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*By Bob Lamb*

The Ross Dependency, a little slice of Antarctica claimed by New Zealand, has had a constant temporary population since scientists were first assigned to Scott Base in 1959. Eventually, stamps were issued to serve the hearty souls who spent time there.

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*The American Philatelist* (ISSN 0003-0473) is published monthly by the American Philatelic Society, Inc., 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Periodicals postage paid at Bellefonte, PA 16823 and at additional mailing office. Price per copy \$4.95. Canadian Distribution Agreement Number 40030959.

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the society and/or the magazine. *The American Philatelist* cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

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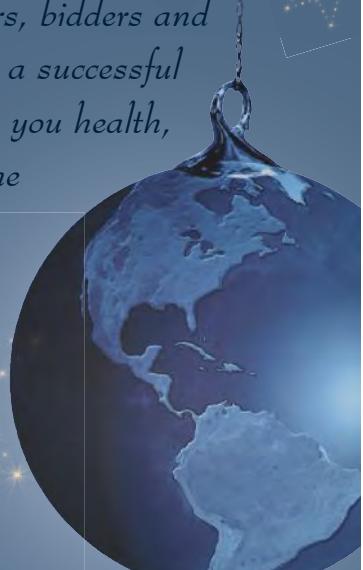
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BY MICK ZAIS president  
mzais@newberry.edu

# Tales From a Novice Exhibitor

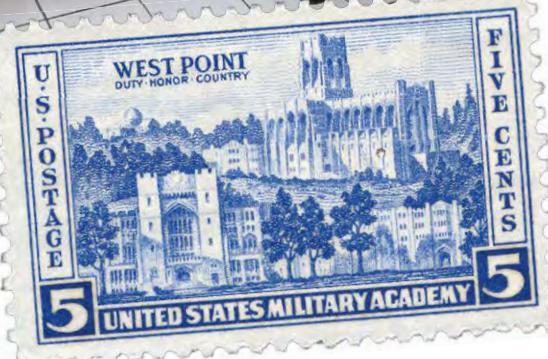
## Education, Planning, Listening and Revision Help Create a Successful Path

**R**ecently I tried my hand at exhibiting. At the advice of my exhibiting mentor, Steve Zwillinger, who also serves as president of the board of the American Philatelic Research Library, I tested the waters with a one-frame exhibit. Earlier, I had taken Steve's course on exhibiting at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte. Enthusiasts refer to the annual gathering as "stamp camp." Not only was the week enormously informative, it was a ton of fun as well.

Steve was persuasive in convincing me to narrow the scope of my first exhibit by keeping it to one frame. That was the single best piece of advice I received all week – advice which I heeded reluctantly. I initially had a full, 10-frame exhibit planned. I gave up that idea with some remorse. But Steve understood – and as I was soon to learn – there is a huge gap between planning and execution.



Chris Lazaroff and Mick Zais (right) with his single-frame exhibit, "Hand-Drawn and Hand-Painted First Day Covers of the 1937 West Point 5¢ Commemorative."



After absorbing as much information as possible from Steve's extensive experience, interesting presentations, and excellent handouts, my first task was to pick a topic for a one-frame exhibit. I settled on "Hand-Drawn and Hand-Painted First Day Covers of the 1937 West Point 5¢ Commemorative."

Next I had to figure out the story I wanted to tell and which of the covers in my collection would best tell that story. It turned out I didn't do a very good job with this step, as subsequent events would reveal.

Then I worked on the title page, explaining why the stamp was issued, the purpose of the exhibit, and the significance of the material. Of course, the title page had to include a killer cover.

This was followed by creating a write-up for each cover, arranging the covers on a table as they would look in the frame, and then adjusting.

What came next probably took the most time: learning Microsoft Publisher by experiment and error to finally get the formatting and layout I envisioned.

Eventually, I had my "first draft" assembled and mounted. Then I showed it to my wife who doesn't know a first-day cover from a first-flight cover. This was another experience in humility. She pointed out many things I took for granted that were not clear to the casual viewer. She also found multiple typos and inconsistencies in formatting.

After revising the exhibit based on her feedback, I was ready for the next big step: mailing the exhibit, with scans of the covers rather than the covers themselves, to the critique service of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Yet another lesson in humility. The exhibit was returned with an in-depth analysis of each page and the exhibit as a whole. All of the comments were insightful, expressed with tact and diplomacy, valid, and when adopted, produced a far better exhibit. My hat is off to those knowledgeable volunteers who spend so much of their valuable personal time to teach beginners like me and experienced exhibitors alike.

As a consequence of this next round of feedback, I totally revised the plan of exhibit, its purpose, and exchanged a significant number of covers that better told the new story I was developing.

Then came the moment of truth. As the exhibit featured first-day covers, it was appropriate to unveil it at the American First Day Cover Society's annual show, Americover, held in August in Independence, Ohio. My plan was to personally carry the exhibit to the show, but work in-

tervened with other plans. Luckily, Chris Lazaroff lives relatively nearby. He is the former president of the AFDCS and, to the best of my knowledge, the only person to attend first-day-of-issue ceremonies in all 50 states and some territories as well. He was able to tote my exhibit to the show, mount it, receive feedback from the judges, and then schlep the exhibit back to South Carolina.

The result? A vermeil award! (Layers of vermeil just follow grand and gold in the levels of awards.) The additional takeaway was more feedback on how to improve the exhibit. This did not entail spending money on better material. Rather, the judges explained how to improve the storyline and how to more effectively describe the covers shown. As a result, my respect for the judges increased even further. They know what they are doing and they truly want to be helpful.

So, what's next? Well, based on feedback from Americover, I significantly revised the exhibit yet again. Each time it gets better. And, barring unforeseen circumstances, such as that which kept me from Americover, I'll show the revised version February 23 to 25 at AmeriStamp Expo in Birmingham, Alabama.

I still think back to Steve Zwillinger's sage advice: "Start with a one-framer to master the fundamentals before attempting a multi-frame exhibit." Had I not heeded his urgings, I can't imagine where I would be. I certainly wouldn't have learned as much nor had as much fun with my first foray into exhibiting. ☺

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# THE PHILATELIC EXPERIENCE

BY MARTIN KENT MILLER editor  
martin@stamps.org



## Olive Branches on Envelopes

### New Year's Perspective from Unlikely Pairs

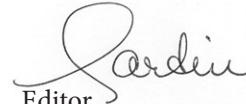
**S**itting in a ramshackle Chicago-area rental house I listened to Judyta reflect on her life behind the Iron Curtain. Years under the oppressive hand of Soviet rule had taught—no, conditioned, people to a bizarre way of life. She spoke of how, when a line formed anywhere, you rushed to get in it. Generally, you had no idea what was being distributed at the head of the line but with everything in such scarce supply, you were bound to need whatever it was. The combination of such conditions and the absolute, brutal enforcement of every rule, taught people that there was little hope for anything else. And then it happened...



Mikhail Gorbachev and his policies of glasnost (“openness”) and perestroika (“restructuring”) began to pull back, ever so slightly, that rusty Iron Curtain. Soviet attitudes toward individuals, that empire’s aims on the outside world and even their orientation toward America were beginning to change. And that change brought great opportunity for my friends, Judy (she found Americans couldn’t pronounce the Slavic version of her name) and Caesar. The new spirit of openness between the United States and the former Soviet Bloc countries meant that immigration became an option for even the everyday citizens of those oppressed nations. So, when Judy won the immigration lottery, everything changed for them and their young daughter. By our standards, they moved into poverty in America but Caesar extoled the virtues of their wonderful new life here. He laughed while explaining that he still had to convince Judy not to get into every line she saw when they were shopping. Everything was new for them now.

January is a time for both reflection and planning. From years in business, I dislike “resolutions” but prefer to work on “goals” and “objectives.” So, as many of us consider the future and goals for the hobby, it is helpful to consider the impact of the past. The joint issues we feature this month (page 28) are so much more than similar-looking stamps. With the Soviet issues alone, the stamps span a relationship that ranged from near-apocalyptic competition (Apollo-Soyuz, 1975) to friendship toward a crumpling former empire (Space Accomplishments, 1992). The lesson we might learn is that change can happen even in the most unlikely of circumstances; the lesson we need to learn is that we are the ones to affect that change.

Judy and Caesar both faced monumental changes in their move to America. Judy, for many months, clung to the habits and conditioning of the old ways. Caesar embraced the new, persevered through the hardships and kept his eyes on the goals he set for his family. Life presents challenges to our resolutions, our collections and our hobby at large. With this new year at our disposal, will we affect change for the good or will we scurry to get in the next bread line?

  
Editor,  
*The American Philatelist*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Research was Worthwhile, But Leads to More Questions

There is a stamp bourse with six or seven dealers every first Sunday of the month at the Holiday Inn in Phoenix, Arizona. I thumb through various philatelic material. Like everyone else, I find World War II items.

I have seen articles where the writer researched from an item he found, so I decided to do a small amount of research on this item, a \$5 dollar postcard in a dealer's box.

When I found it, the guys around me said it was a prisoner of war card. It had free franking (with markings): Kriegsgefangenenpost. 5.5.41 10:11 Emplangsort: Konigshutte O/S Land: Oberschlesien Fraulein Sophie Baranski Absender: Ppor Baranski On the back: Datum: 2 Kroilua 1941 and a message in Polish (I think).

I went to the library and did some searches. Konigshutte (German) Chorzow (Silesian) Krolewska Huta (Polish) (Different names for the same place) Wikipedia: Chorzow in 1941 German Silesia (Oberschlesien) "On the day of the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Chorzow was taken by Nazi Germany."



Similar Prisoner of War postcard.

I looked up Polish military ranks. Ppor is a second lieutenant. So, was Ppor captured that day? Is Fraulein Sophie his sister? Did they survive?

**Charles Smith**

Phoenix, Arizona

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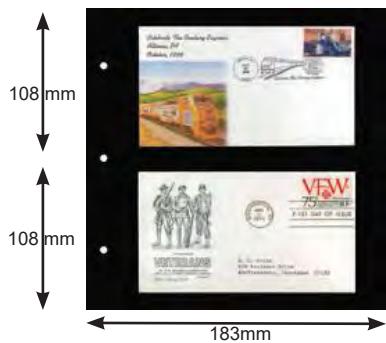


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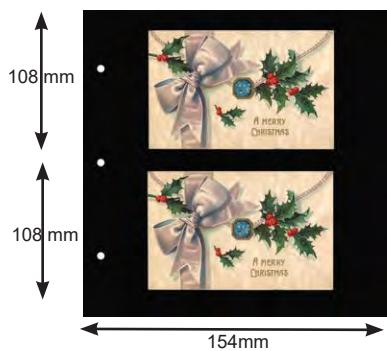
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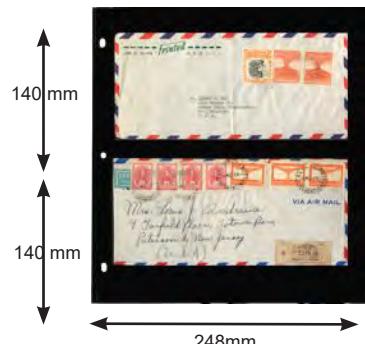
## Postcard Album

- Complete album with 25 pages (page size 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ x9") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**
- Black-back two-sided 2 pocket pages (holds 100 154x108mm cards) **ZGK-836A \$36.68, \$27.51**
- Same with all-clear pages (holds 100 cards or 50 viewed from both sides) **ZGK-836AC \$36.68, \$27.51**



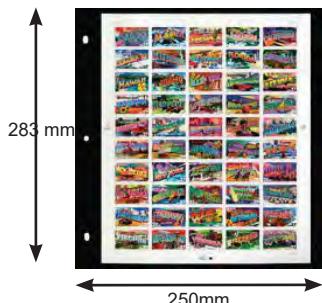
## #10 Cover Album

- Complete album with 25 pages (Page Size 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**
- Black-back two-sided 2 pocket pages (holds 100 248x140mm covers) **ZGK-822A \$50.00, \$35.00**
- Same with all-clear pages (holds 100 covers or 50 viewed from both sides) **ZGK-822AC \$50.00, \$35.00**



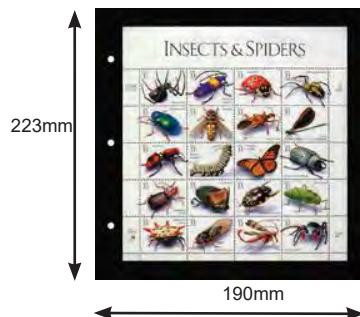
## U.S. Full Sheet Album

- Complete album with 50 pages (Page Size 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{8}$ ") Available in: **Blue, Black, Wine Red**
- Open top and right side for easy insertion of sheets
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## Small Pane Album

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hunt is part of the appeal of the hobby. Charles' letter highlights the fact that sometimes it is challenging to reach the final answers, but the intrigue and mystery helps to validate the authenticity of the experience. Whether we're searching through the dollar bin at a bourse or researching the correlation between Soviet politics and the frequency of joint issues, the quest for information brings life to the materials we collect.

## Mounting Corners Could Work Well for Exhibits

While working on a few postal history exhibits at the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester, Pennsylvania, I was introduced by one of their curators to a new-to-me product that I now highly recommend to my fellow exhibitors for mounting those covers we so dearly enjoy.

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The product is See Thru Mounting Corners, by Lineco, item No. 545-2337, or 545-2335. They are easy to use, not too expensive, and archival safe. The 7/8-inch size works well. I have noticed them online for \$19 (or even lower depending on where you shop) for 100 corners.

I thought I should pass this on and not keep this little secret.

**Bill Schultz, Philatelic Chief Judge**

*Chester, Pennsylvania*

## USPS Holiday Catalog Deserves a Black Blot

I wish to point out that back in the 1960s and 1970s, many emerging countries were issued black blots by the philatelic community for issuing philatelic material designed to raise revenue rather than meet postal needs. The U.S. Postal Service clearly crossed the line with the publication that was in my mailbox today.

The 2017 Gifts & Collectibles Catalog Delivering Cheer and a Winter Wonderland of Gifts is an oversized publication with 56 glossy pages inside a cover with a foldout front. Although a quick scan shows that most, if not all, the items are related to issues of the USPS, few of them are anything more than a device to raise revenue for the beleaguered postal system. The postal needs have more than adequately been met with the issuance of a multitude of stamps and postal stationery.

Perhaps a revival of the black blot program (with a differing moniker) would be appropriate.

**Edmond E. Bates Jr.**

*Rockport, Texas*

## Enclosing Postage Nudges Replies

One further comment in regards to Walter Garrett's letter in the October issue of *The American Philatelist* about dealers who do not respond to e-mails. I almost always receive a reply when I enclose return postage for regular mail.

**Judy Nelson**

*Trinity, Florida*

## U.S. Stamps Program Could Use Some Changes

I have several questions in regards to new issues of postage stamps from the U.S. Postal Service.

Does the APS involve themselves with the new U.S. stamp program? I know there is a Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee that identifies subjects for new stamps and makes recommendations to the postmaster general.

I have been a stamp collector for more than 60 years and a member of the APS for 42 years. I am very disappointed at the stamps that get recommended and printed by the USPS. Does the APS have any input into the process? For many years now it seems the USPS and the Citizens' Advisory Committee are quick to issue stamps with little research into the subject of the stamps and waste the opportunity of issuing stamps with a more relevant subject. Also, the stamps should reflect a better method of printing.

Considering advancements in technology, first-class mail

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appears to be in danger with the dramatic decline in use. Letter writing has become a dead art leaving birthday cards, marriage announcements, etc., as the sole reasons to use postage stamps. Even these are in danger with the advent of electronic cards.

The October edition of *The American Philatelist* identifies new stamps, including the Protect Pollinators set of five. On the surface, the stamps are colorful and appealing. But three of the stamps feature the monarch butterfly and the other two feature the western honeybee. Was it necessary to have the monarch butterfly on three stamps? In each case the butterfly's wings are closed and they would have looked more dramatic with the wings open. Also, butterflies are poor pollinators. Bumblebees, mason bees, and even wasps and flies are better pollinators but not represented.

As the USPS is limited to only so many stamps in a year, wouldn't one assume this would be a great opportunity to get as much information as possible to the public? Wouldn't it be great to identify Americans who are involved in the protection of pollinators and honor them on stamps for their work in the area?

Finally, why do we need 60 million copies of these stamps? The cost of printing such a massive number of stamps must be enormous. The Flowers from the Garden stamps had a printing of 500 million in the same month. My head is spinning to think there is really a need for such quantities of first-class postage.



How does the cost of printing a self-adhesive stamp compare to the old lick-and-stick stamps. I can't imagine the self-adhesive stamps are cheaper. Attempts to get this information from the USPS and the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee proved futile.

#### William Wilson

Salem, Virginia

**Editor's Note:** In general, the American Philatelic Society has no more direct influence on the U.S. stamp program than any other citizen.

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and its role are detailed on the website of the U.S. Postal service at: <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/csac/welcome.htm>. Included in

the site is an overview of the stamp selection process including an address for sending suggestions to the committee.

The U.S. Postal Service announced in 2015 that it would discontinue lick-and-stick stamps in favor of self-adhesive stamps, which had been the practice for several years, according to a March 3, 2015 article in *Linn's Stamp News*. The Postal Service stated at that time that "the base cost of printing stamps with moisture-activated adhesive is now 115 percent greater than self-adhesives," according to the article.

#### A Bit More on Stamps in Comics

I would like to share some information in regards to Steve Swain's "Thrilling Adventures in Stamps Comics" in the November edition of *The American Philatelist*.

I was able to find six of these comics at one time 30 years ago at a stamp and coin shop in Chicago. It was another 10 years before I found No. 8 to complete the set.

These articles were aimed at adults and children, as obvious from the level of writing on the page shown in Figure 7 of Swain's article.

The scarce Issue No. 8 in *Thrilling Adventures in Stamps* is especially of interest. It contains a 40-page topical stamp album that is illustrated. As to why it is rare, I have a theory.



The cover shows an explorer with a spear through him from an attack by natives, which is not part of an interior story. This kind of illustration was often done to sell more comics. During the early 1950s, excessive sex and violence in comic books was discussed by psychiatrist Dr. Fredric Wertham in *Seduction of the Innocent*, a controversial book that led to a Congressional investigation to see if such publications caused criminal behavior. This led to the start of the Comics Code, which prohibited explicit sex and violence in comics. The code remained in effect until the 1990s. It is possible that the publisher or distributor reacted to the code and destroyed unsold copies.

There have been two other articles that I have saved on this topic: an "Editor's Choice" by Michael Laurence in the July 28, 1986 edition of *Linn's Stamp News*, which features an article by Dan Malan; and an article by Wayne Youngblood in the 2006 issue of *The American Philatelist*.

The Grand Comics Database ([www.comics.org](http://www.comics.org)) is very helpful in tracking down issues, not to mention online sales sites and a few large comics dealers.

#### John Spruhan

Salem, Virginia

### Sierra Leone

Many Former Slaves Were Sent to British Colony in 1790s; First Stamp Issued in 1859

The name Lion Mountain was chosen for the colony because it was in recognition of a lion-shaped hilltop behind the harbor town of Freetown, founded in 1802. The capital city was named Freetown in 1871, after becoming the British colony's first colony in England. Many more groups of former slaves arrived from Jamaica and Nova Scotia to settle in Sierra Leone. From them into the next century, British naval vessels were allocated to assist in the rescue of thousands of Africans to establish settlements. These Almohamedan people, who had been converted to the cultural ideals of the British to become a significant force in the country's development, became the British colony's status was attained in 1867.

In 1843, stamps of Great Britain were overprinted "Sierra Leone" in three colors, several covers with local cancellations carried by naval vessels engaged in the rescue of slaves. The first stamp was issued in 1859, a highly acclaimed 6-pence design printed by the Government Printer in Freetown. It is distinctive from Figure 11. The identified printing in various shades of blue, red, and black, was issued 26 years before the stamp was finally replaced in 1897. The Scott catalog lists the 1859-97 set of 18 values, ranging from 1/- to 1/- and 1/- denominated. The classic frame design similar to that of Gold Coast's first stamps was selected for new 1-, 3-, and 4-pence and 1-shilling values in 1872. They were re-

printed in 1883.

Figure 2: Four

stamp issues (Scott 139)

with Crown CC

watermarks. The

comply with

1872 designs

their colors were

changed to

the 1872

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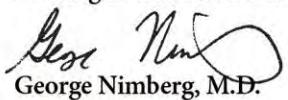
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# Looking Back and Looking Ahead

## New Year's Resolutions Can Easily Include Some for the Hobby

**I**t is believed the month of January gets its name from Janus, the god of beginnings or transitions in Roman mythology. According to the Romans, Janus had two faces, one looking back to the past and one looking ahead toward the future. His job was to initiate beginnings and oversee change to its natural conclusion. As we start another new year, we will mark our 132nd year as a society. For too much of that time, collectors have been predicting the end of the hobby and the American Philatelic Society. Could it happen? Nothing is impossible, but before you rethink renewing your membership, let's address some of the thinking we heard in 2017 and start 2018 with some action items.



### Sunshine, Lollipops and Roses

In Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly for the third quarter of 2017, David Coogle, co-chair of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions writes about this very topic. Early in the article, he cites APS membership declines as one of the key indicators, "The American Philatelic Society tells us that membership has been declining 10 percent every year for a decade, but, not to worry, they are expanding operations."

There is a school of thought that says if someone puts out a negative, don't bother correcting it, if it doesn't make things better. While I typically agree with that, I'd like APS members to know the number is closer to 4.5 percent annually. That's not where we want to be, but it is the reality of where things stand. They are not, as David goes on to write, "all sunshine, lollipops and roses" – it is at the heart of the work we've done over the past year and how we'll attack a three-decade-old challenge in the next year and beyond.

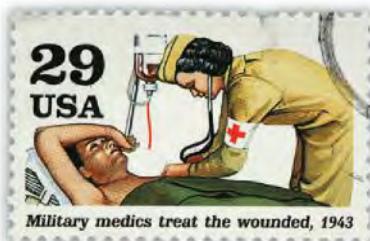
We've not expanded our operations, but we have changed how we do business. I try to break down different segments of that in my monthly column. The most significant change comes in the form of improving our use of technology to better serve you and the hobby. You can read more about that technology initiative in my June 2017 Our Story column, "Melding Technology and the Hobby." There is no silver bullet to growing and strengthening organized philately, but if we do not embrace technology, we will not stand a chance.

It's not all negative. David goes on to identify the challenge that we know to be true, defining our place in a technological world. He talks about supporting the National Postal

Museum and the Spellman Philatelic Museum to create an educational mission for future generations to learn and engage in stamp collecting. Both of these museums have been critical partners to the APS for many years and we'll continue to support both in every way we can. They serve as two great potential targets for bringing the non-collecting public to the collecting world.

### Stamped Out...Sort of

In late September, Gene Meyer, a journalist and writer from the Washington, D.C. area, published an opinion piece titled, "Stamped Out," in The New York Times. Mr. Meyer, like so many casual collectors in their youth, came across his stamp collection going as far back as the 1950s. He proceeded to take us on a journey of disposing of this collection so many years later. The first thing he discovered is that his collection had little commercial value given its common nature. So, on the advice of a dealer, he offers to donate it to Stamps for the Wounded, a great group that provides donated stamps to wounded veterans around the country. Mr. Meyer paints a picture of retirees sitting weekly to collect donations for the organization. His conclusion at the end of this journey was that stamp collecting was practically a dystopian wasteland of no one younger than 60.



So eloquent was the article that I received e-mailed copies from members across the world, some disagreeing vehemently with his take on the hobby and others believing an outsider had exposed what they had known for years. As a once proud writer of opinion pieces, I found the reaction to be exactly as it was in my days in the public arena. Those inclined to view the hobby as in trouble, felt validated; those who disagree, felt motivated to act.

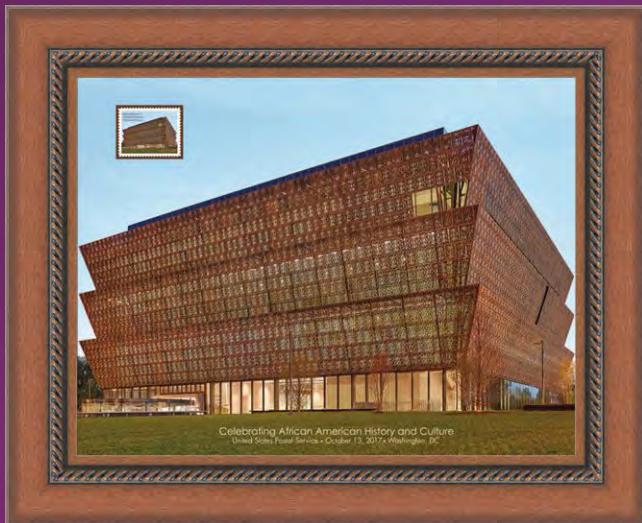
If you have read the article, it is a cautionary tale of casual collectors who know what they like, but nothing about stamp collecting. It reinforces the very reason why the APS is a critical educational link to the hobby. Mr. Meyer followed up his piece with a different reflection on the state of the hobby, which can be found here: <http://eugenelmeyer.com/2017/10/stamped-oh-memories/>.

All of us have met someone who has buried a stamp collection for decades or inherited one from a loved one, believing it must be worth a nice sum. It's also likely you know

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the end of this story, where the perfectly common investment yields little interest in the marketplace. The value is not solely in the little piece of paper we collect, but the knowledge each of us has accumulated over the years. It is my hope and belief that the APS and American Philatelic Research Library are the bedrock of that knowledge. Somehow golfers never lament the value of their spent greens fees at the end of their days on the course, but we tolerate the "investment" benchmark as the sole indicator of the state of the hobby.

The value of the hobby and the APS for more than 130 years has been to bring together people who share a passion for collecting with peace of mind. How that is accomplished has changed and we need to adapt. But the reason for collecting and organizing remains just as it was in 1886, exchanging and gaining knowledge and buying with confidence.



### A Resolution for 2018

A time-honored tradition at the start of each year is to make resolutions to make change in your life. Whether it's about spending more time with family, going on a diet, or taking that trip you've meant to take, there are a few resolutions you can add for the hobby.

**Resolve to be a Recruiter:** The most effective recruiting tool the APS has is its members. Why you belong and why you stay are the best endorsements the APS

receives. We provide applications on request, through local stamp clubs, or our website. Ask a fellow collector, friend, neighbor, or a loved one if they have ever thought about joining. Some of our members talk to total strangers and not only bring us a new member, but make a new friend.

**Resolve to support a local stamp club:** No matter where you live, there is a great local stamp club that meets regularly in your community. Many of them sponsor a stamp show each year. Volunteers are hard to find, but are always warmly welcomed. If you belong to and volunteer already, thank you. If you need more information about stamp clubs, please check out our website at: <https://stamps.org/Local-Clubs>.

**Resolve to embrace education:** We have increased the number of "On-the-Road" courses we provide around the country and more members are teaching courses to collectors, new and experienced, young or old. In 2018, we will build online offerings to provide collectors on the go more chances to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge from our membership. Be a teacher or be a student, but our community is strong because of the knowledge.

**Resolve to try a different APS service:** Our library is a wealth of information regardless of what you collect. Members can request books, articles, and other services. Never had a stamp expertized through APEX? Our Expert Committee includes some of the most knowledgeable collectors around the world and our opinions are guaranteed. Need to sell some stamps or interested in expanding your collection? Thou-

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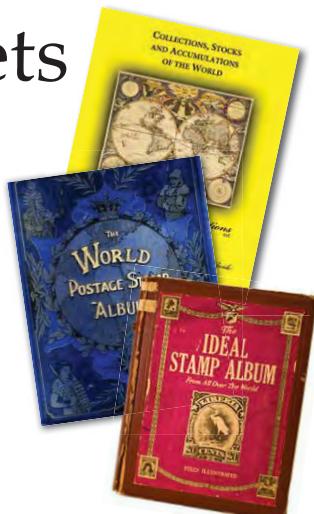
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# Notes From the Bottom Drawer

## From Comical Postmasters to Historic Floods

One of the constant – if not pleasurable – activities of the philatelic journalist as he or she seeks inspiration is to sort through collections and other material. Lots of it. Those interesting, unusual or significant items found form the basis for many features and columns.

As I pore through mountains of material to find stamps, covers or subjects to feature in writings for this journal and elsewhere, I run across items that perhaps do not fit specific topics, are unique in nature or are just too limited to gather sufficient material for an entire column. In other cases, I have been able to find little information about a stamp or cover that I find fascinating. Nonetheless, these artifacts are not without merit. They may have great general appeal, are perhaps philatelically significant and a few are simply entertaining. All these items get tossed into the “someday” drawer of odd little nuggets.

This month I’d like to share a few of these odd lots with you, and I hope you will enjoy the brief vignettes about each as much as I enjoy the artifacts that form the basis for them. If you have additional information on any of the items featured, please share it with me.

In honor of the recently released Star Wars movie, *The Last Jedi*, our first item [Figure 1], comes in the form of an entertaining 49-cent franking, courtesy of friend Ron Townsend, of Missouri. The franking utilizes a 41-cent Yoda commemorative and an 8-cent Einstein definitive. Why is this significant? It’s not, but it’s kind of cool. You see, Einstein was a significant portion of the inspiration behind the visual interpretation of the Yoda character.

According to British special effects artist and Star Wars makeup supervisor, Stuart Freeborn (1914-2013), he designed the wise Yoda using elements of his own face, as well

as those in a photo of Einstein that he found hanging on an office wall. Special effects artist Nick Maley stated that “... a picture of Einstein ended up on the wall behind the Yoda sculptures and the wrinkles around Einstein’s eyes somehow got worked into the Yoda design. Over the course of this evolutionary process Yoda slowly changed from a comparatively sprightly, tall, skinny, grasshopper kind of character into the old, wise, spirited gnome that we all know today.” One can very easily see the resemblance between the two in the stamps that perfectly meet the current 49-cent first-class domestic postage rate (the cool factor). But hurry if you want to create a cover featuring this pair of geniuses. The domestic first-class postage rate rises to 50 cents on January 22.

