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November 2014

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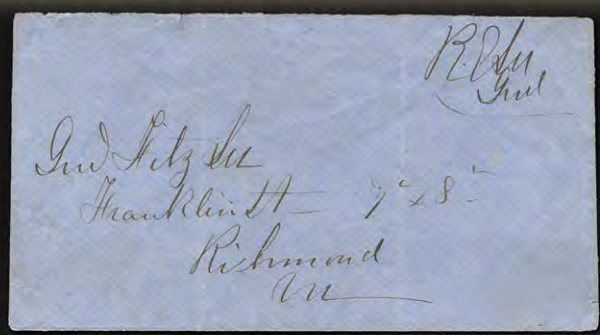

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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Since 1887 — The Premier Philatelic Magazine in the Nation

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President's Column

by Stephen Reinhard

Aerophilately 2014/ Postal History Symposium

It has been ten days since I returned from our headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. The all-air mail national exhibition with international participation was an outstanding success. Exhibitors from as far away as Australia and Romania attended and showed their outstanding material. The exhibition had both APS and FIP accreditation; hence, the Grand Award winners in both the multi-frame and single-frame classes will be invited to the respective Champion of Champions competitions next year. Additionally, most of the exhibits achieving 85 points will now be eligible for eight frames in World Stamp Show-New York 2016 and other FIP accredited exhibitions.

Congratulations to the following major award winners:

Multi-frame Grand Award: **A.D. Jones** for "Establishing U.S. Trans-Continental Airmail Service 1918–1924."

Multi-frame Reserve Grand Award: **James W. Graue** for "DLH South Atlantic 1934–1939."

Single-frame Grand Award: **Cheryl R. Ganz** for "LZ-129 Hindenburg Onboard Postmarks."

Our thanks go to the International Federation of Philately (F.I.P.) for sponsoring the multi-frame Grand Award.

The weekend began Thursday evening with an opening reception held at the Best Western University Park Hotel and Suites. It was a wonderful time for people to meet and greet each other over some excellent food and drink, sponsored by H.R. Harmer GPN of Tustin, California. Our thanks go to past-President Sam Pezzillo and his wife for taking care of all of the arrangements for this event.

From left: James W. Graue, Cheryl R. Ganz,and A.D. Jones.

Friday evening brought a sell-out crowd to a local restaurant for an informal American Air Mail Society dinner event, again bringing together a large group of collectors, spouses and friends for a pleasant evening together.

Saturday evening was the combined AAMS 2014/ Postal History Symposium banquet held at the magnificent Nittany Lion Inn on the campus of the Pennsylvania State University. This was truly a fun evening with Keynote speaker Jon Krupnick giving a lively talk that kept all present entertained throughout.

So, what kept the attendees busy during the day? Almost 300 frames of air mail exhibits, American Air Mail Society seminars, and, of course, the eight papers presented during the Symposium sponsored by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library. While I couldn't attend due to my philatelic

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jury duties, everyone that I spoke to enjoyed these excellent presentations.

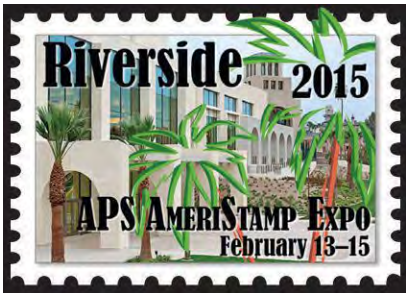
Thank you also goes to the dealers who had an outstanding stock of airmail and other philatelic material. I only wish that I had more than the 30 minutes of "free" time to look through the dealer inventory more closely.

Virtually all of the on-site preparation and work was done by the outstanding staff of our APS. The planning and preparation was organized by Tara Murray, our Head Librarian, who had everything well under control when she took ill at the beginning of the show and was unable to be there for any part of the show. With her planning, everything ran exceptionally smoothly, even without her being present. Thank you Tara for the wonderful job you did putting this event together. The show's logistics and set up were in the very capable hands of Dana Guyer, the APS Shows and Exhibitions guru. No one can put on a show any better. Thank you, Dana. To all of the participating employees let me just say that without your, sometimes backbreaking, work this event that will be fondly remembered by all present, could never have happened. BRAVO!

2015 APS Dues Notices

Most of you have already received your 2015 dues notices and, if not, will be receiving yours within the next few days. You will note that dues again have been kept unchanged. We are trying to help all of our members keep within their stamp budgets, but this doesn't mean that our need for operating funds doesn't keep growing every year. You all are aware that costs keep going up, especially things such as postage, utility costs, and employee health insurance. For those of you who are able to add an additional amount to your dues payment we thank you in advance for your help.

AmeriStamp Expo 2015



AmeriStamp Expo 2015 will soon be upon us. It is time to make your plans to join the APS in sunny Riverside, California — February 13–15. The Riverside Convention Center is newly renovated and will provide a wonderful venue for our winter show. The show hotel is the Riverside Marriott, which provides a free shuttle from the Ontario International Airport. Remember, preregistering avoids having to stand in line at the show. A preregistration form is included on the inside front cover of this issue. I look forward to seeing you at the show.

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How I Became a Stamp Collector

This month we continue with this interesting series of member stories.

The joy and fascination with stamps began when I was 5 years old. My mother attended a rummage sale and bought a small box of stamps and an album. My older sister had a small collection and would give me her duplicates and some hinges. In her teens she lost interest and I bought her collection with my newspaper delivery money. I was on my way.

I remember subscribing to the H.E. Harris approval service and was excited when I received my monthly selection of stamps. I purchased a small metal press from Harris, which I still use.

In 1955 I began subscribing to *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* and have had a continuous subscription to this day. In approximately 1957, I began an exchange for collectors, Superior Stamp Exchange, advertising in *Linn's*, which I continued for nearly thirty years. It was a "no cash" circuit and I had lots of enjoyment with nearly 100 members.

In 1965 I joined the APS and this year will celebrate 50 years of continuous membership in the Society. The only longer stint is my marriage of 52 years to my beautiful wife Charlene. Needless to say she has been supportive of the many hours attending to this wonderful hobby. Also, she condones the fact that although my purchases have recently been mixtures, which I enjoy soaking and sorting, over the years I have been a generalist in my collecting interest, acquiring stamps and covers from all countries. I have taken over the basement, a section of the garage — not to forget the closets and cabinets in the house.

I have used and appreciate the services of the APS over the years. I currently have two stamps being Expertized. In addition, I have more than fifty sales books in circulation and I try to enter one or two books each month. Keep up the excellent articles in your monthly publication.

Finally, at 75, I am still going strong, working full time for a local community bank and still finding time daily and weekends to devote an hour or two to the wonderful hobby of stamp collecting. The only concern I have is that interest in the hobby is declining among young people, although our son, who lives in Taiwan, is interested in stamps, particularly China and Japan. He frequently sends me new issues from these countries.

We must continue our efforts to bring new collectors into the hobby that has provided so much pleasure over the years.

Dick Lawrence
Pacific Palisades, California

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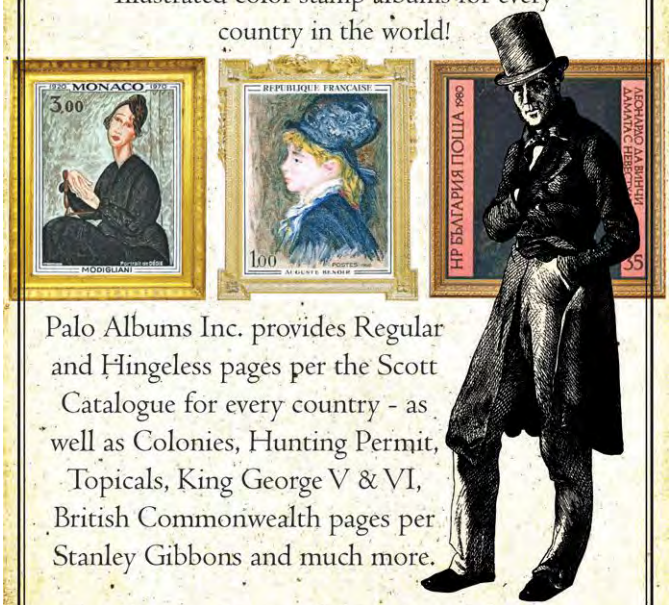

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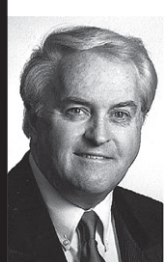

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Letters to the Editor

Insights into the C3a Mystery 1

In response to the fine article by Ken Lawrence regarding the mystery of the missing inverted Jenny stamps ("Help APRL Solve Our Hobby's Most Important Cold Case," September *AP*, page 830), I would like to provide some additional fuel to the history.

For many years, I owned a Stamp and Coin store in Allentown, Pennsylvania. One of my customers was an elderly gent by the name of Dr. Willard Clewell who was a school teacher and a member of the local school board. It was thought that Clewell held several important patents and was a man of substance. He told me that he was the owner of a C3a inverted Jenny, which he had acquired from a stamp dealer named Lambert Gerber. Gerber owned a shop in nearby Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. The acquisition must have occurred some time in the 1960 to 1970 period, as best as I could tell and recollect.

I never met or spoke to Gerber, nor did I ever see the C3a, but due to Clewell's apparent resources, knowledge, and interest in philately, the claim was credible. On one occasion, Clewell showed me a complete mint set of the Canada Jubilee stamps he said he had just obtained. I sold my store in 1984 and never saw Clewell after that, but several years later, I received a strange and disjointed phone call from him. Now, Dr. Clewell was always a bit eccentric, but the call seemed to indicate he had crossed the line into some form of dementia. In his ramblings during this call, he mentioned that since he had never married and was devoid of heirs, he was leaving his entire estate and stamp collection to the Allentown School district. He had previously mentioned this to me, some years earlier, and requested that I not divulge this information to anybody so it would come as a surprise to the district when they received a substantial bequest upon his death.

