of Augusta, New Jersey, is a Life Member of the APS,

having first joined in 1973, and has been a Dealer-Member of the APS since 1989. He also is a member of the American Stamp Dealers Association, and owns REW Stamps-Coins, LLC, organizing and running bourses in the Northeast.

Mr. Wiessmann was born and raised in northern New Jersey and graduated from Wayne Valley High School in 1968. He attended West Point for one academic year and in 1972 graduated from Lafayette College with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. Wiessmann later received a master’s degree in public administration, and was employed by the Department of Transportation from 1972 until his retirement in 2008.

Mr. Wiessmann currently resides in Sussex County, New Jersey, with his wife, Darlene, and their daughter, Christina.

Mr. Wiessmann’s philatelic interests were started by his second grade teacher in public school. His interests have always coincided with interests in numismatics. His first ventures into dealing started at age 12 or 13 when he worked at a stamp store after school in order to buy and sell his own coins at that same venue. After high school he started working on weekends at a stamp store and shows with Astro Stamp Company. Around 1985, Ross started going to stamp bourses on Sundays, to sell his duplicates and extra material left over from collections he had purchased.

Mr. Weismann’s show schedule slowly evolved to the current point where he is doing shows almost every weekend in the Northeast. He has organized and runs several shows primarily to give local collectors a regular venue for buying and selling. ☾



From the Editor's Desk...

Occasionally, I receive letters to the editor that are more than a bit out of the ordinary. Such is the case with my recent correspondence with Gunther Monteadora.

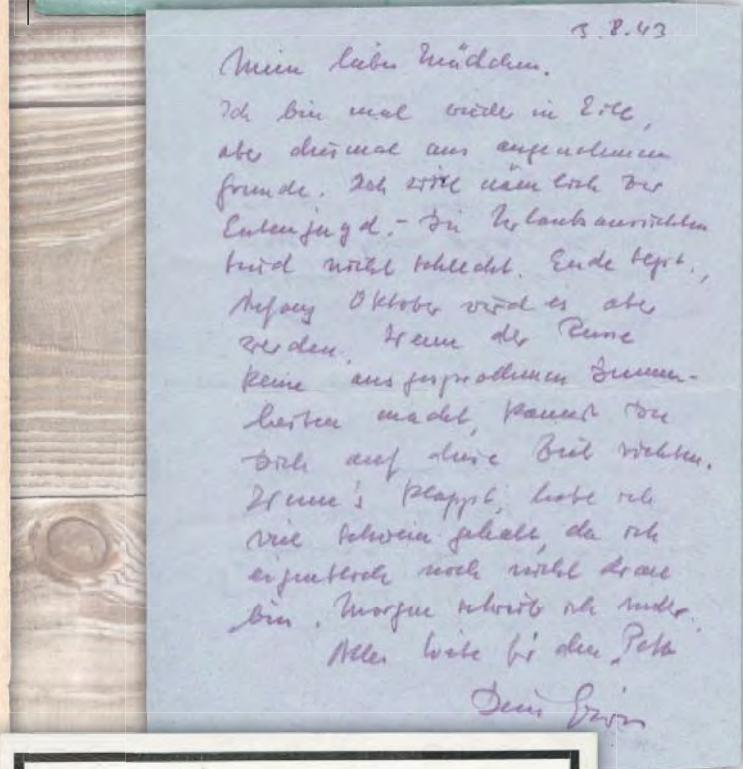
Monteadora, an APS member from Fayetteville, N.C., wrote regarding a cover that included both a letter and an enclosure. The cover is a German Field Postal cover addressed by a Dr. Erwin Vogt to his wife, Anneliese, and dated August 1944. From Gunther's research and translations, Dr. Vogt was stationed on the Russian front during the second World War. The note from Dr. Vogt to his wife is typical in that it speaks of being busy, going duck hunting and how he looks forward to going home for vacation. What is not typical of such correspondence is the enclosure.

Along with the letter is a notification of the death of Dr. Vogt on February 20, 1944. In addition to the date of his death, the notice also stated that Vogt had been awarded the Iron Cross Class I and II, a wound badge (the German equivalent of the Purple Heart) and the Eastern Front Medal. The notice lists his wife as Anneliese Vogt (maiden name Gisbertz) and his son, Wolf-Henning. The letter is addressed to their home in Rottach-Egern (located south of Munich, less than 10 miles from the Austrian border), which is also printed on the notice.

It is unclear from the materials whether the death notice arrived with the doctor's letter or if someone simply kept the notice with the letter.

Motivated by the curiosity so common among philatelists, Gunther began a thorough search for the family of Dr. Vogt. He was able to verify Vogt's immediate family in Rottach-Egern. He then managed to trace descendants to Heidelberg and from there on to Bonn where the trail went cold.

Mr. Monteadora's motivation is to return this interesting piece of postal history to the family whose heritage it relates. This account is included here and posted to the APS blog (blog.stamps.org) in hopes that through sharing and the connections of the society, we can help Gunther find Dr. Vogt's extended family and return these materials. Please take time to share our blog post using Facebook and any other social media accounts you use. If you have any information or contacts regarding Dr. Vogt's family, please email me directly at martin@stamps.org. I will pass any leads along to Gunther. ☺



Am 20. Februar 1944 fiel bei Kriwoi Rog im Alter von fast 29 Jahren mein lieber Mann, Vater seines Söhndchens, Sohn, Bruder, Schwager, Enkel, Onkel und Neffe

Oberarzt

Erwin Vogt

Bat.-Arzt in einem Grenad.-Rgt., ausgezeichnet mit dem EK II u. EK I sowie mit dem Verw.-Abzeichen und der Ost-Medaille.

In tiefer Trauer:

Anneliese Vogt, geb. Gisbertz (Gattin)
mit Söhndchen Wolf-Henning,
Antoinette Vogt (Mutter) Studienratswtr.,
Dr. Annemarie Derleth, geb. Vogt,
Medizinalrat Ernst Vogt, z. Z. Oberarzt i. F.,
Dr. Kurt Derleth,
Erika Vogt, geb. Himmie
und übrige Verwandte.

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München, Mauerkirchnerstr. 10, z. Z. Laufan bei
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Arnsdorf b. Dresden.



OUR STORY



BY SCOTT ENGLISH executive director
scott@stamps.org

Of Bricks, Stamps and People

Collectors Like You Help Drive Education, Library and Society

Have you ever been to the annual Summer Seminar on Philately? Each summer, American Philatelic Society members join us in Bellefonte for a week of learning, friendship and fun. This year, the seminar will be held from June 24 to 29 at the American Philatelic Center.

We offer both two- and four-day courses covering a range of topics, such as postal history of Great Britain, intermediate exhibiting and World War II-era postal history.



The two-day courses on the U.S. Washington-Franklin stamps of 1908-1922 are filling up fast, but you can also take advantage of Topical Collecting 101, a great warm-up for our joint StampShow with the American Topical Association in August in Columbus, Ohio.

Mary-Anne Penner, director of Stamp Services of the U.S. Postal Service, will also be joining us to discuss what's happening in the world of new issues. Mary-Anne is so kind to join us each year and you won't want to miss her talk.

For those who've been to Summer Seminar, you won't meet a stranger and the friendships built here last a lifetime.

We welcome back many repeat students and lecturers, including our own Iron Man, Wayne Youngblood, teaching the wildly popular stamp technology course and Irv Miller, who is leading the class on detecting damaged, altered and repaired stamps. Not only do they both teach great courses, but really help us make the most of our evening social time.

Kicking off Summer Seminar, the Mount Nittany Philatelic Society brings the Scopex stamp show to the American Philatelic Center on June 23 and 24. Attendees for the seminar should make time to shop with great dealers from around the country, tour the headquarters, visit our new library or spend time with philatelic friends. The Scopex theme this year is the 100th anniversary of airmail and, given the Bellefonte connection to airmail, you won't want to miss the exhibits.

Each year, the APS also recognizes the Distinguished Philatelist who joins the students and delivers the keynote speech at our Thursday night dinner. Our Distinguished Philatelist for 2018 is Randy Neil, former APS Board president (1993-1997) and editor extraordinaire. Randy recently stepped down as editor of *American Stamp Dealer and Collector* but is keeping busy with several other projects. In 2000, Randy received the highest honor from the APS, winning the



Randy Neil recognized as the 2018 Distinguished Philatelist.

Luff Award for Outstanding Service to the Society. Just last year, the APRL honored Randy with the Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award for his unending commitment to philatelic literature. Randy also has received the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society's Distinguished Philatelist Award and he is in the APS Writers Unit Hall of Fame. Despite all the accolades and recognitions, Randy is rooted in his love of the hobby and the APS and has enough entertaining stories to make a stamp speech go by quickly. I promise!

Summer Seminar enrollment in 2017 was 76 members, including 24 first-time students, but we'd love to see more of you this year. I've even been contacted by a first-time student who has already planned out her visit to see the sites of Bellefonte. On behalf of the APS staff and lecturers, we hope you will join us this year for the first time, again, or for your second decade. There will be memories and friendship waiting here for you. To see our course catalog or to sign up for Summer Seminar, visit www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar and sign up today.



UNEXPO 2017 a hit for the APS and APRL

In October 2017, the APC hosted UNEXPO 2017, a one-time World Series of Philately show sponsored by the United Nations Philatelists Incorporated. Over the weekend of October 27-28, we welcomed hundreds of enthusiastic collec-



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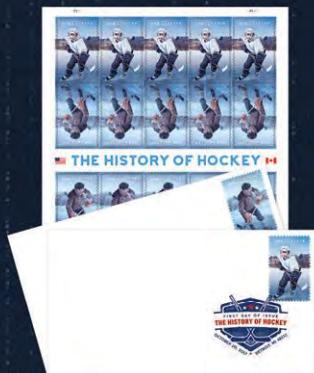
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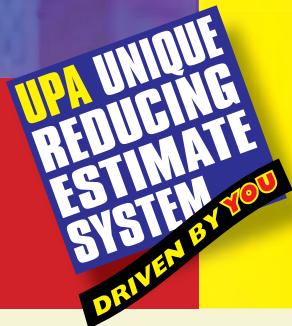
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As many of you will attest. At certain 'peak' times in our auction 'cycle,' I personally answer the telephone to callers. It's a wonderfully enjoyable and rewarding thing for me to do, because, you kindly inform me of your likes and dislikes, about us, and other auctions that you may have dealt with before discovering U P A...

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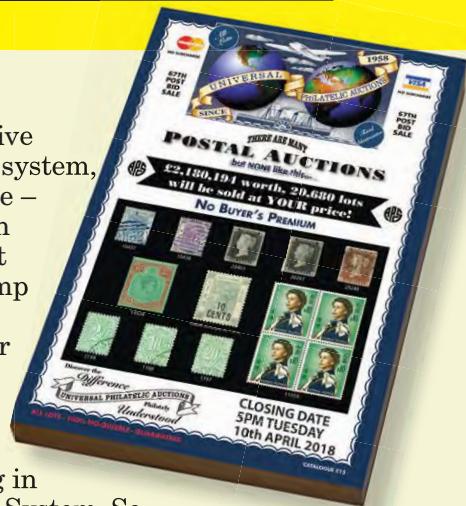
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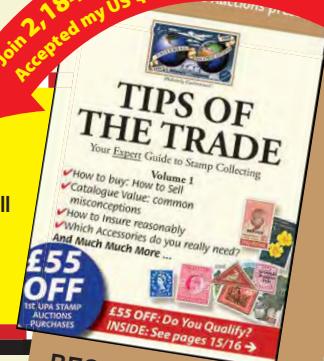
Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Author & Expert,
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Tony Dewey with his grand award-winning exhibit, "First U.N. Issue, 1951."

tors of United Nations material and members of the local and philatelic community here to our headquarters. The United Nations Postal Administration also held a first-day-of-issue ceremony for a stamp commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All of this, right here in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Congratulations to Tony Dewey for taking the grand award for his exhibit, "First U.N. Issue, 1951," which will compete this summer for the Benjamin and Naomi Wishnietsky Champion of Champions Award at StampShow 2018 in Columbus, Ohio.

As a result of the show's success, UNPI President and UNEXPO 2017 Chairman Greg Galletti joined us at AmeriStamp Expo 2018 in Birmingham, Alabama to present checks of \$1,000 to each the APS and APRL. UNPI will be donating \$500 as the final donation needed to complete the \$150,000 Technology Campaign for advancing member recruitment and access online.

Another \$500 will go to the APS Employee Appreciation Fund, established to show gratitude for the hard-working APS employees. Those funds support annual events, such as the holiday party in December, a summer picnic, and other events to thank the staff for its commitment. The APRL donation will support our 2018 Campaign for Debt Retirement,



Entrance to the American Philatelic Research Library.

which I discussed in the February issue of *The American Philatelist*. The last UNEXPO was held in 1991 at our State College headquarters. We were honored to have UNPI join us again in 2017 and hope they'll come back sooner next time!

Library Support Making a Difference

In my February column, I wrote about the great value in our library and our 2018 campaign to reduce the mortgage debt of the library. In December 2017, the estate of former APS member Sherwood Frezon left \$68,500 to the APRL and another \$68,500 to the APS. On January 2, the APS Board of Directors voted unanimously to dedicate its portion of the Frezon Estate to paying down the 2016 library construction loan.

We also received a \$100,000 donation from Elise Travers and the Swede Anderson Foundation to name the Auction Catalog collection in the APRL. The catalog collection offers both U.S. and worldwide catalogs and donations make it possible to store and maintain those collections. There are still naming opportunities in the library. To learn more, go to www.stamps.org/Library-Naming.

In January 2018, we received a \$25,000 pledge from APS Vice President Trish Kaufmann to name a room at the APC, now known as the Kaufmann Civil War Room. For those familiar with Trish's writing, she is one of the pre-eminent experts on postal history from the Civil War and Confederate stamps. Not only has Trish agreed to a generous financial contribution, but all of her research and materials will soon be a part of the research material housed at the APC. Work is underway to prepare for the archival and philatelic material and a dedication of the room will be held within the year.

Since the adoption of the 2016 Joint Strategic Plan, the boards of the APS and the APRL, along with the Campaign for Philately, have worked tirelessly to improve the financial sustainability of the society and the library. This was our first pledge to the membership and we are making great strides. As a result of these contributions, we were able to make a \$350,000 payment on the library construction loan, leaving us a January 2018 balance of just less than \$120,000. Thanks to these generous donors and many others, full payment of the loan will be possible in 2018, leaving us with just three outstanding mortgages to pay off.

Thank you to our supporters for believing in us and being great advocates for the work we can accomplish. In the April issue of *The American Philatelist*, we will recognize all of you who have made it possible for us to thrive and grow over the past few years and build a brighter future. ☾



APS Vice President Trish Kaufmann

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A Rate Change and a Fast Fix

First-Day Cover from 1925 is at Epicenter of Many Converging Factors



Figure 1. Four different stamps released on the same day are found on this March 19, 1925, first-day cover. The issue is more significant than is apparent at first glance.

Make no mistake, I've always found first-day covers interesting. However, other than—perhaps—a reasonable concordance between stamp subject and first-day city, very few FDCs have any real significance. But there are exceptions.

Although the non-cacheted FDC shown [Figure 1] isn't particularly exciting to look at (and, as far as I know, there were no contemporaneous cachets for this combination), it's fairly dripping with both political and philatelic intrigue.

This 1925 item, from the infancy of U.S. first-day covers, is a true combination first-day cover. It is franked with four different stamps that were released on the same day: Scott 553, 582, 598 and U481, representing both flat plate and rotary press sheet versions of the 1½-cent Harding stamp (a unique situation), as well as the sidewise Harding coil and the 1½-cent Washington stamped envelope. The stamp design is a bit of a departure from the rest of the lower values of the Fourth Bureau issue.

The stamp also is significant in its relation to two presidential administrations, two significant rushed printing jobs, the transformation of U.S. stamp printing from flat plate to rotary press (which had begun in 1915) and the 1923 beginnings of bureau-applied precancels (even though the

stamps on this cover are not precanceled).

However, let's start at the beginning – with politics.

Although Calvin Coolidge [Figure 2], shown taking an oath before voting on November 4, 1924, is not considered one of our strongest presidents, the Republican incumbent (who succeeded Warren G. Harding as president after Harding's death) was not considered to be a shoo-in, given the rapidly emerging scandals from Harding's presidency.

However, Coolidge won the three-way election that year in a relative landslide as shown by the electoral map [Figure 3]. Coolidge received 15,723,789 popular votes and 382 electoral votes. Democratic candidate John W. Davis of West Virginia was second with 8,386,242 popular votes and 136 electoral votes and popular Progressive Wisconsinite Robert M. LaFollette Sr. trailed with 4,831,706 popular votes and 13 electoral votes, carrying only his home state.

Ironically, as a side note, LaFollette, governor of Wisconsin from 1901 to 1906 and state senator from 1906 to 1925, died the following year, on June 18, 1925. He was a lifelong Republican who chose to run against Coolidge by founding the Progressive Party, capturing 17 percent of the popular vote – one of the best performances by a third-party candidate in American history. But back to our story.

"Silent Cal," as Coolidge was frequently referred to, was

known for trying to ensure that government costs were covered by taxes, but not to the point of excess. Thus, on February 28, 1925, Congress approved a bill that raised wages throughout many areas of the U.S. Post Office Department, including those of postmasters, clerks, postal inspectors and letter carriers. The estimated cost of these raises was \$68 million for the first year.

To help cover these raises (as well as begin to carve away some of the huge annual losses of the Post Office Department), the same legislation hiked a range of postage rates. Even still, the Post Office, which was considered an essential part of our nation's communications infrastructure, would not come close to breaking even. Although the primary rates, including first-class, postcards, airmail and special delivery would remain unchanged (mostly for political expediency reasons); others, such as insurance, COD, parcel post and more, saw rate hikes. A new fee, "special handling" also was created, necessitating new stamps for that service.

By far the most significant rate change, however, dealt with third-class matter and resulted in a whopping 50 percent increase on third-class circulars, moving from 1 cent to 1½ cents (catalogs, seeds and cuttings remained at a penny).

Rates for the affected matter – junk mail as we now know it – had been set at 1 cent for the first 2 ounces in 1879 and had not changed in nearly 50 years. Besides infuriating mailers, this new 1½-cent rate created the need for our nation's first fractional postage stamp. (Even though the ½-cent Nathan Hale stamp has a lower catalog number, it was released later than the 1½-cent Harding.)

The volume of direct-mail advertising had exploded during the first two decades of the 20th century. In fact, the total mail volume more than doubled between 1900 and 1910 alone. The financial implications of a 50 percent increase on third-class mail were huge.

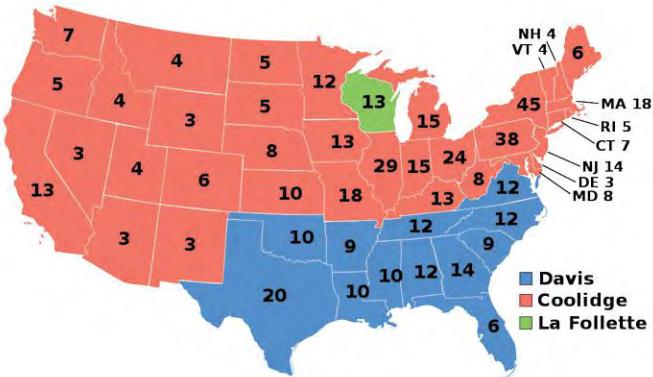


Figure 3. The Electoral College map of the 1924 election shows an interesting visual.

Since the legislation was passed February 28, with the new rates going into effect April 15, there was very little time for the Post Office Department and Bureau of Engraving and Printing to coordinate stamp design and printing. The stamped envelope was easy, since the then-current 1-cent to 5-cent issues all featured the same embossed profile image of George Washington. The concept of a new, heavily used 1½-cent definitive stamp was a bit more challenging, as all design, engraving, printing and distribution had to be done in a time period of just more than six weeks.

All told, there are seven types of the 1½-cent Harding stamp that were eventually produced: sheet (perf 11 flat plate; perf 10 and perf 11 by 10½ rotary press); vertical and horizontal coils; and flat plate and rotary press imperforate sheets. Of these, three were released the same day, March 19, 1925.

On February 27, 1925, the day before the legislation was enacted, Michael Eidsness, superintendent of the Division of Stamps, wrote a memo to Irving W. Glover, who was third assistant postmaster general. In that memo, Eidsness outlines what stamps he felt would need to be created, but focused specifically on the need to expedite the 1½-cent stamp, writing, "I suggest that the present Harding Memorial stamp be changed to read '1½¢' as well as a corresponding change in color."

This proposed solution solved several problems, including virtually eliminating design work and minimizing the need for new engraving. It would almost certainly speed its way through the approval process. The suggestion was almost instantaneously approved and work began the following day at the BEP.

Fortunately for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Post Office, we already had the 2-cent Harding Memorial issue, which had been produced not quite two years before. That stamp (also a rush job), was pushed into production after Harding's unexpected death on August 2, 1923.

The Harding issue was produced – from concept to finished, distributed and issued stamps – in just 29 days (September 1). Perhaps as a means of getting that stamp out quickly, the memorial stamp borrowed a number of design elements from the then-new Fourth Bureau definitive issue, but it does not have the characteristic corner triangles that appear on all portrait stamps from the series. Instead, it featured Harding's



Figure 2. Calvin Coolidge takes an oath before casting his ballot in the 1924 general election.

birth and death dates. The black stamp, which was a variance from the Universal Postal Union-approved color scheme, was immensely popular.

Now, fast-forward to 1925. With six weeks to design, produce and distribute a new 1½-cent definitive, it made sense to simply repurpose the Harding design. Besides, the Post Office was already thinking about adding a Harding definitive to the series and the memorial stamp had been quite popular. It also didn't hurt, of course, that the stamp pictured our newly elected president's old boss, who, despite a number of scandals, was still very popular with the American public.

For the new stamp, the birth and death dates were removed, corner triangles were added and the color was changed. The new 1½-cent stamp now closely resembled the rest of the series, except for the lined upper-corner borders. These differences are shown by the stamps pictured [Figure 4].

Because the new stamp would receive extensive use (particularly on direct mail), producing it in both sheet and coil formats made perfect sense. But why produce the sheet stamp both by flat plate and rotary press printing?

For the answer to this, we have to look at two otherwise unrelated factors. The first and most obvious is the short time available for production. All possible printing equipment had to be utilized to prepare sufficient quantities in time for the stamp's release. Remember, there were no fractional stamps in existence to meet the new rate. They *had* to be delivered on time. Further, because the BEP was already in the process of trying to phase out flat plate-printed stamps (both because of the relative speed of printing, as well as much lower production costs of rotary press), we possibly would otherwise never have seen a flat-plate version of the 1½-cent Harding. Or would we?



Figure 4. From left, the design on the portrait stamps of the Fourth Bureau issue, the "modified" 1½-cent Harding design and the 2-cent Harding Memorial commemorative.

At the same time as all the foregoing events were occurring, the BEP was experiencing another very real problem. The new rotary press stamps were much faster and far cheaper to print, but were extremely unpopular with large mailers of third-class material – the very target audience for the new 1½-cent stamp.

Because rotary press stamps were printed roll-to-roll (rather than as flat sheets of paper), the gummed and perforated stamps had a tendency to curl and split. (The gauge of the perforations for rotary press stamps had already been changed to 10 from 11 to help alleviate the splitting.) Still, mailers needing large quantities of precanceled stamps found

that commercial printing houses that applied precancels with small letterpresses could not easily deal with the curling (and splitting) issues. In fact, many found the stamps nearly impossible to work with. The percentage of waste was large, and rotary press stamp production had actually been halted July 19, 1922, due to these problems – and because several large post offices wanted to return rotary press stamps for their flat-plate counterparts.

Benjamin Stickney, who invented the BEP's rotary presses, had been fired March 31, 1922 (along with virtually all other BEP management) by a Harding presidential order over a baseless Liberty Bond scandal. Stickney was eventually re-hired (in 1924), but some of these problems had not yet been fully resolved by the time the new stamp was needed. One big problem that had been solved after Stickney's return, however, was that of curling. By applying "gum breakers"; that is, ridges on the gum that break the surface tension that causes extreme curling, finished rotary press stamps would remain relatively flat and could be utilized much more readily.

By early 1923, two of the BEP's rotary presses were retrofitted with an attachment that would apply letterpress-printed precancels on the line-engraved intaglio stamps, creating the first two-process printing press for stamps.

This step is also significant as – unlike locally precanceled stamps that are created in post offices – Bureau precancels are produced by utilizing a separate color station on the printing presses that produce stamps. By the time the Harding stamps were released, these presses – again, all rotary – were in operation and were ready to replace the then-ubiquitous precanceled 1-cent Franklin stamps. But, at the time of their release, there were no specific orders for Bureau precancels of the 1½-cent stamp, likely because of the short notice, uncertainty about mailing volume at the higher rates and lingering concern about curling stamps.

Anecdotal evidence tells us that much of the initial distribution of flat-plate issues was likely to larger post offices (presumably for use with commercial printers for precancelling), while the rotary press issues frequently went to smaller



Figure 5. An example of a Bureau-precanceled perf 10 rotary press 1½-cent Harding. Most of the perf 10 issues are poorly centered.

towns that would hand-stamp their local precancels.