Returning to this solar system, philatelically at least, another cover [Figure 2] is light years away. It is a small, rather soiled window envelope mailed on September 6, 1932, locally in Hamilton, Ohio, to an individual named Henry Rentschler. The cover contains a statement from a doctor for services rendered. There are no auxiliary markings. However, this is one of “those” covers you occasionally read about, where it is delivered years after the fact – in this case, nearly four years.

A letter addressed to Mr. Rentschler that accompanies this cover, is dated July 2, 1936, from the assistant postmaster of the Hamilton post office. The rather tongue-in-cheek apology explaining the delay reads as follows:

“Pardon the delay in the delivery of the enclosed letter. However, a little more than three years is not a long time to wait in the delivery of a locally mailed letter.

“The letter was found in the old lock box equipment which was recently shipped to Powhattan Point, Ohio. The letter inadvertently slipped through a crack in the base of the lock boxes and was found when they were torn down to be reinstalled in the Powhattan Point Post Office.

“Sincerely regretting this incident, we remain...”

Although the next cover [Figure 3] was not delayed – or at least not significantly – it illustrates a slightly different facet of postal adversity; that is, getting the mail out when options are limited.

The flood of 1937 was one of the most far-reaching and largest disasters to ever affect the entire Ohio River Valley, surpassing the levels of virtually all other floods for the previous 175 years (since records were kept). Hundreds of communities throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee were seriously affected, with the most severe flooding occurring in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, where entire towns were inundated. During the



Figure 1. Einstein served as a significant source of inspiration for the creation of Yoda. The stamps of the two create a perfect 49-cent franking.

# United States Post Office

FIRST CLASS

HAMILTON, OHIO

July 2, 1936

Mr. Henry Rentschler,  
Citizens Savings Bank,  
Hamilton, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rentschler:

Pardon the delay in the delivery of the enclosed letter. However, a little more than three years is not a long time to wait in the delivery of a locally mailed letter.

The letter was found in the old lock box equipment which was recently shipped to Powhatten Point, Ohio. The letter inadvertently slipped through a crack in the base of the lock boxes and was found when they were torn down to be reinstalled in the Powhatten Point Post Office.

Sincerely regretting this incident, we  
remain

Very truly yours,

*George Holder*  
Assistant Postmaster

H. D. SCHELL, M. D.  
123 N. 3rd Street  
Hamilton, Ohio



Mr. Henry Rentschler  
Citizens Savings Bank  
City

*Hamilton Ohio*

11-day period of January 13 to 24, more than 16 inches of rain fell in numerous locations, causing large and small rivers alike to crest by February 1, at levels never before seen. One of these communities was Calhoun, Kentucky, which sits just north of a bend in the Green River a little more than 20 miles south of Owensboro.

In early February the flood waters crested, submerging

Figure 2. There are no markings on this cover to reveal its delivery was delayed by almost four years. A letter reveals the details behind the delivery delay.

much of the small county-seat town. Since the downtown area was completely flooded, Postmaster Mrs. Lou E. Holder set up temporary headquarters in the local Methodist church, processing as much mail as possible by hand.

Since Holder did not have any equipment with her, she drew a manuscript cancel (and date) on each outgoing piece of mail in pencil or ink. The pen cancel on the cover shown [Figure 3] reads "Feb. 2, 1937, Calhoun, Ky, Calhoun Ky," with cross-hatching markings canceling the pair of 3-cent stamps affixed. The cover was a piece of business correspondence from a local mortuary to an individual in Kansas City, Missouri.

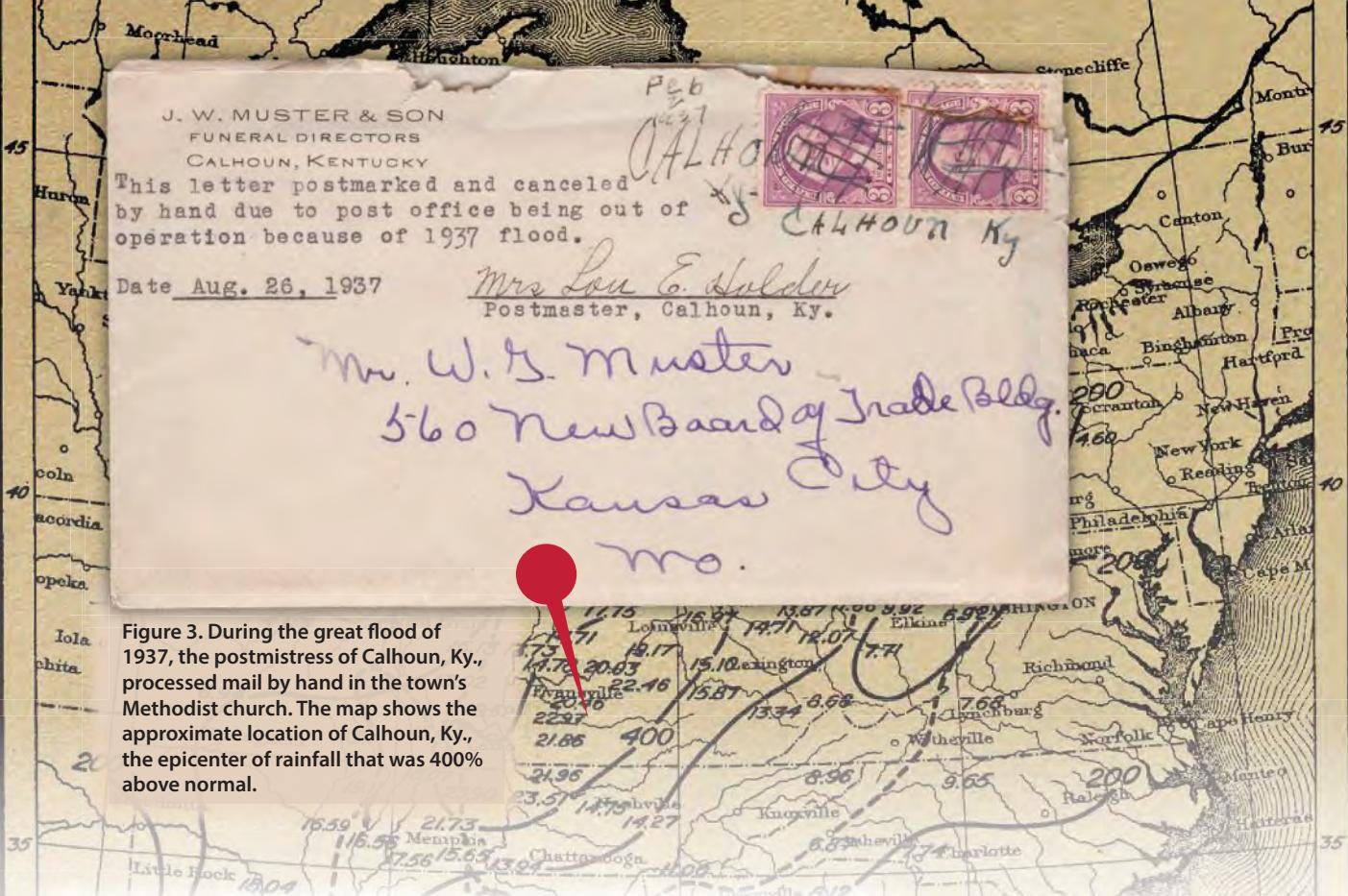


Figure 3. During the great flood of 1937, the postmistress of Calhoun, Ky., processed mail by hand in the town's Methodist church. The map shows the approximate location of Calhoun, Ky., the epicenter of rainfall that was 400% above normal.

Sometime later (August 26, 1937), someone typed a brief description on the face of the cover and returned it to Calhoun, obtaining Holder's signature on the face of the cover. An additional brief description of the situation is detailed on a typed enclosure.

Early philatelic literature periodically makes an appearance in large lots and the next example [Figure 4] turned up fairly recently, rather unexpectedly. It is a 36-page letterpress-printed edition (3 inches by 5½ inches) of the first edition of Stanton's U.S. Revenue Stamp Catalogue, "embracing all the varieties of Document, Proprietary, Match, Medicine and Playing Card Stamps." The catalog, dated 1885 in pencil at bottom, is one of the earliest revenue stamp catalogs extant. It sold originally for the princely sum of 10 cents, and was the product of stamp dealer F.J. Stanton of Smyrna, New York, who began to produce The Philatelic Tribune (a newspaper advertised extensively within the catalog) in 1885. In this catalog, which is surprisingly comprehensive for its time, comes a very early mention of stamp hinges [Figure 4 detail]. It appears on Page 20, among some of Stanton's other advertisements, and reads:

"Hinge Paper. Every collector should have a sheet of Gummed Paper for hinges for attaching stamps to the album page. Large size sheets 10¢ each postpaid. Address above."

Finally, the photographically cropped cover shown [Figure 5], dated November 17, 1972, bears an 8-cent Family Planning stamp, tied to cover, along with a small cinderella that reads "The Population Bomb Keeps Ticking." These seals, as I've learned, were printed to coincide with the republishing in 1971 of the extremely controversial 1968 book, *The Population Bomb*, by Dr. Paul Ehrlich and his wife Anne (uncredited). The book attempted to tap into fears that the "population explosion" would lead to millions of people starving to death in the 1970s and '80s if the population wasn't controlled and food production stepped up greatly. Al-

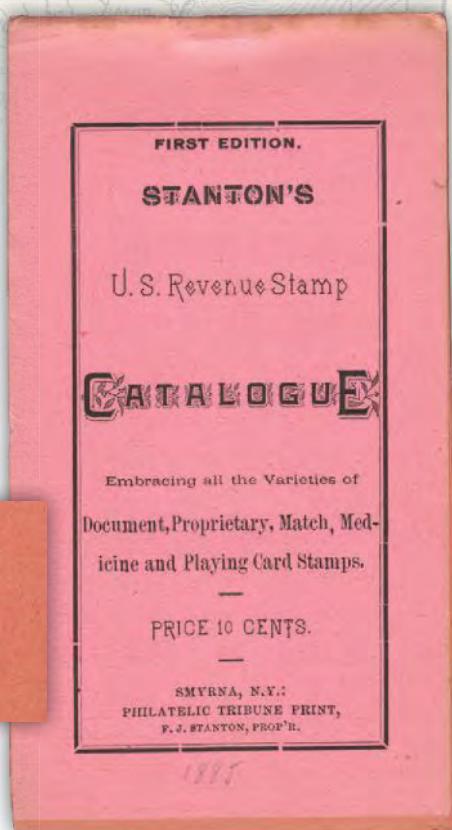


Figure 4. This extremely early U.S. revenue stamp catalog (dated 1885 in pencil) contains some rather interesting ads by the dealer who created it. An ad from the catalog is a very early advertisement for stamp hinges.

though the predictions weren't exactly untrue (millions of people have starved in the past several decades) the book has been widely criticized because of its alarmist tone. The labels



Figure 5. The cinderella label tied to cover with the 8-cent Family Planning issue was involved in a firestorm of controversy surrounding the stamp.

were provided to those who agreed with the message so that word could be spread through their use. This is the first on-cover example I've been able to locate.

Although I have not been able to locate the specific basis for releasing the Family Planning commemorative, it may have been inspired by Erlich's book, and was responsible for a bit of a controversy at the time.

At the first-day ceremony for the stamp, on March 18, 1972, J.T. Ellington, the then-director of the U.S. Postal Service office of communication, was quoted in the March 18, 1972, New York Times, "We hope... this stamp will serve as a reminder to all members of our society...that a spiraling world population and the environmental and social ills that inevitably follow – is everyone's concern." The ceremony was held in conjunction with a gathering of the Planned Parenthood Federation.

According to contemporaneous reports, the stamp was immediately popular with young couples using it on wedding and birth announcements to friends. But it wasn't so popular with the U.S. Catholic Conference and others who didn't want to buy "an abortion stamp." The Most Rev. Francis J. Dunn, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, stated the stamp, by nature, presumably includes the concept of artificial birth

control means. He said, "Catholics can, in conscience, use the stamps, but should protest the issuance of them." Monsignor James T. McHugh, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Family Life Division, called the stamp the "latest intrusion by the government into the private lives of its citizens." The stamp's depiction of a family of four, led him to comment that the USPS "endorses the two child family and thereby supports the position of those who urge the government to adopt policies that will put pressure on married couples to limit family size to two children."

APS member and collector Gordon M. Morison, then chief of the USPS Philatelic Division, stated specifically that the stamp was not "an endorsement of family planning, birth control, or limits on the population." The stamp, like those issued for the environment, drug abuse or the need for blood, was meant to begin a needed discussion on an issue of national concern.

"Judging from the very heavy mail we have received on both sides, we seem to have been very successful at that." According to at least one contemporaneous newspaper report, "Morison, with a hint of wistfulness in his voice, said the stamp has generated more mail and controversy than any other ever issued." Talk about a ticking time bomb. ☀

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# Let's Get Together and Make a Stamp

Since 1959, the U.S. Has Created a Healthy Legacy  
of Joint Issues with Other Nations

BY DIANN PINKOWSKI  
AND JEFF STAGE



Figure 1. Countries that formed the Little Entente after World War I – Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia – jointly issued stamps in 1937 to mark the pact's 16th anniversary. Czechoslovakia, Scott 230; Romania, Scott 467; and Yugoslavia, Scott 139.



Curtea de Arges Monastery, Romania

What is it that makes joint stamp issues so special and interesting? Is it the subject matter, international cooperation, or is it technical details? You very well may see your heritage acknowledged through a joint issue, or perhaps, there is an individual of note that is important to you.

Depending on who you are, interest could be spurred by any of these points or others not even noted here. Like all stamp collecting, there's a whole world of interesting issues to discover, but today we're looking at just those involving United States stamps.

The U.S. released its first joint issue in 1959 – a stamp with Canada commemorating the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway – and has since issued 42 more.

There have been joint issues for diplomatic relations, engineering feats, animals, space achievements, stamp collecting, emblems of friendship, immigrants, holidays and personalities, including an author, singer, architect, and three actresses. The United States' most recent, and the sixth official joint issue with Canada, added sports to the category with the History of Hockey stamps.

All but three of the U.S. joint issues have been with a single other nation; two were with two other countries, and one 1992 blockbuster – a tribute to Christopher Columbus – involved 16 stamps on six souvenir sheets with three other nations: Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Before we look at U.S. stamps, though, we should probably look at the history of joint issues.

Early on, when postal systems developed in the late 19th century, countries that had colonies elsewhere – particularly European nations – often created omnibus issues for these far-flung places using a common design. This was especially true for France, Germany, Great Britain and Portugal. Even as colonies began to move toward independence and create unique stamps generated from within, influence from the British Empire was still seen in stamps of common design, such as for a monarch's coronation.

A more modern set of stamps with like designs are the Europa issues, which started in 1956. These stamps were meant to express a bond among European nations, particularly non-Communist nations. (It was 1969 before a Communist nation – Yugoslavia – started participating in the annual Europa issues.) For many years, the Europa issues were the same design for the participants. Except for 1957, that concept continued through 1973. Starting in 1974, Europa stamps offered a common theme for those participating. The Europa theme for 2017 was castles, this year it will be bridges, and national birds will appear in 2019.

Europa, omnibus and common design stamps are quite collectible, but we are going to discount them as joint issues for various reasons. For our purposes, we're considering joint issues as those released in unison with another independent government.

The first true joint issues can likely be traced to the mid-1930s and political leanings during the Cold War brewing among Eastern European nations. (We're discounting the many countries which in 1937 through 1939 issued stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. These stamps do not appear to have the earmarks of a joint issue.)

On July 1, 1937, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia all issued stamps of different designs, but all featuring famous or important native churches [Figure 1]. The stamps jointly commemorated the 16th anniversary of Little Entente, a post-WWI alliance with the purpose of a common defense against political aspirations of Hungary.



Figure 2. In 1937, four nations signed the Balkan Entente and subsequently issued stamps, including Greece, Scott 412, and Romania, Scott 470.

Not long afterward, a four-nation issue honored the Balkan Pact (Entente), which was signed on February 9, 1934 by Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The pact was meant to assure peaceful borders during uncertain times. Other nations involved with diplomatic discussions – including the Soviet Union and Italy – refused to sign the pact. The four countries that signed jointly issued stamps in 1937-38

and 1940 featuring all of the countries' coats of arms and heraldic animals [Figure 2].

Some might claim that the U.S. Swedish-Finnish Tercenary issue of 1938 is a joint issue with Finland and Sweden, which also marked the settlement in Wilmington, Delaware with stamps. But there is no real evidence of official joint co-operation among these countries. All of the designs – one each for the U.S. and Finland, seven for Sweden – are different, as are the issue dates.

Sometimes, joint issues were considered, but didn't happen... or "happened," but may not have been entirely considered a joint release.

The U.S. and Mexico issued stamps on June 21, 2001 honoring Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954). U.S. politicians had become aware of Kahlo's enthusiasm for communism and condemnation of U.S. politics. It was too late to withdraw the stamp, but the concept of a joint issue was halted and there was no common cancellation or ceremony. Each nation illustrated the stamp with Kahlo's self-portrait "with necklace." Mexico still considers this issue a joint issue, the U.S. does not. It's up to you how to collect it.

In 1992, the U.S. and Canada each issued stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway. It could have been a joint issue, but it wasn't, with neither nation officially acknowledging the other's stamp or ceremony.

An interesting aspect of joint issues is how they are classified.

Over the years, most articles about joint stamp issues have mostly ignored the area of classification. According to Richard Zimmermann's *Catalogue of Joint Stamp Issues 2006*, there are five basic classifications of joint stamp issues: twin, concerted, parallel, Siamese and unique. You can read more about these on Zimmermann's website ([www.philarz.net/faq.htm](http://www.philarz.net/faq.htm)).

These classifications are a direct off-shoot of Zimmermann's leadership and involvement with a short-lived society devoted to joint issue collecting. Founded around 1997, the International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors (later renamed as the Joint Stamp Issues Society) had bylaws, officers, membership, dues and a quarterly newsletter, or journal, called "Joint Stamp Issues." As a membership society, it filed a statement of dissolution on February 1, 2008, but noted its continuance with Zimmermann and a few contributors, who maintain a website and issue supplements to the *Catalogue of Joint Issues* (1997, 2006).

Here, we're going to look at what some might call a true joint issue, which Zimmermann calls "twins." Twin stamp joint issues happen when two or more postal administrations agree to issue stamps together with identical commemorative designs and are issued on the same day. The only major differences in the stamps are the currency and country name. (Some small design adjustments could be made to accommodate printing specifications or different text.) In addition, the postal administrations must be recognized by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at the time of release.

Twin issues are the most prolific of the U.S. joint stamp issues with 37 of the 43 qualifying as twins. Here is a look at the U.S. twins, some of which seem little different than some standard commemoratives, and others that offer interesting philatelic and historic twists and turns.

## The Early Issues



### Canada – St. Lawrence Seaway

June 26, 1959 (Scott 1131, Canada 387)

The first joint stamp issue was with Canada. The postal authorities of both countries agreed to issue a stamp to celebrate the St. Lawrence Seaway. The different countries' stamps differ only in country name and currency. The U.S. and Canadian stamps were both issued June 26, 1959.

The St. Lawrence Seaway is an alteration via canals, locks and channels in the St. Lawrence River system that allows ocean-going shipping to move between the Atlantic Ocean and North America's Great Lakes. Technically, the Seaway runs between Montreal, Quebec and Lake Erie and includes Canada's Welland Canal. Though not as accommodating for larger ships as the Panama Canal, the Seaway opened Canada and American ports to more transatlantic shipping.

Like the cooperation between the two countries that created the navigable waterway, the United States' first joint issue was a creative and cooperative effort between two postal systems.

A printing error occurred that created an inverted central design of the Canadian stamp. This is only one of three inverts in Canadian postal history.

The Canadian postal authorities advised that a sheet of 200 had been printed incorrectly and divided into four sections and sent to various post offices across Canada. Invert panes were found in Winnipeg; Joliette, Quebec; and Peterborough and Picton, Ontario. As many as 16 stamps were later found used on cover. A nice basic story about the error can be found on the website of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre at [www.saskatoonstamp.com/stamp-gallery-st-lawrence-seaway-invert.asp](http://www.saskatoonstamp.com/stamp-gallery-st-lawrence-seaway-invert.asp).



A team of Arnold Copeland, Ervine Metzi and William H. Buckley, of the U.S., and Gerald Trottier and A.L. Pollock, of Canada, are credited with the design. Official first-day sites are Massena, New York and Ottawa, Ontario.



### Mexico – Mexican Independence

September 15, 1960, Mexico; September 16, 1960

(Scott 1157, Mexico 910)

If the rule for joint twin issues is that they are identical designs and issued on the same day, then why was Mexico's 150th Anniversary of Mexican Independence stamp released a day before the U.S. issue? Very simply, the Mexican government closed its offices on September 16, 1960 to mark the holiday. To celebrate, Mexico issued its stamp a day early.

The stamp shows the Independence Bell of Mexico. The bell was in a Roman Catholic Church in the city of Dolores (now Dolores Hidalgo) in the state of Guanajuato. On the morning of September 16, 1810, the Rev. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the bell and pronounced a call to arms that triggered the Mexican War of Independence against Spain.

The stamp was designed by Mexico's Leon Helguera and Charles R. Chickering, of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

First-day sites: Los Angeles, California and Mexico City, Mexico.



### Spain – 400th Anniversary of Settlement of Florida (St. Augustine)

August 28, 1965 (Scott 1271, Spain 1312)

Reasons for issuing twin joint stamps vary. Spain and the U.S. wanted to celebrate the first permanent settlement on the North American continent known as St. Augustine in Florida and did so on August 28, 1965. The design features a Spanish explorer, the royal banner of Castile and Leon and sailing ships bound for the Florida coast.

After error sheets were discovered at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, postal inspectors found four panes with missing colors before they could be sold at post offices.

The 2018 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* lists a “yellow missing” color error for such mint stamps.

The stamp was designed by Brook Temple. First-day sites: St. Augustine, Florida and Madrid, Spain.



## Soviet Union – Apollo-Soyuz Test Project

**July 15, 1975 (Scott 1569-70, Soviet, now Russia, 4339-40)**

After the issuance of the previous joint issue, it was another 10 years before there was another joint twin. U.S. postal authorities got together with the Soviet Union to release the nations’ first twin joint issue, a se-tenant pair celebrating the Apollo-Soyuz Space Mission.

The stamps from these Cold War foes show the possibilities of science and space cooperation by depicting docking of the space crafts.

The se-tenant stamps from each nation are printed from the same plate and sheet and are unsevered in a strip or block. Also, each pair consists of two stamps differing from each other by design, color, and denomination. Known errors include some misperforations and pairs with the yellow color omitted.

The designs are by Robert McCall and Anatoly M. Aksamit. McCall (1919-2010) specialized in art involving space subjects. He created artwork for *Life* magazine, Disney, and for the *Star Trek* television show and the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and designed several space-themed U.S. stamps, including the Decade of Achievement pair (1971) and the Viking Mission to Mars (1978). He was a co-artist on another joint issue with Russia, the Benefitting Mankind block of four (1981).

First-day sites: Kennedy Space Center, Florida and Moscow, Russia.



## Canada – U.S. Bicentennial

**June 1, 1976 (Scott 1690, Canada 691)**

On June 1, 1976 Canada and the U.S. issued their second joint twin, this one to celebrate the Bicentennial of Independence of the United States. The image of Benjamin Franklin on these stamps says a lot to the philatelic community. Franklin was the general postmaster of British North America, which included parts of what would become Canada, and the U.S. He is credited with contributing to the Canadian postal system by opening post offices in three main cities: Montreal, Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres.

The design, by Bernard Reilander, of Canada, shows a profile bust of Franklin and a map of British North America. Each country used different colors for the background and type.

First-day sites: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Ottawa, Ontario.

# The 1980s



## Ireland – James Hoban

October 13, 1981 (Scott 1935, Ireland 504)

This is an example of what can happen during the sometimes long process of the production of a postage stamp. The James Hoban joint issue with Ireland was originally created and printed to serve an 18-cent first-class domestic rate. But before the stamp could be issued, first-class postage would rise by 2 cents less than three weeks after the planned issue date. Solution: reprint the stamp with the new 20-cent denomination. Both stamps were issued on the same date. This was a first for U.S. stamps.

Irish architect Hoban (1755-1831) was the subject of the United States' first joint issue with Ireland. Hoban came to the U.S. after the Revolutionary War and established himself in Philadelphia in 1785. His big break came in 1790 when he designed the Neoclassical-style County Courthouse of Charleston, South Carolina. George Washington visited, was impressed with what he saw and invited Hoban to Washington. In 1792, Hoban won an open contest to design the White House. After the British burned the structure in the War of 1812, Hoban rebuilt the Southern Portico for President James Monroe (1824) and the Northern Portico for President Andrew Jackson (1829).

The stamp was designed by Walter D. Richards, of the U.S., who created the White House on the stamp, and Ron Mercer, of Ireland, who drew the portrait. This was the first of two joint issues with the U.S. that Mercer helped create.

The first-day-of-release differs for this joint issue, September 29 in Ireland and October 13 in the U.S. This also

was the first time Ireland had a joint issue with a country outside of Europe.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Dublin, Ireland.

The 20-cent stamp in this somewhat odd twin is called a concerted issue.

## The Netherlands – The 200th Anniversary of Diplomatic Recognition of the U.S.

April 20, 1982 (Scott 2003, Netherlands 640-641)

In October 1782, 11 months before the end of the Revolutionary War, The Netherlands became the first foreign power to sign such a treaty with the United States. President John Adams signed the document for the U.S. Two hundred years

later, the U.S. and The Netherlands marked the occasion with a joint stamp issue. The Netherlands created stamps of two denominations from the design.



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix dedicated her country's stamps when she visited Washington, D.C. during a four-day gala visit which included a speech to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, visits with President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H.W. Bush, cultural events and a spectacular fireworks show.

The stamp features the red, white and blue colors of both countries' flags. Artist and stamp designer Heleen Tigler Wybrandi-Raue, of The Netherlands, designed the stamp, according to Post NL, postal service for The Netherlands.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Utrecht, Netherlands.



## Sweden – The Treaty of Amity and Commerce

March 24, 1983 (Scott 2036, Sweden 1453)

Sweden, on April 3, 1783, signed a treaty thus becoming the first neutral European nation to recognize the new United States. Swedish artist Dan Jonsson designed the stamp, which was engraved by Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005), the court engraver of Sweden. This was the first of four U.S. joint issues, three for Sweden that Slania worked on. The Polish-born Slania is one of the most prolific stamp engravers of all time, with more than 1,000 designs to his credit.





The stamp artwork features a drawing of Benjamin Franklin, the national seal of Sweden and the signatures of Franklin and Sweden statesman and diplomat Gustav (Gustaf) Philip Creutz, both of whom signed the treaty.

First-day sites: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Stockholm, Sweden.

### Germany – German Immigration



**April 29, 1983 (Scott 2040, Germany 1397)**

This stamp honors the voyage of the *Concord*, which left Europe on July 24, 1683 and carried 13 families from Krefeld, Germany, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they founded a community called Germantown.

Illustrator Richard Schlecht, of Washington, D.C., created the original watercolor-wash painting that was the basis for the stamp.

First-day sites: Germantown, Pennsylvania and Bonn, Germany.



### Ireland – John McCormack

**June 6, 1984 (Scott 2090, Ireland 594)**

The stamp honors the birth centenary of operatic tenor John McCormack (1884-1945), who was born in Ireland and began his singing career at the age of 18 in Dublin. It wasn't long before his talent took him on a world-hopping

career and regular performances from the U.S. to London and Italy to Australia. Though he performed opera, he especially pleased audiences and excelled with such fare as Irish folk songs and ballads. In the U.S., he performed with such prestigious musical groups as the Boston, Metropolitan and Chicago opera companies.

In a 2010 story for NPR by Susan Stamberg, a modern-day Irish tenor – Anthony Kearns, one of The Irish Tenors performing group – said McCormack's recording of Macushla is what drew him in. “‘The sadness in it and the longing and the wanting — it just draws at the heart,’” Kearns said in the story. “‘His breath control, his diction, the quality of the voice — and with such ease that he manages to sing and bring it right down to a pianissimo and control his instrument.’”

Mercer, of Ireland, who helped create the earlier James Hoban joint issue, worked with Jim Sharpe, of the U.S., to create the stamp. Sharpe created the large portrait, Mercer the small.

First-day sites: Boston, Massachusetts and Dublin, Ireland.

### Sweden – Stamp Collecting

**January 23, 1986 (Scott 2200, Sweden 1587)**

The second joint issue in three years between these two nations celebrated something that stamp collectors love – stamp collecting. Both countries would host international stamp shows this year – Ameripex in Chicago and Stockholmia in Sweden – so what better way to celebrate than with stamps?

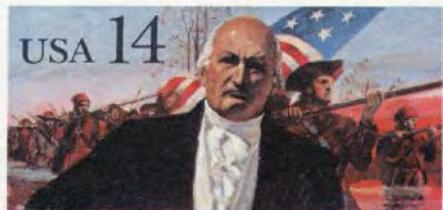
Each country issued booklets with strips of four stamps showing different aspects of philately. The third stamp in each nation's booklet was the joint issue.

Though not an exact duplicate in design, the No. 3 stamp is considered a twin. The clever stamp shows a grid-type album page displaying three stamps, one of them beneath a magnifying glass, a common collector's tool. The 1936 stamp honoring the tercentenary of Swedish-Finnish settlement in Delaware (Scott 836) is under the magnifier. The stamps at the top of the page are two Swedish stamps from 1938 honoring the same anniversary: the Johann Printz-Indian Chief (Scott 268) and the Holy Trinity Church, of Wilmington, Delaware (Scott 271).

The differences in the joint issue are small, but still noticeable. The grid page is colored beige and covers the background on the U.S. stamp; on the Swedish stamp, the same grid is white and ends at the magnifier. The top two stamp images on the Swedish stamp have been cropped. The handle of the magnifier is different. An image of a Wilmington, Delaware postmark from June 27, 1938 – the date of the official tercentenary celebration – appears at the bottom of both stamps, but is at the left on the U.S. stamp, on the right on the Swedish stamp.

The stamps were designed by Richard Sheaff, of the U.S., and Eva Jern, of Sweden.

First-day sites: State College, Pennsylvania and Stockholm, Sweden.