I never heard from him again. Some time in the early 1990s, I received a phone call from a local attorney who advised me he was handling a significant stamp collection in his role as an estate conservator and he requested I do a paid appraisal of this collection, which contained the famous "upside down airplane" stamp. This could only mean the collection of Dr. Clewell. My inquiries into the status of Clewell were met with silence, but it appeared (and this is strictly hearsay) that Clewell had slipped into serious dementia and had befriended a young man, who, along with his friends, had been systematically looting Clewell's possessions.

I met the attorney at his office and examined the collection presented to me there. The famous "upside down airplane" stamp turned out to be a color image of the stamp, apparently cut off a page of an auction catalog. The remainder of the collection consisted of rarely seen multiples of worldwide stamps, that, while scarce, were difficult to evaluate accurately due to infrequent sales of this type of material. I evaluated the entire holding at several thousand dollars, which registered as a disappointment to the attorney who was perhaps thinking six figures. A now-deceased colleague of mine, Dale Hendricks, was also called in and his finding agreed with mine as to the value and salability of the material, which was later sold to a prominent Philadelphia stamp firm.

I do not know if Clewell actually owned a C3a. It could be that all of his more liquid stamp holdings had been removed, leaving only unusual and easily distinguished esoteric material. Stamp dealer Gerber had been known to handle some powerful philatelic material but he, too, had passed away earlier.

None of this definitively solves the mystery, but I wished to add this information to the pile for somebody later to assimilate as I am now 75 and in failing health. I have never revealed any of this to anybody. I am hopeful that this may be of use to future historians and researchers.

Bruce M. Moyer
East Texas, Pennsylvania

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Stamp Out Cancer Auction

For the 37th consecutive year the Quad City Stamp Club (APS Chapter 249) held a donation auction with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Held in Bettendorf, Iowa, this year's auction raised $5,283. Over the years these auctions have raised a total of $258,700 for cancer research.

Two auctions are held at once: one with United States stamps and supplies, the other featuring foreign stamps. This year the foreign auction outperformed its American counterpart. Information on the 2015 auction will be announced at www.qcstampclub.com.

Representatives from both Iowa and Illinois chapters of the American Cancer Society attended the stamp club meeting June 12, 2014 in Moline, Illinois to receive equal checks. Shown in the front row (L to R) are Linda Reynolds, Tracy Kimler, and Gary Kimler. Longtime Stamp Out Cancer Auction chairman George Pettigrew and Don Don Hayes flank the cancer voluneteers.

Steve Bahnsen
Chicago, Illinois

Insights into the C3a Mystery 2

I found Ken Lawrence's article about the Jenny inverts fascinating and have a tidbit of a story that may or may not help in the ongoing search for the remaining two stamps from the McCoy block.

I grew up in Chicago in the 1960s and 1970s, and started my United States mint stamp collection with frequent visits to Lou Castelli's Ace Coin and Stamp Mart. At the peak of my high school spending on stamps in the mid-70s, I was in Lou's shop almost every Saturday. When I received my allowance, down to Lou's shop I went!

One Saturday in the mid-70s, Lou gave me a Cheshire Cat grin and asked me, "How would you like to hold $10,000 in your hand?" In my wide-eyed innocence, I said "Sure!" He walked into his office, opened a safe, took out one stamp and gently laid it with tongs in my hand. It was a Jenny invert, and I couldn't believe he had not only let me see it, but actually hold it.

For the minute or so that I stared at it, I couldn't believe how perfect it looked. Which is why I'm writing. While I didn't know about the McCoy theft then (I actually hadn't heard about it until reading the *AP* article), I don't recall the stamp Lou showed me having any visible alterations, or stunted perfs on that right edge. Which leads me to think — could Lou have had another Jenny invert besides position 75?

After about a minute, I gave the stamp back to Lou and never saw it again. I continued as a loyal customer of Lou's until after college, when Ace Coin and Stamp closed — in fact, that experience of holding a Jenny invert would have kept me a loyal customer of Lou Castelli's forever! I was greatly saddened when his shop went out of business.

Anyway, I don't know if this story helps at all, but I had to write after reading Ken Lawrence's piece. Thanks to Mr. Lawrence for researching and writing it.

Joe Shacter
Chicago, Illinois

United Bakers Bread Stamps

I have been sorting a bunch of international stamps and have found a num-

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ber of stamps that have been stamped on the back with "United Bakers Bread." They are from different South American countries and I have been unable to find out anything about them or United Bakers Bread. Can you shed any light on this subject? Thank you.

Richard Place
Hollister, California

Scott Tiffney, APRL Research Assistant replies: This was a form of advertising that was applied to the gum side of stamps as part of various governments' attempts to defray some of the production costs of stamps. In the literature, they are often referred to as "advertisement stamps." The most notable country that issued stamps with ads on the back was New Zealand and I have a link to a very good article regarding these in the *Gibbon's Stamp Monthly*: www.nzstamps.org.uk/nzsgb/articles/SG_Nov2002.pdf. Other countries tried similar back printing as well, including the United States briefly, but there is no list that I'm aware of that indicates which countries produced these issues and how many. In an article in *Linn's*, John Hotchner points out an U.S. example on the back of Scott 147 (*Linn's* September 19, 2005, p. 6), but indicates that they are very rare and that so far it is not known how many were ever produced. He identified four known ads: "Buy Radway's Ready Relief," "Devlin & Co. Clothing, Broadway, New York," "Try Choate's Odonto For the Teeth," and "Read the New York Ledger."

As for the "United Bakers Bread," the only reference I've been able to find regarding it is as an underprint used on a particular perfin noted in the August 2002 issue of the *Perfin Society Bulletin*. The page is available online at www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/abstracts/2389.pdf. Good examples of the variety of advertisements found, at least on New Zealand stamps, can be found online at www.arhstamps.com/blog/?p=57 and www.nzstamps.org.uk/secondside/adverts.html.

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Joliet, Illinois

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Good Issue

As a relatively new APS member, I just want to tell you that I enjoy *The American Philatelist* magazine every month, and that the September issue is the best one I've seen since I've joined the organization.

The article on the "Cold Case" Inverted Jenny issue (page 830) was quite interesting, and I enjoyed the pieces on "Personal Stories & Picture Postcards" (page 856) and "Eucalyptus Oil for a Polynesian Queen" (page 846). And the article on Bosnia and Herzegovina (page 850) was a great example of blending modern geopolitics and philately.

I also enjoy the columns, particularly Visiting the British Empire, Collecting Coast to Coast, Worldwide in a Nutshell, and the President's Column, as well as the letters to the editor.

I now look forward to that time of month when the magazine is due in my mailbox.

Joe Darby
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Commercial Precancels

I enjoyed Joe Kirker's recent article on "Precancels of the 1918 Jenny Air Mails" (September *AP*, page 830). This illuminates further my general knowledge of precancels in that they were overprints administered by the Postal Service with a city/state combination to speed cancellation and prevent usage of stolen stamps in another area.

I dabble in commercial postal history. Recently I came across a stamp on a cover and wonder if this would have

been the same logic of precancellation but administered differently. The cover was sent by Wells Fargo Nevada National Bank. Note the three-cent stamp upon closer examination has pin punches in the design to outline the bank's initials: WFN NB. Because the envelope was not impacted, this implies that the stamp was punched while off cover. On the other hand the horizontal alignment seems more true to the plane of the envelope than the skew of the stamp's placement — implying that the pin cancel was done after the stamp was placed on the cover. I'm assuming that this was an arrangement in concert with the Postal Service, since the stamp was honored for its overseas cost of five cents.

Would you have any reference for what looks like a commercial precancel? Thank you.

Ryan Baum
Davis, California

Columnist Wayne Youngblood replies: The stamp on your cover bears

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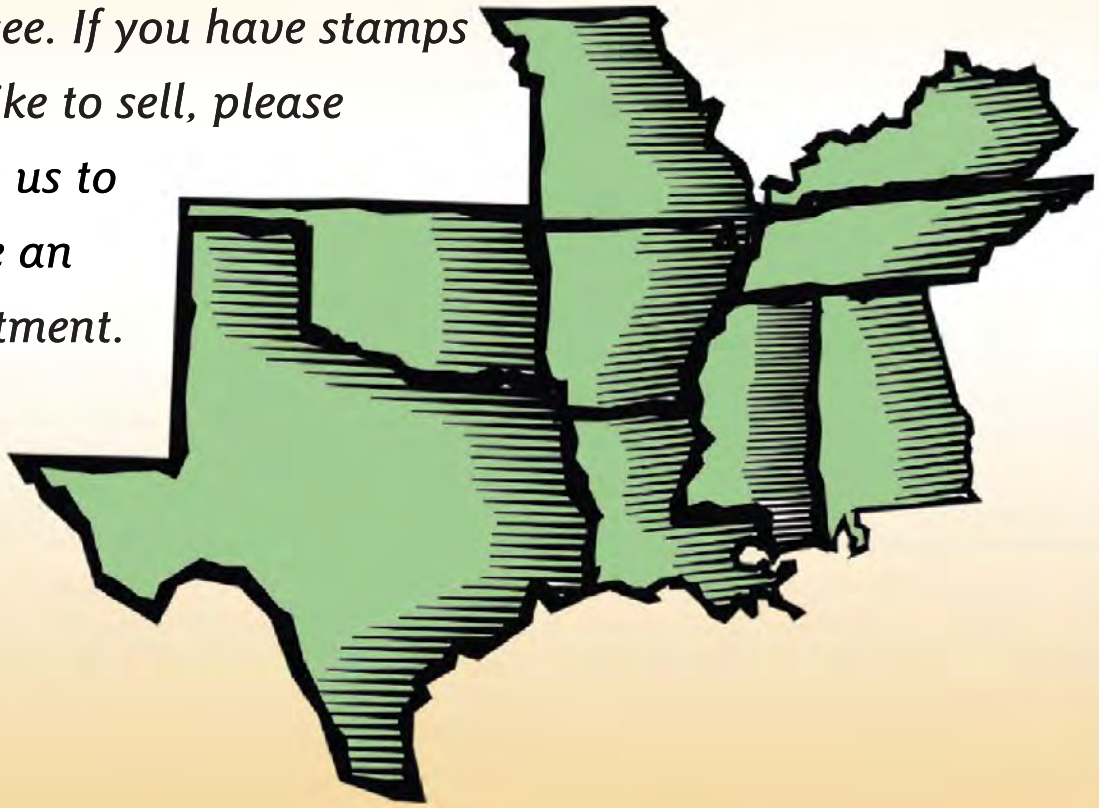

