

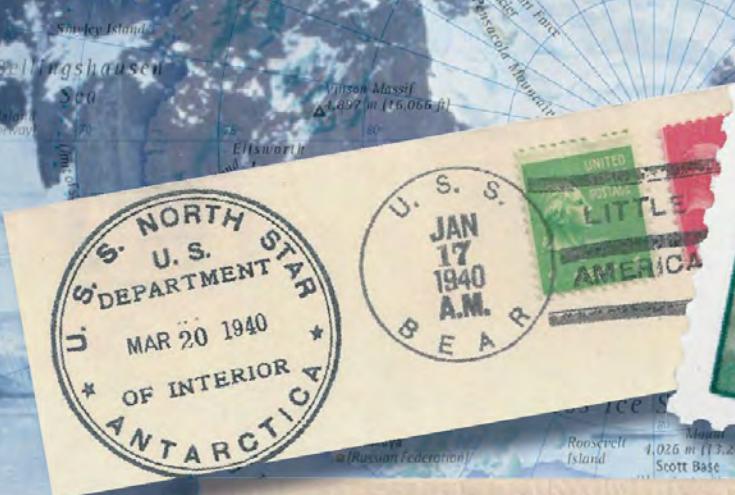
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Journal of the American Philatelic Society

AMERICAN PHILATELIST

February 2012

The Third Byrd



**THE SNOW CRUISER
REACHES THE
SOUTH POLE**



(In this space the time of arrival at the South Pole will be inserted in a Straight Line Marking.)

RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF THE ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE SNOW CRUISER
which is to transport the Byrd Expedition to the South Pole, leaves Boston on
Nov. 1st.

We doubt if we can maintain the 50c price on orders received after November 10th.

THIS IS A SAMPLE of the Cover, which will be mailed with a current U. S. Commemorative, either from a Postoffice in Antarctica or the first port of entry.

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- Michael Schreiber, Editor
Linn's Stamp News

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Don Sundman
President
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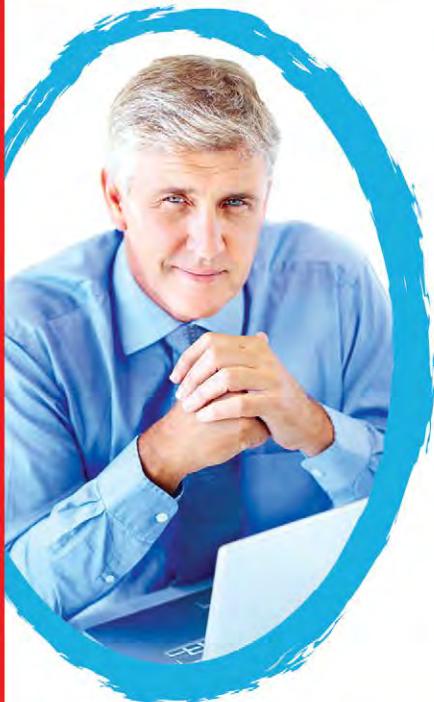


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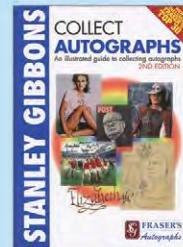
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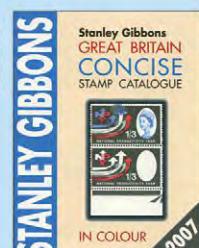
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(2011 Edition)
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Est 1856



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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Since 1887 — The Premier Philatelic Magazine in the Nation

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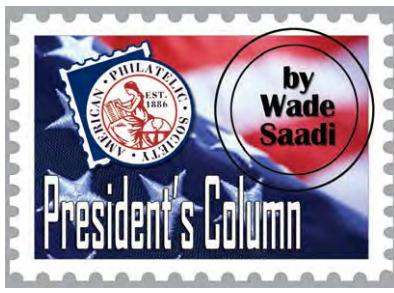
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Our Science



More than 100 years ago, sometime before the name was changed to the American Philatelic Society (APS) in 1908, the American Philatelic Association (APA) published the following piece in an effort to attract new members: "Are You a Member of the American Philatelic Association? If not, you ought to be." Then it went on to iterate the "12 Reasons Why You Should Join." Pictured near the top is a certificate for a share of stock in the American Philatelic Association, which in those days evidenced membership in the Association.

The ad not only provides a glimpse into the early past of what is today the hobby's foremost collecting organization, but also into the mores of both the APA and American culture at that moment in time. Even the choice of vocabulary is dated to the period. A quick look at each of the "12 Reasons" is interesting.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE
American Philatelic Association?

IF NOT,
YOU OUGHT TO BE.

12 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN:

- 1ST.—Because it is the National Association of America.
- 2ND.—Because by becoming a member of it, you assume no risks or responsibility, as it is an incorporated Association—a very important item.
- 3RD.—Because it gives you a standing, a kind of reference, that is very valuable to have.
- 4TH.—Because it is the best known Association in America, and known the world over.
- 5TH.—Because it has its own official organ.
- 6TH.—Because it is going to have the best regulated and largest exchange or sales department there is. (It will probably have more than one system.)
- 7TH.—Because through its purchasing agents you can buy new issues—stamps at auction, etc.
- 8TH.—Because it has annual re-unions, called conventions, where it is a pleasure to go and meet many of the brethren.
- 9TH.—Because it is going to have an exhibition of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, etc., at the Columbian World's Exposition, the like of which has never been gathered together before and on exhibition. Do you not want to say when you see it: "I am a member of this Association."
- 10TH.—Because your fellow philatelists are members of it, and we want *you* in our Association.

- 1st — Belonging to the *national* level philatelic club is of number one importance. Notice the capitalization of the words "National" and "Association" in the text, used to show importance.
- 2nd — Apparently, limited liability was an issue even then, as it is today. This assured those who belonged that if the Association was sued, its membership would not be liable for damages unrelated to their actions. That continues today.
- 3rd — The "standing" referred to is very important today. The APS is a primary source for references given for philatelic activities and buying & selling.
- 4th — The APS is still the largest philatelic organization in the world and probably the best known.
- 5th — Ah yes, the "official organ." *The American Philatelist* is considered by the membership as the most important benefit of belonging to the Society. It has the largest circulation of any philatelic periodical.
- 6th — There is indeed more than "one system" of philatelic sales. Today we have the APS Sales Division, which sells members' stamps by mail (called "circuits"), and APS StampStore, which sells members' stamps over the Internet. "It is going to have the best regulated and largest ...sales department..." It was very

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prescient (or coincidental) that this would be forecast more than 100 years ago!

7th — The Purchasing Department supplied new foreign issues to members who chose to participate. In 1895 the department superintendent was George D. Mekeel.

8th — I love the word “brethren” here — very appropriate nomenclature for our fellow enthusiasts, our friends, many who travel far and wide to attend stamp shows. The APS now has two shows per year, both move around the country. StampShow in August is the largest exhibition and dealer bourse in the United States each year, and AMERISTAMP EXPO, our winter show, features single-frame exhibiting. Each has a Champion of Champions Award. All of this is in addition to the thirty APS World Series of Philately national competitions held annually throughout the country. Could the founders even have “imagined” this level of activity? It is no wonder that the United States is a leader in world philately.

9th — Here the words “going to have” lead me to believe that this advertisement predated the 1893 Columbian Exposition, of which it boasts about the upcoming event. If that was the case, then the ad was put together in the first seven years of the Association’s existence. Pretty impressive. Also of note is the appeal to sense of belonging, which is all too diminished in today’s value register.

10th — A double appeal here: (1) Don’t be the last one on your block to join... and (2) We want “you.” These pitches are still used today by marketeers.

[11th] — The “11th” was left off the page; a rather noticeable typo. However, the message in this paragraph was significant. It stressed the main benefit of belonging: to aid the common good and to sustain the doctrine of what we do as collectors. Stamp collecting was referred to as “our ‘science.’” For me, that struck home and made me realize that philately in many ways is a “science,” referring to “a body of reliable knowledge itself that can be rationally explained.” As well, philately uses the physical sciences to evaluate and expertize stamps and covers. Much of the equipment is made for the forensic sciences — C.S.I. stuff — really neat gear that looks at atomic and molecular structures. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum has a bit of this state-of-the-art instrumentation.

12th — It all ends here with the interactive “Don’t you think so?” The use of the word “ought” two times in the document is interesting — today we would use the word “should.”



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ANTIGUA	1884-87 2½d TOP LEFT TRIANGLE DETACHED SG 27b f. mint.	\$520.
ASCENSION	1924-33 Scarce 6d with "CLEFT ROCK", SG 16c full corner margins superb n.h. (others available).	\$875.
BAHAMAS	1883 FOURPENCE ON 6d, SURCHARGE INVERTED Plus reversed wmk. The unique double variety, ex Cartier, f. mint.	\$27,000.
BARBADOS	1875-80 Perf 14 1d SIDEWAYS WATERMARK SG 74a v.f. used. Rare.	\$1,000.
BECHUANALAND	1888 Rare trial 2d surcharge in green on 2d SG 23c v.f. used.	\$4,750.
BERMUDA	1947 12/6d in the rare GREY-YELLOW (so called "Lemon") shade SG 120d in magnificent n.h. block of four. Ex "Steinberg".	\$4,000.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	1861 1d Carmine SG 13, a delightful & pretty stamp with margins all around bar extreme tip of right corner. Cat \$5,200.	\$1,050.
CAYMAN ISLANDS	1907 ½d on 5/- DOUBLE SURCHARGE SG 18b v.f. mint. Cat \$19,200.	\$15,000.
FALKLAND ISLANDS	1935 S. Jubilee 1/- EXTRA FLAGSTAFF SG 142b contained in corner block f. mint.	\$3,950.
FIJI	1935 S. Jubilee 1/- FRAME DOUBLE, ONE ALBINO SG 245a v.f. mint. Rare.	\$1,950.
GIBRALTAR	1940 Sideways wmk, perf 13½ SG 124ab plus rare coil join n.h.	\$1,525.
KENYA	1912-21 15c Bright blue, INVERTED WMK SG 49w fine mint. Rare.	\$975.
LEEWARD ISLANDS	1897 Sexagenary ½d TRIPLE OVERPRINT SG 9b n.h. Rarest stamp of this colony.	\$9,700.
MALAYA-Straits	1887 (July) 2c on 5c SURCHARGE DOUBLE SG 85b v.f. mint. Ex "Baillie".	\$1,850.
MAURITIUS	1848 Very early intermediate impression 1d Dull vermilion SG 11, position 10, v.f. used. Cat \$3,600.	\$2,350.
NEW ZEALAND	1963 Trains 1/9d RED OMITTED SG 819a n.h. One of only 16 known.	\$3,850.
NYASALAND	1898 1d "Cheque stamp" setting 1, SG 55 embossed centre dramatically misplaced to foot, f. used.	\$800.
RHODESIA	1910-13 Perf 14 1/- Black & deep blue-green SG 151a with mid-gash in ear v.f. mint. Rare on this shade.	\$720.
ST. HELENA	1922 MCA wmk 5/- "TORN FLAG" SG 95b v.f. mint in pair with normal.	\$1,125.
SEYCHELLES	1903 12c DENTED FRAME SG 49a superb mint.	\$480.
SWAZILAND	1889 1/- OVERPRINT INVERTED SG 3a in fresh mint block of six. Rare.	\$6,250.
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This advertisement was re-printed in the *Philatelic Literature Review (PLR)*, 3rd Quarter 2011, along with other neat documents from our early history. Thanks to American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) Intern Robbin Zirkle for assembling them together for the *PLR*. They make great reading. Why not subscribe to the *PLR*? Contact APRL Librarian Tara Murray; mail and e-mail info in the *AP* masthead.

Membership is way up from what it was in 1893 at a little more than 400 members; it is around 35,000 right now. But in March 1989, it was as high as 57,944. We know membership growth helps to strengthen the organization — we knew that when the ad was published a century ago. But how do we recruit more members?

Well, my next President's column will discuss the APS Membership Committee — the work it is currently doing to retain and recruit members as well as suggestions on what we, the other 35,000, can do to augment this effort. It is our Society, and as members we are vested with its providence. Can you find one new member? Let's make a difference.

Volunteer Profile

Pat Breger

I began volunteering at the APS in January 2010 with a special project through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Gretchen Moody, APS Director of Education, organized a week of work for RSVP volunteers and after that I was hooked. I found the stamps and the people very interesting. I enjoy it so much that I invited a friend to volunteer with me whenever she can.



I prepare donations for use in Education Department programs, organize stamps by country, and assist with large jobs such as mailings, preparing packets of materials for teachers and youth clubs, and other odd jobs. I enjoy sorting the stamps the most because the pictures are interesting.

Having been in the health field as a nurse, I am particularly drawn to the stamps dealing with diseases and health-related subjects. Because I am an animal lover and have two dogs of my own, I enjoy finding the animal stamps.

I was born and raised in Bellefonte and lived here most of my life. I was honored to receive the 2011 Rose Cologne Award for volunteering through RSVP from the Centre County Council for Human Services. That award recognized me for performing more than 500 hours of community service within one year. Volunteering makes me feel good, and I find that I benefit along with those I am serving.



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3,000	35.88	50	14.90	500	36.75	1,000	28.00	only 13.60	200	13.15	
5,000	98.00	100	36.75	1,000	105.00	2,000	73.50	LUXEMBOURG	300	21.00	
10,000	262.50	200	108.50	100 Pictorials	500 Pictorials	Semi Post	500	75.25	400	92.25	
1,000 Pictorials	300	257.25	only	9.65	only	17.45	50	11.40	600	113.75	
only	27.15	CANADA	300	36.75	1,000	38.45	100	*	800	271.25	
3,000	87.50	400	12.25	500	92.75	ICELAND	MONACO	PHILIPPINES	300	7.90	
5,000	210.00	600	28.90	GERMANY	100	18.40	100	18.85	100	5.20	
ARGENTINA	700	40.25	Incl. Terr. Offices,	200	40.25	200	52.50	RUSSIA	1,500	77.00	
500	15.75	1,000	73.50	Occ.	300	68.25	400	134.75	100	1.95	
800	42.00	300 Commems.	300	7.45	400	122.50	MONGOLIA	200	4.85	300 Commems.	
1,000	64.75	only	11.40	500	16.65	IRELAND	200	8.35	500 Pictorials.	only	8.70
2,000	381.50	500	52.50	1,000	43.75	100	9.65	300	13.15	only	21.00
ASCENSION	600	99.75	2,000	108.50	200	28.90	500	33.25	1,000	43.75	
25	17.10	CAPE VERDE	3,000	262.50	250	*	NETHERLANDS	SAN MARINO	1,000	56.00	
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600	20.50	1,000	420.00	only	7.45	200	38.50	only	9.70	500	20.15
800	39.40	Peo. Rep. Pict.	500	38.50	300	86.65	150	36.75	1,000	91.00	
1,000	61.25	300	57.75	200 West Pict.	400	127.75	NETH. & COLS.	1,200	148.75	VENEZUELA	
1,200	141.75	500	129.50	only	14.90	ITALY	1,500	577.50	1,500	201.25	
1,500	376.25	500	52.50	300	13.15	NETH. ANTILLES	SWITZERLAND	500	87.50		
AUSTR. ANTAR.	DENMARK	700	99.75	500	31.50	50	10.50	200	8.75	800	178.50
50	18.85	300	8.75	50 West Semi-	1,000	87.50	NEVIS	300	18.85	VICTORIA	
75	52.41	500	24.10	Postals	10.10	1,500	189.00	50	6.60	500	42.00
100	75.25	800	70.00	25 German Col	200 Pictorials	150	31.50	800	138.25	50	99.75
AUSTR. STATES	1,000	143.50	only	68.25	only	18.40	NEW ZEALAND	1,000	190.75	100	413.00
50	37.65	300 Pictorials	GIBRALTAR	300	34.60	300	12.70	100 Semi- Post-	VIRGIN IS.		
75	54.25	only	19.25	50	22.75	500	66.50	als	100	75.25	
100	86.65	400	33.25	100	49.00	JAPAN	700	59.50	..only	13.15	
AUSTRIA	500	75.25	200	140.00	200	10.50	1000	192.50	200	42.00	
200	6.95	FALKLAND &	300	297.50	500	40.25	700 Pictorials	300	*	25	8.75
500	21.90	DEP.	GREAT BRITAIN	1,000	140.00	only	119.00	100 Pictorials	50	24.50	
1,000	77.00	25	10.10	Incl Channel Is	300 Pictorials	75 Semi-Postal	only	7.90	200	16.65	
100 Commems.	100	68.25	& IOM	only	23.65	only	6.60	200	16.65	WEST AUSTRALIA	
only	11.40	25 Falkland	300	8.70	500	52.50	150	73.50	TUNISIA	15	36.75
200	24.50	only	14.45	500	19.25	700	85.75	NORWAY	100	11.40	
500	65.65	50	38.50	600	26.25	LIECHTENSTEIN	200	8.35	200	27.15	
700	154.00	100	96.25	1,000	71.25	100	31.50	400	45.00	100	92.75
BAHAMAS	FAROE IS.	2,000	420.00	200	75.25	600	73.50	500	133.85	YEMEN	
50	21.00	25	13.95	200 Pictorials	300	157.50	700	112.00	TURKEY	100	6.15
100	52.50	50	33.25	only	8.75	LITHUANIA	1,000	355.25	500	19.20	
200	141.25	100	73.50	300	17.10	25	4.40	Pictorials	1,000	49.80	
300	269.50	FIJI	500	43.25	100	43.75	200	12.70	2,000	126.00	
BELGIUM	25	7.00	1000	245.00	200	91.00	500	87.50	TURKS-CAICOS	250	551.25
300	11.40	50	16.65	HONG KONG	LUXEMBOURG	PARAGUAY	100	34.15	ZIMBABWE		
700	47.25	100	42.00	100	14.90	100	8.70	200	134.75	50	8.75
1,000	66.50	200	113.75	200	66.50	200	22.75	800	113.75	300	306.25
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George Zelwinder
Venice, Fla.

"Thank you for the fair and agreeable manner in which you handled the purchase of my stamp collection of almost a lifetime. I particularly appreciate the friendly way in which you took time to evaluate the collection, make me what I consider a fair offer, and then roll up your sleeves and pack it into 36 boxes for pickup by UPS the next day."

Robert F. Skillings
Brunswick, Maine

"I wanted to write you a little personal note regarding my collection which I have truly loved through most of my 93 years. Not surprisingly, your offer was right about what I thought the collection was worth and, as expected, you were pleasant and professional. The experience was excellent!"

Fred Padley
Irvine, Calif.

"Dr. Bob Friedman received my collection and offered me a fair price. After the purchase, he personally packed over 200 albums so that I wouldn't have to do it myself. I would recommend him to anyone who has a collection to sell. He's fair and showed concern for me as a person."

Jay Kaplove
Tenafly, New Jersey

"Dr. Bob Friedman was very professional in going through my collection, negotiated in good faith and offered me a fair price for the material. As most collectors will relate to, it is an emotional experience to part with a collection that was lovingly put together for almost 50 years. Dr. Bob made the experience pleasant. I would recommend him highly to anyone."

Robert O. Heckmann
Woodland Hills, California

"It was a pleasure dealing with Dr. Bob. Your offer was definitely the highest offer of the three bids I received.

"I enjoyed our discussions and much appreciated your flexibility in changing your busy schedule to accommodate my changing needs. I especially appreciated that you kept all your commitments."

John Nagel
Morrison, Illinois

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proud To Be a Member

I'm writing these few lines to tell you how proud I am to be a member of the American Philatelic Society. I say this, because of the courtesy and kindness you showed me.

On October 27, 2011 I placed a very inexpensive stamp order of \$1.35 from StampStore and received a royal package. The effort and time they took with the package leaves me without words. However, I will tell you that the postman commented on how neat and well protected it was.

I not only received the cake in completing my set, but I received the frosting with your courtesy.

Roland Betancourt
Goodyear, Arizona

Buenos Aires

In a letter to the editor in the December issue ("Postage Stamps of Buenos Aires," page 1098), Enrique Setaro wrote that he had donated a digitized copy of

F.J. Peplow's *Postage Stamps of Buenos Aires* (London, 1925) to the American Philatelic Research Library. The digitized book is now available on the APS website for members to download. To access the book, go to www.stamps.org and log onto MyAPS. The book is listed under Online Publications.

Tara Murray
APRL Librarian

Post Office Smarts

This actually happened in one of the largest and busiest Milwaukee, Wisconsin post offices. Needing the correct postage to airmail a Christmas card to a friend in England, I went to the post office, where it was duly weighed and I was told the cost. But then the clerk asked, "Where is it going?" Pointing to the address label, I showed him the "UK" for the destination. "Where's that?" he asked and informed me that I needed a more specific name. "England," I told him, after which he hand-printed "England"



below the UK line, adding, "Good, because otherwise the main post office won't know where to send it."

Art Schmitz
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Perf.com Readers' Picks

Just wanted to share this link on a Perf.com poll for the viewers' most favorite 2011 stamps: www.beyondtheparf.com/content/readers-picks-2011-poll-results?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ISSUE+034++Beyond+The+Perf++USA+Philatelic&utm_content=ISSUE+03. Counting down, the five top picks were:

- No. 5 — U.S. Merchant Marine
- No. 4 — Garden of Love
- No. 3 — Edward Hopper
- No. 2 — Civil War
- No. 1 — Owney the Postal Dog

Mark Saunders
*U.S. Postal Service Headquarters
Washington DC*

APS Postage

I renewed my membership today. It was a very difficult decision.

I was extremely saddened to see the APS join the ranks of the bulk mailers. Recent years have seen the philatelic supply and literature firms switching from great frankings to bulk labels. But the APS? Surely you could purchase discount postage and make some small beginning collector happy.

Eliminate a few bricks from your



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not all letters that are received are able to be printed in the AP.*

fancy new building and support the basic structure of stamp collecting. Please get back to your roots.

Peter Bergas

Sarasota, Florida

Executive Director Ken Martin replies: The APS strives to achieve a fine balance between efficiency and the use of postage stamps to promote the hobby. Postage stamps are used on all mail *sent from our building*. For the annual dues mailing and occasional other large mailings (typically more than a couple thousand pieces), however, we use mailing houses. They can save us considerable labor costs and they also have the software and equipment to prepare the mail to the USPS standards required for using the nonprofit rate. The nonprofit rates, on average, cost us about 15¢ per letter, as opposed to the 44¢ first class rate that would be required if we wanted to use discount postage.

We could have the mailer apply nonprofit rate postage stamps — and did for a few years. However, we received a number of complaints about the use of definitives and that the automatic affixing equipment often cut into the perforations. We then switched to stamped envelopes for a few years, but some members complained that this wasn't the same as using postage stamps and that the postal service issued so few different nonprofit rate stamped envelopes that the same envelope was frequently used for multiple years. It is also harder to use stamped envelopes with custom printing for future mailings.

About ten years ago we switched to the use of pictorial permits for domestic mail (we apply stamps on the foreign notices that cannot be sent via the nonprofit rate). We can use a new design each year and have a reasonable amount of flexibility over that design. Even so, typically we have received comments from about five members a year who are not happy about our use of the pictorial permits.

We do not use dues income or operating funds for renovation of the building. The expense of renovations, as well as paying the mortgage principal and interest, are paid by donations and the rent

We do not use dues income or operating funds for renovation of the building. The expense of renovations, as well as paying the mortgage principal and interest, are paid by donations and the rent paid by our tenants.

paid by our tenants. This greatly reduces the cost of maintaining office space for the Society.

Honoring Living People I

In support of President Saadi's column in the December AP ("Stamps Honoring Living People," page 1084), I would like to offer this suggestion on how the Postal Service might select living people to be honored on U.S. stamps. Start with people who have been honored by their peers, etc.: Noble Prize laureates, Presidential Medal of Freedom winners, Congressional Medal of Honor winners, or other nationally or internationally recognized awards. Let's not go to Emmy or Oscar winners, or similar "fluff" awards. Another possible category is Olympians, but that might be treading on thin ice as some recent past Olympians have shown.

Richard T. Hall

Asheville, North Carolina

Honoring Living People II

I strongly object to President Saadi's editorial in the December 2011 issue of *The American Philatelist*. This column expresses his "personal opinion as APS President and reflects neither a poll of the APS membership nor the opinions of the APS Board." As such, it should not appear in a column written by the president of the organization, and therefore carrying a weight greater than Mr. Saadi's personal opinion. On such a subject, Mr. Saadi's opinion should have no more force than that of any other member of the Society.



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Dear Mr. Younger:

I want to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate the very nice professional manner of Mr. George Bailey in assisting me with the selling of my husband's stamp collection.

He arrived promptly at the agreed upon time and went right to work. He left the entire work area in very good order and was most congenial. It very much was a pleasure selling the collection to him.

Sincerely,

Edna K. Hill
Midland, North Carolina

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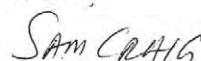
Dear Mr. Younger:

I wish to thank the Edward D. Younger Co., especially George Bailey, for the professional, courteous dealings in the purchase of my philatelic property accumulated over the past 50 years.

Mr. Bailey is thorough and knowledgeable in virtually every area of stamp collecting. I enjoyed his visit to my home and appreciate his commitment to paying the very best price for my material.

I recommend Ed Younger's company to those collectors that finally realize "they can't take it with them" and there's no relative to leave it to that really would enjoy stamps.

Sincerely,



Sam Craig/APS 19605

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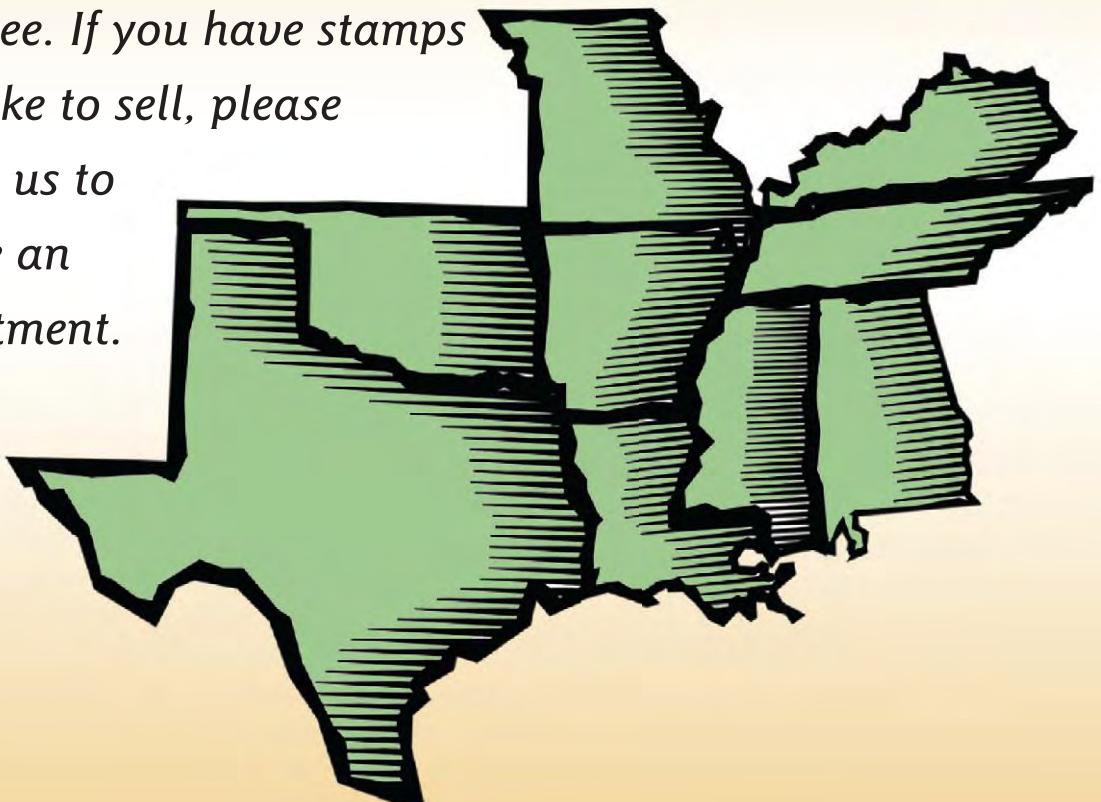


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His opinion is, of course, perfectly appropriate for the *AP*, but it should appear in the Letters to the Editor section where all other members' personal opinions appear.

At the very least, opponents of the decision on the abolishment of the rule against living persons on U.S. stamps should appear, and with equal weight.

Robert C. Ross

Franklin Lakes, New Jersey

Honoring Living People III

U.S. Postal Authorities have recently decided to feature living persons on stamps. They are apparently doing this to recover revenues in a time of financial stress. Liberia and some other postal services sometimes issue stamps showing U.S. celebrities that sell in large numbers to U.S. collectors, especially very young collectors. There is no reason why the USPS should be excluded from a share of the resulting revenue.

The problem is that putting living pop-culture celebrities in entertainment,

sports, politics, etc., on stamps — for the obvious purpose of making money selling entertainment to young collectors — greatly dilutes the impact of stamps issued for the more traditional purposes of affirming civic values and honoring military and other heroes who have served the nation.

The truth is that many older collectors are attracted to U.S. stamps because of their civic significance and historical dignity. Making money entertaining youth and affirming civic values are both appropriate purposes for the U.S. Postal Service. However, neither purpose can be efficiently and effectively achieved if they are intertwined.

The solution may be to separate stamps featuring living celebrities and entertainers into a distinct series openly dedicated to entertaining the young, thus distinguishing them from other stamps issued for more traditional purposes. This series could be called the "Youth and Entertainment Series," and

its acronym, "Y.E.S." could appear discretely somewhere on each stamp.

Living persons and persons deceased less than ten years could be strictly relegated to this Y.E.S. series, thereby leaving the traditional integrity of the rest of the stamp issue intact. In this way our postal service could harvest needed revenue without greatly diluting the honor of appearing on a U.S. stamp.