Francis Vigo, Vincennes, 1779

### Italy – Francis Vigo postal card

May 24, 1986 (Scott UX 111, Italy, no Scott number)

Even now, it's likely that many U.S. collectors might not recognize the name Francis ("Francesco" on the Italian card) Vigo, who graces the lone postal card joint issue.

Vigo (1747-1836) was born in Mondovi, Italy before moving to Spain, where he became a Spanish citizen. He came to America as part of a Spanish regiment dispatched to New Orleans in the early 1770s. In 1772, he established a fur trading business in St. Louis and eventually relocated to Fort Vincennes, Indiana. Vigo was captured by Indian and British forces when Vincennes was occupied. Vigo was eventually released and made his way to George Rogers Clark, to whom he gave vital information about the British in Vincennes. Vigo also is credited with financing much of the American forces' efforts in the Northwest Territories.

The artwork was designed by David Blossom.

First-day sites: Vincennes, Indiana and Rome, Italy.

**PTT CARTEPOSTE**



REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

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### France – Statue of Liberty

July 4, 1986

(Scott 2224, France 2014 - France also issued apostal card)

If there ever was a natural for a joint issue, it was this one.

The statue, representing the welcoming arms of America, was a gift to the United States from the people of France. It was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and erected on Bedloe's Island (later renamed Liberty Island) and stands right near Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants first landed on America's shores.

The copper statue, formally known as *Liberty Enlightening the World*, stands 151 feet and 1 inch high and had just finished a two-year restoration when it was celebrated for its centennial year.

The Liberty Weekend festivities, in the Metropolitan New York area, included a first-day ceremony for the stamp at Governor's Island. The first-day city for the French stamp was Paris.

Despite the holiday release when most post offices would be closed, the new stamp went on sale at selected post offices in New York and New Jersey.

The design features a close-up photograph of the statue's face by New York City photographer Peter B. Kaplan, "noted for dramatic shots of city sites, many taken from atop skyscrapers and bridge towers," wrote the *New York Times*. The French apparently liked the handsome design so much that they added it to a postal card.

First-day sites: Liberty Island, New York and Paris, France.



## Morocco – 200th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations

July 17, 1987 (Scott 2349, Morocco 642)

This is the only U.S. joint issue with a predominantly Islamic country.

The stamp honors the 1787 Treaty of Marrakesh that secured protection for American ships off the Barbary Coast. Sultan Sidi Muhammed bin Abdullah, sultan from 1757 to 1790, signed the treaty for Morocco. The sultan was more open than many rulers in the area and worked with English and Jewish traders.

The stamps are considered twins even though the stamps have some obvious differences: the symbolic vignette is larger on the U.S. stamp, there is more writing (both Western-French and Arabic lettering on the Moroccan stamp) and the background colors are different.

Howard Paine, then design coordinator for the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, designed the stamp using an ornate painted door of Dar Batha Palace in Fez, Morocco as the model for the vignette.

The Moroccan stamp is the first foreign joint issue that includes text, in French, noting it is a joint issue with the U.S. The U.S. version includes no such language.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Rabat, Morocco.



## Australia – Australia Bicentennial

January 26, 1988 (Scott 2370, Australia 1052)

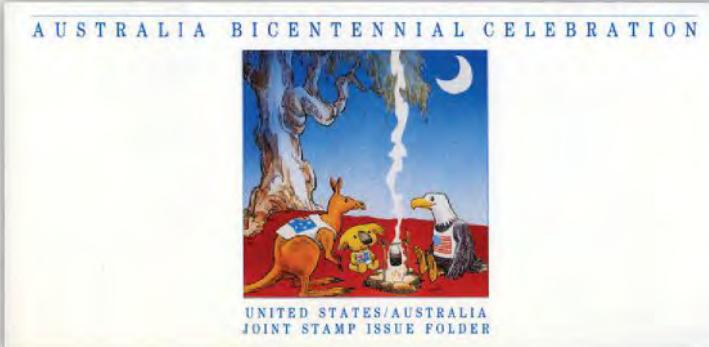
Aside from a few stamps featuring children's drawings, this likely set a new mark for U.S. stamps in that it presented whimsical characters created in cartoon fashion.

Designed by award-winning Australian illustrator and author Roland Bruce Harvey, the stamp shows two cartoon versions of native symbolic animals – the bald eagle and the koala – embraced in a lively dance and decked out in their respective nation's colors.

Australia's first settlement was established in 1788 at Port Jackson and was created as a penal colony for Great Britain. The importation was halted in 1868.

Like the joint issue with Morocco, the Australian stamp states "Joint stamp issue with USA."

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Sydney, Australia.



## Sweden and Finland – Settlement of New Sweden

March 29, 1988 (Scott C117, Sweden 1672, Finland 768)

This was the first time the U.S. celebrated a joint issue with more than one other nation. The design by Göran Österlund, of Sweden, that celebrates the 350th anniversary settlement in the New World is based on an 18th-century illustration from a Swedish book about the colonies.

Each nation released a single stamp, the U.S. version being an international 44-cent airmail stamp. That stamp has the



distinction of becoming postally obsolete faster than any other U.S. stamp as the rate rose to 45 cents five days after the stamp's release. Legitimate uses of the stamp on cover during that five-day timeframe are scarce. The Swedish stamp is part of a booklet of six stamps celebrating Swedish-American heritage.

The stamp was issued in Wilmington, Delaware. The first wave of Swedes and Finns settled in what today are Delaware, southern New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania. There was a first-day ceremony in Wilmington as well as the first-day cities of Helsinki, Finland and Vaxjo, Sweden.



In the design, the map is way out of proportion with the ocean between the Old and New worlds looking more like a river. Easily identifiable land masses include Greenland, Europe, Africa, South America and a gigantic rendition of North America. The Scandinavian settlement ships *Kalmar Nyckel* and *Fogel Grip* appear in the water. Human figures on land include a settler and Indians on the U.S. stamp.

The text at top left in each stamp is similar: "New Sweden, 1638," on the U.S. stamp; and "New Sweden, 1638-1988," on the Swedish version. The Finnish stamp states: "Finnish Settlement in America, 1638-1988."

And, though many regard this as a twin, there are a few detractors that have some valid points. The basic designs are clearly from the same illustrator working with the same concept.

The image on the U.S. stamp is about 1 3/8 inches wide. The European stamps each measure 2 1/4 inches. All of the land on the U.S. stamp is colored yellow; land on the Finnish and Swedish stamps ranges from pink with white stripes to white and light orange. The ocean is a bit wider on the European stamps. And the biggest difference is that there are five human figures on the Swedish and Finnish stamps.

As a side note, Österlund in 2012 won a contest to redesign Sweden's new kroner bank notes.

## The 1990s

### Marshall Islands and Micronesia – Compact of Free Association

September 28, 1990

(Scott 2506-2507, Marshall Islands 381, Micronesia 124-126)

This was the second time the U.S. released a joint issue with more than one nation, the first being the Settlement of New Sweden stamp two years earlier with Finland and Sweden.

Interestingly, the Marshall Islands issued one stamp, the U.S. two, and Micronesia three. A shared design between each island nation and the U.S. made up the two U.S. stamps. Micronesia also shared the Marshall Islands design and added a third stamp showing the USS *Constitution* and the American flag. The stamps, appearing to be reproduced nearly identically, were created by three different presses and two different processes (offset/intaglio for the U.S. stamps; offset lithography for the Micronesian and Marshallese stamps).

Artist, historian and author Herb Kawainui Kane, of Hawaii, designed the two U.S. stamps whose designs were shared. He designed seven U.S. Pacific Ocean-themed stamps altogether. Lloyd Birmingham designed the third stamp from Micronesia.

The stamp commemorated a pact signed just four years earlier that granted political independence to the people of both Pacific island nations. Micronesia and the Marshall Islands came under U.S. administration after World War II. By the early 1980s, the people of these island nations moved fully toward independence.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C.; Palikir, Pohnpei, Micronesia; and Republic of Marshall Islands.

### Soviet Union – Sea Mammals

October 3, 1990

(Scott 2508-2511, USSR, now Russia, 5933-5936)

Just five days after the U.S. issued a stamp with two Oceania nations, another joint issue loomed – this, the second with the Soviet Union, 15 years after Apollo-Soyuz stamps.

The Sea Creatures block of four features animals common to both U.S. and Russian waters: the killer whale, common dolphin, sea lion, and sea otter.



The stamps were designed by Peter Coccia (killer whale and dolphin) and Vladimir Beilin (sea lion and sea otter), the first of two U.S. joint issues for the Russian artist.

As with most cases, the stamps for each country were printed by the issuing entity. Sometimes, the final products look as if they came off the same press. Other times, such as with this joint issue, the differences in production are obvious. The U.S. stamps show water that is very greenish in tone while the water on the Soviet stamps is a strong tone of blue.

The U.S. stamps were issued at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, with the Soviet block issued in Moscow. The U.S. first-day ceremony included Postmaster General Anthony Frank and Soviet Major-General Viktor V. Gorbatko, a cosmonaut and chairman of the Soviet All Union Federation of Philatelists. Gorbatko (1934-2017) flew into space five times between 1967 and 1980.

This was the first of three straight years of U.S. issues with the USSR and Russia, possibly a result of the settling of the Cold War and glasnost – less censorship and more openness – in the then-communist Soviet Union.



## Switzerland – 700th Anniversary of Switzerland

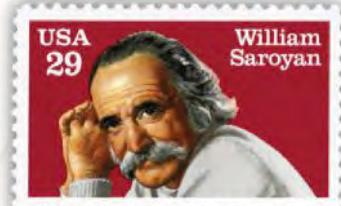
February 22, 1991 (Scott 2532, Switzerland 888)

The stamp honors Switzerland, the world's oldest continuous democracy, which was founded in 1291.

The tidy design – perhaps a tad bland compared to most other joint issues – features the legislative buildings of the two governments — the U.S. Capitol in the foreground and the Renaissance-style Parliament building in Berne in the back. The stamps were formally issued in Washington, D.C. and Bern.

The stamp was designed by Hans Hartman, of Switzerland.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Bern, Switzerland.



## Soviet Union – William Saroyan

May 22, 1991 (Scott 2538, USSR (now Russia) 6002)

The stamp was designed by American illustrator Ren Wicks (1911-1997), the son of a California artist. It was based on an original photo by Paul Kalinian, of Fresno, California. Wicks created a few other stamps but is most likely remembered for his creations of “pin-up girls,” along with work for Lockheed; magazines, ranging from Redbook to Esquire; and for Howard Hughes and RKO Pictures, for which he created the very popular and well-known image of Jane Russell in the movie, *The Outlaw*.

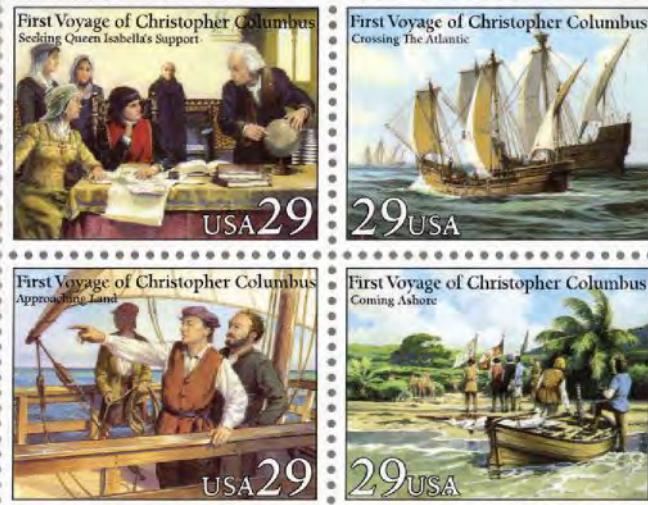
Wicks, when telling the story of the stamp, said he submitted four designs to the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee and would have chosen one of his more “dramatic” drawings, “but they liked this one.”

In a 1991 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Wicks was quoted as saying that the Soviet postal authorities altered his original artwork, “The Soviets doctored my artwork to make their version more ethnic — more brooding and Middle Eastern.” The Soviet stamp shows a larger image of the author with darker shadows throughout.

The stamp as a joint issue was a bit of a stretch. Saroyan (1908-81) was the son of Armenian immigrants and grew up in California. Armenia was one of the 12 republics of the Soviet Union, until it was the first to secede in 1991. Saroyan

wrote plays, novels and short stories extensively about his home state, having many based in his hometown of Fresno. He won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1940 for *The Time of Your Life* and a 1943 Academy Award for *The Human Comedy*.

First-day sites: Fresno, California and Yerevan, Armenia.



## Italy – Voyages of Columbus

April 24, 1992 (Scott 2620-2623, Italy 1877-1880)

Richard Schlecht's designs were used for all four stamps for both countries. The designs depict Columbus meeting with Queen Isabella; his ships, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria crossing the Atlantic Ocean; sailors looking toward the horizon as they approach landfall; and members of the expedition coming ashore and encountering Indians.

Like a couple of the joint issues with Russia, the biggest difference between the countries' stamps are the colors. The U.S. stamps showing water are greener and darker than the Italian stamps, which are decidedly bluer. The overall tone is lighter in the Italian stamps.

First-day sites: Christiansted, Virginia and Genoa, Italy.

## Italy, Portugal, Spain – Voyages of Columbus, A Reprint of the 1898 U.S. Columbians

May 22, 1992

(Scott 2624-2629, Spain 2679-2682, Italy 1883-1888, Portugal 1918-1923)

The original 16 U.S. stamps on which these are based were issued in 1893 for the gigantic World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. They were the United States' first commemoratives and, though cherished today, were criticized for carrying such a high value – \$16.34 total, which would equal about \$255 when these new stamps were issued in 1992.

The original stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co., which also created the 1992 stamps. American Bank Note changed the die at top right on each stamp from 1892 to 1992 to change the anniversary year of celebration.

The new versions were then incorporated onto six souvenir sheets, three each on five sheets and the single high-value \$5 stamp alone on the sixth.

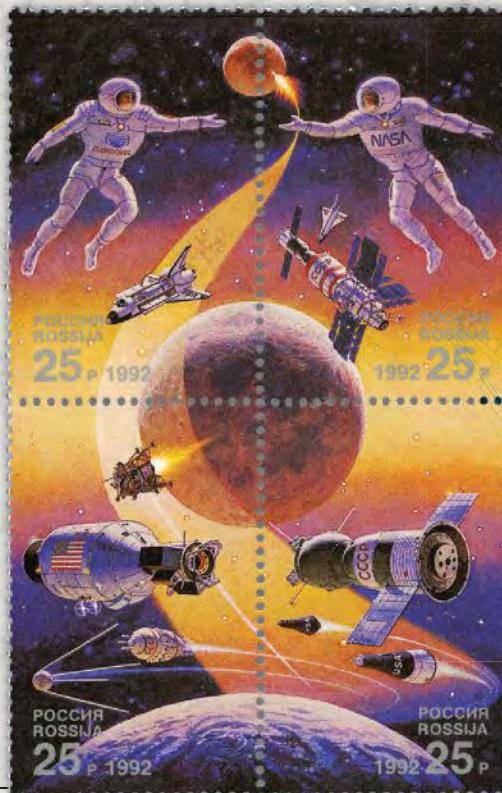


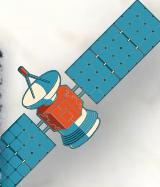
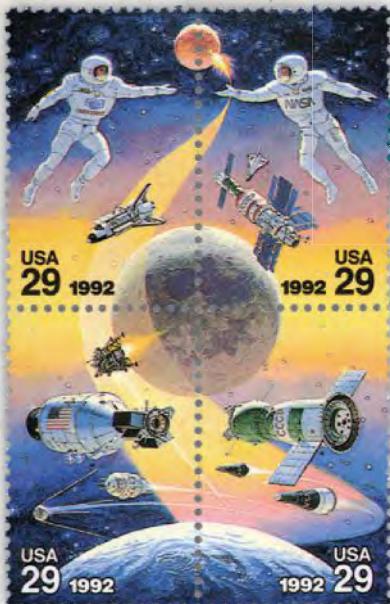
First Sighting of Land

The other three nations – all with links to Columbus and his voyages – adapted the stamps to their own designs in relation to country name, language and denomination, but also placed the stamps on souvenir sheets. The souvenir sheets differ very slightly in size among the four nations.

The complete joint issue set includes 64 stamps on 24 souvenir sheets.

First-day sites: Genoa, Italy; others at World Columbian Stamp Expo 92 in Chicago, Illinois.





## Russia – Space Accomplishments

May 29, 1992 (Scott 2631-2634, Russia 6080-6083)

This block of four has some pretty high interest for a few reasons. Maybe foremost is that one of the issuing nations changed its name. In mid-design, the Soviet Union broke up, thus instead of this being the third joint issue between the U.S. and USSR in as many years, it became the first U.S.-Russia joint issue.

That change in country of origin prompted some last-minute design changes. The space-walking astronaut and cosmonaut were originally supposed to show the names of their respective countries – USA and CCCP (Cyrillic for USSR) – on their belts. Instead, that wording was changed to their respective space agencies – NASA for the U.S. and Glavkosmos (in Cyrillic) for Russia.

The first-day ceremony took place at the World Columbian Stamp Expo in Chicago and was attended by four astronauts and cosmonauts: Russia's Gherman S. Titov, the second man to fly in space, and America's Scott Carpenter, one of the original Mercury astronauts, along with Deke Slayton and Henry W. Hartsfield Jr.

The U.S. stamps were printed in panes of 50 and the Russian stamps in panes of 32. There are known errors to the U.S. stamps: a plate flaw known as the "toaster cord" off the space module in the lower-left stamp and yellow omitted, which can be easily simulated by exposure to sun.

Robert McCall, of the U.S., who co-designed the Apollo-Soyuz stamps, co-designed this block with Vladimir Beilin, of Russia, who co-designed the Sea Mammals joint issue.

First-day sites: Chicago, Illinois and Moscow, Russia.

## Monaco – Grace Kelly (Princess Grace)

March 24, 1993 (Scott 2748, Monaco 1851)

The portrait of the former glamorous movie star who became an adored princess has been acclaimed by some as one

of the finest of modern U.S. stamps. Certainly that praise can be attributed to a combination of the subject herself and the stamp designer, Czeslaw Slania, who had previously designed the 1983 joint issue with Sweden. Slania's engraving for this issue seems perfect.

The portrait is based on a publicity still from the 1954 film, *The Country Girl*, for which Kelly won an Academy Award. Kelly made 11 films, including three with director Alfred Hitchcock, before retiring in 1956 to marry Prince Rainier III of Monaco. She died in a car accident in 1982. At the time of the stamp's release only a handful of actors – W.C. Fields, the Barrymores, John Wayne and Judy Garland, among them – had appeared on U.S. stamps.



The only difference in the designs between the two countries is the denomination and wording, notably the U.S. stamp says "Grace Kelly" while "Princess Grace" is the title of the Monaco stamp (The inclusion of foreign titles of royalty are prohibited on U.S. stamps.) This is another case, however, where the ink used is noticeably different, with the U.S. stamp being a grayer shade of blue than that of Monaco.

First-day sites: Hollywood, California and Monaco.



## People's Republic of China – Birds

October 9, 1994 (Scott 2867-2868, China 2528-2529)

No politics, no national colors, no diplomacy. It would be difficult to know just by looking at the two stamps that they were the first, and thus far only, joint issue between the United States and China.

But the rendition of the endangered birds depicted – the black-necked crane and the whooping crane – promote the beauty of wildlife and importance of wildlife conservation. The whooping crane, native to the U.S. and nearly extinct

by 1941, is endangered with an estimated 603 birds, 161 in captivity. The black-necked crane, found in China and other parts of Asia, remains protected, with an estimated 8,800 to 11,000 individuals in the wild. Throughout Asia, the crane is a symbol of happiness and eternal youth.

Both countries agreed to adopt the artwork of Zhan Gengxi (born 1941), of China, and the layout, design, and typography work of Clarence Lee (1936-2015) of Honolulu, Hawaii. Lee's studios first presented Gengxi eight concept drawings before the final work was created.

The 29-cent U.S. stamps paid the first-class domestic rate at that time. China released the stamps as two single stamps and the US issued the cranes as a se-tenant pair.

At least one report found indicates that William F. Bolger (1923-1989), who served as postmaster general from 1978 to 1984, privately suggested a joint issue to Chinese officials in 1983, but there is no indication that Bolger suggested the stamp's subject.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Beijing, China.



This stamp, designed by Howard Paine, pays tribute to that great migration, which officially honored the 150th anniversary of the great potato famine. A sailing ship is seen entering an American harbor on the stamp.

In addition to the single stamps, a six-page Irish folder devoted to John F. Kennedy was produced.

### **Mexico – Cinco de Mayo**

**April 16, 1998 (Scott 3203, 3309-reprint, Mexico 2066)**

These two countries' third official joint issue – which celebrates a holiday popular among Mexican-Americans – features stamps of the same design, but distinctly different sizes.



### **Israel – Hanukkah**

**October 22, 1996 (Scott 3118, Israel 1289)**

The first religious holiday-specific stamp was not issued in the U.S. until the first Christmas stamp, which was released November 1, 1962. Though Christmas stamps quickly became a staple, it took 34 years before a different holiday with religious roots was produced. On October 22, 1996, the U.S. and Israel jointly issued stamps for the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Hannah Smotrich designed the colorful stamp, which shows the nine candles used in the nightly ceremony of the holiday.

The U.S. version was reissued three times to accommodate rising postal rates, in 1999 (33 cents), 2001 (34 cents) and 2002 (37 cents).

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Jerusalem, Israel.

### **Ireland – Irish Immigration**

**February 26, 1999 (Scott 3286, Ireland 1168)**

About 2 million Irish, fleeing famine and political unrest, made their way to the United States between 1820 and 1860. Nearly another 3 million followed over the succeeding 50 years.

The design shows a couple dancing in traditional Mexican garb, meant to represent the joy and hope for the future following an unexpected military victory. Poorly equipped Mexican troops outlasted and defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, which ended May 5, 1862. Today, the date and holiday are more connected to the celebration of Mexican heritage rather than the battle, which helped Mexico repel France's advances.



The U.S. stamp is about 1 1/8 inches deep; the Mexican stamp is about a half-inch longer. To accommodate the deeper stamp, the image of the dancers – particularly the male dancer on the right side – have been cropped.

The U.S. stamp was re-released a year later on April 27, 1999 to accommodate a rate increase of 1 cent for first-class domestic postage. Just like the redenominated James Hoban issue, the revalued Cinco de Mayo is considered a “concerted” issue, not a new twin.

First-day sites: San Antonio, Texas and Mexico (no city).



### Palau – First Anniversary of Independence

September 1995 (Scott 2999, Palau 378)

In 1994, the Pacific island nation of Palau (historically Belau or Pelew) – a system of 340 islands forming the western chain of the Caroline Islands – voted (after many years) to join the Compact of Free Association. The United States and Palau's postal systems worked together to issue joint stamps in celebration of Palau's first year of independence. The joint stamp shows the flag of Palau and symbols of its rich marine life.

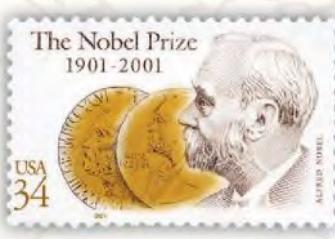
One difference here is that the U.S. stamp was issued September 29 while the Palau stamp was released September 15.

Palau also issued an accompanying block of four showing a map of the islands, fruit doves, an orchid and hibiscus. In 2009, Palau created the world's first shark sanctuary.

Herb Kawainui Kane designed the stamp, which has a similar look to the Micronesia/Marshall Islands joint issues of 1990, which Kane also designed.

First-day site: Agana, Guam.

## The 21st Century



### Sweden – Nobel Prize Centenary

March 22, 2001 (Scott 3504, Sweden 380-part of strip of four)

Postal officials from the U.S. and Sweden negotiated for nearly two years before reaching an agreement on this joint issue, according to a 2001 story published in *Linn's Stamp News*.

Scientist, inventor and philanthropist Alfred Nobel – who invented dynamite, held more than 300 patents, and owned a major steel and iron producer – was born in Stockholm, which

is where the prestigious prizes for achievement are awarded annually. Nobel (1833-1896) also conducted research in the U.S. Distraught over how he might be remembered after his obituary was published prematurely in a French newspaper (Nobel's brother had died; the newspaper confused the two), Nobel decided to leave the bulk of his estate (more than \$3 billion in today's money) toward good causes. About a year before Nobel died, he established the Nobel prizes, which were first awarded in 1901 in five categories: physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.

The stamps are meant to represent the international spirit of cooperation in which the Nobel prizes are awarded. The joint issue shows a drawn portrait of Nobel and the gold medals awarded. The additional three Swedish stamps show individual awards. A six-page folder containing stamps from each country was sold.

Olof Baldursdottir, of Sweden, designed the stamp, which was again engraved by Slania.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Stockholm, Sweden.



### Sweden – Greta Garbo

September 23, 2005 (Scott 3943, Sweden 2517)

The stamp celebrates the 100th birth anniversary of Greta Garbo (1905-1990), who was born in Stockholm, Sweden.

Garbo was still a teenager when she appeared in her first film in her native Sweden. She was spotted by Louis B. Mayer, who quickly brought her to Hollywood to work for MGM, first in silent movies before moving over to talkies.

A star of the Oscar-winning Best Picture *Grand Hotel* (1932), Garbo herself was nominated three times for the Academy Award for Best Actress: *Anna Christie* (1930), *Romance* (1930) and *Camille* (1936). In 1954, she received an Academy Honorary Award for her “luminous and unforgettable screen performances.” In 1999, the American Film Institute ranked Garbo fifth on their list of the greatest female stars of classic Hollywood cinema, after Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Audrey Hepburn and Ingrid Bergman.

This was the first joint issue in 4½ years, but the second straight involving Sweden, the fifth joint issue with the Scandinavian country.

Carl T. Herrman, of California, designed the stamp. Engraver Piotr Naszarkowski, a native of Poland, incised a likeness of the actress from a black-and-white photo created by Clarence Sinclair Bull during the filming of *As You Desire Me*

(1932). This was the 99th stamp for Naszarkowski, who in 1989 joined the engravers of the Swedish post office, headed by Slania, for whom he took over on the Garbo stamp.

The U.S. stamp has a whiter design and the Swedish stamp has a brown tint to it, explained Naszarkowski. Naszarkowski used preliminary sketches and information that Slania had started. "I tried to make it in his [Slania] way," said Naszarkowski.

First-day sites: New York, New York and Stockholm, Sweden.



### Great Britain – Children’s Literature

January 10, 2006 (Scott 3987, 3990, Great Britain 2340-2341)

Why did it take so long?

The U.S. and Britain have been the staunchest of allies since about the time that the postage stamp was created in 1840 with Britain's Penny Black. Great Britain, of course, had many stamps issued for its colonies, and in 1960 started taking part in the Europa issues. And the U.S. made its first joint issue in 1959 with Canada, a member of the British Commonwealth.

But it took nearly 50 years from that Canada-U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway stamp before the U.S. and Great Britain got together. And they did so by creating a somewhat whimsical and unusual joint issue.

Both nations agreed to celebrate animals found in children's books. The plan was that each country would choose seven beloved characters from native books and then one from across the pond.

Great Britain added *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle to its stable while the U.S. chose Maisy the Mouse, from *Maisy's ABC* by Lucy Cousins.

The production of the stamps is different. Great Britain produced its set of eight in four se-tenant pairs. Maisy and the hungry caterpillar are joined together as a pair.

The U.S. version sees all eight characters doubled to create a pane of 16. The caterpillar is at the left in the first row and Maisy is at the right of the same row. In between them are Wilbur the pig (left), from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, and the Fox in Socks, from Dr. Seuss.

The illustrations are those of the respective authors but the British caterpillar has a neat little add-on, or we should say, subtraction. There are two round holes, one slightly larger than the other representing a couple of "bites" from the caterpillar.

First-day sites: Findlay, Ohio and London, England.



### Canada – Samuel de Champlain

May 28, 2006 (Scott 4073, Canada 2155)

The U.S. and Canada commemorated the 400th anniversary of the explorations of French explorer Samuel de Champlain to coincide with the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition in Washington, D.C. The stamps, which show an image of Champlain's ship surveying the North American East Coast, were issued at the international stamp show, Ticonderoga, New York and Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Each country issued panes of single stamps and nearly identical souvenir sheets that contained two stamps from each country. The Canadian souvenir sheet has a bar code at lower left; the U.S. pane lacks the bar code.

Champlain (1574-1635), known as the Father of New France, was a skilled navigator and cartographer. He founded New France, for which he eventually became governor, and Quebec City on July 3, 1608 and is credited with making the first accurate map of the North American coastline. Champlain was the first European to explore the Great Lakes. His exploring days ended in 1620 when French King Louis XIII ordered him back to North America, where he devoted himself to administration and establishing trading companies.

The stamps were designed by Rejean Myette and Francois Martin, of Montreal, Quebec.



### France – Miles Davis and Edith Piaf

June 12, 2012 (Scott 4692-4693, France 4256-4257)

The U.S. and France celebrated culture with its fourth joint issue, which was its first in more than 20 years.

American jazz trumpet innovator Miles Davis of the

United States and French singer and poet Edith Piaf appear on separate stamps in this joint issue.

Miles Davis (1926-1991) was at the forefront of jazz musicians for decades, setting trends and exploring musical styles from bebop through cool jazz, fusion and funk. His restless musical exploration made him a hero to jazz lovers throughout the world. Among his many influential recordings are "Birth of the Cool," "Kind of Blue," and "In a Silent Way." He performed several times in France.

Americans may know Edith Piaf (1915-1963) best for her cheerful song "La Vie en Rose" ("Life in Pink"), about the experience of falling in love and seeing life through rose-colored glasses; the tune is still heard on the streets of Paris today. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. Piaf toured the U.S. 10 times and twice sang at Carnegie Hall.

The differences in designs are slight, but noticeable, on these black-and-white stamps (heavy on the black). The performers' names are printed in block capital letters on the French stamps; "Miles Davis" is blue on the U.S. stamp and "Edith Piaf" is in red. The U.S. stamps are forever stamps, which will always pay the first-class domestic rate. The Davis stamp is €0.60 and the Piaf is €0.89.