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what is known as a perfin (short for perforated initials). Unlike precancels, which exist almost exclusively for postal processing purposes, perfins in this country exist entirely as a form of private security device to prevent theft, and were authorized by the U.S. Post Office Department shortly after the turn of the 20th century (1908). Perfins constitute a form of positive identification to prevent unauthorized use of stamps purchased for business purposes. Their inception in the United States was in response to the common crime of employees stealing business postage for personal use.

The holes are punched in stamps to form letters or designs that are typically the initials or the logo of a large company or organization. Perfins are applied to mint sheets and are usually punched to be read from the front, but show up most clearly (although reversed) when read from the back. Perfins can, however, be found in any orientation on a stamp, including inverted, forwards or backwards. Although perfins are still used by some (including collectors of perfins), their use has declined significantly over the years, as postage meters became more widespread. In other countries, perfins can designate Official use or even denote remainders or specimens.

Fund-Raising with Stamps

While reading the online edition today, I spotted this unusual bra picture in the *Detroit Free Press* and read the attached article. Yes, it is covered with stamps — all for a good cause.

Thought our readers would at least appreciate the uniqueness of it!

"Bras for a Cause fund-raiser Saturday" at www.freep.com/story/life/wellness/2014/09/25/bras-cause-cancer-fundraiser/16218999/

Bob Cordaro
Clarkston, Michigan

Measuring Perfs

I'd like to share with members an "ah-ha" moment I had last year regarding the use of a perf gauge. I was having issues determining perforations of Falkland Islands Scott numbers 54–64 when a fellow member of the Raleigh Stamp Club shared a few pages of his *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue* with me. In the "information and guidelines" section, under the heading Perforation and Roulette Perforation gauge, *Gibbons* says: "The gauge of a perforation is the number of holes in a length of 2cm (centimeters)." I was trying to measure my perfs with the *imperial gauge* (number of holes per inch) instead of the *metric gauge*. When I used the metric part of my gauge everything fell into place!

The lesson learned was that if one gauge doesn't make sense, try the other one.

Marty Graff
Raleigh, North Carolina

Removing Old Hinges 1

I hope this note provides some advice for Amy McCullough ("Stamps in Old

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Albums," September *AP*, page 805). Several years ago, the *AP* was kind enough to print one of my longer letters that described my procedures for soaking used stamps to remove hinge remnants, cover paper, and discolored gum residue. Ms. McCullough's questions pertain to removing stamps from old albums and she asks for suggestions.

I probably would be classified as an advanced collector by most definitions but still regularly work at filling in empty album spaces by trying to find so-called inexpensive common stamps — often a very difficult task. I am able via several dealers and colleagues to look through old albums for missing items and also for color, perforation, and other varieties.

The nice response by Gretchen Moody, AP Director of Education, implies that the stamps in question for Ms. McCullough are unused stamps with gum. But I have found that some of what Ms. Moody suggests also applies to used stamps, where soaking is perfectly fine to do, with the major exception of those stamps that were printed with chalky ink or with fugitive ink or have cancellations that may run when soaked in water. Some examples of stamps not to soak are a number of George V era (1910–1935) stamps from Great Britain and colonies and some from the Dutch colonies from the pre-World War II era. The *Scott Catalogue* usually provides warnings for these types of stamps but not for all. But most used stamps will be OK to soak.

As to removal of stamps from the old albums themselves, I have probably made most every mistake via experimentation. If you now own the old albums, you have the right to do anything you feel is right to remove a stamp from a page — what and how much damage you may do to the album page depends on whether or not the album pages themselves are of any lasting value to you. If you do not own the album but are only allowed to remove stamps that are priced separately, then of course, the album owner must give permission for you to use some of the more extreme methods of stamps removal needed for removal of stuck down stamps — unused or used.

On any stamp hinged into an old album, the first thing to find out is if the hinge can be peeled from the album page or from the stamp itself with very little resistance. Try not to pull on any hinge; try instead to slowly roll it off. My experience has shown me that it is best not to try to continue peeling any hinge off a stamp or album page if there is more than the slightest resistance. Anything more than that and a thinned stamp is very likely the outcome. Often, even the legendary Dennison hinges will not peel completely off stamps, especially stamps with gum. The safest thing to do if a very light peel attempt is resisted is to use a sharp-pointed pair of stamp tongs (keep these away from children), not the spade-tipped ones, and slide one side between the stamp and album page if you can, and carefully cut/tear the hinge near where it meets the stamp. The stamp should pop off the album page and the stamp will then have a hinge remnant.

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One also has to be careful of sloppily applied hinges where the stamp has been inadvertently hinged at both the top and somewhere else. For these it is best to tear the hinge near both stamp contact points. If the stamp is used and not one that has chalky paper or fugitive ink, then a water soak will get rid of the hinge remnant(s) without any danger of creating thins as would happen by continued peel attempts. I use mounts rather than hinges for my stamps, including used ones, and therefore like to remove all extraneous matter from the backs of used stamps. Careful soaking and drying of used stamps is also a good way to check for damage — thins, holes, and tears are often concealed beneath hinges.

Unused stamps with gum are more challenging to remove from old albums. If one is lucky and carefully applied green-colored thin Dennison hinges were used by the original album owner, there is a good chance the stamp hinge will peel off nicely, leaving the original gum. Unused stamps with original gum that cannot easily be separated from the hinge by peeling can be removed by cutting the hinge as discussed above, but now one has a hinge remnant on the back. I have tried so-called stamp lift fluid to remove the hinge remnant and found that it indeed allows removal of the hinge remnant, but it also dissolves the original gum. Therefore I quickly gave up on this technique. I have not tried the "sweat-box" technique to remove hinge remnants as described in a number of older stamp collecting books. My opinion, in agreement with Ms. Moody, is that one is best just living with the hinge remnant on the back of an otherwise sound, unused original gum stamp.

Now, about used or unused stamps that are stuck to the page: I have experience where literally cutting the page around the desired stamp was the best and only way of getting the stamp out of the album. If it is a used stamp, I just soak the stamp off the album page piece later on. Unused stamps are the trickiest. I would again recommend beginning by cutting the page around the desired stamp, but now how to get the stamp off the page remnant? I generally avoid these situations in the first place and choose to avoid buying albums with unused stuck-down stamps, but if there were no other way, I would probably experiment first with the sweat box technique on a low value stamp to see how well that works.

Otherwise, the choice has to be made of keeping the stamp "as is" on its album page remnant or soaking the stamp/page remnants to wind up with no a gum, unused stamp. I have read many accounts where soaking unused stamps off pages was indeed the only reasonable option. No-gum copies are, of course, of lower value than stamps with original gum but there are collectors who prefer these to stamps stuck onto pages, and the stamps may still be attractive looking.

I hope other readers can weigh in on

the stuck-down unused stamp problem with descriptions of some successful techniques.

Ronald S. Kane
Monroe Township, New Jersey

Removing Old Hinges 2

I'd like to respond to Amy McCullough's letter in the September 2014 issue, "Stamps in Old Albums."

I'm not an advanced collector myself by any means, but like Amy, I purchase lots of old lots, keep the best and sell off the rest as I can. I've got quite a bit of nice material in my areas of interest that book at $500 to $1,000, and I was running into problems with pesky hinges on older stamps. It was especially important for me, a collector of Great Britain and (some) British Colonies (as well as other areas), to devise a strategy for removing hinges without soaking because soaking will ruin many used British stamps that are printed on chalky paper or in fugitive inks.

Well, sometime in the past two years, Wayne Youngblood (I believe) described his hinge-removal process, which entailed dabbing a few drops of water on the offending hinge, then lifting it with a pair of tongs. I tried this on a few cheaper stamps at the time and found it unsatisfactory, as it seems that hinges often form airtight vacuums against the stamps themselves and a tong is simply too thick to slide between the hinge and stamp to break an air seal that might be over 150 years old.

I then did some thinking, and it became clear I needed a tool that was stiff, like a tong, but much thinner. I have been using Exact-o knives for some time in my collecting to edge stamp mounts (I mount all my stamps, used, unused and mint, because I think it makes my albums more attractive and prevents the damage that is done to hinged stamps by simply turning pages). The Exact-o knife was a perfect fit for the job, and since I haven't seen it incorporated into a description of hinge removal, here is my complete process for the sake of helping my fellow APS members:

Step 1: Dab a few drops of water directly on the hinge.

Step 2: Wait approximately one minute to a minute and a half, or until wrinkles begin to form in the hinge's surface.