Thomas M. Huber

Leavenworth, Kansas

Returning Stamps

I read the letter by Robbin Dick in the December *AP* ("Auction House Returns," page 1088) with great interest and some sympathy since there is clearly an appreciation of philatelic quality. Because I prefer to personally examine stamps to meet my standards for condition, I rarely buy stamps via any method but directly at shows or in stores, which of course greatly limits my options. Even with shows and stores, I usually limit myself to those who have proven to be

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generally accurate in their description and identification of stamps. I do not currently buy very much that would call for expertizing, but I have accumulated a number of certificates from older purchases and am very happy to have them.

I limit my mail order or online purchases to firms that I know to be totally reputable and who are very patient and understanding when I have to return even some modest purchases for replacement, refund, or credit. I do not know if my "return rate" is above 10%, but I suspect it has been that or higher on occasion.

My returns are almost always for the same reason: condition is not at the high level advertised. Based on the firms I deal with, I would not even suggest that these problems were deliberate, but rather they were just honest errors made by very busy people dealing with thousands of stamps and without the time I would put into carefully examining each item. Also, I agree that the vast majority of stamp collectors and dealers are some

of the most ethical and moral people I have ever known.

I have never bid at an auction (except in an old-fashioned bid-board setting within a store) due to concern over accurate descriptions, but again I would like to think that it is more a matter of lack of time to carefully examine each item that leads to many misdescriptions rather than any deliberate dishonesty. I have seen my share of regummed stamps (and truly respect those dealers who indicate as such up-front and account for these and other condition issues in the price. Re-perfing is a challenge to spot but I have been accumulating books on these and other stamp "improvement" techniques so I can be my own expert.

Since my budget limits my purchases of higher value unused stamps, I seek nice used items and have also seen my share of unreported thins, missing perfs, repaired tears, misidentifications, and overenthusiastic descriptions of condition. Reputable stores and dealers have

generally been very gracious when these are identified to them since this could impact their own reputations, but most just like to be accurate, provide good service, and have a continued good rapport with their customers.

I wonder if Mr. Dick has tried speaking directly to the head of the auction house in question to find out if the "10% rule" was simply the enforcement of a guideline by a staff member who may not have understood the legitimate reasons for the returns. I think we all have had the experience in the non-philatelic world of having to ask to speak to a supervisor when frustrated by customer service representatives working for a commercial enterprise. Otherwise, one might simply not want to deal any further with this firm.

I hope this note will make the original letter write feel less lonely in seeking philatelic quality and accuracy.

Ronald S. Kane

Monroe Township, New Jersey

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\$18 NY 939 2007 90¢ Int'l	choice \$3.75
Rate \$32.00	Strip of 5 with 5 different
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Strip of 5 with 5 different	
\$26 Vienna 2008 WIPA €1.40 \$75.95	
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See box for 2009 Issues	
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Description	Version 1	Version 2
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Strip of 5 with label.....	\$27.50	Wanted
S28 NY 982-986 2009 44¢ Greetings	\$24.95	P.O.R.
Strip of 5 with label (Vers.1).....	\$6.50	—
S29 NY 987-91 2009 98¢ Int'l Rate	\$32.50	\$24.95
Strip of 5 with label (Vers.1).....	\$16.50	\$12.50
S30 2009 Napex Show 44¢	\$99.95	\$250.00
S30 Napex Cancelled	\$45.00	—
S31 2009 Napex Show 98¢	\$124.95	\$250.00
S31 2009 Napex Cancelled	\$59.95	—
S32 Vienna 452-56 2009 30th Anniversary	\$55.00	\$200.00
Strip of 5 with label (Vers. 1).....	\$27.50	—
S33 NY 994 2009 Climate	\$30.00	\$37.50
Single (our choice) with label (Vers. 1).....	\$3.50	—
S34 Geneva 506-510 2009 40th Anniversary	\$55.00	\$35.00
Strip of 5 with label (Vers. 2).....	—	\$17.50

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Banished from Bidding

This is in response to the letter by Robbin Dick in the December AP, in which he describes his banishment from bidding with a certain auction outfit.

It should be noted that Mr. Dick did not mention the name of the auction house that is the subject of his letter. However, it was not necessary, since the majority of readers of this journal know exactly who he is talking about. Robbin, if it makes you feel any better, I have been collecting stamps for 60 years, have participated in auctions for 50 years, and am a life member of the APS. I am also on that outfit's bad boy list. Apparently, it is their policy to put all buyers on their list who have the effrontery to return their fake, defective, and/or misdescribed stamps, which (in the case of this outfit) are voluminous.

They are using a classic blame-shifting technique because it is they, not the buyers, who are guilty of unethical and irresponsible behavior. They will reim-

burse the buyer nothing of the cost he incurs when obtaining certificates on their fakes. In the case of their defective and/or misdescribed stamps, if the stamps are returned they will simply place them back into a subsequent auction, with no change in the lot description (except for the lot number). I guess they have found that if they repeatedly throw the bad stuff back out there, sooner or later it will stick.

Unfortunately, we should not expect any change in the behavior of this outfit, until such time as the APS or ASDA, with the purpose of protecting the reputation of the philatelic endeavor, hold them to account. Until then, they will continue their current marketing methodology.

Port W. Venn

Racine, Wisconsin

Naval Comments

As a World War II Navy veteran, I particularly enjoyed the articles about the war in the December issue. I also

have a couple of specific comments.

In Frank M. Hoak's article he correctly notes that the USS *Shaw* was in the floating drydock when hit, so it must have been a slip of his notes when he also placed the USS *Shaw* and USS *Schley* in a big graving dock together with the battleship *Pennsylvania*. The destroyers in that drydock were the *Cassin* and *Downes*. Both were practically destroyed but officially survived to serve again. This was accomplished by salvaging their machinery and installing it in brand new hulls built at Mare island.

The after part of the *Shaw* also survived and was fitted with a stub bow, enabling her to steam under her own power to Mare island for permanent repairs.¹

Steve Henderson describes the USS *Utah* as a battleship, which she originally was, as illustrated in the photo on page 1117 that shows her appearance some time before 1925. At that time she lost her after cage mast. In 1931 she was decommissioned and converted to a radio-

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controlled mobile target, reclassified AG 16. When not serving as a target, she acted as a gunnery training ship and an improvised transport.² Her appearance at the time of her loss bore no resemblance to that in the photo.

Kudos to all of the authors and to the editors for an outstanding issue.

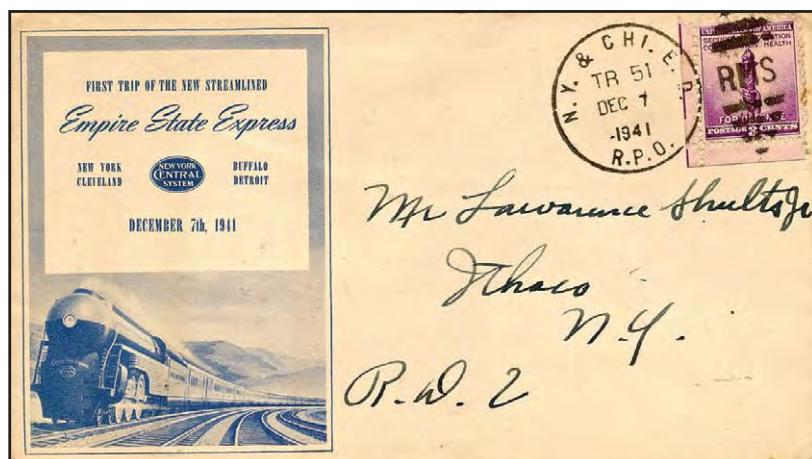
John D. Alden, CDR, USN (Ret.)

Delmar, New York

¹ "Up from Ashes — The Saga of Cassin and Downes," *Naval Institute Proceedings* (January 1961).

² *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, Vol. VII (Washington, Naval Historical Center, Department of the Navy, 1981).

Editor's reply: Blame civilian ignorance on this one. When we were searching for photographic images of the various ships in an acceptably high resolution, what we unknowingly found was an earlier (undated) view of the USS Utah. For a series of memorable Pearl Harbor photographs from the Decem-



ber 7, 2011 issue of the *Boston Globe*, see www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/12/pearl_harbor_70th_anniversary.html

Thematic Issues?

I greatly enjoyed the December issue, which had a number of articles relating to Pearl Harbor and our entrance into World War II. I like the concept of an entire issue dedicated to one theme rather than a mixed bag of articles on var-

ious, unrelated subjects. I hope you take this approach again. Perhaps a zeppelin or Civil War issue?

Regarding the December 7, 1941 covers, perhaps your readers would like to know of a cover (shown above) that was canceled on that date even though post offices were closed on that infamous Sunday. It was on a Railway Post Office (RPO), for on that day the New

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York Central Railroad commemorated the first trip of the streamlined version of the Empire State Express. Although it had nothing to do with the Pearl Harbor attack thousands of miles away, it is a valid cancel on that day. I see it often in dealer selections of railroad covers.

Michael Hoyt

Silver Spring, Maryland

Editor's reply: The December issue was a collaborative effort, coordinated by Ted Bahry and Larry Sherman to mark the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We typically do not attempt "theme" issues because our articles are not solicited but are the generous offerings of our members and, as such, our policy is to run accepted articles in the order in which they were received (with the exception of special anniversary dates). "Themes" have been attempted in the past, but the time involved in putting together such an issue is now largely beyond the capabilities of our small, but mighty, staff.

Tape as Hinges

In the August issue there was an article on the use of low-adhesion tape as hinges ("Do-It-Yourself Peelable Hinges," by Richard E. Goodman, page 748). I recently acquired a collection in which the majority of stamps were mounted in this manner. All were mounted before 2006.

In almost every case, when the hinges were removed, there was some sticky residue on the stamps. This was especially the case with used stamps. On some stamps, when the hinge was removed, paper came with it, leaving a thin. I would strongly recommend reconsidering the long-term use of such material as a substitute for peelable glassine hinges.

Max Statman

Judson, Texas

New Year's Cheer

Some years ago at the dinner table I told my youngest daughter that now she

was old enough to know something that everyone else in the family was aware of — "You should know that your Dad is a philatelist." She somberly said "OK." A few minutes later my wife asked her if she knew what that meant. "Of course," my daughter replied. "It means Dad and you don't have sex anymore." From the mouths of babes. Happy New Year everyone!

Guy McClung
Rockport, Texas

Fewer Issues, Please

I have been at the stamp collecting hobby since 1951 and as I grew, so did my collection. I stopped collecting "new" stamps in the 1960s. Today's USPS issues remind me of the issues that the Soviet Bloc nations were producing back then with the apparent goal of "make a lot of pretty stamps and sell them to collectors." You could only use three or four of the stamps for postage.

The other day I made quick count of

March 10, 2012 Auction

Catalogue 1

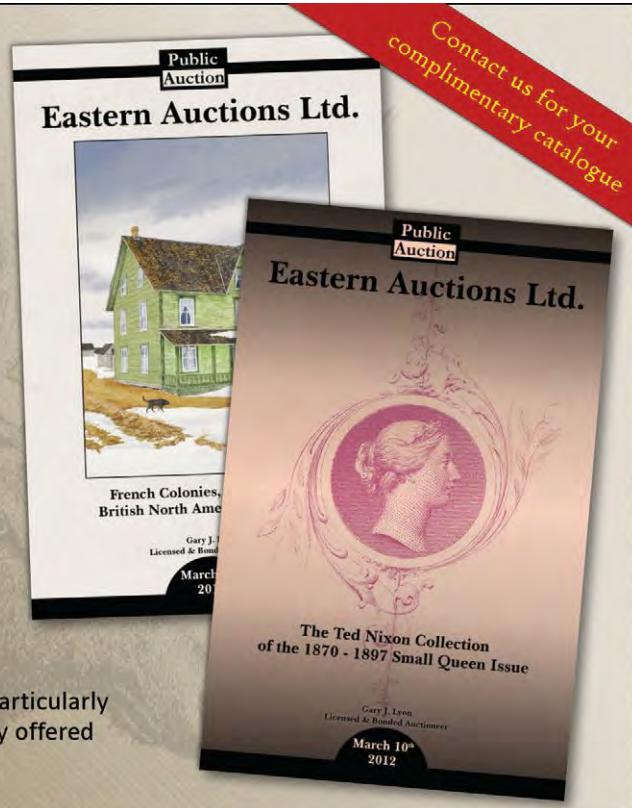
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C.G.

new issues for 2008, 2009, and 2010 put out by the USPS. The average was more than 100 new issues per year. That is a lot of pretty pictures. A collector (and the general public) would be out of their minds to buy all of these stamps just to have them. No wonder the USPS is going broke. My local postmaster cannot sell all the new issues — along with the fluffy dolls, dogs, and whatever else is in the lobby. If the USPS would sell stamps designed to be used for mailing (even 25–30 issues a year), maybe they would not be going broke.

Richard Easingwood
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Custer Stamp I

I fully agree with Edward K. Harr Sr.'s letter in the December *AP* ("Why No Custer Stamp? page 1098) that George Armstrong Custer should have a commemorative stamp. I refer you to the 1983 book by Gregory J.W. Urwin titled *Custer Victorious*, which emphasizes that Custer has not been truly ap-

preciated by historians or the public. As the book points out, "During the latter part of the Civil War the exploits of this extraordinary man were front-page stories that captured the imagination of millions.... Both authors and readers have approached the Custer story ... like impatient mystery buffs who have flipped to the end of the novel to find the solution. They are unable genuinely to appreciate all that had come before." Custer led and fought in many important Civil War cavalry battles, worked in close relationships with the leading Union generals, and was with General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse when Lee surrendered.

Leonard Kolod
Los Angeles, California

Custer Stamp II

Until I read Edward Harr's letter in the December *AP*, I thought I was the only philatelist in America who was aware of the USPS's snub of General George Custer.

In 1976 I watched June 25 come and go with nothing to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Little Big Horn battle. We lost another chance in 1989, when we could have commemorated the 150th anniversary of Custer's birth.

But no, there seems to be some taboo associated with Custer and Little Big Horn that relegates the subject to oblivion. But was it not the Indian's greatest battlefield victory? Perhaps the omission stems from the American conscience in the 1970s regarding the historical mistreatment of Indians and parallels between Viet Nam and the Indian Wars. Whatever the reason, I agree with Edward that postal recognition of Custer and Little Big Horn is long overdue.

The omission is especially reprehensible when noting some of the other personnel who have been portrayed on stamps. I refer specifically to Crazy Horse (Scott 1855) and Sitting Bull (Scott 2183). Both of these men were at Little Big Horn, fighting against U.S. troops.

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I have no problem with them being on our stamps. They are part of our history. But Custer and Little Big Horn are also a part of our history. If we can honor men who fought against the U.S. Army, then why can't the Post Office show some appreciation for a man who fought for the United States in two wars and ultimately gave up his life?

George Land

Camp Meeker, California

Custer Stamp III

The APS prides itself on accuracy, so someone must respond to the "Why No Custer Stamp?" letter from Edward K. Harr Sr. in December's issue.

George Armstrong Custer, quite apart from his disastrous, incompetent leadership at Little Big Horn, was considered an inferior officer by his peers and superiors. He was the youngest Civil War Union "general" only because of a brevet (temporary) commission, and he reverted to captain after the war. He died as a Lt. Colonel. Custer finished

West Point at the bottom of his class, had a very minor role at Gettysburg after the major battles, and had continual complaints filed against him during and post-war.

There are a great many military leaders who belong on stamps, but Custer isn't one of them.

Alan Weiss

Greenwich, Rhode Island

Snail Mail Value

The Letters to the Editor in the December *AP* carried a note by Tom Greenlees ("Greeting Cards," page 1093). In it the writer suggests that one of the reasons the USPS can't compete with competitors is that a computer can send Christmas cards down the road — for \$2.99 each.

I'll accept this as a fact.

Now let's look at sending a greeting card by snail mail. Postage is 44¢ plus the cost of the Christmas card, which, if bought by a thrifty shopper during the post-Christmas sales and tucked away

for the following year, can cost as little as 25¢ per card. Even if money is no object, the card is unlikely to cost more than \$1-\$2 dollars. This leads to a total cost of between 69¢ and \$2.44 per mailed card.

I'm no math or computer wizard, but even so I can figure out the difference between \$2.99 and 69¢. If someone were to operate a company with that kind of price scale, their competitors would eat them for breakfast.

Peter G. Ladron

Rock Falls, Wisconsin

Annual Supplement Pages

In the December *AP*, John Petrizzo writes about his frustration with an album supplier who has stopped providing new annual supplements ("Discontinued Albums," page 1092).

Mr. Petrizzo's problem can be easily overcome, provided he has a simple computer program such as Pages (for the Mac) or Windows Publisher (for the PC), along with a wide carriage printer and blank paper from his album supplier.

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Like Mr. Petrizzo, I use Lighthouse albums but I have found that my issue is not the lack of supplements, but rather that the albums sold either do not have the issue details shown or are otherwise missing features I want. So, what I do is I create album pages that are virtually indistinguishable from those provided by the manufacturer.

How do I do this? First, you need to find the font used by the supplier and that is easily done, since there are a number of resources on the web whereby one can upload a scan and find out what font is being used. Second, layout is simple with these programs, and with a small amount of experimentation it is very easy to create album pages that can fit into your album that can barely be told from those the original manufacturer produced. All you need, in addition to the blank paper, are some clear mounts. And, once past the cost of the printer, these pages can be produced at a cost far below that of the original manufacturer and with a layout and format that suits you and not someone else.

Larry Haber

Charleston, South Carolina

Editor's reply: To learn more about creating your own album pages using your computer, you might be interested in the Summer Seminar two-day course — Philatelic Desktop Publishing (DTP). In addition to making your own album pages, we will look at designing exhibit pages, preparing newsletters, and much more. Visit www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar.

Montserrat Date Error

Please extend my appreciation to Noel Davenhill for the informative ar-

title on Montserrat stamps in the December 2011 issue of the *AP* ("Montserrat — A Brief Philatelic History," page 1146). However, I would like to mention an error on page 1147. The "Montserrat Sampler" shows two stamps from "The 1928 George VI definitives." King George VI's coronation was in 1937. The actual date of the definitive stamp set issue was 1942–43.

John E. Ranelletti

Stockton, California

Editor's reply: This egregious error lies on the editorial rather than the author's shoulders. Cut-and-paste is handy but has a lot to answer for....

Selling 'Gems'

A recent ad in the philatelic media, presented by a supposed leader in the retail philatelic trade, has given rise to my questioning the very veracity of the rising phenomenon of advertising for sale so-called "gems."

For illustration I cite three examples within the ad involving U.S. Scott commemoratives: numbers 704 (1/2-cent Washington), 922 (3-cent Transcontinental Railroad), and 987 (3-cent American Bankers Association). All are annotated as "gem 100 NH," with PSE (Professional Stamp Experts) credentialing. All three bear the typical 25-cent Scott very-fine catalogue value or, in the case of number 704, the 35-cent catalogue value for never hinged.

For the purpose of examining the opprobrium of this kind of advertising genre, one might ask: exactly what are these kinds of advertisers trying to elicit and/or prove? Number 704 had a production run of nearly 88 million stamps, number 922 a run of 61 million plus,

and number 987 nearly 131 million! The ad in question had prices of \$650, \$245, and \$200 for these stamps, respectively. Of course, the "informed" dealer is going to equivocate that the Number 704, if diluted thrice by the hundreds factor, would produce a yield of fewer than 100 examples of "grade 100" in the "possible" realm as extant.

From my particular stance as a 60+ year collector, I view the grading processes as a *tool* of the trade tilted to the favor of so-called professionals who are perhaps engaged in attempting to make fools of prospective customers. All *caveat emptor* and/or "choices" notwithstanding, it is my humble opinion that predator practices within the philatelic trade have only negative connotations for the future of philately as we have known it.

If I had money to burn, I would send, via certified or registered mail, a number of examples from within my own collection of "perfect" stamps with an invitation to make an offer from among the several dealers who subscribe to these tactics. I would then ask the dealer, assuming he is a collector-dealer, if he would be a party to this kind of pricing for his own personal collection. Of only this I'm sure: no one engaged in this pricing scheme for gain would pretend to be on the collecting side of the game!

I'm going to have to find the Latin equivalent of "collector beware" — or would it be "investor beware"?

Tom De Boever

Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan



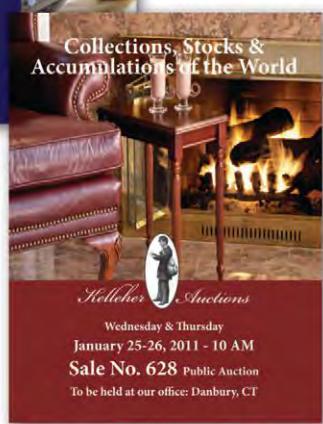
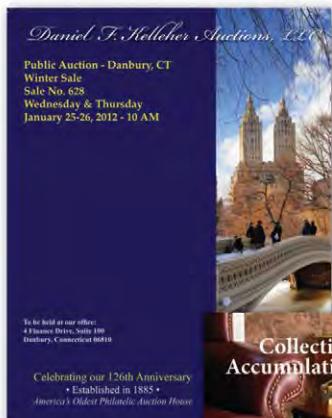
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Rare Isn't Always Unusual; Common Can Be Extraordinary



Although rather unassuming in appearance, this cover represents the earliest-known use of the so-called "Light Blue Sky Pheasant," Scott 2283a.



The greatly enlarged area on this slightly misregistered stamp shows how the sky on the original version of the Pheasant was composed of both red and blue color screens. This is particularly clear near the top.

I've often made the assertion that good postal history doesn't have to be rare, just unusual. To some extent that's a mis-statement, as something unusual — by its nature — is scarce or rare. It certainly isn't common. Perhaps a more accurate statement would be that good postal history doesn't have to be costly. That's where the thrill of the hunt comes in, as well as your knowledge and ability to spot the unusual.

Although the three primary elements of postal history include stamps, uses and markings, most collectors tend to look first at the stamp. Chances are, after all, if a stamp itself is scarce its use will be as well. While there's some truth to this, it isn't automatic. Many scarce stamps on cover reflect nothing more than that; a scarce stamp on cover, and reveal little else. Yet many common stamps can reflect the uncommon. Let's take a look at one of my favorite examples, where the stamp, the U.S. Postal Service, American Bank Note Company, Scott Publishing, and hobby habits all conspired to create an interesting and scarce bit of postal history, as well as what is now a scarce mint stamp. The extraordinary cover reflecting this story is illustrated; its appearance, however, is far less than spectacular.

Many months after the 25-cent Pheasant stamp (Scott 2283) was released on April 29, 1988, I noticed a new type; one that had a light blue sky, rather than the deeper blue of the originally released type. A quick look under magnification revealed that the stamp was, indeed, a new variety. On the issued stamp (printed by photogravure), the dark blue sky was made up of both blue and red color dot screens (shown by the enlarged image of the stamp that has a slight misregistration). This mixed

screen fools the eye into seeing a dark blue sky. The new type (also shown as an enlargement), has nothing but blue. A quick call to Don McDowell, who was then in charge of stamp production for the USPS, revealed that he was not satisfied with the Pheasant stamps as they were released. He was unhappy that the sky appeared so dark. As a result, he asked the American Bank Note Co. to "back off a little" on the blue color.

To accomplish this (unknown to McDowell, since he didn't specify "how"), ABNC created entirely new printing cylinders — this time with no red element in the sky area — and went into full production mode. The first cylinder number combination, A1111, exists only "dark," whereas the new number combinations were A3111 and A3222 and exist only "light." This change, by its nature, constitutes a new major variety of stamp, which should have received a major listing by Scott, just as any other re-designed stamp would.

After writing up the new type for *Linn's Stamp News* (the initial story appeared in the January 2, 1989, issue, page 2) and contacting Scott Publishing Company, also owned by Amos Press, I was informed by Scott's editor that, despite confirmation from both USPS and ABNC that the stamp was a new major variety, it was simply "under consideration." This was at a time when *Scott* did little more than simple new issue listings (even in the "specialized" catalogue), and I knew this was going to be an uphill



This enlargement of the Figure 1 stamp shows that a new printing cylinder was created, removing all red from the sky and leaving only blue.

battle. "Under consideration" was shorthand for "It'll be a cold day...."

Knowing this was a new major stamp type, I continued to write about it, urging collectors to purchase it while it was still available in post offices, and searching for when the stamp first appeared. McDowell had told me the stamp went back to press during the summer, but did not know when it entered the distribution network. Since he wasn't previously aware of the difference, there was no

Many scarce stamps on cover reflect nothing more than that; a scarce stamp on cover, and reveal little else. Yet many common stamps can reflect the uncommon.



The author's discovery copy of the light-sky version of the 25-cent Pheasant was dated October 31, 1988, and was, ironically, addressed to Scott Publishing.

first-day ceremony and it went on sale wherever and whenever it reached post offices. By this time (late December), the stamp had cropped up all over the country and was not difficult to locate. But here's where collector habits come in.

Typically, later varieties of stamps are the ones that become scarce, as collectors and dealers buy those available when a stamp is first released. As a result, regardless how common a later type may be when it is current, unless it receives immediate catalogue listing status or significant publicity, it is not purchased in any great quantity and frequently becomes scarce when collectors begin looking for it later, after it has been taken off sale. Such was the case with the light blue sky Pheasant, which I had by now traced to having appeared sometime in October 1988. October 31 was the date I had recorded at the time, ironically on my discovery cover (illustrated), addressed to *Scott*.

Eight months later, by August 1989,

the USPS Philatelic Sales Division had assigned a separate number to the variety and was attempting to locate sufficient stock to offer to collectors (*Linn's*, August 21, 1989, page 2). According to *Scott*, a potential listing for this major type was still "under consideration." By this time the earliest reported use had been pushed back to October 17, 1988.

Fast forward a few years to the early 1990s. *Scott Publishing Company* had secured a new editor — one who was interested in an accurate specialized U.S. catalogue, and he set about listing and correcting decades of ignored or mishandled major and minor varieties. Included in this review was what was now known as the "light blue sky" Pheasant. Although it was not assigned a major number, the "Light Blue Sky Pheasant" was given major variety status as Scott 2283a. (As a side note, I frequently make the point that any catalogue is only as good as its current editor. Fortunately, for about the past twenty years *Scott* has

had an insightful and conscientious editor. I look for that to continue.)

Immediately there was demand by collectors and dealers who wanted to fill in the holes, but they were too late, the 25-cent Pheasant stamp had been removed from sale in 1991, when the first-class rate rose to 29 cents. Accordingly, the price for mint examples soon began to rise, and the current value for this \$5 face value booklet with two panes is \$125, even though used examples are extremely common and the darker version still sells for about face value.

Over the years, I've scoured cover accumulations for the earliest reported example of the Light Blue Sky Pheasant. What I've found is that any use in October 1988 is uncommon, those prior to October 15, 1988 are scarce, and any single-digit-dated examples are rare. The current earliest-known use still stands as October 5, 1988. Can you supercede it?

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The Third Byrd *No Man's Land*

by Steve Pendleton

If you thought every piece of land on Earth was claimed or occupied by a nation, you'd be wrong. There is a huge piece of Antarctic real estate — a triangle-shaped section between 90°W and 150°W longitude, ending at the South Pole — that has no nation's name on it.

There's a good reason for this. The coastline in that area is almost unapproachable due to ice. None of the early explorers ever set foot on this land. Chile, Argentina, Norway, France, and the United Kingdom all made territorial claims on the continent and surrounding islands, but this area (now commonly named on maps as Marie Byrd Land) remained untouched.

The United States maintained a policy of not recognizing such claims — but reserved the right to make them in future. Americans had sailed to the Antarctic as sealers and whalers since the 1820s, and government expeditions under Charles Wilkes and James Ault had visited, but the United States had not mounted major exploring efforts such as those led by Scott, Shackleton, Mawson, or Amundsen.

In 1929–30 and 1934–35, however, this changed. American private expeditions led by Richard Byrd had established a base at Little America (on the edge of the Ross Sea Ice Shelf), and American political leaders, especially President Roosevelt, were interested in making possible land claims. Also of concern was the interest shown in the Antarctic by Hitler's Germany. And, in fact, the Germans sent the Schwabenland expedition south in 1939.



The USS Bear in Antarctica, January 10, 1941.

Third Byrd

In early 1939 the U.S. government created the United States Antarctic Service, and appointed Byrd as its head. This would be the first government-sponsored polar activity of modern times. Byrd quickly organized what would become known as the "Third Byrd" expedition. Its goals were to explore "No Man's Land" and leave notices of sovereignty at prominent locations. These particular places, however, were not to be publicly announced.