Once the dust settled over the new, much higher circular rates (within a few weeks), and production issues were worked out, larger cities began to requisition Bureau-precanceled rotary press-printed stamps for specific mailers and the stamps became quite popular with mailers. An example of a Bureau precanceled perf 10 Harding is shown [Figure 5].



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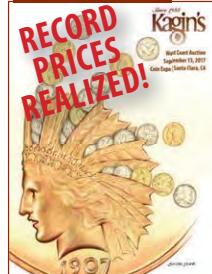
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Catalyzed By Conflict

The First Faroese Postage Stamps
Sprung from the World Wars

BY ROBERT A. MOSS

The two world wars of the 20th century left in their wake enormous death, destruction and dislocation. Although the historic heartland and famous nations of Europe were ravaged by battle, military action did not occur on outliers like the Faroe Islands. If such mayhem and heartache could have had any positive consequences, the philatelist might point to the issuance of the first Faroese postage stamps.

The Faroe Islands, a necklace of 18 volcanic islands rising from the North Atlantic southeast of Iceland and northwest of the Shetland Islands of Scotland, are part of the Danish Commonwealth. Until 1919, the Faroese post used Danish stamps with postal rates set in Denmark. However, World War I interrupted normal maritime traffic; German U-boats patrolling North Atlantic waters interdicted the fishing grounds, sank several Faroese vessels, and impeded direct connection between Denmark and the Faroes. Even after the war's end in November 1918, normal sailing patterns did not immediately resume, and thus begins the story of Faroese postage stamps.

In December 1918, Denmark ordered local postal rates increased from 5 øre to 7 øre, effective January 1, 1919. There were no 7-øre stamps, and so the new rate had to be met in the Faroes by appropriate combinations of existing 1-, 2-, 4- and 5-øre stamps. A large supply of 5-øre stamps was on hand, but it became clear in early January that available stocks of the 2- and 1-øre stamps were inadequate, and that supplies of the new 7-øre stamps would not arrive in a timely fashion. Denmark instructed Torshavn, capital of the Faroes, to bisect 4-øre stamps to create "2-øre" halves that could be used with available 5-øre stamps to satisfy the new 7-øre rate.

On January 3, 1919 the Torshavn post office bisected eight sheets of 4-øre Denmark stamps (Scott 88a). Three additional sheets may also have been cut, leading to at least 1,600 bisects. Shown [Figure 1] is a cover mailed in Torshavn on January 8, 1919 bearing a bisect plus a 5-øre stamp. The bisect is cut from upper left to lower right; bisects cut from upper right to lower left are less common.

The supply of bisects dwindled rapidly, and on January 11 permission was received by telegraph in Torshavn to revalue sheets of 5-øre stamps (Scott 97) with a 2-øre overprint. This was done with a hand-crafted device starting on January 13. In all, 155 sheets of 5-øre stamps were overprinted, creating 15,500 2-øre overprints. A cover postmarked January 18, 1919 in Torshavn carries a surcharged 2-øre, plus an unchanged 5-øre stamp [Figure 2].

Finally, on January 23, a ship arrived from Denmark carrying 1,000 sheets of 7-øre stamps. These went on sale in Torshavn the following day, although the overprints and bisects were accepted as valid through the end of January. The Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue lists both the 4-øre bisect and the 2-øre overprint as the first Faroese entries, with the latter designated Faroes 1. (The bisect is noted, but has not been assigned a number.) In 1979, the



Figure 1. A cover postmarked in Torshavn on January 8, 1919 bearing a 4-øre bisect, (Denmark Scott 88a), plus a 5-øre stamp.



Figure 2. A cover postmarked January 18, 1919 in Torshavn carrying a 5-øre stamp from Denmark (Scott 97) overprinted 2-øre, plus an unchanged 5-øre stamp.



Figure 3. Commemoratives issued on the 60th anniversary of the 1919 overprints and bisects, Scott 43, 44.

Faroës issued a pair of stamps [Figure 3] commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1919 bisects and overprints (Scott 43 and 44). The lovely engraving work is by Czeslaw Slania.



Figure 4. The 1940-41 Faroese overprints and revaluations of Danish stamps occasioned by World War II, Scott 2-6.

After 1919, the Faroes reverted to Danish stamps, but just as World War I elicited the first Faroese stamps, World War II was responsible for the next Faroese entries in the Scott catalog. The April 1940 occupation of Denmark by Germany severed relations between Denmark and the Faroes. Several days later, the British began a “friendly” occupation of the islands to prevent a German invasion. As in 1919, deliveries of Danish stamps to the Faroes mostly ceased. When postal rates were raised in July 1940, it once again became necessary to overprint stocks of Danish stamps with new valuations. There were five basic overprints with three revaluations to 20 øre and two others to 50 and 60 øre [Figure 4].

The Danish 15-øre red Caravel, overprinted as 20 øre (140,000 stamps), was offered to the public in November 1940, followed by the 50- (25,000) and 60-øre (17,500) overprints issued in December. In March and



Figure 6. Seascapes and landscapes from the first Faroese stamps to bear the name “Føroyar,” issued January 30, 1975, Scott 18-20. These are part of a larger set numbered 7-20 by Scott.

May of 1941, additional 20-øre overprints were produced using, respectively, Danish 5- (70,000) and 1-øre (42,000) originals. Many variants of the overprints exist and are discussed in great detail in *More Stamps and Story of the Faroe Islands*, by Don Brandt.

Paralleling these early Faroese stamps was the first general use of the Faroese flag, the Merkið. In April 1940, British authorities in the Faroes required local shipping to cease using the flag of occupied Denmark and to display the Faroese flag in its place. The Merkið, designed in 1919, combines the red, white, and blue colors of the flags of Iceland and Norway with the iconic cross of the Scandinavian flags. A souvenir sheet issued in 1990 commemorates the 50th anniversary of Merkið’s initial official use [Figure 5]. The two Faroese ships, Nyggjaberg and Sanna, pictured together with the Merkið, were sunk in German attacks in 1942.



Figure 5. A souvenir sheet issued in 1990 marking the 50th anniversary of the general use of the Faroese flag, “Merkið,” Scott 207.

After the war, the Faroes once again resumed using Danish stamps. However, in 1975, negotiations with Denmark permitted the Faroe Islands to issue its own postage stamps under Faroese Home Rule. This was accomplished in two stages. On January 30 1975, 14 stamps were issued by the Danish postal service bearing the inscription “Føroyar.” These stamps included maps of the islands and lovely multi-colored seascapes [Figure 6].

Finally, on April 1 1976, Postverk Føroya (Post of the Faroes), issued its first wholly Faroese stamps [Figure 7]

bearing the name of its official postal service. Each stamp proclaims both Føroyar and Postverk Føroya. The cover’s cachet features Merkið, as it appears on the 160-øre value. The companion stamps include a



Figure 7. A first-day cover from April 1, 1976 celebrating the inception of Postverk Føroya, the Faroese Post, Scott 21-23.

Faroese boat of the type once used to transport mail between the islands (125 øre) and a Faroese mailman (800 øre).

Thus ended a long philatelic journey, from 1870 when the Faroese postal service began using Danish stamps, through the disruptions of two world wars, to 1976 with the inception of Postverk Føroya and the beginning of a new chapter in Faroese postal history.

Author's note: The Faroese letter edd (ð) is pronounced "th." The letter ø is pronounced like the eu in the French word "bleu."

The Author

Robert A. Moss was the Louis P. Hammett Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He collected Faroe Islands, Israel and British covers. Mr. Moss passed away in November 2017.

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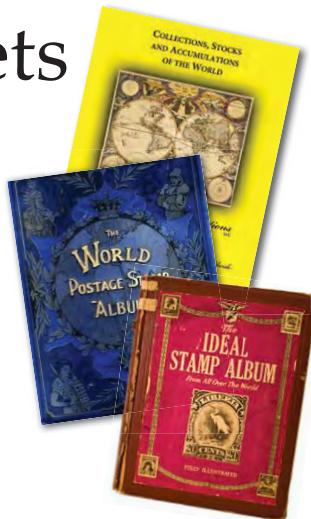
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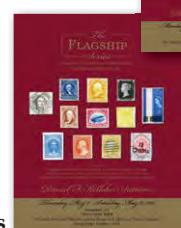
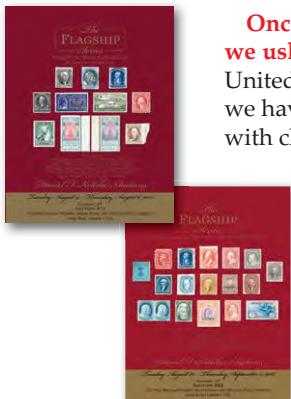
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This padded envelope with improperly placed overlain stamps was mailed in the fall of 2017.

An Unusual Modern Cover

Stamps on Large Envelope Were Placed Wrongly and Not Cancelled

BY STEVEN J. BAHNSEN

In October, I received an interesting item in the mail. I'd like to share some unusual things about this padded envelope.

This oversized cover – about 8 inches by 10 inches – originated with a member of the Post Mark Collectors Club who wanted to send me several photographs destined for the club's National Postmark Museum near Bellevue, Ohio. He was mailing this package on a Saturday morning from a small Ulster County post office in downstate New York.

When I first saw this large envelope, it appeared to me that there were only three large stamps on it. But upon closer look I saw that that was not so. Fourteen stamps – yes, 14! – were

used to pay the first-class postage: a pair of 2-cent stamps, four 10-cent stamps and eight forever stamps with the Flowers from the Garden commemoratives were stuck on.

Each denomination of stamp was kept in a separate spot on the front of the cover with individual stamps overlaid on another instead of the usual process of each stamp taking up a full space for itself.

Even more unusual, I learned, is that the postal clerk – not the mailer – affixed these stamps. It's long been known this should not be done since all the stamps cannot be cancelled if they are overlaid. This rule has been in effect for many years. Today, the rule is found in the Postal Service's Domestic Mail



The American Philatelic Center's mailroom sends out scores of letters and packages on most days. Those needing extra postage – such as this one with 29 stamps – often receive an attractive array with proper cancellations.

Manual in Part 604.1.7, which is titled "Position of Stamp on Mailpiece." The manual states: "Any stamp partially concealed by an overlapping stamp may not be counted as postage."

Interestingly, a postal employee did this. I know this because I asked the mailer. The postmark is illegible and does not obliterate every stamp.

There is more to the modern postal story of this padded item. A USPS Tracking Label No. 400 was affixed to the front. But the label, which should have been scanned when accepted, wasn't; it was only scanned in transit and when delivered.

Lastly, a postage meter imprint with no value also was placed on the bag. It has the date of mailing on it. This was used to verify the envelope was handed over the counter to a postal employee.

This padded envelope with the odd array of stamps is likely the kind of modern postal mishap that could easily wind up on a collector's shelf someday under a heading such as "Postal Service Oddities." ☺

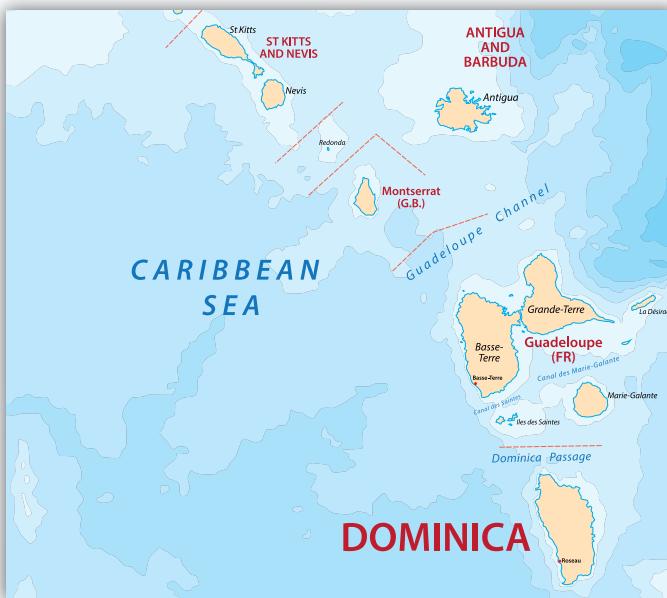




Dominica

Leeward Islands Stamps were Withdrawn in 1940
when Dominica was Designated a Colony

Dominica (pronounced dom-in-eek-a) was named by Columbus on Sunday, November 3, 1493 when he sighted the island on his second voyage to the New World.



Dominica is in the eastern Caribbean Sea between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. Disputes over colonization rights were settled in 1805 after a ransom was paid by Great Britain to France. Dominica was a presidency of the federal Leeward Islands colony from 1871 until becoming a British Crown colony in the Windward Islands in 1940. Associated Statehood was granted in 1967. Independence was granted in 1978.



Figure 1. Dominica started issuing stamps in 1874, with some additions in 1877-79, Scott 1 and 4.

Contemporary 1-, 2-, 4-, 6-pence and 1-shilling British stamps were used for two years, from May 1858, and may be identified by the A07 obliterator. After their withdrawal in 1860, the postal service became the responsibility of the colonial authorities. In 1874, 1p, 6p and 1sh Queen Victoria portrait stamps on Crown CC watermark paper were printed by De La Rue [Figure 1]. They were reprinted in 1879 with perforation changes from 12½ to 14, and augmented with additional ½, 2½ and 4p denominations.



Figure 2. Bisects and overprints were needed to deal with shortages in 1882 and 1886, Scott 10-13.

From 1882 to 1883, a shortage of half-penny stamps was alleviated by vertically bisecting the 1p denomination and



Modern photograph of Dominica.

applying ½p surcharges to both halves. Three different typefaces, one in words, were applied locally [Figure 2].

Another shortfall in 1886 led to further “half penny” and “one penny” surcharges applied respectively to 6p and 1sh stamps. Before being placed on sale, a sheet of 6p stamps discovered to have been wrongly surcharged “one penny” was handed to W.H. Porter, the government treasurer, for destruction. Porter, aware of their potential value, removed 12 stamps from the sheet of 60 before burning the remainder. Ten were affixed to an envelope addressed to an English dealer and two mint examples were retained. A second faulty sheet escaped detection and was obviously delivered to the GPO in Roseau for postal purposes because several used (some on covers) and a few mint examples are known. It is



Figure 3. The low value in an eight-stamp Key Imperium set from the Leeward Islands, Scott 1, that in 1890 was used among other islands, including Dominica.

likely that most would have been lost on envelopes thrown out as trash.

Crown CA watermarks were introduced for final printings released from 1886 to 1888, prior to a request from the governor of the federal colony to authorize the replacement of presidencies stamps with a single Leeward Islands series, for use in Dominica and other islands. This eventuated on October 31, 1890 with the release of eight denominations from ½p to 5sh featuring De La Rue’s Victorian Imperium key type design [Figure 3].

Within a few years it became apparent that a marked loss of revenue from philatelic sales had incurred, and it was agreed to reintroduce specific stamps for each presidency. Virgin Islands commenced in 1899, followed in 1903 by Dominica and the other islands. Leeward Islands stamps continued to be available concurrently with the new presidential issues.

Nine bi-colored stamps printed by De La Rue denominated from ½p to 2sh6p featuring a view of Roseau from the

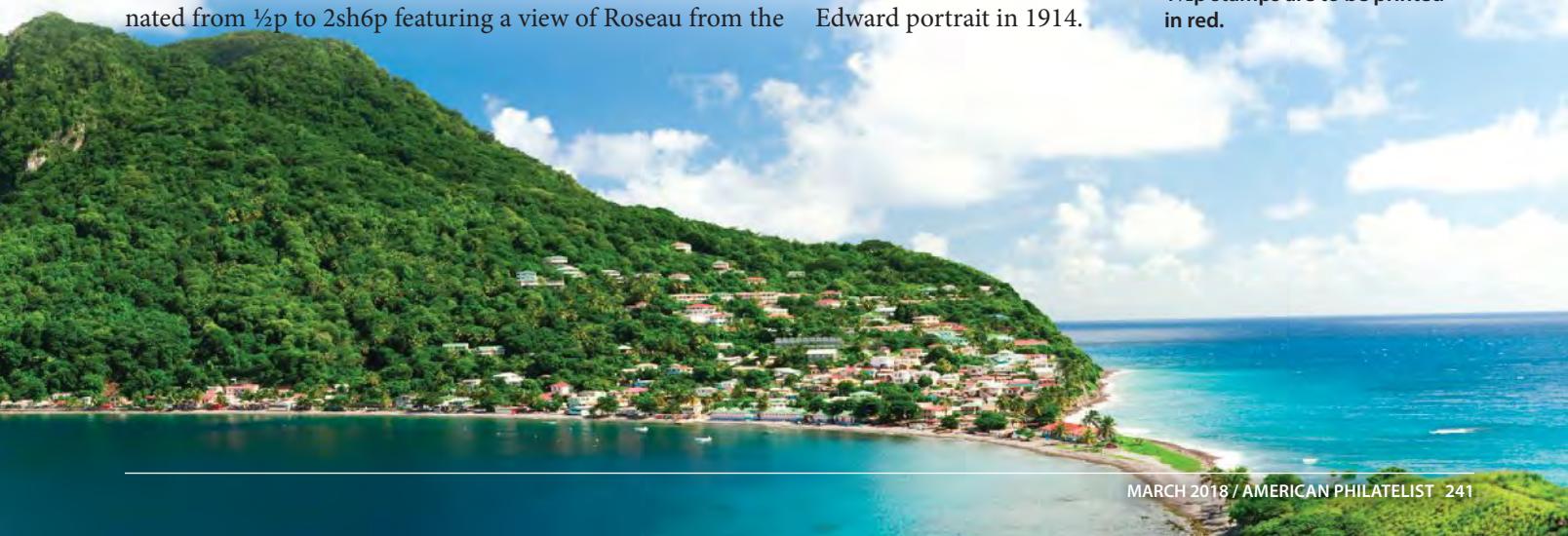


Figure 4. At top, the 2-shilling red violet and black (Scott 32) and 5-shilling King Edward VII (Scott 34) from a 10-stamp set in 1903 that replaced the common Key Imperium Leeward Islands stamps. At bottom, four monotone stamps with the Roseau design were added in 1908–09, including the ultra Scott 53; and a King George V stamp, Scott 54, that was added in 1914.

sea were derived from an 1830s aquatint [Figure 4]. They were complemented with a 5sh denomination portraying King Edward VII. An identical design in different color combinations was also issued in Antigua and Montserrat. Scott lists four printings on both ordinary and chalk-surfaced paper between 1903 and 1921; these include three watermark changes. Single colors were adopted for ½p, 1p, 2p, 2½p and 6p stamps from 1908 to 1920, with changes to yellow, green or blue paper for 3p, 1sh, 2sh and 2sh6p denominations. The long-lived design remained in use for another 13 years after the accession of King George V; the only recognition of the new reign was to update the 5sh Edward portrait in 1914.



Figure 5. The ultramarine 2½p was reprinted in orange for the war tax overprint to comply with UPU regulations that all 1½p stamps are to be printed in red.



From 1916 several variations of war tax overprints applied by De La Rue to ½p stamps contributed to a levy imposed on most British territories for mail posted overseas. A special printing of the 2½p in orange to comply with UPU requirements was overprinted "War Tax 1½d" in 1919 [Figure 5]. Although the tax was collected from individual presidencies, stamps inscribed Leeward Islands were exempted from the overprints. Another 1½p on 2½p surcharge was released in



Figure 6. A new series in 1923 features the king's profile and Dominica's seal in twin oval medallions. The original violet and black 1p stamp, Scott 66, was later replaced with a carmine and black design, Scott 67, after a request from the Universal Postal Union. Colors on three other stamps also were changed.

1920 while awaiting delivery of a replacement to be delivered with final printings of ½p, 1p, 2p, 2½p, 6p, 2sh and 2sh6p stamps with Multiple Script watermarks.

The outdated Roseau series was finally replaced in 1923 with definitives from ½p to £1. Twin oval medallions incorporating the king's portrait and Dominica's seal (an anchored ship at sunrise) surrounded by ornate scroll-work and flowers, were probably inspired by De La Rue's similar designs for contemporary stamps of Bermuda and St Kitts-Nevis [Figure 6]. Obsolete Multiple Crown CA watermarks were retained for 3sh, 5sh and £1 denominations. The Universal Postal Union requested color changes for 1p, 1½p, 2½p and 3p stamps in 1927 and 1933. New printings of 3sh and 5sh values, now with Script CA watermarks were also placed on sale.

The presidencies marked the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 with four omnibus stamps, followed in 1937 by three others for his successor's coronation. There was, however, widespread criticism of identical designs inscribed Leeward Islands that were sold alongside stamps of individual presidencies.

Waterlow & Sons printed King George VI pictorials in 1938. It was logical to restrict the new definitives to 5sh, because 10sh and £1 Leeward Islands stamps were available at post offices throughout the presidency. In addition to views of the Layou River, Freshwater and Boiling Lakes, the stamps include an image of

limes being gathered from a plantation probably, owned by L. Rose and Co. of England [Figure 7]. Dominica was then the world's premier producer of limes.

After separation from the federal colony in 1940, there was an urgent replacement for no-longer-available farthing (¼p) Leeward Islands stamps used primarily for posting inland postcards and printed material. The new stamp, similar to that issued for Grenada in 1937, was again printed by Harrison & Sons [Figure 8]. Revised postal rates in 1947 led to additional 3½p, 7p, 2sh and a now justifiable 10sh denomination as Leeward Islands stamps were no longer valid.

Omnibus issues commemorating Victory in Europe, Royal Silver Wedding, 75th Anniversary of UPU and The University of the West Indies were placed on sale from 1946 to 1951.

Following an initial appearance on 1949 UPU stamps, decimal currency was fully introduced for 15 definitives issued in 1951. Designs, apart from ½ cent, featured local themes and retained three images from the previous series. Also emphasized was the economic importance of limes, bananas, oranges, cocoa and vanilla. Botanic Gardens and basket making by the indigenous Carib population also was featured [Figure 9].



Figure 7. The four low values of the King George VI stamps of 1938-47, Scott 97-100.



Figure 8. The first stamp for Dominica as a colony in 1940 is a King George VI farthing, needed for inland postage because Leeward Islands stamps were no longer valid.

The Queen Elizabeth II era opened with the 2-cent Coronation stamp, followed in 1954 with definitives identical to the previous series except for the portrait change. A 10-cent was added in 1957, along with new designs for 3-, 5- and 48-cent values [Figure 10]. The unrealistic view of a lime plantation (probably part of Rose's extensive Bath Estate), was replaced with a more satisfactory image of mat-weaving. I do however ques-

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Figure 9. Nine images appear on 15 definitives issued in 1951. The local themes include images showing the economic importance of limes, bananas, oranges, cocoa and vanilla, Scott 127-134, 136.

tion substituting the cheerful banana workers on the 5-cent for a much less effective design.

In 1958 Dominica joined neighboring territories with three stamps featuring a map of the Caribbean commemorating the short-lived West Indies Federation, which collapsed within four years.

Harrison's photogravure pictorials from 1 cent to \$4.80 were issued in 1963 [Figure 11]. The popular Annigoni portrait was highlighted on 2- and 5-cent stamps. Other images included sulphur springs (there is a national park at Soufri-

er), the seashore at Rosalie, Trafalgar Falls and the new Coat of Arms supported by a two Sisserou parrots (the national bird). There's a close-up of a parrot on the 24-cent stamp. The series is perhaps marred by the 60-cent – a messy representation of a cocoa tree!

Especially interesting is the 14-cent, Scott 173, taken from a publicity photograph featuring local celebrity Edith Belott in traditional dress and glancing provocatively to one side. Astonishingly, the stamp depicts the young lady with a fixed glassy stare looking straight ahead; it's very different to the attractive photograph. Despite difficulties at the time to achieve such precise registration on multicolor stamps, a new printing, Scott 173a, in 1965 quite successfully improved the lady's image. The original photograph of Belott (who passed away in 2017), a cultural leader and longtime resident tutor at The University of the West Indies, may be viewed on the internet.

During my visit to the General Post Office in 1967, the postmaster revealed that 1,000 sheets of Scott 173a, the newer Woman in Traditional Costume stamp, were delivered to Roseau and Portsmouth in 1965 to eventually replace the original printing. No other post offices received them. After two years of general use, including sales to satisfy overseas philatelic orders, local stocks were depleted except for half a sheet locked away in a backroom. After some persuasion, this was brought out to show me. After some coaxing, I was reluctantly permitted to purchase six stamps and was assured that existing stocks of the original printing were sufficient to avoid the need for further supplies of this stamp. Although there were no more printings of this stamp, new supplies of 4-, 6-, 8-, 10- and 15-cent stamps were released in 1966-67 with sideways block CA watermarks.



Figure 10. New mat-making and banana-picking designs were introduced in 1957, Scott 157, 159.

ere), the seashore at Rosalie, Trafalgar Falls and the new Coat of Arms supported by a two Sisserou parrots (the national bird). There's a close-up of a parrot on the 24-cent stamp. The series is perhaps marred by the 60-cent – a messy representation of a cocoa tree!

Especially interesting is the 14-cent, Scott 173, taken



Figure 11. Images from Harrison's photogravure pictorials in 1963 include the popular Annigoni portrait of the queen, the national bird, Trafalgar Falls, a woman dressed in traditional attire and a coconut tree. The stamp showing the woman, Scott 173, changed in a second printing so that instead of staring straight, her eyes are glancing toward her right, Scott 173a.