Step 3: Holding the flat, sharpened edge of your Exact-o at about a 45-degree slope from the edge of the hinge, GENTLY slide the blade between the hinge and the stamp's surface.

[*Note:* If you experience any resistance in using your Exact-o, do not force it or you may damage the stamp's paper fibers. Always use the Exact-o not as a cutting or prying device, but simply as a tool to slip between the stamp and hinge.]

I would suggest trying this method out on cheaper material until you get the hang of it. I myself have had great luck with it, and only once, out of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of stamps, did I accidentally cut into the stamp. This method also works great for removing envelope remnants and for preserving as much

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EMAIL: sonnyhagendorf@gmail.com

gum as possible on the back of unused stamps that have been hinged. Yes, you will disturb some gum by doing this to a gummed stamp, but you will preserve far more (while also removing the hinge) than if you soak the stamp; ultimately, when you get good at this method you can even remove a stubborn hinge from an unused stamp and keep most of the gum beneath the hinge in place, making it look no different from a Previously Hinged stamp whose hinge came off easily.

Anyhow, I hope this helps. And, no, to date I have not noticed any damage to the fibers on the backs of stamps I've done this to, even when the stamps are viewed under a microscope. Being gentle is the key. Hinges don't want to be on stamps, in my humble opinion, and my stamps don't want hinges, so the two naturally part ways with this little bit of coaxing.

Phill Provance

New Haven, Connecticut

Young Friends of APS

I'm a 36-year-old philatelist — apparently what's considered a "youth" and "closet collector" by common day collecting standards. My grandfather collected stamps. He was a courier for the U.S. Army during World War II, and he introduced me to stamp collecting when I was 10 years old. Through his war time stories and postal history, I immediately fell in love with philately and continued to collect worldwide and U.S. stamps but never had any other friends my age who collected.

I actually never even really considered the fact that there might be others my age who collected. I honestly just assumed that stamp collecting was a long forgotten hobby that might soon be forgotten altogether. But then with the development of the Internet and online social networking, one day in 2011, I decided to google the word "stamps." The APS website was one of the first results that came up in my search. I clicked on the link, visited the website, and within minutes I was a member.

It was through the APS website that I discovered my local APS chapter, the Greater Richmond Stamp Club. (Incidentally, only months prior to my APS membership, the APS show had just visited Richmond, VA and I was crestfallen at having missed it.) But as time went on, I continued to attend my local GRSC meetings. Eventually I became our club's newsletter editor and now I'm the Vice President.

Don't get me wrong, I love my local club but the vast majority of our membership is three to five decades older than me. I realize that age is just a number but there's nothing quite like meeting like-minded individuals similar to your own age group, so when I received a survey letter from the Young Friends of APS, inquiring if I would be interested in attending the APS show in Hartford, CT and meeting collectors my own age, I was enthralled.

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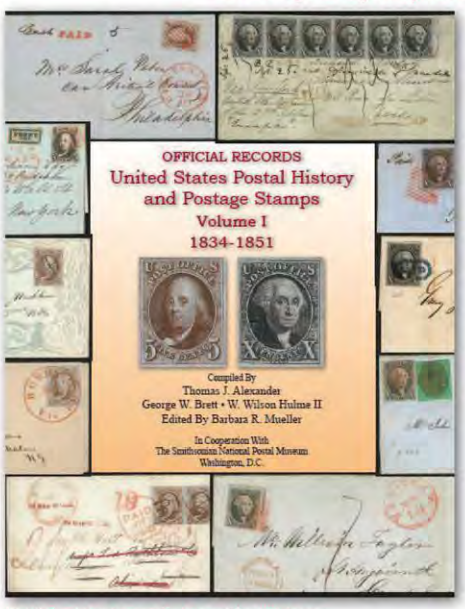

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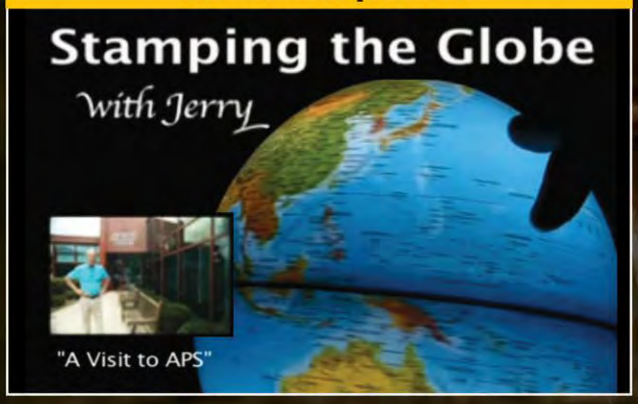

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I immediately booked my travel, and when I arrived at the show I received the warmest welcome from many of the YFAPS members. This show was the biggest show I ever attended and although it was a bit overwhelming at first, everyone I met was so helpful that it wasn't long before I felt right at home.

On Friday evening, our group met for drinks and an inaugural dinner at City Steam Brewery. It was very well attended and I could really sense how pleased and excited all of the attendees were to be there and meet each other. It was such a fun and inspiring event, and I even received some fantastic gifts (a penny black coffee mug & notebook). After the event our group continued to socialize and, by the end of the weekend, I felt like I was amongst old friends. On the Saturday before I left show, we had one last casual roundtable show-and-tell meeting. It was great fun seeing and hearing about what everyone had acquired at the show.

This was quite a life-changing event for me and I must say that it has changed my outlook on stamp collecting altogether. I am filled with so much optimism for the future and I simply cannot wait to attend the next meeting of the YFAPS. Thanks ever so much to James Weigant and Alex Haimann for making this all possible!

For more info on the YFAPS, please contact James Weigant @ jamesweigant@sbcglobal.net.

Kimberlee Fuller
Richmond, Virginia

Remembering Douglas A. Lehmann

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Douglas K. Lehmann unexpectedly passed away on September 3. He is survived by three children, two sisters, several cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Although a stamp collector since childhood, Douglas K. Lehmann focused his stamp collecting life on researching, publishing his findings, and exhibiting revenue stamps of the Philippine Islands. He was an avid writer and renowned expert on Philippine revenue stamps who published hundreds of articles in several philatelic journals. In 1993 he published *Fiscal Stamps of the Philippines: A Catalogue 1898 to 1946*, a book that remains the foremost reference of Philippine revenue stamps. Doug frequently exhibited Philippine revenue stamps and U.S. Christmas seals and won many awards, including Gold Awards and the Eugene A. Garret Award for outstanding Philippine exhibits.

Doug was an active member of the International Philippine Philatelic Society, where he was the website and publicity manager; and an active member in other philatelic societies, including the American Philatelic Society, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, American Revenue Society, Springfield (VA) Stamp Club, Graebner First Day Cover Chapter, Washington (DC) Stamp Collectors Club, and the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

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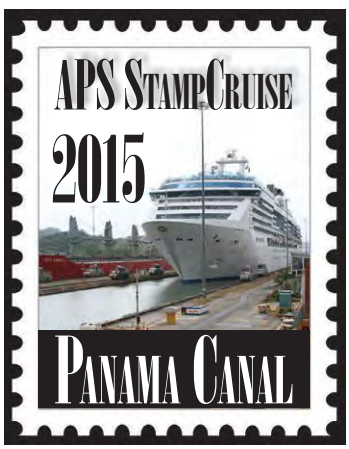

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Doug had served as Chairman and past President of NAPEX, Washington, DC's largest stamp show. He and his wife Patricia (who passed in 2011) worked together as a team at NAPEX and at the international stamp show, Washington 2006. His friendship and contributions to philately will be greatly missed. Donations in honor of Doug can be made to the International Philippine Philatelic Society, P. O. Box 2544, Toluca Lake, CA 91610.

Don Peterson
Brunswick, Maryland

Online Sales & Youth Collecting

I read the president's letter in the February *AP* and I finally decided to respond after re-reading it while cleaning up the stamp den this past weekend.

I do agree that the APS needs a better digital footprint and to go along with that, it needs to find a way to attract people to the website and to membership. I realize that membership in the APS has its benefits, as it should. One of those benefits allows me an opportunity to shop the online store on a regular basis, but I wonder if the online store should be restricted to members only?

The standard circuit books certainly need have this restriction for security and ethical reasons, but do the items listed for sale at the online store really need that level of security? The current system operates in the same manner as any other online store and I believe opening it up to non-members would be a good way to help promote the APS and potentially increase membership.

If the APS could open a store link on eBay or another online site, I believe that it would help increase our club's sales and revenues and maybe move some items that have been listed for sale for a long period of time. The visitors would know that they are buying quality items at a fair price and it could lead them to join the APS and take advantage of the other services provided to the membership.

One item mentioned in his letter concerned increasing membership, especially among young collectors. The main factor regarding the younger collector is that we need to become more involved in their lives and the only way to do it involves giving our TIME. I recall reading many letters from our members recounting the time they spent with their parent, grandparent, or other older mentor going through a collection or building their first collection. Time was freely given and for many of us those hours are some of our most treasured memories.

It will take EFFORT on our part to show the youths and young adults that stamp collecting can be fun. Children have more distractions today, and it involves more than video games and the Internet: they have a whole host of extracurricular activities. The coaches that participate in the various youth sporting programs routinely demonstrate how to catch and hold their charges attention, they meet with them regularly. At a minimum, we should be involved on a bi-monthly basis and members that are retired should be able to free up an hour or two every week to help sow those seeds of interest. Remember, the coaches do not meet with the youth once or twice a month; they meet with them on an almost daily basis and the majority of those coaches are still in the work force, they are not retired.