While the government contributed much of the budget for the undertaking, private donations also were solicited. Two supply ships — the USS *Bear* and the USS *North Star* — were acquired and men recruited. Many had gone with Byrd



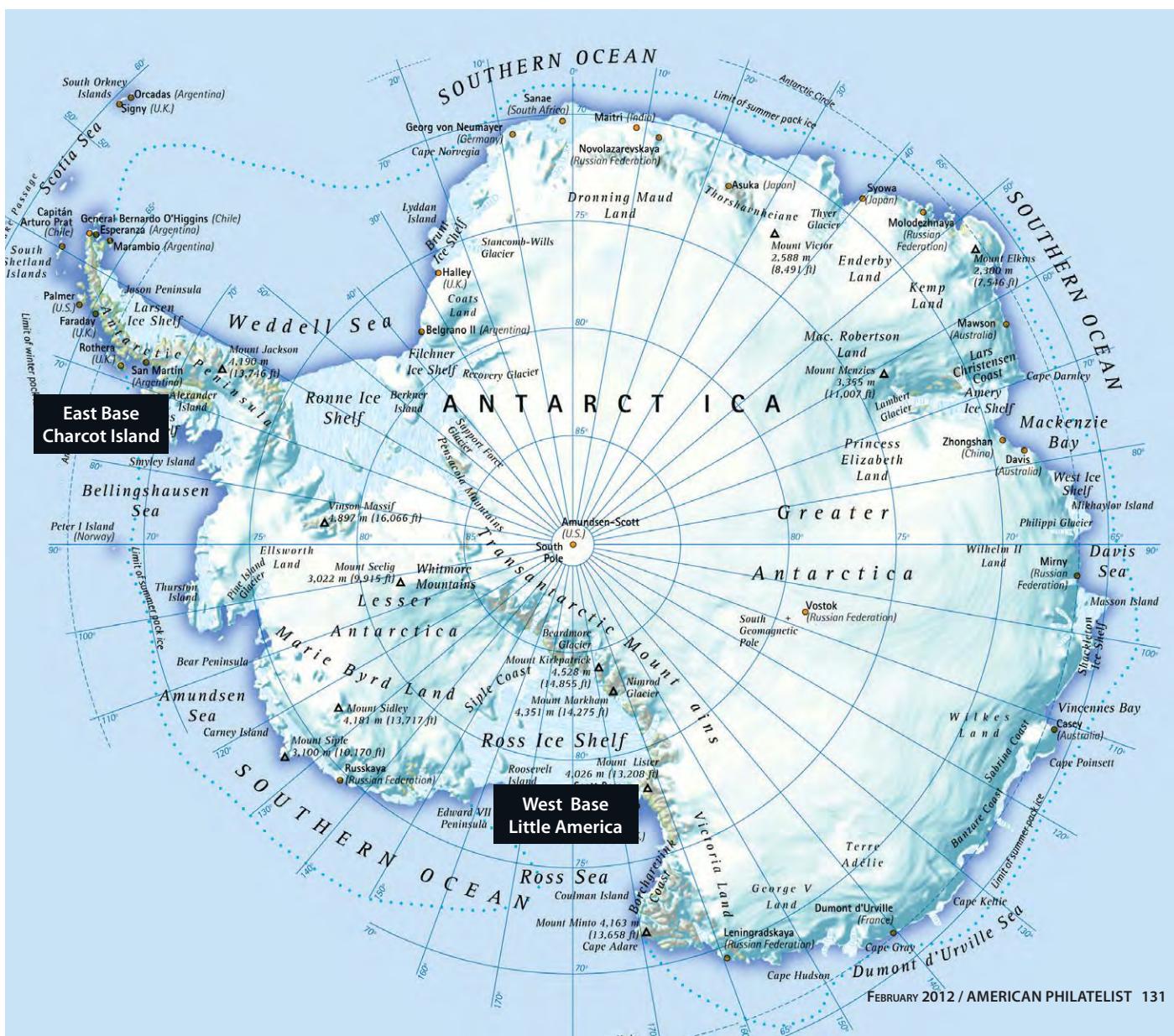
on his earlier ventures.

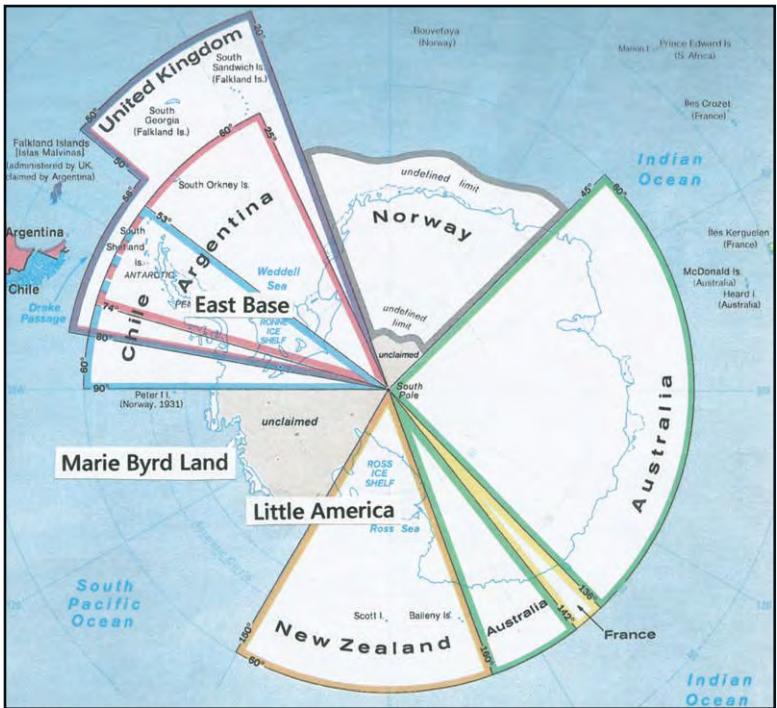
In addition, the expedition acquired no fewer than four aircraft, as aerial surveying had been found to be a vital tool in mapping the polar regions. These included two Curtiss Condors, a Beechcraft monoplane, and a Barley-Grow floatplane.

The most unusual item — other than a small tank — was what has been nicknamed the

"Snow Cruiser." I suspect this machine is the closest association most philatelists might have with this expedition. It garnered a great deal of publicity, and featured on commemorative philatelic covers.

The cruiser was a giant enclosed tractor measuring 55 x 20 feet. It had huge inflated tires, room for several crew members, a range of 5,000 miles, and space for a year's sup-





Map showing the current political division of the Antarctic.

ply of food. The behemoth was invented by Thomas Poulter of the Armour Institute in Chicago. After a tour of the United States the cruiser joined the ships.

The plan was to establish two bases in the Antarctic. One was to be on the Little America site of the first two Byrd ventures. From there a number of reconnaissance surveys would be made into Marie Byrd Land. The second was called East Base. The first choice for its location was Charcot Island. This is a large mass to the west of Alexander Island and south of the Bellingshausen Sea, where the Antarctic peninsula joins the main continent.

The Expedition

The two ships sailed in the late fall of 1939. After stops at the two isolated islands of Pitcairn and Rapa, they approached the Antarctic continent. On January 12, 1940 the *North Star* reached the site of Little America; the *Bear* showed up on the 14th.

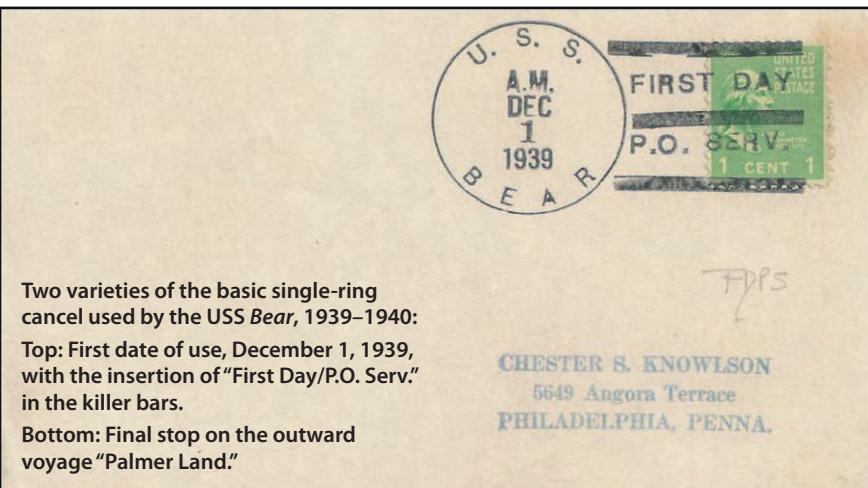
It was immediately apparent that the Snow Cruiser was useless. It could not override the snow that formed in front of its wheels. Eventually, it was abandoned on the ice, where it was visited as late as 1957 by members of Operation Deepfreeze.

Meanwhile, an attempt to reach Charcot Island proved futile due to the icepack. Finally, a site was found on Stonington Island, a small outcrop in Marguerite Bay, on the west coast of the Graham Land peninsula but quite a bit farther north than Charcot. Under the leadership of Richard Black, buildings were quickly constructed.

For the rest of 1940, preparations were made for a number of long exploring surveys. Parties were to head out of Little America, bound for the western parts of Marie Byrd Land. From East Base, sledge parties were to cross the peninsula to the Weddell Sea. There also were plans to survey the southwestern area of the Antarctic Peninsula. In addition, a number of flights were to be made from both bases.

On November 11, 1940 four of the field parties from Little America converged on a site at Mt. Grace McKinley. Here the leader of the party, Leonard Berlin, signed a paper making a claim for the United States on the lands to the east of 150°W. The paper was deposited in a cairn on the mountain, but its existence was not made public until much later. In addition, the American flag was raised at a half dozen other points within the desired area.

By early 1941 all the field parties had returned to their bases. They were then



Two varieties of the basic single-ring cancel used by the USS *Bear*, 1939–1940:
Top: First date of use, December 1, 1939, with the insertion of "First Day/P.O. Serv." in the killer bars.
Bottom: Final stop on the outward voyage "Palmer Land."



confronted with a major problem: funding had been cut by Congress. This was, of course, due to rising concerns about the war in Europe. Both bases had to be evacuated.

Little America was abandoned in February 1941. East Base, however, proved to be more difficult. Finally, the men were able to be flown out on March 22, and the ships returned to the United States in May.

Expedition members dispersed to other military duties. Many of them would return in future Antarctic expeditions, some in command positions. The United States has never formally claimed Marie Byrd Land; however, it has established bases (Byrd and Byrd Surface) and many temporary camps within its borders.

Expedition Philately

Mail from the "Third Byrd" was entirely carried aboard, and serviced by, the *Bear* and the *North Star*. There was also a very interesting — and little known — alternative way of getting messages to and from group members.

The *Bear* maintained a ship's post office, and created a number of postmarks. As was the custom in the 1930s, the names of locations were placed within killer bars. The *North Star* had no such post office, so there are no covers known with the ship's postmarks. However, there was a lot of activity using cachets, as well as special covers created to note visits to islands on the voyage.

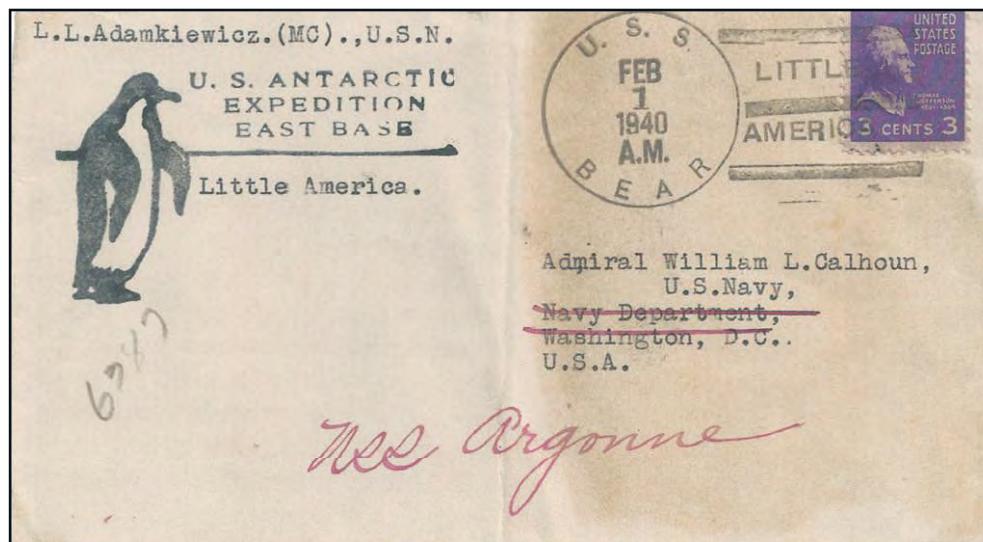
In addition, the Fidelity Stamp Company of Boston produced a special commemorative cover for the Snow Cruiser. This venture created some interesting covers — as well as some major mistakes.

Finally, expedition members could communicate with loved ones in the United States via a program called the Army Amateur Radio System.

USS Bear

During the 1939–40 season, the *Bear* used a basic single-ring cancel reading simply "U.S.S. BEAR." The first date of use is December 1, 1939, with the insertion of "First Day/ P.O. Serv." in the killer bars. This was in Boston. Then, in order, the following locations can be found in the killer bars:

- At Sea
- Little America
- Antarctic Continent



Cover canceled at Little America but with an East Base cachet. ("Little America" is typed in below the cachet.) The cover was forwarded to Admiral William L. Calhoun, who was serving on the USS *Argonne*.

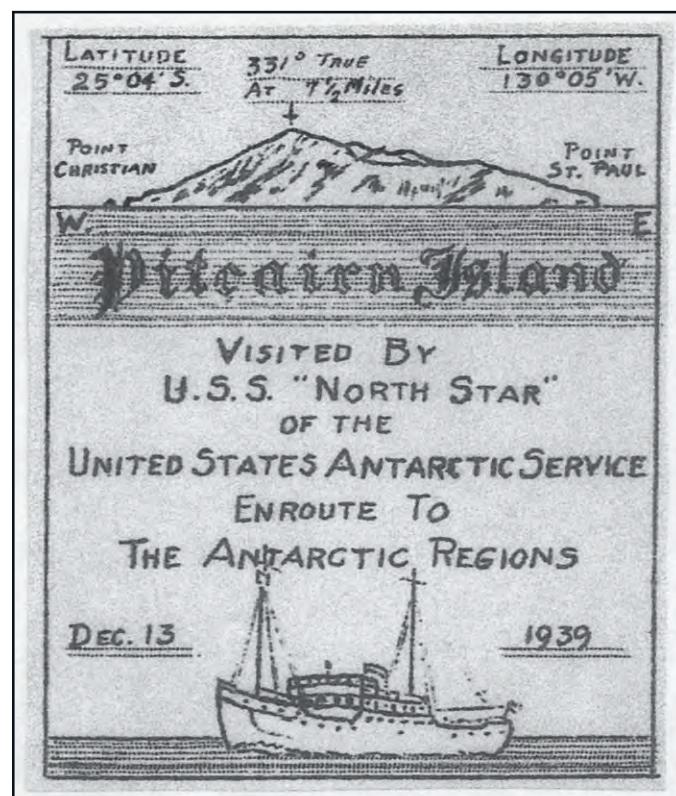
- Palmer Land

On the return voyage there were cancels for:

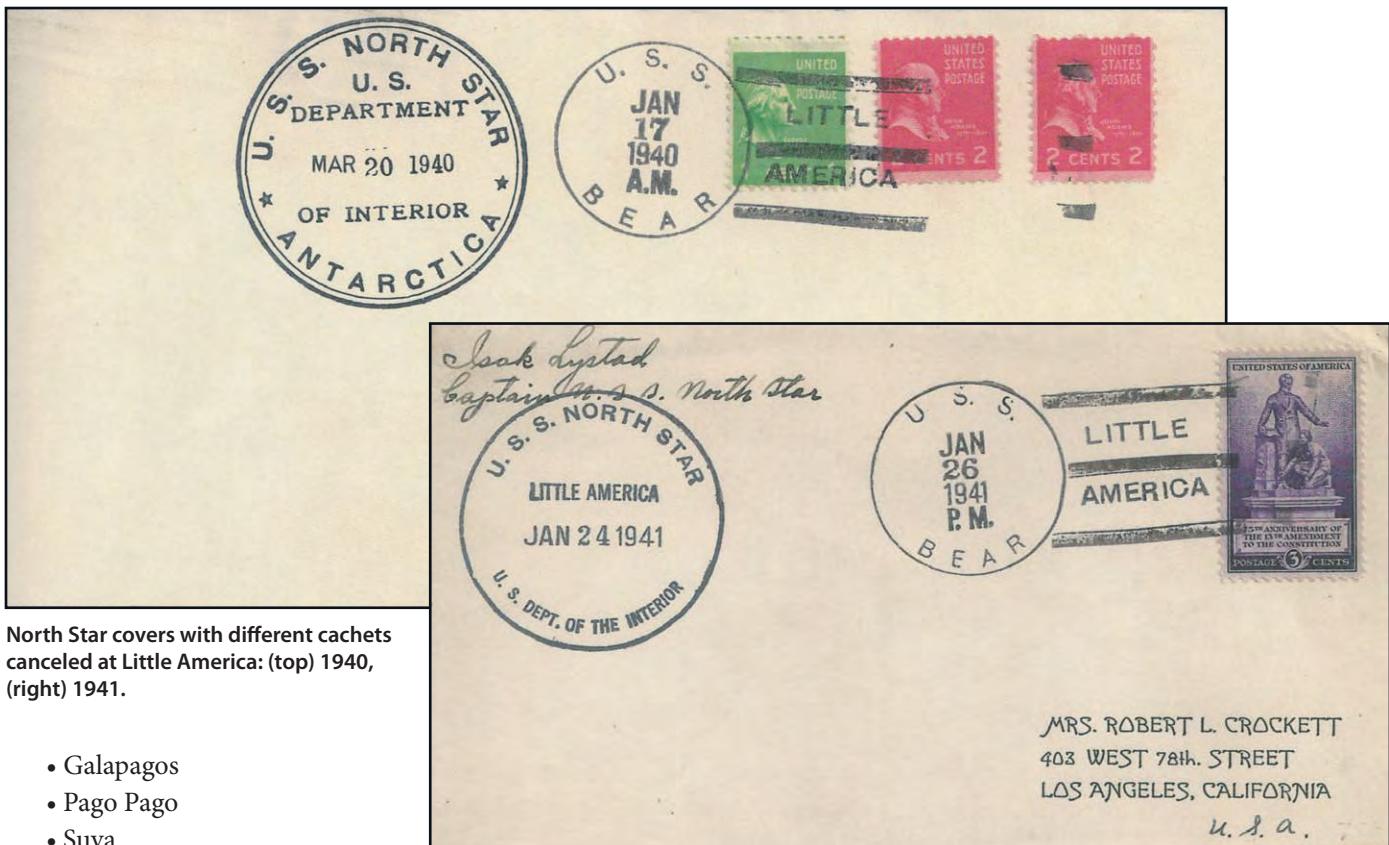
- Around Cape Horn
- Balboa
- Key West
- Philadelphia

Cancels in 1941 included, in order:

- Annapolis
- Balboa



Cachet design for the USS North Star's visit to Pitcairn Island.



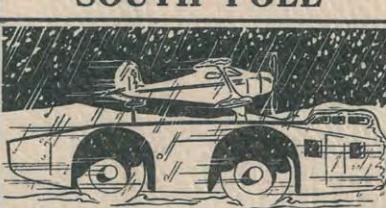
North Star covers with different cachets canceled at Little America: (top) 1940, (right) 1941.

- Galapagos
- Pago Pago
- Suva
- Dunedin
- Little America
- East Base
- Evacuation East Base
- Rounded Cape Horn
- Buenos Aires
- Boston

The last Antarctic cancel is the "Evacuation," dated March 22, 1941. As some of these were applied to only a few covers, obtaining a complete collection would be quite a feat.

Much less common are double-ring ship cancels. There also are "parcel post" and "registered" markings known.

THE SNOW CRUISER REACHES THE SOUTH POLE



(In this space the time of arrival at the South Pole will be inserted in a Straight Line Marking.)

RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF THE ARMOUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE SNOW CRUISER
which is to transport the Byrd Expedition to the South Pole, leaves Boston on

Nov. 1st.

We doubt if we can maintain the 50c price on orders received after November 10th.

THIS IS A SAMPLE of the Cover, which will be mailed with a current U. S. Commemorative, either from a Postoffice in Antarctica or the first port of entry.

**Price - 50c Each
12 for - \$5.00**
(Special Discount to Dealers)

FIDELITY STAMP CO.
945 Pa. Ave. N. W. Washington, D. C.

Advertising example of proposed Snow Cruiser cover, with optimistic message about its South Pole arrival.

MRS. ROBERT L. CROCKETT
403 WEST 78th STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
u.s.a.

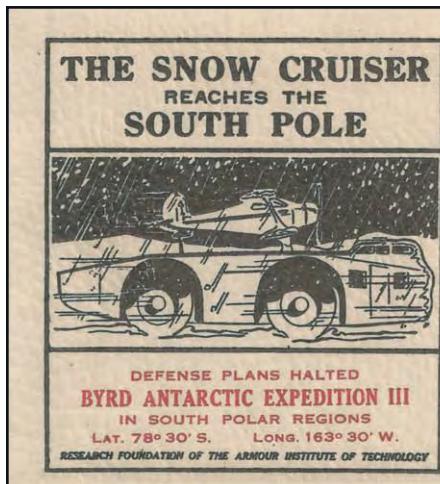
USS *North Star*

One of the first philatelic ventures aboard this ship created a classic cover not only for Antarctic collectors but for Pitcairn aficionados as well. While sailing southwest from the Canal Zone, it was decided to stop at Pitcairn to obtain provisions. On December 13 and 14 the *North Star* lay off the island. Richard Black designed a stencil that commemorated the visit.

The design showed an island profile at top and a depiction of the ship at the bottom. Covers were created and stamped with New Zealand stamps (Pitcairn having a New Zealand postal agency at the time) — at least until the stamps ran out. Island personalities such as Alta Christian and R.E. Christian signed them. A few made their way to the Antarctic, while many were eventually canceled in Auckland.

An additional stop was made at Rapa, one of the most isolated French Polynesian islands, on December 17, 1939. Expedition covers were canceled at the island's main settlement and post office, Ahurei. Almost all of these were covers with a corner card of the Snow Cruiser/Armour Institute. There were a few covers canceled on both islands.

While the ship was in Antarctica, covers were cacheted with several types of



Snow Cruiser cover with "Defense Plans Halted" added marking.

round markings. They read "U.S.S. NORTH STAR, ANTARCTICA/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR or LITTLE AMERICA or PALMER LAND." Some received the autograph of the ship's captain, Isak Lystad.

One of the more esoteric collecting areas of this expedition is the use of illustrated cachets. These designs were used on either ship — and sometimes on both. One of the better-known is the "standing bear." It has the wording "Antarctic continent" and shows a bear with both paws up. Another one, used at East Base, has a standing penguin on the left side. There is even one that combines a penguin, a husky, and a sailing ship.

If you look closely you might notice covers with cachets or cancels from both ships, but with varying dates — sometimes more than two months apart. The minor date differences on the 1941 cover with January 24 and 26 postmarks can be explained because covers were canceled on the *North Star* then sent over to the *Bear* while both were unloading supplies at Little America. Another example is dated January 17, 1940 aboard the *Bear* but March 20 on the *North Star*. The cover had been canceled at Little America but was held on *North Star* until both were involved in supporting the construction of East Base.

A few covers were flown. These originated primarily at East Base. One variety was flown on all the exploration surveys, as well as on the final crew evacuation.



In 1939, the Snow Cruiser's route to Antarctica went through Akron, Ohio, on its Goodyear tires.



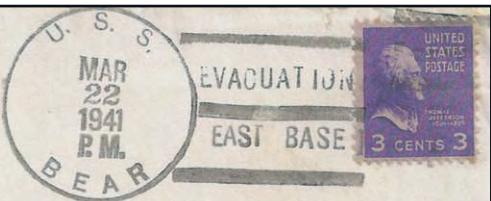
Snow Cruiser

Event organizers love a publicity item, and the Snow Cruiser was certainly that. It gained a lot of publicity during a pre-expedition tour of the United States, as well as having commemorative covers made up. The Fidelity Stamp Company of Boston printed several thousand pictorial covers, which were carried on the trip. They were certainly optimis-



"Evacuating East Base" postmark with cachet noting that the cover had been carried on "every exploration flight made from East Base including emergency evacuation flights made March 22, 1941." Signed by the pilot and crew.

Z. Collier,
U.S. Antarctic Service,
East Base,
Palmerland,
Antarctica.



Tech. Sgt. and Mrs. W. Willingham,
Aviation, U.S.M.C.,
Quantico, Va.

Commercial cover from Zach Collier, "U.S. Antarctic Service, East Base, Palmerland, Antarctica," postmarked March 22, 1941.



One of the biggest concerns of the older
Antarctic expeditions was the isolation.
In the Third Byrd, for example, it was ten
months between mail deliveries for the men.

**U. S. Antarctic Message
Center**
WLRX - W4AA - W4AB
W4ABC - WLMC - W4NG
Box 1499
GREENVILLE, S. C.



Perhaps Dan

Received at RADIO() w4AA } Owned by Wayne M. Nelson, High Point, N.C.
() w4ABC }

11 WLYM ED JAN 13

MISS SARAH DAVIS
COLLEGE INN BRAYMAWR PENN

GREETINGS FROM THE ANTARCTIC ARRIVED LITTLE AMERICA ELEVENTH X
WEATHER HERE AND TEMPERATURE ABOUT TWENTY ABOVE X THUS FAR HAVE
HAD VERY PLEASANT CRUISE X PROBABLY STAY HERE ABOUT THREE WEEKS
BEFORE PROCEEDING TO EAST BASE X EXPECT TO BE IN BOSTON ABOUT
FIRST OF MAY REGARDS

FRED NYLUND

P.O. BOX 1499 GREENVILLE, S. C.

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This radiogram is mailed with the compliments of these stations. A strictly non-commercial service for which no charges are made. There is no guarantee of delivery and the forwarding station disclaims all liability in connection with text or transmission. Stamps will be accepted to cover cost of future messages. REPLY ACCEPTED FOR FREE TRANSMISSION.

U. S. ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION DAILY 2-4 a. m. DIRECT

Address reply: w4AA, Wayne M. Nelson, P. O. Box 567, High Point, N. C.

(The FIRST licensed amateur station in the Fourth Radio District, w4AA was issued to Wayne M. Nelson Nov. 24, 1919.)

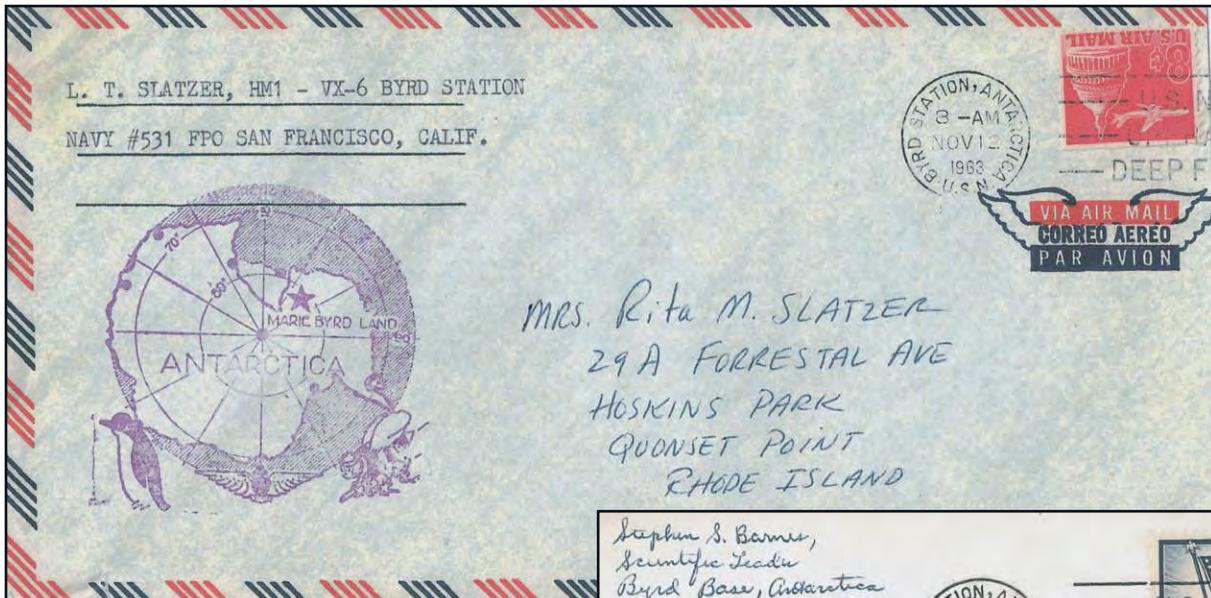
Operator: () Wayne M. Nelson, w4AA, w4ABC, WLRX

tic that the machine would arrive triumphantly at the South Pole. The advertising sample provided by the Fidelity to market the covers included a box in the cachet with the note: "In this space the time of arrival at the South Pole will be inserted in a Straight Line Marking."

Instead, the covers bore the final imprint: "Defense Plans Halted BYRD EXPEDITION III in South Polar Regions Lat. 78° 30' S. Long. 163° 30' W." While broadly true, as mentioned earlier that's not what actually stopped the snow cruiser on its journey to the Pole. As late as 1957, blank covers were being rescued from the abandoned vehicle (long buried in the snow at Little America) and appropriately marked.

Covers returned by the expedition also have a notation on the back that they were carried by the *North Star* and registered. While the first part is certainly true, there's no evidence of actual registration.

A new way to communicate? Radio message from expedition crew member to lady friend at Bryn Mawr College, sent via the U.S. Antarctic Message Center.



The United States establishes a base in No Man's Land: covers from Byrd Station.

The Army Amateur Radio System

One of the biggest concerns of the older Antarctic expeditions was the isolation. In the Third Byrd, for example, it was ten months between mail deliveries for the men.

One partial solution was devised by Wayne Nelson of High Point, North Carolina and later Greenville, South Carolina. A pioneering radio amateur (holding a license since 1919), he organized the Army Amateur Radio System, also known as the U.S. Antarctic Message Center. This group (he may have had as many as six helpers) voluntarily recorded messages from Byrd's expedition sent via radio, then forwarded them in the regular mail to their destinations. One surviving "radiogram" was from expedition member Fred Nylund to a lady friend, a student at Bryn Mawr College.

Postscript

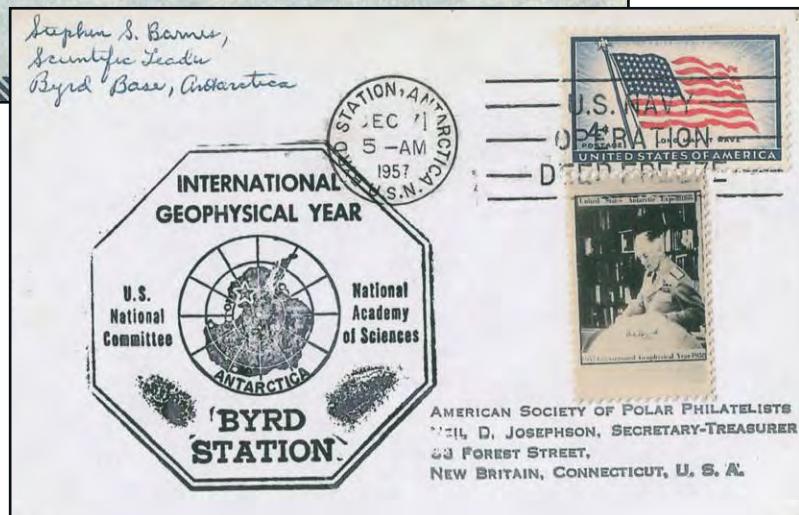
Just as in the days of the Third Byrd, the unclaimed ice remains just that. However, in 1957 the United States established Byrd Station, well inland of the Bellingshausen Sea Coast. Several types of cancels and cachets are known from this base. Later, during the summers, the Byrd Surface Camp was utilized.