A series of Crown Agents omnibus issues commenced in 1963 with the Freedom from Hunger Year, followed by several unimaginative stamps ending with the 20th Anniversary of UNESCO in 1966. Dominica was one of 12 territories to release a single stamp in 1964 marking Shakespeare's 400th birth anniversary. Minibus issues, restricted to qualifying territories, commemorated the royal visit to the West Indies and the World Cup soccer tournament in 1966, which was hosted by England. From around this period, the production and marketing of stamps from Dominica and several other British Caribbean territories was passed from the Crown Agents to a New York Corporation (IGPC), thereby opening the door to an ever increasing flow of largely speculative issues.



Figure 12. Stamps announcing "Associated Statehood" were overprinted in 1963-67, some in black and some in a difficult-to-read silver, Scott 223.

appropriately overprinted in London. Black typeface was applied to the 6-cent, 8-cent, 60-cent and \$1.20 denominations, whereas the remainder were overprinted in difficult-to-see silver typeface [Figure 12]. Overprinted stamps were taken from new printings, or as for the 14-cent (Scott 173a), accessed from Crown Agents' stock. In a curious typesetting error, "Statehood" on the 48-cent row (stamp No. 4 on row 4) measures 11.5 mm instead of the normal 12mm. This sort of error was common in the late 1980s and early 1990s but is less frequent now.



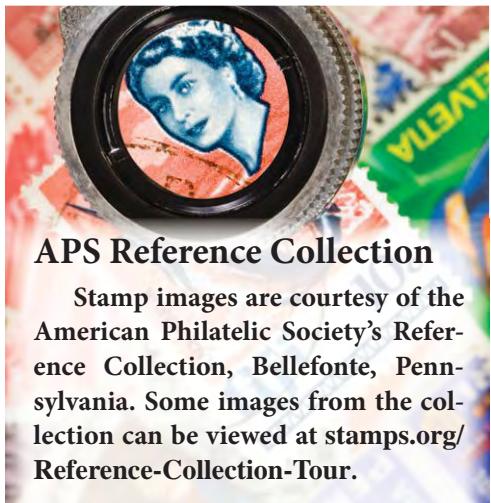
Figure 13. The 19-stamp D for Dominica series of 1969 present island-linked images within a large ornate letter D.

Overprinted definitives of 1, 2, 4 and 14 cents and \$1.20 were issued to mark National Day in November 1968. The locally overprinted stamps were almost certainly gathered from stocks held in Roseau. This assumption is enforced by the surprising inclusion of Scott 173, which remained in local use long after the small delivery of the revised design in 1965. Numerous double and inverted overprints were probably due to the local printers' lack of experience of handling stamps.

The increasing release of mainly inappropriate issues prompted the exclusion in this review of all subsequent stamps other than pre-independence definitives. The unusual D for Dominica 1969 series of 19 stamps was printed in lithography by DLR [Figure 13]. Lower denominations to 50 cents appear somewhat too small for the ornate frames.



Figure 14. An 18-stamp set from 1975 shows flora and fauna, including a lime factory, Scott 459, 467, 468.



APS Reference Collection

Stamp images are courtesy of the American Philatelic Society's Reference Collection, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Some images from the collection can be viewed at stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour.

Values from 60 cents to \$4.00 were a larger format. Upright ½-cent and \$4.80 stamps simply portrayed the queen, whereas others featured flowers, butterflies and birds including the iconic Sisserou parrot. Among images were Portsmouth Harbor, timber plant, pumice mine, airport and the Roman Catholic cathedral. Denominations to 50 cents were reprinted on distinctive glazed paper in 1972.

Pictorials printed in 1975 by Format International, concentrated mainly on local fauna and flora [Figure 14]. Larger 40-cent to \$10 values featured Rose's Lime Juice factory, which closed in 1980. Also depicted were bay oil and rum production distilleries. The queen's portrait on the \$10 completed the series. Independence in November 1980 was marked by appropriate overprints; from this point the territory was somewhat ostentatiously renamed Commonwealth of Dominica to reduce confusion with Dominican Republic.

Author's Note: My grateful thanks to Roger West for his useful help. My email is: chambon@xtra.co.nz



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A First, First Day, Perhaps

Purchase of a Common Looking Collectible Cover
from the Fidelity Company Brought With it a Wonderful Philatelic Anecdote

BY RICK HERMAN

About 1964, give or take a year, I acquired a first-day cover – 80 years old this year – with a wonderful history.

As a commuting college student I had been wiling away some minutes going through boxes of covers before boarding a bus for home.

Hy Bedrin and his son had a stamp shop in an office building, No. 250, on Fulton Street in a then-thriving downtown Hempstead, Long Island. The building was next to an S. Klein Department Store (founded 1906), across the street from Arnold Constable & Co. (founded 1825) and a couple of blocks from Abraham & Straus (founded 1865). That retail area store was, purportedly, the busiest retail space per square foot in America at that time. These were a few of the many, many once-thriving chain stores that have passed from the urban landscape.

The beauty of this particular cover found at the Bedrins' shop caught my eye. Even a student on a budget could spare some change for an item from the bargain box found so often on dealers' counters back then.

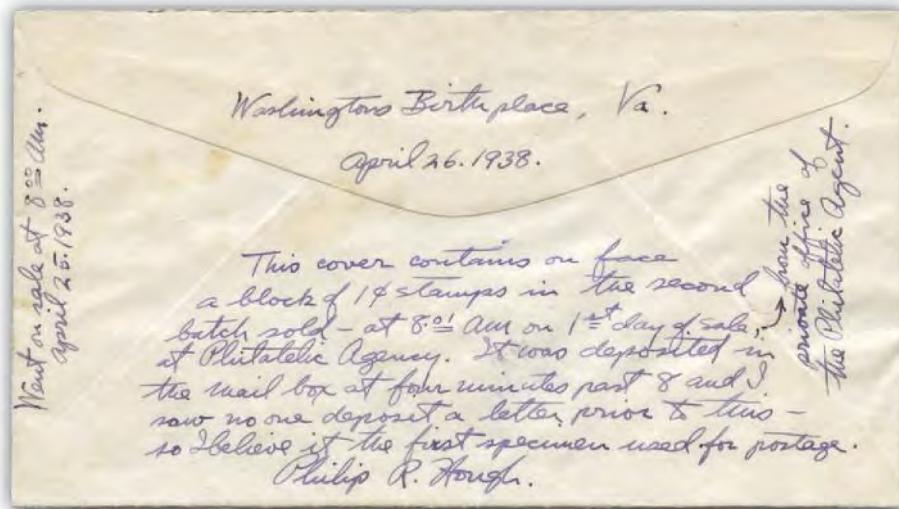
The cover is a first-day of the 1-cent George Washington Presidential stamp of 1938 (Scott 804). The cover franked with an upper-right plate block of four was hand-canceled by a mark of 9 a.m. April 25, 1938.

The first-day location is the Benjamin Franklin Station in Washington, D.C. A Fidelity cachet completes the face of the cover. The cachet features a black wreath framing the green stamp that features a

bust of Washington. It is hand-addressed to Philip R. Hough, Washington Birthplace, Virginia.

It's a beautiful cover.

I quickly counted out some coins for this cover (it was 1964, after all) and probably for a few others that day and hurried out to catch my bus. Later I was surprised and pleased



to find a remarkable letter inside the cover and a summary of the letter's contents on the back of the envelope.

The fascinating historic contents of the letter, written 80 years ago on April 26, 1938, are as follows:

Thinking that it may possibly be of interest to someone in the future, I wish to record my observations on the circumstances surrounding the placing on sale of the one-cent stamp of the Presidential Series, which took place yesterday - April 25, 1938, at 8 a.m. - at the Philatelic Agency, Washington, D.C.

"The agency is on the 6th floor of the Post Office Building - with the Benjamin Franklin Station on the 1st floor. A week previously, I had called at the private office of the philatelic agent and paid \$4 in advance for four sheets, or panes - explaining that my time would be limited on day of sale and couldn't afford to stand in line. His secretary said she would have them ready and waiting for me when the time came.

On the first day of the sale, I went up in the elevator a few minutes before 8 a.m. and noticed the secretary to be a fellow passenger. She cut through some private offices to get there ahead of me. Passing by the regular Philatelic Agency sales room I could see about 50 people standing in lines awaiting the opening of the sales windows.

At the agent's private office around the corner there was one customer ahead of me. The secretary took our orders from her safe and on the stroke of 8 handed over his, and then mine. While he studied the new stamps I removed one of my plate number blocks and put it on an envelope I had previously prepared. Immediately, I caught the first elevator to go down and deposited it in the drop on the first floor at 8:04 a.m.

Passing by the regular sales room, I could see several customers with the new stamp and all seemed to be either looking them over or putting them on large stacks of envelopes.

I doubt if any were deposited in the mail before mine.

Philip R. Hough

P.S. 164 Specimens I brought down were used at Washington's Birthplace, VA 1st Day.

On the following day, April 26, 1938, Mr. Hough noted a summary of the actions taken on the 25th for posterity. The details were placed on the reverse side of the cover.

According to the Scott Specialized Catalogue

April 26, 1938.

Thinking that it may possibly be of interest to someone in the future I wish to record my observations on the circumstances surrounding the placing on sale of the one-cent stamp of the "Presidential Series" which took place yesterday - April 25, 1938 - at 8:00 a.m. at the Philatelic Agency, Washington, D.C.

The Agency is on the 6th floor of the Post Office building - with the Benjamin Franklin Station on the 1st floor.

A week previously I had called at the private office of the Philatelic Agent and paid \$4.00 in advance for four sheets or panes - explaining that my time would be limited on day of sale & couldn't afford to stand in line. His secretary said she would have them ready & waiting for me when the time came.

On the 1st day of sale I went up in the elevator a few minutes before 8:00 am and noticed the Secretary to be a fellow passenger. She cut through some private offices to get there ahead of me before 8 o'clock. Passing by the regular Philatelic Agency sales room I could see about 50 people standing in lines awaiting the opening of the sales windows.

At the Agents private office around the corner there was one customer ahead of me. The secretary took our orders from her safe and on the stroke of 8 handed over his and then mine. While he studied the new stamps I removed one of my plate number blocks & put it on an envelope I had previously prepared. Immediately I caught the first elevator to go down & deposited it in the drop on the first floor at 8:04 AM.

Passing by the regular sales room I could see several customers with the new stamps - all seemed to be either looking them over or putting them on large stacks of envelopes.

I doubt if any were deposited in the mail before mine.

Philip R. Hough.

164 specimens brought down were used at Washington's Birthplace, Va. 1st day.

of Postage Stamps. The 1-cent Washington stamp was the first issue of the Presidential Series. The first-day cover prepared by Mr. Hough is therefore the first of a first. The cover is of modest cash value; the greater value is in the historical significance as brought forth by the wonderful letter and story the cover has housed these many years. ☺

The Author

Rick Herman has been a member of the American Philatelic Society since 1971. He earned a Master of Public Administration degree in 1983 from Long Island University and is a former personnel administrator. He is a personnel consultant and a New York-Florida snowbird. He has collected U.S. stamps since his youth in the 1950s in the Bronx, New York. His current interests are first-day covers from the 1930s, attending New York Yankees' games and writing a book about baseball in New York City.

RESOURCES

Scott 1996 Specialized Catalogue of Postage Stamps, Amos Media.
Plantz's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted FDCs, 1934-1939 (1983), Volume IX, FDC Publishing Co.

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17*XF.....395	241*VF....695	3750	105
17*VF.....135	241*XF....520	369**VF/XF	807bPr**VF
28*VF.....725	241*VF/XF360200	2500
30*AVR.....195	251**VF/XF	369**VF....85	1033***VF 195
33*VF.....100550	369**VF....160	C13-15**VF+
36*VF/F.....165	252**VF....310	375B**VF+\$951400
38*VF.....425	256**VF....275	378*VF/S....90	C14**VF....450
67*VF.....510	260*VF....265	382**VF....350	E1*VF....340
77*VF.....95	270**XF+F....170	390LP**XF....95	J4*VF....450
78*VF.....495	272**VF+F....130	392LP**XF/S	J5*VF....340
78b*XF+F....300	276*XF....550395	J18*VF....325
85*VF.....500	276*XF....395	395LP**XF....375	J19**VF....695
94*VF.....525	276*VF....325	396LP**VF....240	J19*VF....325
96*VF.....125	277*XF....1200	396Pr**VF....135	J20**VF....450
115*XF.....130	278*XF....2000	400*VF....135	J20*VF....115
120*VF.....4250	283**VF....285	403**VF/XF....295	J25**VF....185
120*VF.....375	287**XF+F....450	404**VF....950	J30**VF/VF
136*VF.....325	287**F/VF....240	428**VF/S....2001200
137*VF.....245	291*VF....275	429**XF/S....295	J34*VF....160
138*VF/F.....250	292**F/VF	430**VF....115	J35**F/VF....475
151*VF+F.....1301500	442LP**VF....84	J48*VF....675
153*VF/XF....225	292*VF....490	446LP**VF....474	J48*VF....140
153*VF.....145	293*VF....1150650	J49**VF....175
155*VF.....4750	297**XF+F....350	450LP**VF....325	J60**VF/VF....510
156*XF.....145	297*VF....275	454Pr**XF....495	J60*VF....135
163*F/VF.....1375	298**VF....300	455LP**VF....75	J66**VF....145
185*XF.....335	299*VF....295	456LP**F/VF	J66**VF....135
186*XF.....1450	309**VF/XF650	K16**VF....250
189*VF.....115325	457LP**XF	O4*VF+F....160
191*VF.....190	310*VF/XF 425375	O10*....595
209*VF+F.....310	311*VF....525	458LP**XF	O23*....175
209*VF.....185	311*VF....400350	O93*VF....275
211*VF.....150	312*VF/F....475	466**XF....175	O120*VF....175
212*VF+F.....185	313*VF....1750	477*VF....495	P15*VF....450
215*VF.....100	325**XF....160	487Pr**VF+\$90	P2R2*VF/P1500
218*VF+F.....3750	326**XF....325	493LP**VF	P2R2*VF....975
220A**XF+....650	327**XF+F....425140	P7R9**F/VF
221*VF+F.....120	327*VF....200	523**VF....710625
227*VF.....110	337*VF/XF 115	524**XF....340	P81*F/VF
228*VF.....150	341*VF....165	546**VF....139115
233*VF+F.....195	342**VF+F....725	547**VF....150	Q8*VF....190
233*VF.....125390200	R135b*VF....395
235*VF/F....125390200	R150*VF....450
237*VF+F....230	357**F/VF....95	579**VF....85	R150*VF....520
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FIDELITY STAMP CO., INC.

Who Were They?

Victor Rotnem Started the Company, Which Eventually was Acquired by Richard Silliman

BY JEFF STAGE

So, who and what were the Fidelity Stamp Co., which originally sold the 1-cent George Washington Presidential Issues first-day cover found in Rick Herman's story in this edition of *The American Philatelist*?

It has an interesting bit of history, though some of it fuzzy, which we'll share here, mostly courtesy of a thick file from the American First Day Cover Society that was given as archival material to the American Philatelic Research Library. Some key documents in the file help fill in a lot of blanks and offer the following about Fidelity, its operators and cachets.



Figure 1. A photo in the October 1929 edition of *The American Philatelist* includes Victor Rotnem, along with H.S. Swenson and Leslie A. Davenport. Unfortunately, the original caption identifies Swenson in the center, but said both Rotnem and Davenport are at left. The caption does praise Rotnem as a "hero" at the 1929 APS Convention for chairing 17 committees! (The caption refers to Davenport's "broad smile."

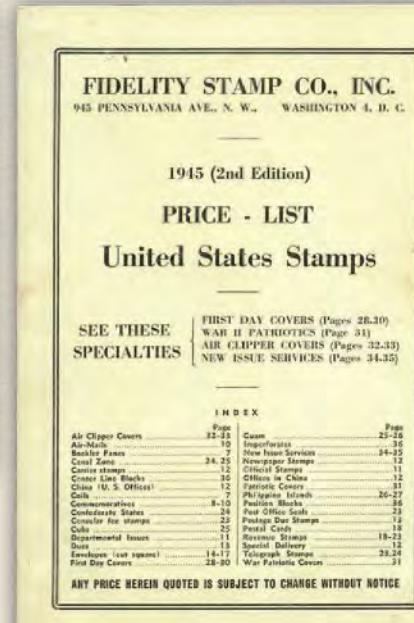


Figure 2. Fidelity Stamp Company's 36-page catalog from 1945 shows its Washington, D.C. address. Listings include most U.S. areas, from regular stamps through back-of-the-book, plus first-day covers starting with the Connecticut Tercentenary issue of 1935 (Scott 772). It promoted a new issue service and First Day Cover Deposit Club.

Victor Waldo Rotnem (1900-1957) was a native of Mabel, Minnesota who joined the American Philatelic Society and started a stamp business when he attended the University of Minnesota in the mid-1920s [Figure 1]. He went through a couple of partners and even kept to his stamp pursuits – he was editor of “Philatelic Gossip” from 1926 to 1928 – as he moved on to Harvard Law School. Rotnem wound up working for a law firm in the late 1920s in New York City and he sold off his stamp interests.

Rotnem moved to Washington, D.C. in 1933 and eventually joined the U.S. Resettlement Administration and later the Civil Liberties Unit of the Justice Department, where he litigated cases against crimes such as lynchings. Within a few years, he moved back to New York City and private

practice.

Throughout his law career, though, he remained a philatelist, and in 1934 started a new company – Fidelity Stamp Co. – with some partners when he was in D.C. Fidelity had an office on Pennsylvania Avenue and for many years it was in the Barrister Building, 635 F. St. NW [Figure 2]. It wasn't long before Fidelity was selling stamps – specializing in U.S. material – along with first-day covers and event covers, particularly many made during the WWII era.

Rotnem owned the business, but having moved back to NYC, was removed from day-to-day operations, leaving much of it to managers and eventually, after 1941, to Agnes Johnson, who had run the Johnson-Clark Stamp Co. in Minneapolis.

In 1950, Rotnem retired from the Justice Department and returned to Minnesota to care for his ailing father. He

market, promoting "bicolor cachet first day envelopes" for "the coming five stamps," featuring the Constitution and four U.S. territories (Scott 798-802), all issued at the end of 1937, just prior to the Presidential Series of 1938.

"Fidelity's dependable prepared first days for those too busy to make their own," the mailer hawked. Prices ranged from 15 cents for covers with a single stamp to \$6.75 for a set of eight, including four (covers) each from the territories and Washington, D.C.

The Constitution stamp might be considered the first of the mass-marketed Fidelity cachets, although there is evidence of the Fidelity name on cachets as early as the 1935 Farley Follies and earlier stamps of 1937. The 1945 catalog shown has listings for Fidelity first days from the 3-cent Connecticut Tercentenary stamp of 1935 (Scott 772). But some say, true Fidelity cachets weren't printed until 1939 (more on



Figure 3. The front and back of a postcard advertising the upcoming 1942 Kentucky Statehood first day.

still worked with the stamp business and left a small operation in D.C., but started downsizing his philatelic services. His own health took a downturn and he died March 8, 1957. The company was eventually obtained by Richard A. Siliman, who had been an off-and-on employee from the start of the D.C. company with many duties, from stock man and sorter to designer, typesetter and office manager. (More on this later.)

When the company was thriving, Fidelity was a regular full-page advertiser in philatelic publications, such as magazine. Aside from print advertising, the company had an active direct mail campaign, at first sending out postcards with offers [Figure 3], and in the late 1940s, at least into 1953, sending newsletters with pricelists.

A crammed and busy oversized direct mailer [Figure 4] – 9 inches by 12½ inches, which was folded in half – clearly shows that company had entered the then-lucrative first-day

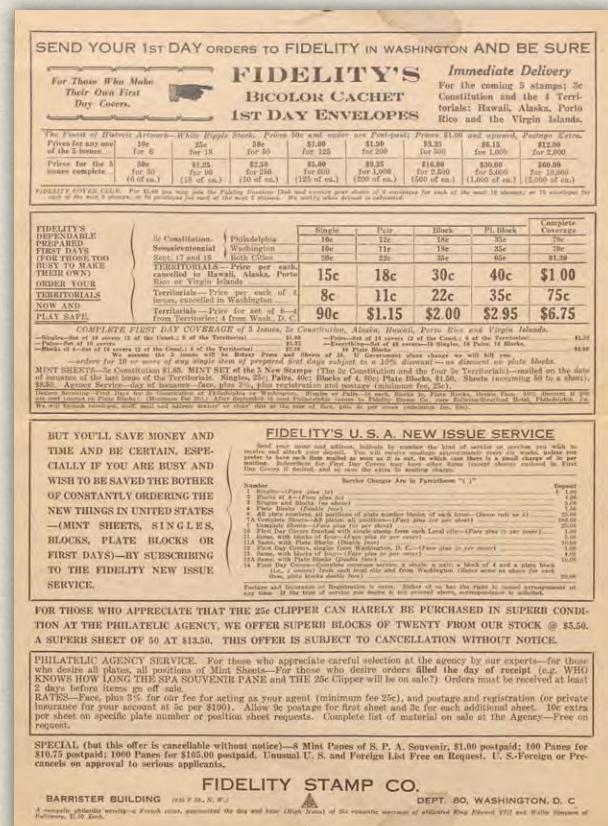


Figure 4. The top front of a large 1937 Fidelity advertising flyer offers "Fidelity's Bicolor 1st Day Envelopes" for the upcoming U.S. Constitution and Territorial stamps along with other "dependable prepared first days."

this later.)

Collectors over the years saw great similarities between Fidelity cachets and those of other companies. This is particularly noted in a 1982 article in "First Days" – the journal of the American First Day Cover Society – in which close likenesses are noted between Fidelity and Washington Service cachets. Other collectors and writers saw similarities between Fidelity cachets and those by Jesse Graham Holland.

So, did Fidelity make their own cachets, copy others, or maybe have other companies print covers for them?

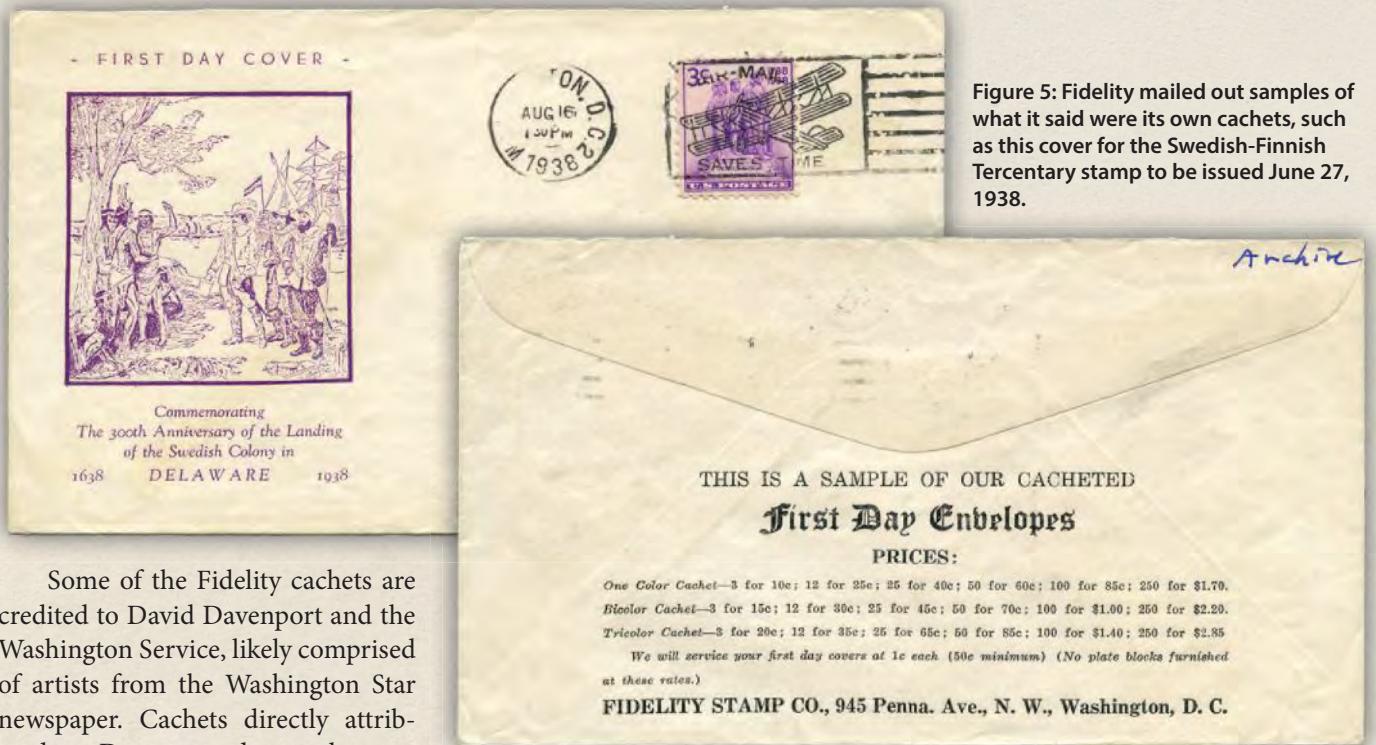


Figure 5: Fidelity mailed out samples of what it said were its own cachets, such as this cover for the Swedish-Finnish Tercentenary stamp to be issued June 27, 1938.