The stamps were formally issued in the U.S. at the Rubin Museum of Art — The Theater in New York. The French first-day cancellation is from Paris, France.

American Greg Breeding designed the stamps using classic photos of the performers.

## Japan – Gift of Friendship

April 10, 2015 (Scott 4982-85, Japan 3814)

The U.S. and Japan, allies since the end of World War II, released their first joint issue, four stamps displaying a symbolic peace gesture that today retains its beauty. The stamps commemorate the 100th anniversary of President William Howard Taft's gift of flowering dogwood trees along with Japan's earlier gift to the U.S. of blossoming cherry trees.

The stamps show the trees in blossom and important landmarks in both countries: the U.S. Capitol and Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. and the Japanese Diet Building and Clock Tower in Tokyo. The U.S. produced the stamps in panes of 12. Three stamps, produced as pairs, showing close-ups of the blossoms also appear on the Japanese souvenir sheet.

In a ceremony on March 27, 1912, at the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two of 3,020 flowering cherry trees gifted to the nation's capital from the city of Tokyo. As a show of gratitude for this gener-

ous gift, former President Taft arranged for the U.S. to send 50 flowering dogwood trees to Japan in 1915.

The U.S. stamps were designed by artist Paul Rogers and art director William Gicker. Japanese artist Junko Kaifuchi illustrated the stamps from Japan Post.

First-day sites: Washington, D.C. and Tokyo, Japan.



## Sweden – Ingrid Bergman

August 20, 2015 (Scott 5012, Sweden 2756)

The sixth joint issue with Sweden is the second in a row dedicated to a film actress, this time Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982). The U.S. forever stamp, produced in panes of 20, is part of the continuing Legends of Hollywood series. The Swedish stamp was produced in panes of six.

Bergman starred in a number of American and European



Celebrating an enduring bond  
between two nations on the centennial  
of the gift of flowering dogwood trees  
to Japan in 1915.

an films and received three Academy Awards, four Emmys and four Golden Globes for her efforts. Her Oscar-winning performances were for *Gaslight* (1944), *Anastasia* (1956) and *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974).

The design shows a circa 1940 image of Bergman taken by Laszlo Willinger, well known for his portraits of celebrities. Artist Kristen Monthei digitally colorized the image. Monthei also colorized a still of Bergman from the film *Casablanca* (1942), which is featured on the U.S. stamp pane selvage. The WWII-era love story, in which she plays Ilsa – a woman torn by war and two lovers, one of whom is Rick, played by Humphrey Bogart – remains her most remembered role. Art Director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp pane of 20.

Although the designs between the U.S. and Swedish stamps are basically the same, there are a couple of noticeable differences aside from the language and denomination. The image of Bergman's profile is cropped closer on the Swedish stamp and the two stamps have different coloring and shading.

There was no official ceremony on the stamp's first day of issue. However, on September 9, 2015 – the centenary of Bergman's birth – the Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C. threw a party celebrating the stamp. Attendees included postal officials from both countries, the Swedish ambassador, U.S. diplomats and Pia Lindstrom, Bergman's daughter.

First-day sites: Los Angeles, California and Stockholm, Sweden.



## Canada – History of Hockey

October 20, 2017 (Scott No. 5252, 5253, Canada TBD)

In 2017, Canada celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Hockey League and the 125th anniversary of the prestigious Stanley Cup. The United States joined in the fun by issuing its sixth joint issue with Canada.

The two stamps – one showing a hockey player in vintage garb, the other donned in modern equipment – appear on a U.S. souvenir sheet in foot-to-foot fashion, which is called tête-bêche in stamp-collecting terms. This is the first U.S. tête-bêche stamp in history. The Canadian stamps were produced in the same fashion but are sold in books of 10.

The stamps were issued formally at the home ice arena of the Detroit Red Wings, one of the NHL's original six teams and the home club for many years of one of the game's all-time greatest players, Gordie Howe, a native of Saskatchewan,

Canada. The Canadian first-day postmark was applied in Windsor, Ontario.

The stamps were designed by Subplot Design Inc. of Vancouver for Canada Post with William J. Gicker serving as art director for the U.S. stamps. ↗

## THE AUTHOR

Diann is a retired CPA from New Jersey. She credits her stamp collecting pursuits to her dad, who brought her along to visit many New Jersey post offices looking for the latest and earliest U.S. postage stamp issues for his collection. Diann's main focus in collecting was primarily U.S. plate blocks. However, several years ago, she became interested in U.S. joint Issues and has been enjoying that philatelic area.

## Other Joint Issues

Beyond the twins, the U.S. has produced seven other joint issues. Their stories, to be told on another day, are:

Canada: 1977 – Peace Bridge

Italy: 1980 – Philip Mazzei

France: 1983 – Treaties of Versailles and Paris

Canada: 1984 – 25th Anniversary of St. Lawrence Seaway  
France: 1989 – Bicentennial of the French Revolution

Mexico: 1996 – Endangered Species

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# Five Questions You Should Be Asking About Your Stamp Buyer



Don Sundman  
President  
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CONFIDENTIAL

# WELCOME TO THE USSR!

A Somewhat Forgotten Soviet Agency

Created in 1929 to Attract Foreigners to Russia Left Behind a Philatelic Trail

BY ALEXANDER KOLCHINSKY

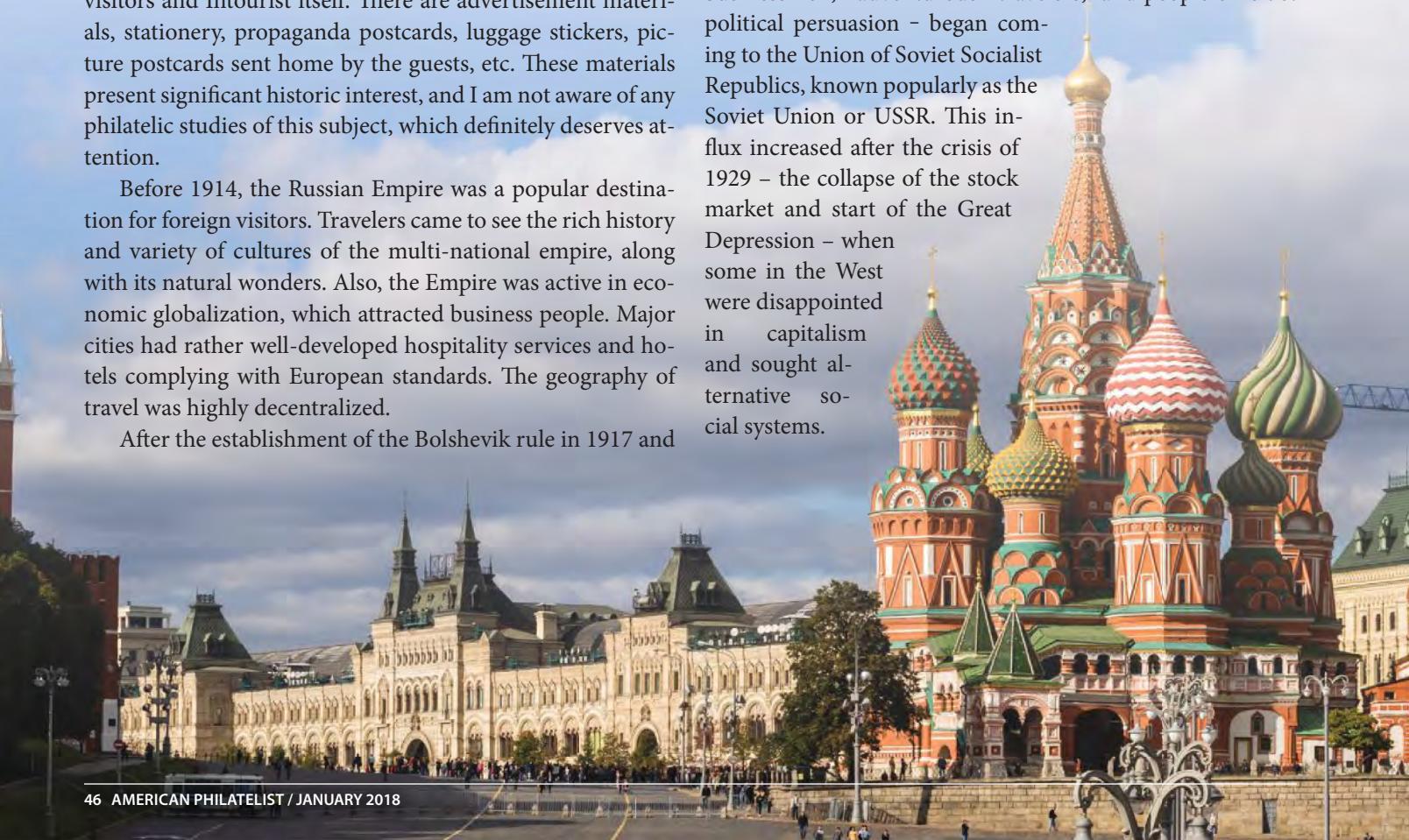
The onetime primary Soviet travel agency – Intourist – was created in 1929. Because of its tumultuous history and some unknown reasons, there is no single complete archive of Intourist. Researchers must use more than 100 different archives of the Communist Party, tourism-related ministries, and various defunct Soviet institutions to find information on the early history of Intourist.

Despite the lack of formal archives, there is an interesting and rich philatelic and paraphilatelic legacy left by foreign visitors and Intourist itself. There are advertisement materials, stationery, propaganda postcards, luggage stickers, picture postcards sent home by the guests, etc. These materials present significant historic interest, and I am not aware of any philatelic studies of this subject, which definitely deserves attention.

Before 1914, the Russian Empire was a popular destination for foreign visitors. Travelers came to see the rich history and variety of cultures of the multi-national empire, along with its natural wonders. Also, the Empire was active in economic globalization, which attracted business people. Major cities had rather well-developed hospitality services and hotels complying with European standards. The geography of travel was highly decentralized.

After the establishment of the Bolshevik rule in 1917 and

ensuing civil war that ended in 1921, almost no foreigners came to Russia, and very few visited the former periphery of the Empire outside of the Bolshevik-controlled territory. The policy of “military communism” in Russia proper resulted in virtual collapse of all services, and in 1922, the Bolsheviks had to introduce the “New Economic Policy.” This policy allowed the creation of small businesses and limited investment of foreign capital. As a result, foreign visitors – small businessmen, adventurous travelers, and people of leftist political persuasion – began coming to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, known popularly as the Soviet Union or USSR. This influx increased after the crisis of 1929 – the collapse of the stock market and start of the Great Depression – when some in the West were disappointed in capitalism and sought alternative social systems.



ITAL

Figure 1. Olga Kameneva (Image source: gallica.bnf.fr/  
Bibliothèque nationale de France).



In 1922-1929, foreign tourism in the USSR was primarily individual, although some organizations helped visitors to obtain visas and arrange transportation and group excursions. The proportion of tourists from different countries correlated with income, economic involvement of their home countries in the USSR's New Economic Policy and sometimes, complex political considerations. Most tourists came from Germany, the United States (whose citizens could receive visas in any Soviet consulate), Great Britain, France and Czechoslovakia, but rarely Finland and never Poland.

Some hard-core Bolsheviks considered international tourism a form of bourgeois leisure. Their major opponent was Olga Kameneva [Figure 1], sister of Leon Trotsky and estranged wife of another Bolshevik leader, Lev Kamenev. She was an educated woman who fully understood the propaganda value of foreign visitors to the USSR. She emphasized the role of intelligentsia in the formation of public opinion about the Soviet Union in the West. At the same time, foreign tourism and travel agencies could be a source of hard currency and, most importantly, a versatile tool of infiltration of Soviet secret services as well as recruitment and handling of undercover agents.

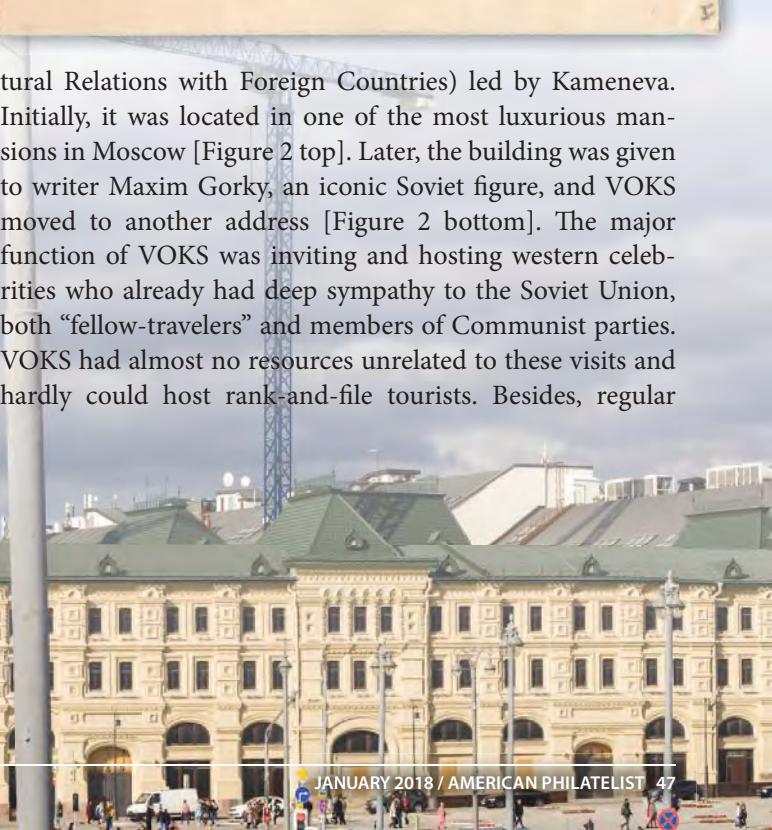
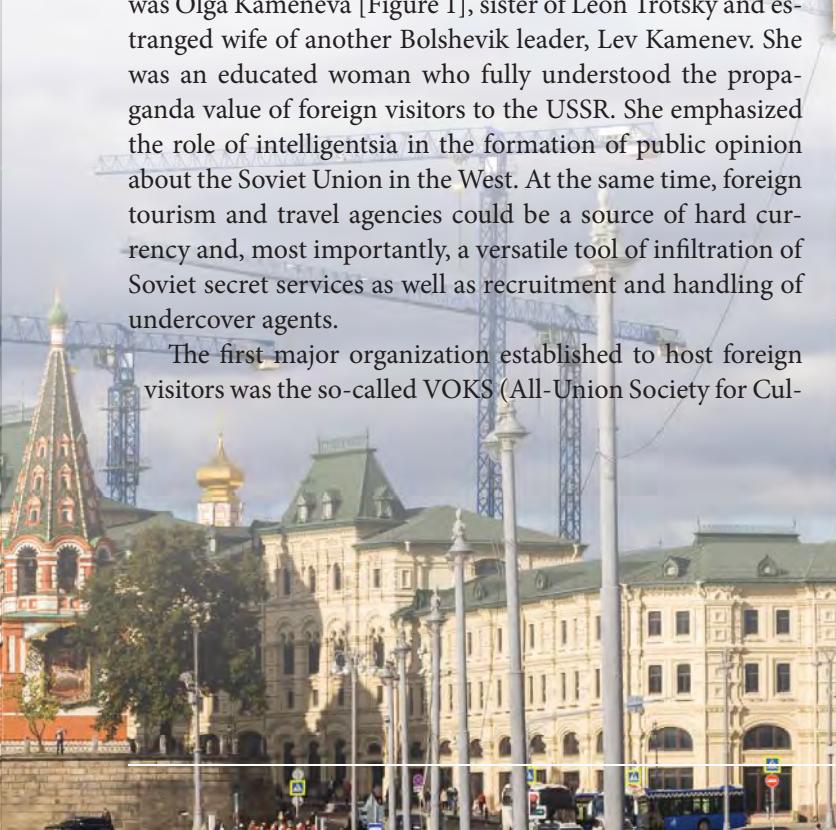
The first major organization established to host foreign visitors was the so-called VOKS (All-Union Society for Cul-



Figure 2. VOKS stationery addressed in 1928 to Dr. C. E. Eaton, the founder and first employee of the Harvard Business Library (above), and VOKS stationery sent in 1939 to the library of the Art Institute in Chicago (below).



tural Relations with Foreign Countries) led by Kameneva. Initially, it was located in one of the most luxurious mansions in Moscow [Figure 2 top]. Later, the building was given to writer Maxim Gorky, an iconic Soviet figure, and VOKS moved to another address [Figure 2 bottom]. The major function of VOKS was inviting and hosting western celebrities who already had deep sympathy to the Soviet Union, both "fellow-travelers" and members of Communist parties. VOKS had almost no resources unrelated to these visits and hardly could host rank-and-file tourists. Besides, regular



travelers suspected that VOKS was just the propaganda department of Komintern, which it actually was. This was an international organization that advocated world communism.

After the defeat of Trotsky in the internal party struggle and his exile, Kameneva was dismissed from all positions. (After exile and prison, Kameneva was executed by firing squad in 1941 by the secret police, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, or the NKVD. Her husband and two sons had all been executed earlier.)

In 1929, Fedor Petrov replaced Kameneva. Petrov was just a figurehead at the helm of VOKS. In 1934, he was replaced by Alexander Arosev, a well-educated diplomat with many connections abroad. Throughout his tenure, Arosev attempted to monopolize Soviet tourism services, but always depended on Intour-

ist. (The eventual fate of Arosev was unpleasant. In 1938, like Kameneva, he, too, was tried and executed.)

Eventually, VOKS became a bureaucratic intermediary between Soviet scientific institutions and libraries and their colleagues and partners in the West. After the beginning of World War II, this mediation remained the only function of VOKS, and in 1958, it was converted into the Union of

Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Contacts.

There were other organizations that provided limited services to foreign tourists in the 1920s and '30s. Most visitors arrived to the USSR by ships, and the Soviet merchant fleet (Sovtorgflot) helped them organize their voyages. To advertise its services, Sovtorgflot issued a bilingual so-called "postage stamp advertising label" that was pasted on cover underneath the stamp and had a space for franking [Figure 3]. All these labels are highly collectible. Sovtorgflot also issued a postcard with an advertisement of a vacation on the Black Sea, written in Russian and pre-paid for domestic use.

Another organization involved in international tourism in the 1920s was the Society of Proletarian

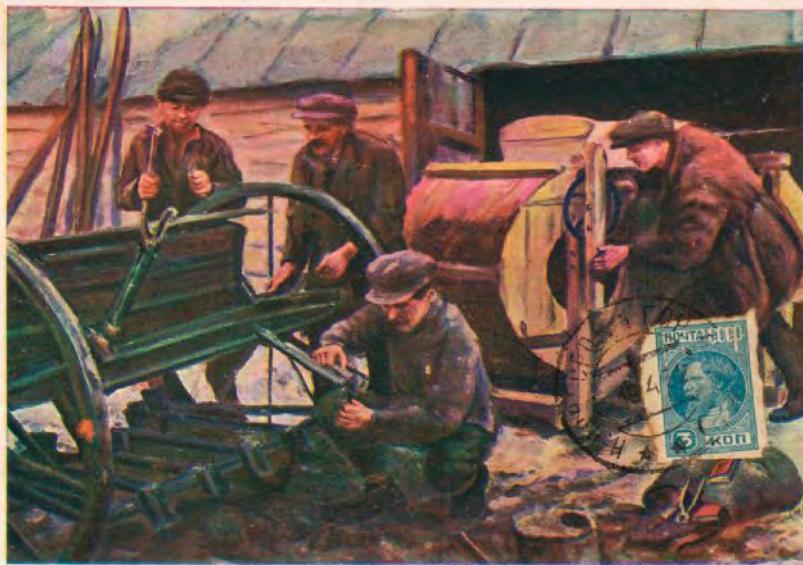


Figure 4. Postcard issued by the Society of Proletarian Tourism and Excursions and sent in 1934.

Tourism and Excursions. Although it was established for domestic travelers, foreign proletarians sometimes participated in its activities. One goal of the society was to strengthen the connection between proletarians and peasantry by involving the former in agricultural work during vacation. A postcard titled "Repair of Agricultural Machinery in a Kolkhoz" illustrates this idea [Figure 4]. The postcard was issued by the society and sent by a collector from Gorky (currently Nizhny Novgorod) to Palestine.

Evidently, there was a need to create a centralized tourist agency. Such an agency appeared in the spring of 1929 as the "All-Union Joint Stock Company Intourist." The name "Intourist" was a contraction of Russian words "foreign" and "tourist." The designation "Joint Stock Company" was used to avoid direct association of Intourist with Komintern and its intelligence functions; in fact, the only investor in Intourist was the ministry of foreign trade. The main goals of Intourist were propaganda of the USSR as the first socialist state;



Figure 3. Postage stamp advertising label of Sovtorgflot issued in Moscow and canceled in 1925.



Figure 5. Director of Intourist Wilhelm Kurtz (sitting), his wife, and Gregory Melamed, the head of Intourist in the USA (1933). The fates of Kurtz and Melamed were the same as a couple of their predecessors. They were executed in 1938. (ACME Newspictures original, first publication.)

servicing foreign tourists, and thus earning hard currency; and last, but most important, creation of a worldwide front for Soviet agents. Naturally, all managers of the Intourist were high-ranking officers of the Soviet secret service, NKVD. Every employee underwent thorough background checks to have access to foreigners. After each visit, a detailed report on every served client or group of visitors, questions they asked, and skepticism they expressed, had to be submitted to the administration.

A close connection of Intourist with secret police is further demonstrated by the fact that from April to September of 1938, after the great purges, Intourist was secretly converted into a department of NKVD. NKVD Circular No. 165ss

("ss" stands for "top secret") stated that "Knowledge about the transfer of Intourist local offices and representations to the NKVD must extend no further than the managers of local 'Intourist' offices."

The first director of Intourist was Alexander Svanidze, brother of Stalin's late first wife. He was clearly incompetent for this position. (During the Great Terror, Svanidze was accused of being a German spy, imprisoned, and executed together with his wife and sister in 1941.)

Svanidze was quickly replaced by D.I. Kutuzov, who was in turn replaced in 1932 by Wilhelm Kurtz, an Austria-born Communist and career diplomat [Figure 5].

From the very beginning, Intourist unraveled an active advertising campaign of its services using mail as the primary media. Shown is a front and back of early Intourist stationery sent to a shipping company in Amsterdam [Figure 6]. On the back it has a cachet in French "Received in damaged condition," a well-known clandestine censor mark



Figure 6. Front and back of an early Intourist stationery cover sent to a shipping company in Amsterdam.



Figure 7. An Intourist advertising roller cancel used in Leningrad in 1930 and an advertising pictorial cancel used to cancel stamps on the back side of a cover that was used in 1930 in Odessa.

whose usage is described in detail in a 2016 monograph by David Skipton and Steve Volis.

Special cancellations [Figure 7] were introduced in several large cities: a roller dated cancel in Leningrad, and a cancel in Ukraine used in Odessa, Kharkov and Kiev.

Besides the capital cities Moscow and Leningrad, Intourist advertised traditional areas of foreign tourism: Caucasus, Crimea and the Volga region. Corresponding advertising postcards and illustrated covers were issued;

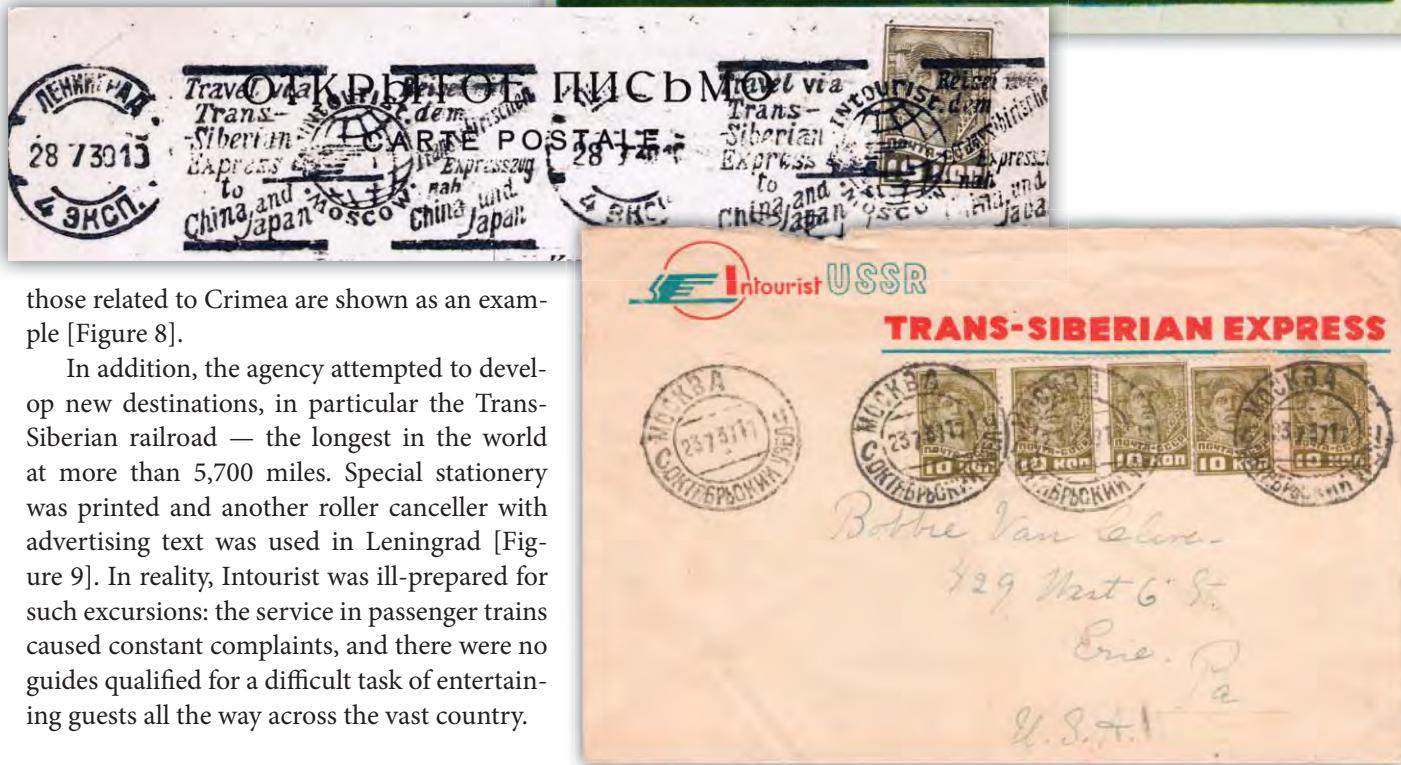




Figure 8. Examples of Intourist campaign advertising Crimea: pre-paid postcard, envelope, and luggage labels.



Figure 9. Intourist advertisement of Trans-Siberian railroad using special stationery and roller cancel.



those related to Crimea are shown as an example [Figure 8].

In addition, the agency attempted to develop new destinations, in particular the Trans-Siberian railroad — the longest in the world at more than 5,700 miles. Special stationery was printed and another roller canceller with advertising text was used in Leningrad [Figure 9]. In reality, Intourist was ill-prepared for such excursions: the service in passenger trains caused constant complaints, and there were no guides qualified for a difficult task of entertaining guests all the way across the vast country.

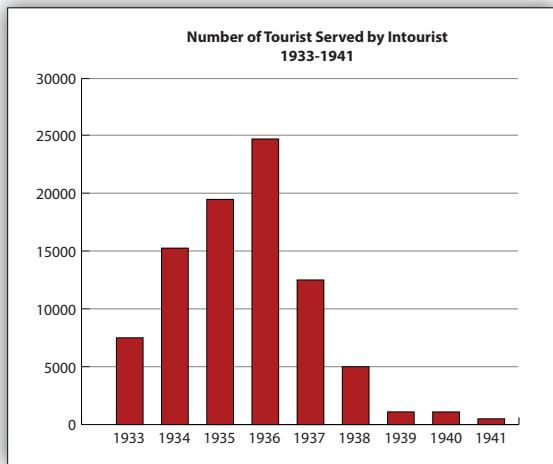


Figure 10. Visitors of the USSR in 1933-1941.

The latter have rubber cachets of “Intourist,” and one of them is shown [Figure 11]. Interestingly, the sender prepared his cover well ahead of departure and initially wrote “Nautilus” in the return address.

Most Intourist clients were disappointed by the cruise: the refrigerator on the ship broke down and they had no perishable food, so the crew, together with some Intourist passengers, had to hunt for fresh meat. Promised radio connections did not work, planned lectures were canceled, and in the middle of the trip, the ship was grounded and stranded for three days.

In the first years after the creation of Intourist its major problem was quality lodging. The best hotels in Moscow and Leningrad were built around 1900, during dynamic growth of Russian economy, in the fashionable Art Nouveau (“Modern” in Russian) style, and were among the most luxurious in Europe. After the transfer of the capital from Petrograd to Moscow in 1918, members of the Soviet government and their retinue occupied these hotels (The Metropole, National, Savoy, etc.) Rapid industrialization of the country resulted in explosive growth of population in large cities with very little construction of new housing. The famous hotels suffered from poor maintenance, alterations, and pillage. To improve the situation, a consortium called Hotels, Ltd. was created simultaneously with Intourist in order to restore existing hotels and build the new ones. It provided lodging for foreign guests and in 1933 became a part of Intourist. Although Hotels, Ltd. did not function as an independent travel agency, it issued its own advertising postcards and envelopes [Figure 12].



Figure 11. Cover from icebreaker Malygin sent by an Intourist client.

Originally, Intourist planned to attract 1 million tourists per year. The actual number of visitors in 1929-1941 was about 110,000 total [Figure 10], and even fewer after the war and before Stalin's death in 1953.

One of the first tours offered by Intourist, which would be called “extreme” by today’s standards, was the Arctic cruise aboard the icebreaker *Malygin* in July 1931. Initially, it was planned that the tourists would be taken to the Arctic on board the American submarine *Nautilus*, where it would meet German zeppelin LZ-127 (the largest in the world at that time), exchange mail, and return home. As it turned out, *Nautilus* was plagued with technical problems, and the Soviet Union offered to replace it with *Malygin*. The ship carried a large group of Soviet research personnel and 31 people enrolled by Intourist; they paid \$2,500 each. LZ127 and *Malygin* exchanged 1,000 pounds of mail, for which the USSR issued special stamps and Germany introduced a special rate. Most of that mail was philatelic, and just a tiny fraction was sent by passengers of the ship.