We also need to begin volunteering at our local schools and become mentors to the students and recreate the school stamp club again. We need to begin working with our teachers on a regular basis and demonstrate how stamps can help them with their lesson plans. We need to show them that "old" does not mean inept or incapable. Once they know what we can do, and the benefits we can provide, they will be glad to invite us back.

We also need to begin volunteering with our local scout groups. The stamp collecting merit badge has been merged into a general collecting merit badge. This is another reason that stamps are no longer deemed special, just bits of colored paper. The church youth group programs, the boys/girls clubs, and big brother/big sister programs are other areas that could use some stamp-collecting mentors. The main by-product of mentoring is that it provides structure and stability to kids who really need it and offers us an easy

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way to help keep individuals out of unnecessary trouble.

The APS needs to find a way to get "celebrities" promoting stamp collecting. People have a tendency to participate in the same activities that sports heroes and stars do. We have around 35,000 members; surely, there are some celebrities in the group considered "famous." Those members should be encouraged to actively promote stamp collecting. It worked with our parents and our grandparents, and it will likely work again today; the public needs to know who collects stamps. This will not only catch the attention of youth, but also of the young adults.

I like to review the new member listings posted in the magazine each month and my unofficial survey seems to show that 10% fall into the under 50 age bracket and there are around 3–5 in the listings in the under 30 age bracket. The 30–50 year olds should be some of our main recruits. They would have a greater amount of disposable income and would have the time and ability to better appreciate the information that can be learned from stamp collecting.

These efforts may not provide an immediate increase in a waning membership, but I have no doubt that it will pay off for us in the long term and the only way to see the pay off for our efforts is to begin now. If we wait and rely on someone else to do the job, we may as well toss our albums into the recycle bin, since no one else will have an interest in the material.

Dewey J. Barker
Pensacola, Florida

Roving Country

My grandfather married into Rarotongan royalty in the1930s, and so I was especially interested in Paul Benson's article in the September *AP*, "Eucalyptus Oil for a Polynesian Queen," (page 846). Strange, though, that the *Prisoner of Zenda* Ruritania moved from central Europe to the Cook Islands!

Diane DeBlois
West Sand Lake, New York

Editor's reply: Among the errors an editor hates to see after an issue has gone

to press, finding one in the opening sentence is particularly embarrassing. The fictional Eastern European country of Ruritania comes from *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1984), by Anthony Hope — a book everyone has heard of but few people nowadays have read. It is a swashbuckling, heroic romance — written with a touch of humor — that spawned an entire genre of "mistaken identity of royalty" novels, plays, and films. That being so, perhaps its impersonation of a South Pacific island and the home of a queen may not be so unlikely after all....

An Apology and a Correction

It has come to our attention that the letter from John Jennison in the October *AP* ("Perforation Software," page 916 is too easily subject to misinterpretation and, as such, does a disservice to the company that produces the product under discussion. The letter references a letter by Tom Kott in the August issue ("Perforation Technology," page 714) praising a useful perforations measurement software, EzPerf by SoftPro.

In his own letter Dr. Jennison states: "Unfortunately, the source of this software on the website I used was infected with an extremely persistent Trojan, which I only found via a full virus scan some fortnight after I had downloaded the program. A quick virus scan did not reveal it."

Both the owner of SoftPro, Marios Theodossiou, and the author of the first letter, Tom Kott, have contacted us to express their concern that readers will interpret this comment to mean that the EzPerf software is itself infected with a virus, *which is absolutely not the case*.

Mr. Kott writes (in part): "I have personally used EZPerf, EzImage and EzStamp software by SoftPro for many years. There are times I have downloaded new copies and updates. As well, I have downloaded all of the original versions from SoftPro. I have never had a problem with any/all of this. Most especially with a Trojan virus being included..... EzPerf software has been a great advantage to have on hand, and use, in my daily functions as a stamp collector and dealer. It is a straightforward software, easy to implement and use.... I strongly recommend it to any/all philatelic types that desire to apply modern technology to our hobby."

Although we here at the *AP* had interpreted the October letter as a broader warning to be careful about the choice of website you use to download material, in hindsight it is easy to see how a misinterpretation, laying the fault with the EzPerf software, could occur.

In response to an inquiry to Dr. Jennison as to which site he had used to download the demonstration program, he writes: "I did not download the demo from the SoftPro website, www.ezstamp.com, but Googled "EzPerf" and watched the demonstration on YouTube. Afterwards I downloaded the temporary version from one of the Google websites.... The Trojan had obviously attached itself to EzPerf as this kept showing as the source of the infection on the virus scan."

Because of the problems he encountered having the virus removed from his computer, he had intended his letter as a warning against using downloads from an unknown source, although he concludes "but we all do it."

The American Philatelist sincerely regrets the possibility that any readers were left with the impression that EzPerf or SoftPro were responsible for producing or distributing a software program containing any virus. But the warning against using secondary websites remains apt. Collectors interested in trying the free download demonstrating EzPerf should *only* use the company website at www.ezstamp.com.

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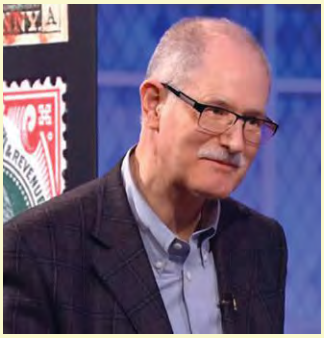

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by Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

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In "plain talk" — most auctions charge 'Buyer's Premiums' — YES! You have to pay up to 25% (some charge more) *on top of the winning price you paid*. That is Simply an Incredible surcharge. Apparently this significant premium is justified by charging the seller a lower fee in order to entice consignments for sale.

My company UPA *does not charge any premiums* which is one of the reasons why we hold the UK record of 1,750 different bidders in our last auction – an amazing 91% of whom were successful. Fortunately the average bidder spends an average of $500+ per auction … so that with 4 auctions a year offering 80,000+/- lots from $1.65 to $165,000 for you to choose from …

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3. **Surface Sell**. There is an actual name for this — it is called "surface sell" — good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.
4. **Cover-up**. Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were "unsolds" that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of "unsolds" to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots.'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.
5. **E-Bay**. Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognizably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few "pass the parcel." Really active Dealers — these days they also sell on eBay — large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries — today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic "gold" to be mined in those hills … but Boy — you have to work to find it and sadly "all that glistens is not gold" — you pays your money and you takes your chance often with little support or recourse.

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6. **You said that before. So Just How does UPA differ?** We looked for solutions to the "unsolds" problem — if we could solve that problem we would sell more, utilise stock more efficiently and have funds available for new stock … and so we created …

7. **Selling Systems**. It is a 'given' you can order sets / singles in standard condition from dealers … but the moment a stamp becomes used, or even mounted mint it is no longer standard. Is it heavy hinged, is the cancel parcel, wavy or CDS (circular date stamp)? Each stamp requires separate handling and unique pricing so the only way to handle such efficiently is in a selling system.

8. **Integrated Selling Systems**. **Avon & Omniphil Approvals** — 20 years ago our business sold in 2 different selling systems: **individually** priced stamps upon home ***approval*** and **unit priced** "loose" stamps sent to collectors as mixtures (today you can still request either at: **www.upastampauctions.co.uk**. A bit like "Water-Works" and "Electricity" in Monopoly the 2 systems allowed us to buy more, sell more and pay higher prices to obtain better stock … but we had no outlet for rarer / high value stamps so …

9. **Universal Philatelic Auctions**.… 15 years ago we created and added **UPA** to allow us to handle more valuable stamps not suited to Approvals, but we knew that in order to eliminate the "unsolds" issue we needed to come up with a further unique selling proposition …

10. **Best of Conventional Auctions**. … so we scoured the stamp world for best practice ideas and all of the features that collectors like you love -such as lots unconditionally guaranteed or dislike such as pernicious buyer's premiums. UPA employed all of the best features and then carefully added unique features such as …

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13. **Today, almost 15 years later**. … but would it work? Today almost 15 years later the ***UPA reducing estimate system*** is **unique to the trade** and 1,750 different collectors and some dealers bid in our last auction – 91% of whom were successful. Fusing all of the synergies of integrated selling systems combined with the most efficient use of stamps in the industry the system works thanks to loyal support from Collectors like you. Collectors tend to stay with UPA but as clients come and sadly some go … we need to attract new clients joining to maintain the integrity of the system which is why …

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APS 11

Short-Lived 7¢ Postcard Rate Often Overlooked

Remember when postage rates went down? No, really, they did! And there's modern postal history to prove it.

Although there have been several times in United States history when postal rates were either temporarily or permanently reduced (or, at least, until the next rate hike), those instances are, by nature, few and far between. My personal favorite rate reduction is the brief 7-cent domestic postcard rate of 1975, which was in effect for only about three months (107 days, specifically), creating one of the shortest-lived rate periods in U.S. history. Yet postal evidence of this extremely short rate period can be found without too much trouble and is not terribly expensive, in most cases.

The 7-cent postcard rate went into effect September 14, 1975 (a reduction from the then-current 8-cent rate) and ended December 30, 1975, replaced by the upwardly mobile 9-cent rate. No specific reason for the rate has ever been published, although several postal history specialists feel it was a reaction by the U.S. Postal Service to a proposed, but rejected higher rate. Virtually all of the other postal rate structure then in effect was unaffected by the change, so a penny drop for a postcard wasn't even noticed by many. It's not uncommon to find 8-cent cards mailed during the 7-cent rate period, an unnecessary overfranking by a penny.

Although there have been several times in United States history when postal rates were either temporarily or permanently reduced (or, at least, until the next rate hike), those instances are, by nature, few and far between.