Although these bases are no longer in use, many smaller investigations under the patronage of the United States continue. Who knows — sometime in the future we may have a new colony in the far South.

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(USS Bear)

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1QtGVVt1Kw>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK_De7vBBfI

The Author

Steve Pendleton, a retired teacher, has collected Antarctica and Pacific and ocean isles for more than thirty years. He has had more than 750 articles published in philatelic and regional magazines. He also has made two voyages to Easter and Pitcairn Islands.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, REVISITED



by Michael Soper

The philatelic pen is a two-edged sword. If you publish an article about your favorite topic, you stimulate popular interest in that topic and then you must bid against many more collectors than before. So, you wait until you think you have good examples of every item for the topic. But, as you wait, you know that someone else could come along and publish his own article, and "steal your thunder."

I waited. I had all of the Xavier stamps, up to a point. The point was his impending 500th birthday. Should I publish two years ahead of that anniversary and try to encourage more and wider recognition of Xavier, and to encourage the design and production of more commemorative stamps?

Or should I let nature take its course, and then *report* the rise or fall of interest in Xavier relative to his last philatelic celebration, the 400th anniversary of his death?

There are not all that many Xavier stamps, wondrous as they are. To collect Xavier is to collect place names and postmarks, church and school and hospital letterheads, and, best of all, old picture postcards. Assuming the copyrights have expired, I could use those to illustrate *Xavier Wakes*, my still unpublished book of poems about Saint Francis Xavier.

My Xavier collection fed my Xavier book, suggesting places and incidents to research and write about. In return, research fed my collection, revealing more spellings of his name, more byways in his missionary travels, more Xavier namesakes. For example, the first American saint is Frances Xavier Cabrini — Mother Cabrini, Frances with an e.

It was all new and fascinating to me, as I was raised a Southern Baptist. And I discovered something: when you



Portuguese India issued this set of six stamps in 1931.



Francis Xavier's signature appeared on a Portuguese India stamp (Scott 415). He collected the signatures of his friends.

appropriate the voice of a major saint, you can "say" anything, write anything, with a feeling of absolute authority. So, I let the birthday article go by, in favor of the birthday poetry book. And I watched my competitor closing in, and I knew

he would scoop me.

I first noticed Bronno (Ron) van der Holt in these pages in the November issue of 2000. His article was "Way to Goa — A Philatelic Overview of Portuguese India." Ron had trekked the Nepalese Himalayas for three weeks in 1990. "Weakened by fatigue, dysentery and infected foot wounds," he was told to convalesce. He traveled to Goa, in formerly Portuguese India, seeking western medication. There he rented a small bungalow and met the father of his landlord, Mr. D'Souza.

It was D'Souza, in his study lined with stamp albums, who rekindled Ron's interest in collecting, dormant since his early teens.

What followed was a re-introduction to classic stamp collecting: Common frames with numeric insets resulted in inversions. Paper shortages and forays into retail stationery markets resulted in a hodgepodge of papers, watermarks, and sheet sizes. Continued shortages resulted in emer-



The Xavier Castle "Junta" stamp was issued in 1936, at the outset of the Spanish Revolution.

gency measures: redenomination by overprint, bisects. D'Souza was the kind of collector who reconstructed sheets upside down from their watermarks. Even secondhand, his descriptions are spellbinding — at least to this former printer.

You won't find a better introduction to the romance of stamp collecting than van der Holt's 2000 article. Here are the vicissitudes of stamp production in a colonial outpost, overlaid with the romance of Shangri-La settings, convalescence, homesickness, and new-found friendship. Perhaps I am biased. The former Portuguese India contains the bodily remains of Saint Xavier, and it issued, by far, the most Xavier postage stamps. In fact, Ron's article was illustrated with five Xavier stamps: in a strip, a souvenir sheet, and on a first day cover.

Ten months later, in September 2001, Ron van der Holt was back with a five-page article in *The American Philatelist*: "Brother Hyacinth, Priest & Philatelist in Portuguese India." I scanned the illustrations immediately — two postcards and a letter sheet depicting the interior of the church and the tomb containing Xavier's remains. From notes on postcards and lettersheets, and a few envelope enclosures, Ron determined that Brother Hyacinth was helping to support St. Anthony's Orphanage with the proceeds from his stamp subscription service. Not just sales, but contributions; and not just new issues, but the re-sale of whole collections; and not just Portuguese India, but the greater Orient. This Catholic priest was a stamp dealer on a mission.



Xavier Castle was featured again in 2009, the rebuilt castle still stands.

But in all of Ron's Hyacinth acquisitions, there was a five-year gap he hoped to fill. He had no covers between 1955 and 1961. We did not have long to wait. One was posted on eBay. There were many bids. I didn't win, thus demonstrating the downside of philatelic publicity.

Two months later, thanks to responses from around the world, Ron was able to provide a "Brother Hyacinth Update." I won't digress any further here except to comment that

Ron's articles have made Brother Hyacinth Pinto a philatelic celebrity. Classical or topical, Ron was in his element, and he now knows more about Hyacinth Pinto than he could have imagined. And that is the upside.

Francis Xavier was born April 7, 1506. His 500th birthday was commemorated with just a few stamps. Then, in January 2008, this journal published another article by Ron van der Holt, "Philatelic Memorabilia of St. Francis Xavier: Goa 1952." In it, Ron raided the mother lode of Xavier stamps and souvenir sheets; but he left me the birthday, and he left me the rest of the world.

Saints alive! Such an introduction! But it was necessary. It explains why some of the most obvious Xavier items are not included in this article; they have already been described and illustrated, recently, in this journal.

Oddly enough, the first Portuguese India Xavier stamps, six stamps from 1931 (Portuguese India Scott 414–419), were not described in van der Holt's articles. It is the replica of Xavier's signature on the second stamp in the set, Scott 415, that captivates me. Xavier traveled light.

Although desperate for letters from his brother Jesuits, he did not save them. He memorized them. Then he removed and saved the signatures in a small leather pouch. I don't claim that Xavier was a stamp collector (hundreds of years before stamps), but he was, demonstrably, a kindred spirit to today's collectors.

Spain

Francis Xavier was born, the youngest of three sons and two daughters, in Xavier Castle, in the Basque-speaking north of Navarre, near Pamplona, in what is now northern Spain. In 1506, however, Navarre was still autonomous. Ferdinand II, King of Aragon, conquered Navarre in 1512.



Air mail stamp portrait of 1952.



A portrait of Xavier on the 25-pesetas Spanish banknote of 1926.

Francis's father was president of the Royal Council of Navarre and went into exile with his king; he died in 1515 when Francis was only nine. His older brothers had no other honorable choice; they took up arms and resisted the forces of the King of Aragon. When Ferdinand died, in 1516, there was an abortive uprising that brought on the wrath of Ferdinand's regent, Cardinal Jimenez de Cisneros. His troops systematically destroyed Xavier Castle and other strongholds in the region, knocking down towers and outer walls, filling up moats and dismantling the drawbridges.

In 1520 the *Comuneros* of neighboring Castile rebelled against the grandson of Ferdinand, the Emperor Charles V. The French launched a supporting force into Navarre against their common foe. Having aggravated Charles, they retreated, leaving the brothers Juan and Miguel besieged in the old fortress of Fuenterrabia for two years.

In 1525, at the age of nineteen, Francis left Navarre to go to college in France. He never returned.

The Xavier Castle "Junta" stamp was issued in 1936, at



In 2006, for the 500th anniversary of his birth, an image similar to the 1952 black engraving is superimposed on a full-color port scene.

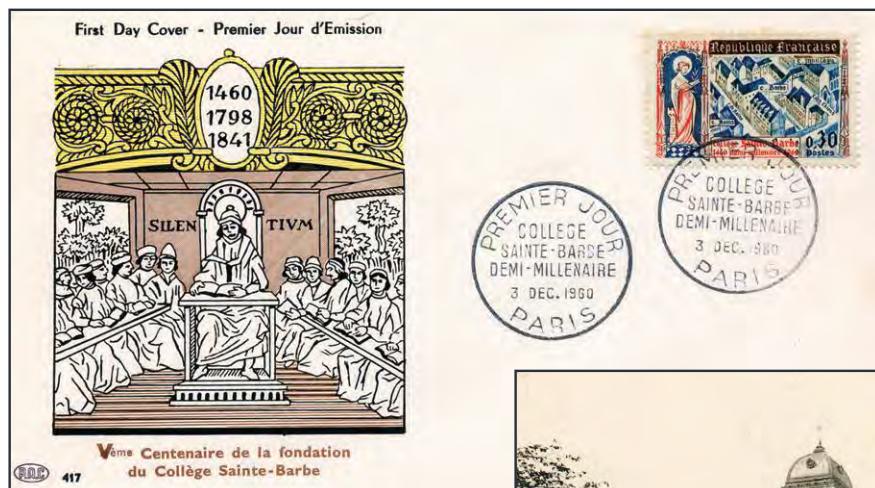
the outset of the Spanish revolution (Spain Scott 629). It was issued with and without perforations, and there are color and line varieties to be found. There is also an air mail overprint, but I have not found any examples of the overprinted stamp on cover. Xavier Castle was featured again in 2009 (Scott 3669); the re-built castle still stands.

There is a color portrait of Xavier as a young man on the Spanish 25-pesetas banknote of 1926. The portrait of Xavier on a 1952 air mail stamp (Spain Scott C138), issued on the 400th anniversary of his death, shows a much older individual. In 2006, for the 500th anniversary of his birth, a slightly fuller faced version of the 1952 black engraving is superimposed on a full-color quay-side scene reflected Xavier's travels in the Far East.

France

Francis enrolled in the University of Paris, the College of Sainte-Barbe in September of 1525 (France Scott 983). There, he began the study of philosophy. He did well in his studies and even better in sports: sword-play, and contests of speed and strength. When he wrote home, it was not to commiserate with his family in prayer, it was to ask for money.

And then, in 1528, he acquired an unwanted roommate, a 36-year-old, Basque-speaking, Spanish ex-soldier named Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). There is speculation that it was Xavier's



Ignatius of Loyola recruited the first Jesuits at the College of Sainte-Barbe, shown in French stamp featuring a medieval depiction of the school.

France remembers Xavier in stone, if not in stamps.





Xavier is the patron saint of the Propagation of the Faith. He appears in the top right corner.

brothers who commanded the battery the day a cannon ball nearly took off Loyola's leg. Xavier did not consider Ignatius his enemy, but rather an embarrassment, with his limp, his donkey, his rags, and his self-imposed poverty. Gradually, Xavier became impressed by the sincerity of the man. Ignatius wanted Xavier for a new religious order, and he finally won him with this question: "What does it profit you to gain the world, if you lose your soul?"

Xavier received his Master of Arts degree in 1530, taught for a few years, studied theology, and finally left Paris in November 1536 with the first few Jesuits. Their intention was to walk to Rome to petition the Pope to establish their new order. Eleven years in France, and no postage stamp was ever issued, although there is a Parisian church named in his honor. We will move on.

Italy

I have been fortunate to visit Rome and the Iglesia Gesu next door to the headquarters of the Jesuit order. In the church, on the wall, I saw the right fore-arm and hand of



A scene from India; Italy issued one of the few stamps honoring Xavier's birth.

Francis Xavier. It was removed from his body in 1614 by order of the General of the Society of Jesus, and sent to Rome — where it was purported to have signed his name, Xavier, a final time, thus becoming one of the most famous relics in Christendom. Now it is encased in gold and jewels; but is that to protect it, or restrain it?

Xaver was ordained a priest in Venice on his way to Rome. Arriving in the Eternal City in April 1537, the young Jesuits began the eternal process of becoming officially sanctioned.

Xavier preached on the streets, ate in the soup kitchen, and sat up nights in the hospitals and prisons. Pope Paul III was impressed with these men, and grew impatient himself with the process and the politics. Even before the Society of Jesus was officially established, he requested that Xavier be sent to the Orient as his Papal Nuncio. Ignatius stayed in Rome to work the bureaucracy. Most of the others were sent to Germany, to begin the Counter-Reformation.

Xavier's letters from the Orient, describing his missionary work, made such an impression throughout Europe, that he became the most famous apostle since Paul. It was his voice that sounded the call to foreign missions. He is the patron saint of the Propagation of the Faith and his image appears in the top right corner of the 1923 Italian stamp commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Propagation of the Faith (Italy Scott 146). (The Vatican City did not issue stamps until 1929.) Italy honored Xavier again with a stamp

in 2006 (Scott 2771), in a set also honoring St. Ignatius de Loyola (Scott 2770), but the Vatican still has not issued a Francis Xavier stamp.

Portugal

Xavier left Rome on horseback March 16, 1540 and arrived in Lisbon sometime in early June. The next ships for India would not sail until April and Xavier was attached to the Court of King John III for the duration, where he served as confessor to all the youth at court. He was offered rooms in the palace, but declined, choosing to lodge instead in the poorhouse. He met often with the royal family, and with bishops and university doctors seeking to establish the Jesuit order in Portugal. King John wrote the Pope to add his endorsement for the new order.

Father Xavier sailed from Lisbon on April



Portugal commemorated Xavier's death with this set of four different values.

7, 1541, his thirty-fifth birthday, in company with the new Governor of Portuguese India. He was commissioned by the Pope, endowed by the King, and charged by his order to "set all afire." It is hard to imagine how Xavier could exceed his authority.

Portugal issued a set of four stamps depicting Xavier in 1952, to mark the 400th anniversary of his death (Scott 753–756); and celebrated the 500th anniversary of his birth in 2006 with two stamps, showing scenes from his life on the blue and white tiles (*azulejos*) famous throughout Portugal (Scott 2806–2807).

India

The voyage to India took thirteen months, and it was necessary to winter over in Mozambique. There is an old painting in a gallery of the Maritime Museum in Lisbon showing a scene from the voyage. There is a storm at sea and sailors have rigged a harness for Xavier to lower him over the side. When Xavier touched the sea, the storm subsided and the sea was calmed.

Unfortunately, Xavier was unable to calm the ship's prisoner, the youngest son of Vasco da Gama. He was being transported to Goa as a hostage to ensure the surrender of an older brother. The brother was accused of misappropriating state funds. The prisoner thought Xavier should have obtained better conditions for him during the voyage. Eventually, the older brother surrendered, was tried and acquitted, but that only made the youngest da Gama more bitter about his treatment.

Goa, India would eventually rival Lisbon in size and opulence, but in 1542 it was just a colonial outpost in need of churches, priests, ministry, and religious instruction. The elite of Goa wanted Francis Xavier to remain as their personal confessor and advisor. But although Xavier began building construction and education programs, in October, after only five months in Goa he left the administrative work to his subordinates and began walking down the coast of India, preaching the gospel, and converting the local people. Near Cape Comorin, before an assembled village, Xavier raised from the tomb a man who had been buried the day before. Continuing on, he encountered a funeral procession, and he also restored that



Lisbon is known for its murals created on blue-and-white tiles.

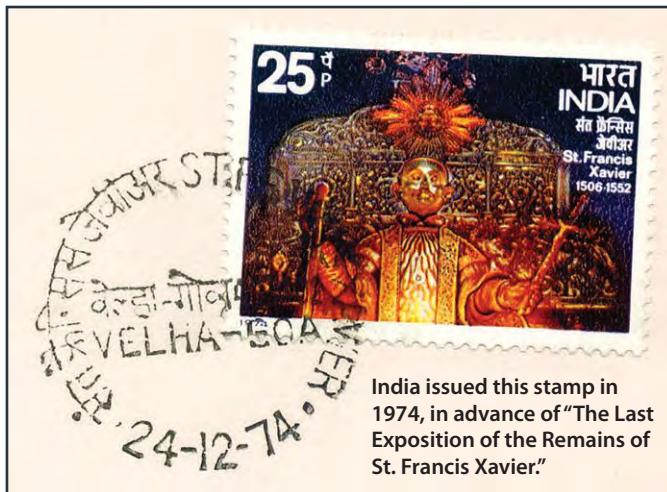
dead man to refreshed and vigorous life. As word of these miracles spread, whole villages came out to meet him, and he made converts by the thousands.

However, neither the church nor the crown was prepared to support the vulnerable Christian communities, and other Portuguese were busy selling arms to neighboring villages. Slaughter of these new Christians often ensued. Miracles attended Xavier's arrival; death and disaster followed in his wake. And he knew it. The priest changed his tactics. He would try to convert the native priests and the ruling families, then perhaps conversion of the populace would follow with less bloodshed. But ruling families, and especially priests, have vested interests in the status quo. This would be a more difficult approach.

Portuguese India is no more, but Xavier had not restricted himself to the Portuguese enclave. Modern India remembers St. Xavier in its churches, schools, and hospitals. He was honored with a stamp in 1974 in connection with an exposi-



Modern India remembers St. Xavier in the names of its churches, schools, and hospitals, as seen on this cover.



This postcard suggests Xavier is the patron saint of Oura Catholic Church.



St. Francis Xavier's Church in Kagoshima issued this phone card in 1999 to mark the 450th anniversary of his mission to Japan

tion of his remains (India Scott 647). In 1985 there was a 125th anniversary stamp commemorating St. Xavier's College in Calcutta, with a statue of Xavier in the foreground (Scott 1087).

Japan

Xavier returned to Goa as often as necessary. He did not neglect his responsibilities to the Portuguese; his administrative instructions fill a book. But he traveled the Orient ever more widely in search of souls. He sailed to Malacca in 1545, to the Moluccas in 1546, and to the "newly discovered" Islands of Japan in 1549. There he remained for more than two years, learning the language and establishing churches in Kagoshima, Hirado, and Yamaguchi. Although he was denied an audience with the Emperor in



Oura Catholic Church, Nagasaki, Japan. 1951. It was featured again in the Western Architecture series in 1981.

Kyoto, Xavier learned, in the attempt, that the real power was held by contending warlords, and that the Emperor was reduced to selling his own poems. (Oh, that hurts.) He met with Shinto and Buddhist priests, but failed to convert them. All admired his teachings, but they asked, "If what you say is true, why haven't we heard of it from China?" That question set the course for his last journey.

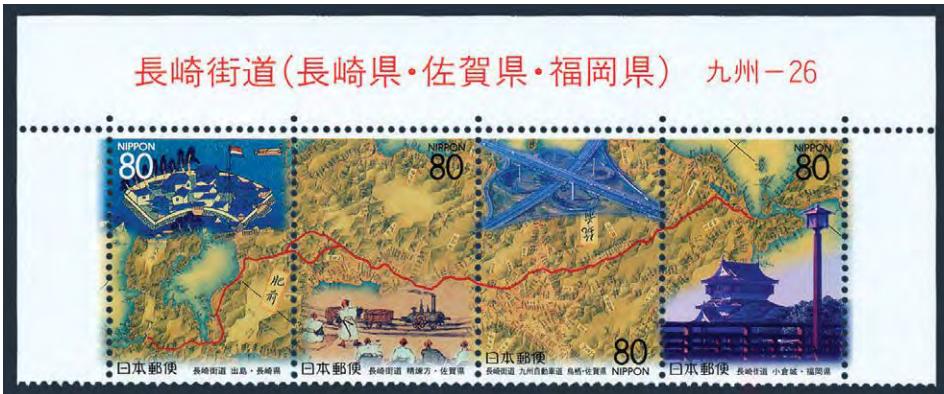
Oura's Catholic Church in Nagasaki appeared in the Tourist series in 1951 (Japan Scott 535), and in the Western Architecture series in 1981 (Scott 1464). The picture postcard depicts Xavier's statue in the church, which suggests that Xavier is their patron saint. The special cancel on the postcard illustrated commemorates Xavier's arrival.

St. Francis Xavier's Church in Kagoshima issued a phone card in 1999 to mark the 450th anniversary of his mission to Japan. The Nagasaki Highway strip of four (Scott Z212-Z215), issued in 1997, was reprinted in pilgrimage pamphlets with legends describing Xavier's travels along the route.

China

Xavier departed Goa in April 1552 with a delegation to China. The ship stopped at Malacca for provisions and further permissions. The admiral of those seas was Alvaro d'Ataide da Gama, that youngest son, the one with the grudge. He told the ship's captain that Xavier was going no further. But Xavier refused to go back, and Xavier was more popular than the admiral. A riot seemed likely and da Gama relented, to a point. Let Xavier be a martyr; take him to Sancian Island, but no further.

Sancian Island lies six miles off the coast of Canton. Chinese smugglers would come to Sancian to trade, but for Europeans, visiting the Chinese mainland was certain death. Xavier disembarked on Sancian. He climbed a hill, built an altar, and celebrated mass. He paid a Chinese captain 200 cruzados to send a junk for him. The junk was promised at the end of the trading season, but none came. Xavier did not



The Nagasaki Highway strip of four was reproduced in pilgrimage pamphlets with legends describing Xavier's travels along the route.



A chapel in Xavier's memory has been built on the highest point of Sancian Island, site of his altar, death, and temporary grave.

consider going back, he was already too ill. Since becoming a Jesuit, he had given away most of his meals, had prayed away most of his nights, had walked the length of India and Japan, and now he was too exhausted to fight off disease. He died on Sancian Island December 3, 1552.



Macao honored Xavier with 2a and 10a definitives in 1951.



This yellow church in Macao contains a relic of the saint: Xavier's shoulder.

In the end, nearby Macao (not Sancian) became Portugal's Chinese colony. It honored Xavier with 2-avos and 10-avos definitives in 1951 (Macao Scott 354 and 357). The following year, along with Timor and Portuguese India, Macao issued a special St. Francis Xavier issue to mark the 400th anniversary of his death. The stamp designs variously featured a statue of Xavier, his enshrined arm, and his tomb (Scott 365–367).

The lease with Portugal expired in 1999 and Macau rejoined China, but it continues to issue its own stamps. A souvenir sheet of the yellow church containing his shoulder was issued in 2003 (Scott 1123) and Xavier is one of four Jesuit priests honored with a special issue in 2006 (Scott 1205–1208; St. Francis Xavier appears on Scott 1206).



Xavier is one of four Jesuit priests Macao honored in 2006.

Return to Goa

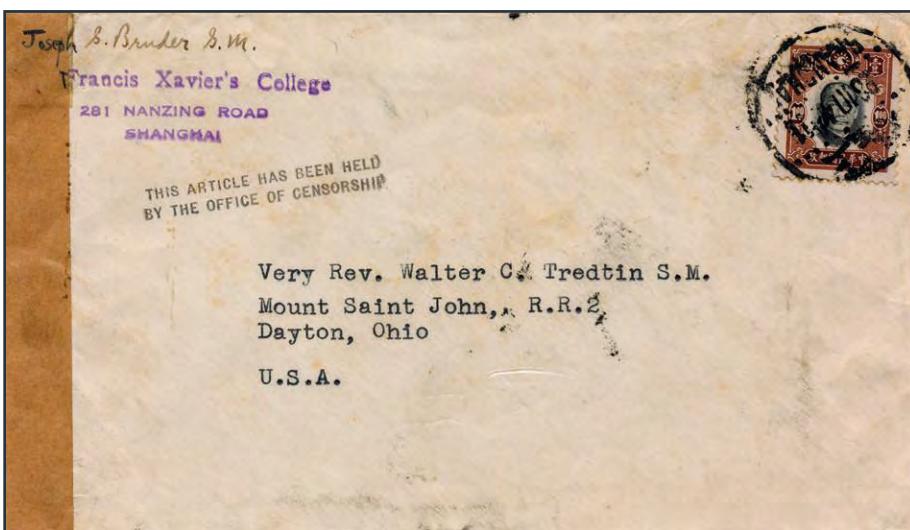
His friends learned of his betrayal and death, and sailed out to bring him home. Xavier's body was returned to Goa in March 1554, uncorrupted, fresh, looking almost alive. Now the body is a mummy, crumbling to dust. And even that is not the end of Francis Xavier. His letters, and the story of his life, will continue to inspire tens of thousands down the ages as indicated by the inscription on his tomb, "MAIOR IN OCCASU" — "Greater in Death."

Acknowledgment

The author wishes to thank Elisabete Ferreira Sakai for information, materials, and encouragement.

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Mailed by Francis Xavier's College in Shanghai, October 28, 1942. Transit through New York City, September 12, 1945. Held for the duration of the war.

The Author

Michael T. Soper is a printer, a poet, and a Protestant.

“Philately is a place in life to day-dream.”

“When stamp collecting becomes too easy it loses its hold on its followers.”

“To many people, history is only enjoyed as it unfolds in their daily newspapers.”

“A stamp club without a single outstanding collector as a member can still be a fine club if it has good leadership.”

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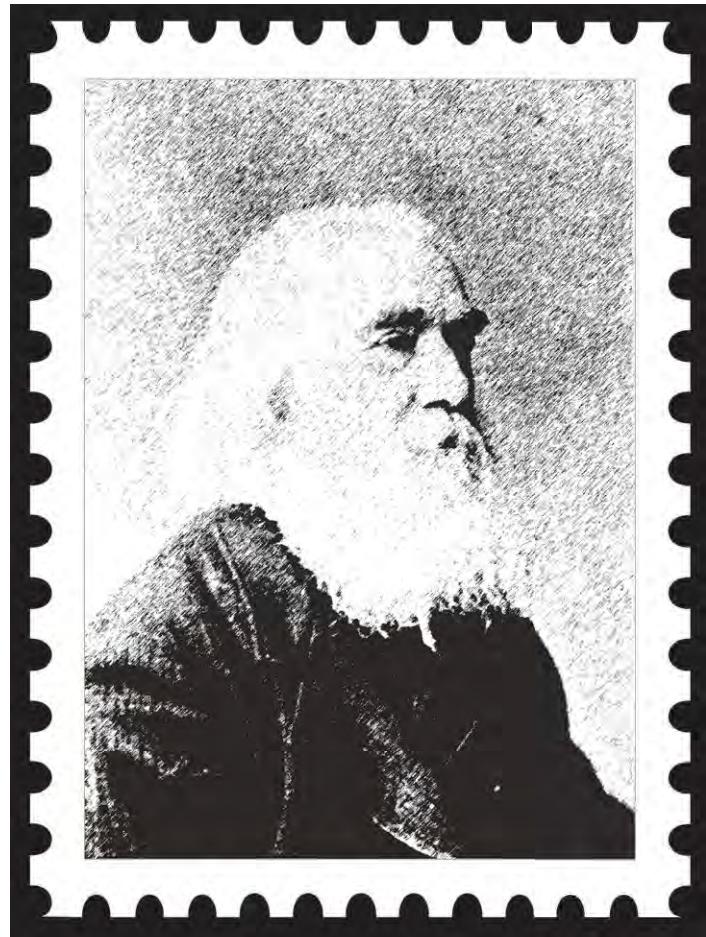
Lysander Spooner

Father of the Three-Cent Stamp

by Ray Cavanaugh

Lysander Spooner was born on his family's Athol, Massachusetts farm in 1808. Following a youth of agrarian chores, bare bones schooling and contemplative pasture strolls, he embarked on a law career, reading law for a time in the offices of John Davis and Charles Allen, unfazed by the fact that he had never gone to college. Ignoring Massachusetts's mandatory five-year legal apprenticeship for non-college-graduates (college graduates only need serve a three-year apprenticeship) before being admitted to the bar, "Spooner, Esq." set up shop in the nearby city of Worcester.

Although some were impressed by the young man's audacity, his outspoken defiance of regulations was not conducive to keeping clients. With his legal career stultified, Spooner took his act to the Midwest, where he tried to become a real-estate mogul.



Six profitless years later, the penniless Spooner returned to his family farm. Already strapped for cash, he grew increasingly exasperated by the rising 1840s postal rates. Not one to suffer in silence, he got proactive.

A prolific pamphleteer, Spooner published *The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mails*. Then, on January 23, 1844, he launched the American Letter Mail Company, which provided daily postal routes along Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington.

Contention came immediately, but Spooner was prepared. He cited Article 1, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution and its declaration that "[The Congress shall have power] to establish post offices and post roads."¹ Though this declaration clearly allowed Congress to run a mail service, he argued it did not state that anyone else was prohibited from establishing *their own* mail service.

Spooner then invoked Natural Law, stating that there lies

a *natural right* to perform labor for other people. By attempting to ban private mail services, he contended the U.S. Post Office was putting itself in violation of that natural right.

For an additional point, Spooner cited the First Amendment² and its protection of the communication of ideas; he declared that, based on this stipulation, one should be able to choose the medium by which one expresses oneself — the ability to select one's own mail service.

Aside from the personal freedom aspect, Spooner claimed that postal competition would benefit the public in the form of faster and cheaper mail service. About that much, he was surely correct; at the time he started the American Mail Company, the post office was charging twenty-five cents to send a letter from Boston to Washington; Spooner's mail service was able to cut the rate to less than seven cents.

Spooner ran an ad on the front page of the *New York Daily Tribune* that read:

AMERICAN POST OFFICE — The American Letter Mail Company has established post offices in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston, and will deliver letters daily from each city to the others — twice a day between New York and Philadelphia. Postage 6½ cents per half ounce, payable in advance always. Stamps 20 for a dollar. Their purpose is to carry letters by the most rapid conveyances, and at the cheapest rates and to extend their operations (as fast a patronage will justify) over the principal routes of the country, so as to give the public the most extensive facilities for correspondence that can be afforded at a uniform rate.