Some of the Fidelity cachets are credited to David Davenport and the Washington Service, likely comprised of artists from the Washington Star newspaper. Cachets directly attributed to Davenport date at least as early as 1935. Fidelity contracted with Davenport to use Washington Service cachets, making subtle design changes for its own use.

A “First Days” story by Clark Heins in 1981 references a tape recording made with Sam Yudkin, an associate of Holland’s. Yudkin stated that Fidelity obtained a large amount of Holland stock and used them for its own first-day cachets for Scott 795 through 797, issued in 1937. “Thus, it seems reasonable that Fidelity also used one of Holland’s designs on 798 to service their customers,” writes Heins.

So, if Scott 798 (Constitutional Sesquicentennial, issued September 17, 1937) is not the first Fidelity, which one is?

“Well, confusion continues to reign supreme,” writes Heins. Silliman, who worked off-and-on for many years for Fidelity and eventually became its owner, said “the impression I got was that 798 was the first Fidelity,” but admits he was unsure as he was not with the company in the mid-1930s.

“Many cachet experts believe that the first Fidelity was actually made for Scott 852 (Golden Gate International Exposition, issued February 18, 1939),” writes Heins in 1981, “all previous cachets having been done by Holland.”

Maybe Silliman, the final owner of Fidelity, could help. Silliman was born c. 1915 and was a civilian model-maker with the U.S. Navy. He worked on-and-off for Fidelity from the mid-1930s and acquired the company in the 1970s and working out of his home in the D.C. suburb of Cabin John, Maryland, wrote a letter in 1980 expressing surprise that there were disputed Fidelity cachets, though acknowledging that could be the case. A letter dated December 10, 1980 to Edwin Lee Howard, of the American First Day Cover Society, included the following:

“I have about arrived at the conclusion that Fidelity did not ever commission any artwork for its cachets, but utilized the work of other cachet producers. Your chart bearing the Holland designs compared with the Fidelity issues seem to bear this out.

“... We know that these issues (cachets) were printed by our long-standing printer, R.H. Pratt, but have no record of where the cuts were designed or made.

“While I did not know Mr. Holland, nor remember of having heard his name, I do know that Victor Rotnem used

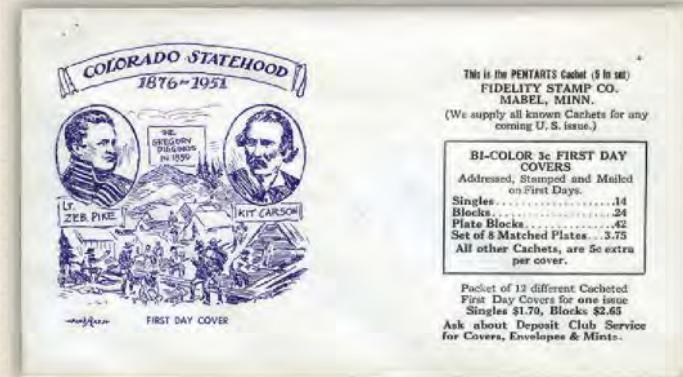
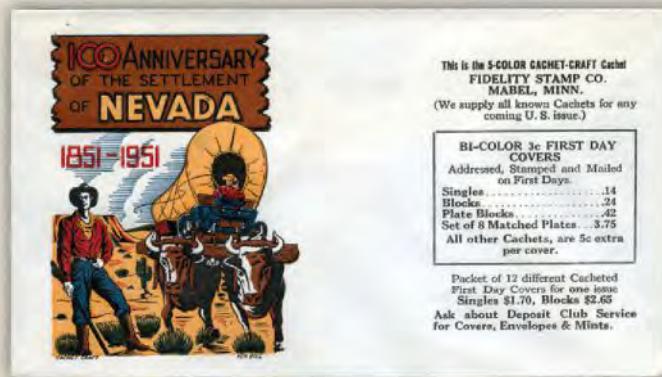


Figure 6: Samples of cached covers in the 1950s provided by Fidelity from other makers included those from Pentarts and Cachet Craft.

the unserviced envelopes of other producers ... and used Sam Yudkin cachets and later those of David H. Davenport. So it is entirely possible he could have used the Holland products in a similar manner...

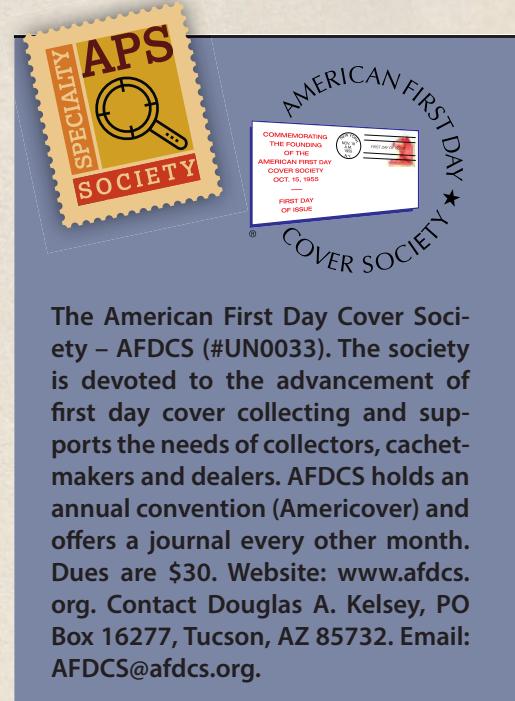
In a 1979 letter to Michael Mellone, who has published specialized catalogs of first-day covers, Silliman notes that Fidelity in the 1940s had a working relationship to purchase cachets from Davenport and the Washington Service.

"Fidelity had an arrangement with Davenport to purchase his designs and cuts, and utilized our own printer to print the covers in colors ... the Fidelity versions of the Davenport designs were usually different and can be readily identified," Silliman wrote.

Clearly, from advertising items in the Fidelity folder at the APRL we can see that Fidelity peddled all sorts of cachets and even acknowledged other cachetmakers late in the game [Figure 6]. But exactly how it all came together in the early days might never be fully known. ↗

REFERENCES

- Fidelity Stamp Company folder, American First Day Cover Society, American Philatelic Research Library, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.
 "The Fidelity Stamp Company," by Curtis Patterson, *First Days*, November-December 1974, American First Day Cover Society.
 "Fidelity Stamp Co.," by Clark Heins, *First Days*, August 1981, American First Day Cover Society.
 Personal Letter, from Fidelity Stamp Co., Cabin John, Maryland to Michael Mellone, March 12, 1979.
 Personal Letter, from Richard A. Silliman to Edwin Lee Howard, Dec. 10, 1980.
 "Cachet Authentication Report," by Alan L. Piscina, *First Days*, April 1982.
 A Summer 1937 mass mailer from Fidelity, Barrister Bldg., Washington, D.C., 9 inches by 12 ½ inches, with imprinted 1-cent paid postage permit (No. 1786).



The American First Day Cover Society – AFDCS (#UN0033). The society is devoted to the advancement of first day cover collecting and supports the needs of collectors, cachet-makers and dealers. AFDCS holds an annual convention (Americover) and offers a journal every other month. Dues are \$30. Website: www.afdcs.org. Contact Douglas A. Kelsey, PO Box 16277, Tucson, AZ 85732. Email: AFDCS@afdcs.org.



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Accession 65th Anniversary	M/S	\$3.75	1551-2
70th Wedding Anniversary 8v.	Set	\$8.75	1553-57
70th Wedding Anniversary	M/S	\$3.75	
HMS Gibraltar 7v.	Set	\$8.75	1558
House of Windsor	M/S	\$5.00	1559-63
Referendum 50th Anniversary 1v.	Set	\$6.25	1564-69
Referendum 50th Anniversary	M/S	\$5.00	1570-74
Gibraltar Military Heritage 9v.	Set	\$8.75	
Diana 20th Anniversary 4v.	Set	\$5.00	1575-79
Upper Rock Nature Reserve 7v.	Set	\$7.50	1580-87
Christmas 2017 Cupcakes 6v.	Set	\$6.25	1588-93
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Issue	Price
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Gibraltar Historic Gates	\$6.70
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2006 Year Set	33 + 6 S/S	\$65.00
2007 Year Set	44 + 7 S/S	\$40.00
2008 Year Set	42 + 4 S/S	\$55.00
2009 Year Set	43 + 5 S/S	\$65.00
2010 Year Set	26 + 8 S/S	\$60.00
2011 Year Set	48 + 6 S/S	\$75.00
2012 Year Set	46 + 7 S/S	\$75.00
2013 Year Set	54 + 5 S/S	\$85.00
2014 Year Set	67 + 4 S/S	\$67.50
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Check Out That Deal

Is it Real or Fraudulent? APS Has Long History of Fraud Protection



Our Sales Division was formed as an exchange service more than 100 years ago in part to lessen the chance of members falling prey to fraud. This is one reason why for many years we required multiple references for all new member applicants and to this day publish applicants' names in *The American Philatelist* prior to granting them membership.

Unfortunately, there are con artists that will do and say whatever it takes to get what they want. Because of our members' greater knowledge of philately, they are less likely to fall prey. But sometimes even members have a hard time turning down a deal that is too good to be true. So we offer this as a reminder and ask our members to share this with others who may be more vulnerable. We all need to be vigilant and help get the word out to protect our hobby.

Scams can be in many forms – through emails, phone calls, social media, and online selling of fraudulent items, are just a few. So how can you tell if something isn't right?

With most scams, there are warning signs if you look for them. Has a company offered to purchase your stamps without seeing them? Have you been pressured to make an immediate decision? Have they asked you to be bonded or require hefty membership fees before they can help you? Does the seller provide their own certification of authenticity for all items they are selling? Does the offer sound too good to be true? These questions present potential red flags and should cause suspicion.

Professional stamp dealers and legitimate sellers rarely make cold calls or charge fees in advance of services. They are less likely to push you to make a quick decision, and they will properly identify themselves so you can pass their information on to other potential buyers and sellers.

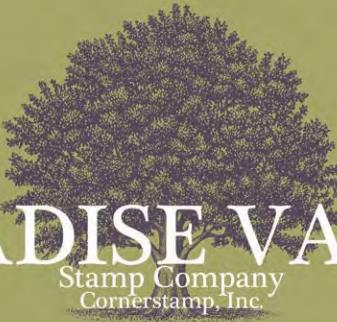
So What Can You Do?

Here are some tips to help you avoid fraud.

Don't believe your caller ID. With today's technology it is easy for scammers to falsify caller ID information. The name and number you see aren't always necessarily real. Write down the caller ID information as it may help in your investigation.

Take your time and gather information. Do not be rushed or pressured into anything. If you are told the offer will not be good if you don't act immediately, walk away from it. It's important to take the time to know for sure who you are dealing with before agreeing to anything. Ask callers for their professional affiliations. Are they a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS), or the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA), or the National Stamp Dealers Association (NSDA)? Ask them for the company's address, the owner's name, web address and phone number, advising them that you will consider once you can confirm legitimacy.

Investigate and call someone. Don't take everything at face value. Con artists will doctor pictures, copy logos and create fake websites. Phone calls and quick web searches could save you from losing your money or stamps. Once you gather a company's information, you are prepared to investigate. If it is an online seller and they claim to be a member of a known organization, call the organization and confirm the affiliation. If they provide a website, check it out. A site that provides very few details and does not provide contact information of company representatives is a red flag. Type the company name and/or owner's name and phone number into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam." Contact known agencies such as the



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APS, ASDA or NSDA to ask if they have ever heard of the company or if they feel the offer may be a scam. You can also confirm companies with the Better Business Bureau, Federal Trade Commission and National Fraud Information Center.

Request the Offer in Writing. If a caller is making you an offer, advise that you want it in writing so that you can read, understand and agree to the terms before you sign or pay for anything. If they send you a contract, this could also provide additional information about the company that will help to confirm legitimacy.

Don't pay upfront for a promise. Someone might ask you to pay in advance for services or stamps and may even tell you that you need to pay certain fees upfront. We have had reports of callers offering expensive investments of rare stamps that come with authentication certificates; they want you to send them money and they will mail you the items. Again, unless you do your homework and know who you are dealing with, this is not recommended. There is a chance they will take your money and disappear.

Use a credit card for purchases and never give out your banking or personal details especially when there is doubt. If you agree to a purchase, a credit card gives you better fraud protection than a debit



card or bank transfer. Credit cards are governed by different rules that allow you to dispute an unauthorized or fraudulent charge and the credit card company in most cases will remove the charge until it investigates. That's not always the case with a debit card.

Be cautious with sellers who provide their own certification of items. On valuable items, collectors should insist on receiving a certificate of authenticity from an established expertizing firm or organization such as the APS Expertizing Service, the Philatelic Foundation, or Professional Stamp Experts. Some sellers may be an expert in certain areas and their certification may be legitimate, but it never hurts to confirm and request an extension of the refund period so that you can get additional certification from another known service.

We all need to be cautious and protect not only ourselves, but the stamp collecting hobby at large. When in doubt of any seller or offer, contact us at 814-933-3803 and we will do our best to help you investigate potential fraud.

APS dealer members can also provide assistance and guide you in making legitimate purchases. You can find an APS dealer near you by visiting our dealer directory at www.stamps.org/Dealers. And if you are looking to purchase stamps to add to your collection, consider shopping

French Definitives: 1849-1900 with Stan Fairchild
March 21, 2018, prior to Garfield-Perry March Party

Postal History of World War II in the Pacific Ocean from the American Perspective with Ken Lawrence
May 2-3, 2018, prior to the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs Philatelic Show

Understanding the British Machin Series: Collecting and Exhibiting with Steve McGill and Larry Rosenblum
May 10, 2018, prior to Pipex

APS Education Department
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On-the-Road Courses to be held during APS StampShow in Columbus, Ohio:
Competitive Thematic Exhibiting with Bill Seiger
Getting the Most Out of the Scott Specialized Catalogues with Jim Kloetzel



Circuit Sales Categories Needed

Each month we list a few categories that are in particular short supply, shown below – to see our full list of stamps needed for circuits visit www.stamps.org/Stamps-Needed. If you have material in these areas that you are interested in selling, consider using circuit sales. For those new to selling, seller information is available online or can be requested by contacting our Circuit Sales staff at 814-933-3803, ext. 231.

U.S. Back of the Book (BOB)

U.S. Used Pre-1950

U.S. Mint (no blocks or plate blocks)

U.S. Possessions

Baltic

German Colonies

Spanish Colonies

online at the APS StampStore, www.StampStore.org, or APS Circuit Mail Sales, which allows you to examine every stamp before making any purchase. Either online or through the mail, all items sent by the APS are owned by society members who are governed by the APS Code of Ethics. Items are offered with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

Please consider sharing this article at local elderly homes, with fellow stamp club members, ask the local post office to post it on a bulletin board or wherever else you can to get the word out.

Overstocked Categories

We are currently overstocked and would not recommend submitting material from these areas at this time:

Russia

General Germany

Europe

General Global

First Day Covers/First Flight Covers

Scandinavia

CANADA COMPLETE SETS FOUR GREAT SPECIAL OFFERS

Here are four very attractive offers on 1930s – 1940s era Canadian complete sets. All stamps are in fresh well centered never hinged mint condition.

SPECIAL #290

The last regular issue that appeared during the reign of King George V was this set of eleven from 1935 (Scott #217-227). It was produced by the American Bank Note Company. Each stamp is beautifully engraved. The 10¢ value shows a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman and has long been a favourite with collectors. List price for a very fine never hinged complete set is \$337.50. My price is just **\$119.95**.

SPECIAL #291

After the death of King George V a new definitive issue was needed. Five new high values were issued in 1938 (Scott #241-245). The designs depict scenes and buildings across Canada, including two harbours some six thousand kilometres apart – Halifax and Vancouver. I can supply a very fine never hinged mint set for just \$139.95. List price is **\$360.00**.

SPECIAL #292

The events of World War II influenced this set from 1942. The designs show wartime themes and the King is dressed in the various uniforms of the military. Here is the complete set of fourteen (Scott #249-262). List price for a VF NH set is \$300.00. My price is just **\$129.95**.

SPECIAL #293

Shortly after the war a new set of high values appeared, showing scenes or industries from various areas of the country (Scott #268-273). Here is the complete set in superb unmounted mint condition.

List price in VF NH condition is \$150.00. I can supply the complete set for just **\$59.95**.

SPECIAL #293A

If you wish, take all four of the above sets at the extra special price of just **\$395.00** (or five monthly payments of \$99.00 each).



Special #293



Special #291



Special #290



Special #292

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EXPERTIZING



BY TOM HORN authentication department director
twhorn@stamps.org

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Expertizing Service Always in Need of High-Tech Tools and Stamps for Reference Collection



There are tools of the expert trade that aid in identifying stamps and covers. You all know many of them, including magnifiers, tongs, watermark trays and fluids, perforation gauges, UV lights, etc.

Let us introduce you to what the American Philatelic Expert Service has at its disposal for when they are needed. We will not elaborate on most of these items, as these images are meant to show what has been used and what has been donated for our use.

How many magnifiers does someone need? Or perforation gauges? Millimeter rulers? Micrometers? Watermark detectors? Tongs? UV and IR light sources?

The Crime Scope (opposite page) uses infrared and ultraviolet light to reveal aspects of stamps and covers that are otherwise undetectable. Inks behave differently under varying wavelengths of light. The Crime Scope enables us to see the behavior of the inks on the system's black and white monitor. Paper flaws and additions will also react differently making them visible under the specialized lighting.

What does your reference collection look like? Stamps AND books? We have those, too.

All of these have their use and experts have their favorites. We accept donations of equipment like these items, including the higher technologically advanced equipment.

We also accept donations of stamps that are needed to fill spots in our Reference Collection. This includes stamps of high value that have condition problems (even sliced in half and reattached). The idea is that we need examples of them for comparisons, making them valuable for the hobby's integrity. ☺

Microscope with USB Interface



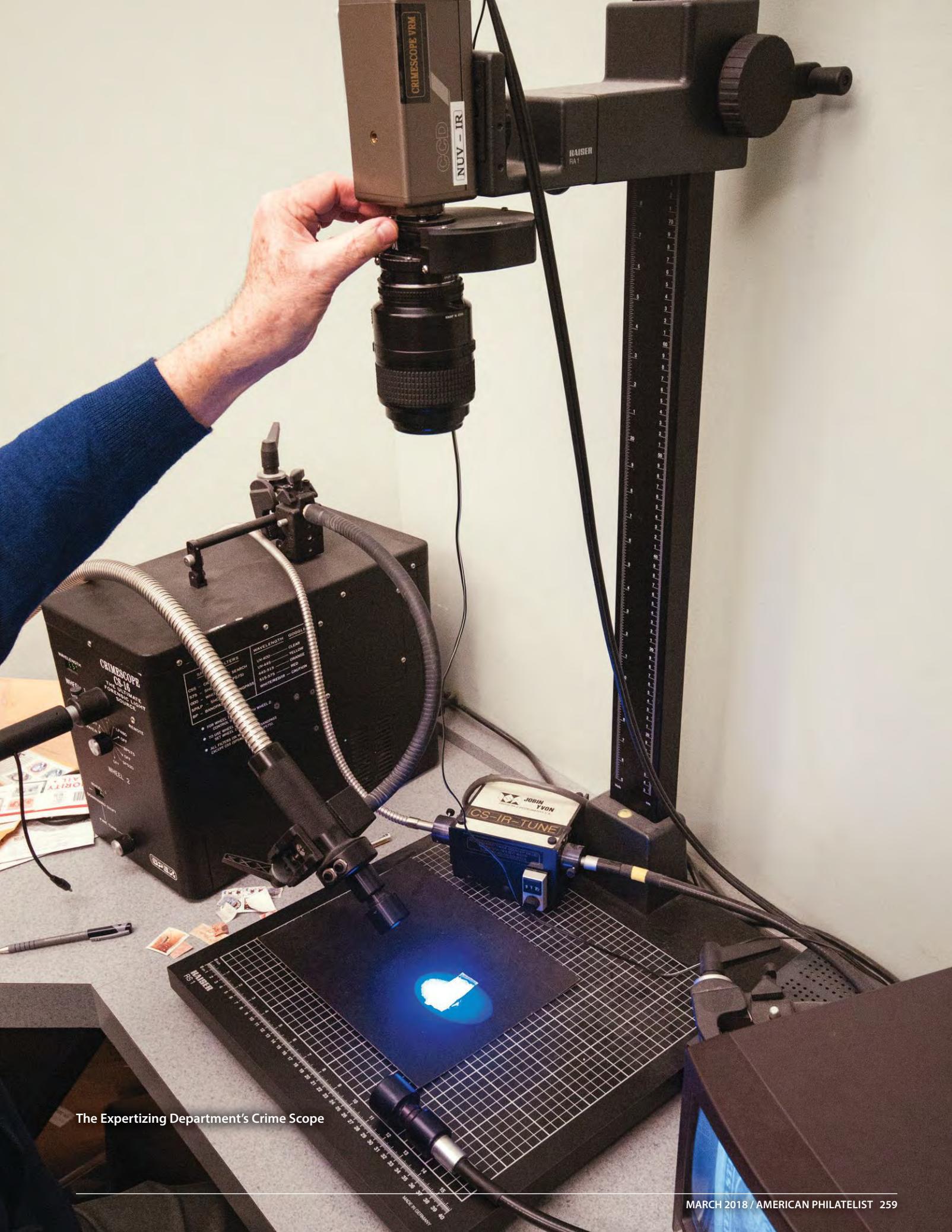
Tongs and magnifiers



Expertizing Micrometer



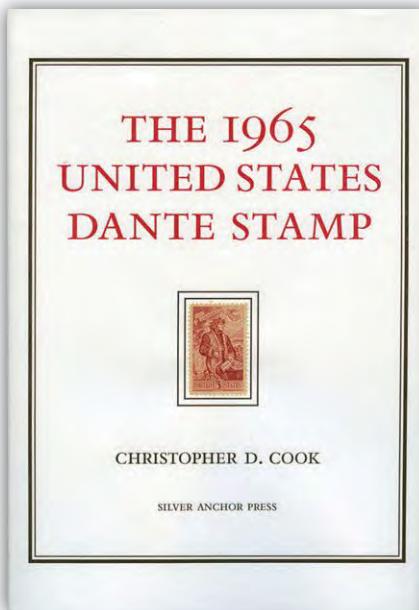
Tabletop Microscopes



The Expertizing Department's Crime Scope



BY JEFF STAGE editorial associate
jstage@stamps.org



The 1965 United States Dante Stamp,
by Christopher D. Cook

This labor-of-love book shows just how much you can convey and learn about a single modern United States postage stamp; and, it shows how a book retelling the story of that single artful stamp can practically be a work of art in itself.

The images and production are beautiful and crisp; the research is true and accurate; and the writing is informative while not being oppressive. Whether or not you have any interest in the stamp subject – the Italian poet Durante Alighieri, commonly known as Dante – modern U.S. stamps or philatelic covers, the journey here is well worth spending some time with this book.

Cook is a longtime collector of Dante stamps and a member of the Dante Society of America, a scholarly academic institution dedicated to “promote the study and appreciation of the time, life, works and cultural legacy of Dante Alighieri,” according to its website (www.dantesociety.org). In 2013, Cook began to research the stamp and postal history in earnest. In 2015, he was inspired by reading Charles M. Posner’s detailed stories in the “Cata-

logueing U.S. Commemoratives” series that appears regularly in *The American Philatelist*.

Cook, a researcher and cataloguer for a library in Columbus, Ohio, dug in hard using government documents, archival resources and specialist literature. The result is this thorough and wonderfully illustrated review of the U.S. Dante stamp, from a review of Dante’s life and his great influence to the background about the promotion, design, creation, production and post-production story of this stamp.



After the Preface, the book is divided into just four text chapters: “Italy’s Immortal Poet,” “The Dante Society of American Ventures Into Politics,” “Stamp Design and Production” and “First Day of Issue Ceremony.”

The tail end of the book is illustrated with 35 different first-day cachets plus the U.S. Postal Service’s souvenir page. (One slight negative is that the edges of many of the white first-day envelopes are absorbed by the book’s white page; a thin border of some sort might have helped).

As a bonus, the author includes a mounted first-day cover and a block of four just before a page of stamp facts –

everything from quantity order to color of ink and paper – and succeeding page of the official plate number report.

Let’s break down a few quick facts. Dante (1265-1321) was a statesman, poet and political theorist from Florence, possibly the most literate city in the world during his time. The 5-cent U.S. stamp honoring him on the 700th anniversary of his birth paid the first-class letter rate, is known in the U.S. Scott catalog as 1268. It was issued July 17, 1965 with a formal first-day ceremony in San Francisco. Very few foreigners not connected with the Revolutionary War had appeared on U.S. stamps, particularly commemoratives, but the Dante stamp had been recently preceded by three Englishmen: Honored as stamp subjects are William Shakespeare (August 14, 1964) and Winston Churchill (May 13, 1965), an honorary U.S. citizen whose mother was American. Philip Carteret is found on the New Jersey Tercentenary stamp issued June 15, 1964.