Although the 7-cent Franklin stamp, released in 1972, is most well-known during the short-lived 7-cent postcard rate period of 1975, its original purpose was for mailing discounted educational materials.

Due to the relatively short notice of the rate reduction, no postage stamp was released to meet the new rate, but the 7-cent Franklin stamp (Scott 1393D) of the Orphan series (an in-between, no-series definitive stamp issue) was still current. It was released October 20, 1972, but did not have a recognizable rate of its own to pay. According to information accompanying the release of the stamp, it was intended "to pay postage for certain educational materials which are granted preferential rates."

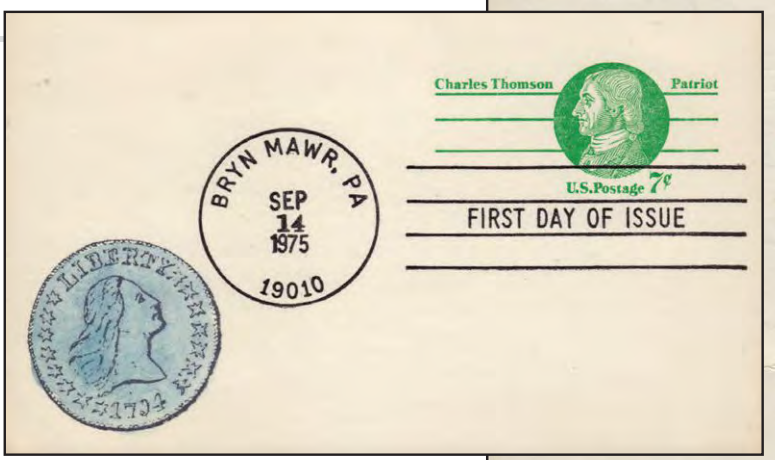
The postal card released to meet the new rate is the 7-cent green Charles Thomson card (Scott UX223), honoring the Declaration of Independence signer (1729–1824) who, among many other accomplishments, designed the Great Seal of the United States. Printed by the letterpress process on the aging rotary Potter-Hoe printing press at the Government Printing Office in Washington, DC, the card has a fairly bland appearance. Like most designs of the Patriot series of postal cards, the design and printing both are rather uninspired-looking, due primarily to the limitations of the Potter-Hoe press then in use at the GPO for producing postal cards.

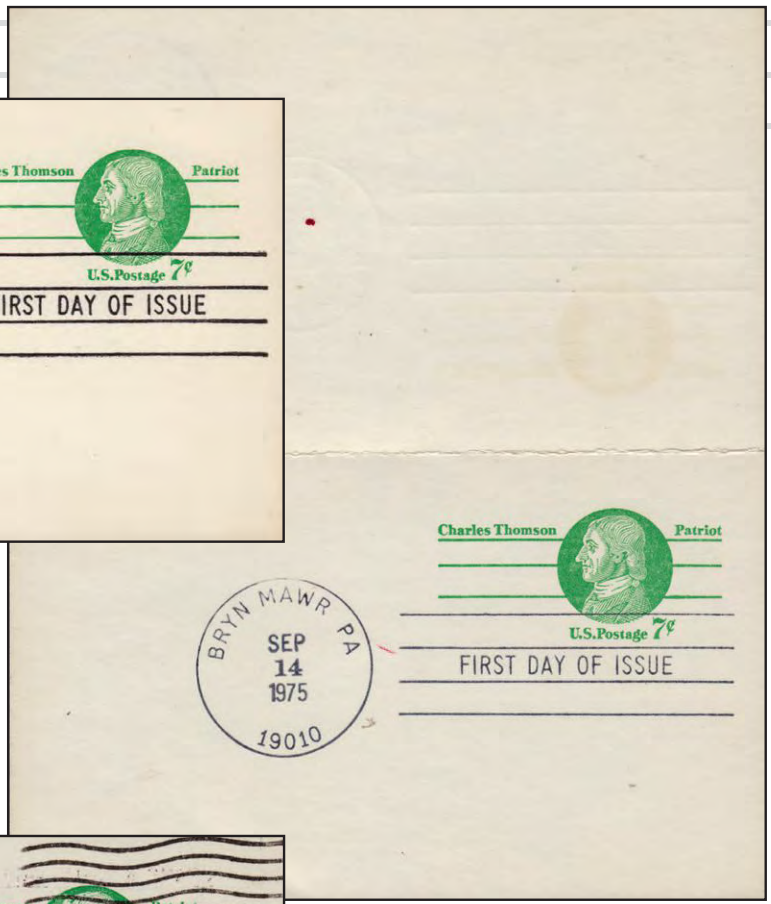
Other than the basic card and the two-part message-reply version, as varieties go, there are only a few significant types to search for. These include cards that are printed on "coarse" or "smooth" card stock, on fluorescent stock (coarse paper only) and a single plate variety; a damaged plate that makes the bottom precancel line look like a "sled runner." The variety is reported in the United Postal Stationery Society's *United States Postal Card Catalog*.

The first-day ceremony was held in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Other than the standard machine cancel, two hand-stamped cancel types exist: one with a comma between the city and state names, and one without.

Because of the short notice of the rate reduction and the fact that a number of large mailers had significant stocks on hand of the 8-cent orange Samuel Adams card 4, USPS allowed many mailers to mail printed advertising postcards during the 7-cent rate period, essentially as a "false franking." For those mailers, the rate was seven cents despite the card's denomination, with a postage rebate paid in the form of a credit memo (good for postage or stamps). Thus, most 8-cent printed advertising cards found that were mailed during the September 14–December 30 time period would likely have been covered by this false franking policy, rather than used as an overfranking, but there's no way to tell for sure on any given card.

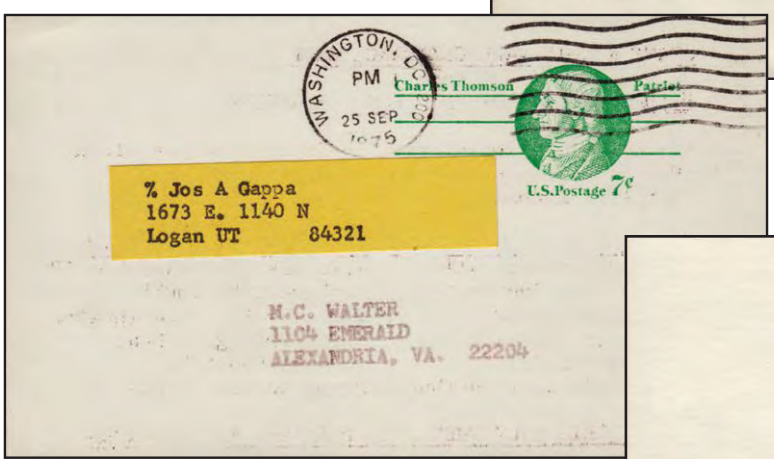
Most desirable, however, are in-pe-

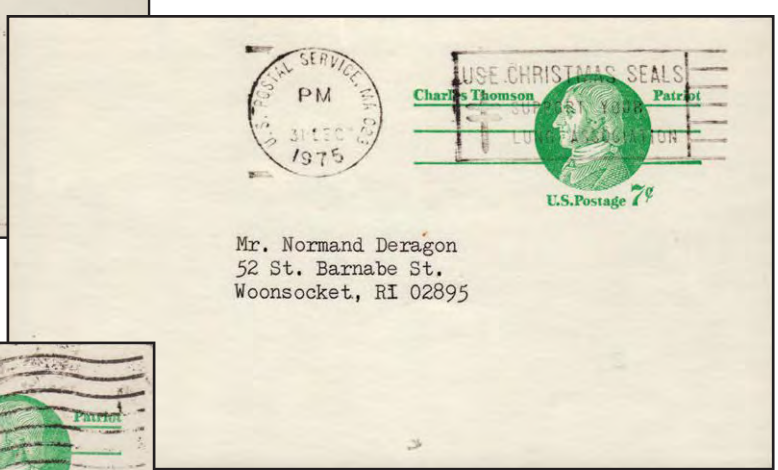


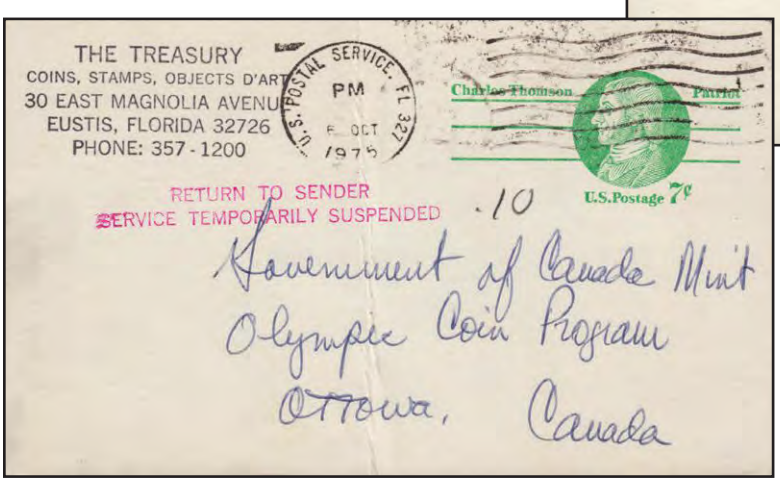


Above: First-day-canceled message-reply card (with added cachet). Right: First-day canceled with the "no-comma" cancel variety.

Below: One of the earliest commercial uses of the card seen by the author is this September 25 example.