The Company design also (if sustained by the public) is to thoroughly agitate the questions, and test the Constitutional right to the competition in the business of carrying letters — the grounds on which they assert this right are published and for sale at the post offices in pamphlet form.³

As one might guess, U.S. postal revenues saw a significant decline. Some were pretty upset with Spooner, and these tended to be people of power. They hired a slew of attorneys, and a lengthy legal battle ensued.

Ultimately, in 1851, Congress enacted a law that effectively gave the U.S. government a monopoly on mail service. As a compromise, the postal rate was reduced to three cents for delivery anywhere in the country. Impressively, this rate would remain in effect for more than a century.

Author Steve Shone says that in the wake of this resolution Spooner began seeking a monetary reward for the wide-ranging public service his postal battle had engendered. Unfortunately for Spooner, “as was usually the case in financial matters, he was unsuccessful.”⁴

Although he had wielded much influence, Spooner was now out of business. In the 1850s he channeled his energies, indignation, and talents into the anti-slavery cause. At that time, his home state of Massachusetts was a hotbed of the abolitionist cause, and he became one of its foremost figures. His most notable work on the issue was *The Unconstitutionality of Slavery* — a book so compelling it brought praise even from certain pro-slavery legislators.⁵

In spite of Spooner’s intense opposition to slavery, the ardent proponent of individual freedom claimed that Confederate states had a right to secede from the Union for the same self-determining reason that slaves had the right to be free. This anti-slavery, pro-secession argument was displeasing to both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

After the Civil War, Spooner stirred up more noise when he contended that the North had fought the Civil War not for the noble goal of liberating slaves, but rather to maintain the Union for economic reasons. It was an incendiary contention which resonated with many, including Benjamin Tucker (1854–1939) — editor of the individualist anarchism journal *Liberty*.

Tucker’s radical publication (published 1881–1908) would proceed to feature much of Spooner’s works, many of which were composed at the Boston Athenaeum Library, where Spooner stood out as “the stooping figure of an aged man, bending over a desk piled high with dusty volumes of history, jurisprudence, political science, and constitutional law.”⁶

At this point, Spooner had taken up residence in Boston’s swanky Beacon Hill section. His time was divided between his room on Myrtle St. and his Athenaeum writing desk — both settings were conducive to his voracious writing and study on subjects ranging from the dollar bill to intellectual property. His most widely circulated work was a pamphlet called *Revolution*, which supported Irish nationalists in their effort to reclaim territory from British rule.

During Spooner’s later years, many promising endeavors went uncompleted; as his editor Tucker pointed out, “some new subject would absorb his attention and the old work would remain unfinished.”⁷ The result was an old man growing older amid a chaos of first-chapters and pamphlets. He lived this way until his death at age seventy-nine. One week after Spooner’s passing, Tucker wrote a lengthy obituary in *Liberty*, “Our Nestor Taken From Us” — an eloquent tribute to his fallen friend, whose death otherwise went largely unnoticed by the philatelic community and the world at large.

Endnotes

1. The United States Constitution, Article I (The Legislative Branch), Section 8 (Powers of Congress), Clause 7: “[The Congress shall have power] to establish post offices and post roads.” See www.house.gov/house/Constitution/Constitution.html.
2. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”
3. Lucille J. Goodyear, “Spooner vs. U.S. Postal System,” *American Legion Magazine* (January 1981); reprinted at www.lysanderspooner.org/STAMP3.htm.
4. Stever J. Shone, *Lysander, Spooner: American Anarchist* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010).
5. Lysander Spooner’s *Collected Works*, edited by Charles Shively, were published in 1971, and can still be found for sale, along with individual volumes of his work, on websites such as Amazon.com. The *Collected Works* also can be read online at The Online Library of Liberty, <http://oll.libertyfund.org/>.
6. Benjamin Tucker, “Our Nestor Taken from Us,” *Liberty* (May 28, 1887) at the Libertarian Labyrinth, www.libertarian-labyrinth.org/archive/Our_Nestor_Taken_From_Us.
7. *Ibid.*

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The Author

Ray Cavanaugh enjoys long walks and short novels. He is also interested in most things Celtic, including his mother's huge collection of Hibernian stamps.

CAPORN

A Philatelic Puzzle

by Don Avery

The single stamp, illustrated here in a block of twelve, is a 20-centime value inscribed "CAPORN" at the top and "Timbre / 20 C / mes / Prime" below. It is crudely pin-perforated and printed in black on pink paper. At present this block may be the largest in existence. Very few copies of the stamp exist, so it is probably not philatelic in inspiration. The argument for its being a local post is based on a single source found in *Stamp Collecting* in 1951.

The full text for this reference reads:

Help Wanted! By G.S. Russell, Sydney, Australia.

This story was told me by a Monsieur Caporn, son of

Louis Caporn, who in 1880 ran a store in the township of Noumea in the French Colony of New Caledonia. In that year M. Caporn, Senior, was granted permission of the local government to run a local post, and sell stamps at his store. He had these printed in Paris, and sold them at 20 centimes only. Very little is known about this issue, of which we illustrate a strip, but M. Caporn, Jnr. is convinced that these were actually used on local letters, though he has none left now. An interesting corollary is that Caporn's store was also the local post office at the time.¹

This source was referenced in articles by L.N. Williams and Bill Hornadage.

However, a second argument has been made that it is a



Largest known block of CAPORN stamps.

trading stamp like the old S&H Green Stamps, which could be saved up and exchanged for goods. In a recent piece in *Atalaya*, Christer Brunstrom writes:

I am pretty sure that this is not a local postage stamp but rather a discount stamp issued by the Caporn Store. I saw numerous other timbres-primes issued by various commercial enterprises in France during my visit to France in May 2002.²

Although the dictionary definition of timbre-prime is indeed “trading stamp,” in his article Williams noted that “The exact meaning to be attached to ‘prime’ seems to be doubtful, and I have not encountered a satisfactory explanation of the use of that word.”³ In the United States the trading stamp was introduced by Schuster’s department store in Milwaukee in 1891. Is it possible that trading stamps were well known in New Caledonia eleven years before that? The answer to that question needs to be found in the history of trading stamps in France. Perhaps our readers can help. The stamp itself is so crude one wonders why Caporn would have to go to France to have it printed.

The only known used copy turned up recently and is illustrated here. It is on very thin paper and it is impossible to tell whether it was part of an envelope or torn from a pad. The “cancellation” is a triangular nick from the stamp surrounded by ink. But whether this is a clipped trading stamp or marked for some other reason remains a mystery.



Only known used copy of the stamp; note outline triangular nick at upper left.

Endnotes

1. G.S. Russell, “Help Wanted!” *Stamp Collecting* (June 29, 1951).
2. Christer Brunstrom, in *Atalaya*, No. 56 (Winter 2002–2003): 5.
3. L.N. Williams, *Linn's Stamp News* (September 9, 1996).

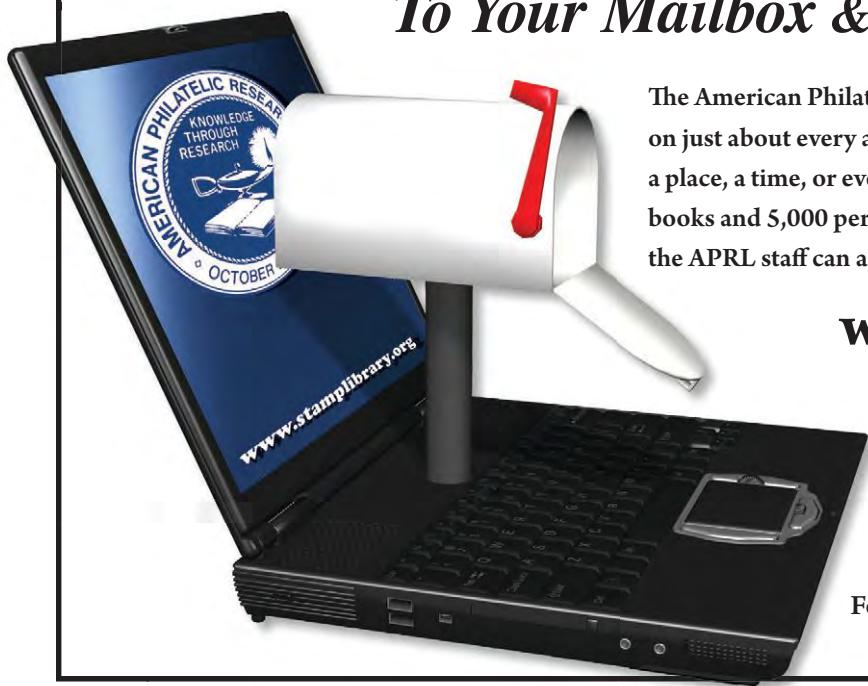
The Author

Don Avery is a retired federal employee who collects local posts of the world prior to 1940.

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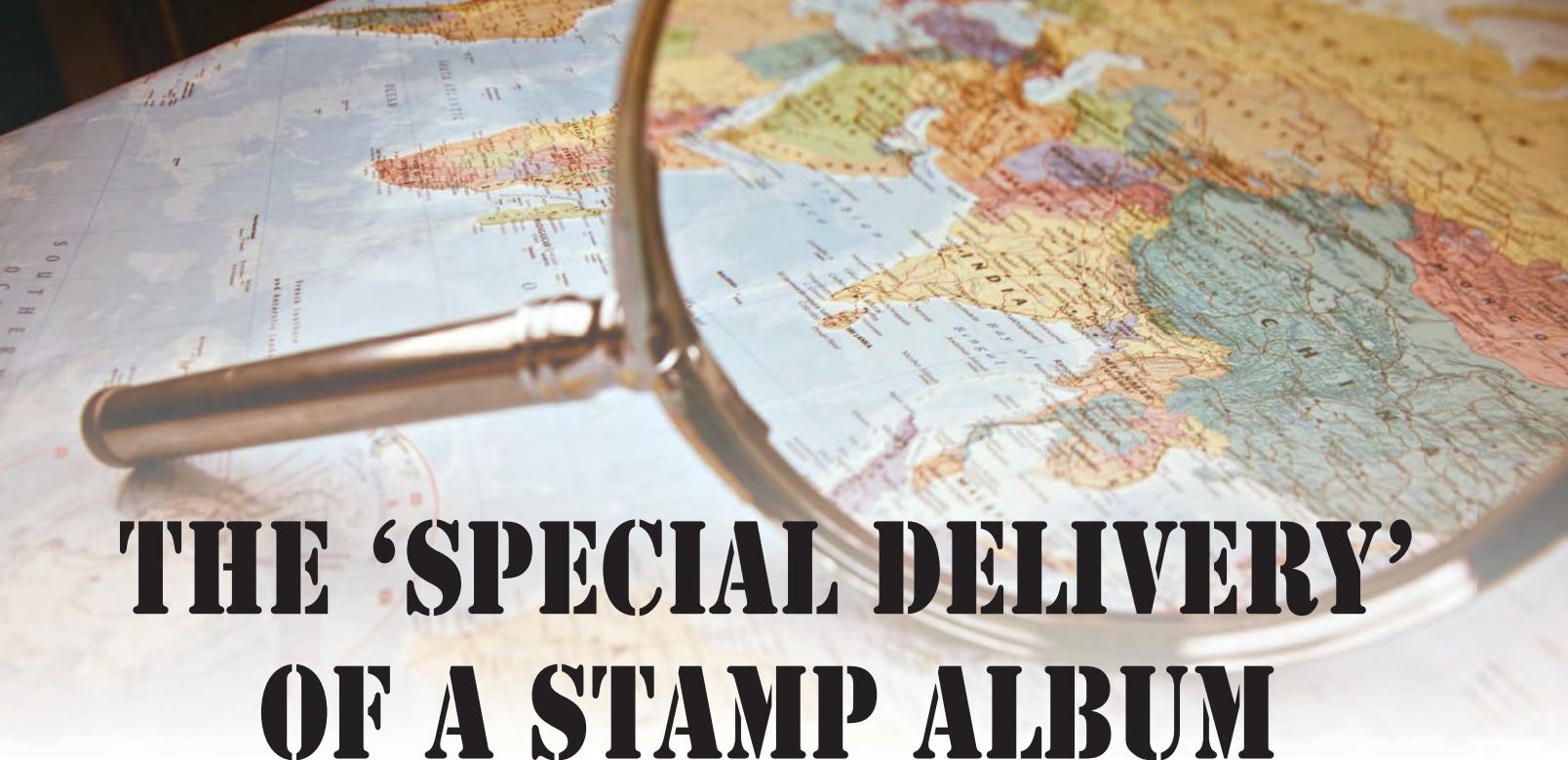
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THE ‘SPECIAL DELIVERY’ OF A STAMP ALBUM

by Kenneth M. Davis

As one who has been a stamp collector for more than sixty years, including my *juvenilia* phase, so to speak, and one who has subscribed to many club, society, and hobby publications in the last half of this period, I can count on one hand the number of articles devoted primarily to the home of those objects stamp collectors pursue and to which we devote so much of our time and money — stamp albums.¹

Perhaps because I have spent so much of my life working in an academic environment, especially before the advent of the computer and its derivatives, I have always had a great appreciation for the intrinsic charms of books, whether in terms of their font styles, the feel of their paper’s texture, the quality of the illustrations and page design, or even the bindings themselves, especially in older books. The craftsmanship involved in the making of books can carry over into the production of stamp albums and is something I look for in the housing of my stamps.

The lack of articles about distinctive albums and their provenance is puzzling, given stamp collectors’ natural appreciation for the inherent aesthetic beauty of postage stamps and, as in the case of very expensive stamps, their provenance.² This has become more important with the increasing number of single country pages cannibalized from international albums that are found in dealer’s advertisements or in boxes for sale at shows, resulting in album binders that have become a “shell” of their former selves. Or, even worse, discovering a bunch of pages stapled together minus the binder that is still referred to as a “collection.”

Because you always see the album cover before the stamps inside, its appearance can make the viewer want to

see the collection almost as much as knowing what stamps are inside. Thus, sometimes the stamp collector’s goal of “completion” is sacrificed for the sake of having unique albums whose pages may never be filled. Such is the case with the album that is the subject of this article.

The “India” Album

The story behind the “special delivery” of my India album began in August 2009 when our friends Karuna and Nahal Perera asked if my wife and I could house sit their dog while they were gone for a year on a sabbatical to India. We agreed to do this and, as an aside, I asked if they would keep an eye out for something related to stamp collecting that they might get for me in their travels. I mentioned that I was particularly interested in acquiring an album, since most stamps, even rarities, can be purchased readily in the United States, while albums afforded the possibility of discovering something unique.

My interest in this quest intensified when I saw an advertisement for a stamp shop, Priti Prachee Philately, located in Nadiad, a city of about 108,000 in northwest India in Gujarat state on the Gulf of Kutch. The owner, Dave Hariprasad Dipak, was the only dealer from India to advertise in the stamp dealer directory I had just received.³ As fate or luck would have it, the Pereras would be located in Ahmadabad, a much larger city of about 2 million also in Gujarat and only about 50–60 kilometers east of Nadiad. Then began a series of e-mail conversations that were to last about six weeks and to result in the purchase of an album for me by Karuna: *India Pre Independence Stamps Book, 1852–1946, Volume One* (1975), “Designed, Published and Distributed by Philatelia, One Mangoe Lane, Calcutta One, India.”

On September 15, 2009, Markand, an employee or partner of Mr. Dipak, sent the following e-mail in response to my initial inquiry, reassuring me that I would approve of the album he had in the shop:

I appreciate your choosy attitude. Me too...!

It is old-fashioned binder, which is getting fitted with two screws. So there are only two holes on every page. The album is very impressive. Once you have it in your hand, you will feel proud, even w/o having any stamp [sic] in it. It look like a holly [sic] book. There is no box. The album is coffee colored and covered by thick cloth linen material. The pages are thick & good enough. All I can say is that its [sic] a luxury album. To make a long story short, you will love it. If you won't then I will return your money.

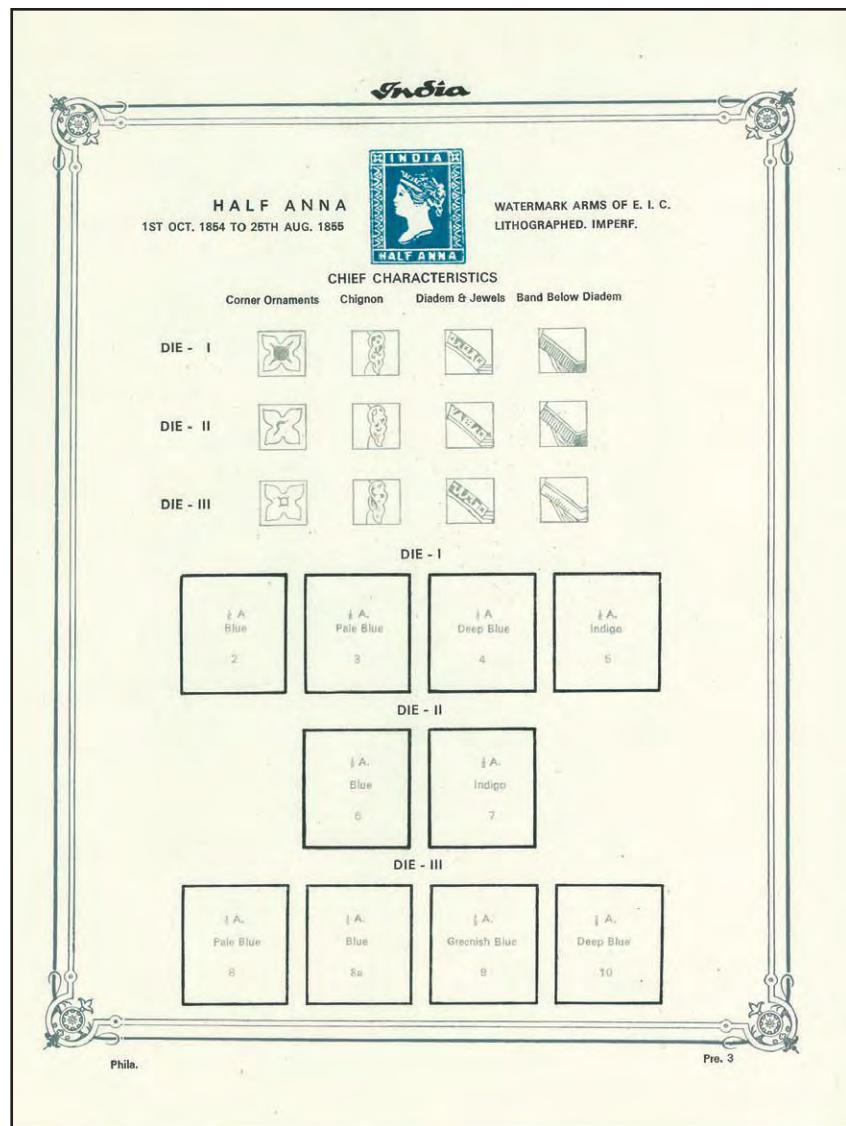
Regard,
Markand

At first Karuna and I were suspicious of finding the proverbial needle in a haystack so quickly and at a fair price. She offered to search in a variety of other places including bookstores, but realizing that she was not a collector and based on my years of experience in acquiring albums, I felt that hoping to purchase such an album in any place other than a stamp store was remote at best. Taking all this into consideration, I was of the opinion that this was the album she should buy. The next task was to get the album from Nadiad to Ahmadabad. Although it was not a great distance, Karuna did not drive and Markand did not feel comfortable using the regular mail system. After several false starts, they were able to coordinate a delivery by courier in early October.

In her e-mail announcing its arrival Karuna wrote: "I opened the album and found it in very good condition. It is up to 1921 and says till pre independence." This was upsetting, because Markand had sent me scans of individual pages showing that the album covered issues at least through 1937. I e-mailed Markand for clarification, and on October 13 he responded that Karuna was in error:

I want to reassure you that I have sent the same thing you have seen by scans. Karuna is not a philatelic person and I suggest to you don't ask her anything other wise she must will confuse you. Pl trust me and wait until you get it.

Then began the wait until my newly purchased album would arrive back in the United States. On December 1 Nahal and Karuna arrived in Singapore where Nahal would be teaching until April 2010. Karuna notified me that they had arrived safely, but because they were only allowed to carry



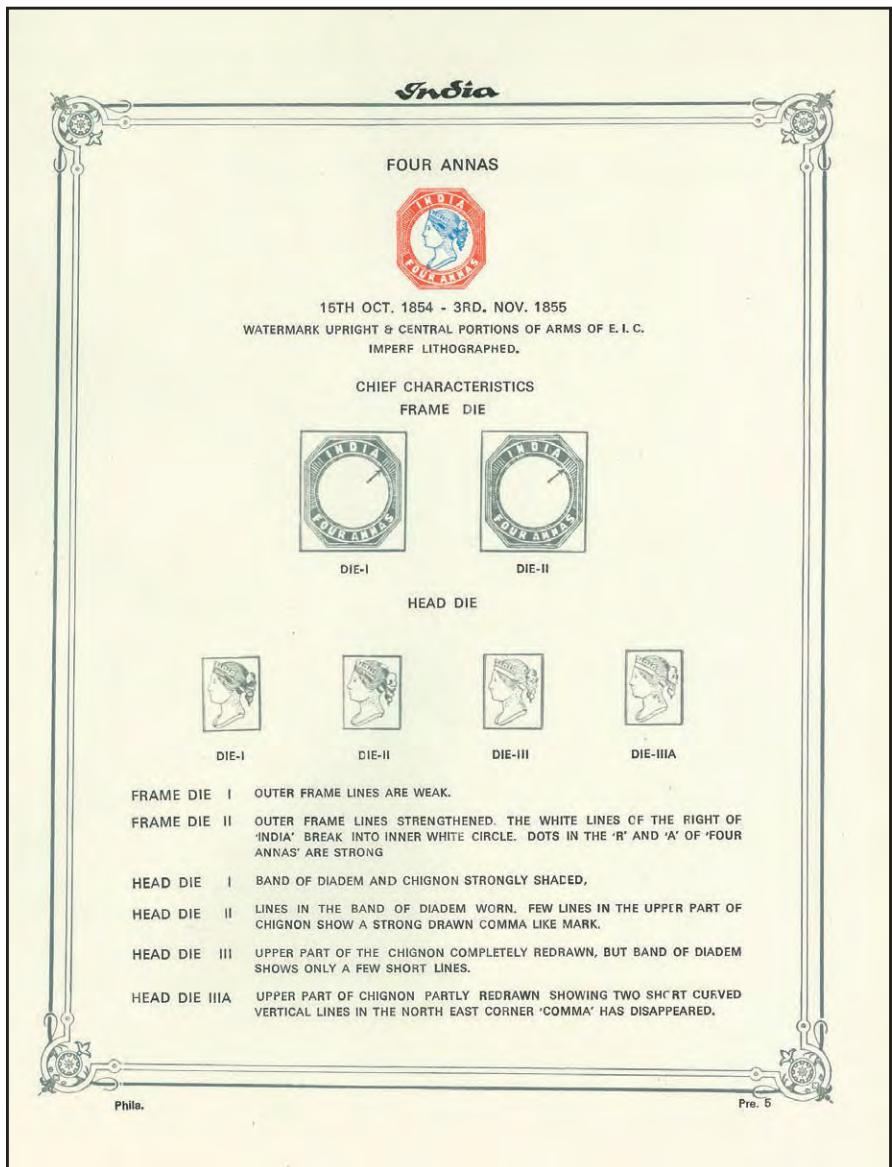
Details of various dies of the frame and head for the half anna issue are shown above spaces for the actual stamps.

one suitcase each, the album had to be "squeezed in" with all of their other items and that the album binder's corners had been "bent a little." What this meant in terms of severity was not clear, but it was a concern that would not be resolved until I saw the album for myself.

Then fate and good fortune took a hand. On January 13, Dharini Perera, who was a student at the Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn, and her brother went to Singapore to visit their parents over the winter school break, and Dharini was able to bring the album back to Brooklyn with her. On January 23 my son Brad, who lives in New Jersey but works in Manhattan, made the trip into Brooklyn to pick up the album, and on January 27 made a surprise visit to Muncie, Indiana to deliver it to me.

Evaluation

Did the album's qualities warrant all the time and expense to find and bring it to Muncie? The real beauty and uniqueness of my newly acquired Indian album consists of



Details of the various dies of the frame and head for the four annas issue take up an entire album page.

three main things. First, and most important, is the fact that the album combines features that are not generally found. An example of this can be seen on page 3 where the various dies of the frame and head of the stamp are illustrated and explained on the same page on which there are actual spaces for the stamps described. This feature is rather unusual. It gives the Indian album pages the quality of a page in an exhibit frame and goes well beyond the detail provided by current offerings — such as the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*, for example.

In some cases, what I consider the “catalogue component” is presented on a separate page of the album without spaces for the stamps, such as the descriptions for the four-annas frame and head dies on page 5. This is an even more unusual feature in my estimation. Surely, all of this information with its typographical richness is a feast for the eyes, almost equal to the beauty of the stamps themselves,

not to mention providing a mental aid to the understanding of the differences between the various stamps within a single set or period.

Second is the combination of color with the black-and-white typography that is not seen in other albums and, to my knowledge, has been provided by only one other publisher in the United States, and then only very recently.⁴ This is another feature that I can loosely categorize as a “catalogue component,” since color has appeared in catalogues for a longer period of time than it has in albums.⁵

Third is the introduction of each period of stamp issuance by the inclusion of an engraved portrait of the new monarch, beginning with Queen Victoria (r. 1837–1901), continuing with King Edward VII (r. 1901–1910) and George V (r. 1910–1936), and concluding with King George VI (r. 1936–1952). It is a nice “extra” touch that serves to associate the stamps more strongly with each reigning monarch. This is quite helpful in locating each monarch’s stamps in relation to those of other monarchs, as well as separating the album pages into chapter-like sections somewhat characteristic of medieval illuminated manuscripts.

With all of these features, combined with the original border designs, each page of the album becomes a work of art in its own right and not just a temporary storehouse of another commodity — in this case, stamps — that is often quickly and easily thrown away once the stamps have been removed upon change of ownership, either by sale or the demise of the collector, and placed in other collections.

It seems to me that in this age of e-mail and Kindle, etc., where the existence of traditional letters and books increasingly is being questioned and challenged by other forms of communication, it is essential for stamp collectors to insist (rightfully!) that the attraction and pleasure of the hobby is not entirely based upon stamps (which are also increasingly seen as unnecessary) but upon the beauty and pleasure afforded by the albums/books that house them. Additionally, if there is nothing intrinsically important and essential about stamps and also albums, which is the basis of the hobby, there is little hope for stamp collecting to survive into the future.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs. Susan Davis and Aaron R.H. Davis, whose encouragement and technical help are greatly appreciated.

Endnotes

1. Stanley Pillar, "Origin of Stamp Collecting in the United States," *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* (April 2010): 33–37. Pillar's focus is only tangentially about albums. Also see Dennis Carman, *Global Stamp News* (January–March 2009, January 2010) for a more thorough discussion of contemporary, not historical, albums.

2. See, for example, an ad in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* for April 2010 (page 3) that refers to "absolute aesthetics" as an apparent selling and marketing factor. It is curious that, compared to stamps, the provenance of albums, even from famous collections, is of little if any concern.

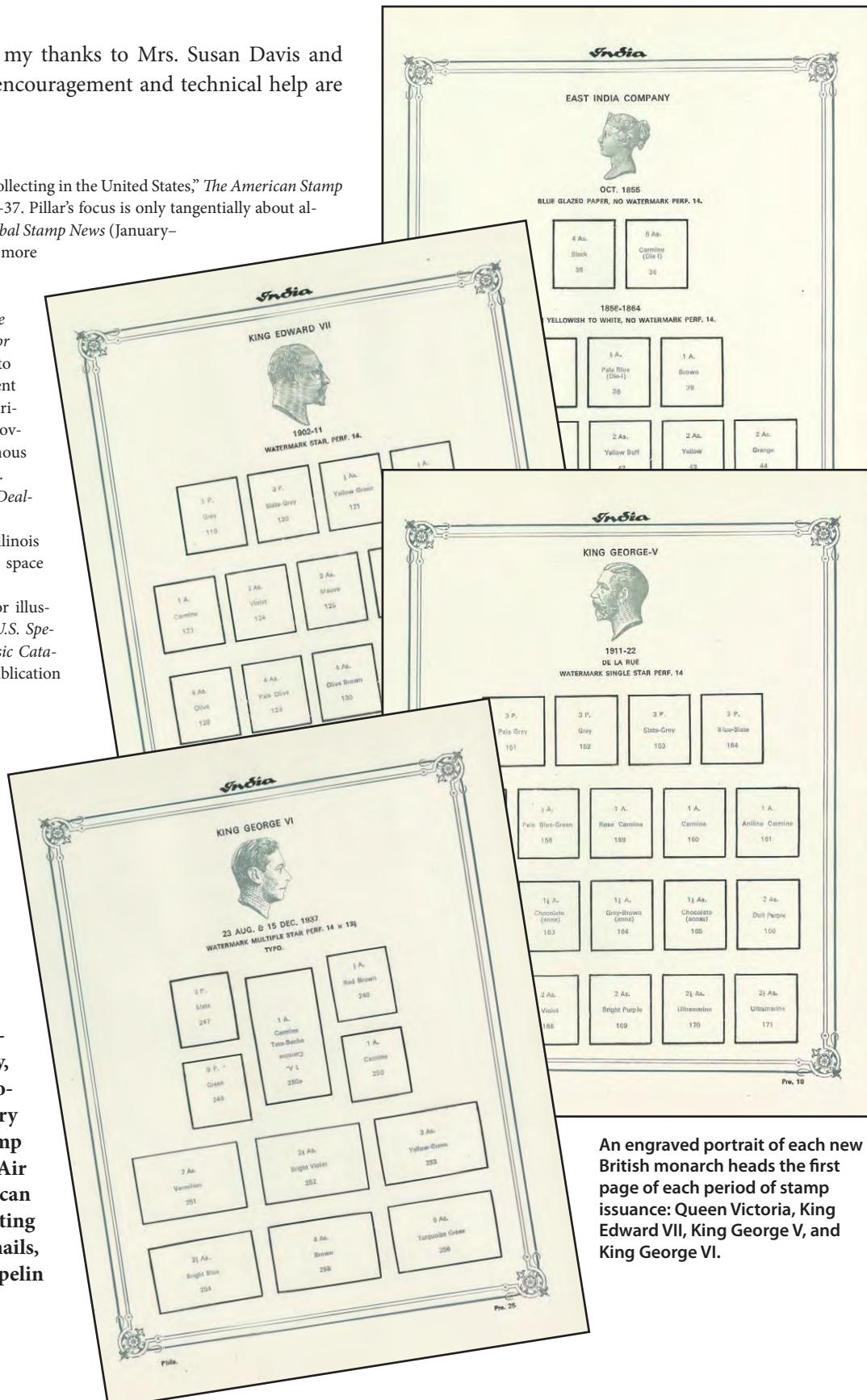
3. *Collectors Guide to ASDA Stamp Dealers* (2009/2010), page 46.