Cook traces Dante’s life to his childhood in Florence, where he was immersed in a high-powered education exposing him to everything from the classics of art and literature to mathematics and science. His *Divine Comedy* is considered by many the most important poem of the Middle Ages and possibly the greatest work in Italian literature. His works and influence, the subject of a mountain of volumes over the years, could not possibly be summed up here, so we’ll move on.

In the chapter about the Dante Society in America, Cook offers an overview to the founding of the group in 1881 – thanks in large part to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – to its lobbying of members of Congress, Postmaster General John A. Gronouski and the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee. The chapter relates how U.S. Rep. Robert N. Giaimo, of Connecticut, offered a bill calling for the stamp to celebrate

Dante's birthday, noting "... his magnificence, his mastery of language, his human tenderness and moral grandeur ..." Official confirmation of the stamp came in a news release dated December 19, 1964, eight months after approval by the stamp advisory committee.

American artist and illustrator Douglas Warner Gorsline (1913-1985) – who had created art for everything from children's books and Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel* to Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* – was chosen to design the stamp.

Gorsline moved to France in 1960, where he lived until he died, but had previously created the Fort Duquesne stamp of 1958 and the Shakespeare stamp. The artist first presented two sketches to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, but minutes from a meeting said the committee rejected the designs and asked for a different approach.

The National Gallery of Art first sent the artist a black-and-white photo of an oil on wood – *Allegorical Portrait of Dante* from the 16th century – which became the model for the stamp. Gorsline then referred to the book *Art Treasures for America* (1961) in which the painting appears in color.

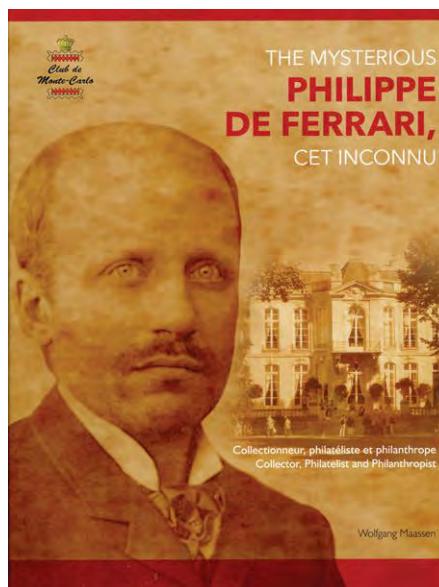
Cook writes that Italian art historian Charles Seymour Jr. (1912-1977), of Yale University, describes the painting as "perhaps the grandest ideal portrait of Dante ever painted." Cook kindly includes a full-page color reproduction of the painting in the book followed on the next page of the Gorsline's original artwork. We can easily see how the right-side profile in the painting was largely duplicated into the stamp.

In regards to the first-day ceremony, Cook explores coverage in the philatelic press, how San Francisco was chosen as the first-day site and the ceremony and "civic luncheon in the opulent Venetian Room of San Francisco's Fairmount Hotel." Among the guests were members of the Dante Society. A story in the San Francisco Chronicle said 300 people were on hand. Later special events were held in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The author runs the website [Dante](#)

on Stamps ([danteonstamps.com](#)) and has a strong research background working as a library cataloguer in Columbus, Ohio. He is the author of *Incunabula in the Westminster Abbey and Westminster School Libraries* (2013) and in 2014 received the American Philatelic Society's Thomas F. Allen award for best article published that year in the Philatelic Literature Review.

Published in 2017 by Silver Anchor Press, Columbus, Ohio. Hardcover, 6 ¾ inches by 10 inches, 89 pages, fully color illustrated. Price: \$75, plus shipping, available through the publisher (<http://home.silveranchorpress.com/publications>).



The Mysterious Philippe de Ferrari, Collector, Philatelist and Philanthropist, by Wolfgang Maassen

What better way to explore the golden era of early serious philately than with a grand book that examines the life and collections of Philippe de Ferrari, known by many as the true king of the hobby.

Sure, there have been true royalty (or the royal-like) who have and still do collect – from King George V, of England and King Farouk I, of Egypt to Prince Rainier III, of Monaco, Queen Elizabeth II, of England and President Franklin Roosevelt – but this aristocrat who cast away his inherited status is as grand a personality that the hobby has ever had.

This is yet another volume which I can barely touch upon as it presents a massively in-depth look in living color at one of the hobby's most important collectors of all time. The book was published by MonacoPhil, the prestigious biannual international show (this was the 11th) overseen by Monaco's Prince Albert. The book also was issued in conjunction with a special exhibition of former Ferrari material – it included items loaned by Queen Elizabeth II, among other collectors – that was shown at MonacoPhil.

Patrick Maselis, president of the host Club de Monte-Carlo, wrote an introductory note that says, in part, "... undertaking a study of Philippe de Ferrari, his family situation and the political context of the time was certainly not an easy task. The result of this long-term endeavor ... is simply astonishing. (The author) has methodically worked through and documented all of the original documents and accounts, unearthing entire sections of the collector's life that were hitherto unknown. He has also corrected a large number of errors and silenced the gossip that has endured for decades, giving us an account based strictly on facts and original documents."

The book, in French and English text, is jam-packed with fabulous historic images of Ferrari, his family and important places in his life, along with other important philatelists of the day, paintings, documents and, of course, a multitude of philatelic items that help tell the story of this intriguing character whose presence is felt even today.

Most people who have been around classic philately know the name Ferrari (aka Philipp von Ferrary) and recall that at one time he possessed some of the world's greatest philatelic rarities, including the 1856 1-Cent Magenta of British Guiana, Sweden's Treskilling Yellow and the 2-Cent Hawaiian Missionary of 1851.

Von Ferrari (1850-1917) was born in the Hotel Matignon in Paris, built in 1725, and lived there until the last couple years of his life. Today, it's home to France's prime minister. Von Ferrari's

father, Raffaele de Ferrari, was from a line of wealthy Gevonese bankers and his mother was the great niece of the princess of Monaco. Von Ferrari, with a seemingly endless amount of capital (he paid two clerks just to watch over his philatelic interests) developed a passion for collecting important and rare stamps and coins, his collections becoming the envy of most of the world.

"There can be no other stamp collector in the world about whom so much has been written in specialist journals – and even newspapers – as Philipp von Ferrari. Nor can there have been a stamp collector about whom so little is known as this person of noble and aristocratic lineage," writes Maassen in the Foreword. "And there has certainly never been a stamp collector whose life has been surrounded by so many fanciful legends, tales and stories that fail to stand up to detailed historical or academic scrutiny."

So therein starts this detailed examination into one of our hobby's most intriguing and important personalities.

Maassen not only investigates von Ferrari's pursuits, but looks closely at his roots in an attempt to help us understand what drove the collector's passion.

"Anyone wishing to understand his personality better cannot do so without considering the surroundings, family, period and society in which he lived," writes Maassen.

Research was meticulous, but far from easy. "...not only because Philipp von Ferrari always endeavored to cover all his tracks, but also because only very few original documents created by him have been preserved."

Later, the author adds, "research was hindered by the almost insurmountable barriers created by the reluctance of some state and city archives, which refused to allow access to documents – citing data and personal protection – even one hundred years after Ferrari's death!"

The book is divided into eight main chapters, and most are then subdivided into anywhere from two to eight mini-

chapters. The main sections are "Two Noble Families from Genoa," "Philately, Philippe de Ferrari's New Hobby," "Philippe de Ferrari's Love for Germany and Austria," "The Final Years and Death of Maria Brignole Sale," "The Collector ... The Lucky Period, 1877-1914," "The Beginning of the End: Isolation and Solitude, 1908-1917," A Personality Out of the Ordinary" and "An Estate and Its Liquidation."

Page-after-page offers more and more insight into this fascinating figure and the times in which he lived and



the philately he was immersed in. A bit of a warning, though. This is a history book, which means there is much more text (a LOT of text) than the usual book on philately. There are some awesome philatelic items shown – mostly in the back – but you are more likely to discover images of portraits, documents and buildings shrunk a bit to accommodate text for much of the book. But if you want to dive deep into our hobby's history and one of its most important personalities, this is the work to explore.

The author, Maassen (b. 1949), has been a writer and philatelic journalist for more than 40 years. Not only has he worked closely with organizations from the German national association of stamp collectors to world and international exhibitions, but he has advised several German professional organizations as a consultant and has been the



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AMOS ADVANTAGE

A close-up photograph of a man with light brown hair and blue eyes wearing dark-rimmed glasses. He has a wide-eyed, surprised expression with his mouth slightly open. He is wearing a tan and white argyle patterned sweater over a red collared shirt. His hands are visible; one is on a white computer mouse and the other is on a silver keyboard.

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chief editor of well-known international journals. He also has served as a president or other officer for several philatelic groups, is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and a signee of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Published in 2017 by MonacoPhil, Under the High Patronage of HSH Prince Albert II, Monaco. Hardcover, 11 5/8 inches by 8 1/16 inches, 398 (slick) pages, fully color illustrated, with text in French and English. Price: \$70, plus shipping, available through various online sites.



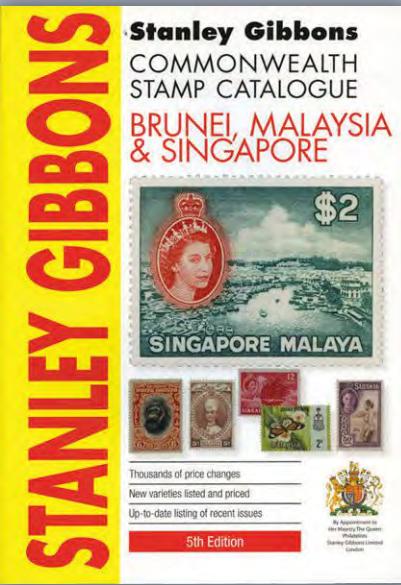
Stanley Gibbons

Stanley Gibbons Publications of the United Kingdom has

released its latest in the Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue series, which features Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore. Stanley Gibbons, which also sells stamps and philatelic supplies, is the leading English-language producer of specialized catalogs in Europe.

For those familiar with Scott catalogs, there are similarities and differences between the two. Both offer full-color illustrations, listings for major issues of postage, airmail, revenue, and specialty stamps, plus their varieties, stamp descriptions and first-day-of-issue dates. Both companies use their own copyrighted catalog numbers. Also color descriptions may vary.

The introductions in SG catalogs are always useful, offering everything from a guide to reading the catalog to information on condition and technical matters (printing and paper to perforations, gum and colors). The international philatelic glossary lists definitions in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.



Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore (Fifth Edition)

Aside from the countries noted in the title, the edition also includes listings for the Straits Settlements, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak, plus the stamps for the title countries are everything through the most current years available – 2015 for Brunei, through July 2017 for Malaysia and July 2017 for Singapore. In addition, the stamps of Federated Malay and Malaysian states are listed as are World War II occupation stamps of Japan and Thailand in Malaysia, plus Japanese occupation of Sarawak.

Like the Scott catalogs many of us are used to, the editors of the Stanley Gibbons catalogs offer an editor's note – this one on the back cover – explaining changes and what might be new since the last edition of this catalog was published, which in this case was 2013.

From that note, we learn prices have been revised since the last edition, with "some substantial increases"; prices for issues up to 1970 were taken from the 2018 edition of the *Commonwealth and British Empire Catalogue*; and a number of new plate, watermark and other varieties have been added to the pre-1970 issues.

The additions include new flaws on the Queen's Heads of Labuan.

The most significant changes, however, come in the post-1970 listings, where a number of new additions have been made to the long-running Agricultural Products states definitives. Illustrations are now provided for the Malaysia Setemku personalized stamps and the Singapore MyStamps.

Published in 2017. Softcover, 6 1/2 inches by 9 1/2 inches, 256 pages with thousands of color illustrations. £26.95 (approximately \$37 U.S.), plus shipping. www.stanleygibbons.com.

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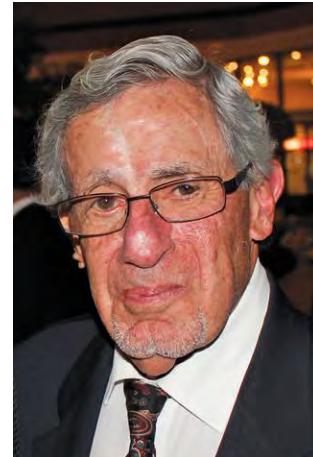
Congratulations to George Kramer, who will receive the 2018 Alfred Liechenstein Award at the Collectors Club of New York awards dinner on May 2. George previously won the American Philatelic Society's John N. Luff Award in 2013 and the George and Carol Kramer Gallery is named in honor of his generosity and support of the development of the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Known for his philatelic research and scholarship, George authored books on U.S. telegraph stamps and the pony express and articles in *The American Philatelist* and the *Chronicle* of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. He has competed in the APS Champion of Champions competition nine times, winning the title with three different exhibits. His exhibits also have won three international grand prix awards. He has provided a great deal of service to the hobby, especially on the board of the Philatelic Foundation, the APS Finance Committee and as an accredited judge and a commissioner to four international shows.

George also has previously received major awards from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the Philatelic Foundation and the United States Philatelic Classics Society.

More Congratulations

Congratulations also to the Sequoia Stamp Club of Redwood City, California whose annual Penpex stamp show was profiled in the January 2018 issue of Redwood City's *Climate* magazine. Guided by the club's past president, **Jim Giacomazzi**, the reporter developed an article titled "Stamps, The



George Kramer will receive the 2018 Alfred Liechenstein Award on May 2.

Glue of Friendship for These 'Solitary' Collectors," emphasizing the fellowship, knowledge, and fun to be had via a stamp club. The stamp club in this case happens to be entering its 71st year.

Congratulations also to the Motor City Stamp and Cover Club. It was featured in the December 18 issue of *The Oakland Press* newspaper. Motor City is one of the more active clubs on Facebook with numerous posts, including an "official" portrait from the annual holiday party.

Arn Symposium in 28th Year

Symposiums sponsored by the American Philatelic Research Library, the National Postal Museum and the Cardinal Spellman Museum may be better known, but the John D. Arn Philatelic Symposium is older, having been held at Moses Lake, Washington since 1990. The 28th annual such symposium is planned for April 7.

The purpose of the Arn Symposium is to provide a venue for stamp collectors, mainly from the Pacific Northwest, to meet, exchange ideas and knowledge, renew acquaintances, and make new ones. The funding for the venue is provided by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs and attendees pay only for meals and room fees.

The NWFSC includes 35 organizations with member clubs from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Saskatchewan, and Washington.

This year's event will include four primary speakers from various and diverse aspects of philately. Interspersed with these lectures are short (5-minute) "clothesline" presentations by members of the audience who have brought an interesting item to show, or have announcements about upcoming events of interest to the group. Among the speakers this year is **Michael Bloom**, APS Director-At-Large. His topic will be "A Philatelic Survey of Latvia." He will show material from the Russian Empire, through the end of the World War II Nazi occupation.

Throughout the day, attendees will have an opportunity to view and bid on dozens of silent auction lots. A live auction



Michael Bloom is scheduled to speak at the John D. Arn Philatelic Symposium in April.

The screenshot shows the website for Redwood City's Climate magazine. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to Home, Business, Education, A&E, Crime, MicroClimate, Events, and Climate Best Awards. Below that is a large banner for "CLIMATE ONLINE REDWOOD CITY". Underneath the banner, there's a section for "PENPEX 2017 Stamp Show" with a sub-headline "Published on January 28, 2018 — in A&E/Community — by Staff". There's also a "FOLLOW US!" section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A small image of a stamp show booth is visible on the left side of the page.

Redwood City's *Climate* magazine covered Penpex, the Sequoia Stamp Club's annual show. See the article at: www.aps.buzz/SequoiaClub.

is held after the final formal presentation. For more information, contact **David Harris** at sq piano@gmail.com.

Symposiums Scheduled

The next Spellman Museum symposium with the theme, "A Century of U.S. Mail" will be held May 3 at the museum in Weston, Massachusetts. More information is available from info@spellman.org or 781-768-8367.

The Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium will be held Nov. 1 and 2 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Its theme will be "World War I and its Immediate Aftermath." Contact APRL Librarian Scott Tiffney, at stiffney@stamps.org or 814-933-3803, ext. 246, for more information.



Visitors in Bellefonte

With our proximity to Interstate 80, many members coming from the Midwest to the New Jersey, New York and New England areas find the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte a good stopping point. A fine recent example was **Darryl Salisbury**, from the Kalamazoo, Michigan Stamp Club. Darryl and his wife spent a half-day here on their way to visiting relatives just prior to Christmas. Then, on the day after Christmas, we had our regular visit from **Harry and Dottie Winter** (and Dottie's sister, who lives in the State College area).

We were also pleased to have seven visitors and volunteers on January 15. Penn State students are encouraged to provide service on Martin Luther King Day and we greatly appreciated their labor to sort donated library material.

Sad Passings

At the end of each calendar year we often learn of the deaths of a few members who died a few months earlier. In late December and early January this included **David Groves**, who passed away in late July and **Charles Jenkins**, who passed away in 2016.

David, who had moved from Florida to Wisconsin after his wife died, had been an APS member for 51 years. For many years he was a writer and associate editor for *Global Stamp News*.

Charles lives on in his legacy stamp frames which are used by most of the World Series of Philately shows since their original design and manufacture for the 1986 Chicago Ameripex international stamp show. A longtime resident of the Phoenix, Arizona area, Charlie relocated in 2012 to Fort Walton Beach to be near his son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Two other well known members passed away since my last column. Longtime dealer **Jacques Schiff Jr.**, of New Jersey, a member of the APS since 1949 and the American Stamp Dealers Association since 1956, passed away December 20. Born and raised in New York City, Jack, as we knew him, started collecting at the age of 5 at the urging of his grandmother. He worked at a local stamp store while in high school and then turned collecting into a business, working out of in his parents' apartment. He began to specialize in freaks and errors, and started his own auction house thereafter. In 1979, he moved his business to New Jersey.

Jack's most shining moment may have been the \$1 Candlestick Invert discovery – popularly known as the CIA Invert – which was widely reported with Jack featured in Time magazine. He was interviewed by **Dan Rather** during the media storm and carried until current day in his wallet a note written by an employee that read "Jack ... hurry it up ... you have Channel 2 in conference room 1, Channel 4 in conference room 2, other reporters waiting outside"

Finally, on December 28, former APS Director of Sales **Gordon Wrenn** passed away in nearby State College. Gordon was born and lived in Massachusetts through his high school graduation after which he volunteered for duty in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his Navy service, he took advantage of the GI Bill to earn a college degree and became an employee of the W.T. Grant Co., managing department stores all across New England for two decades.

In 1973, he transitioned to a new career with the APS as director of sales. Over the next 22 years he oversaw significant growth in the Sales Division, and in 1995 was a recipient of the prestigious Luff Award for Outstanding Service to the society. Our thanks to his widow, **Bessie**, and family, who have encouraged donations be made to the APS in his memory.

Time to Set Your Philatelic Calendar

It is definitely a great time to make summer plans to visit the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, where there is a nice lineup of events scheduled. First, the Mount Nittany Philatelic Society's annual show, Scopex, will be June 23 and 24. The society's annual Summer Seminar on Philately im-



\$1 Candlestick Invert. popularly known as the CIA Invert (Scott 1610c).

mediately follows from June 24 to 29; Volunteer Work Week is scheduled for July 16 to 20; and this year's APS/American Topical Association StampShow which will run from August 9 to 12 in Columbus, Ohio.

As of mid January one of our Summer Seminar courses is already near capacity. And the demand for exhibit and meeting/seminar space for StampShow is expected to be very high with the combination of the APS and ATA shows this year.

Special Delivery

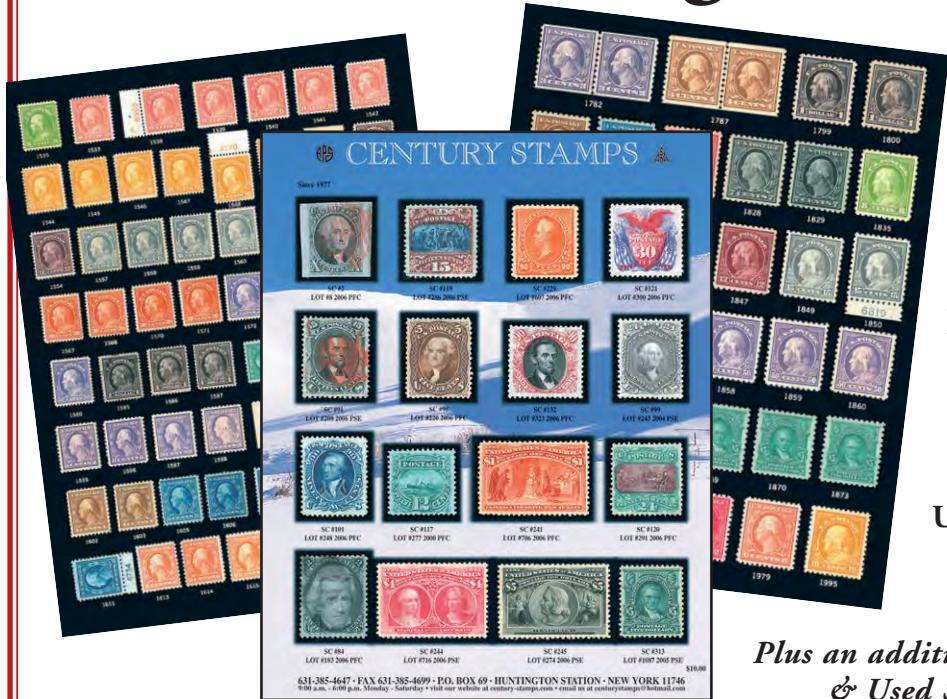
There's some good news from a member in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Matt and **Christine Liebson** on January 18, two weeks early, had their fourth child, a daughter, **Rachel**

Lydia. Matt is our Membership Committee chair and Carter Award Subcommittee chair, as well as a key member of the Garfield Perry Show committee. Matt can now add a new job description to his resume having actually received his special delivery just before medical personnel arrived, sources tell us. All three older Liebson children are APS members, two of whom have exhibited at StampShow. Congratulations to the Liebson family.

Missile Club Correction

Our Missile Stamp Club chapter, noted in the January column, meets in Palm Bay, Florida not Palm Beach, Florida. ≈

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SHOW TIME

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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 shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition. Visit www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

Listings with blue shading indicate a World Series of Philately show.

Alaska **March 2-4**
Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) Anchorage Philatelic Society, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage. ***B***
Contact: Patrick Hoffmann, 907-346-2717
E-mail: phoffmann@alaska.net
Website: <http://anchoragephilatelic.org/>

Florida **March 3**
14th Annual Stamp and Coin Show Flagler County Stamp and Coin Club, Elk's Lodge #2709, 53 Old Kings Road, Palm Coast. ***B***
Contact: David Rosenthal, 386-437-0368
Website: www.stampandcoinclub.com

New Jersey **March 3**
Westfield StampShow Westfield Stamp Club, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield.
Contact: Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318
E-mail: edjjg@alum.mit.edu
Website: www.westfieldstampclub.org

California **March 3-4**
NOVAPEX 2018 Redding Stamp Club, Redding

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Senior Citizens Center, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding.

Contact: Mark Woodward, 530-221-8933
E-mail: markwoodward@charter.net
Website: www.reddingstampclub.org

New York **March 3-4**

BUFPEX 2018 The Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga.
Contact: George Gates, 716-633-8358
E-mail: gghg53@aol.com

Ohio **March 3-4**

McKinley Stamp Club Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton.
Contact: David Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssnet.com
Website: <http://mksc.webs.com>

Tennessee **March 3-4**

KnoxPEX 2018 U.S. Air Mail Centennial Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Knoxville-West Cedar Bluff Rd, 9134 Executive Park Dr., Knoxville.
Contact: Tom Broadhead, 865-974-1151
E-mail: tbroadhea@utk.edu
Website: www.knoxstamps.com

Wisconsin **March 3-4**

STAMPFEST 2018 Milwaukee Philatelic Society, St. Aloysius- Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S 92nd St, West Allis. ***B***
Contact: Robert Mather, 262-968-2392
E-mail: burrobob@wi.rr.com
Website: www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

Illinois **March 9-11**

ASDA Midwest Postage Stamp Show 2018 American Stamp Dealers Association, Holiday Inn Chicago Oakbrook, 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oakbrook Terrace. ***B***
Contact: Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207
E-mail: dana@americanstampdealer.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Connecticut **March 10**

NORPEX 2018 Norwalk Stamp Club, Norwalk

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Contact: John Leskovsky, 203-846-2490
E-mail: johnleskovsky@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.thenorwalkstampclubinc.org

Ontario, Canada **March 10**

WINPEX 2018 Essex County Stamp Club, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave.(corner of Tecumseh), Windsor. ***B***
Contact: Brian Cutler, 519-976-2276
E-mail: cutler@mnsi.net
Website: www.essexcountystampclub.com

California **March 10-11**

Frespex 2018 Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis. ***B***
Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013
E-mail: starstamps@thegrid.net

Illinois **March 10-11**

Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd., Loves Park.
Contact: Tim Wait, 815-670-5869
E-mail: t.wait@comcast.net
Website: www.rockfordstampclub.org

New Mexico **March 10-11**

Mesilla Valley Stamp Show Mesilla Valley Stamp Club, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 East University Ave., Las Cruces.
Contact: Richard Hiss, 575-202-1937
E-mail: RHhiss@comcast.net
Website: www.meetinlascruses.com

Tennessee **March 10-11**

Nashville Stamp and Postcard Show 2018 Nashville Philatelic Society, Fifty Forward Senior Center, 301 Madison Street, Madison.
Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161
E-mail: show@nashvillephilatelic.org
Website: www.nashvillephilatelic.org

Ohio **March 11**

Spring 'Filatelic' Fair Central Ohio Stamp & Postcard Dealers, Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., Worthington. ***B***
Contact: John Hickel

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Missouri March 16-18

St. Louis Stamp Expo Mound City Stamp Club, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. ***WSP***

Contact: Mike Peter, 314-496-5351

E-mail: info@stlouisstampexpo.org

Website: www.stlstampexpo.org

Michigan March 17

Kent Philatelic Society Stamp Show Kent Philatelic Society, American Legion Post #179, 2327 Wilson Ave., SW, Grand Rapids. ***B***

Contact: Ron Mrozinski, 616-258-8159

E-mail: oldkentstamps@gmail.com

Oregon March 17

STAMPFEST Greater Eugene Stamp Society, Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, a two-day show in cooperation with Salem Stamp Society on March 18, 2018; see website for more information; contact George Struble, 503-364-3929 or gstruble@willamette.edu, St. Jude's Catholic Church, 43rd and Willamette, Eugene.