The Intourist advertising campaign required a professional agency for stock photography. Such an agency was incorporated in Amsterdam under the name “Unionbild” in 1931 and in 1934 (or 1935) as “Sovfoto” in New York. Postcards were printed in the USSR by Soyuzfoto, a giant monopoly of Soviet visual propaganda for both domestic and international needs.

As an example, shown is one of the most upscale hotels that belonged to Intourist — the Metropole in Moscow [Figure 13]. It was designed and decorated by several prominent architects and dozens of talented artists and craftsmen of the early 1900s.

Two of the most famous hotels in Leningrad – the Astoria and Europe – naturally provided their own unique



Figure 12. A postcard advertising the Hotel, Ltd. consortium. This was issued in 1931, and sent from Moscow to Germany in 1932.

stationery [Figure 14].

In order to simplify access for groups of tourists without visas, Intourist contracted several major cruise lines to bring them to Leningrad and Black Sea ports. Canadian Pacific, Swedish American and Navigazione Generale Italiana served the Black Sea itineraries; Cosulich Line (Italy) the others.

Visitors would spend their days in supervised groups sightseeing in the city and return to the ship overnight.



Figure 13. A Hotel Metropole in Moscow postcard (copyrighted by Unionbild, published by Soyuzfoto) and a promotional booklet for the hotel issued in the 1930s by Intourist.

Some were trying to be objective:

"Dear Ms. Fray, cordial greetings to you and the girl students from this strange world, where so much is being done for the future under great sacrifices." (A visitor from Switzerland, 1932.)

Others were openly dissatisfied:

"Even the ink seems to be red in this city [the message is

Shown [Figure 15] is a postcard sent from such a cruise ship to Louisville, Kentucky in the United States. It is franked by Soviet stamps and canceled with a known clandestine censor-mark, the so-called "Leningrad double-b" cancel. A classified Soviet decree, issued in 1940 and found when Ukrainian KGB archives were very recently open to the public, states that all international correspondence had to be censored, and it is reasonable to suggest that this rule was in effect in the 1930s.

Judging by the messages on their postcards, most visitors avoided open criticism of the USSR, although according to Intourist's own questionnaires, as many as 95 percent of visitors were disappointed in its services, especially in the early 1930s. The majority of messages mentioned how interesting the country was, how much there was to see, and other positive details. The postcard shown sent to Louisville is a relatively rare exception:

"From Stockholm where even the waterfront is clean and attractive comes this view mailed by me from Leningrad where conditions are bad and the general effect is depressing."

Some messages were written more cautiously with just a hint of criticism:

"This isn't time to write a letter." (A tourist from Scotland, 1933.)

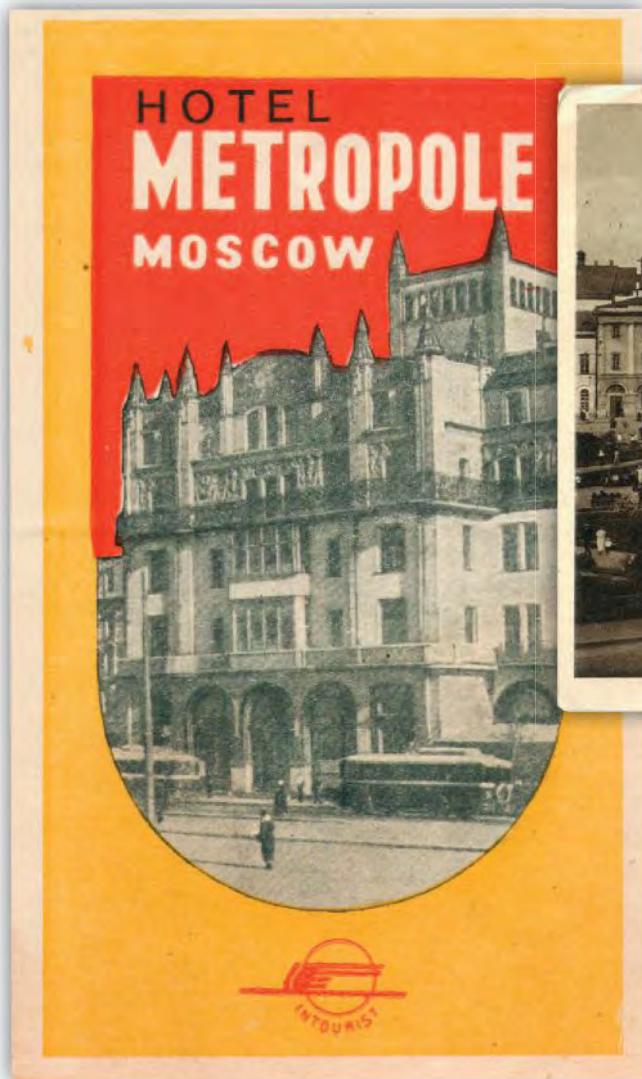




Figure 14. Leningrad hotels Astoria (postcard copyrighted and published by Soyuzfoto) and Europe (issued by "Lenpoligraph" and corresponding stationery).

written in red ink] — we weren't allowed in the Kremlin or to see the Lenin hut. There's lot more to see if you can stand the scent and see through the dust." (Addressed to New Jersey in 1936.)

Besides shipping companies, Intourist sold its packages by contracting travel agencies worldwide, including the world's oldest travel agency, Thomas Cook and Son. A cover here [Figure 16] is addressed to Mr. Craddock, the head of Cook's Eastern Hemisphere department. By the time this cover was sent - June 1939 - the flow of tourists was already

just a trickle. During the first period of World War II from the signing of Stalin's pact with Hitler in August 1939 to the German invasion of the USSR in June 1941, only 3,000 tourists came to the Soviet Union, almost all of them from Germany (the Nazi regime never forbade the travel of Germans to the Soviet Union).

Neutral Switzerland was another source of a handful of tourists as illustrated by a cover [Figure 17] sent in January 1940. On the reverse, it bears a rather rare Soviet censormark, although Stalin's Constitution, adopted in 1936, guaranteed



Figure 15. A postcard sent to Louisville, Kentucky shows a tourist ship in the port of Stockholm.

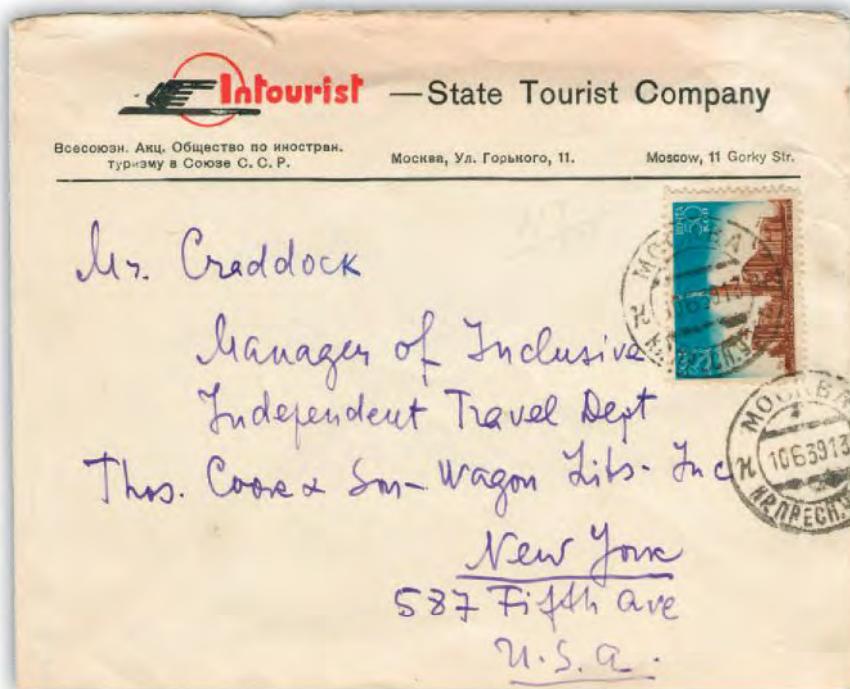


Figure 16. An Intourist cover postmarked in 1939.

the secrecy of correspondence and the USSR was not at war yet. The cover was addressed to travel agent Hans Meiss who was a Nazi spy known to British intelligence, and the British were going to try him after the war. Meiss died of natural causes in 1944.

During the war, Intourist provided services to diplomats and military representatives of Allies, in particular the personnel involved in the delivery of

aid. Thus, it was active in Soviet northern and far eastern ports that were closed to foreigners and even Soviet citizens after the war. The menu [Figure 18] of the canteen for foreigners in the city of Murmansk run by Intourist features choices in English, from butter sandwiches to fried duck with cabbage. Murmansk was a major destination of aid.

After the end of the war the Soviet Union admitted very few visitors from Western countries, and Intourist did not have much business. More or less normal travel to the Soviet Union resumed after Stalin's death in 1953, and, due to its exclusive position, by the end of the 1960s Intourist became one of the largest travel agencies in the world. But this is a different chapter in the history of Intourist that we will save for another time. ☾

### The Author

Alexander Kolchinsky is a retired mo-

lecular biologist. He is the secretary and member of the editorial board of the Rossica Society of Russian philately. His articles were published in the American Philatelist, Blount Symposium papers, Rossica Journal, and other periodicals. He collects Soviet postal history and the mail of prisoners of the Great War.



Figure 17. The front and back of an Intourist cover sent in 1940 to Switzerland.



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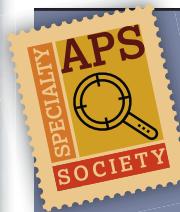
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The Rossica Society of Russian Philately (APS No. AF0171) promotes the collection and study of Russian and related philately. Biannual publications are the Rossica Journal and Rossica Bulletin. Dues are \$25.50 to \$52 annually, depending upon location and subscription format. Services include expertizing, exhibition awards, and special awards. Website: [www.rossica.org](http://www.rossica.org). Contact: Alexander Kolchinsky, 1506 Country Lake Drive, Champaign, IL 61821-6427; e-mail: [alexkolc@gmail.com](mailto:alexkolc@gmail.com).

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Figure 18. An English-worded menu of the Intourist canteen in Murmansk from February 22, 1945.



# Library Certain to Continue Growth

## Staff, Board and Members Help Ensure APRL's Vitality

One of my favorite filmmakers once wrote "The future holds great opportunities. It also holds pitfalls. The trick will be to avoid the pitfalls, seize the opportunities, and get back home by six o'clock." Those humorous words of advice now ring as true as ever as I look forward to the challenge of continuing the progress and vision begun eight years ago here at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) by my predecessor Tara Murray.

As many of you know by now, Tara has left the APRL for a new library position at the Pennsylvania State University. She leaves an incredible legacy of commitment and accomplishment, not only at the APRL, but also with the American Philatelic Society. Building on the achievements of the society's past librarians, she brought the APRL into the digital age, from scanners and microfilm readers in the library to spearheading the latest digital content on the APS and APRL websites. Under Tara's direction, the APRL has grown and continued in its role as a worldwide leader and repository of philatelic research and resources in the digital age. My goal is to not only continue along the path that Tara has set out, but also to advance the APRL in its role at the forefront of philately in support of the hobby for future collectors.

But libraries are never about one person or a particular collection. Rather, they involve a shared group of resources that are brought together in order to cultivate, organize and disseminate knowledge and information, in this case, for the advancement of philatelic understanding and research.

The first of these shared resources, and the most essential in my opinion, are those APRL and APS employees that I have had the good fortune of working for and working with during my past five years here, many of whom I will continue to rely on in the years ahead. The APRL staff, both past and present, has been the foundation of the services we provide not only to APS members, but also to non-members and the public at large. Their dedication and efforts are the reason the

APRL has become what it is in the world of philately, a leading repository for the advancement of philatelic knowledge.

The second of these shared resources essential to the function and vitality of any research library such as the APRL are those of you who frequent the library and make use of its resources, whether in person, by phone, through e-mail, or that method still dear to our hobby, by letter. A library collection is only as vibrant and significant as it is used by its patrons and the APRL is no different. In my time as reference assistant over the past four years I was privileged through your requests and queries to see and hear firsthand what this library and its unique collection of materials has meant and still means to each of you. Whether it is a simple request about the value or identification of a particular stamp answered using a catalog, or a more complicated inquiry involving postal history requiring multiple resources in the collection, the library becomes a living resource for the hobby. APS members especially have played the most significant role in making the library what it is today through their use of its resources, their



Figure 1. The library's new Zeutschel OS16000 scanner can take images of books and catalogs from a fully open position.

generous donations of time and money, and their leadership on the APRL board and other APS committees in aid of the library.

In my time ahead as your director I hope to encourage and support the APRL staff so that they can continue the exemplary work they do here for all of us, as well as to listen and champion the ideas and suggestions of our members with the goal of advancing the APRL and the role it plays as the research foundation of the APS, and if all goes well with both of those initiatives, "to get back home by six o'clock."

## New Resources at the APRL

In this section of "APRL Notes" we'll introduce some of the newest resources that have been added to the library. Most of the time it will concern books, journals or other unique items that have become part of the collection. However, the first of these installments of APRL news involves something other than those aforementioned resources, but rather a new piece of equipment on the first floor of the public space in the library.

In October, and brought about by the efforts of my predecessor, Tara Murray, we have added a second scanner on the first floor of the library, a Zeutschel OS16000 [Figure 1]. The scanner uses the same Scannx interface as the existing two scanners, so those who have used the other two library scanners will easily be able to navigate this new scanner.

The Zeutschel OS16000 allows for the scanning of books or other bound items which can be laid in its cradle in an open position allowing for easier copying of particularly fragile material as well as those items that are more tightly bound, such as stamp catalogs. In the future, the scanner has the potential for digitizing some of the library's more unique and fragile items. Currently, the scanner has the same functionality as the two existing scanners allowing both staff and library patrons the opportunity to save scans to a USB drive or to email the scanned images.

Of the more traditional new resources added to the

APRL collection recently there is Don Peterson's book, The 1881 Spanish Philippines Typeset Overprinted Postal Issues: A New Discovery [Figure 2]. Peterson states that the purpose of his study is to identify the characteristics of genuine overprints of the 1881 Habilitado Para Correos overprinted issues (Scott No. 127, 127A and 129B) owing to the lack of any significant existing resources that adequately identify the characteristics of the genuine issues. His work is abundantly illustrated and details his own six-step examination and evaluation of these issues which involves plating information, extensive literature searches, and an empirical analysis of a large number of the known examples of the genuine issues.

Next, is a collection of research papers presented at the 22nd Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics by the Center for Research in Regulated Industries held in 2014 in Frascati, Italy, compiled and titled Postal and Delivery In-

The 1881  
Spanish Philippines  
Typeset Overprinted Postal Issues:  
A New Discovery



Don Peterson

**Figure 2. Don Peterson's book, *The 1881 Spanish Philippines Typeset Overprinted Postal Issues: A New Discovery*, is now part of the APRL's collection.**

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1,000 - 3¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 50 of each).....	\$1,500.00
100 - 3¢ Sheets of 50 Purple only (no more than 20 of each).....	\$550.00
100 - 4¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$200.00
100 - 5¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$250.00
100 - 6¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$300.00
100 - 8¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$375.00
100 - 10¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$400.00
100 - 13¢ Sheets of 50 (no more than 10 of each).....	\$500.00
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\$1,000 Face Value - 20¢ Sheets (no more than 10 of each).....	\$750.00
\$1,000 Face Value - 22¢ Sheets (no more than 10 of each).....	\$750.00
\$1,000 Face Value - 25¢ Sheets (no more than 10 of each).....	\$750.00
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\$300 Face Value - 33¢ Sheets.....	\$235.00
\$300 Face Value - 37¢ Sheets.....	\$235.00
\$1,000 Face Value 1 cent-25 cent, special \$500.00	

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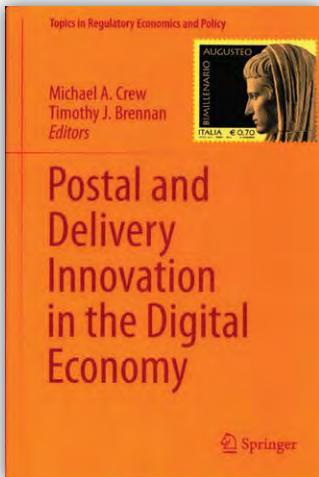
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novation in the Digital Economy [Figure 3]. Editors Michael Crew and Timothy Brennan compiled the collection of research papers that examine many of the central topics facing the future of the postal service in the digital age, including the impact of e-mail and social networks on existing postal service and delivery, digital models for mail procedures, the economics of declining mail volume, and the future of



**Figure 3. Postal and Delivery Innovation in the Digital Economy** compiled from the 22nd Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics by the Center for Research in Regulated Industries.

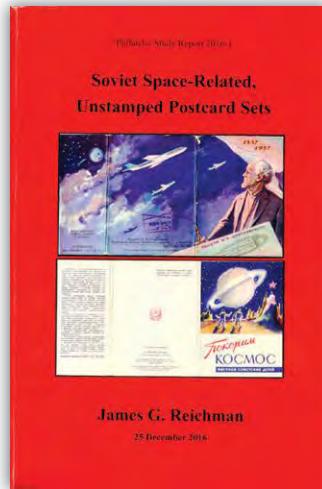
post offices and postal service. Twenty-five papers are presented in the compilation written by postal historians, computer scientists, economists and business analysts.

Finally, combining both the collection and identification of Soviet-era postcards with space related images there is James Reichman's exhaustive work, *Soviet Space-Related Unstamped Postcard Sets* [Figure 4]. The primary purpose of Reichman's book, which also includes a compact disc, is to identify and document for interested collectors all of the known Soviet-era unstamped postcards that are space-related

and that were sold to consumers in some type of set format. Even further, the author endeavors to provide some basic knowledge of the types and formats for the sets as well to provide specific details about the known sets while alerting collectors of the "use-restricted" sets that were not allowed to be used as normal postcards. The book is profusely illustrated with the included CD providing further digital images of postcard sets.

Feel free to contact me at either [stiffney@stamps.org](mailto:stiffney@stamps.org) or (814) 933-3803 ext. 246 if you have any comments or suggestions about the APRL or this column. If you have a research request of the library contact us at either [library@stamps.org](mailto:library@stamps.org) or (814) 933-3803 ext 240 as well as at the Reference Desk at either [reference@stamps.org](mailto:reference@stamps.org) or (814) 933-3803 ext. 241.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank all of those who sent notes of congratulations either publically or privately to me. Each one was greatly appreciated and I will do all that I can to live up to your aspirations and expectations for myself and for the APRL. ↗



**Figure 4. James Reichman's Soviet Space-Related Unstamped Postcard Sets.**

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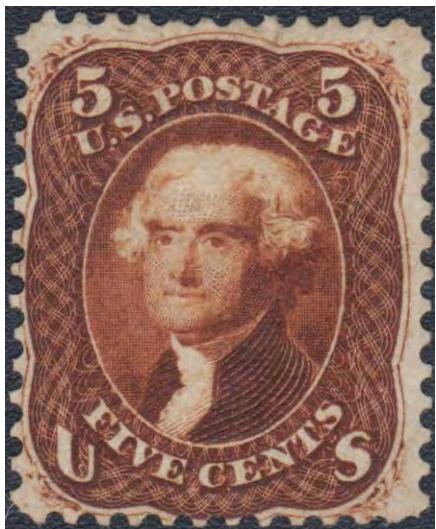
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# Try Something New in 2018

Sales Department Can Help You Keep Your Collecting Resolutions

**H**appy New Year! What a great time of year – a time for change and new beginnings. It's when we all reflect over the past year for what was good and not so good and vow to make the upcoming year better than the last. It's our time to reboot! Most of us will resolve to lose weight, quit smoking, take better care of ourselves, or spend more time with family and friends.

These are all common New Year's resolutions, but resolutions don't have to be just for our personal lives. We can set meaningful resolutions for almost anything – even when it comes to our stamp collection. After all, they say the best way to keep a resolution is to pick one that really means something to you and that you want to do.

## Resolutions to Grow Your Collection

Stamp collecting, in general, is a good way to de-stress and relax, so plan to make time for your collection this year. Perhaps you are looking to add to an area or start a new one. Either way, we can help you set a few resolutions.

**Use the "Want List" Feature:** Our online StampStore ([www.StampStore.org](http://www.StampStore.org)) offers more than 300,000 items for sale and provides a "Want List" feature that will alert you when new items are added to your collecting area. If you are looking for specific items for your collection, this feature will alert you as soon as those items are added to the site. Visit [www.stamps.org/Want-List](http://www.stamps.org/Want-List) for information on establishing want lists.

**Take Advantage of Free Shipping:** The StampStore offers free shipping on all U.S. orders over \$100, so plan to group your purchases such that you reach the free shipping threshold.

**Watch for Price Reductions:** StampStore sellers often reduce their prices that appear on the site with a "\$Reduced" symbol. You can see these symbols among searched listings or you may select to see just reduced items within your area of interest. For example, to see only the reduced items



United States Scott numbers 1 through 10, got to the search screen and select the following: Country Field select "United States"; Scott # Field enter "1 through 10"; and Stamp Filter Field select "Reduced." This will show you only reduced items within the specific criteria selected.

**Use Discount Coupons:** A few times a year, the StampStore will issue discount coupons to save on purchases. Watch for those in future columns or in the monthly member eNewsletter.

**Receive Circuits at Home for Hands-On Shopping:** The APS Circuit Mail Sales offers 160 different collecting areas that you can sign up to receive and review at home. The circuits offer buyers a hands-on shopping experience. This provides an opportunity to examine the stamps before making a purchase. Visit [www.stamps.org/How-to-Buy-thru-Mail](http://www.stamps.org/How-to-Buy-thru-Mail) for more information about circuits. You may also want to try a "Clearance" circuit, which are previously circulated books that sellers are now discounting with the remainders a "buy all" opportunity. See [www.stamps.org/Clearance-Request](http://www.stamps.org/Clearance-Request) for more information.

**Save When you Visit Headquarters:** Plan a trip to the American Philatelic Center this year. Visitors can tour the center and see the valuable services we offer first hand. While you are here, you can shop in our Circuit Sales Department, where we will waive the 5 percent buyers fee as well as the insurance/shipping charges. You can also place an order with StampStore for pickup while you are here. This will save on shipping costs and we offer our visitors a \$5 off StampStore coupon.

No matter what resolution you set for yourself, be sure to enjoy the good things and have a Happy New Year!

## Remember to Pay Your Dues

In October, the 2018 dues notices were sent out. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to send your payment as soon as possible to avoid interruption of your circuits and access to StampStore.

## 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](http://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

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EXPERTIZING



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# It's All in the Details

## A Few Examples of What Expertizing is All About

Mercer Bristow, the former expertizer in-house here at the American Philatelic Society, is now in retirement mode, and I will certainly know everything he knows. Well, not exactly.

The first part is true, but the latter is not, and I will not expect myself to be at the level of expertise he gained from 36 years in his position. However, I will continue to build on my 36 years of experiences in the Circuit Sales area. One does pick up plenty of details and vital information just from years of working with stamps.

So, let's start with a few examples.

For the Berlin overprints, the "L" begins to tell the story on whether they are fake [Figure 1].



Figure 1. Here is a genuine and fake stamp from Germany with "Berlin" overprinted. On the fake stamp (at right), there is a bulge at the top of the letter "L" in the overprint.



Figure 2. The genuine stamp from the French colony of Mohéli (Scott 3, left) has much more distinction in the fruit, hand and navel than its fake counterpart.

For the French colonies' Navigation and Commerce issues [Figure 2], the fruit, fingers on the staff and the belly-buttons help you determine authenticity.

For Belgium, Scott numbers 121 and 138, the words "franken" and "frank" make a difference in the catalog values [Figure 3]. The older version with the word "franken" carries a \$275 Scott catalog value in unused mint condition while the later version, identified by the word "frank," has a catalog value of \$1.75.



Figure 3. You can easily tell which 5-franc Scheldt River stamp of Belgium is which. The 1915 version (Scott 121) says "franken" below the 5 at top-middle; the 1919 version (Scott 138) says "frank."

Finland's Lake Saimaa stamp of 1930 was printed in gray lilac and featured barely visible clouds [Figure 4]. Later, with printings of 1932 and beyond, the clouds were given more distinction. In 1943, the color changed to red violet, as seen in our example. The 1930 version has a much higher catalog value.





Figure 4. The clouds in Finland's Lake Saimaa stamps, Scott 178 (left) and 205 have a much different presence.

The normal and inverted frames of early Denmark and Danish West Indies stamps are details to watch for when identifying them [Figure 5]. Compare the arabesques, which have a main branch and stem, in the upper left corners of the stamps. You will find that one of them, Scott 16, actually has an inverted frame.



Figure 5. Our example from the Danish West Indies is best shown using Scott 5 and 16. In addition to comparing the arabesques, the inverted frame is detectable by comparing the vertical midpoint of the green imprint.

Stamps printed on different types of paper – a more common practice in the first 75 years of stamp production than it is today – often changes the look of a stamp [Figure 6]. The U.S. stamps shown from 1909 carry the same design but are on different colored paper, white and bluish.

I have seen many stamps described as having blue paper, or paper taken for granite that were not correct. A couple of Swiss stamps show these different types of paper [Figure 7].

My future Expertizing Department work will include many trips to the American Philatelic Research Library (my wife will like my daily step count increases), Internet



Figure 6. The Lincoln Centenary of Birth stamp of 1909 was printed on white paper (Scott 367) and bluish (Scott 369) paper. Orange background added to enhance color perception.

searches and APS Reference Collection work to satisfy my self-expectations in this position. (You, as members, should visit the American Philatelic Center to experience the APRL



Figure 7. These two stamps from Switzerland were printed on granite paper (Scott 71) and white paper (Scott 78). Close-up, you can see colored threads in the granite paper.

and the APS Reference Collection.)

I thank Mercer for his encouragement and training in the process. We look forward to his help with some expertizing and his future work on the APS Reference Collection. We will make sure his retirement is not boring. ☺

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# HOW I GOT RICH STAMP COLLECTING

A Visit to West Rutland, Vermont, 1939

BY EDWARD J. PTAK



Photo by Martin Kent Miller

I was 12 years old when I first became interested in collecting stamps. Let me begin with how it all started.

There was a boy, 10 years old, that I became acquainted with. We played, sometimes at his house, sometimes at mine. This one summer day we were playing at his house. He had a playhouse converted from an old chicken coop, nicely cleaned and prettied up.

One Saturday as we were playing, he said he had to go to his house. He was there quite some time. I noticed that there were a number of oatmeal and cigar boxes stacked on a shelf. I looked into one and found hundreds of loose, used stamps; some were foreign, some were U.S. stamps.

I was fascinated with what I saw. When he came back, I asked him where he got them. He told me that he had an uncle in the Merchant Marines who traveled all over the world and would send him these stamps. Well, it turned out that my friend just wasn't into stamp collecting so they just accumulated on the shelf.

I told him that I would buy some from him if he was willing to sell. Well, he wasn't just willing, he was eager to get some money. So, I told him I would give him a penny for 100 stamps that I picked myself. He agreed.

I came back with a penny in my pocket the next time. Hey, this was 1939 and the Depression had not gotten over with yet, so a penny was a lot of money. It only cost a dime to go to the movies. So over this summer, I bought from him 100 stamps at least three or four times. Once I had 3 cents and that took me three hours to pick out 300 stamps.

When I gave the penny to my friend he would immediately run across the street to the store that had penny candy. He would not buy the wrapped Waleeco candy because you would only get three pieces for a penny. He would buy another brand that did not taste that good, but you got seven pieces.

It was the following year that I had 25 cents in my pocket as I walked four miles to Rutland, Vermont, to go the movies. You see, there was no theater in our small town of West Rutland, so I had to walk an hour to get to the movie theater in Rutland. Ten cents was for the show and the other 15 cents – for after the movie – was for a 10-cent album and 5 cents for stamp hinges. I was now a stamp collector.

I spent that summer putting some of the stamps I bought into the album. But not being a true enthusiast, I soon (temporarily) forgot stamps in lieu of the movies, which were always cowboy stories with an episode of some serial that was supposed to get you to come back every Saturday, which, for me, it did. I walked all summer to this movie house because I had to find out how the hero of the serial survived after going over the cliff on his horse.

Most every week when I walked to the movie, my mother gave me the 10 cents as my weekly allowance. Just once, she gave me an extra 10 cents to take the bus home. It only cost a dime to ride four miles on a bus in those days. Well, I went to the movies, but I did not ride back. Instead, I went to a Woolworth's and for the extra dime I bought my mother a silver cross on a silver chain, which I likely gave her on her birthday.

One of my friends with whom I played ball told me that a stamp dealer in Rutland would buy stamps from kids like me. So in this third year of my being a stamp collector, as I was preparing to walk to the movie, I would stuff a handful of loose stamps that had not gone into the album into my pants pocket.

After the movie, I found the street and the building, some distance away, of the man's store. I made my way to the second floor, reached into my pocket and put the stamps on the glass counter.

A man not much taller than I came over and said, "You want to sell these stamps, kid?"

I nodded. I was too timid to say anything. He looked over the stamps with his tongs and gave me a dime. I'm rich, I thought. I paid less than a penny for those and this man gave me a dime.

Over the summer I made a trip to this man's store at least four or five times. He gave me a dime sometimes, 15 cents once, and once he gave me a dime and a quarter. To this day, I do not know what I sold that man that he gave me so much for what little I brought to him. But he must have been an honest man. That is how I got rich by stamp collecting. ☺

## THE AUTHOR

**T**Edward Ptak, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, has been a stamp collector for 78 years. He is a retired engineer who belongs to five stamp clubs in western Massachusetts. He also is currently a member of the Civitans, DAV, Navy League and the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE).