4. Palo Albums in Park Ridge, Illinois started using color illustrations for space stamp illustrations in 2009.

5. Scott catalogues introduced color illustrations of stamps in 2005 for the *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* and for the *Classic Catalogue*, about thirty years after the publication of the Indian album.

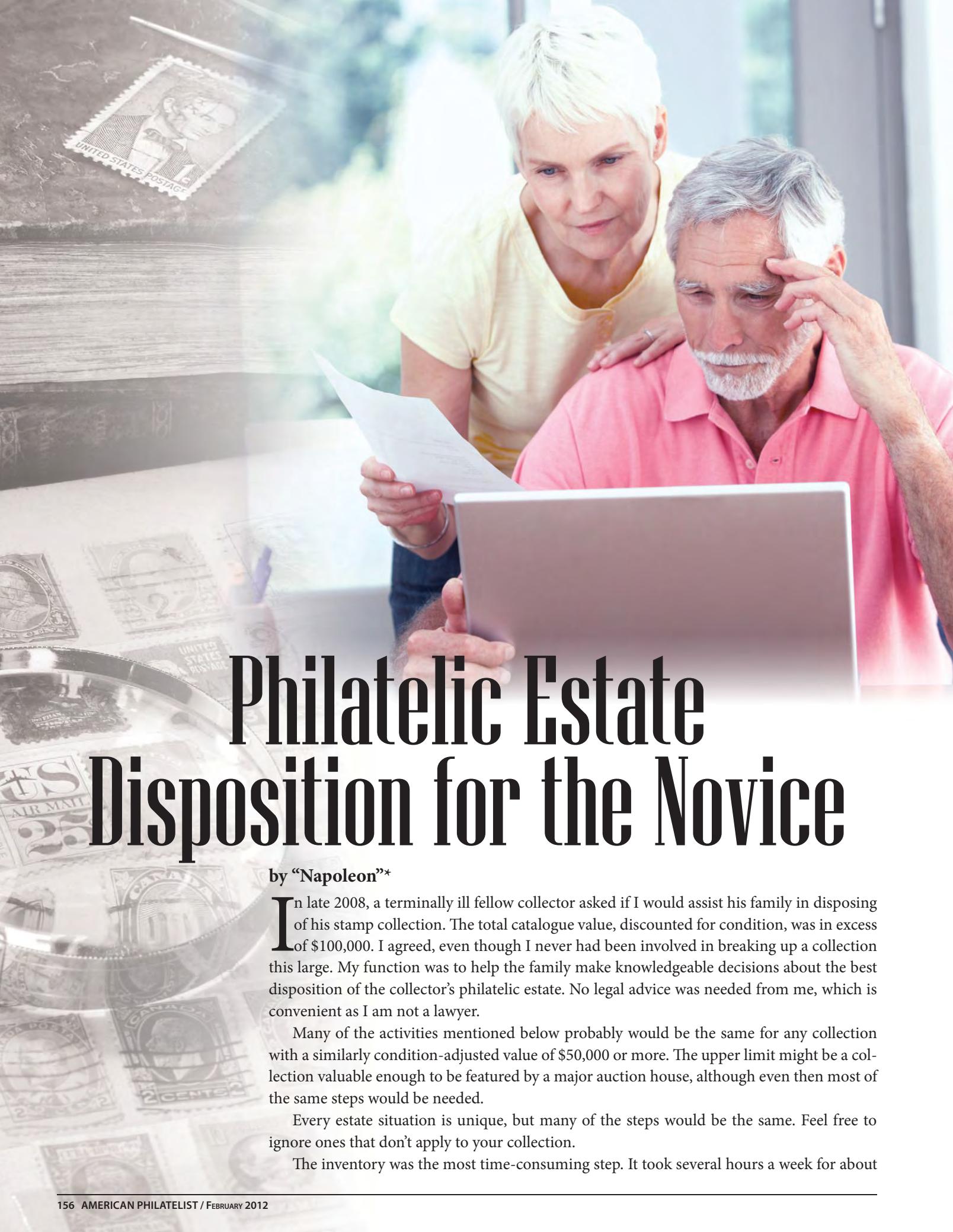
The Author

Kenneth M. Davis is an art historian who has been collecting stamps for more than sixty years. He is past president of the Mailer's Postmark Permit Club and has been a member of several other clubs including the British North America Philatelic Society, Local Post Collectors Society, Ohio Postal Historical Society, Indiana Postal History Society, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., Lighter-than-Air Society, and the American Airmail Society. His collecting interests include world air mails, FDR, and balloon and Zeppelin cinderellas.



An engraved portrait of each new British monarch heads the first page of each period of stamp issuance: Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V, and King George VI.

For information on specialty societies associated with the APS,
visit www.stamps.org/Specialty-Societies



Philatelic Estate Disposition for the Novice

by "Napoleon"*

In late 2008, a terminally ill fellow collector asked if I would assist his family in disposing of his stamp collection. The total catalogue value, discounted for condition, was in excess of \$100,000. I agreed, even though I never had been involved in breaking up a collection this large. My function was to help the family make knowledgeable decisions about the best disposition of the collector's philatelic estate. No legal advice was needed from me, which is convenient as I am not a lawyer.

Many of the activities mentioned below probably would be the same for any collection with a similarly condition-adjusted value of \$50,000 or more. The upper limit might be a collection valuable enough to be featured by a major auction house, although even then most of the same steps would be needed.

Every estate situation is unique, but many of the steps would be the same. Feel free to ignore ones that don't apply to your collection.

The inventory was the most time-consuming step. It took several hours a week for about

three months. But looking at stamps and covers, and studying them for cataloguing, is almost always fun and was this time!

During this process, the family retained possession of all parts of the collection except what I was actively working on. When practical, the inventory was done at a family member's home. This provided ongoing contact with family members and avoided custody concerns related to insurance coverage. By design, I only took home low-value parts of the collection — although there were some surprisingly high catalogue values in material taken off-site.

Security and Other Assistance

Control of the Collection. The collector was an exhibitor with multiple exhibits that had won Golds and better at World Series of Philately shows. The steps we took relative to the exhibits also might apply to the collection of a philatelic writer. Throughout the process the family remained responsible for and in control of the collection. A concern of mine was having the collection in a family house for an extended period. The family eventually rented space in a bank vault for the major items. This was not easy to do. There were few local banks with safety deposit boxes large enough for the three-ring binders that held the exhibits. Eventually such a safety deposit box was found.

Member Societies. The collector belonged to multiple specialized societies. All had websites accessible via the "Stamp Collecting" tab on the APS home page. E-mails were sent to these societies informing them of the death. All replied with expressions of sympathy and offers of help. All also eventually expressed polite interest in knowing what was planned, relative to the collection. All of the societies involved accepted that all contact would be made through me. The reciprocal commitment was that I would let them know as soon as the family made decisions on parts of the collection. By having me as the sole contact with the societies, the family was able to grieve in peace.

Fellow Collectors. As the collector and I belonged to the same local stamp club and had overlapping collecting backgrounds, I was aware of several fellow collectors who would like to be informed of his death. All who had e-mail received notes about the death, which both oriented them toward me as a contact and informed them in a timely fashion. This helped to insulate the family from offers from collectors for parts of the exhibits before the family had a chance to decide if they wanted to sell them.

Advisors. I also ran interference for the family with the inevitable contacts from those who had learned of the collector's death and wanted to make money from advising the



Under the "Services" tab on the APS website (www.stamps.org), click on "Estate Advice." You will find valuable information on what to do if you inherit a collection and how to plan your philatelic estate. In addition, there is an interesting article entitled "Case Files from an Estate Advisor" by Scott Troutman.

family about what to do with the philatelic estate. One such individual wrote to the family claiming he was aware of the collection and death and would be glad to serve as an advisor. The gentleman's name was unfamiliar to me. I wrote back, thanking him for his offer and asking for details of his knowledge of the collection. As expected, that soon ended the correspondence! He probably saw the death notice in a philatelic publication and so knew about a stamp collection that might be available, although he didn't know any details about the collection itself.

Archiving

The first priority was to archive the major exhibits. This was done by scanning each page, then burning CDs for the family, for ExpoNet, and for the APS Library. ExpoNet is a website located at www.japhila.cz/hof/exponet_menu.htm. It was a logical choice for a free Internet display of the exhibits as each had won Golds at World Series of Philately shows. (ExpoNet has some quality restrictions on what exhibits will be accepted.) The APS library (American Philatelic Research Library, APRL) archives exhibits both on CDs and as paper copies. (Paper copies are preferred in color, but black and white is acceptable.) As CDs were needed for ExpoNet and the family, duplicate CDs were given to APRL.

Both ExpoNet and APRL are solutions to the oft-expressed regret about the knowledge lost when exhibits are

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The inventory included information on where each item was located — such as which album, which binder, which box, etc. This made it easier for family members to know which parts of the collection needed careful handling and which did not.

.....

broken up. The family actively concurred with the archiving recommendations. The archiving was done before the exhibits were moved to the bank vault, so both ExpoNet and APRL were given the material to list under a pseudonym provided by the family. Had the actual mailings to ExpoNet and APRL taken place a year or more after the collector's death, the material might have been listed under the collector's name. The family still has the option of asking both ExpoNet and APRL to change the listing, now that enough time has passed to lead potential thieves to realize the collection has been moved.

APS Estate Service

The collector was a member of the American Philatelic Society, so an early notification was sent to APS, especially as the end of the membership year was fast approaching. Knowing of the APS estate service, and realizing that it could be a valuable resource, I wanted to find out how the family could avail itself of this service.

As I learned, a family can apply for assistance for up to a year after a member's death. I explained to the family what

No Instructions; A Cautionary Tale

The following is a modestly edited response of a fellow stamp collector after reading an e-mail on the estate resolution process I had undertaken:

After reading this story I can see why so many families end up giving the collections away or storing them away and not dealing with them.

Did I ever tell you about my Mum's school friend? The friend's dad was a pretty advanced collector of US and British Commonwealth. From what I gather most of the "good stuff" went to a second-hand dealer who got it for a pittance while the friend burned most of what was left in the burning barrel in the back yard. My mum rescued a couple of boxes and gave them to me, and from that sample I'm guessing that the friend burned more than a few hundred dollar bills that day. But she wasn't interested and looked at the stamps and covers as old junk, and her dad didn't leave her any instructions as to what to do.

benefits they would get from the service, all provided at no cost. With the agreement of the family, I then contacted the APS and was given the names of three APS member-volunteers who provided estate service in the local area. I and other local club members reviewed the names, ranked the three in order of suitability for the collection involved, and gave the family the rankings. When the family made a decision, I contacted the volunteer and requested his help, giving him contact information for myself and for the primary family representative.

The APS representative was knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful. He and another local dealer were great assets in deciding how to price some unusual items and how to discount "damaged" material. Much of the detail in the **Value and Inventory** section below came from these two individuals. The APS volunteer gave suggestions about what was and was not worth concern and about options available for disposal of the collection. Throughout, he made it appropriately clear that the decisions needed to be made *by the family* and that any eventual actions needed to be taken by family members.

The inventory was completed by the time the family's estate lawyer explained that he needed an appraisal of the collection for tax purposes. Formal appraisals are not a free part of the estate service, but when the family asked for suggested appraisers, the APS estate service volunteer was a logical suggestion. He was asked and agreed, for a rather reasonable fee. He sat down at a family member's home to which the major items had been brought. I sat with him to answer questions as he went through my inventory. In less than eight hours he had completed his notes, from which he then worked up his formal report.

When the appraiser finished his on-site review, he asked what I thought the family should expect a dealer to offer. My response was a figure at 20 percent of the inventory total. He then revealed that he had come up with a figure equal to 22–22.5 percent of the inventory total. [Note: The inventory was only of items with a *Scott Catalogue* value of \$10 or more and discounted heavily (90% or more) for items in poor condition.]

When the family had made their decisions on what to keep and what to sell, the APS representative made specific recommendations about whom to contact to get offers. Such decisions, in large part, have to be related to the location of a collection and won't be covered here.

Value and Inventory

For the collection involved, an initial inventory was created of all material with a *Scott Catalogue* value of \$10 or more.¹ Any material that was torn, thin, stained, heavily canceled, regummed, missing gum, missing perforations, badly centered, had very narrow margins, or had a straight edge (if a perforated stamp) was discounted by 90 percent or more, depending on the defect. The final inventory was only of ma-

terial that either was in good condition or that had a \$10 or more value **after** discounting for condition.

All the items in the collection were given at least a casual glance. Only those that looked like they **might** catalogue \$10 or more were catalogued. This meant that well over 90 percent of the collection was not catalogued, considerably reducing the time needed for the inventory.

The inventory included information on where each item was located — such as which album, which binder, which box, etc. This made it easier for family members to know which parts of the collection needed careful handling and which did not. Until the family knew what value was assessed for the various parts of the collection, they were unable to make intelligent decisions on what to do with each part. The decision process, incidentally, took about fifteen months. The inventory also made it easier for the appraiser to find important items needing his review.

Concurrent with preparing the inventory, I helped guide the family's efforts to cut off bulk mail (such as auction catalogues) and expenses (e.g., U.N. new issue subscription and dues in various philatelic societies). Curtailing these philatelic expenses involved helping the family decide which memberships should be continued and why. An example of a continued membership was the APS, via the collector's wife, in order to maintain the APS insurance policy.

As of Today

The family now has decided to keep the exhibits and use them as the basis of a video for television presentation and possible educational use in schools. The rest of the collection will be offered to an auction house within driving distance for sale or consignment. The auction house was recommended by the APS estate service volunteer, and I fully agreed.

My current activity is to notify Expo-Net and the relevant specialist societies of the family's decision and to give each of them the designated family contact, get phone and/or e-mail contact information at the auction house for the family, and be available for the family if other questions arise. The auction house step may not maximize the return to the family, but the process has been wearing on the members. They have had to find space to store the collection safely, have had ongoing worry about possible damage, and have had to make decisions about what to do with each part. They want to get on

Translating Catalogue Value into Cash

It is important for owner/heirs to recognize the fact that the average collection will bring cash-in-hand (condition-adjusted value of the material) equal to perhaps 20% of the *unadjusted* catalogue value of the collection. Let's take a collection with a Scott value of \$250,000 for all items, with no adjustment for condition. Let's assume that the condition adjustment cuts that down to \$200,000, and let's further assume that the \$10-and-up items total, after adjustment for condition, is \$175,000. Twenty percent of that is \$35,000 — in effect, a "loss" of \$215,000 from what the novice might expect based on a first look at catalogue values.

with their lives and with honoring the collector by making a history and stamp video based on his major exhibits.

Endnote

A useful article on stamp pricing is archived on the APS Chapter Activities Committee website at: <http://www.stamps.org/CAC/artg002.htm>. The article is more than a decade old, but the concepts remain valid. Pay particular attention to Sections II A and III.

The Author

"Napoleon"** is the pen name of a frequent contributor to *The Canadian Philatelist* and an occasional contributor to the APS Chapter Activities Committee article archives who prefers, for security reasons, to remain anonymous.



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Early Feedback

Our new website has been live about a month, long enough to get a variety of feedback which has ranged from "Well worth the wait" from APS member and *Linn's Stamp News* Computers and Stamps columnist William Sharpe to "APS should not have spent one penny or one minute of staff time on a new website." With 35,000 members we can count on a wide range of opinions!

We appreciate all the constructive feedback and especially the assistance of members who have identified and helped us eliminate a few bugs that were not caught in the testing environment. We're pleased that about 7,500 people have visited the site during its first month. About 4,500 of the 7,500 have set up user accounts and more than 2,000 of the 7,500 have used the site more than once. Nearly 3,000 communications have been placed on the site, ranging from a \$5 donation to an \$11,727.85 purchase of a single stamp from StampStore.

The greatest challenge has been making it clear to all our members that they need to establish a **user account** to access member-only content such as viewing the digital *American Philatelist*, purchasing items from StampStore, and even paying their dues. On our previous website, unless you used StampStore or paid dues there was no need to create an account, but the site was open to all who visited. Now that we have established protected "member-only" content, even non-members who wish to purchase a book or a show function ticket need to open an account on the new website. We have tried conveying this in an e-blast, in the December *American Philatelist*, and on the front page of the website, but we have heard from a number of members who missed these messages.

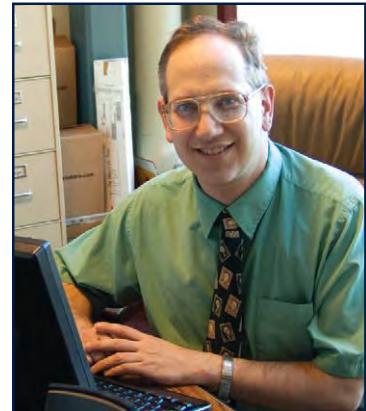
Also, a number of members who had accounts on the former website assumed they could use the same info to log in on the new site. Unfortunately, most of the previous accounts did not meet the security requirements of the new site nor were these previous accounts tied to our member database, which is why *every member* needs to open a new account.

A third major challenge was the members who created new accounts but were not immediately recognized as members because we did not have their current (or sometimes any) e-mail address on file. Staff have worked hard to help members who have had problems creating an account. If you have an outstanding problem, please contact us.

Keeping Up-to-Date

We have strived to achieve a balance between "state of the art" and broad compatibility on the new website. While one member using Windows 95 and a 14.4K modem has reported successfully browsing the site (slowly I am sure), another member with a 17-year-old computer and Explorer 3.0 said the site did not look very good on their computer, and I expect some of the site features would not work for them either.

While a few of our members are pushing for us to move to use QR (Quick Response) codes and provide applications for their Smart Phones, we understand that others may not find it relaxing or enjoyable to use the Internet. An Internet presence, however, is important in order for us to provide



more timely information than is possible in print, to supplement print information, and to appeal to the younger generation who are the APS members of the future. By the publication deadline for the January issue of *The American Philatelist*, the United States Postal Service had announced only two dates and eleven planned issues for January 2012. By late December dates for fifteen U.S. issues scheduled for release during January 2012 were on the APS website.

Similarly, board meeting agendas are not known far enough in advance to include in *The American Philatelist*, nor do we have page space in the magazine to include board minutes, budgets, financial and audited statements, or even World Series show exhibit winners.

During the first thirty days, the site's dealer directory, club directory, and show calendar were used about 3,000 times. There is no way staff could handle that volume of calls if the information was not available on our website. And while only about one of every twenty dues renewals is currently being made on line, approximately 50 percent of all new applicants apply for membership over the website.

Even among those of our members who are active online, we realize that a variety of communication methods appeal to the membership. While one member who regularly buys philatelic material from our online StampStore recently told me that he has never opened or sent an e-mail; for others, e-mail has largely replaced traditional mail. Thus, we provide a monthly e-newsletter and occasional e-blasts for shows and other events.

Others of you keep up with family and friends on Facebook. During December the APS Facebook account offered photos of Christmas Eve activity at the American Philatelic Center as well as a selection of the philatelically themed holiday cards we received. APS also has an active group on LinkedIn. In one week in December the APS LinkedIn group included conversations on the preferred method for removing a hinge from a stamp, recommended means for adding to your collection, ideas for becoming a stamp dealer, and your favorite ways for removing stamps from paper. Others of you may prefer or also enjoy the APS YouTube channel, Twitter, or the American Philatelic Research Library blog.

All of the above allow us to share information relatively easily (and inexpensively) and expose the hobby to more individuals. However, we realize that not every member has Internet access or interest in the world wide web. Our staff look forward to helping you, no matter where you fall on the technology spectrum.

Busy December

Even without bringing a new website live, December is always a busy month for staff. Many members prefer to pay their dues by phone, and typically nearly half of all cash and in-kind donations received during the calendar year arrive in December. In past years we have received very few donations online, and I am glad to report that the new website seems to have resulted in a significant increase. I am also pleased to report that among the hundred or so in-kind gifts of philatelic material received in December are three very large gifts. **Stephen Dubina** transported a van-load of first day covers to us. Another van-load of books, journals, and auction catalogues for the Library came from **Edward Martin**. And **Myron and Judy Kaller** hired a courier from the New York City area to make sure their gift, including classic U.S. stamps and covers with an appraised value of nearly \$250,000, arrived by December 31.

We always welcome visitors, which this year included Christmas Eve visits from the widow and children of **Ling-Wen Hu**, who donated \$100,000 in memory of their husband and father, who was an avid user of APS

sales circuits. The Sales Division has been renamed the Ling-Wen Hu Circuit Sales Division in his honor. **Ted Tedesco** spent nearly the entire month of December with us conducting research in the Library. We try our best to accommodate members even outside of normal working hours and were happy that we could make our facilities available to him a couple weekends in addition to Christmas Eve.

We were also pleased that Ted and many of our volunteers were able to join the staff for our holiday party, funded completely by donations. Special thanks to donors including Ted Bahry, Ken Grant, Joann and Kurt Lenz, and Alan Parsons. We also recognized nearly a third of the staff who reached 5-year multiples of service this year. They were:



The Ling-Wen Hu family visits the American Philatelic Center prior to the holidays.



Staff members recognized during APC holiday party — from left: Megan Crater, Ruth Ann Mayes, Kelley Binkley, Bill Dixon, Mercer Bristow, Barb Boal, Helen Bruno, and Dennis Greenly (Ilene Barner not pictured.)

35 Years

Helen Bruno, Advertising Manager

Ruth Ann Mayes, Circuit Sales

30 Years

Barb Boal, *American Philatelist* Editor

Mercer Bristow, Expertizing Director

Bill Dixon, Circuit Sales Manager

25 Years

Ilene Barner, Mailroom Manager

15 Years

Kelley Binkley, Internet Sales

Dennis Greenly, Building Superintendent

10 Years

Megan Crater, Internet Sales and Fund-raising Assistant

Upcoming Events & Activities

While this is written well before our Atlanta AMERISTAMP EXPO, this event will be over before many of you read my column. Both the website and e-newsletter include calendars of upcoming events. Some of the other significant events scheduled for the remainder of the year include:

March 12–23, 2012

APS Stamp Cruise — Book Now!

June 17–22, 2012

July 23–27, 2012

August 16–19, 2012

Nov. 2–4, 2012

33rd Annual Summer Seminar

Volunteer Work Week

APS STAMPSHOW, California

U.S. Classics Show and Annual Postal History Symposium

This year's Summer Seminar is bookended by two stamp shows. The local Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society will have its annual SCOPEX show at the American Philatelic Center the weekend prior to the Summer Seminar and the American Topical Association will have its annual National Topical Stamp Show, Friday–Sunday following in nearby Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

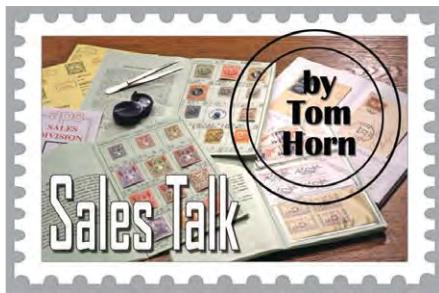
Another event that we hope we can schedule for September but that is not yet set in stone is a tour of the Stamp Fulfillment Services (SFS) in the "Cave" near Kansas City.

Thanks to All

Thanks to all the members who sent holiday cards. As noted earlier, a small selection of these can be viewed on the APS Facebook page. And thank you for promptly renewing, thus saving us costs of mailing reminders. The staff and board look forward to working hard to serve you and make your collecting experience more enjoyable for 2012.

Visit the new APS website today!

W W W . S T A M P S . O R G



Next-of-Kin Information, Please

Sellers

For several years, we have collected next-of-kin information from our sellers so that if a seller member passes away, we are able to contact someone who can receive the unsold sales books and the check for the sales. In the letter we send to sellers, it says that if we cannot make contact with anyone concerning their retiring books within three years, the material and the check proceeds will be considered donations to the Society. The seller is asked to provide the name and address of an heir, executor, or friend, and then to sign the form agreeing to its content and authorizing us to contact the person entered on the form, if necessary.

Buyers

We are now sending a similar letter with all introductory mini-circuits and to those members who request category additions and do not already have this information registered with us. The reason for this is that we send a lot of val-

able material in each circuit, and while we do not usually have problems retrieving a circuit from the family of a member who has passed away unexpectedly, there are times when the family has no idea that the member was even receiving the APS circuits. They simply lump the circuit or circuits in with the member's collection and sell it. Having the contact information allows us to avoid this situation and inform the heirs that the circuit contents do not belong to the member's estate.

Inform Your Heirs

One way to help us is to inform your heirs, executor, or very close friend about your approval participation. They need to know that these approvals should not be included in your collection. The clue for them should be the appearance of someone else's name and the APS address on the sales book cover. If you purchase whole sales books from the Clearance circuits or regular circuits or from another member's estate, it might make

sense to remove the covers and discard them.

Sales Division & the New Website

Finding Information

The new APS website is up and running, as announced in the December issue of *The American Philatelist*. In the Sales Division section ("Buy and Sell by Mail" in the drop-down box under Services), you may use the circuit request form to make changes to your category list. The comment section of the form may be used to communicate with us.

The information about the Sales Division that was on the old website is now contained under fewer headings: "How To Buy," "How To Sell," "Circuit Request Form," and "Sales Talk Column." You will find the links in those pages that should give you answers to most of your questions. And, of course, you may always call us at 814-933-3803 or write to us at 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

<input type="checkbox"/> I authorize the APS to contact the person(s) named here in the event that I cannot be reached concerning the disposition of circuits or there is a problem that must be addressed. I have notified the person(s) about using their contact information for this purpose.		
Contact's Name _____	Relationship _____	
Contact's Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Contact's Daytime Phone _____	Contact's E-mail _____	
APS Member's Name _____	APS No. _____	
Member's Daytime Phone _____	Member's E-mail Address _____	
Member's Signature _____	Date _____	

Complete & Return to APS Sales Division, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Blank Sales Books

You may purchase blank books and mounts by visiting the "How To Sell" page or by going directly to "Shop" and clicking on "Specialty Shop" in the drop down box. However, the blank sales books may only be ordered in the quantities and prices for those quantities under a given style. Mixing and matching book styles to get a quantity price break will not be possible on the new site. As an example, ordering 50 books for singles and 50 books for blocks (both 16-page books) does not give you the 100-book price break, even though these two styles of books are priced the same.

Not Yet Available

Please note that the functions associated with **checking your circuit information and your sales book information** are not installed into the website features. Any upgrade to our present computer program to make it web-based was put on hold because of the complexity of the detail in our present program.

Completing the upgrade at this time would have delayed the new website's launch. However, now that many of the features are working smoothly, the work on the Sales Division program can continue. When the launch of the upgrade is near, we will announce it in an e-mail newsletter and in this column. Meanwhile, we can send you an update on how your sales books are selling and provide a status report on the circuits of your requested categories. E-mail twhorn@stamps.org or call 814-933-3803, choosing Carol at extension 231, Bill at 228, or me at 227.

More History!

Last month we took the timeline for the Sales Department to 1896, with some mention of a quote from 1906. To continue....

At the 1897 Convention, George Mekeel made his last report to the Association as Superintendent and George R. Tuttle of New York was appointed to that

position. Mekeel retired all sales books except ten, which were being held by a member in Colorado, in anticipation of handing the operation to his successor. During his term, Mekeel had handled 4,834 books, valued at \$151,534.20, and sold \$33,485.79 worth of material, about 22 percent. Tuttle suggested splitting the Purchasing part of his operation (purchasing new issues for members) off into its own department. By 1900, when he was replaced by H.G. Smith of Minnesota, no movement on that suggestion had been made. His reasoning for it was that there were only twelve members actively involved in that aspect of the operation and that at no time since the Association began was it financially successful.

At the Association convention in 1900, the bylaws were amended to allow for the marking of spaces in sales books when purchasing items. Previously, members bought control stamps from the Department to mark their purchases. Starting in 1901, they could still use con-

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trol stamps but they also had the choices to "Sign their names in ink ... Sign a nom de plume... Use a rubber stamp which shall have some secret mark...." Each choice required registration of the mark with the Superintendent of the Sales Department.

Prior to 1902, there was no time limit on the circulation of a sales book. A Supplementary Report of the Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department at the 1902 convention suggested that members should be allowed to state

the circulation time limit for their sales books, but that the time limit chosen "be not less than four months." In the absence of a specified limit, the Superintendent would "use his best judgment in the matter."

John Oesch of Chicago took the reins of the department in 1902. Bylaw changes at the 1903 Convention gave the Superintendent power to make decisions concerning the disposition of sales books for acceptance, rejection, retirement, and other situations that might

arise. The "Purchasing" part of the department title was removed, an action that had been suggested previously by Mr. Smith in 1900.

The department changed hands again in 1904 and moved a few blocks away when W.O. Staab of Chicago was appointed. The Association Convention that year spent a considerable amount of time on bylaw changes relating to the Sales Department. The records have fourteen pages of discussions about the Superintendent's responsibilities, the buyers' responsibilities, and the sellers' responsibilities. There is also discussion about the bonding of the Superintendent and the idea that to obtain bonding easily the Superintendent needs to have a stated salary, even if it was \$10 for the year. The commissions of 10 percent usually covered all costs of running the operation, but apparently were not considered payment for the Superintendent's services.