Contact: Mike Luttio, 541-731-1288

E-mail: luttio@msn.com

Website: www.greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com

Florida March 17-18

Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Tampa Stadium Hotel, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. ***B***

Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897

E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net

Website: www.floridastampdealers.com / www.floridastampdealers.org

Virginia March 17-18

SPRINGPEX 2018 Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd. (VA Rte. 644E), Springfield.

Contact: Gerry Frazier, 703-971-5099

E-mail: frazierg@cox.net

Website: www.springfieldstampclub.org

Massachusetts March 18

SOPEX 2018 (Massachusetts) Samuel Osgood Stamp Club, Elks Lodge, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence. ***B***

Contact: Robert A. Dominique, 978-470-0583

E-mail: radpm67@gmail.com

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Oregon

STAMPEX Salem Stamp Society, Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, a two-day show in cooperation with Greater Eugene Stamp Society on March 17, 2018; see website for more information., Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem.

Contact: George Struble, 503-364-3929

E-mail: gstruble@willamette.edu

Website: www.salemstampsoociety.org

Ohio

March 18

French Definitives: 1849-1900 APS On the Road Course, Memorial Hall- River City Hall Complex, 21016 Hillard Boulevard, Rocky River.

Contact: Janet Houser, 814-933-3803

E-mail: jehouser@stamps.org

Website: stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Ohio

March 21

Garfield-Perry March Party Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 115000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland.

WSP

Contact: Roger Rhoads

E-mail: rrrhoads@aol.com

Website: www.garfieldperry.org

Rhode Island

March 24

RIPEX 2018 Rhode Island Philatelic Society, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1817 Warwick Ave, Warwick. ***B***

Contact: Mike Imbruglia, 401-578-6365

E-mail: msimbruglia@gmail.com

Virginia

March 24

ROAPEX SPRING 2018 Stamp Show Big Lick Stamp Club, Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church, 707 E. Washington Ave, Vinton. ***B***

Contact: Ali Nazemi, 540-815-2980

E-mail: nazemi@roanoke.edu

Website: www.biglickstampclub.org

Wisconsin

March 24

BAYPEX'18 Green Bay Philatelic Society, St. Matthew's Church Multi-Purpose Room, 2575 South Webster Ave., Green Bay. ***B***

Contact: Mark Schroeder, 920-337-9616

E-mail: markthetuba@gmail.com

Alberta, Canada

March 24-25

Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Stamp Show Edmonton Stamp Club, Central Lions Centre, 111 Ave & 113 Street, Edmonton. ***WSP***



Contact: Ed Dykstra, 780-420-7243

E-mail: eddykstra@shaw.ca

Website: www.edmontonstampclub.com

Connecticut

March 25

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***

Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874

E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net

Website: www.nhps1914.org

Illinois

April 6-7

Metro East Postcard Show VFW Hall, 1234 Vandalia Ave (IL Hwy 159), Collinsville. ***B***

Contact: Tom Snyder, 618-531-4189

E-mail: the.snyders@charter.net

Florida

April 7-9

TALPEX 2018 Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee. ***B***

Contact: Gerard York, 850-284-4712

E-mail: gerard_york@msn.com

Website: www.tsandcc.info

Illinois

April 7-8

MSDA Spring Show North Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Ramada Inn- Chicagoland Executive Airport, 1090 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. ***B***

Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676

E-mail: jfb7437@aol.com

Website: www.msdastamp.com

Pennsylvania

April 7

Spring Stamp Expo Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society, Eugene Clarke Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg. ***B***

Contact: Quinn Witherspoon, 717-264-1252

E-mail: rspran32@gmail.com

Wisconsin

April 8

DANEPEX'18 Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison.

Contact: Bob Voss, 608-838-1033

E-mail: lestamps@charter.net

Website: www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger

Ohio

April 14

TUSCOPEX 2018 Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park, 161 Tuscora Avenue, NW, New Philadelphia. ***B***

Contact: Jim Shamel, 740-922-4610

E-mail: jimhelenshamel@hotmail.com

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Oregon April 14-15

SOPEX 2017 (Oregon) Southern Oregon Philatelic Society, Jackson County Expo/ Padgham Pavilion, 1 Peninger Lane, Central Point.
Contact: Gerald Shean, 541-770-5466
E-mail: geraldshean@yahoo.com
Website: www.facebook.com/Southern-Oregon-Philatelic-Society-SOPS-563441663733915/

Pennsylvania April 14-15

WILKPEX 2018 Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville.
Contact: Tom Donohue, 412-373-8697
E-mail: wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com
Website: www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Connecticut April 21

MANPEX 2018 Manchester Philatelic Society, East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester.
Contact: John Bereuter, 860-978-7856
E-mail: jrbereuter@cox.net
Website: http://manchesterphilatelic.webs.com/

Delaware April 21

DELPEX 2018 Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy (US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle.
Contact: Bill Clark, 302-322-2719
E-mail: kmc4076@aol.com
Website: www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com

Michigan April 21-22

Plymouth Show West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. *WSP*
Contact: Tim Strzalkowski, 313-533-7737
E-mail: showchair@plymouthshow.com
Website: www.plymouthshow.com

Mississippi April 21-22

GULFPEX 2018 Gulf Coast Stamp Club, St. Martin Community Center, 15004 LeMoyne Blvd., Biloxi.

Contact: John F. Barrett, Ph.D., 214-240-5256
E-mail: jstrubelboy@aol.com

Website: www.gulfcoaststampclub.org
Washington April 21-22

Evergreen Stamp Club Spring Exhibition Evergreen Stamp Club, Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave., N, Kent.
Contact: William Geijsbeek, 425-883-9390
E-mail: billgphil@gmail.com
Website: www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club

Connecticut April 22

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. *B*
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.nhps1914.org

California April 26

WE Fest VI Women Exhibitors, San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. *B*
Contact: Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643
E-mail: womenexhibitors@gmail.com
Website: www.aape.org/weweb.asp

Pennsylvania April 27-28

Lancopex 2018 Philatelic Society of Lancaster County, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster. *B*
Contact: Lou DiFelice, 717-572-3419
E-mail: loudfelice@gmail.com
Website: www.lcps-stamps.net/

California April 27-29

WESTPEX WESTPEX, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. *WSP*
Contact: Edward Jarvis, 415-387-1016
E-mail: ejarvis@westpex.com
Website: www.westpex.com

Michigan April 28-29

KAZOOPEX 2018 Kalamazoo Stamp Club,

Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo.

Contact: Mike Dennany, 269-623-5836
E-mail: irishdennany@yahoo.com

Ohio April 29

Montrose Stamp Show Lincolnway Stamps, Holiday inn Akron, West 4073 Medina Road, Akron. *B*
Contact: David G. Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssn.net

Massachusetts May 2-3

Postal History of World War II in the Pacific Ocean from the American Perspective APS On the Road Course, Boxboro Regency, 242 Adams Place (Interstate 495, exit 28), Boxborough.

Contact: Janet Houser, 814-933-3803
E-mail: jehouser@stamps.org

Website: stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Indiana May 4-5

CALUPEX 2018 Calumet Stamp Club, Saint James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave., Highland.
Contact: Jerry Emerson, 219-662-1296
Website: http://calumetstampclub.org

Massachusetts May 4-6

Philatelic Show Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs, Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. *WSP*
Contact: Jeff Shapiro, 508-460-0078
E-mail: coverlover@gmail.com
Website: www.nefed.org

Ohio May 5

Warren Stamp Fun at Trumpex The Warren Area Stamp Club, St Demetrios Community Center, 3223 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, Trumbull County. *B*
Contact: Alexander Savakis, 330-282-2860
E-mail: mcsforum@aol.com

Ontario May 5-6

ORAPEX - Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition Ottawa Philatelic Society, RA

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Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. ***WSP***

Contact: Mike Powell

E-mail: info@orapex.ca

Website: www.orapex.ca

Wisconsin

May 5-6

WISCOPEX 2018 Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Voyageur Inn & Convention Center, 200 Viking Dr., Reedsburg.

Contact: Robert Jobe, 608-356-2431

E-mail: rjobe@centurytel.net

Website: www.wfscstamps.org

Pennsylvania

May 11-12

BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Ave., Lyndora.

Contact: Tom Sivak, 724-287-1931

Website: www.butlercountlyphilatelicsociety.com

Oregon

May 11-13

PIPEX Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, Red Lion Hotel on the River - Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland. ***WSP***

Contact: Tony Wawrukiewicz, 503-244-8223

E-mail: tonywawruk@gmail.com

Website: www.pipexstampshow.org

Louisiana

May 12

Baton Rouge Stamp Show Baton Rouge Stamp Club, East Baton Rouge Council on Aging, 5790 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge. ***B***

Contact: B. Cypel, 225-802-7919

E-mail: mrbretired@aol.com

New York

May 18-19

ROPEX Rochester Phil. Assoc., The Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua. ***WSP***

Contact: Tom Fortunato, 585-752-6178

E-mail: stampmf@frontiernet.net

Website: www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html

Utah

May 18-19

Utah Spring Stamp Show Utah Philatelic Society, Sons of Utah Pioneer Bldg., 3301 E. Louise Ave., Salt Lake City. ***B***

Contact: Dave Blackhurst, 801-580-9534

E-mail: dblackhu@gmail.com

Website: www.utahphilatelic.org

Michigan

May 19-20

Dearborn Stamp Show Dearborn Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 West Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. ***B***

Contact: John Gorney, 313-561-7024

E-mail: dgeorney2010@comcast.net

Colorado

May 25-27

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX) Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc., Crown Plaza Denver International Airport Convention Center, John Q. Hammonds Trade Center, Chambers Rd & I-70, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver. ***WSP***

Contact: Bob Miller, 719-964-6375

E-mail: chairman@rockymountainstampshow.com

Website: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

Connecticut

May 27

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***

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E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net

Website: www.nhps1914.org

Jerusalem, Israel

May 27-31

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Contact: Commissioner: Dr. Ross Towle

Contact address: 400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117
E-mail: rosstowle@yahoo.com

Gardarber, Iceland

June 8-10

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Contact: Commissioner: Michael Schumacher

Contact address: 21635 Regency Park Lane, Leesburg, FL 34748

E-mail: Schumacher5154@comcast.net

Virginia

June 8-10

NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones

Branch Dr. McLean. ***WSP***

Contact: William Fort, (281)352-0072

E-mail: wcfortiii@aol.com

Website: www.napex.org

Alabama

June 16-17

HUNTSPEX 2018 Huntsville Philatelic Club, UAH Conference Training Center, UAH Campus, 1410 Ben Graves Drive, Huntsville.

Contact: Michael O'Reilly, 256-527-4601

E-mail: mcoreilly@att.net

Website: www.sefsc.org/huntspx.html

Ontario

June 22-24

Royal 2018 Royale Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Convention Center, 327 Ontario St, St. Catherines. ***WSP***

Contact: Stuart Keeley, 905-227-9251

E-mail: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

Website: www.rpsc.org

Ohio

June 23-24

MSDA Summer Cincinnati Area Stamp Show Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Four Points by Sheraton Cincinnati North, 7500 Tylers Place Boulevard, West Chester. ***B***

Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-922-5574

E-mail: jfb7437@aol.com

Website: www.msdastamp.com

Pennsylvania

June 23-24

SCOPEX 2018 Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.

Contact: Don Heller, 814-861-5720

E-mail: dheller5720@yahoo.com

Connecticut

June 24

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***

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LITERATURE

www.philbansner.com (1432)

FORGERIES OF COMMON STAMPS AFTER WORLD WAR I, Eastern Europe Balkans, Caucasus, e-book, \$8.88 By P. Clark Souers, 78 pages 88 color pictures www.amazon.com (1407)

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628	8000	1540	110
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No. 1, January 31, 2018

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during January 2018. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to March 31, 2018 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the May 30, 2018 issue.

Adragna, Michael (228549)

Buffalo, NY

Amazeen, Stephen J. (228477)
Rockport, MA WORLDWIDE,
USED-AFGHANISTAN-BALTIC
STATES-SAUDI ARABIA-TURKEY
63; IT Manager

Anderson, Roger C.
(228528) **Espanola, NM**
US COMMEMORATIVES,
DEFINITIVES, BOOKLETS/PANES,
COILS; 72 Retired

Arthurs, Jack R. (228474)
Westerville, OH US
TELEGRAPHS, CANCELS, OH
POSTAL HISTORY-VATICAN
CITY-PHILATELIC HISTORY/
MEMORABILIA-AMATEUR/HAM
RADIO; 69

Baca, Jacqueline (S-228501)
Bellefonte, PA TOPICAL-
WORLDWIDE; Administrative
Assistant

Baker, Judith (228543) **Galt, CA**
CANAL ZONE-CANADIAN
PROVINCES-HAWAII-
AUSTRALIAN STATES-US
CLASSICS-USED WORLDWIDE;
75; Retired

Banks, Craig (228496) **Midlothian,**
VA US-CANADA-FRANCE-GREAT
BRITAIN-IRELAND-SOUTH
AMERICA-NORWAY; Computer
Programmer

Barab, Richard Lee (228553)
Durham, NC US, AIR MAIL; 93;
Retired

Baumer, Mary H. (228554)
Scotland, TX; 81; Retired

Baumle, Chris (228457) **Laurel**
Springs, NJ US 19TH CENTURY,
AIRMAILS, FLIGHT COVERS; 61;
Executive Publisher

Blaine, Brad (228486) **Chevy**
Chase, MD US 19TH &
20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS,
COMMEMORATIVES, BOOKLETS/
PANES, CLASSICS; 57

Boerke, Jim (228488) **Hazelhurst,**
WI US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY,
AIRMAILS

Braet, Mike (228485) **Salem, OR** US
COMMEMORATIVES; 71

Bravener, Sean (228560) **Idaho**
Falls, ID TRAINS-Lighthouses-
Fire Service-DISNEY-STAR
WARS-STAR TREK; 46; Engineer

Brown, Stephen L. (228509)
Fountain Valley, CA US,
CLASSICS, DEFINITIVES, PLATE
VARIETIES, USED-CANADIAN
PROVINCES; 69

Buck, David (228449) **Fairfield,**
IL US-AUSTRIA-CANADA-
HUNGARY-GREECE-FRANCE

Buckner, Sean M. (228494) **College**
Station, TX US, 20TH CENTURY,
SHEETS/SMALL PANES,
SOUVENIR SHEETS-CHILE-USED
WORLDWIDE; Librarian

Burns, Robert (228464) **Parsons,**
WV US; 45; Non-profit
Administration

Cady, Ray (228546) **Charlotte,**
NC US CIVIL WAR COVERS,
CLASSICS, NAVAL COVERS; 70

Campbell, Joseph (228558)
Darien, CT CHINA-RUSSIA/
USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS

Caro, Jose F. (228492) **Carmel, IN**

Cartwright, David (228451)
Lake Zurich, IL US CLASSICS,
AIRMAILS, CUT SQUARES, HIGH
QUALITY MODERN; 55

Castle, Heather M. (228555)
Longmont, CO; 27

Ciceu, Augustin (228471)
Newcastle Upon Tyne, Great
Britain 19TH CENTURY-USED
WORLDWIDE; 46

Deal, Kenneth L. (228513) **Rock**
Hill, SC US 19TH CENTURY-
PRE-1952 HONG KONG-
FALKLAND ISLANDS; 58;
Technician

Diederichs, Keith (228455)
Littleton, CO US 19TH
CENTURY, CONFEDERATE
STATES; 48

Dunning, Jim (228529) **Gonzales,**
LA US-UN; 74; Retired

Effron, Joel (228548) **Palm Desert,**
CA US-ISRAEL, TABS; 74; Retired

Erlikhman, Iossif (228463)
East Brunswick, NJ US FD
PROGRAMS-ICELAND-FLOWERS/
PLANTS

Fedt, Steven N. (228483) **Naples,**
FL US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY;
68; Dentist

Fischer, Arthur T. (228551)
Lawrenceville, CA US-
NEWFOUNDLAND-WORLDWIDE;
55; Retired

Godwin, Frances (228497)
Colorado City, TX US; 97;
Retired

Goldsworth, Rich (228473) **Elyria,**
OH US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY,
BUREAU ISSUES-CANADA-
HAWAII-USED WORLDWIDE; 56

Green, Justin L. (228480)
Shreveport, LA WORLD WAR
II-ASTRONOMY-US LA POSTAL
HISTORY, CIVIL WAR COVERS,
CLASSICS-AVIATION; 43;
Software Development

Greist, Trystan (228542)
Greenfield, MA US
COMMEMORATIVES, 20TH
CENTURY, FANCY CANCELS,
FFDC; 53

Griess, Glenn W. (228487)
Windsor, CA HUNGARY-VIET
NAM-REVENUES (FOREIGN)-US
REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL)

Guette, Naethan (228479)
Marietta, GA; 44

Guldner, Jeff (228489) **Chandler,**
AZ WORLDWIDE 19TH
CENTURY; 52

Harrill, Bob (228481) **Monroeville,**
PA MINT US; 58

Hauck, Frank W. (228465) **Napa,**
CA US 19TH CENTURY; Retired

Hebert, Irene B. (228466)
Asheville, NC US-WORLDWIDE-
UN-VATICAN; 72; Retired

Hemphill, David B. (228504)
Muskegon, MI US USED,
AIRMAILS; 74

Herrera, Julio (228450) **Evanston,**
IL MEXICO-19TH CENTURY-
EUROPE; 37

Hesselberth, John (228532) **West**
Grove, PA US; Retired

Hogan, Jeanne C. (228500)
Glastonbury, CT US, AIRMAILS,
DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING,
POSTAGE DUES, REVENUES/TAX
PAIDS (FEDERAL), NEWSPAPERS
& PERIODICALS; 56; Special
Education Paraprofessional

Huggins, Don (228476) **Dillon,**
SC BRITISH, FRENCH,
SPANISH COLONIES-PRE-1950
WORLDWIDE-PRE-1960 RUSSIA-
US USED, BACK OF BOOK;
Retired

Humfrey, Thomas (228460)
Usson du Poitou, France
19TH CENTURY-FOREIGN
BOOKLETS, CLASSICS, COVERS,
LOTS & COLLECTIONS, POSTAL
MARKINGS; 55

Humphries, Robert (228545)
Rockville, VA US, VA POSTAL
HISTORY-GREAT BRITAIN; 57;
Financial Services

Irwin, Wylie E. (228514) **Irwin,**
PA US, PLATE BLOCKS, SHEETS,
POSTCARDS-CANADA; 77;
Retired

Kagin, Don (228525) **Belvedere**
Tiburon, CA; 67

Kero, Ron (228458) **Bothell, WA**
SOCCER-CLASSICS (FOREIGN);
57

Kleifgen, Lizzanne (228502)
Benson, AZ US, BUREAU ISSUES,
CANCELS, CLASSICS, ENCASED
POSTAGE/POSTAGE CURRENCY-
USED WORLDWIDE; 49

Krummenacker, Cynthia Y.
(228533) **Lake Mary, FL**
GERMANY-IRELAND-RUSSIA; 56

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 228194 and 228266
through 228355 as previously
published have been accepted
for membership by the Board
of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, December 31, 2017.....	29,706
New Members	91
Reinstated	63 154
Deceased	46
Resignations	15 61
Total Membership, January 31, 2018.....	29,799
(Total Membership, January 31, 2017 was 30,741 a difference of -942)	

Lamberti, James (228493) **Fort**
Worth, TX US 19TH CENTURY-
VATICAN CITY; 67

Lazar Halitchi, Gabriel (228506)
Chicago, IL ROMANIA; 30; Driver

Leeba, Joseph M. (228519) **San**
Diego, CA US 20TH CENTURY;
Retired

Lestandie, Susan (228456)
Atlanta, GA ZEPPELIN
COVERS/STAMPS-US AIRMAILS,
BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS,
COMMEMORATIVE PANELS, FDC-
STAMP DESIGN ERRORS; Retired

Lippincott, Ryan (228537)
Minerva, OH; 36

Liu, Shuang (228510) **Hildesheim,**
Germany; 29

Lodge, David (228544) **Sidney,**
OH US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY,
BLOCKS/GUIDELINES BLOCKS-
GREAT BRITAIN

Malaszczyk, Mark S. (228547)
Garden City, NY US 19TH
CENTURY, CIVIL WAR COVERS,
CLASSICS-UKRAINE-EASTERN
EUROPE-WAR COVERS/STAMPS-
WWI; 50; Education

Malkin, Stuart (228521) **Desert**
Hot Springs, CA US, BOOKLETS/
PANES, PATRIOTIC THEMES; 86;
Retired

Mancabelli, Rob (228530) **San**
Francisco, CA US ERRORS/
FREAKS/ODDITIES, PA POSTAL
HISTORY

McCue, Kent F. (228527) **El Cerrito,**
CA US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY,
AIRMAILS, COMMEMORATIVE
PANELS, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS
(FEDERAL)-CANADA; 58

McGarey, Doc (228520)
Bradenton, FL JAPAN-TURKEY-
BRITISH EUROPE-US CLASSICS,
FL & OH POSTAL HISTORY; 56

Mikalson, Jon D. (228452) **Crozet,**
VA GREECE

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- Miller, Richard J. (228507) **Harker Heights, TX** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, COMMEMORATIVES, AIRMAILS, CONFEDERATE STATES; 77; Retired
- Miller, William (228505) **Del Mar, CA** WORLDWIDE AIRMAILS-US 20TH CENTURY; 48
- Mitchell, Sean (228531) **Spokane, WA** US, SPACE COVERS-CHESS-SPACE-ZEPPELIN COVERS/STAMPS-WORLDWIDE USED, CLASSICS; Retired
- Monsell, William D. (228512) **Bellefonte, PA**; Retired
- Moore, William L. (228448) **Seneca Falls, NY**
- Morgan, Patrick J. (228536) **Saint Charles, MO** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES-OLYMPICS-LINDBERGH; 55; Sr. IT Manager
- Mouat, Bonnie N. (228467) **San Angelo, TX** MINT US-FDC; 73; Retired
- Muliawan, Grace (228490) **Silver Spring, MD**; 52
- Murphy, Tim (228550) **Kennesaw, GA**; 69; Self Employed
- Nalluru, Subhakar (228454) **Lewisville, TX** US SOUVENIR SHEETS, COMMEMORATIVES; 32
- Nuckles, Arnold H. (228498) **Greensboro, NC** US; 71; Retired
- Nunez, Heather L. (228468) **Mckinleyville, CA**; 57
- Offutt, James (228482) **Miami, FL** US; 56; Retired
- Pinsley-Rogers, Alice A. (228508) **Stamford, CT**; 70; Planned Giving Consultant
- Plugari, Gheorghii (228461) **Elmwood Park, IL** MAXIMUM CARDS-US POSTAL CARDS-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-SCIENCE/SCIENTISTS-UN-PICTURE POSTCARDS; 52
- Pollak, Henry (228495) **Summit, NJ**
- Radomski, John (228453) **Forest Hills, NY** US COILS, COIL LINE PAIRS, AIRMAILS, BUREAU ISSUES, FLAG CANCELS, BOOKLETS/PANES; 61
- Reinert, Robert A. (228515) **San Antonio, TX** WORLDWIDE-GERMANY-PRE-1950 CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE-SIERRA LEONE; 72; Retired
- Reinhardt, Edward (228526) **Saint Louis, MO**
- Rightmire, Claude M. (228523) **Plano, TX** US, 20TH CENTURY, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS; 66; Petroleum Engineer
- Rust, Heidi (228491) **Lancaster, NY** US SHEETS/SMALL PANES, BOOKLETS/PANES, PLATE BLOCKS, SOUVENIR SHEETS-GERMANY, STATES; Technician
- Salavarrieta, Ivan J. (228511) **South Plainfield, NJ** US COMMEMORATIVES-COLOMBIA-AVIATION-COINS; 55
- Schoch, Nathan F. (228517) **Columbia, SC**
- Scholz, Jim (228534) **Clearlake, CA** PRE-1955 WORLDWIDE-CANADA; 72; Retired
- Seligman, David (228503) **Carmel, IN** US 19TH CENTURY, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS-VATICAN CITY-UN COVERS; 62
- Skinner, Anna M. (228516) **Austin, TX**; 70; Retired
- Solomon, Jerry (228475) **Slidell, LA**; 71
- Spanyer, John (228538) **Louisville, KY** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, COMMEMORATIVES-GREAT BRITAIN
- Stathakos, Jimmie (228522) **Galveston, TX** GREECE; 87; Retired
- Steinberg, Howard (228478) **Madison, WI** RAILROADS-ASTRONOMY-ANIMALS-TRAINS-SPACE-METEOROLOGY; 63
- Stuckelman, Mark (228557) **Del Mar, CA**; 53
- Tamalet, Bertrand (228499) **Richmond, VA**
- Tamo, Doug (228559) **Walnut Creek, CA** US 20TH CENTURY
- Tanis, David R. (228540) **Duck, NC** USED WORLDWIDE-US 19TH CENTURY-AUSTRIA-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH-WESTERN EUROPE-FRENCH AFRICA; 76; Retired
- Taylor, James (228462) **Sneads Ferry, NC** US, CHRISTMAS SEALS-AFRICA-BRITISH EMPIRE-EASTERN EUROPE-SOUTH AMERICA; Retired
- Thompson, Don A. (228552) **Simpsonville, SC** CHANNEL ISLANDS-FORMER SOVIET STATES-CHRISTMAS; 62; Attorney
- Unruh, Donald R. (228459) **Halstead, KS** US CLASSICS, 20TH CENTURY, SOUVENIR SHEETS, AIRMAILS-PHILIPPINES-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMANY; 66; Retired
- Vizer, Jon K. (228556) **Newtown, Sydney, Australia** US, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, CANCELS, COVERS, JOINT ISSUES; 47; Carpenter
- Wachtel, Arthur K. (228535) **Mill Valley, CA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 65; Attorney
- Weber, Raymond (228469) **Little Rock, AR** US, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS; 69; Retired
- Williamson, Keith (228470) **East Seabago, ME** US; 56
- Wisneiwski, Scott (228541) **Holland, MI** US CLASSICS; 62
- Woelbing, Michael E. (228472) **Santa Rosa, CA** US PLATE BLOCKS, USED, BACK OF THE BOOK; 72; Retired
- Zandstra, Darryl (228524) **San Diego, CA** BRITISH COLONIES, COMMONWEALTH, ASIA, WEST INDIES, AFRICA, EMPIRE; 50
- Zejanti, Elmaz (228539) **Dayton, NJ**; 71