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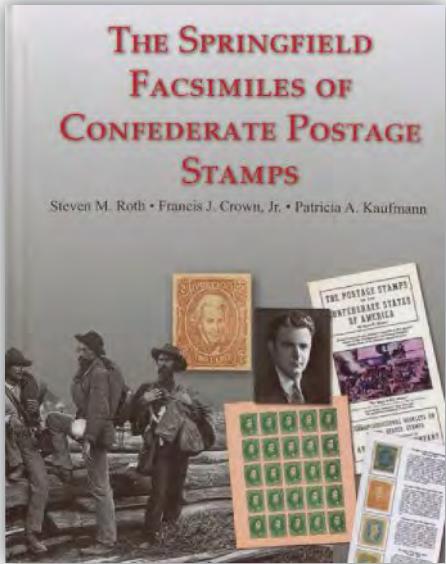


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BY JEFF STAGE editorial associate  
jstage@stamps.org

*The Springfield Facsimiles of Confederate Postage Stamps*, by Steven M. Roth, Francis J. Crown Jr., Patricia A. Kaufmann



Was it stamp fraud or a product and its salesmanship just filling a void? Or was it an educational product that was snatched and used for spurious purposes? No matter what it was, this book – called a “study” by the authors – reexamines an incident and product in philatelic history that has held collectors’ interests practically from the moment of its inception.

The authors – members of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, which published the book – are experts and wanted to clarify the story’s facts as well as present a good identification guide.

The stamps in question look like

legitimate stamps, but are actually imitations, which have been used for everything from album space fillers and educational purposes, to downright fraudulent stamps and covers. The story includes recreations (for legitimate collecting purposes? Or, for fraudulent purposes?) of U.S. Confederate stamps, not to mention input from philatelic scholars, mass marketers, naysayers and philatelists of ill repute.



The origin of the story of the Springfield facsimiles starts in the 19th century with America’s Civil War. Southern states that had seceded from the Union needed to create a whole new economy, including the development of postage stamps. The Confederate States of America created 14 stamps between 1861 and 1864. Although they had no monetary value after the war ended in 1865, today those stamps and Confederate postmarks and covers are very collectible.

Four chapters – Introduction, The Springfield Facsimiles, Marketing and Controversy and MacIntosh and the Tatham Stamp and Coin Co. – filled with bright, over-

sized detailed images tell the basic story.

In 1918-19, August Dietz created and copyrighted the original Confederate stamps with a product he called “fac-simile die proofs,” which were 1½ times the size of the original stamps and created by pen-and-ink drawings. (A whole appendix is devoted to these items.)

In 1934, in stepped Howard MacIntosh, of West Springfield, Massachusetts. MacIntosh, at the age of 22, owned the Tatham Stamp & Coin Co. in Springfield, Massachusetts. Some of his material was sold under the TASCO label.

The book notes that MacIntosh copied the Dietz facsimiles and reduced the images to actual stamp size, possibly as photo reproductions. (He may have chosen to copy the Dietz stamps instead of real Confederate stamps as it was cheaper to purchase the facsimiles and it would avoid any possible conflict with federal statutes.) The book reviews possible production methods.



Brouhaha ensued.

There appeared to be customers for these reproductions, which were advertised to collectors and dealers. MacIntosh apparently tried selling some of his facsimiles with a fake Richmond cancel, but these were quickly called out as “fakery” and MacIntosh refrained from

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creating more. However, that didn't stop others from putting these facsimiles on legitimate Southern covers and adding fake postmarks to create highly sought-after items of postal history.

And MacIntosh, under pressure, changed the title of how he marketed his stamps and created educational booklets filled with fascinating historic facts about the original stamps and their subjects, which include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and CSA President Jefferson Davis.

The appendices, also filled with colorful detailed illustrations, take up more pages – more than 70 – than the main chapters. It's here where oversized images and text help readers differentiate among the real Confederate stamps, the Dietz and the Springfield facsimiles in which differences, including backstamps, are illustrated. Also there is a nice appendix on the educational TASCO booklets.

So, was it stamp fraud or salesmanship filling a void?

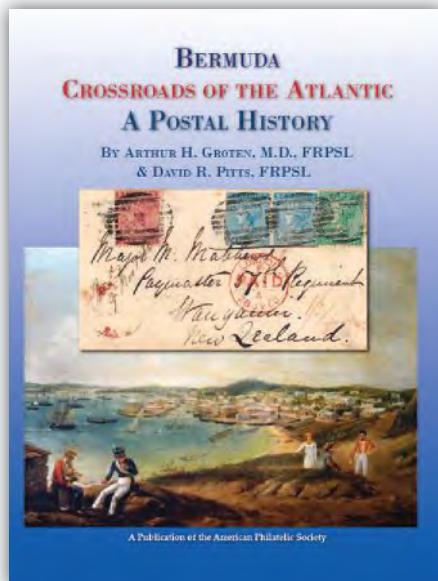
"Despite the rhetoric condemning his Springfield facsimiles as counterfeits and fakes, there is no evidence they were ever marketed as genuine stamps. ...The TASCO educational booklets...are praised for their educational value."

The experts who compiled and wrote this book likely have their own opinions, but leave that speculation to the readers' opinions. Instead these authors can be satisfied that they merely expose us to as many facts and images about this fascinating chapter in philatelic fakery in such an entertaining and educational fashion.

The popularity of the subject – more than 80 years since their creation – may be told by the fact that the book quickly sold out through the CSA.

*Published in 2017 by the Confederate Stamp Alliance ([www.csalliance.org](http://www.csalliance.org)). Hardcover, 8½ inches by 11 inches, 116 pages, fully color illustrated. Price: \$45, available through Trish Kaufmann at [www.trishkaufmann.com/springfield](http://www.trishkaufmann.com/springfield).*

**Bermuda: Crossroads of the Atlantic, a Postal History**, by Dr. Arthur H. Grotten and David R. Pitts



Isolated and alone by more than 500 miles and barely making up more than 20 square miles – that's smaller than Manhattan – the island of Bermuda at one time was a giant when it came to its importance to growth in North America.

Discovered by European explorers in the 1500s and finally seeing some semblance of settlement in the early 1600s, the island quickly (in historical terms) became an important stop-over point for ships sailing between Europe, the Caribbean and North American colonies.

In this book, the authors offer an insightful, fascinating look at the history and importance of Bermuda through its postal history.

"The over-arching theme of the book is the pivotal role of the Island of Bermuda in the development of transatlantic communication," says

the three-page Introduction's opening sentence. Further developing the point, we read "Of critical importance is the understanding of Bermuda's geographical centrality, resulting in her inestimable importance in the development of Mother Country [England] and her Caribbean colonies."

Some may think of Bermuda as being down there south of Florida in the Caribbean. It's not. It's midway along the Atlantic Coast, about 650 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Its history, particularly in the important days of 18th-century and 19th-century shipping when sailing ships heavily relied on trade winds and currents, is directly linked to the winds and currents that swirl around Bermuda in the North Atlantic Ocean.

This is a book that tells important chapters of development – from establishment of colonies, their growth to slavery, war and trade – and the phila-



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telic documents that went along for the ride.

Everything here is top quality, from the history and research to the high-resolution images, which include period and modern maps, paintings and most importantly, reproductions of rare and historic covers, some with magnified details when needed.

The authors even went so far as to have a foreword by the governor of Bermuda, George Fergusson, who admits to having limited expertise in postal history, but writes, "This book will interest a whole set of different audiences: fans of Bermuda history, of postal and transport history, and those who just appreciate an intriguing story which reflects serious research."

The 10 chapters cover the following: A general history to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; from the early days to the establishment of the Admiralty Packet; internal mail, pre-post office; military roles in the Revolutionary War, Civil War and War of 1812; ship letters; packets serving Bermuda; the Falmouth Packet; the Cunard Packet; Royal Mail Steam Packet; and Cunard connections with other carriers.

Each chapter begins on a right-hand page with the full left page showing a painting or a detail of a painting or photograph of ships representing the early days of sailing through Bermuda. One production difficulty was that the captions for the artwork appear on the

right-hand page, but sometimes the text becomes hidden within the fold of the spine.

Aside from the chapters, the book includes a Foreword, Conclusion, Bibliography and Glossary, and an accompanying compact disc presenting a full cover census and some additional content.

There isn't possibly enough room here to present a full look at what's in this book, but here is a small sample of images found within:

An address panel and letter, dated November 20, 1615, from Edward Dun to Sir Robert Rich.

The earliest known use of a Bermuda handstamp, February 2, 1820.

The only known cover with "Too Late" hand written on it, from February 5, 1846. An Act of 1838 made it mandatory that mail arrive at the post office three hours prior to dispatch, though it was unclear of the fate of late arrivals. There are three known covers showing a "Too Late" handstamp.

There are 28 known covers involving soldiers' mail from Bermuda. One of only two known to another soldier is shown, this one to Nova Scotia.

Covers were often privately carried on the island up until 1840. There are examples of this private carriage mail.

To no surprise, there are many examples of ship-connected markings in the book, among them:

In 1814, the Swedish ship Prince Carl Johan went through Bermuda and passed a blockade as it proceeded to Newport, Rhode Island. A cover aboard was forwarded overland to Baltimore, Maryland.

The only recorded blockade wreck cover, from 1864, which was sent via Bermuda to the Confederate States of America in Richmond.

A hand-carried cover from March 27, 1873 that has no stamp, but does have a hand-scrawled ship rate charged on arrival.

The only recorded cover using the Mexican packet during the "Route 5" period in 1827.

No book is perfect. There are a couple of blips that bothered me but might not bother others. Often, the image of the item and its text are not on the same page, meaning the reader has to go searching for the other half.

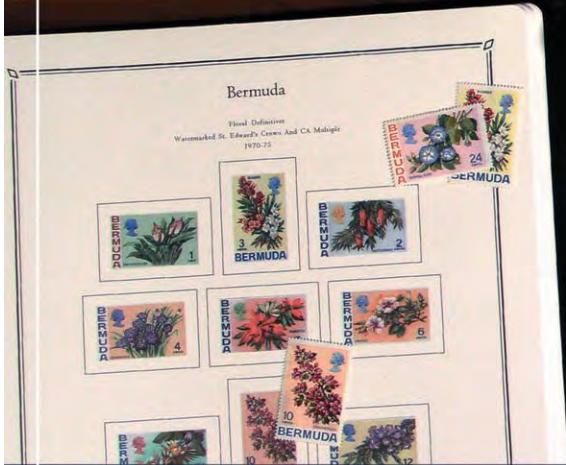
Also, often (understandably) there are references to images found only on the accompanying CD, but those tend to slow me down and I wonder if I should jump up and pop in the CD to look at it then or should I wait? (Or will I forget?) It seems the interruption in reading, though, is likely worth the price to receive the bonus images.

There is no doubt of the scholarly research and the rarity and historical significance of the items shown. Even if you don't collect Bermuda, this book is sure to help enlighten anyone interested in the postal history that linked North America to Europe.

*Published 2017 by the American Philatelic Society. Hardcover, 8½ inches by 11 inches, 150 pages, fully color illustrated. Price: \$49, \$44 for members, plus \$5 shipping from the APS (<https://stamps.org/Publications>).*



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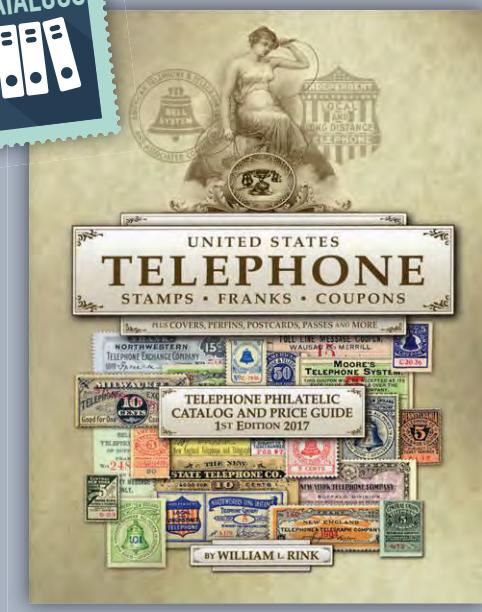
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### *United States Telephone Stamps, Franks and Coupons, A Telephone Philatelic Catalog and Price Guide,* by William L. Rink

It's a catalog like this that brings the ol' back of the back to life in beautiful living color. Oh, did I say back of the book? I meant totally OUT of the book in this case as telephone stamps – in use in the United States from the late 1880s into the 1950s – are not even listed in the Scott catalogs.

Even the author writes that this territory is unfamiliar to many.

"The first thing people ask when they see my collection or when telephone stamps are mentioned is: 'There were telephone stamps?' Followed by, 'Why did they make stamps for telephones and how were they used?'"

But if this labor-of-love effort doesn't ring your chimes I am not sure what will. The author noted he has spent thousands of hours compiling the information in this book, which he says is truly a catalog.

"Telephone stamps are one of the most interesting things I collect," writes Rink in the Introduction. "I love the look and feel and the fact that they are not overly common."

Many of the stamps shown would have been used to make calls at lo-

cal telegraph/telephone exchanges and pay stations before telephones became commonplace, automated and self-serve and coin-operated. The stamps also could be used to pay a bill once the telephone companies started monthly billing. Some were gummed and applied to a form or bill, but most were just handed off for a call or to pay a bill. They came in booklets, valued mostly from \$5 to \$100.

The author acknowledges the only other attempt at cataloging U.S. telephone stamps, S.E.R. Hiscocks' *Telegraph & Telephone Stamps of the World* (1982). This was an important first effort that opened the door to Rink's own research, he notes, but "since I

kept finding telephone stamps that were not listed in his book, I decided to make a list of my own."

Rink's catalog shows more than 750 illustrated stamp listings and 350 images from nearly 60 companies. The earliest stamp shown is from 1887, the latest from 1959.

The beautifully produced catalog is neat, easy-to-read, jammed with a lot of essential data for any collector of this material, and has hundreds of full-color images of stamps and connected ephemera. The table of contents, user's guide, and headlined topics make this catalog very easy to follow. Based on his experience with the marketplace, the author offers prices on most illustrated items, but as with all stamp catalogs, those are strictly a guide for buyers.

Descriptions of stamps (and other products) include background, colors, printing (including on reverse), and an abbreviation with a number and a catalog price. Text throughout offers a lot of historical background about the creation and use of these stamps with the most technologically advanced communications device of its day.

There are listings for anything known, from trunk line toll coupons (a lot of the stamps are referred to as "coupons" or "franks") and specimens to booklet covers and regular-looking stamps whose designs range in looks from a familiar telephone bell to a flourished stock certificate.

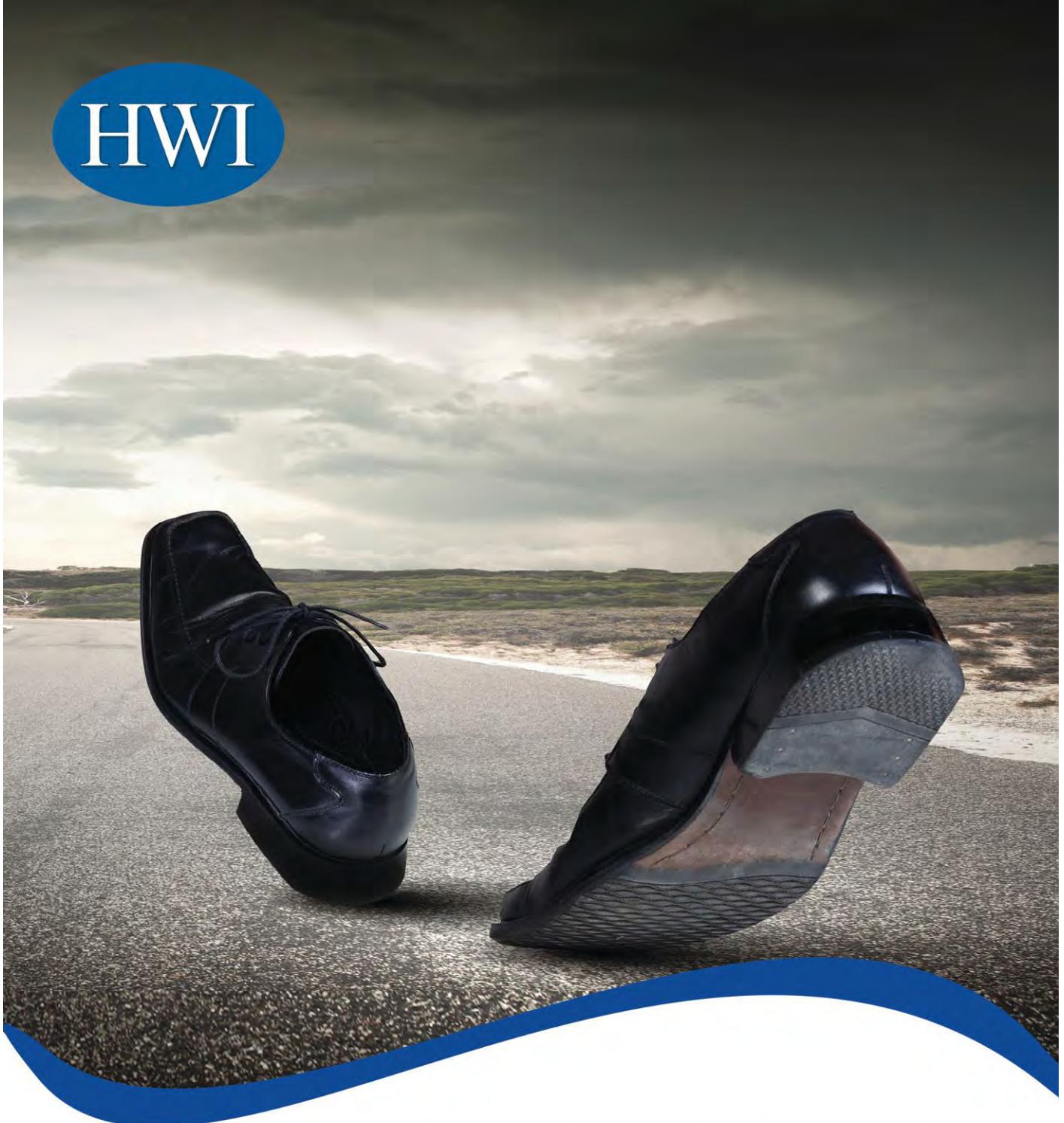
After the review of the 58 companies whose stamps survive today and small write-ups on another eight companies known to have produced stamps there is a terrific bonus in

which nearly 60 pages of material covers areas such as store telephone coupons, telephone company covers, Bell Telephone Stamp Clubs, telephone company perfins, telephone company postcards, passes and cards (predecessors to credit cards) and poster stamps.

Rink notes that he does not expect this volume, subtitled "Edition 1," will be the definitive work on the subject. "There were many telephone stamps produced over the years, probably more than you would imagine," Rink writes. "Yet I firmly believe there are many more to be found."

*Self-published in 2017. Softcover, 8½ inches by 11 inches, 176 pages, fully color illustrated. Price: \$69.95, plus \$4.95 shipping from <http://telephonestamps.com/telephone-catalog>.*





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## PHILATELIC HAPPENINGS



BY KEN MARTIN chief operating officer

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

**S**everal American Philatelic Society members did very well this year at Stampa 2017, the Irish National Stamp show, held October 6 to 8 in Dublin. Stampa has been held in Dublin since 1972 and brings together people interested in Irish philately from all over the world.

**Robert Benninghoff**, of New Jersey, won a gold medal for his single frame exhibit, "The Struggle for Irish Independence, May 1916 to December 1921." Benninghoff also was presented with the FAI medal for excellence in exhibiting for his "Irish Coil Stamps, 1922 to 1940." The FAI is a society based in Germany devoted to Irish philately. Robert was awarded the FPSI medal for "Services to Irish Philately" and promoting Irish exhibits at APS stamp shows in the United States.



Brian Warren presents Robert Benninghoff (right) with the FPSI medal at Stampa 2017



Brian Harmon receives the EPA medal from Robert Benninghoff at Stampa 2017.

won the FPSI trophy for the best single frame exhibit and the Eire Philatelic Society's Joseph E. Foley Memorial Medal for the best exhibit by an EPS member.

## United Nations Show a Success

Most World Series of Philately shows run three days, but a pair of two-day WSP shows were held two weeks apart in late October and early November. UNExpo 17, a specialized philatelic exhibition focused on United Nations collecting, was held October 27-28 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The top awards at the U.N. show were dominated by two exhibitors. **Tony Dewey** won the multiframe and single frame grands with his exhibits, "First UN Issue, 1951" and "International Education Bureau Labels for the Service of Intellectual Aid to Prisoners of War," respectively. Yes, the multiframe exhibit title was approximately one-fifth the length of the single frame exhibit title! Perhaps this proves just how explicit a title must be to fully explain a specialized exhibit limited to 16 pages.

**Greg Galleti** won the multiframe reserve grand for his "League of Nations – The War Years" and the most popular exhibit award for the "World's Capital – The United Nations Headquarters." There were two exhibitors from outside the U.S. and all the United States' exhibitors except one attended the show. The show also benefited from two special displays, one each from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and the United Nations Postal Administration.



Greg Galleti

The show's first-day ceremony attended by more than 90 was held in the library. A listing in Guinness World Records for most words on a stamp is being pursued for the new U.N.



Dublin, Ireland

stamps issued, which includes the entire text of the Declaration of Human Rights. The nearly 20 meetings and seminars held over the two days were well attended. Additionally, several hours of U.N.-related videos were available to be viewed. The awards luncheon was held in the Morse Building, our former library space which now houses the "Alphabetilately" exhibit, one of three Smithsonian exhibits available for viewing during the show.

The show carried on the tradition of APC shows begun by the American Air Mail Society and continued by the United States Philatelic Classics Society and United States Stamp Society. The American Philatelic Center is available to host additional affiliates that might be interested in having a specialized philatelic event in Bellefonte.

### Filatelic Fiesta

The Filatelic Fiesta show held November 11-12 in San Jose, California also stood out for a number of reasons. **Jessica Rodriguex**, APS Young Philatelic Leader Fellowship alum, who has just reached the member age to qualify for consideration of the Carter Volunteer Award for Young Adults, has to be one of the youngest WSP show chairs ever. The ratio of exhibits of foreign material to United States material of about four-to-one also seemed unusually high. And finally, a third of the exhibits received a large gold and a majority received either a gold or a large gold.

Congratulations to **Paul Allen** for winning the multi-frame grand for his "Victorian Outgoing Indian Mail, from October 1854 to July 1876." APRL Trustee **Hugh Lawrence** received the multiframe reserve grand for "Postal Rates during the Gold Yuan Era: The Chinese Hyperinflation, 1948-49." **Thomas Slemmons** won the single frame grand for "Great Britain Postal Reform, 1837-1840."

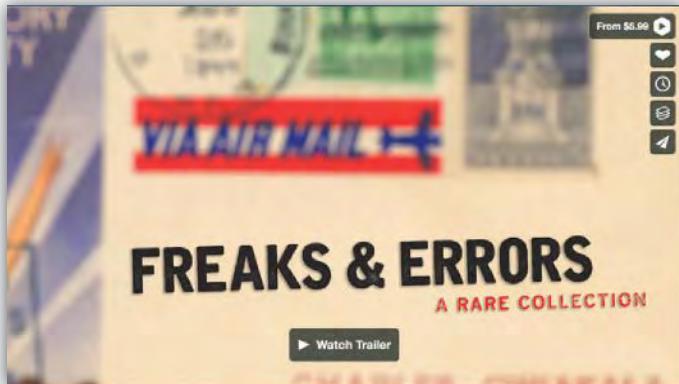
### Two Shows will Feature Same Exhibits on Same Weekend

World Series shows benefit from feeder local shows where exhibitors can get their feet wet. Exhibitor **George Struble** says his stamp-collecting life took a strong turn for the better when he started to work on an exhibit. It gave focus to his collecting, and led to more philatelic knowledge. Based on this, he agreed to serve as exhibits chair for Pipex, the Portland, Oregon-based WSP show, but he found it difficult to recruit new exhibitors. So he has come up with a plan to add exhibits at two local shows over the same weekend this coming March 17 and 18.

The exhibits will be mounted Saturday morning in Eugene, Oregon as part of Stampfest. The exhibits will be judged there, and there will be an awards ceremony there late afternoon. At the end of Saturday, the exhibits and frames will be taken down. Sunday morning, the same frames will be moved 66 miles north to Salem, Oregon and set up and remounted at Stampex.

Any exhibit that has won a gold award at a WSP show will be ineligible. Exhibits can be as small as half a frame (eight pages) and no larger than four frames. Visit the website of

either show [www.salemstampssociety.org/WVExh1.html](http://www.salemstampssociety.org/WVExh1.html) or [www.greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com](http://www.greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com) for more information. I had heard of exhibits being swapped out in the middle of a show, but not an entire group of exhibits moving from one show to another on the same weekend ... but what a great way to broaden our reach.



### Stamp Collecting Film to Debut

Perhaps not as novel, but **Mark Cwiakala** also is trying to broaden the reach of our hobby with a documentary on stamp collecting that premiered on December 2 at the Monacophil 2017 show in Monte Carlo, Monaco. The film has had a long journey as I recall being contacted by Mark asking for permission to film footage at our 2005 StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Billed as the first, independent documentary film that reveals the rarely seen, expectedly eccentric and surprisingly large world of stamp collecting, *Freaks and Errors* features interviews with columnist and author Neil Steinberg, footwear guru Stuart Weitzman and bond king William H. Gross. The film claims to be a social commentary on how we're all searching for ways to control our world, make order out of chaos, connect with one another, and express our passions.

The trailer for the movie can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/freaksanderrors>. Cwiakala is now looking to partner with a distributor. However, options to rent or buy the film are also available on [vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com).



Tom Bowman (right) receiving the APS Sparkplug award from Ron Breznay.

## Out Among the Stamp Clubs

Congratulations to **Tom Bowman**, who recently received an APS Sparkplug Award from the Wyoming Valley Stamp Club (Pennsylvania). Tom has been one of our most active APS Ambassadors.

At the November meeting of The Midwest Philatelic Society (Kansas City, Missouri), committee Chairman **Richard Spiek** presented the APS Sparkplug award to **Robert "Bob" Burney**, for donating his time, material, knowledge and en-



Missile Stamp Club of Palm Beach, Florida working to promote National Stamp Collecting Month.

thusiasm to club exhibiting. At the December meeting, the MPS was to have its seventh annual club exhibit thanks to Bob's efforts. The MPS is one of our oldest chapters. Their APS number is 826, having joined in 1894.

You might guess that the Missile Stamp Club of Palm Beach, Florida is a little newer. However, the club is doing its part to promote the hobby as it held a National Stamp Collecting Month event at the Palm Bay Public Library on October 17 and 18. President **Todd Hause** notes that the event was a success and a lot of fun.

Hause writes, "Many children and adults were introduced to stamp collecting, enjoyed picking through the piles of stamps to start their collections and were helped with their many questions. The philatelic displays for "Stamps by State," created by **Lionel Morais**, and "Space History on U.S. Postage Stamps," created by **Jerry Sublette** added excellent educational material that was enjoyed by all. Beginners' literature provided by **Janet Houser**, APS program coordinator, was taken by many to help them start their collections and get more information. The staff at the library enjoyed our presence and invited us to come back and do it again. A special thank you is in order to the APS for supplying fun, educational materials and to Missile Stamp Club members **Bill Besosa** and **Jerry Sublette** for cheerfully helping all those who stopped by."

A big thanks to the Winter Haven Stamp Club, also from Florida, which sent us two checks. The first was to pay APS dues for 11 new members. The second was to pay the membership renewal for nine existing members. The club also

alerted us to expect two additional checks: one for a snowbird, who had not yet migrated south from Canada, and a second from a member who plans to become a life member in December.

The Memphis (Tennessee) Stamp Collectors Society (MSCS) also sponsored an outreach program in its community. **Karla Norman**, librarian at Rivercrest Elementary School in Bartlett, Tennessee, gave a seminar for local area librarians on using postage stamps as a teaching aid. The seminar was used by teachers from Memphis and Lakeland to satisfy



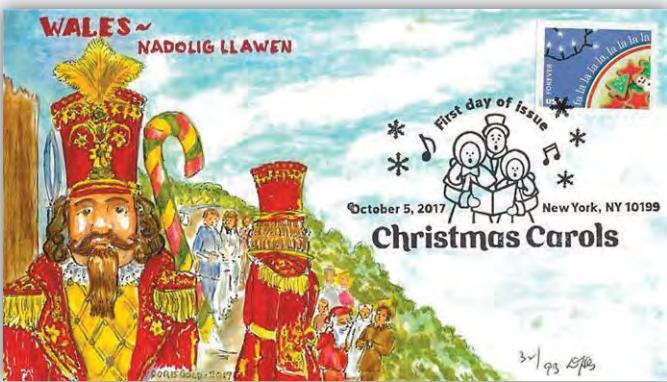
The Memphis Stamp Collectors Society has established a stamp-collecting grant program for area teachers.

continuing education requirements. Attendees learned about many collecting skills including soaking, mounting and researching stamps, as well as using them as a part of their curriculum.

In a related initiative, MSCS has established a grant program for area teachers to use in offsetting the cost of stamp collecting-related classroom supplies when used for teaching projects.

We always enjoy **Bob Rufe's** visits. Sometimes he brings shipping containers to display in our Headsville Post Office, such as examples used to mail queen bees and chicks, and other times he comes with gifts of others. Bob's latest APC visit brought three additional collections from **Donald Dewees** for our Reference Collection. With the donations of Belgium, Monaco and Saar, Donald's in-kind donations to the society have now exceeded an appraised value of \$1.5 million. The entire APS membership will benefit and we are extremely grateful.