The 1905 Convention welcomed P.M. Wolsieffer of Chicago to the Su-

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WEST GERMANY YEAR SETS (Stamps + Souvenir Sheets)			Year	Mint NH	Used	Year	Mint NH	Used
Year	Mint NH	Used	1982 (30 v)	32.00	29.00	1983 (74v + 7)	29.00	28.00
1975 (46v + 1)	37.50	14.00	1983 (19 v)	27.00	25.00	1984 (62v + 5)	27.00	23.00
1976 (35v + 2)	30.00	14.00	1984 (22 v)	27.00	25.00	1985 (62v + 4)	24.00	30.00
1977 (39v + 2)	40.00	18.00	1985 (20 v)	25.00	23.00	1986 (59v + 5)	24.00	28.00
1978 (39v + 2)	42.00	19.50	1986 (22 v)	25.00	23.00	1987 (67v + 4)	22.00	28.00
1979 (33 v)	35.00	18.00	1987 (22v + 1)	27.00	30.00	1988 (66v + 8)	24.00	28.00
1980 (35 v)	30.00	14.00	1988 (32 v)	45.00	75.00	1989 (66v + 5)	24.00	35.00
1981 (36 v)	32.00	14.00	1989 (30 v)	50.00	125.00	1990 (70v + 1)	32.00	45.00
1982 (39v + 1)	60.00	19.50	1990 (20 v)	32.00	42.50			
1983 (35 v)	45.00	14.00						
1984 (34v + 1)	45.00	19.50	WEST BERLIN SPECIAL OFFER			Year	Mint NH	Used
1985 (34 v)	42.00	19.50	Years	Mint NH	Used	1960 - 1969	390.00	480.00
1986 (35v + 1)	42.00	17.00	1960 - 1969	\$ 50.00	80.00	1970 - 1979	190.00	240.00
1987 (41 v)	45.00	19.50	1970 - 1979	155.00	145.00	1980 - 1989	220.00	240.00
1988 (50 v)	52.00	22.00	1980 - 1989	240.00	350.00	EAST GERMANY SPECIAL OFFER		
1989 (47 v)	68.00	30.00	EAST GERMANY YEAR SETS (Stamps + Souvenir Sheets) (DDR Used are CTO)			Year	Mint NH	Used
1990 (43v + 2)	68.00	39.50	Year	Mint NH	Used	1960 - 1969	95.00	85.00
WEST BERLIN YEAR SETS (Stamps + Souvenir Sheets)			1975 (84v + 4)	22.00	22.00	1970 - 1979	280.00	140.00
Year	Mint NH	Used	1976 (83v + 4)	22.00	25.00	1980 - 1989	390.00	160.00
1975 (34 v)	27.50	22.50	1977 (76v + 6)	22.00	25.00	1990 - 1999	650.00	420.00
1976 (15v + 1)	10.00	10.00	1978 (87v + 4)	22.00	30.00			
1977 (28v + 1)	19.00	17.00	1979 (79v + 5)	22.00	28.00			
1978 (28v + 1)	25.00	25.00	1980 (83v + 6)	29.00	28.00			
1979 (23 v)	19.00	17.00	1981 (86v + 4)	29.00	28.00			
1980 (23 v)	17.00	17.00	1982 (85v + 5)	29.00	28.00			
1981 (22v)	17.00	17.00						

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perintendent's position. He was a charter member of the Association and had been very active in its affairs, serving on numerous committees. More discussion about the Sales Department is recorded in the 1905 Meeting notes. Concerns about the insurance fund fee charge (which at that time was primarily funded by the sellers) and when it would be collected and disbursed to the Association Treasurer, what to do about counterfeit stamps in the sales books, how to handle their removals, and the beginnings of the fines for selling them were all part of the lengthy proceedings. Past Superintendents and Mr. Wolsieffer were asked their opinions on these subjects.

Although the Association had had previous sales book examiners, no one was in that position at the time of the Convention. The discussion led to the additional appointment of Mr. Wolsieffer as the Examiner of Sales Books, since it was recognized that he had an extensive knowledge of counterfeits, reprints, and misidentifications. During his time in office, a fine of 25 cents was instituted for "any and every counterfeit" stamp submitted in a sales book. The Examiner received the fine amount from the seller. This practice continues today, except that the fine is now \$1 or \$2, depending on the seller's asking price.

In 1907 Wolsieffer gave his last report and turned the operation over to Percival Parrish of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Parrish established a new type of Branch circuit from the one established in 1887. This seems to have involved sending circuits to a person in a Branch city and having that person be charged with circulating those circuits to members in that city. They would then settle the total sales with the Superintendent. The sales through these Branch circuits in 1908–1909 accounted for about 30 percent of the Society's annual sales. (The American Philatelic Association had undergone a name change in 1908, using "Society" in place of "Association.") The Branch "managers" received the 2½ percent commission

increase established in 1908, while the Superintendent received the 10 percent commission. In 1909 the commission charged on sales was established as 12½ percent, and that has become the 20 percent commission we charge today.

The discussions at the conventions of 1904–1907 concerning the various details of the Sales Department helped form the basis of the way the Sales Division operates today. This has been evident in every report we researched for these installments, and we look forward to finding out more about our operational origins.

To be continued....

'5 for 10' Categories (Needs)

You can earn coupons for free blank books and mounts for every ten completed books (Clearance books do not qualify) containing material from a set list of categories. Each group of ten or more qualifying books must be received at the same time and contain at least \$50 of material per book. The coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving. Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Details are sent with blank sales book orders. You also may visit www.stamps.org and click Buy and Sell by Mail and How to Sell. [NOTE: Single-country books usually have better sales.] Below are categories that are in very short supply at this time.:

- U.S. 19th Century
- U.S. Back of the Book
- U.S. Mint (coupon credit for pre-1940 only)
- British Africa (colonial period only please)
- British Victorian Era
- Ireland
- German Colonies
- Iceland
- Individual Latin American Countries
- Miniature Sheets
- Spain
- Thailand

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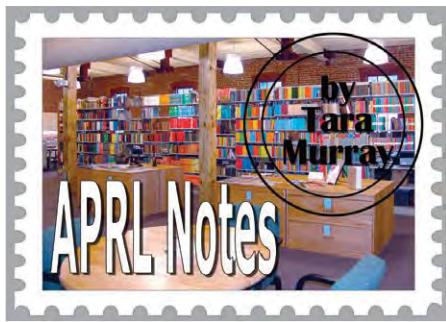
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A Philatelic Library at Your Fingertips

When the new APS website debuted at the end of November, the American Philatelic Research Library's catalogue got an upgrade. The first change regular users will probably notice is the new banner, identifying the online catalogue as the Philatelic Union Catalog. The catalogue also got a new, simpler search interface, and we added help screens to guide you through the search process.

In addition to providing information about the APRL's holdings, the online catalogue allows users to search the holdings of five other libraries:

- Collectors Club (New York)
- Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Greene Foundation
- Slusser Memorial Library at the Postal History Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library
- Western Philatelic Library

The Collectors Club of Chicago and the Royal Philatelic Society of London also have joined the Union Catalog and their holdings should be available soon.

The Union Catalog also provides access to a database of article references. The majority of these were contributed by Gene Fricks, and additional refer-

The Philatelic Union Catalog
philatelic library holdings and article index
hosted by the American Philatelic Research Library

Philatelic Union Catalog hosted by APRL: Catalog

Catalog Search > Search Results

2 item(s) in Cart

The bookcart icon shows you how many items are in your cart.
Click the link to review the contents of your cart or to send a request to the library.

ences were entered by library staff. The Postal History Foundation is using the Union Catalog to index its journal, *The Heliograph*.

Requesting Books & Articles

When you find something that interests you in the catalogue, click the "Add to Cart" link. The cart will save your records while you continue to search. (It times out after 90 minutes of inactivity, so if you have to step away from your computer, you may want to e-mail the contents of your cart to yourself to avoid losing items.)

You can use the cart to send a request to the library. Look for the bookcart icon near the top of your screen and click the link to review your cart contents. You can remove items, or click on "catalog search" to search for more items to add.

When you have all the items you want in your cart, select "Request from the APRL" from the drop-down box and click "Go." The next screen prompts you to enter your information. In addition to your name and address, include any special instructions or messages for library staff. For example, if you are requesting copies of articles, you can use this space to specify whether you want photocopies mailed to you or scans sent to you by e-mail. Or, if you were not able to find everything you were looking for, you can use this space to ask library staff a question.

Where's That Book?

As you search the catalogue, you may notice library codes like APRL, RMPL, and CCNY in book and journal records. These codes tell you which library owns the item. In some cases, you may see more than one record for a particular book or journal. This is because each library in the Union Catalog that owns an item will have their own record — with their own notes and call numbers — for that item.

The power of the Union Catalog lies in being able to discover, with one search, the existence of philatelic publications even if they are not owned by the library you use. The APRL may have the largest and most accessible collection of the current Union Catalog libraries, but

1.	The American philatelist. / American Philatelic Association.; American Philatelic Society. -- Altoona, Pa.: American Philatelic Association, 1887-. (Journal) JOURNAL Amer Phil Location: PHF	Full Display Add to Cart
2.	American Philatelist (American Philatelic Association : 1887-1893) / American Philatelic Association.; Altoona, PA : American Philatelic Association (Journal) Location: APRL	Full Display Add to Cart
3.	American Philatelist (American Philatelic Society : 1909-) / American Philatelic Society, -- Columbus, Ohio ; State College, PA ; Bellefonte, Pa.: American Philatelic Society, 1909-. (Journal) Location: APRL	Full Display Add to Cart

Bibliographic records for *The American Philatelist* from the APRL and the Postal History Foundation's Slusser Memorial Library.

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 All Libraries and Indexes

Left: Select a library code from the list to search only the holdings of that library.

Below: Select "All libraries and indexes" to search for article references.

each library has its own strengths and special collections. This was demonstrated recently by Brian Birch, who had been looking all over the world for a thesis titled *A Librarian's Guide to the Literature of Philately*. The APRL did not have a copy of the thesis, but a quick search of the Union Catalog revealed a copy in the Collectors Club library. Brian described his quest for the thesis in the second and fourth quarter 2011 issues of the APRL's journal, *Philatelic Literature Review*.

Keep in mind that the APRL can only fill requests for items in our collections, and each library has its own access policies. When you are searching for books to borrow, you may find it useful to limit your search to the holdings of the APRL. To do this, use the drop-down box on the search screen to select "APRL" from the list of library codes.

Article references do not have library codes, because it would be too time-consuming to track which libraries own the journal issue containing each article in

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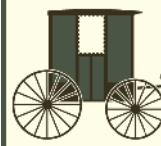
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the database of nearly 200,000 references. To search for articles, select "All libraries and indexes" from the drop-down box, and enter "article" in the record type box. To find out if the APRL owns the journal issue containing the article you want to read, do a second search on the journal title and then click "Full display" to view holding information — or simply add the reference to your cart and request it, and library staff will let you know if the

article is available.

Whenever you have research questions, please feel free to contact library staff for assistance. You will usually work with your librarian (me) or our reference assistant, Neil Coker. You can reach us by phone at 814-933-3803 (press 3 for the library), by e-mail at aprl@stamps.org, or by mail at APRL, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

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Recognizing Anniversaries & Hard Workers

It's a new year and what better time could there be to recognize clubs and individuals for their good work in philately in 2011? The APS and Chapter Activities Committee can help out in a number of ways.

A number of Chapters have notable anniversaries this year. The 2012 honorees include the following local Chapter clubs:

5 Years

North Jersey SCC 9
Franklin Lakes, NJ
National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington
McLean, VA
First Tuesday Stamp Club Rochester, MN

10 Years

Cape Cod Area Philatelic Group South Yarmouth, MA
Bay De Noc Stamp & Coin Club Escanaba, MI
Flagler County Stamp & Coin Club Palm Coast, FL
The Bunker Hill Stamp Club Los Angeles, CA

20 Years

Tuscaloosa Stamp Club
Tuscaloosa, AL

Tuscora Stamp Club
New Philadelphia, OH
Tri-State Stamp Club Dubuque, IA
Olean Area Stamp Club Olean, NY
Smith Center Stamp Club Skokie, IL

25 Years

GPS, Herman L. Halle Chapter 16 Baltimore, MD
Leatherstocking Stamp Club Cooperstown, NY
St. Cloud Area Stamp Club St. Cloud, MN
Conejo Valley Philatelic Society Newbury Park, CA
Riverhead Stamp Club Riverhead, NY
Winter Haven Stamp Club Winter Haven, FL
Simi Valley Stamp Club Simi Valley, CA
Brentwood Philatelic Society Brentwood, TN
Gladstone Philatelic Club Gladstone, MO
Topeka Stamp Club Topeka, KS
Central Wyoming Philatelic Association Casper, WY

International Stamp Club
New York, NY
Lynchburg Stamp Club Lynchburg, VA
Morrisville Stamp Club Morrisville, PA

50 Years

Arrowhead Stamp Club Duluth, MN
Riverside Stamp Club Riverside, CA
North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs Westfield, NJ
Molly Pitcher Stamp Club Freehold, NJ
Tacoma Stamp Club Tacoma, WA
Crescent City Stamp Club of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA
Collectors Club of San Francisco San Francisco, CA

75 Years

St. Petersburg Stamp Club St. Petersburg, FL
The Philaterians Chicago, IL

125 Years

St. Louis Branch No. 4 Saint Louis, MO

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AFA

Chicago Philatelic Society

Chicago, IL

These and other local stamp clubs can be found online at www.stamps.org/Local-Clubs. Information about the Chapter Activities Committee can be found at www.stamps.org/CAC.

Applause

Every stamp club has a few "movers and shakers." They're the ones who really get things done, who come up with new and fresh ideas, and who make it all look easy. All too often these people go unrewarded for their accomplishments and commitment to your group. The APS Certificate of Award (also known as the "Spark-plug" Award) can be one way of saying thanks! Chapters are entitled to one free certificate per year with additional ones costing \$2.50 each.

Award Criteria include:

- The certificate is used to recognize positive achievement of benefit to the presenting APS Chapter.
- The certificate may be presented to an individual or group. Membership in the APS or the presenting Chapter is not required.
- The Chapter will assume all expense and responsibility for inscribing the certificate and for its delivery.
- The Chapter will give appropriate publicity to the presentation of the certificate.
- The presenting Chapter will arrange for an appropriate presentation ceremony during a meeting of the Chapter unless circumstances require presentation elsewhere.
- The presenting Chapter will notify the American Philatelic Society of the name of the recipient of the certificate and any pertinent details regarding its presentation.

APS Certificate of Awards may be requested from Judy Johnson, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.



Exhibition Awards

Impressive exhibition medals bearing the official APS seal are available to Chapters as awards for winning philatelic exhibits. They are available in large gold, silver, and bronze for \$16 each and in small gold and silver for \$14.50, all postpaid. Pennsylvania residents must add 6% sales tax. Send orders and payment to the APS address above.

Volunteer Awards

Presented since 2008, the annual APS Nicholas G. Carter Recognition Awards are among the most prestigious for service volunteers in four categories:

- National Promotion/Service — Maximum of five recipients per year
 - Local Promotion/Service — Maximum of ten recipients per year
 - Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist (ages 25–40) — One recipient per year
 - Outstanding Young Philatelist (ages 15–24) — One recipient per year
- Eligibility Requirements:*
- Five or more years of service (three years for the Outstanding Young Philatelist).
 - APS and APRL board members and staff are not eligible.
 - Luff Award winners are not eligible.
 - National Promotion/Service Award winners may not subsequently

win the Local Promotion/Service Award.

- Each award may be won only once.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- APS membership is not required.

You must surely know of at least one person deserving of one of these four awards! Fill out an application on the APS website, write asking for one, call 814-933-3803, or request one from Executive Director Ken Martin at kpmartin@stamps.org. Winners are announced each year at APS STAMPSHOW.

While the deadline for 2011 nominations closed a few weeks ago, do not hesitate to enter 2012 nominees now! All entries are considered for a three-year period if not awarded in the year of submission.

Newsletter & Show Program Awards

Don't forget about our yearly Chapter Newsletter and Chapter Show Program awards as well! Jane King Fohn has managed these two CAC competitions for many years, and entries remain strong in both. They are a great way to honor your newsletter and show program editors with gold, vermeil, silver, silver bronze, and bronze level prizes awarded by two distinguished panels of judges.

Full details about these are also available on the APS website or by writing to the APS. You may also e-mail Jane directly at jkfohn.alamo.1043@gmail.com.

Looking For a Club Near You?

www.stamps.org/Local-Clubs

Show Time

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

Listings are free to World Series of Philately shows, those sponsored by APS chapters and affiliates, and any stamp show that includes exhibits.

Listings for shows/bourses **not** including exhibits may be purchased for the month of the show/bourse and the month prior **only**. The listing fee is \$25 per show per issue. These shows are designated ***B***.

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

All information is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, you should check with the specific show to verify information. The APS website listing includes shows much further in advance than we have space to include in *The American Philatelist*.

Florida February 3-5

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition Sarasota Philatelic Club, Inc., Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, (US 41) 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. ***WSP***

Contact: Jack Seaman, 941-922-7191

E-mail: jakcman@verizon.net

Website: www.sarasotastampclub.com

Florida February 10-12

ASDA Winter Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, Courtyard Marriott, 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach. ***B***

Contact: Joseph Savarese
E-mail: jsavarese@asdaonline.com
Website: www.asdaonline.com

Alabama February 11-12

ALAPEX 2012 Birmingham Philatelic Society, Pelham Civic Complex, 500 Amphitheatre Rd., Pelham. ***B***

Contact: Ken Waltsgott, 205-621-4200
E-mail: kwaltsgott@charter.net
Website: www.stampclubs.com

Ohio February 12

Hudson Stamp Bourse Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Dean Memorial Parkway, Hudson. ***B***

Contact: David G. Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssnet.com

Wisconsin February 12

Janesville Stamp Club Exhibition & Bourse Janesville Stamp Club, Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville.

Contact: Gary Wentworth, 608-756-1380
E-mail: wnstamps@aol.com

Florida February 18

Annual Show Show West Volusia Stamp Club, Wayne Sanborn Activities Center Earl Brown Park, 751 S. Alabama, DeLand.

Contact: Mike Daley, 386-668-5021
E-mail: miked531@bellsouth.net
Website: <http://floridacsp.com/wvstamp/>

Kansas February 18-19

The Cessna Show The Cessna Stamp & Coin Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita.

Contact: Ralph E. Lott, 316-747-2118

Internet February 21 to March 20

Basic Stamp Collecting Course Online Course

(4 weeks), ***APS***

Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stampcampus.org

Arizona February 24-26

ARIPEX Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa. ***WSP***

Contact: Ron Cipolla, 480-596-3700
E-mail: ron@cipolla.org
Website: www.aripexonline.com

Florida February 25-26

FSDA BAYPEX 2012 Florida Stamp Dealers Association & Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue, N., Largo.

Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org

Nebraska February 25-26

LINPEX Lincoln Stamp Club, GuestHouse Inn, 5250 Cornhusker Hwy., Lincoln.
Contact: Kenneth Pruess, 402-464-6939
E-mail: kpruess2@unl.edu
Website: www.lincolnstampclub.org

Ohio February 25-26

Toledo Stamp Expo 2012 Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland.

Contact: Clifford Campbell, 419-874-6241
Website: www.toledostampclub.org

California March 3-4

NOVAPEX Redding Stamp Club, Senior Citizens' Hall, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding.
Contact: Bob Grosch, 530-549-4872
E-mail: bobgrosch@frontiernet.net
Website: www.reddingstampclub.com

Michigan March 3-4

MICHIPEX 2012 Michigan Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 West Warren, Dearborn Heights.

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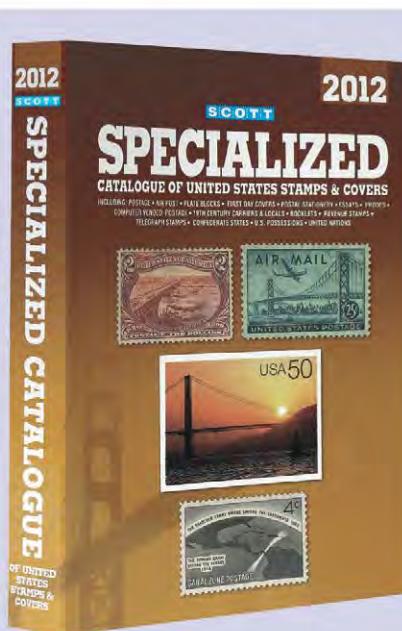
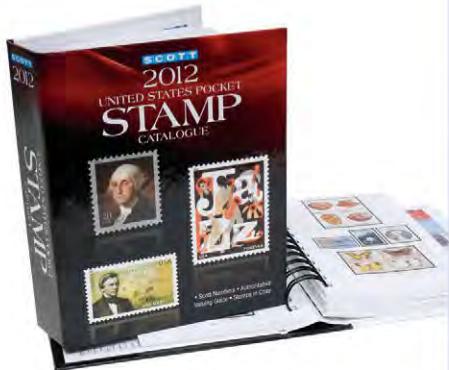


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Item	Retail	AA*
P112012	\$24.99	\$19.99



2012 U.S. Specialized Catalogue

Providing more than just values, the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue is an important and detailed reference for all U.S. collecting interests. This year's edition boasts some impressive editorial enhancements.

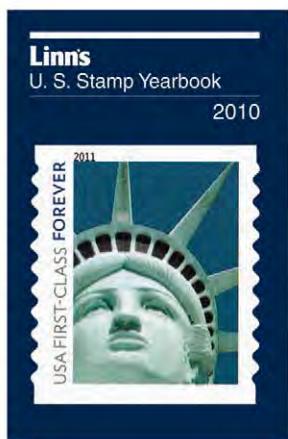
There's a new section listing the Colombia Consular overprints using the service established by the Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos. Specialists Ray Simrak and Santiago Cruz provide all the details in an accompanying article.

Listings have been reorganized for the two die types of the 2¢ 1903-08 Washington Shield stamps. An in-depth explanation of this reorganization is provided in an article by Scott catalogue editor emeritus James E. Kloetzel.

More than 20 new errors have been added. Among the more impressive mistakes is a pre-printing foldover on a pane of 8¢ Eisenhower stamps (Scott 1394) that yielded four new errors, including stamps printed on the gummed side, and stamps with all three colors and tagging missing.

Besides all the editorial additions, there are also more than 9,000 value changes. A few elusive modern plate-number blocks continue to rise in value. The lick-and-stick 26¢ Panther leaps 50 percent, to \$15 from \$10 last year.

Item	Retail	AA Price*
C12S	\$99.99	\$69.99



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Contact: John Bendzick, 313-277-2298

New Jersey

March 3
Westfield StampShow Westfield Stamp Club,
Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street,
Westfield.

Contact: Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318
E-mail: edjg@alum.mit.edu
Website: www.westfieldstampclub.org

New York

March 3-4
BUFPEX 2012 The Buffalo Stamp Club,
VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue,
Cheektowaga.
Contact: George Gates, 716-633-8358
E-mail: gghg53@aol.com

Ohio

March 3-4
McKinley Stamp Show McKinley Stamp Club,
St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667
Applegrove St., NW, North Canton.
Contact: David Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssnet.com

Tennessee

March 3-4
KNOXPEX 2012 - Girl Scout Centennial
Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn
Knoxville-West, 304 Cedar Bluff, Knoxville.
Contact: Tom Broadhead, 865-974-1151
E-mail: twbroadhead@utk.edu
Website: http://stampclubs.com/knoxville/
index.htm

Virginia

March 3-4
SPRINGPEX 2012 Springfield Stamp Club,
Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia
Rd., Springfield.

Contact: James Dobbs, 703-759-0119

E-mail: jdobbs@cox.net
Website: www.springfieldstampclub.org

Wisconsin

March 3-4
STAMPFEST 2012 Milwaukee Philatelic
Society, Inc., St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435
S. 92nd St., West Allis. *B*

Contact: Carol Schutta, 414-464-6994
E-mail: harryncarolschutta@gmail.com
Website: www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

Illinois

March 9-11
ASDA Midwest Postage Stamp
Show American Stamp Dealers Association,
Lindner Conference Center, 610 East
Butterfield Rd., Lombard. *B*
Contact: Joseph Savarese
E-mail: jsavarese@asdaonline.com
Website: www.asdaonline.com

Illinois

March 10-11
Rockford Stamp Show and Cover
Show Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills
Lodge, 9900 Forest Hills Road, Loves Park.
Contact: Tim Wait, 815-670-5869
E-mail: t.wait@comcast.net
Website: www.rockfordstampclub.org

Tennessee

March 10-11
Nashville Stamp Show Nashville Philatelic
Society, The Music Valley Event Center, 2416
Music Valley Drive, Suite #144, Nashville.
Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161
E-mail: ttribke@bellsouth.net
Website: www.nashvillephilatelic.org

Massachusetts

March 11

SOPEX Samuel Osgood Stamp Club, BPO Elks
Lodge, 652 Andover St., (Exit 45 off I-93),
Lawrence. *B*

Contact: Robert Domingue, 978/470/05/3
E-mail: radpm@comcast.net

Pennsylvania

March 11

Spring 2012 CAPEX Capital City Philatelic
Society, Linglestown American Legion, 505 N.
Mountain Road-I-81 Exit 72, Harrisburg. *B*
Contact: Linn Kinney, 717-732-7813

West Indies & The Southern

March 12-23

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E-mail: Cruiseworks@aol.com

Missouri

March 14-15

Collecting the British Machins On-the-Road
Course, Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural
Bridge Road, St. Louis. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Contact: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Indiana

March 16-17

CALUPEX 2012 Calumet Stamp Club, Saint
James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.,
Highland.
Contact: Jerry Emerson, 219-662-1296
Website: http://calumetstampclub.org

Missouri

March 16-18

St. Louis Stamp Expo Area Clubs, St. Louis

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E-mail: pkols@regencysuperior.com
Website: www.stlstampexpo.org

Michigan **March 17**
Kent Philatelic Society Spring Show Kent Philatelic Society, American Legion Post 179, 2327 Wilson S.W., Walker. *B*
Contact: Ron Mrozinski, 616-891-9878
E-mail: oldkentstamps@gmail.com
Website: www.oldkentstamps.com

Florida **March 17-18**
NAPLEX Collier County Stamp Club, Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 295 F. & A.M., 5850 Tamiami Trail North (Rte 41), Naples.
Contact: Robert Hausin, 239-732-8000
E-mail: newengstmp@aol.com

Michigan **March 18**
Spring Stamp Show Pontiac Stamp Club, Waterford Recreation Gym, 2303 Crescent Lk. Rd. (1 mile N. of M-59), Waterford. *B*
Contact: Mike Miley, 248-623-2178
E-mail: mileystamps@hotmail.com

Ohio **March 21-22**
Financing the Civil War On-the-Road Course, Playhouse Square Wyndham, 1260 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Ohio **March 23-25**
Garfield-Perry March Party Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Masonic Auditorium, 36th & Euclid Ave., Cleveland. *WSP*
Contact: Roger Rhoads
E-mail: rrrhoads@aol.com
Website: www.garfieldperry.org

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Wisconsin **March 24**
BAYPEX 12 Green Bay Philatelic Society, St. Matthew's Church Multi-Purpose Room, 2575 South Webster Ave., Green Bay. ***B***
Contact: Ray D. Perry, 920-469-8925
E-mail: fiveperry@athenet.net.