- Ziadeh, Radwan (228484) **Springfield, VA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-SYRIA-STATUE OF LIBERTY-NO. 1S OF THE WORLD-USED WORLDWIDE; 41
- Zook, George H. (228518) **Lancaster, PA** RESIGNED CHAPTER
- North Shore Philatelic Society (049113), Milwaukee, WI

DECEASED

- Anthony, V. O. (4901-042241), Kerala, India
- Barone, Henry J. (9141-062361), Hingham, MA
- Beckett, Alvin C. (9928-068814), Davis, CA
- Camin, Edwin A. (173888), Mount Airy, NC
- Cook, Thomas S. (177727), Henderson, NV
- Copple, John (223894), Erie, PA
- Daniel, Betty A. (158924), Austin, TX
- Davis, Thomas C. Jr. (190287), Clemson, NC
- Ethridge, Leonard C. (057005) Chattanooga, TN
- Evans, William L. (106392), Silver Spring, MD
- Foster, John E. (120455) Jamaica, NY
- Gillespie, Anthony J. (206449), Wadsworth, OH
- Gridley, Dean K. (195061), Huntington Beach, CA
- Herman, Herbert S. (5466-033998), Sunrise, FL
- Herr, Edwin L (9400-065876), State College, PA
- Hinshaw, Horton C. (9936-069158), Carlsbad, CA
- Hirschhorn, Stuart B. (131833), Willingboro, NJ
- Hunt, Donald F. (7463-053113) Owls Head, ME
- Jenkins, Charles M. (9982-069529), Fort Walton Beach, FL
- Joyce, Robert J. (11233-108929), San Antonio, TX

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CORRECTION

Our apologies to John M. Young,
Decatur, Alabama, who was
incorrectly listed as deceased in
the February magazine.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Anyone having any information
on the status or mailing address
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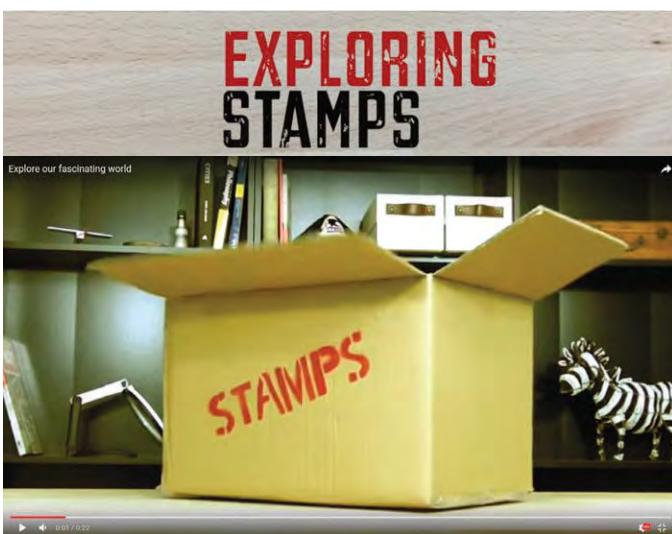
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The Power of Video

Growing Philately Through Moving Pictures





Every generation has their defining mode of communications. My children cannot imagine a time without cell phones, my generation has always had television and my parent's generation rely on photography to share and preserve memories. These paradigms define more than how we receive information, they actually shape our expectations. Furthermore, these expectations create standards against which a generation determines what is acceptable and what it will ignore. Video has enjoyed tremendous influence for several generations, but it has reached a zenith with the ability to create, edit and share video directly from the mobile devices that so many of us carry daily.

Collectively, we are the stewards of vast volumes of information both historical, technical and cultural. A quick walk through the American Philatelic Research Library will help quantify this claim. We are also some of the most energetic consumers of knowledge in modern times. It then stands to reason that with a generation expecting to learn through video, that medium offers philatelists a powerful opportunity for both learning **and** teaching.

Video is a broad term encompassing all aspects of producing and consuming what was long ago termed "moving pictures." Today's iPhone can produce video quality that in the 80's would have been considered the stuff of science fiction. The ubiquity of video-producing devices gave rise to outlets for sharing our footage. Arguably the most popular website for video is YouTube, the video component of the internet giant, Google.

A casual browse through YouTube will reveal content that is informative, insulting, politically-charged and seemingly nonsensical. For the purposes of philatelic discovery, the importance of the search bar cannot be overstated. With a logical selection of philatelic keywords, we can quickly queue up a number of video that educate, entertain and engage. One of the impor-

tant aspects of these productions is the ability to share that information with virtually anyone in world. In fact, one YouTube movie-maker travels the world in pursuit of the spirit of philately.

Exploring Stamps

Graham Beck has created one of the most consistently viewed (and professionally produced) YouTube channels for stamp collecting. A YouTube channel is basically the home page Google assigns when you create an account with YouTube. It can be used to display a short biography, videos you have uploaded, other members to whom you have subscribed and more.

Graham's channel, titled *Exploring Stamps* (www.aps.buzz/StampVideos), features a seasonal series of videos



The YouTube Channel, *Exploring Stamps*, is more than a pop culture video feature, it includes well-presented philatelic topics through a modern medium.

that explore topics and places through his "random box" of stamps. His introductory video offers a summary of the hobby that resonates with both a modern audience experienced philatelists: "Stamp collecting is learning about the world through collecting postage stamps. The long-time hobby of stamp collecting has captured the incredibly fascinating history and culture of the world." His series seeks to draw atten-



Exploring Stamps producer Graham Beck has established a near-trademark style recognizable across multiple social media sites.

tion to both the hobby and the world reflected in stamps.

Before you assume that Beck's work is entirely pop-culture pieces, it should be noted that he also produces videos for a segment entitled, *Philately 101*. With titles including *What are Cinderella Labels and First Postage Stamp — The Penny Black*, he clearly does his homework and presents collecting in a positive and easy-to-digest format. In fact, based on an interview conducted by *Blog de timbrofil* (www.aps.buzz/Beck), Beck spends an average of 40 hours preparing each video segment.



Exploring Stamps produces content for numerous social media sites including Instagram, a popular platform for sharing photos and videos.

Some may argue that this column lacks philatelic significance; however, if we ignore the trends and tools that are evolving around us, then we risk relegating philately to insignificance. Graham Beck, through the power of video, is working to share a love of the hobby in a form that modern generations can embrace and share. Take a minute (or two) to see what he's doing and then share it with someone you think should be collecting. You can find his work on YouTube by searching "exploring stamps" or by visiting www.aps.buzz/StampVideos. Graham is also very active on Instagram (www.instagram.com/exploringstamps) and Twitter (@ExploringStamps).

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Reference Collection

The American Philatelic Society maintains two reference collections of philatelic material. One of these collections is dedicated to fakes and forgeries while the other is reserved for genuine stamps and postal history.

Through the process of expertizing, stamps, covers and other philatelic materials

are occasionally deemed to be fakes or forgeries. Often the specimens judged "not genuine" are subsequently donated to the APS Reference Collection of Fakes and Forgeries. The collection is an excellent reference tool for expertizing and it serves an important role in philatelic research.

The collection, established and managed by the late James Beal in the 1970s, continues to grow and today spans 38 volumes of spurious stamps and covers.

The second component of the APS Reference Collection is the Collection of Genuine Stamps and Postal History. This compilation was created in the early 1990s and separated into two groups. The United States collection is housed in 42 albums while all other countries are arranged in

alphabetical order requiring more than 400 binders. All the specimens in the Reference Collection come from the generous contributions of thoughtful APS members.

One of the challenges with any collection is how to share the experience with other collectors. While the APS Reference Collection has a unique role in the work of the society, it still represents a philatelic resource deserving of attention. The value of the collection also makes it difficult to share broadly outside the confines of the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The Reference Collection serves another vital need in the form of images for use in *The American Philatelist*. Frequently, authors need to depict materials that are either too important to ship or not in their personal collections. The AP staff can pull specimens from the Reference Collection, scan the materials and include them in the articles that we produce each month. In fact, this month's *Visiting the British Empire* column by Noel Davenhill, features several images of Dominica stamps from the Reference Collection.

As we considered the role of online tools, the effort expended to produce



Example of a fake "Berlin" overprint from the APS Reference Collection.

the journal and the importance of the materials in the Reference Collection, an idea formed. In a culture inundated with recycle-reuse messages, a common business carryover is the idea of repurposing information. So we decided to apply that premise to the Reference Collection and repurpose the work we are already doing for *The AP*.

In the inaugural edition of *Digital Discoveries* (January 2018, page 90), I introduced a mobile app and website called Snupps (www.snupps.com). This online platform is part social media, part online collection inventory and it enables users to share images and vital data about items in their collection. The idea mentioned above is to repurpose our Reference Collection scans and text into the Snupps platform. The system would be a low cost way to draw atten-



Portions of the APS Reference Collection are viewable as Sneak Peek PDF files at www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour.

Unfortunately, the process will take time. With nearly 500 volumes in the Reference Collection, we simply don't have resources to dedicate to getting images prepared for the site. However, as we prepare images for *The AP*, it will become part of our normal process to repurpose the images for Snupps. By the time you read this, the Dominica images from this issue will be viewable online at www.aps.buzz/rcDominica.

This platform is free to use and is growing in numbers and maturing in technology. Take time to explore the specimens we upload from the APS Reference Collection. You might find this to be a useful tool with your own collection. ☺

Scans from the APS Reference Collection will gradually be added to Snupps.com as the images are needed for articles in *The American Philatelist*.

tion to the Reference Collection, make basic images from it available and generally share a broad accumulation of philatelic information. The current APS website (www.Stamps.org) includes a Sneak Peeks tour of the collection (www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour), but these PDF files come with limitations to sharing and interaction. Use of the Snupps platform enables viewers to like (called a "wow" on Snupps), share and comment much like Facebook, but in a forum focused on collections.



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2018 NEW STAMPS

BY JEFF STAGE

New High-Value Stamps

Plus Annual Favorites Continue with January Releases



CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR – YEAR OF THE DOG FOREVER STAMP

USPS Item Number: 564800

Format: Pane of 12, 144 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: January 11, 2018, Honolulu, Hawaii

Designer, Art Director,

Typographer: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, Maryland

Artist: Kam Mak, Brooklyn, New York

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print Quantity: 15 million stamps

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged Paper, Block

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black, Pantone 872, Pantone 342

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Stamp Sizes: 1.42 inches by 0.84 inch, 36.07 millimeters by 21.34mm (image area); 1.56 inches by 0.98 inch, 39.62mm by 24.89mm (overall size); 7.24 inches by 5.92 inches, 183.90mm by 150.37mm (full pane)

Marginal Markings: Back: © 2017 USPS, USPS logo, Barcode (564800), Promotional text, Verso: Celebrating Lunar New Year text

Several regular series that modern collectors are familiar with and two high values – including a stamp with the highest-value ever – were issued in January by the U.S. Postal Service. Six different face stamps were issued along with a Priority Mail stamped envelope that duplicates one of the new stamp designs.

The 2018 U.S. stamp program began, as it often has in recent years, with a new stamp in the Celebrating New Year series. This one, a first-class forever Year of the Dog stamp marking the Lunar New Year that began in February.

Another forever stamp – Love Flourishes – part of the Love series, followed by a fourth entry in the small-value Fruits definitive series, this one showing Meyer Lemons. All the artwork in the series is from the same artist.

The Year of the Dog and Love Flourishes stamps had very fast price changes. Both sold for 49 cents upon their release, but on January 21 changed to 50 cents to accommodate the new first-class domestic rate.

Those rate changes created the need for new high-value stamps for the second straight year, so on January 21 three such items were issued: a \$6.70 Byodo-In Temple Priority Mail stamp and accompanying Priority Mail stamp and a Sleeping Bears Dunes \$24.70 Priority Mail Express flat rate stamp, the highest value ever found on a U.S. stamp. Both are part of a series that began in 2008, American Landmarks, and were created by the same artist.

The month ended with another regular issue, a new Black Heritage stamp, this one featuring entertainer and civil rights activist Lena Horne.

Year of the Dog

The U.S. Postal Service kicked off its 2018 stamp program in January with a Lunar New Year forever stamp celebrating the Year of the Dog.

The stamp was formally issued January 11 at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Year of the Dog began February 16 and ends February 4, 2019.

This is the 11th of 12 stamps in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series, which features primary art from illustrator Kam Mak, a Hong Kong-born artist who grew up in New York City's Chinatown and now lives in Brooklyn.

The stamps, designed by Ethel Kessler, also incorporate elements from a previous Lunar New Year series: Clarence Lee's intricate cut-paper design of a dog, and the Chinese character for "dog," drawn in grass-style calligraphy by Lau Bun. Those elements graced U.S. Lunar New Year stamps issued from 1992 through 2004.

The Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year for many Asian communities around the world and is celebrated primarily by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan and Mongolian heritage.

The U.S. Postal Service introduced its Celebrating Lunar New Year series, with stamps featuring artwork from Mak, in 2008. The series will continue through 2019 with a stamp for the Year of the Boar. Year of the Dog is being issued as a souvenir sheet of 12 self-adhesive forever stamps.

The Year of the Dog illustration, originally created using oil paints on panel, depicts an arrangement of lucky bamboo (*Dracena sanderiana*). To the right is a lozenge-shaped piece of red paper with the Chinese character "fu," meaning good fortune, rendered in calligraphy — a common decoration on doors and entryways during Lunar New Year festivities. Like all of the other previous stamps in the series, the Year of the Dog is a horizontal stamp.

"Lucky Bamboo is a plant that is well-known for bringing good luck and is one of the essential elements of Feng Shui," writes Nithya Venkat on the Dengarden website (www.apbs.buzz/bamboo). "Lucky Bamboo is very easy to grow and adds to enhance the decor of your home."

Venkat notes that lucky bamboo is technically not a bamboo plant, but part of the lily family and native to tropical rain forests in Africa and Southeast Asia. It also is known as curly bamboo, Chinese water bamboo, and friendship bamboo, and is named after a renowned German-English gardener, Henry Frederick Conrad Sander (1847-1920).

The most recent Years of the Dog started in January or February of 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994 and 2006.

Most of the stamps in Mak's Celebrating Lunar New Year series have presented important aspects of Chinese culture rather than the specific animal linked to the year as the centerpiece of the stamp. For example, in 2008 (the Year of the Rat), lanterns served as the centerpiece; in 2015 (the Year of the Ram), traditional food was the primary image. The exceptions have been the Years of the Dragon (2012) and Rooster (2017), when the creatures were the dominant artwork.

In the Lunar New Year cycle, the Dog symbolizes caring, loyalty and honesty.

Kam Mak, stamp artist

When did you start working on this stamp?



I started the painting for the year of the dog stamp two years ago. The Year of the Dog stamp continues the concept of using the Lunar New Year elements to highlight the rich and beautiful customs and traditions of celebrating this festive holiday.

Please tell us about the basic process to create this stamp.

The painting was based on drawings I made from a setup of lucky bamboo I bought in Chinatown. Once the art director and I came to an agreement on the best layout for the stamp. I then photographed the lucky bamboo to be used to support my painting. The final painting was executed in oil on panel.

Is there any significance to there being three stalks of lucky bamboo? Is there any significance to using lucky bamboo in connection with the Year of the Dog?

I painted three lucky bamboo accompanied by the character Fu. Having lucky bamboo during the lunar New Year is a more modern tradition, and following this trend my mother has them around her home during Lunar New Year. I specifically chose three stalks of lucky bamboo for the stamp because it is one of the most favorite number combinations to have in your home as it brings three kinds of luck: Fu (good fortune or happiness), Lu (wealth) and Soh (long life).

Tell us about the word "Fu."

Just behind the lucky bamboo, the word Fu is written on red paper. It means fortune, luck, blessings and happiness. The tradition of pasting the character "Fu" on walls, doors and doorposts, especially during Lunar New Year, has existed among the Chinese for such a long time. Going back to my childhood in Hong Kong, my grandma would pay someone to write Fu and other couplets on red paper by hand and she would paste them around the house just before the New Year. Now my mother just buys them already printed from a stationery store in Chinatown.

How was Fu created for the stamp?

I actually wrote the Chinese character Fu myself with a Chinese brush and black ink. I practiced a lot and wrote many versions of it until I was happy with one. The combination of the three green lucky bamboo interlaced with a flowing red ribbon and with the character Fu written on red paper made the year of the dog stamp very auspicious. I hope it will bring double fortunes, double blessings and double happiness to everyone.

Where did the suggestion of the specific images shown originate for the series? (This answer was originally given in 2017)

The suggestion of the Lunar New Year elements, such as the Chinese drums, the kumquats, red envelope, etc. was a collaboration between Ethel Kessler and myself. We wanted to tell a much more enriching story about the Lunar New Year holiday beyond the zodiac animals. The zodiac animal and the calligraphy of the animal still play an integral part in the design. All of the Lunar New Year elements come from personal experiences growing up around the most festive celebration of the year.



Love Flourishes

A floral design and cursive lettering make up the 2018 Love stamp, called Love Flourishes by the U.S. Postal Service.

Painted buds and blooms with leaves and stems surround the word "Love" that extends across the center of the stamp design.

The forever stamp was issued January 18 at the in Phoenix, Arizona at Creativation, an annual Craft and Hobby Association convention that brings together the creative product's community, from designers to manufacturers, some of whom might incorporate postage stamps in their designs.

The 2018 Love stamp features a fanciful garden of colorful flowers surrounding the word "Love" in cursive script. The flowers on the stamp include stylized roses, peonies, and dahlias in pink, coral, and yellow, with pale blue-green berries and gold fronds. Hand-painted with opaque watercolors on paper by artist Anna Bond, the original art is whimsical and vibrant, at once



USPS Item Number: 564700

Type of Issue: First-Class Mail Forever

Format: Pane of 20, 320 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: January 18, 2018, Phoenix, Arizona

Designer and Art Director: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, Virginia

Artist and Typographer: Anna Bond, Winter Park, Florida

Artist: Anna Bond, Winter Park, FL

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print Quantity: 250 million stamps

retro and timeless. The word "Forever" appears in the lower right-hand corner of the stamp, and "USA" is on the lower left. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

The stamp was priced at 49 cents – the first-class domestic letter rate – when it went on sale, but very quickly rose to 50 cents, the new letter rate as of January 21.

The Creativation show presented by the Association for Creative Industries is a five-day trade show for businesses and individuals in the creation, business and supply of arts and crafts of all types, including paint, paper, jewelry, framing, home décor, woodworking, hobbies, holiday and seasonal furniture and décor.

The Love series dates back to 1973 with a stamp based on artist Robert Indiana's sculpture of "love" in capital block letters. It was nine years before the next Love stamp was issued, but it's been a regular on the U.S. program ever since, with the 2018 Love stamp being the 37th year of issuance.

Counting years with multiple issues (from two several times to three, four and 10), there have been at least 64 U.S. Love stamps. The last year a Love stamp was not released was 2010. Often, though not always, the stamps are issued just in advance of St. Valentine's Day. Love stamps in 2009 and 2011 were issued in May of those years.

Meyer Lemons

The 2-cent Meyer Lemons stamp – the fourth stamp in a set of Fruits definitives that started in 2016 – was issued January 19, just before many postal rates rose on January 21.



A formal first-day ceremony was held January 19 in Kenner, Louisiana at the New Orleans Winter Stampfest 2018, sponsored by the Crescent City Stamp Club. Kenner is an adjacent suburb of New Orleans. The pressure-sensitive stamps are being sold in coils of 10,000, the Postal Service said. At press time, there was no indication if the Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Services would make the stamps available in smaller quantities for collectors.

LOVE FLOURISHES FOREVER STAMP

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged Paper, Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Pantone 4505, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Stamp Sizes: 1.05 inches by 0.77 inch, 26.67 millimeters by 19.56mm (image); 1.19 inches by 0.91 inch; 30.23mm by 23.11mm (overall); 5.635 inches by 5.425 inches; 143.13mm by 137.80mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: B followed by five single digits

Marginal Markings: Front – Plate numbers in four corners of pane
Back – © 2017 USPS, USPS logo, Barcode (564700) in upper right and lower left corners of pane, promotional text, plate position diagram

The Meyer Lemons stamp shows a whole Meyer lemon next to two wedges of the cut fruit. The illustrations were created with pen and ink and watercolor by artist John Burgoynes, whose artwork of fruits has appeared on seven previous stamps.

Since 2016, four other Fruit stamps with Burgoynes artwork have been released: 1-cent Albemarle Pippin Apples, 5-cent Pinot Noir Grapes, 10-cent Red Pears and 3-cent Strawberries. Burgoynes also illustrated a set of four 33-cent Apples stamps issued January 17, 2013. Those stamps were sold in coils and panes of 20.

Art director Derry Noyes designed all of the Burgoynes stamps.

Burgoynes, of West Barnstable, Massachusetts, is an award-winning artist and illustrator, who specializes in food/beverage, animals, realistic, landscapes/nature, maps using watercolor/gouache and pen-and-ink and has work has appeared regularly in *Cooks Illustrated*. He is a member of the New York Society of Illustrators and an alumni of Massachusetts College of Art. His impressive list of clients also includes Apple, American Express, Anheuser-Busch, Nike, Delta, IBM, Chrysler, Publix, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and the Florida and Bermuda aquariums.

So, did anyone beside the cooks among us know anything about Meyer lemons? We squeezed the internet for good sources and drew the following from a 2009 National Public Radio report and the kitchn.com website (www.thekitchn.com/whats-the-difference-between-meyer-lemons-and-regular-lemons-word-of-mouth-216551). Here are the basics:

The lemons most of us are used to are likely Eureka or Lisbon lemons and are larger with a thicker skin than Meyers.

Meyer lemons, smaller, rounder and juicier, than regular lemons, were first introduced to the United States from China in the early 20th century by their namesake, Frank Meyer (1875-1918), a Dutch-born “agricultural explorer” for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The lemon is thought to be a cross between a regular lemon and a mandarin orange. The Meyer lemons, with smoother, thin, deep yellow to orange skin, have dark yellow pulp. While they’re moderately acidic, Meyer lemons don’t have the same

tang as regular lemons. Instead, they’re much sweeter. Meyer lemons are most available from December through May.

When first introduced into the U.S., the Meyer lemons were grown in natural citrus areas, California, Florida and Texas, but were enjoyed mostly regionally for many years. But when Martha Stewart began featuring the lemons in her recipes, the fruit’s popularity quickly grew. Their fragility, though, makes them difficult to ship long distances, so availability country-wide at a reasonable price may still keep them from some markets. But we can at least all enjoy them thanks to the new stamps.



Byodo-In Temple

For the second time in two years, a special landmark in Hawaii is depicted on a new Priority Mail stamp.