I often end on a sad note by mentioning philatelic luminaries who have passed away, most of whom have been mem-

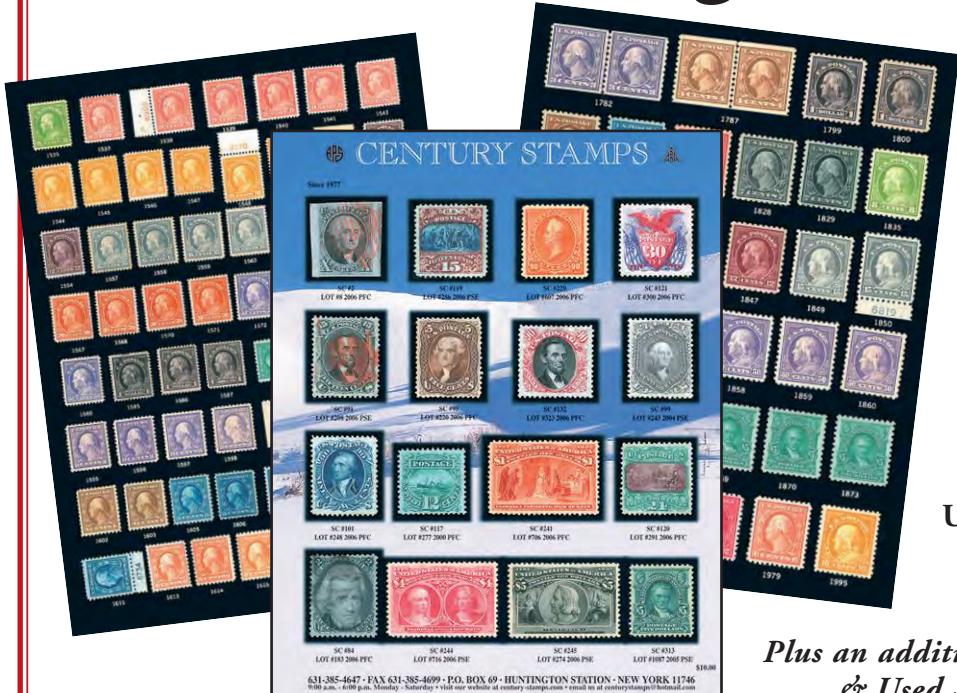


**Doris Gold cachet for the Christmas Carols issue. This cachet completes her Christmas Around the World series.**

bers of the APS for many years. Instead of reporting a death, this month I would like to offer congratulations to cachet-maker **Doris Gold**, who recently announced her retirement at age 91 after 40 years in the business. Her first cachet was the 13-cent Lindbergh stamp (Scott 1710) in May 1977. Her final two cachets are for two U.S. stamps from this past fall – the Father Theodore Hesburgh stamp and Christmas Carols block of four, for which she created a Christmas in Wales cachet, the last in her Christmas Around the World series.

Here is hoping 2018 brings positive new adventures to your philatelic life. Keep the news coming. ☺

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# Stamp Mounts: Showgard Style vs. Hawid

## Different Styles of Manufactured Mounts Appear to be Made from the Same Materials

**N**owadays, there are two basic styles of stamp mounts that most collectors use. However, they are made of the same material in one of just a small number of factories. Some brands seem to be just private-label offerings of one of the other brands. A search for Hawid and Showgard on the web will show that major suppliers of mounts usually offer both brands.



Figure 1. Hawid Mount

To the best of my knowledge, they are all made of polystyrene foil and all claim to be archival safe. In my experience, they do seem to be safe, though I have encountered a few instances of very early yellow-orange stamps that have oxidized (ink becomes darker) when in mounts, though that could have been caused by other environmental factors.

The vast majority of such mounts have moisture-activated glue on the backside and that is fine. However, extreme care should be taken to make sure that no liquid seeps into the mount when moistening the mount. Caution should be taken at the edges of the mount and the middle split in the case of split-back mounts. Only (less than) one half of the mount should be affixed to the page. I cannot overemphasize that care must be taken; I have purchased collections in which thousands of stamps were at least reduced to hinged-type status because of excess moistening of the mount. Some were seriously damaged as a result, sadly reducing the value of collections by thousands of dollars.

I strongly advise against using any type of mount that uses a pressure-sensitive self-adhesive type of attachment; there has been at least one such new product recently offered. I do not have any personal experience with this new product, but I would not be willing to put my stamps into this type of

product. I am not a chemist (though I almost became one), but spending 45 years in philately observing what happens to self-adhesives over time is not promising. Staining, migration, oozing, etc., are all potential, and likely, problems with any type of self-adhesive. Just a couple days ago, I saw a collection mounted in the 1970s where self-adhesive attachments' staining had migrated through plastic cover holders and all the way through the covers in the holders!

The most commonly seen type is the Showgard style, or split-back mounts. These are very popular and they do hold the stamps firmly in place. However, stamps can easily be damaged when being inserted or removed. Even if you have steady hands and are very careful, it is still very easy to occasionally damage a stamp. Also, if the mount is even slightly too small, perforations can be damaged.

The Hawid-style mount is open on three sides. The material is exactly the same as the split-back mounts. In fact, one can buy a package of split-back mounts that is 10 percent to 20 percent larger than twice the size needed and slit them down the middle to make Hawid-style mounts that are open on three sides. There are multiple advantages, including the ability to cut down larger sizes to make the size you need. This means that you don't need to buy as many different sizes. Also, very importantly, there is far less chance of damaging stamps when inserting or removing them.

Sometimes collectors find it convenient to install a whole

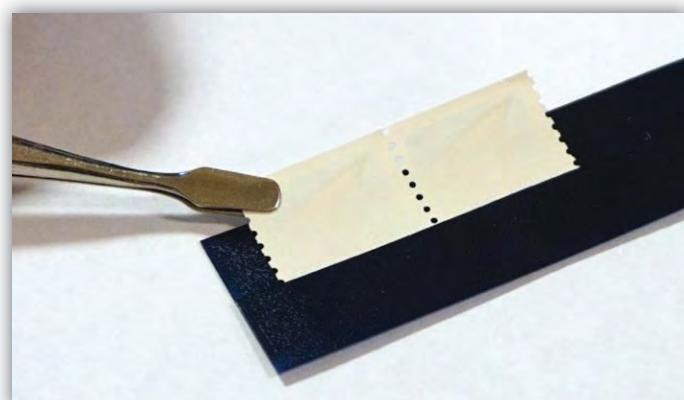


Figure 1. Showgard Mount

row of mount material instead of individual mounts for individual stamps. A client recently pointed out that the Hawid-style mounts allow stamps to be added or removed from such a row with ease and without disturbing the other stamps. However, using a Showgard-style (split-back) mount

in this manner can cause a disaster with several stamps being disturbed or even damaged when a stamp is added or removed from the row.

By the way, with Hawid-style mounts, the sealed side should be toward the bottom. A client pointed out that he occasionally had trouble seeing which side was the sealed side, especially for clear mounts. This style of mount will usually hold stamps firmly even when the mount is installed upside down, but it is not recommended. I once purchased a very nice Iceland collection built by a very experienced collector, with all the Hawid-style mounts upside down, but no stamps fell out.

Largely, the decision over which type of stamp mount to use comes down to personal preference; at least as far as choosing between Hawid and Showgard. If you regularly mount full rows in a single strip of mounting material, Hawid is almost the only practical option. Since both Hawid and Showgard have years of service protecting stamps, I would be very cautious about new adhesives and unproven products. ☾

## The Author

**T**Jay Smith, of Jay Smith & Associates, Snow Camp, North Carolina, is a stamp dealer since 1973 who specializes in Scandinavia. This column is expanded from an article originally in the Philatelic E-News email newsletter from Jay Smith & Associates. The author can be contacted at js@JaySmith.com.

### Helpful tips

The Salm Foundation, an effort of The Collectors Club of Chicago, conducts technical research on philatelic products and reports their findings. Discover more at: [www.collectorsclubchicago.org/salm-foundation.php](http://www.collectorsclubchicago.org/salm-foundation.php)



## It's Time to Come Unhinged

### The Challenge: Mounts vs. Hinges?

BY JAY SMITH

The question of whether to use hinges is certainly a dilemma faced by just about every stamp collector at some point. Especially for new collectors, the appeal of a low-cost, easy-to-use method of placing stamps into albums is easily understandable.

If you are collecting mint, never-hinged stamps, the solution is absolutely use mounts if you wish to help retain the value of your stamps. Even for already-hinged mint stamps and for used stamps, I believe that using mounts is strongly preferred.

Most collectors would agree that we are only the temporary caretakers of the stamps in our collections and that we should do our best to preserve them for future generations. Hinging mint stamps again and again eventually makes a bulky mess on the back of the stamp; removing hinges can result in thins.

On used stamps, you have the same problem, though it is even easier to cause a thin on many used stamps. Sure, you can soak a used stamp to remove old hinge remnants, but do we really want to soak stamps over and over again every 25-to-50 years? Eventually all that soaking will lessen the integrity of the

stamps' paper, inks, etc.

Lastly, mounts prevent damage to the face of stamps on album pages.

We tend not to think about this, but there can be, over the decades, a significant amount of abrasion as stamp album pages are turned, albums are handled, and when albums are shipped such as when relocating your home. I can attest to this because in our stock books we put many scarcer stamps into stamp mounts in the row of the stock book. After driving to 10 stamp shows, you can usually easily see the difference in the appearance of the stamp mount with many tiny scratches caused by dust particles, etc. The mount will absorb the abrasion and protect a stamp's surface.

So, the conclusion of the matter is to start your move toward mounting your stamps, instead of hinging them. While you may think you have some common, low-value stamps where hinging doesn't matter, ultimately consider the goals of collecting. We should all remember that for a small extra cost, we can preserve even today's bargain box specials for the collectors of tomorrow. ☾





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#### Ohio

**February 17-18**

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

#### Ohio

**February 18**

Montrose Stamp Show (previously Hudson Stamp Show); Lincolnway Stamps, Holiday Inn Akron-West, 4073 Medina Road. \*B\* Contact: Dave Pool, 330-832-5992; lincolnway@sssnet.com

#### Alabama

**February 23-25**

APS AmeriStamp Expo; American Philatelic Society, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd., North, Birmingham. \*WSP\* Contact: Kathleen Edwards, 814-933-3803 ext 217; stampshow@stamps.org; stamps.org/AmeriStamp-Expo-ASE

#### Ohio

**February 23-24**

Toledo Stamp Expo 2018; Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland. Contact: Clifford Campbell, 419-874-6241; www.toledostampclub.org

#### Florida

**February 24-25**

BAYPEX Stamp & Coin Show; Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo. Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampshows.com

#### Connecticut

**February 25**

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

#### 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; phoffmann@alaska.net; 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; www.stampandcoinclub.com

#### California

**March 3-4**

NOVAPEX 2018; Redding Stamp Club, Redding Senior Citizens Center, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding. Contact: Mark Woodward, 530-221-8933; markwoodward@charter.net; 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; 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; lincolnway@sssnet.com; 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; tbroadhea@utk.edu; www.knoxstamps.com

#### Connecticut

**March 10**

NORPEX 2018; Norwalk Stamp Club, Norwalk Senior Center, 11 Allen Road, Norwalk. Contact: John Leskovsky, 203-846-2490; johnleskovsky@sbcglobal.net; www.thenorwalkstampclubinc.org

#### California

**March 10-11**

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

#### 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; RHiss@comcast.net; www.meetinlascruces.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; show@nashvillephilatelic.org; www.nashvillephilatelic.org

#### 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; info@stlouisstampexpo.org; www.stlstampexpo.org

#### 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. Contact George Struble, 503-364-3929; gstruble@willamette.edu. St. Jude's Catholic Church, 43rd and Willamette, Eugene.

Contact: Mike Luttio, 541-731-1288; luttio@msn.com; 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; h.rogg@verizon.net; 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; frazierg@cox.net; 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; radpm67@gmail.com

#### Oregon

**March 18**

STAMPEX; Salem Stamp Society, Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, a two-day show in cooperation with Greater Eugene Stamp Society on March 17. Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem. Contact: George Struble, 503-364-3929; gstruble@willamette.edu; www.salemstampociety.org

#### Ohio

**March 22-24**

Garfield-Perry March Party; Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 115000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland. \*WSP\* Contact: Roger Rhoads; rrrhoads@aol.com; www.garfieldperry.org

#### 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; nazemi@roanoke.edu; 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; markthetuba@gmail.com

#### Alberta

**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; eddykstra@shaw.ca; www.edmontonstampclub.com

#### Connecticut

**March 25**

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven

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Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.nhps1914.org

**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; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

**Wisconsin** **April 8**  
DANEPEX '18; Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison. Contact: Bob Voss, 608-838-1033; lestamps@charter.net; www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger

**Pennsylvania** **April 14-15**  
WILKPEX 2018; Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville. Contact: Tom Donohue, 412-373-8697; wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com; 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; jrbereuter@cox.net; 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; kmc4076@aol.com; 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; showchair@plymouthshow.com; www.plymouthshow.com

**Mississippi** **April 21-22**  
GULFPEX 2018; Gulf Coast Stamp Club, St. Martin Community Center, 15004 LeMoyne Blvd., Biloxi. Contact: Eric White, 504-715-9438; ericwhitegypsymoth@yahoo.com; 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; billgphil@gmail.com; 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; hukeda@comcast.net; 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; womenexhibitors@gmail.com; www.aape.org/weweb.asp

**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; ejarvis@westpex.com; www.westpex.com

**Indiana** **May 4-5**  
CALUPEX 2018; Calumet Stamp Club, Saint James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave., Highland. Contact: Jerry Emerson, 219-662-1296; 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; coverlover@gmail.com; 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; mcsforum@aol.com

**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; rjobe@centurytel.net; www.wfscstamps.org

**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; tonywawruk@gmail.com; www.pipexstampshow.org

**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; stampmf@frontiernet.net; 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; dblackhu@gmail.com; www.utaphilatelic.org

**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; chairman@rockymountainstampshow.com; www.rockymountainstampshow.com

**Jerusalem, Israel** **May 27-31**  
ISRAEL 2018; Specialized World Exhibition with FIP Patronage, Jerusalem. Contact: Commissioner: Dr. Ross Towle  
Contact address: 400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; rosstowle@yahoo.com

**Connecticut** **May 27**  
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.nhps1914.org

**Gardarber, Iceland** **June 8-10**  
NORDIA2018; Gardarber. Contact: Commissioner: Michael Schumacher  
Contact address: 21635 Regency Park Lane, Leesburg, FL 34748; 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; wcfortii@aol.com; www.napex.org

**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; stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca; www.rpsc.org

**Connecticut** **June 24**  
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.nhps1914.org

**Oklahoma** **June 29-30**  
OKPEX 2018; Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City. \*WSP\* Contact: Joe Crosby, 405-749-0939; joecrosby@cox.net; www.okcsc.org/OKPEX

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**Wisconsin** **June 30 to July 1**  
 MSDA Summer Milwaukee Stamp Show;  
 Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Crown  
 Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 South 13th  
 Street, Milwaukee. \*B\* Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-  
 634-2676; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.  
 com

**Illinois** **July 7-8**  
 MSDA Summer Show North; Midwest Stamp  
 Dealers Association, Ramada Inn- Chicagoland  
 Executive Airport, 1090 S. Milwaukee Ave.,  
 Wheeling. \*B\* Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-  
 2676; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

**Indiana** **July 14-15**  
 MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show; Midwest  
 Stamp Dealers Association, Lawrence Parks  
 District Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Lawrence.  
 \*B\* Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676;  
 jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

**Minnesota** **July 20-22**  
 Minnesota Stamp Expo; Twin City Philatelic  
 Society and Various Local Clubs, Crystal  
 Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N.,  
 Minneapolis. \*WSP\* Contact: Randy A. Smith,  
 952-431-3273; rasmay4@frontiernet.net; www.  
 stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20  
 Expo.htm

**Washington** **July 21-22**  
 Evergreen Stamp Club Summer Exhibition;  
 Evergreen Stamp Club, Kent Commons  
 Recreation Center, 525 4th Ave., N., Kent.  
 Contact: William Geijssen, 425-883-9390;  
 billgphil@gmail.com; www.stamps.org/  
 Evergreen-Stamp-Club

**Connecticut** **July 22**  
 Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven  
 Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward  
 Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath,  
 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.  
 nhps1914.org

**Nevada** **July 28-29**  
 2018 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show;  
 Nevada Stamp Study Society, National Bowling  
 Stadium Museum, 300 N. Center St., Reno.  
 Contact: John Walter, 775-232-4760; show@  
 renostamp.org; www.renostamp.org

**Georgia** **August 3-5**  
 AMERICOVER 2018; American First Day Cover  
 Society, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993  
 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Peachtree Corners  
 (Norcross). \*WSP\* Contact: Chris Lazaroff;  
 showinfo@afdc.org; www.afdc.org/show

**Ohio** **August 9-12**  
 APS STAMP SHOW; American Philatelic Society,  
 Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400

North High Street, Columbus. \*WSP\* Contact:  
 Kathleen Edwards, 814-933-3803 ext 217;  
 stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org/  
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**Washington** **August 11**  
 Strait Stamp Show; Strait Stamp Society, Sequim  
 Masonic Lodge, South 5th and Pine, Sequim.  
 \*B\* Contact: Cathie Osborne, 360-683-6373;  
 rickcath@wavecable.com; www.straitstamp.org

**Prague, Czech Republic** **August 15-18**  
 PRAGA 2018; FEPA (European Federation)  
 Specialized World Exhibition with FIP  
 Patronage and the United States invited  
 to participate., Prague. Contact: U.S.  
 Commissioner: Ms. Vesma Grinfelds  
 Contact address: 3800-21st. Street, San  
 Francisco, CA 94114; vesmag@gmail.com

**Connecticut** **August 26**  
 Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven  
 Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward  
 Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath,  
 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.  
 nhps1914.org

**Maryland** **August 31 to September 2**  
 BALPEX; Baltimore Phil. Soc., Baltimore Hunt  
 Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt  
 Valley. \*WSP\* Contact: Michael Carski, 410-  
 465-5712; vgnrr@hotmail.com; www.balpex.  
 org

**Illinois** **September 8-9**  
 MSDA Fall Show West; Midwest Stamp Dealers  
 Association, Holiday Inn Chicago Oak Brook,  
 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oak Brook Terrace. \*B\*  
 Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676; jfb7437@  
 aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

**Nebraska** **September 8-9**  
 Omaha Stamp Show; Omaha Philatelic  
 Society, Metro Community College-South  
 Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Omaha.  
 \*WSP\* Contact: Herb Eveland, 402-397-  
 9937; tuvaenterprises@hotmail.com; www.  
 omahaphilatelicsociety.org

**London, England** **September 12-18**  
 STAMPEX; Bi-lateral Exhibition: British  
 Federation and the APS, London.

**Washington** **September 14-16**  
 SEAPEX; Seattle Philatelic Exhibition, Tukwila  
 Convention Center, 12424 42nd Ave. S.,  
 Tukwila. \*WSP\* Contact: Jack Congrove;  
 seapex@comcast.net; http://seapexshow.org

**Wisconsin** **September 14-16**  
 MILCOPEX; Milwaukee Philatelic Society,  
 Inc., Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401  
 South 13th St., Milwaukee. \*WSP\* Contact:  
 Mary Ann Bowman/ Dona Fagan, 262-

251-0617; maryann15b@mac.com; www.  
 milwaukeephilatelic.org

**Quebec** **September 21-23**  
 BNAPEX 2018; British North America Philatelic  
 Society/SHPQ/FQP, Hotel Plaza Quebec,  
 3031 Boulevard Laurier, Quebec City. \*WSP\*  
 Contact: Hugo Deshaye, 418-644-4132;  
 bnapexdealers@bnaps.org; www.bnaps.org/  
 bnapex2018/index.htm

**Connecticut** **September 23**  
 Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven  
 Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward  
 Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath,  
 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.  
 nhps1914.org

**Indiana** **October 5-7**  
 INDYPEX; Indiana Stamp Club, Hamilton County  
 Fairgrounds and Exhibition Center, 2003  
 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. \*WSP\* Contact:  
 Bob Zeigler, 317-844-5200; rzeigler@zcklaw.  
 com; www.indianastampclub.org

**Illinois** **October 13-14**  
 MSDA Fall Show North; Midwest Stamp Dealers  
 Association, Ramada Inn- Chicagoland  
 Executive Airport, 1090 S. Milwaukee Avenue,  
 Wheeling. \*B\* Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-  
 2676; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

**Ohio** **October 27-28**  
 Cuy-LorPex 2018; Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, Rocky  
 River Civic Center: Memorial Hall, 21016 Hilliard  
 Boulevard, Rocky River. Contact: Stan Fairchild,  
 440-333-2536; cuylorclub@gmail.com; www.  
 stampshows.com

**Connecticut** **October 28**  
 Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven  
 Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward  
 Ave., New Haven. \*B\* Contact: Brian McGrath,  
 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.  
 nhps1914.org

**Michigan** **November 3-4**  
 AAPEX 2016; Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J.  
 Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community  
 College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.  
 Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859;  
 harwin@umich.edu; www.annarborstampclub.  
 org

**California** **November 10-11**  
 Filatelic Fiesta 2018; San Jose Stamp Club,  
 Elks Lodge, 444 Alma Ave, San Jose. \*WSP\*  
 Contact: Jessica Rodriguez, 408-656-0623;  
 sanjosestampclub@gmail.com; www.  
 filatelicfiesta.com

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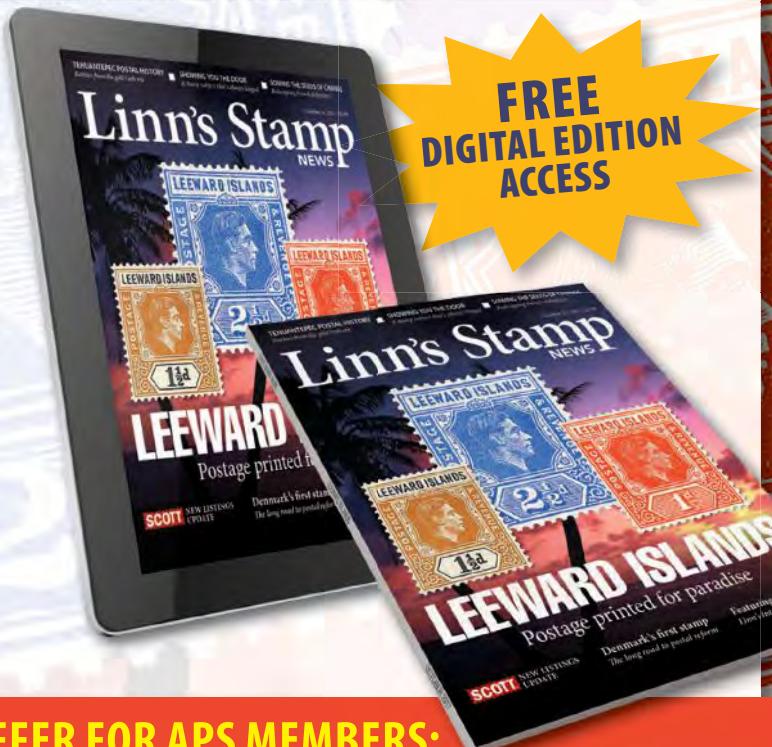
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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No. 11, November 30, 2017

## NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during November 2017. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to January 31, 2018 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the March 2018 issue.

Adan, Victor (228327) **Buena Vista, CO** CUBA; 52  
Anthony, James (228322) **Conroe, TX** US FDC, FD PROGRAMS, SOUVENIR PAGES-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-SCIENCE FICTION-SPACE-WORLD'S FAIR/EXPOSITIONS FDC; 51

Banks, Barry J. (228272)  
**Kennesaw, GA** US CIVIL WAR COVERS, COMMEMORATIVES, CLASSICS-ASTRONOMY-LITHUANIA-GERMANY; Retired

Berner, Carol (228319) **Camino, CA** WORLDWIDE-US-FDC; Retired

Canon, Bill (228328) **Frankfort, KY**  
Carriere, James (228279) **New Orleans, LA** US-UNITED KINGDOM-FRENCH COLONIES; 77; Retired

Carruthers, Anita L. (228280)  
**Sewickley, PA** US-WORLDWIDE; Retired

Chambers, Jim (228316)  
**Knoxville, TN**; 79

Champlain, Orrin (228281) **Winter Haven, FL** US-CANADA-UN-GREAT BRITAIN; 91; Retired

Chaput, Simone (228315) **Saint Esteve, France** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, CLASSICS, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, CHRISTMAS SEALS, FDC; Retired

Chen, Mu (228297) **Nanning, China** US COMMEMORATIVES-UN-CHINA-ART-TOPICAL-WORLDWIDE

Covert, Jonathan (J-228296)  
**Algona, IA** US FLAG CANCELS, NAVAL COVERS, AIRMAILS, CLASSICS; 18

Covert, Paula (228295) **Algona, IA** US 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, NAVAL COVERS; 48

Cresswell, Richard J. (228282) **Bel Air, MD** US-MOTION PICTURE THEMED; 71; Retired

Crowley, Clifford G. (228268)  
**Conroe, TX**

Davis, Alan K. (228291) **East Aurora, NY** US-EASTERN EUROPE-JAPAN-HONG KONG-FAMOUS PEOPLE; 66; Semi Retired

Deeton, Dewey (228339)  
**Cromwell, CT**  
Denninger, Thomas (228283)  
**Winter Haven, FL** US-WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired  
Dunavent, Brittney M. (228284)  
**Auburndale, FL** WEST EUROPE-SWEDEN-NORWAY-ICELAND; 23  
Engle, Robert L. (228269)  
**Woodburn, OR** US, 19TH CENTURY; 76; Retired  
Espin, Fernanda (228338)  
**Fresno, CA** US 19TH CENTURY, ADVERTISING COVERS; 43  
Fellers, Paul J. (228285) **Winter Haven, FL** OLDER US-AUSTRALIA-OLDER BRITISH COLONIES; 84; Retired  
Findlay, Greg (228318) **Vienna, VA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, MATCH & MEDICINE, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL)-GERMAN 3RD REICH/OCCUPATIONS-CANADA; 49  
Freundschuh, Greg (228267)  
**Naples, FL** US FDC, PLATE BLOCKS-GERMANY-JAPAN-CANADA-BERLIN  
Fussichen, David (228305) **Oak Park, IL** US-AVIATION; 40  
Gallant, Richard S. (228292)  
**Seekonk, MA** WORLDWIDE-US-COVERS; 51; Office Manager  
Goddard, Priscilla V. (228302)  
**Brandon, MS** US, USED, CLASSICS, DEFINITIVES, COMMEMORATIVES; 68; Retired  
Gordon, Arnold (228325) **Durham, NC** RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-ISRAEL-EGYPT-CROATIA  
Gripp, Gregory (228298) **Houston, TX**; 53; Self Employed  
Gross, Evelyn (228306) **New York, NY** US-WORLDWIDE; 75; Business  
Haught, Fred J. (228300)  
**Parkersburg, WV** US, COMMEMORATIVES, POSSESSIONS, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 73; Retired  
Herbert, Douglas (228270)  
**Durham, NC** US PLATE BLOCKS, SPECIAL EVENT COVERS/CANCELS, FLIGHT COVERS, AIRMAILS, LOCALS & CARRIERS-WORLDWIDE 19TH CENTURY  
Hettinger, Susan L. (228334)  
**White Heath, IL** MINT US; 60; Sonographer  
Holmes, Jim (228323)  
**Sammamish, WA** US 20TH CENTURY-CANADA-AUSTRALIA; 61  
Hughes, Roger W. (228293)  
**Clearwater, FL** US, PLATE BLOCKS, MINT, POSTCARDS; Retired  
Hukill, Lisa (228307) **Boys Town, NE**; Accounting

Jones, Rick (228317) **Deland, FL** US-SOUTHEAST ASIA-THAILAND; 62; Teacher  
Kershen, Drew L. (228271)  
**Norman, OK** CENTRAL AMERICA-BIOLOGY-BLACK AMERICANS-SLAVERY-AGRICULTURE; 73; Retired  
Kessler, Leonard A. (228286)  
**Hanover, PA** US, COMMEMORATIVES, AIRMAILS, REVENUES, OFFICIALS, DEFINITIVES; 70; Retired  
Kittle, Rodney (228341) **Bath, NY** BRITISH AFRICA-AFRICA-US POSSESSIONS, AIRMAILS, WASHINGTON/FRANKLINS-FOREIGN CLASSICS; 72  
Klein, Chelsy (228276) **Centennial, CO** US, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, IMPERFORATES, COMMEMORATIVES, FANCY CANCELS, CO POSTAL HISTORY; 38  
Kohrman, James R. (228348) **Fort Wayne, IN** MINT US; 80; Retired  
Krieger, Elaine R. (228337)  
**Los Altos, CA** US, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, DEFINITIVES, AIRMAILS, JOINT ISSUES; Retired  
LaRocca, Tracy (228301) **Voorhees, NJ** US CANCELS; 42  
Lauinger, Julie (228266) **Oregon City, OR** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES  
Lehmann, Rich T. (228308) **West Hollywood, CA** WORLDWIDE; 44; Marketing Manager  
Lindberg, Derek (228275) **Tucson, AZ**; 47  
Lombardo, Mary (228274)  
**Fairfield, CT** US, AIRMAILS, ENCASED POSTAGE/POSTAGE CURRENCY-ITALY-EGYPT-GREECE; 76  
Lupton, Christopher J. (228314)  
**Austin, TX** US, FD PROGRAMS, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH; 68; Retired  
Lykens, Larry (228310) **Tyrone, PA** NEWER SHEETS-PLATE BLOCKS-SINGLES-FDC; 73; Retired  
Maniago, Karen J. (228309)  
**Gibsonia, PA**; 77; Retired  
Market, Eugene (228342) **West Hartford, CT** US, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS  
Maynard, David (228294)  
**Slater'sville, RI** US; 71; Retired  
Modlin, Terry (228329) **Evanston, IL** US-WORLDWIDE; 79; Retired  
North, Thomas H. (228330)  
**Carbondale, IL** BRITISH COLONIES-WEST EUROPE; 72; Retired  
Pallares, Jan Pierre (228311) **Saint Louis, MO** POSTAL HISTORY; 55; CPA

## NEW MEMBERS

Applications 227968 through 228151 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

## SUMMARY

Total Membership, October 31, 2017 .....	29,437
New Members	183
Reinstated	52.....235
Deceased	65
Resignations	84.....149
Total Membership, November 30, 2017 .....	29,523
(Total Membership, November 30, 2016 was 30,608 a difference of -1,085)	