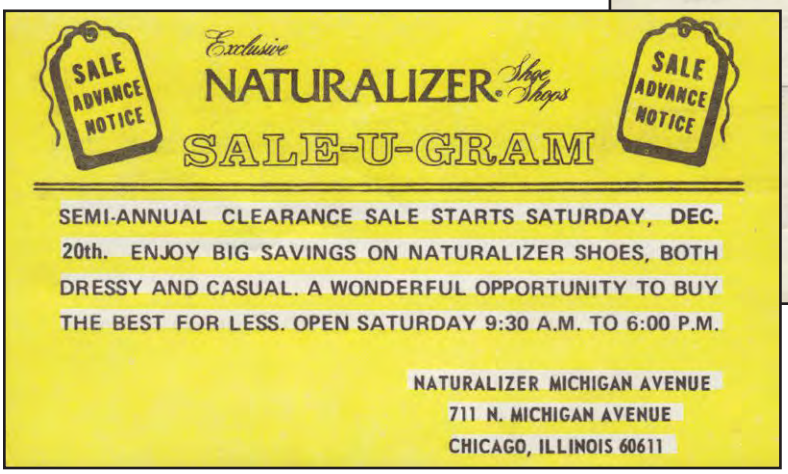


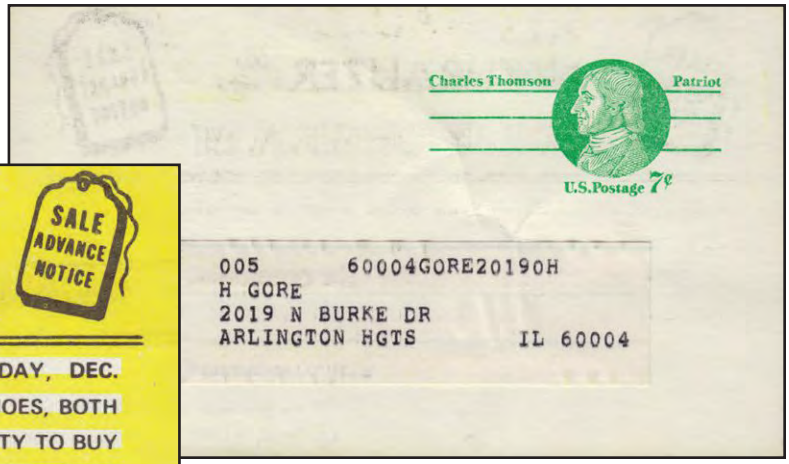


Canceled December 31 (the first day of the 9-cent rate), this card was likely dropped into the collection box December 30, the final day of the 7-cent rate.

Left: Although mailed during the correct period, this card to Canada was shortpaid by three cents, which apparently didn't matter, since Canada was on strike and postal service was suspended.

Many non-postmarked cards can be dated by their content. In this case an advertising postal card refers to a sale beginning December 20.

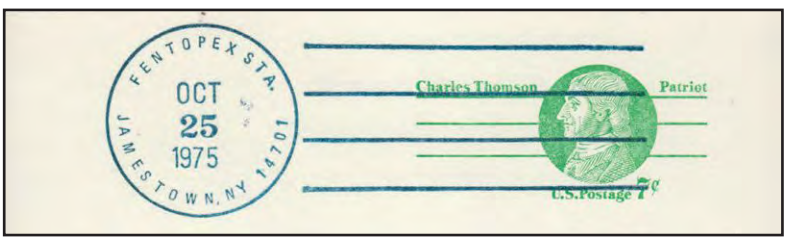


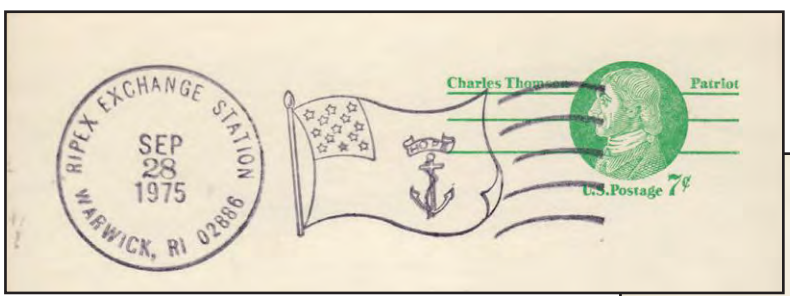


riod uses of the 7-cent postal card, dated either by postmark or content. Let's take a look at a few.

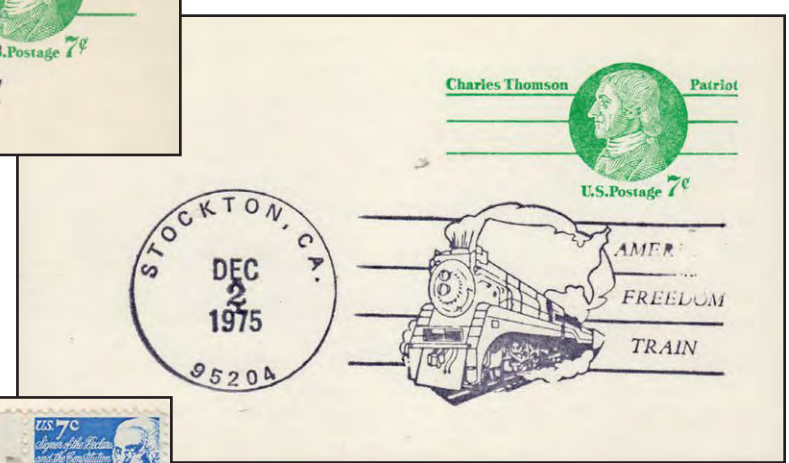
Illustrated is one of the earliest commercial uses I've seen of the card, mailed September 25, 1975, from Washington, DC (with a forwarding label applied). Also shown is an example postmarked December 31, 1975 (first day of the 9-cent rate). The card was probably dropped in the mail box December 30 (a Tuesday), but was not postmarked until the following morning. Either way, it was not assessed postage due.

One of the more intriguing uses of the Thomson card I've found is a 7-cent card mailed to Canada October 6, 1975, shortpaid by three cents (the rate

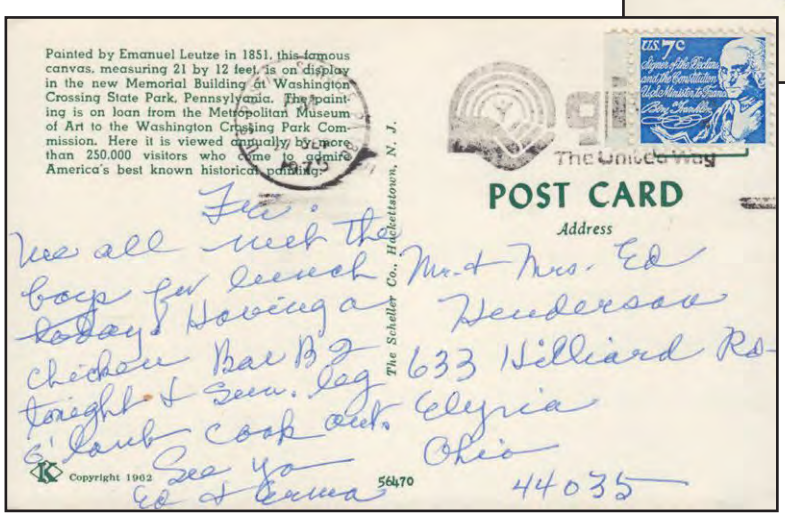




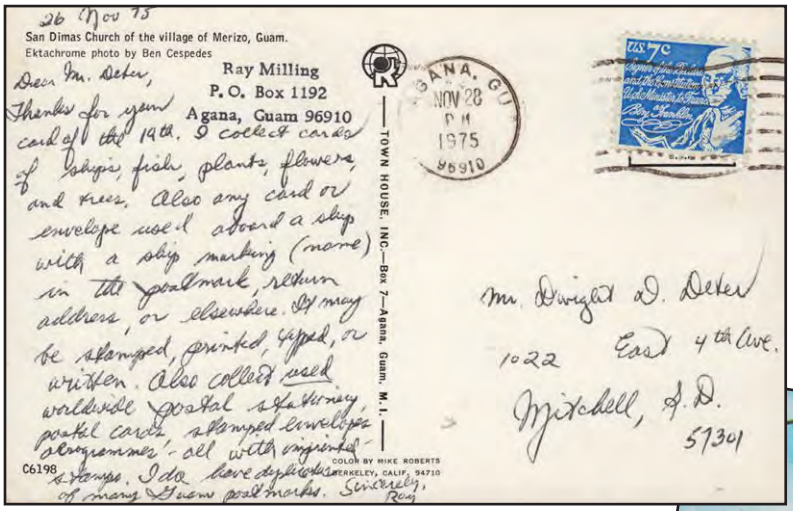
Examples of various special postmarks available during the 7-cent rate period.



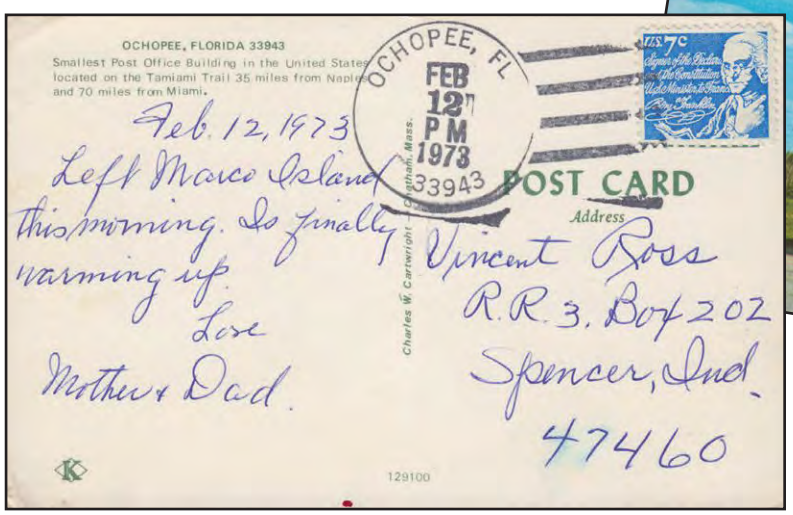
Below: One of the earliest cancels found on the 7-cent Franklin, September 27, 1975.