In 2017, the Lili'oukalani Gardens were featured. This year's new stamp, dominated at \$6.70 to accommodate the 5-cent increase in the postal rate, depicts the Byodo-In Temple. In 2014, another Hawaiian landmark – the USS Arizona Memorial – appeared on a \$19.99 stamp in this series. Artwork for all three, along with all of the artwork in the American Landmarks series, was created by Dan Cosgrove, who also is credited with the new Sleeping Bear Dunes Priority Mail Express stamp. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

Both the Byodo-In Temple and Sleeping Bear Dunes stamps were formally issued January 21, the day the new postal rates went into effect. The first-day city for both is Kansas City, Missouri, home to the Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Center.



MEYER LEMONS 2-CENT DENOMINATED DEFINITIVE

USPS Item Number: 760400

Format: Coil of 10,000, 560 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: January 19, 2018, Kenner, Louisiana

Art Director, Designer and Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, D.C.

Existing Artwork: John Burgoynes, West Barnstable, Massachusetts

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print Quantity: 100 million stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Pantone 7413, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Stamp Sizes: Image Area (w x h): 0.73 inch by 0.84 inch, 18.54 millimeters by 21.34mm (image area); 0.87 inch by 0.98 inch, 22.10mm by 24.89mm (stamp size)

Plate Numbers: “B” followed by five single digits

Coil Number Frequency: Plate numbers every 28th stamp below stamp image

Although there was no formal first-day ceremony, a special dedication with Hawaii postal officials was held January 23 at the temple. The ceremony featured remarks by Valley of the Temples Area General Manager Dennis Boser Jr. and Kaneohe Postmaster Kanani Alos.



The Byodo-in Temple located in the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park on Oahu, Hawaii

The pressure-sensitive stamps are being produced in panes of four.

The Byodo-In Temple, a non-practicing Buddhist temple on the island of Oahu, has been designated a Hawaii state landmark and is a popular tourist attraction.

A smaller-scale concrete replica of a wooden Buddhist temple in Japan, the Byodo-In Temple is located in a private cemetery – the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park – in Kahuau on the island of Oahu. Built in 1968 to commemorate the centennial of the first Japanese immigration to Hawaii,

the temple is used for ceremonies, services and events such as classes and concerts.



BYODO-IN TEMPLE \$6.70 PRIORITY MAIL STAMP

USPS Item Number: 114100

Format: Pane of 4, 96 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: January 21, 2018, Kansas City, Missouri

Art Director and Designer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, Virginia

Artist and Typographer: Dan Cosgrove, Chicago, Illinois

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU), Williamsburg, New York

Press Type: Muller A76

Print Quantity: 7 million stamps

"It is also a symbol of friendship between Japan and Hawaii," Carole Hayashino, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii president said on a Hawaii News Now website. "It's a tribute to King Kalakaua and the Kingdom of Hawaii for welcoming the Japanese immigrants on the go."

The formal website for the temple (www.byodo-in.com) offered the following information:

The Byodo-In Temple is located at the foot of the Ko'olau Mountains in Valley of the Temples Memorial Park. The Byodo-In Temple is a smaller-scale replica of the Byodo-in Temple, a United Nations World Heritage Site in Uji, Japan. The original temple is more than 950 years old.

Inside the Byodo-In Temple is an 18-foot statue of the Lotus Buddha, a wooden image depicting Amitabha. It is covered in gold and lacquer. Outside is a three-ton, brass peace bell. Surrounding the temple are large koi ponds that cover a total of two acres and around those ponds are lush Japanese gardens set against a backdrop of towering cliffs of the Ko'olau Mountains.

The temple grounds are a lushly landscaped paradise nestled in a cleft of the pali and are home to wild peacocks and hundreds of Japanese koi carp. The beautiful grounds include a large reflecting pond, meditation niches and small waterfalls. Visitors describe this destination as beautiful, peaceful and restful.

The television series *Hawaii Five-O* and *Magnum, P.I.* featured several episodes where the temple is incorporated into the plot. The temple and its gardens also appeared in an episode of the ABC series *Lost*.

Byodo-In Temple Envelope

In addition to the stamp, the Postal Service issued a \$6.70 Byodo-In Temple Priority Mail stamped envelope for flat-rate service. The new stamped envelope was issued with no advance notice.

The release was similar to other stamped envelopes that have reproduced the design of a newly issued Priority Mail-rate stamp, such as last year's \$6.65 Liliuokalani Gardens Priority Mail stamped envelope.

The Postal Service is selling the new unused envelope only in packs of five, 10 or 25. The cost is the total face value of the postage only, \$33.50 for the pack of five, for example.

Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III, Block Tag

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Sizes: Image Area (w x h): 1.42 inches by 1.085 inches, 36.07 millimeters by 27.56mm (image); 1.56 inches by 1.225 inches, 39.62mm by 31.12mm (overall); 4.12 inches by 3.45 inches, 104.65mm by 87.63mm (full pane)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four digits

Marginal markings: Front – Plate number in two corners of pane; Back – ©2017 USPS, USPS Logo, four barcodes (114100), plate position diagram, promotional text



Sleeping Bear Dunes

An inland landscape anointed by some as one of America's most beautiful inland shores is featured on a new \$24.70 stamp.

The Sleeping Bear Dunes stamp, carrying the greatest denomination to ever appear on a U.S. stamp, was issued January 21 without a first-day ceremony. The stamp, produced in self-stick panes of four, pays the Priority Mail Express flat rate using the regular envelope for domestic overnight delivery (with limited exceptions).

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore runs along the northwest coast of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan in Leelanau and Benzie counties near Empire, Michigan.

The stamp's first-day site, the same as the Byodo-In Temple stamp released on the same day, is Kansas City, Missouri. The stamps were issued on the first day of increases in the postage rates.

The stamp features artwork by Dan Cosgrove, whose work has graced all 20 stamps in the American Landmark series. The series of high value stamps began in 2008 with a \$4.80 stamp depicting Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and a \$16.50 stamp for Hoover Dam.

Ethel Kessler designed the stamp, which is based on a photograph by Michigan photographer John McCormick, who heads Michigan Nut Photography (www.michigannutphotography.com).

The original photo was taken from Esch Road Beach at Sleeping Bear Dunes, according to McCormick. The 450-foot Dune Climb offering a view of Glen Lake and the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive are popular activities, according to the National Park Service

website.

McCormick said this stamp is his first affiliation with the Postal Service.

"I think the stamp turned out really nice," McCormick said. "It absolutely reflects much of what I recall seeing when I took the shot."

The photographer said the photo was taken the evening of October 17, 2015. "Michigan nature and landscape photography is what I do professionally," McCormick said. "This was one of many times that I've photographed Sleeping Bear Dunes at this particular spot. The warm light and cottony clouds highlighting the dunes, and the Lake Michigan shoreline, was beautiful. It was the kind of conditions nature photographers dream of."

McCormick said he was contacted by a representative of the Maryland firm PhotoAssist, which has partnered with the Postal Service for many years, and he agreed to license the use of his photograph as a reference for the stamp illustration.

The official Sleeping Bear Dunes website (www.sleepingbeardunes.com) offers the following about the park:

Sleeping Bear Dunes is named for a native legend about a bear and her two cubs. The park covers nearly 51 square miles and includes 35 miles of eastern Michigan coastline along Lake Michigan. Aside from the shoreline, the park includes dunes, hills, valleys, creeks and small lakes and attracts more than 1 million visitors per year.



This is John McCormick's original photo taken from Esch Road Beach at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. (Courtesy of Michigan Nut Photography).



SLEEPING BEAR DUNES PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS STAMP

USPS Item Number: 119800

Pane of 4, 24 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: January 21, 2018, Kansas City, Missouri

Art Director and Designer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, Virginia

Artist and Typographer: Dan Cosgrove, Chicago, Illinois

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU), Williamsville, New York

Press Type: Muller A76

Print Quantity: 1.26 million stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III, Block Tag

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Sizes: 1.42 inches by 1.085 inches, 36.07 millimeters by 27.56mm (image); 1.56 inches by 1.225 inches, 39.62mm by 31.12mm (overall); 4.12 inches by 3.45 inches, 104.65mm by 87.63mm (full pane)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four (4) digits

Marginal Markings: Front – Plate number in two corners of pane; Back – ©2017 USPS, USPS logo, four barcodes (119800), plate position diagram, promotional text

The area was once home to native tribes, settlers, lumbering and farming, and eventually fell under the ownership of controversial lumberman and land speculator Pierce "Pat" Stocking (1908-1976). Stocking was impressed by the area's beauty so much that he turned it into his own park, invited the public and encouraged "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." The national park was authorized October 21, 1970.

Sleeping Bear Dunes is linked to a previous stamp release. On October 3, 2008, the 10th pane in the Nature in America Series – the Great Lakes Dunes – was issued at the park in Michigan. The series of 12 panes each featured 10 stamps featuring a composite view of different environments across America with plenty of appropriate flora and fauna, but crowded into close proximity that would not exist in nature. The plants and animals represented what kind of species would live in that environment.

The Postal Service in 2008 did not state the Great Lakes Dunes pane was specifically Sleeping Bear Dunes, though a large dune looms above the lake in the background, the scene similar to views at the Michigan park.

In 2011, the lakeshore received 100,000 votes to be named the "Most Beautiful Place in America" on ABC's Good Morning America. Others in the final 10 included Aspen, Colorado; Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Lanikai Beach, Hawaii; and Asheville, North Carolina.

Lena Horne

A stamp honoring entertainer and civil rights activist Lena Horne (1917-2010) is the 41st entry in the Black Heritage commemorative series.

The forever stamp was issued January 30 at Peter Norton Symphony Space on Broadway at 95th Street in Manhattan.

"Today, we honor the 70-year career of a true American legend," said Deputy Postmaster



General Ronald Stroman, who dedicated the stamp. "With this forever stamp, the Postal Service celebrates a woman who used her platform as a renowned entertainer to become a prolific voice for civil rights advancement and gender equality."

Joining Stroman to unveil the stamp were Gail Lumet Buckley, an author and Horne's daughter; Christian Steiner, photographer; and Amy Niles, president and chief executive officer, WBGO Radio.

"Remembered as one of America's great interpreters of popular songs," the Postal Service stated, "Horne also was a trailblazer in Hollywood for women of color. She used her personal elegance, charisma and fame to become an important spokesperson for civil rights."

As a performer, her career was capped by a Tony Award-winning one-woman Broadway show – "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music" – which opened in 1981 and ran for 366 performances before going on a national tour. As an activist, Horne's defense of the civil rights of all Americans led to her being blacklisted during the infamous era of McCarthyism and the Red Scare.

The stamp art features a photograph of Horne taken by Steiner in 1981. Kristen Monthei colorized the original black-and-white photo, adding a background reminiscent of Horne's *Stormy Weather* album, the title being one of the singer's signature songs. "Lena Horne" is written along the bottom of the stamp, with "Black Heritage," the stamp series title, at the top. "USA" and "Forever" appear on the lower right-hand side above Horne's name. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.

Horne was primarily a singer, but certainly took some turns as an actor and dancer. Born June 30, 1917 in Brooklyn, New York, Horne started her entertainment career as a 16-year-old chorus girl at New York City's Cotton Club.

Horne started touring, but the rampant racial discrimination she encountered from audiences, hotel and venue managers and others was so disconcerting that she stopped touring, and in 1941, she made her move to Hollywood. A year later, she signed a contract with MGM — one of the first long-term contracts with a major Hollywood studio — with

LENA HORNE COMMEMORATIVE FOREVER STAMP



USPS Item Number: 476900

Format: Pane of 20, 240 stamps per revolution

Series: Black Heritage

Issue Date and City: January 30, 2018, New York, NY

Designer, Art Director and Typographer: Ethel Kessler,

Bethesda, Maryland

Existing Photo: Christian Steiner

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Banknote Corporation of America,

Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print Quantity: 35 million stamps

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged Paper, Block Tag

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Ink Colors: Pantone 7407, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Sizes: 0.84 inch by 1.42 inches, 21.34 millimeters by 36.07 mm (image area); 0.98 inch by 1.56 inch, 24.89mm by 39.62mm (overall size); 6 inches by 8.50 inches, 152.40mm by 215.90mm (full pane)

Plate Numbers: B followed by five single digits

Marginal Markings: Front – Header: BLACK HERITAGE,

Celebrating Lena Horne, 41st IN A SERIES, plate number in two corners of pane. Back – © 2017 USPS, USPS logo, Barcode (476900) in upper right and lower left corners of pane, promotional text, plate position grid

the stipulation that she would never be asked to take stereotypical roles then available to black actors. Her contract was a foothold for the NAACP to lobby for better treatment and contracts for black performers. Horne's most famous movie roles were in *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*, both released in 1943.

A story written in 1981 for *Billboard*, which publishes theater playbills, was reprinted June 30, 2017 online to honor the 100th anniversary of Horne's birth. It describes Horne's singing and performance in her one-woman show. Mind you, the singer was 64 years old at the time:

"And suddenly Lena, that 'dealer in magic and spells,' appears, all tawny skin and glittering eyes, growling From *This Moment On*. She's queen of the night, and for two hours, she proves it. Sometimes she fools around, and the sound comes out bass, sometimes it's so full of sorrow it makes your throat ache. She whispers, she belts, she crows. She snaps her fingers, and toys with us. All of her skill as an actress is at work, the art that goes into making something look artless. A lady to her bones, Lena can swing into the accent of the streets, and sell that, too.

"She never cheats. Often, the show runs long, because when Lena and her audience get to exchanging energy, all the clocks stop."

The singer herself is quoted in her obituary published May 10, 2010 in the *New York Times*.

"Ms. Horne's voice was not particularly powerful, but it was extremely expressive. She reached her listeners emotionally ... The person she always credited as main influence was not another singer but a pianist and composer, Duke Ellington's longtime associate, Billy Strayhorn.

"I wasn't born a singer," she told Strayhorn's biographer, David Hadju. "I had to learn a lot. Billy rehearsed me. He stretched me vocally. ... He taught me the basics of music, because I didn't know anything."

Horne, whose paternal grandparents were early members of the NAACP, also fought fiercely in the Civil Rights Movement.

During World War II, Horne performed on USO tours until she was banned. According to her obituary in the *New York Times*, the ban was the result of Horne's protests regarding the treatment of black soldiers. She also worked on behalf of Japanese Americans who were facing discriminatory housing policies and worked with Eleanor Roosevelt in pressing for anti-lynching legislation. Her outspoken nature and friendship with left-leaning sympathizers such as Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Dubois may have factored into her being named to the anti-Communist Black List, which banned certain entertainment artists from legally gaining work for seven years. In the 1960s, Horne continued her high-profile work for civil rights, performing at rallies in the South, supporting the work of the National Council for Negro Women, and participating in the 1963 March on Washington.

Horne's awards and honors include the NAACP Spingarn Medal; and the Actors Equity Paul Robeson Award. She was



Lena Horne

a Kennedy Center Honors recipient in 1984, and her name is among those on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

Steiner, whose photo is the basis for the stamp, has long been one of the world's foremost photographers of performance artists. He certainly has an interesting background.

Born in Berlin, early on, Steiner became a serious classical pianist. His father and four uncles are accomplished musicians as are two of his brothers. He made his way to New York City, where he studied with top teachers and performed.

In a 1991 story in the *New York Times*, Steiner (now in his late 70s) told a reporter that he had a "psychological breakdown" in 1962 and after a 1964 performance in Hamburg, "he closed the piano, he thought, for good." There was a four-year hiatus, followed by a recording session, followed by another nine-year hiatus before he started playing again in 1978.

During those performance gaps, he learned photography by "accident." Soon, he started taking pictures of fashion, then friends and people he knew at recording studios. One of his first big assignments was photographing soprano Maria Callas. His very long list of subjects includes Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma, Lionel Hampton, Lauren Bacall, Vladimir Horowitz, Jessye Norman, Placido Domingo and, of course, Horne, whom he photographed in 1981 at around the time of her successful Broadway show.

Steiner in the 1990s also created a small-space performance center – Tannery Pond in New Lebanon, New York, outside of New York City. The center continues to host top names for performances in its intimate space.

Q
A

Ethel Kessler, stamp designer

When did you start working on this stamp?
August 2016.

Please tell the story as to how a Christian Steiner photo wound up as this stamp image.

We researched a number of different eras in Horne's career. We wanted an image that captured her charisma and vivaciousness at the height of her career. Working closely with the family, the design team identified a series of photographs shot by Christian Steiner from the 1980s. This photograph was the most powerful image at stamp size.

How many Steiner photos were available to choose from?

Steiner sent seven photographs (five black-and-white; two color) for the USPS to consider.

Was this among the photos taken at the time of Lena Horne's one-woman Broadway show in 1981?

Christian Steiner wasn't sure of the exact date of the photo to shoot. He thought it was toward the end of March 1981.

Is the dress she is wearing on the stamp the same one she wore for the cover of the show Playbill and the album cover?

It's not the same dress.

Did Mr. Steiner have any say on which photo was chosen for the stamp?

No, but he worked with USPS to be sure that we started with the best quality original file.

Did he have any say or agreement with the colorization process? If yes, did he help guide the choice of color for the dress?

The photographer allowed the picture to be colorized according to the design team's preference.

Can you tell us what the dress color is?

The original photograph is black-and-white. The dress was colored blue for the stamp.

Can you explain the colorization process?

The colorization is done digitally through Photoshop by adding many layers of color (at different opacities, using different blending modes and gradient maps) over the original black and white photograph.

Is there anything else you would like to add about the stamp design?

Ms. Monthei also added a background reminiscent of Horne's "Stormy Weather" album, with a few clouds to add texture and to subtly make the album reference. ☺



The Lena Horne commemorative stamp is also featured in both print and digital editions of *The American Philatelist* - February 2018.



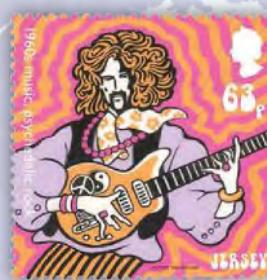
ROMANIA
MIGRATORY BIRDS:
CRANES

On January 16, Romania issued four single stamps in as many denominations showing migratory cranes from around the world. The 15 species of fragile long-necked, long-legged birds live in calm wetlands and are mostly endangered throughout the world. In addition to the Australian Crane, other birds shown are the Japanese Crane, Small Crane and Siberian Crane. A Black Crowned Crane is on a separate souvenir sheet.



AUSTRALIA
CONVICT HERITAGE

Australia, on January 16, paid homage to its heritage as a penal colony for Great Britain with three Convicts Past stamps in two denominations. The stamps commemorate the sesquicentennial of the end of convict transport to Australia. The stamps present the penal colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land and Swan River through depictions of the places of incarceration and aspects of convict life.



JERSEY
'60s CULTURE

Jersey on January 26 issued six stamps depicting images of 1960s culture. Aside from a psychedelic design showing a rock guitar player, the stamps show a Flower Power poster, two women wearing miniskirts, the 1969 first manned moon landing, cheese and pineapple stick appetizers and a girl playing with a doll house. A separate souvenir sheet in bright cartoonish pop-art style with a single £2 stamp recreates a visit to Jersey's main shopping area in Sixties, with images of the Swinging Sixties and people wearing era-specific clothing (think Sgt. Peppers).



MONACO
CIRCUS

On January 3, Monaco issued a single stamp celebrating the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival which was held later in the month. Prince Ranier created the festival in 1974. The festival, which includes top international circus acts, is

now presided over by Princess Stephanie.





THE NETHERLANDS

EXPERIENCE NATURE –

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

On January 2, The Netherlands issued a sheetlet of 10 stamps featuring native reptiles and amphibians. The sheet, marked "Nederlands 1," is part of a new Experience Nature series that will consist of four stamp sheetlets and a total of 40 stamps, organized by season. The photographs on the stamps come from the photography production company Pixfactory. The first sheet includes the viviparous lizard, northern crested newt, the natterjack toad, smooth snake, moor frog and yellow-bellied toad.

NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at stamps issued in January from nine different countries around the world.

CANADA

SITES FAR AND WIDE

On January 15, Canada Post issued nine stamps in five denominations showing picturesque sites from across the country. The

Far and Wide issue features current photographs of locales meant to take you on "a journey to some of the most breathtaking locations in Canada." The high value \$2.50 international rate stamp shows the northern lights at Arctic Bay in Nunavut.



GREAT BRITAIN

GAME OF THRONES

Royal Mail on January 23 issued a set of 15 first-class stamps featuring characters and imagery from the award-winning HBO drama series, *Game of Thrones*. The show is based on the works of author George R.R. Martin. Characters featured on the stamps include Jon Snow, Cersei Lannister and Daenerys Targaryen.

A sheet features such creatures as the White Walkers, Giants and Direwolves.

FINLAND

VALENTINE'S STAMPS

On January 24, Finland issued five domestic Valentine's holiday stamps – called Friendship is Light – designed by Leena Raappana-Luiro. The stamps show heart shapes that are present pictures of plants taken in full color and light.



MALAYSIA

WORKING DOGS

Dogs are featured on three single stamps and a two-stamp miniature sheet issued January 18. "Dogs are not often celebrated in the country because they are considered unclean among the country's Muslim majority," stated The Straits Times website. The single stamps show a sketch of a firefighter and a border collie, a policeman and a Belgian shepherd and a blind man with a golden retriever. The two-stamp sheet features an illustration of a policeman with a German shepherd and Labrador retriever.



WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

POLAND

Status: Parliamentary Democracy in Central Europe

Population: 38,476,269 (2017 est.)

Area: 120,728 sq miles

Currency: 100 groszy = 1 złoty, 1 zł = 28 U.S. cents.

The Polish state emerged in the late 10th century. By the 16th century, Poland merged into a commonwealth with Lithuania, and had become one of the largest states in Europe. It later suffered a prolonged decline ending with its 1795 partition by Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Napoleon recreated a Polish state in 1805, as the Duchy of Warsaw. After his defeat, the Duchy fell under the control of the czar, who made it a Russian province in 1830. Russia introduced postage stamps in 1857, which were also used in Poland. However, Polish authorities, who continued to enjoy limited autonomy, issued their own 10k stamp in 1860 to replace the Russian issues. It prepaid postage within Poland and to Russia. Foreign mail was prepaid in cash. As a consequence of an 1863 uprising, the czar suppressed Polish self-government. It lost its autonomous mail system and its stamps were replaced by those of Russia in 1865.

World War I dramatically changed the situation. A German offensive early in the war brought all of Poland under control of the Central Powers. Overprinted German stamps were placed in use in northern Poland. Austro-Hungarian stamps were used in the south. During the occupation, the Reichspost only delivered mail to the post offices. As a result several municipalities organized local delivery services. The largest was the service in Warsaw which issued its own stamps starting in September 1915.

On November 3, 1918, Poland proclaimed itself an independent republic. Warsaw locals were overprinted "Polish Postage." Regional overprints on German or Austrian stamps were also produced in Lublin, Krakow and Posen. Initially, stamps were denominated in markka in the former German areas in the north and in korona for the former Austrian areas in the south.

On October 27, 1919, national unification had progressed to the point that stamps were issued in markka for use throughout the country. The markka remained the national currency until 1924, when the złoty was re-established.

World War II opened with the German attack on Poland on September 1, 1939. Initially, unoverprinted German stamps were used in the occupied areas. On September 28, Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union. Germany annexed the territories lost after World War I and parts of four other provinces. On October 12, the rest of the territory taken by Germany became a Protectorate called the General Government. Russian stamps were used in the area annexed by the Soviet Union. General Government stamps went on sale December 1, 1939.

During the war, a government in exile based in London issued special stamps for use on Polish ships and for some military correspondence. When Germany invaded Russia in 1941, Polish prisoners of war were formed into an army unit. One stamp inscribed "Polish Postage in USSR" was issued in 1942 for use in their training base near Tashkent.

In July 1944, the Russians formed a provisional "people's government" in Lublin. Its first stamps were issued Sept 7, 1944. Stamps during the Soviet period were inscribed simply "Poland."

There was no change in this inscription when Poland became a parliamentary democracy in 1990. ☀



▲ Russian stamps were used in Poland from 1857 until Poland created its own stamps in 1860, Scott 1.



▲ As World War I erupted, overprinted German and Austrian stamps were used in Poland, Scott N3. To ensure delivery to homes and businesses, municipal authorities created stamps for local delivery, such as these used in 1915 in Warsaw.



▲ More German stamps were overprinted – but these with a different message – after independence was declared in 1918, Scott 74.

◀ Starting in 1919, Stamps in southern Poland were denominated "h" or "k," Scott 125.



▶ At the start of WWII, German stamps were overprinted for use in Poland.



◀ After the Soviet Union ousted Germany, new stamps were produced for Poland, including a set of three featuring Polish luminaries, such as Tadeusz Kościuszko, Scott 342.





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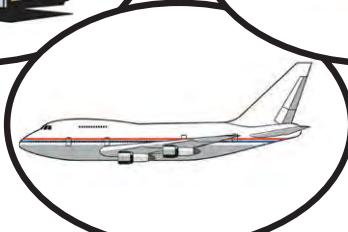
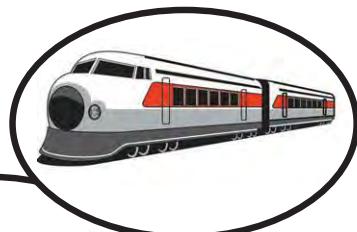
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