Pithan, Joseph A. (228349) **Sloan, IA** US PLATE BLOCKS; 67; Retired  
Pitts, Virginia (228299) **Duluth, GA** US, USED, COMMEMORATIVES, AIRMAILS; 69  
Plisky, Michael A. (228350)  
**Spooner, WI** PRE-1940 US; 76; Retired  
Pope, Natalie (228345)  
**Moorestown, NJ** US  
Privette, Betty M. (228351)  
**Darlington, SC**; 78; Self Employed  
Rawson, Mac V. (228312) **Athens, GA** US-WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired  
Robison, Chassity (228344)  
**Fairview, TN**  
Rudolph, Hazel D. (228303)  
**Polson, MT** GREAT BRITAIN-US 19TH CENTURY-CANADA; 89  
Sandborn, Peter (228347)  
**Columbia, MD** US CLASSICS, AIRMAILS, COILS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, POSTAL CARDS-CANADA; 58  
Sanders, Lori W. (228346)  
**Madison, MS** AMERICANA-FLOWERS/PLANTS-COINS-DISNEY-FAIRY TALES/FOLKLORE-SHIPS/BOATS; 48; Banker  
Sanders, Neill F. (228304) **North Andover, MA**; 73  
Scott, Richard R. (228352) **Goleta, CA** US; 82; Retired  
South, Gary R. (228324)  
**Columbus, OH** PRE-2000 US-RUSSIA; 68; Retired  
Swanson, Scott (228321)  
**Oconomowoc, WI** US  
Sweeney, Jack (228331)  
**Gardnerville, NV** US, AIRMAILS; 93; Retired  
Tobin, Edward E. (228332)  
**Romulus, MI** MINT US; Retired

Truitt, Michelle (228273) <b>Fort Wright, KY</b> US FLAG CANCELS-ANIMALS-FAMOUS PEOPLE-CHRISTMAS-AMERICANA	Warn, Sandra L. (228320) <b>Saint Cloud, MN</b> EUROPE-GREAT BRITAIN MACHINS-BRITISH OCEANIA-BIRDS-FLOWERS/ PLANTS-CHRISTMAS; 67; Retired	Wilson, James (228277) <b>Clermont, FL</b> GERMANY, STATES, AIRMAILS, SEMIPOSTALS-MONTENEGRO-US CONFEDERATE STATES; 75	Billings, Bart J. (1856-060792), North Las Vegas, NV
Van Heertum, Richard M. (228287) <b>Lakeland, FL; 77</b>	Weaver, Jim (228353) <b>Lancaster, PA</b> US; 82; Retired	Young, Patricia N. (228289) <b>Winter Haven, FL; 71</b> ; Retired	Blander, Jack (10590-071104), L'Orignal, ON
Vastola, Steven (228340) <b>Bristol, CT</b> US, CLASSICS-19TH CENTURY-OCCUPATION ISSUES; 50	Webster, Walt (228288) <b>Winter Haven, FL; 77</b> ; Retired	Zula, Floyd (228313) <b>Portland, OR</b> US-CANADA-FRANCE; 72; Retired	Brandt, Byron S. (9957-070052), San Antonio, TX
Vaughan, Carey (228290) <b>Jefferson City, MO</b> MINT US-GREAT BRITAIN; 58; Physician	Westbury, Wayne J. (228343) <b>Christchurch, New Zealand</b> WORLDWIDE COVERS-MINI SHEETS-CINDERELLAS; 56; Bus Driver	Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (051056)	Braverman, Samuel W. (6468-037237), Geneva, NY
Vessels, Lawrence (228326) <b>Camino, CA</b> US-WORLDWIDE	White, Christopher (228355) <b>Pope, MS</b> US, AIRMAILS, BUREAU ISSUES, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, SAVINGS (POSTAL/TREASURY/WAR), IMPERFORATES; 44	<b>RESIGNED CHAPTER</b>	Brown, Roy M. (194582), Lilburn, GA
Volonte, William J. (228354) <b>West New York, NJ</b> POSTMARKS; 63; Lawyer	White, Donald (228333) <b>San Jose, CA</b> CHINA; 81; Retired	<b>DECEASED</b>	Bruskin, Murray J. (7902-055978), Denver, CO
Voss, Randy R. (228335) <b>Lake in the Hills, IL</b> US-BRITISH EMPIRE; 64; Self Employed	Wilson, Carol A. (228336) <b>Bement, IL</b> MINT US; 67; Retired	Anderson, Clarence N. (7947-054345), Las Palmas, Spain	Cahn II, Charles (179258), University Park, FL
Waldbillig, Carl A. (228278) <b>West Chester, OH</b> US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-UN-VATICAN CITY-GERMANY-ISRAEL; 66; IT Consultant		Austen, Mike (206380), Little Rock, AR	Carlson, Dale E. (153575), Yreka, CA
		Ayers, Maurice J. (176163), Vonore, TN	Cervi, Joan L. (129067), Ambler, PA
		Bell, Kenneth C. (218860), Towaco, NJ	Chrisco, Rex M. (137560), Wichita, KS
			Clark, Eugene M. (178743), Appleton, WI
			Coffey, James E. (169312), Dennisport, MA
			Costain, David R. (181318), Brewer, ME

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 Gentry, Jim (8881-062021), Marana, AZ  
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 Johnson, Arnold W. (224118), Bozeman, TX  
 Klein, Robert A. (168981), Bellevue, WA  
 Leiby, Jack L. (11509-058608), Rock Island, IL  
 Levasseur, Thomas G. (166606), Rockland, ME  
 Liberman, Myron J. (141032), Albuquerque, NM  
 Lix, Patricia V. (156906), San Andreas, CA  
 Maniago, Geno (213796), Gibsonia, PA  
 Masick, Charles V. (11834-060251), Cobleskill, NY  
 Mason, Robert A. (2731-037546), Utica, NY  
 Meghrig, Garo M. (2011-015968), Los Angeles, CA  
 Mock Jr., George B. (7839-055709), Mattapoisett, MA

Olsen, Mary Ann T. (173513), Friendswood, TX  
 Prindle, Eugene A. (7385-051353), Schaumburg, IL  
 Poulin, Jean P. (201672), West Covina, CA  
 Puner, S.P. (3089-026002), Ossining, NY  
 Richardson, Donald (125927), Auckland, New Zealand  
 Rudy, I. J. (125416), Pittsburgh, PA  
 Scott, Greg B. (223234), Redding, CA  
 Solter, Samuel B. (9923-068753), Goleta, CA  
 Spahr, Harry E. (121194), Dover, PA  
 Smith, William O. (106079), Dayton, OH  
 Taylor, Richard G. (10543-074840), Mansfield, OH  
 Townsend, David W. (157257), Albuquerque, NM  
 Tucker, Stephen T. (156502), Henderson, NV  
 Tucker, Thomas W. (9612-175665), Great Falls, MT  
 Van Gordon, Larry R. (208179), Beaverton, OR

Watkins, William D. (210169), River Edge, NJ  
 Welch, Karl W. (6322-045594), Raytown, MO  
 Wiessmann, Ross E. (12614-064875), Augusta, NJ  
 Wolanin, Thomas R. (197188), Arlington, VA  
 Wrigley, Randall D. (084865), Supply, NC

## DEALER LISTING

The following has been approved for classification as a full-time (D) stamp dealer according to qualifications established by the Board of Vice Presidents.

Stear, Gary L. (B and G Sales, 219467-D), 2731 Rylee Ct., Greenwood, IN 46143, (317) 627-5242

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Michelle Joyce Kumler (228020) was incorrectly listed as Michelle Kumer in the September membership report.

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## VATICAN CITY YEAR SETS

Year	Mint	Year	Mint
2016	\$97.00	2011	\$95.00
2015	\$87.60	2010	\$81.35
2014	\$100.00	2009	\$92.72
2013	\$115.00	2008	\$81.19
2012	<b>\$82.52</b>		

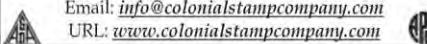
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# Enhancing Philately for a New Generation

## Making stamps relevant in an electronic age

As we consider the remarkable and rewarding experience we call philately, we often engage in debates on sharing the hobby, interesting younger collectors and making stamps relevant in an electronic age. And while these are legitimate concerns, one of the challenges we face is that there is no single idea that will solve the dilemmas we encounter. Furthermore, we may tend to fixate on the issues that annoy us the most and, in doing so, ignore both bigger challenges and potential solutions. Throughout history, especially American history, a spirit of discovery emerged as the best antithesis to problems of every sort. And it is with this spirit in mind that we launch a new column this month.

Digital Discoveries is the title I've chosen to encompass a search for tools, techniques and ideas that can help us all integrate philately into a culture obsessed with technology, texting and change. (I would be remiss if I didn't give credit where due. The column title was suggested by Mara Hartzell, the Digital Strategies Specialist for the APS). This new column focuses on how modern, mainstream achievements can be used to enhance the experience of stamp collecting. Along the way we will discuss how technology can help us share the authenticity of postal history, how to leverage modern-day communications to focus on stamps and ways to make history come alive for audiences who can't yet count many years in their personal legacy. It is the lofty goal of Digital Discoveries to help bridge the gap between generations intrigued by stamps and generations unaware that stamps used to be licked.

### Meet Them Where They Are

Much like the vacation slides of our younger days, few non-collectors want to sit and look through our stamp albums. Regardless of how much we spend on albums or how innovative we are in our personal page design, our children and our grandchildren simply aren't yet conditioned to appreciate the presentation. This realization was recently underscored when, while discussing a new issue, my daughter took out her phone and started browsing her social media. While enduring the "Dad, I'm still listening..." protests, I realized that the fault was not entirely hers. To be effective communicators, we have to begin where our audience is—we must find (or develop) some common ground from which both sides can engage in a conversation. If we intend to talk with someone who doesn't speak English, we find a way to put our words into their language. Similarly, we need to mold



our communications to the methods so common for younger generations. With this in mind, meet Snupps.

Snupps is a social media website ([www.snupps.com](http://www.snupps.com)) and mobile app for Apple iOS and Android devices. This software tool enables users to share collections in the virtual world. Much like scrolling through screens of statuses, updates and shared photos, Snupps allows users to post their collections, view other's assortments and comment on what is shared. The company that develops Snupps wants their users to "organize and socialize around the stuff they own and cherish". The spirit of that mission statement should resonate well with most philatelists I know. Think of Snupps as a digital album where you collect not only images of your stamps, but also the comments of people who have viewed your stamps from anywhere in the world.

• • • • •  
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• viewed your stamps from anywhere in the  
• world.  
• • • • •

### Organizing Your Collection

As with every social media app and website, Snupps has its own organizational scheme. Thankfully, this one makes sense considering what a collector needs and how social media devotees communicate. Snupps organizes content in three basic categories; Shelves, Items and Moments. But more on that in a moment.

Account creation on Snupps.com is free and easy. You can sign up online at [www.snupps.com](http://www.snupps.com) or you can use their mobile app to accomplish the same task. The system walks you through entering your email (or linking a Facebook account), real name, username and password. Once your account is created you have the option of selecting a profile photo and indicating interests (the “Collectables” interest encompasses philately).

With the account created, you find yourself looking at the

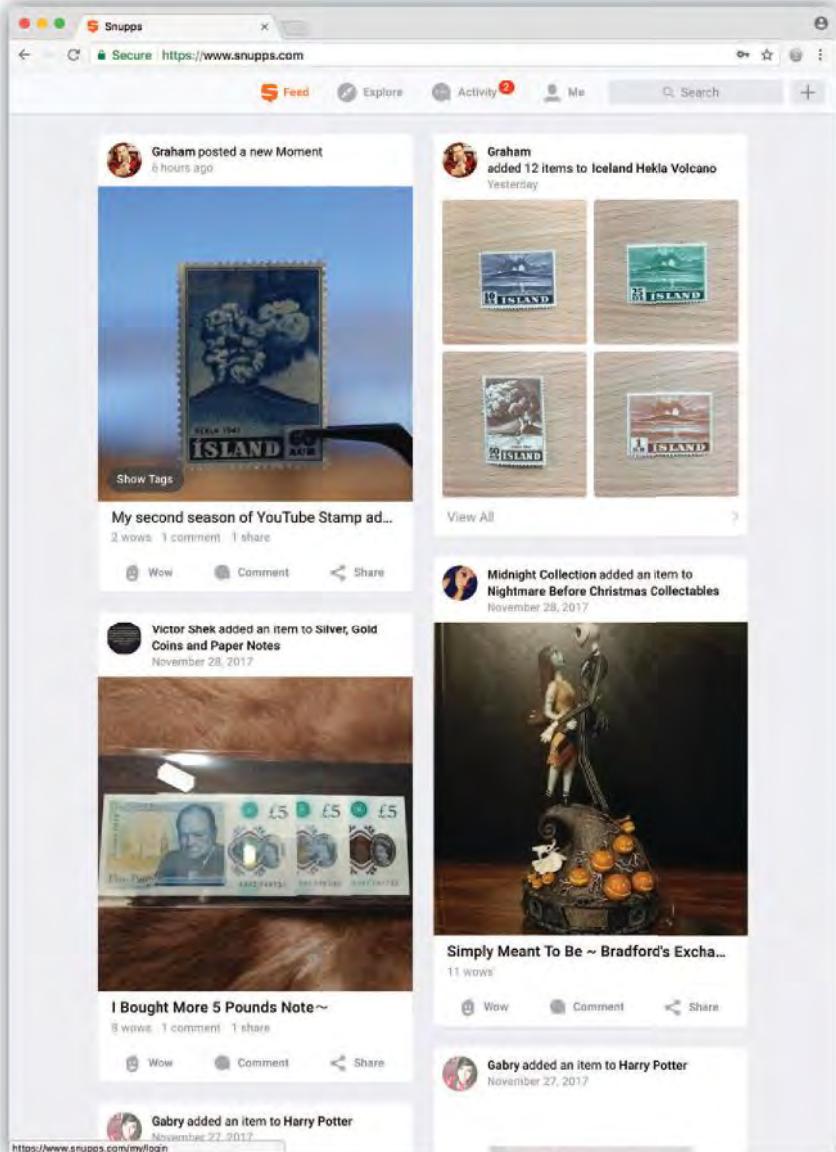


Figure 1. In Snupps, the Feed shows new content and posts from the people you follow and interests you have saved.

Feed [Figure 1]. Based on your interests, the Feed shows you posts from other users that Snupps thinks may be interesting to you. As you interact with the system, I suspect it will refine the posts you see, although that is an assumption, not necessarily a confirmed fact.

Each post in the Feed is either an “Item” (or several items) that a user has added [Figure 2], a “Shelf” they have created [Figure 3] or a “Moment” they have shared. These classifications help organize items into logical collections. For a col-

Figure 2. Items are individual pieces that are shared online. These can be added one-at-a-time or many-at-a-time.

lection of stamps, think of “Items” as the individual stamps and “Shelves” as albums containing stamps. We’ll talk about “Moments” a little bit later.

Unlike other social media apps, where determining how to post pictures can be a challenge, Snupps makes it easy to get started, even if you don’t understand all of the nomenclature. Simply look for the “+” icon (top right corner on the website or bottom center in the app) to get started. Once you click or tap on the “+”, you’ll be guided through uploading an item, tagging a moment or creating a shelf.

Each new addition starts with a photo (to fit properly it needs to be square) of the item. The photo can be uploaded from your computer or device, or you can use your device’s camera to take a new photo. Once the photo is selected, you can add a variety of details including a title, description and several other details that can be either public or private [Figure 4]. You can even add multiple photos for items you are adding and keep items private until you’re ready to share. With the exception of the photo, all the details are optional, but you’ll want to add information to enrich the experience of brows-

ing your collection. Once you have inserted the details you want to include, clicking or tapping “Done” uploads the pictures and stores the information in your account. Best of all, Snupps also allows you to go back and edit your items at any time.

Creating a “Shelf” works in much the same way as “Items,” however, with a Shelf you have the option to add multiple items, all of which will be grouped together. I created a Shelf for a recent acquisition of National Parks covers and found the process easy and very efficient.

Once your item is saved, (unless you mark it private) it is

Martin Kent Miller created a new shelf  
26 minutes ago

## US Stamps



[View All](#)

**Figure 3.** Think of Shelves as albums within your collection. In Snups, Shelves allow you to make groups of your items. Clicking "View All" will display all of the items in the Shelf.

Secure <https://www.snups.com/item/5d>

Feed Explore Activity Me Select +

Items

1948 Iceland Hekla Stamp ... Graham			
1948 Iceland Hekla Stamp ... Graham	1948 Iceland Hekla Stamp ... Graham	1948 Iceland Hekla Stamp ... Graham	Used 1948 Iceland Hekla St... Graham
1950 Iceland Flag Stamp 50... Graham	2007 USA Aurora Borealis 5... Graham	Iceland Natural Steam Vals... Graham	1958 Iceland Flag Stamp 3... Graham

Verizon LTE 12:45 PM Add Item

[ebay ↑](#)

Item Title (brand, model, etc.)

Shelves Select >

Description [★ Rate](#)

Item Details >

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

available for other Snups users to view, share, discuss and “Wow.” Think of the “Wow” feature as a modest copy of the Facebook “Like” function. Similar to most other social media tools, Snups allows users to comment on their own posts as well as the posts of others, hence, the “social” aspect of the technology.

One feature that might hold considerable interest is the ability to connect your Snups account with your eBay account. The result is a simple method for both sharing your collection and selectively selling items as the desire arises. I have not had the opportunity to test this feature yet. While it may not offer some of the automation features found in more mature eBay-centric tools, it does appear to be an effective option for the casual eBay seller. It also offers a built-in promotional tool since Snups is broadcasting your collection to their users.

Quite simply, Snups appears to be one of the easiest ways to share your stamps in the virtual world. I have used Instagram, Facebook and others for several years, yet none of these tools are geared toward sharing collections in the way

Snups enables. And, before the question arises, no, Snups is not paying for this column.

## Let's Discuss a Moment

I mentioned previously that Snups allows you to post in several ways. One of those classifications is called a “Moment.” In many ways, it is essentially the process of posting a picture without the extra details that the platform allows [Figure 5]. You simply click or tap to add a “Moment,” take or select a photo, add a caption and decide whether to tag other “Stuff” or “People.” Once you complete the post, it is shared to others’ Feeds and stored in your account.

“Moment” may be one of the most important features in the entire Snups platform; at least as far as the future of philately is concerned. The ability to share images of stamps and relate them to real world events and personal adventures maybe a tremendous breakthrough in sharing the philatelic experience.

For experienced collectors, the thrill of the hunt and the achievement of assembling a pristine album or a remarkable

Verizon LTE 12:46 PM 76%

[Add Item](#)

### Item Details

**Public Details**  
Anyone can see these

Brand  
Model  
Author/Creator  
Year Made  
Purchased From

**Private Details**  
Visible only to you

**DETAILS**

Serial #  
Quantity  
Location

**VALUE**

Purchase Price \$  
Purchase Date  
Estimated Value \$

**WARRANTY**

Warranty #  
Expiration Date

**NOTES**

Private Notes

Figure 4. When adding items in Snupps, the system allows you to include any details you care to share and even some you don't want public. While not a full-featured collection database, Snupps provides good control and the option to store the major details about your items.

My second season of YouTube Stamp adventures has begun!  
The first episode starts in the land of fire and ice.  
<https://youtu.be/uFVSBwEw2QI>

4 wows 1 comment 1 share

Graham 9 hours ago

Tagged Items

1948 Iceland Hekl...

TAT\_Stamps 8 hours ago

Great job again, Graham.

Like Reply

Leave a comment...

Figure 5. Snupps Moments and the ability to share them socially may be one of the tools that bridges the gap in modern philately.



Snupps is available online at [www.snupps.com](http://www.snupps.com) and as an app for both iOS and Android devices. The app and the account are both free.

exhibit is the satisfaction we gain from hobby. We are gratified with our miniature works of art, mounted and stored away to view and examine another day. For the younger generation with whom we need to communicate, a tool like Snupps may very well bridge the gap between classic philately and the interests of a generation raised to know "social" in a totally different context.

You see it goes back to the discussion we started last month. While for many of us the stamp is the experience, our children and their children have different expectations. Young adults today are more likely to spend their time and their money on experiences like hiking Macchu Pichu or rafting the Snake River. And it must be noted that these same people will also spend their money on things that support and enrich those experiences. The challenge for us, then, is to learn to communicate that the stamp enhances the experience. We need to show that the history, the art and the culture portrayed in the issues we collect are authentic, rich and deserving of their attention. Just think how satisfying it will be when your daughter or granddaughter "wows" your "moment." ☾



## 2017 NEW STAMPS

BY JEFF STAGE

# Alzheimer's Semipostal Final Stamp of 2017

## Design Utilizes Artwork Found on 2008 Postage Stamp



The U.S. Postal Service's final new stamp of 2017 – the Alzheimer's stamp – was also the first new-face semipostal stamp in six years. And those familiar with modern U.S. stamps will sense the familiarity in the design.

The stamp was dedicated Nov. 30 at Johns Hopkins Asthma & Allergy Center Atrium, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, in Baltimore, Maryland. It went on sale nationwide that day.

The artwork is an illustration that first appeared on the 42-cent Alzheimer's Awareness stamp issued in 2008. It shows an older woman in profile with a caring hand on her shoulder with the suggestion of sunlight behind her and clouds in front of and below her. On the 2008 stamp, she was facing left; the artwork for this stamp shows her facing right to help differentiate between the two stamps. Stamp artist Matt Mahurin, of Topanga Canyon, California, worked under the direction of

art director Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland.

The nondenominated semipostal – with text stating “+ First-Class” – cost 60 cents when issued. The stamp's fee pays for first-class domestic postage – 49 cents when released, but expected to rise to 50 cents in late January – with the remainder distributed to the National Institutes of Health, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. That money will be used for research into Alzheimer's disease.

Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Megan J. Brennan dedicated the stamp. Also in attendance was Kathy Siggins, of Mount Airy, Maryland, who followed the discretionary semipostal program criteria for submitting the stamp suggestion. Siggins' husband succumbed to the disease in 1999.

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks, according to the NIH. Alzheimer's disease has been a growing problem in the U.S. and is now the country's sixth-leading cause of death.

The Semipostal Authorization Act, Pub. L. 106-253, grants the U.S. Postal Service discretionary authority to issue and sell semipostal fundraising stamps to advance such causes as it considers to be “in the national public interest and appropriate.” Under the program, the Postal Service intends to issue five semipostal fundraising stamps over a 10-year period, with each stamp to be sold for no more than two years. The Alzheimer's semipostal stamp is the first and will be followed by a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) semipostal to be issued in 2019. The next three discretionary semipostal stamps have not yet been determined.

Under the Act, the Postal Service will consider proposals for future semipostals until May 20, 2023. The Federal Register notice outlining this program can be found at the following url: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-20/pdf/2016-09081.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-20/pdf/2016-09081.pdf).

Proposals will only be considered if they meet all submission requirements and selection criteria. They may be submitted by mail to the following address:

Office of Stamp Services  
Attn: Semipostal Discretionary Program  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Suggestions may also be submitted in a single Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file sent by e-mail to [semipostal@usps.gov](mailto:semipostal@usps.gov). Indicate in the Subject Line: Semipostal Discretionary Program.

There are currently two semipostal stamps available for sale. These are the Breast Cancer Research semipostal, which has raised more than \$86.1 million, and the Save Vanishing Species semipostal, which has raised more than \$4.3 million as of September 2017. ☾



### ALZHEIMER'S SEMIPOSTAL STAMP

**USPS Number:** 564200

**Format:** Pane of 20, 120

stamps per revolution

**Issue Date and City:** November 30, 2017, at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

**Designer, Art Director and Typographer:** Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, Maryland

**Artist:** Matt Mahurin

**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:** 500 million stamps

**Paper Type:** Phosphor tagged paper, Overall

**Adhesive Type:** Pressure-sensitive

**Colors:** Cyan, Magenta, yellow, black, PMS 614/beige, PMS 451/brown

**Stamp Sizes:** Image Area: 1.085 inches by 1.42 inches, 27.56 millimeters by 36.07 mm. Stamp size: 1.225 inches by 1.56 inches, 31.12 mm by 39.62 mm (overall size).

**Plate Numbers:** “B” followed by six single digits

**Marginal Markings:** Front – Plate numbers in four corners of pane; Back – “© 2016 USPS”, USPS logo, plate position diagram, barcode (564200) in upper right and lower left corners of pane, promotional text.



## CANADA HANUKKAH

Canada Post, on November 20, issued a stamp celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish eight-day Festival of Lights. The stamp's geometric design represents the different types of menorahs, along with a strong contrast between light and dark, which creates the appearance of flickering flames.



## ISRAEL (RUSSIA)

### RUSSIAN CHURCH

On November 14, Israel and Russia issued a joint issue showing the Cathedral of All Russian Saints, which stands in the village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of St. John the Baptist, outside of Jerusalem. The church was completed in 2007 after several decades of abandonment.



## SLOVENIA

### FOOD

On November 16, Slovenia issued two stamps that look yummy enough to eat featuring traditional foods: a belokranjska povitica (rolled cake, shown), a national dish, and roast lamb with rosemary.



## NEW ZEALAND

### CHRISTMAS

On November 1, New Zealand issued a set of five Christmas stamps in as many denominations. The stamps feature traditional holiday images designed with colored paper in a process called quilling. The artwork was designed by artist Yulia Brodskaya, who designed the 2016 U.S. Love stamp.



## GUERNSEY

### STORIES FROM THE GREAT WAR

On November 8, Guernsey issued a set of six stamps in as many denominations as Part 4 in its Stories from the Great War series. This set looks at the air service. Each stamp includes a red poppy, an iconic symbol of WWI, at bottom left.

# NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at stamps issued in November from ten different countries around the world.



## FRANCE ART OF GENEVIÈVE ASSE

France, on November 13, issued a stamp featuring a composition from Geneviève Asse of nine rectangles of oil-painted wallpapers and glued on a white support. The layout of each rectangle is designed so that the blues, gradients, lines and the variations of intensity that compose them answer each other.



## JAPAN

### GIFTS FROM THE FOREST

On November 8, Japan issued a souvenir sheet of ten 62-yen stamps showing images symbolic of animals, trees and other plant life found in forests.

The souvenir sheet indicates this is No. 1 in a series.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

### ANIMAL RETURNNEES

On November 13, Liechtenstein, in conjunction with the World Wildlife Federation, issued a strip of four stamps that are making a comeback in the wilds of the small principality. Shown are the lynx, stork, beaver and wolf.



## THE NETHERLANDS

### CHILDREN'S WELFARE SEMIPOSTAL

On November 8, The Netherlands issued a whimsical souvenir sheet of six stamps featuring characters from the comic strip Jan, Jans en de kinderen (Jack, Jacky and the Junios) originally created by Jan Kruis. Since 1970, the comic strip chronicles life in an average Dutch family. The semipostal raises money for family services.



## ROMANIA

### BUCHAREST CIRCUS

Romania, on November 11, issued four stamps to the Bucharest Circus, which since 1960-61 has featured a popular world-class circus beneath a big top. One stamp, based on a 1995 poster, features a clown banging a drum leading a circus parade.



# WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

## Ross Dependency

**Status:** Claimed by New Zealand

**Population:** 300 (winter), 1,300 (summer)

**Area:** 170,000 sq miles

**Currency:** 100 cents = 1 New Zealand Dollar (NZ\$1 = US\$.69)



The first four stamps issued specifically for Ross Dependency in 1957 included one showing a map and another showing explorers Shackleton and Ross, Scott L2 and L3.

driven by postal need; the whaling ships that worked the Antarctic waters did not require postal facilities. Initially, stamps were issued to help defray the costs for specific expeditions. In 1907, Ernest Shackleton, leader of the British National Antarctic Expedition, was sworn in as postmaster of King Edward VII Land and supplied with about 24,000 copies of the current

New Zealand 1-cent stamp overprinted "King Edward VII Land" (Scott 121a). His post office closed March 4, 1909. The Royal Philatelic Society strongly protested this stamp issue.

In 1910, Capt. Robert F. Scott was made a postmaster for his last Antarctic expedition and given about 24,000 1-cent stamps (Commerce stamps of 1909-12, Scott 131) overprinted "Victoria Land" (Scott 131d). A later determination that the international rate of 2½ cents would apply, required that 2,400 ½-cent stamps also were overprinted (Scott 130d).

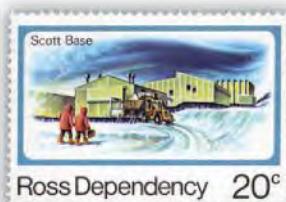
The modern era of New Zealand's Antarctic postal history began with the 1955-58 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition to cross the Antarctic continent overland. Scott Base was established in 1957 as headquarters for the New Zealand party.

The first stamps inscribed "Ross Dependency" were issued January 11, 1957 for use at Scott Base. The primary motivation for the issue was probably to reinforce New Zealand's claim to sovereignty in the face of increasing diplomatic challenges, rather than to raise revenue.

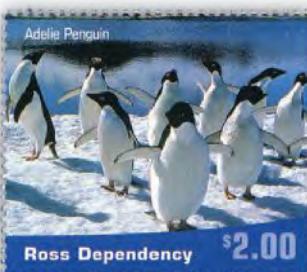
Scott Base has been in continuous operation since 1957, but the post office was closed in 1987 as an economy measure. The issuance of Ross Dependency stamps ceased at that time. New Zealand resumed the Ross Dependency stamps on November 2, 1994, "due to local and international demand." Since that time, the stamps have been available from the "Ross Dependency Agency" located at a post office in Christchurch. The agency has its own cancels. The stamps are not valid in New Zealand. ☾



James Clark Ross and his ships appear on a 1995 stamp, Scott L32.



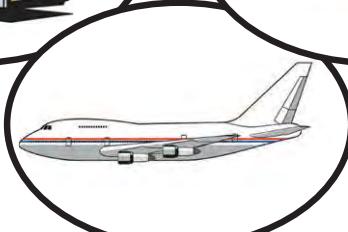
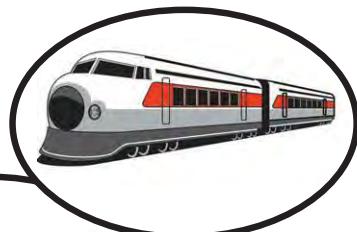
The 25th anniversary of Scott Base was noted with a set of six stamps in 1982, Scott L17.



A 2001 set of New Zealand Penguins stamps were repurposed the same year as a Ross Dependency set, Scott L72.



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