California **March 24-25**
FRESPEX 2012 Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis.
Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013
E-mail: starstamps@thegrid.net

Michigan **March 24-25**
KAZOOPEX Kalamazoo Stamp Club,

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo.
Contact: Dave Matyas, 269-657-2271
E-mail: davelu72@frontier.com

Washington **March 24-25**
2012 Apple Blossom Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Hilton Garden Inn, 9015 West Highway 2, Spokane. ***B***
Contact: J. Wilson Palmer, 509-443-8147
E-mail: ickyburg@comcast.net
Website: www.spokanestampcollectors.org

Pennsylvania **March 30 to April 1**
Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition Greater Philadelphia Expo

Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. ***WSP***
Contact: Steve Washburne, 215-843-2106
E-mail: info@pnse.org
Website: www.pnse.org

Illinois **March 31**
PARFOREX 52 Park Forest Stamp Club, St. Irenaeus Church Gymnasium, Indianwood Blvd. and Orchard Drive, Park Forest.
Contact: Ed Waterous, 219-613-6561
E-mail: ewwaterous@hotmail.com

New Hampshire **April 1**
QPEX Manchester Stamp Club, American Legion Hall, 5 Riverside Rd., Hooksett.
Contact: Robert Dion, 603-860-5082

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WESTPEX 2012 www.westpex.org
Westminster Stamp Gallery www.westminsterstamp.com
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E-mail: ihadzip@yahoo.com

Delaware

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

Pennsylvania

CVPS Spring Expo Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society, Eugene C. Clark, Jr. Community Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg. *B*

April 14

Indiana

Spring Stamp Fair Indiana Stamp Club, Sterrett Senior Center, 8950 Otis Ave, Lawrence.
Contact: Tom Chastang
E-mail: tchast5@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.indianastampclub.org/fair.htm

April 14-15

Oregon **April 14-15**
SOPEX 2012 Southern Oregon Philatelic Society, Padgham Pavilion, Jackson County Fairgrounds/Expo, 1 Peninger Road, Central Point.
Contact: Gerald Shean, 541-245-3136
E-mail: geraldshean@yahoo.com
Website: www.norcalstamps.org/sopex.htm

April 14-15

Contact: Quinn Witherspoon, 717-264-1252
E-mail: rspran@pa.net

Wisconsin

WISCOPEX Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison.
Contact: Bob Voss, 608-838-1033
E-mail: lestamps@charter.net
Website: www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger.shtml

April 15

New York **April 19-22**
ASDA Spring Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Assn., APS & USPS, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. *B*
Contact: Joseph Savarese, 718-224-2500

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Florida **April 21-22**
Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Holiday Inn Express, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. *B*

Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net

Website: www.floridastampdealers.com

California **April 25-26**
Understanding and Identifying U.S. Grills On the Road Course, Prior to WESTPEX, San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

California **April 27-29**
WESTPEX Western Phil. Exhibitions, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. *WSP*
Contact: Edward Jarvis, 415-387-1016
E-mail: ejarvis@westpex.com
Website: www.westpex.com

Michigan **April 28-29**
Plymouth Show West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. *WSP*
Contact: Tim Strzalkowski, 313-533-7737
E-mail: mywssc@msn.com
Website: www.plymouthshow.com

New Jersey **April 28-29**
Clifton 2012 Spring Stamp, Coin, Cover, and Postcard Show Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. *B*
Contact: Thomas Stidl, 973-471-7872
E-mail: stidl@verizon.net
Website: www.cliftonnj.org/stamp

Massachusetts **May 4-6**
Philatelic Show Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. *WSP*
Contact: Jeff Shapiro, 508-460-0078
E-mail: coverlover@gmail.com
Website: www.nefed.org

Pennsylvania **May 5**
HAVEX 2012 Havertown Stamp Club, Union Methodist Church, Alston Rd. & Brookline Blvd. (#200), Havertown.
Contact: Stanley Sandler

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Indiana

May 5-6
AWSS 2012 Anthony Wayne Stamp Society,
Fort Wayne Community Center, 233 West
Main Street, Fort Wayne. *B*
Contact: Jim Mowrer, 260-422-1716
E-mail: stamp4@frontier.com

Ontario

May 5-6
ORAPEX 2012 RA Stamp Club, Ottawa
Philatelic Society, RA Sport Centre, 2451
Riverside Drive, Ottawa.
Contact: Robert Pinet, 613-745-2788
E-mail: pinet.robert@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

May 11-12
BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society,
Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Ave.,
Lyndora.
Contact: Stanley Snyder, 724-443-5740
E-mail: stampdad@zoominternet.net

Oregon

May 11-13
PIPEX Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs,
Doubletree Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 NE
Multnomah St., Portland. *WSP*
Contact: Michael Dixon, 503-257-4110
E-mail: mdd10@att.net
Website: www.pipexshow.org

Ohio

May 12
TRUMPEX 2012 The Warren Area Stamp
Club, St Demetrios Community Center, 3223
Atlantic St., NE, Warren, Trumbull County. *B*
Contact: Howard Lutz, 330-924-5124
E-mail: howrex2@aol.com

Colorado

May 18-20
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, Denver. *WSP*
Contact: John Bloor, 720-529-5942
E-mail: president@rockymountaintampshow.
com
Website: www.rockymountaintampshow.com

New York

May 18-20
ROPEX Rochester Phil. Assoc., ESL Sports
Centre, 2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline
Rd., Rochester. *WSP*
Contact: Tom Fortunato, 585-752-6178
E-mail: stampmf@frontiernet.net
Website: www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html

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New Jersey **May 25-27**
NOJEX North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs,
 Inc., Crown Plaza, Meadowlands, Two Harmon
 Plaza, Secaucus. ***WSP***
Contact: Robert G. Rose, 973-966-8070
E-mail: rrose@phks.com
Website: www.nojex.org

Washington, DC **May 30-31**
U.S. Great Americans Series On-the-Road Course, National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Alberta, Canada **June 1-3**
Royal 2012 Royale Edmonton Stamp Club, West Edmonton Mall Convention Centre, 170 Street and 90 Ave., 3rd Floor Conference Centre above Europa Boulevard, Edmonton. ***WSP***
Contact: David Piercy

E-mail: dpiercey@telus.net
Website: www.royal2012royale.com

Virginia **June 1-3**
NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean. ***WSP***
Contact: Darrell Ertzberger, 703-548-3366
E-mail: mteton@aol.com
Website: www.napex.org

Florida **June 2-3**
Clearwater/Largo Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave., N., Largo. ***B***
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org

Ohio **June 8-10**
COLOPEX Columbus Philatelic Club, DiSalle Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 East 17th

Ave., Columbus. ***WSP***
Contact: Chuck Wooster, 614-560-3689
E-mail: cwooster@aol.com
Website: www.colopex.com

New Hampshire **June 9**
Great Bay Stamp, Coin, Poscard and Ephemera Show Great Bay Stamp Club, K of C Hall, 40 Columbus Ave., Rochester.
Contact: Edmund H. Vallery, 603-868-5523
E-mail: evallery@aol.com

Pennsylvania **June 14-15**
Collecting Union and Confederate Civil War Patriotic Covers On-the-Road Course, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Pennsylvania **June 14-15**
CSI Philately 2011 — Uncovering the Less Than

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Obvious On-the-Road Course, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803 ext. 239
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Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Pennsylvania **June 17-22**
Summer Seminar Annual week-long seminar, Hosted at the American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar

Jakarta, Indonesia **June 18-24**
INDONESIA 12 World Stamp Championship and Exhibition, Jakarta.
Contact: Kees Adema
E-mail: keesandulla@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania **June 22-24**
National Topical Stamp Show American Topical Association, Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster. ***WSP***
Contact: Robert J. Mather, 262-968-2392
E-mail: americantopical@msn.com
Website: www.americantopicalassn.org

Minnesota **July 18-19**
Inverts & Misperfs & Curios, Oh My! On-the-Road Course, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Minneapolis. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

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
E-mail: rasmuary4@frontiernet.net
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North Carolina **July 21-22**
CHARPEX 2011 Charlotte Philatelic Society, Grady Cole Center on the campus of Central Piedmont Community College, 301 N. Kings Drive, Charlotte.
Contact: Gene Zhiiss, 704-553-8110
E-mail: show2012@charpex.info
Website: www.charpex.info

Michigan **August 5**
Northwestern Michigan Coin & Stamp Show Northwestern Michigan Coin and Stamp Club, Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Road, Petoskey.
Contact: Richard Silet, 906-643-7941
E-mail: rsilet@charter.net

California **August 10-12**
AMERICOVER American First Day Cover Society, Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine. ***WSP***
Contact: Cynthia Scott
E-mail: showinfo@afdcos.org
Website: www.afdcos.org/americancover

Michigan **August 11-12**
COLPEX Collectors Club of Michigan, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. ***B***
Contact: Charles Wood, 248-546-1282
E-mail: jarnick@wowway.com

California **August 14-15**
Exhibiting for the Prize On-the-Road Course, Prior to APS STAMP SHOW, Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 L Street, Sacramento. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

California **August 16**
Stamps in the Classroom Teacher Resource, In conjunction with STAMP SHOW, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/ Stamps-in-the-Classroom

California **August 16-19**
APS STAMP SHOW Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. ***WSP***
Contact: Barb Johnson, 814-933-3803 ext 217
E-mail: stampshow@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/Stampshow

California **August 17-18**
Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Scouting Merit Badge Program, Sign up for 1 day Only! In conjunction with STAMP SHOW, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. ***APS***
Contact: Janet Houser, 814-933-3803 ext. 238
E-mail: jehouser@stamps.org
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California **August 18**
Stamp Collecting 101 Adult Beginner Course, In conjunction with APS STAMP SHOW, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento. ***APS***

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Ohio **August 25-26**
AIRPEX Dayton Stamp Club, IBEW Local (Crossroads Expo Center), 6550 Poe Avenue, Dayton.
Contact: Mike Komiensky, 937-299-9297
E-mail: info@daytonstampclub.com
Website: www.daytonstampclub.com

Alberta **August 31 to September 2**
BNAPEX 2012 British North America Philatelic Society, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 700 Centre Street, Calgary.
Contact: Earle Covert, 403-752-4548
E-mail: ecovert@telusplanet.net
Website: www.bnaps.org

Florida **September 8-9**
FSDA Ocala Stamp Show Florida Stamp Dealers Association & General Francis Marion Stamp Club, Circle Square Culture Center, 8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org

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
E-mail: tuvaeenterprises@hotmail.com
Website: www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org

Wisconsin **September 19-20**
100 Ways to Collect Germany On the Road Course, Prior to MILCOPEX, Wyndham Milwaukee Airport and Convention Center, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Texas **September 21-23**
Greater Houston Stamp Show Houston Philatelic Society, Humble Civic Ctr., 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy., Humble.
Contact: Denise Stotts, 281-955-9664
E-mail: stottsd@swbell.net
Website: www.houstonstampclub.org

Wisconsin **September 21-23**
MILCOPEX Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel & Convention Center, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. *WSP*
Contact: Mary Ann Bowman/ Dona Fagan, 262-251-0617
E-mail: faganfalls@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

British Columbia **September 28-29**
VANPEX 2012 British Columbia Philatelic Society, West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby.
Contact: Trevor N. Larden
E-mail: verdraco@uniserve.com
Website: www.bcpophilatelic.org

Indiana **September 28-30**
INDYPEX Indiana Stamp Club, Wyndham Hotel Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive,

Indianapolis. *WSP*
Contact: Bob Zeigler, 317-844-5200
E-mail: indypex@indianastampclub.org
Website: www.indianastampclub.org

Florida **September 29-30**
Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Holiday Inn Express, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.com

New Jersey **September 29-30**
Clifton 2012 Fall Stamp, Coin, Cover, and Postcard Show Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. *B*
Contact: Thomas Stidl, 973-471-7872
E-mail: stidl@verizon.net
Website: www.cliftonnj.org/stamp

California **October 3-4**
CSI Philately 2011 - Uncovering the Less Than Obvious On-the-Road Course, Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 5711 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

California **October 5-7**
SESCAL Federated Phil. Clubs of Southern California, Hilton Los Angeles Airport, 5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles. *WSP*
Contact: Carl Shaff, II, 213-383-7111
E-mail: c2shaff@aol.com
Website: www.sescal.org

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No. 12, December 31, 2011

Membership Report

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during December 2011. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to February 28, 2012, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the April 2012 issue.

Allen, Chris (219752) **Mount Vernon, WA** OLDER US; 64
Alley, John (219785) **Stewartstown, PA** US, 19TH & 20TH C, CONFEDERATE STATES, CIVIL WAR COVERS, EFO, FANCY CANCELS; 42
Anderson, Barrett (219750) **Auburn, CA**
Aragona, Ronald (219776) **Amherst, NH**
Arcan, Peter (219773) **Rancho Palos Verdes, CA**
Beachy, Marlene J. (219777) **Sarasota, FL** WORLDWIDE; 74; Retired
Beatty, Gordon W. (219799) **Glendale, AZ** US, BOB; 71; Retired
Berube, Jeff L. (219788) **Plymouth, ME**; 48
Betz, Katherine P. (219734) **Springfield, IL** COVERS-HISTORICAL; Farm Manager
Blivaiss, David (219715) **East Brunswick, NJ** US FDC, ADVERTISING COVERS-ISRAEL; 62; Accountant
Bloch, Mark H. (219778) **Anchorage, AK**; 61; Retired
Boisseau, Robin (219761) **Atascadero, CA** 19TH C US, CLASSICS, AIR MAIL; 52
Bolinger, Steven G. (219756) **Vermontville, MI** US, FDC, PLATE BLKS, 19TH & 20TH C, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, BOOKLETS/PANES;
Braithwait, Delton B. (219707) **Hebron, NE** US, AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERIES, POSTAGE DUE-CANADA-AUST; 67; Consultant
Brown, James S. (219735) **Midlothian, VA** US PRECANCELS, REVENUES/FEDERAL TAX PAIDS-SPACE-JET-ROCKET COVERS-ANTIGUA-BARBUDA-REDONDA-PHILATELIC; 60
Brownell, John R. (219786) **Lancaster, PA**; 67; Retired
Bucalo, Johnny (219730) **Cincinnati, OH** MINT US; 41; Self Employed
Buonocore, George (219703) **Walnut Creek, CA** US COMMEN PANELS, COMMEN, CLASSICS, FDC, PLATE BLKS, AIR MAIL; 84; Retired
Burrows, David W. (219764) **Green Bay, WI** UK, COMMONWEALTH; 72; Retired
Cantarini, Laura (219711) **Laguna Niguel, CA** US PLATE BLKS, GUIDELINE BLKS, BUREAU ISSUES-BRIT ROYAL FAMILY-BRIT EUR-KENNEDY; 48; Sales/Marketing

Carr, Matthew (219742) **Houlton, ME** ME POSTAL HISTORY-DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-STAMPLESS COVERS-US FANCY CANCELS, COVERS, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS; 36

Cartwright, Jamie (219704) **Bedford, IN** 19TH & 20TH C US, AIR MAIL, BOOKLETS/PANES; 44; Marketing

Casas, Alejandro E. (219758) **Miami, FL** AUTOMOBILES-VENEZUELA; 46

Champion, Fred (219720) **Lafayette, LA** POSTAL HISTORY-19TH & 20TH C US, AIR MAIL, COMMEM PANELS; 69; Retired

Clare, Gordon M. (219796) **San Angelo, TX** 19TH & 20TH C US-CANADA-GER-WORLDWIDE-W EUR;

Courtelis, Niko (219697) **New York, NY** GREECE-ALBANIA-TURKEY; 47; Creative Director

Delohery, Martin J. (219745) **Monument, CO** MINT IRELAND & US AIR MAIL; 86; Retired

Dunn, Gregory J. (219740) **Richland, WA** 19TH C US-NETHERLANDS; 69; Retired

Ezell, Shawn (219759) **Midlothian, VA** MILITARY-WAR COVERS-FLAGS/NATIONAL EMBLEMS-WORLDWIDE-VA POSTAL HISTORY-HISTORY; 41

Flory, Robert (219738) **Springfield, VA**; 78; Retired

Fukada, Tatsuya (219789) **Yonago-City, Japan** GER-INDIA-BRIT COMM; 41

Gibson, Beth M. (219753) **Alpharetta, GA**; 56

Gmerek, Henning (219765) **Berlin, Germany** N AM-MONGOLIA-PAKISTAN-IRELAND; 63; Product Line Manager

Grady, MaryRita (219733) **Waltham, MA** WOMEN; 74; Archivist

Gruss, Joe (219779) **Summerhill, PA** US-VAT-CHRISTMAS; 62; Technician

Gyger, Gene (219766) **Camp Verde, AZ** US REV-CINDERELLAS-TAX PAIDS; 70; Retired

Haddad, Roland G. (219714) **Hazmieh, Lebanon** LEBANON; 40

Hagens, William J. (219706) **Tacoma, WA** US-CANADA-FRANCE-GERMANY-ITALY-MUSIC-MUSICIANS-INSTRUMENTS; 69; Retired

Hall, Amber (219729) **Bedford, NY** US; Stamp Dealer

Hansel, Cary (219782) **Martinsburg, WV** US, CIVIL WAR COVERS, CONFEDERATE STATES, 19TH C, CLASSICS; 66

Harrington, Joel (219736) **Redwood City, CA** US-NY POSTAL HISTORY; 48

Hartenstein, Charles D. (219798) **Douglasville, PA** US, CLASSICS, COILS, AIR MAIL, COMMEN, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, FANCY CANCELS; 47; Mechanic

Hawkins, Barbara (219790) **Las Vegas, NV**

Head, Christopher R. (219767) **Edmonton, AB** MODERN WORLDWIDE; 58; Lawyer

Heaston, Robert (219768) **Tigard, OR**; 59; Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 219509 through 219594 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, Nov. 30, 2011	34,815
New Members	86
Reinstated	62 148
	34,963
Deceased	28
Resignations	83
Expelled	1
Chapter Disbanded	1 113
Total Membership, Dec. 31, 2011	34,850

Hill, Iden C. (219775) **Minneapolis, MN**; 59

Hill, Tony (219710) **Oakboro, NC** US FEDERAL REV/TAX PAIDS, POSTAL STAT;

Hindson, J. Frank (219751) **Fayetteville, WV** 19TH & 20TH C US, CONFEDERATE STATES, ESSAYS & PROOFS, AIR MAIL, CLASSICS; 60; Business Owner

Hoffman, Jeff (219709) **Concord, NC** US PLATE BLKS, SHEETS/SMALL PANES;

Hogg, Lloyd (219760) **Swadlincote, Derbyshire, England**;

Jarvis, Robert E. (219725) **Renton, WA** GB-IRELAND-ETHIOPIA; 78; Retired

Jones, Dale C. (219754) **Hoover, AL** 19TH & 20TH C US; 65; Retired

Jung, Jim C. (219698) **Cincinnati, OH** US; 50

Kearney, Joanne E. (219800) **Macomb, MI** US-SCIENCE/MEDICINE/BIOLOGY-TOPICALS-FDC; 58; Microbiology Educator

Kiley, Frederick T. (219699) **Colorado Springs, CO**; 80

Kolesnikov, Lyubov (219737) **Carmichael, CA**

Kulas, Nicholas (219746) **Key Largo, FL** MINT US, PLATE BLKS, SHEETS; 49; Hospitality

Lucas, James M. (219694) **San Francisco, CA** UK-MACHINS-1935/70 BRIT COMMONWEALTH-W EUR; 75; Retired

Lucas, Joyce L. (219717) **Yakima, WA** US, PLATE BLKS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-BIRDS-HISTORY-CANADA;

Magerl, Carl (219719) **Lansdale, PA** LATIN AM; 65; Retired

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Markel, Kelly L. (219769) **Hornell, NY** US-FEDERAL DUCK; 48; Medical Technologist

McConnell, Barbara S. (219770) **Monroe, NY** TOPICALS-PROOFS; 60; Philatelic Sales

McNatt, Stan G. (219774) **Saint Cloud, FL** GER, THIRD REICH-SPACE-WWII FDC; 47; Analyst

Mehta, Bhupendra K. (219726) **Izelin, NJ** FDC-SHEETS-SOUVENIR SHEETS;

Mohamed, Rezk M. (219695) **Pahrump, NV** WORLDWIDE; 52; Building Inspector

Moreland, Keith R. (219747) **Lynnwood, WA** FRENCH AFRICA; 67; Training Supervisor

Murray, Tara E. (S-219700) **Bellefonte, PA**; 35; Librarian

Nehring, Larry D. (219748) **Palm Desert, CA** WORLDWIDE-LITERATURE; 71; Retired

Nowak, Paul (219739) **Tyngsboro, MA**

O'Dwyer, Henry (219696) **Massapequa Park, NY** US-IRELAND; 80

O'Keefe, William P. (219702) **Chicago, IL** US CUT SQUARES, STAMPSLESS COVERS, COIL LINE PAIRS-VT POSTAL HISTORY-TERR COVERS-MUSHROOMS/FUNGHI

Odell, Edwin (219708) **Longmeadow, MA**; 60

Owens, John B. (219797) **Lebanon, NH** BARBADOS; Papathanassiou, Kyriakos N. (219716) **Kifisia, Greece** GREECE-CLASSICS-NO 1'S-LITERATURE-HISTORY/MEMORABILIA; 47; CPO

Peck, Randy (219793) **Long Beach, CA** US-BRIT EMPIRE-CINDERELLAS-TOPICAL-TRANSPORTATAION-TROPICAL IS; 51

Penney, R. E. (219732) **Laguna Beach, CA**

Peters, Bill (219762) **La Crescenta, CA** 20TH C US; AIR MAIL;

Pfeiffelmann, Thomas (219744) **Saint Ignace, MI** US, PLATE BLKS-CANADA-US USED WORLDWIDE; 69; CEO

Pogany, Dennis (219801) **Skokie, IL** WORLDWIDE; 76; Retired

Porter, Mari (219713) **Escondido, CA**; 61

Prasad, Romeo (219783) **Hartford, CT**; 54

Prochaska, Leslie (219727) **Seville, OH** US, SHEETS-SMALL PANES, OH POSTAL HISTORY, BLKS-PRC; 48

Robida, Diane (219712) **Georgetown, SC** US-WORLDWIDE; 67

Ross, Benjamin H. (219721) **Cape Coral, FL** US COMMEM; 69; Retired

Rossi, Richard (219787) **Cinnaminson, NJ**

Sedivec, Mary Lynn (219792) **Concord, NC**

Shudnow, Harold M. (219722) **Oak Park, MI** 20TH C US, AIR MAIL, CANCELS, CONFEDERATE STATES-FAMOUS PEOPLE-AMATEUR/HAM RADIO;

Simon, Gilbert B. (219743) **Titusville, FL** 19TH C US;

Sitch, Terry W. (219780) **Winnipeg, MB** PRE 1972 WORLDWIDE-PERFINS-PRECANCELS; 54; Perishable Inspector

Smith, Aaron D. (219781) **Oak Harbor, WA** GER-NETH-BRIT EMPIRE-E EUR; 65; Retired

Smith, David J. (219791) **Zephyrhills, FL** UK-CHANNEL IS-IOM-US-OMAN; 69; Retired

Smith, William (219728) **Needham, MA**; 42

Sohail, Mohammad (219784) **Des Plaines, IL**; 42

Sonn, Robert (219755) **Cape Coral, FL** WORLDWIDE; 78; Retired

Spitz, Warren (219731) **Northbrook, IL**; 90; Architect

Stanford, Tom M. (219741) **Lancaster, MA**; 61; Artist

Stein, Sarah (219794) **Charleston, SC**

Syed, Yousuf (219705) **Bolingbrook, IL** WORLDWIDE-CLASSICS-INDIA, STATES-GB-CANCELS; 30; Engineer/Student

Taylor, Robert R. (219757) **Weeki Wachee, FL**

Vincent, Jack C. (219749) **Dana Point, CA**; 77; Retired

Waldrop, Kevin L. (219763) **Birmingham, AL** CONFEDERATE-PRE 1900; 39; Podiatrist

White, Bert H. (219772) **Corning, CA** WORLDWIDE; 83; Retired

Whiteside, Benjamin (219701) **Brandon, FL** US AIR MAIL, COVERS, FDC, PARCEL POST, POSTAGE DUE-AIRPORT DEDICATION COVERS, CAM COVERS; 52; Program Manager

Wilhelm, Jacob M. (219771) **Coquille, OR** WORLDWIDE-COVERS-POSTMARKS; 38; Writer

Williams, James F. (219718) **Beltsville, MD** US, COMMEM, COMMEM PANELS, DEFINITIVES, CONFEDERATE STATES; 72; Retired

Willoughby, James W. (219802) **Kalamazoo, MI** US-CANADA-BOY SCOUTS; 74; Retired

Zeeman, Jennifer M. (219795) **Joliet, IL** US-POLAND-AUST-CANADA; 54

Ziman, Bob (219724) **East Swanzey, NH** EARLY US; H.R. Manager

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Clay, W. Garry (177657), Warwick, NY

Goldschmidt, Ana Maria (140895), La Paz, Bolivia

Goodnough, Edward H. (124001), Upper Saddle River, NJ

Hawkins, Robert D. (194333), Las Vegas, NV

Hutchings, Josef D. (10649-072530), FPO AP

Johnson, Robert R. (7203-065075), San Francisco, CA

Kohn, Lawrence G. (124949), Fort Lauderdale, FL

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Kundin, Stanley J. (097206), Westminster, MD

Kurzet, Stanley M. (215314), Newport Beach, CA

McConnell, E. Joseph (100730), Monroe, NY

Mogge, Carroll A. (078627), Goodland, KS

Moore, George L., III (106697), Naples, FL

Oldani, Joseph (098878), Macomrd, MI

Parsons, David C. (079979), Altoona, PA

Poore, Ralph S. (190406), Arlington, TX

Roos, Erik R.T. (162384), Chicago, IL

Ryan, Eugene J. (6747-035817), Westminster, MA

Scheetz, William C. (3305-022509), Newark, NY

Smiley, Richard H. (168732), Fresno, CA

Starke, Hugh R. (208029), Keeseville, NY

Swafford, Edwin (7441-052606), Manchester, MO

Tjeltveit, O. Alvin (6963-049450), Red Lodge, MT

Wey, John A. (133305), Henderson, NV

Woelfle, Gustave (7477-053307), Jackson, CA

EXPELLED

Haury, Paul L. (216525), 85 Arnot Pl., Paramus, NJ, for failure to settle philatelic indebtedness (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8).

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Badinger, Cynthia

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Spectrum Eagle

On January 3, 2012, in Liberty, Missouri, the Postal Service issued a Spectrum Eagle Presorted First-Class Mail nondenominated stamp (priced at 25 cents), in six designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive coil of 3,000 and a PSA coil of 10,000.

The U.S. Postal Service Spectrum Eagle issue features six new Presorted First-Class Mail stamps featuring an artist's rendering of the American bald eagle. The eagle's profile is depicted in white, set against a sequence of six varying shades of red, yellow, green, and blue. Each color blends with the one following, resulting in a gradual spectrum from left to right across the six stamps. Illustrator Michael Osborne worked with art director Ethel Kessler to create the stamp art.

Denomination: Presorted First-Class (Nondenominated)

(a) Format: Coil of 3,000 (6 designs)

Series: N/A

Issue Date & City: January 3, 2012, Liberty, MO 64068 (No Ceremony)

Designer/Art Director/Typography: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Artist: Michael Osborne, San Francisco, CA

Engraver: WRE

Modeler: Avery Dennison, Designed and Engineered Solutions

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR), Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III, Block

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black, Cool Gray

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image); 22.09 x 24.89 mm (overall)

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by 5 single digits

Coil Number Frequency: Plate numbers to appear on bottom right corner below stamp image every 30th stamp, aligned to the right stamp image Barcode on coil tops

(b) Format: Coil of 10,000 (6 designs)



For more information on current USPS stamp issues and stamps issued in 2010 and 2011 visit www.stamps.org/US-New-Issues

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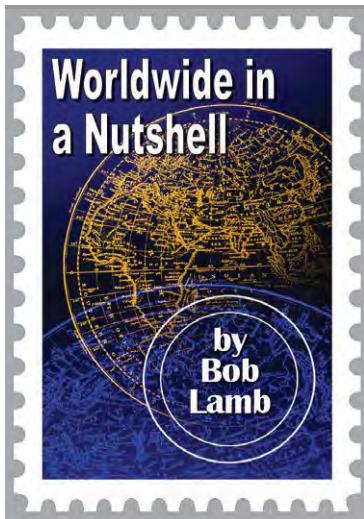
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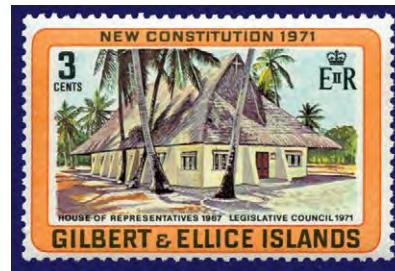
Kiribati

Status: A republic in the central Pacific

Population: 102,697 (2011 est.)

Area: 266 sq miles

Currency: 100 cents = 1 Kiribati Dollar
(\$1 = US\$0.98)



Kiribati is composed of thirty-three islands, twenty-one of which are inhabited. The islands are widely disbursed — the distance from Banaba (Ocean Island) in the west to Kirimati in the east is roughly the same as from New York City to Salt Lake

City. Kiribati consists of three island groupings: the densely populated Gilberts, the Phoenix Islands (only one of which is inhabited), and the Line Islands in the west.

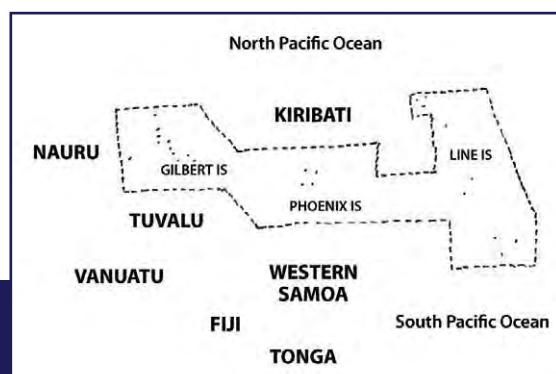
Although there is thought to have been some earlier settlement, the modern history of Kiribati begins with the arrival of Micronesians around 200–500 A.D. In pre-European times, there was much cultural contact between the islands. The islanders would travel up to 250 miles in canoes, navigating by the stars, to neighboring islands to perform dances. European contact began in the sixteenth century. Captain Cook named Christmas Island on his third voyage in 1777, and in 1820 a British Captain, Thomas Gilbert, lent his name to the archipelago.

European interest in the area was limited. There was little to attract settlers, and the succession of traders failed to find their visits worthwhile. It was the spread of Christianity that brought sustained colonial interest. The first missionaries arrived in the Gilberts in 1857. Trade followed, and in the 1880s growing commercial competition among the major powers led to pressure for annexation. Britain's competition with the Germans led to an Anglo-German convention in 1886 acknowledging the Gilbert and Ellice Islands to be in the British sphere of influence. When the British declared a protectorate over Gilbert and Ellice in 1892, they were the last major islands outside European control.

The protectorate initially included only the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Banaba, one of the world's most important phosphate islands, was added in 1900. On January 12, 1916, the islands became a crown colony and, later in the year, its territory was expanded eastward to the Line Islands. Christmas Island was joined to the colony in 1919 despite a challenge by the United States. The Phoenix Islands were added in 1926 and the southern Line islands in 1972.

In 1974 ethnic differences caused the Polynesian-dominated Ellice Islands to vote for separation from the Micronesian Gilbert Islands. On July 12, 1979 the Gilbert Islands became independent as Kiribati, the local transliteration of "Gilberts."

Overprinted Fiji stamps were placed on sale January 1, 1911. Later that year four definitives, also produced by De La Rue, were released. In 1968 the conversion to decimal currency brought stamps denominated in dollars. Kiribati dollars are pegged to the Australian dollar, which also circulates freely on the islands. With the separation of the Ellice Islands, new stamps were issued January 2, 1976 inscribed simply "Gilbert Islands." Independence brought stamps inscribed "Kiribati." Most of the populated islands are currently served by a monthly mail boat from Tarawa the capital.





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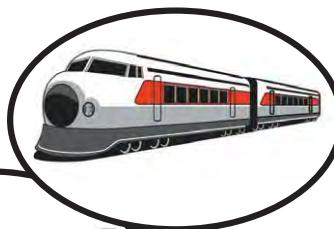
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