For many reasons, postal cards are often not postmarked. They do bear a form of precancel and their reuse is prohibited, so there is not as great a need (from a revenue protection standpoint) to cancel them.



Mailed from the tiny island territory of Agana, Guam, November 28, 1975, this card represents one of the more exotic uses of the 7-cent rate period.



This postcard, with a single franking of the 7-cent Franklin, predates the 7-cent rate period by more than 19 months. It was more than likely a "convenience franking," mailed from a tiny post office that may have been out of 6-cent stamps.

to Canada was ten cents). The shortpaid card, addressed to the Canadian Mint, was not assessed postage due but was, ironically, returned due to a crippling postal strike that ended December 2. The card is, so far, the earliest reported returned mail from this strike.

Because the 7-cent rate period represented a reduction in rates (rather than a rise), uprated lower-denomination cards are not found frequently, except when used by collectors. The most logical use would be a 6-cent Paul Revere card with a 1-cent stamp added, although I've not yet seen one, and they probably were not generally available by that time.

For many reasons, postal cards are often not postmarked. They do bear a form of precancel and their reuse is prohibited, so there is not as great a need (from a revenue protection standpoint) to cancel them. Thus, cards such as the one shown both front and back on the previous page can be dated by the content (in this case a sale beginning December 20).

Other examples of the Thomson card can be found with philatelic or pictorial cancels in use during the rate period.

As far as stamp frankings go, the most desirable of the rate period are postcards with a single 7-cent Franklin stamp affixed, although other combinations are known. I have found these cards ranging from September 27 to December 25. The most exotic use I've seen was mailed November 28, from Agana, Guam. Because the island of Guam is a U.S. territory, residents use U.S. postage stamps and are entitled to domestic postal rates. In 1975, there were only about 93,000 residents on Guam.

Less desirable, but scarce nonetheless, are those cards with various postage combinations affixed to make up the 7-cent rate. And, like the Thomson postal card, various philatelic and pictorial postmarks can be found on cards franked with the 7-cent Franklin.

As a footnote, the earliest single-franking use I've seen of the 7-cent Franklin on a postcard was mailed February 12, 1973, predating the 7-cent rate by more than nineteen months and predating even the 8-cent rate! The then-current 6-cent rate was, of course, overpaid by a penny but may have been all that was available at the tiny Ochopee, Florida post office (billed as the smallest U.S. post office building).

Desperate Journey; Philately of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

by Steve Pendleton

Throughout history there have been many treks, some undertaken against incredible odds. The goal? Simple survival. Sometimes they are successful; sometimes not. The march and ultimate victory over a superior Persian force made by 10,000 Greek warriors at the battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. led to Herodus' masterpiece of historic writing. Robert Falcon Scott's disastrous 1912 attempt to be the first expedition to journey to the South Pole created a legend of heroic failure.

Yet, for pure audacity and the victorious end to an incredible gamble, no trek can match the rescue journey undertaken by Sir Ernest Shackleton in the Antarctic in 1914–1917. It was my privilege to retrace this adventure — although in the opposite direction — in October 2013. We sailed aboard the tiny expedition ship *Ushuaia*, with only forty passengers. I can say that the journey, even today, was no picnic. We hit a Force 6 storm in the Scotia Sea and later barely avoided a Force 10. I learned that I do not seem to suffer from seasickness. (Of course, I had a patch, which worked even when the ship was heeling at about a 20-degree angle.) Luckily, those among you who do not wish to climb into a bobbing zodiac life raft and cruise the ice-filled seas can follow Shackleton's story through a number of stamps and covers.

The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

Sir Ernest H. Shackleton (1874–1922) was a veteran Antarctic explorer. He had gone with Scott to the Ross Sea in 1901–1904; a few years later he led his own expedition to reach the South Pole, 1907–1909. They got within ninety miles of their goal when he realized they had to turn back or starve. That was the beginning of the Shackleton legend: care for his men over glory. His portrait continues to appear on the stamps of many nations, particularly those touching on the Antarctic regions: Ross Dependency, Chile, Falkland Islands Dependencies, British Antarctic Territory, Australian Antarctic Territory, and South Georgia.

Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922).

Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of complete darkness. Constant danger. Safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success. — *Ernest Shackleton*

After the success of Amundsen in his 1911 quest to be the first to reach the South Pole — and the tragic loss of the Scott Expedition — the "Boss" (as his men later nicknamed him) needed a new goal. He settled on an audacious idea: leading the first crossing of the Antarctic continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. Shackleton was able to secure an old sailing ship that the explorer renamed *Endurance*. Originally named *Polaris*, it had been built to take polar bear hunting parties to sites in the Arctic. Arrangements were made for a second ship, the *Aurora*, to sail to the Ross Sea where it would meet and resupply the main expedition when it had completed the crossing.

It was a hurly-burly of fundraising, finding sponsors, and filling crew spaces. Shackleton placed a now-famous ad in *The Times*:

> Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of complete darkness. Constant danger. Safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success. — *Ernest Shackleton*

Nearly 5,000 men applied. His London office buzzed with visitors.

FDC for Centennial of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914–1916 issued by British Antarctic Territory (BAT).

Top row (left to right): Shackleton and wife, Emily; Howe, Barr, Irvine, Macloed [sic], and Macaulay; H.A.E. Mackintosh and Frank Wild.

Bottom row (left to right): Departure from Millwall Docks; Sir Ernest Shackleton on board *Endurance*; S.S. *Endurance* Setting Sail.

Somewhat strangely, Shackleton did not use philately in his search for money, although during his 1907–1909 expedition he served as Postmaster and had arranged for a stamp to be overprinted "King Edward VII Land" (New Zealand Scott 121a). Due to bad weather, however, the expedition actually landed at Victoria Land and the stamp was never released to the public. This means that philatelic mementos of the 1914–1917 expedition itself are extremely rare.

The centenary of the expedition's departure from England in November 1913 was commemorated in a six-stamp set issued by British Antarctic Territory (BAT) in November 2013 (Scott number not yet assigned). The first three stamps in the set are valued at 65p, the second three at 75p. The first stamp shows a picture of the Boss and his wife Emily on deck. The second shows a group of expedition members identified as: How, Barr, Irwin, Macloed [*sic* — should be Macleod], and Macaulay. The third shows Lt. Mackintosh and Shackleton's second-in-command, Frank Wild. The fourth stamps shows the scene at Millwall docks in London as the *Endurance* departed. Shackleton, alone and in naval uniform, is shown on the fifth stamp. The final stamp, fittingly, shows the *Endurance* as she sets sail.

There are several stamps that show the *Endurance* at sea. Falkland Island Dependencies issued a definitive stamp in its 1954 ships issue (Scott 1L27). The *Endurance* also can be seen on Australian Antarctic Territory Scott L45, issued as part of a 1974–1981 set featuring polar exploration vessels. British Antarctic Territory released a stamp showing Shackleton and *Endurance* (Scott 56) as part of its 1975–1980 Polar Explorers and Their Crafts issue. The ship also can be found on a miniature sheet commemorating the Rescue of Shackleton Expedition

Top: S.S. *Endurance* in ice pack.

Above left: Ships issue, 1954, Falkland Islands Dependencies Scott 1L27: *Endurance* at sea.

Above right: Polar Exploration Vessels, 1974–81, Australian Antarctic Territory Scott L45: S.S. *Endurance*.

Left: Polar Explorers and Their Crafts, 1979, BAT Scott 56: Ernest Shackleton and *Endurance*.

Left to right: Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer, 2000, Falkland Islands: Scott 758, *Endurance* and the discovery of the Caird Coast; Scott 759, *Endurance* trapped in pack ice.

issued by Chile in 1991 (Scott 960d). The 1995 Ross Dependency set honoring Antarctic Explorers included one depicting Shackleton and the *Endurance* (Scott L350). And in 2000 the Falkland Islands issued a set of three stamps honoring Shackleton, two of which featured the *Endurance* (Scott 758, 759). The first showed it off Caird Coast (a part of the southeast coast of the Weddell Sea); the second showed one of the iconic night photographs of the ship trapped in pack ice.

Very little postal history survives from this expedition. There are a few covers addressed to the members, sent to intercept the ship at Buenos Aires. It also was during a stop in Buenos Aires that, along with the mail, the expedition picked up a stowaway: a 19-year-old Welshman named Perce Blackborow. He is shown on a stamp from South Georgia's 2011 Pets issue, along with the ship's cat, Mrs. Chippy (later discovered to be a male) (Scott 420). Sir Ernest himself is shown with a sled dog puppy in the same set (Scott 421).

After a stop at South Georgia, the *Endurance* sailed for the Weddell Sea. The plan was to break through the notorious ice pack there and land the expedition on the continent itself. From there they would march across the icecap to the Ross Sea.

I have only experienced the Weddell in its northern-most reaches, but the immense icebergs we encountered were enough for me to have the utmost respect for Shackleton's attempt.

I have only experienced the Weddell in its northern-most reaches, but the immense icebergs we encountered were enough for me to have the utmost respect for Shackleton's attempt. It is a place that usually has far more ice than any other Antarctic waters. Often the pack *never* clears out. It is also extremely rare that any ship can reach the Antarctic coast in this area.

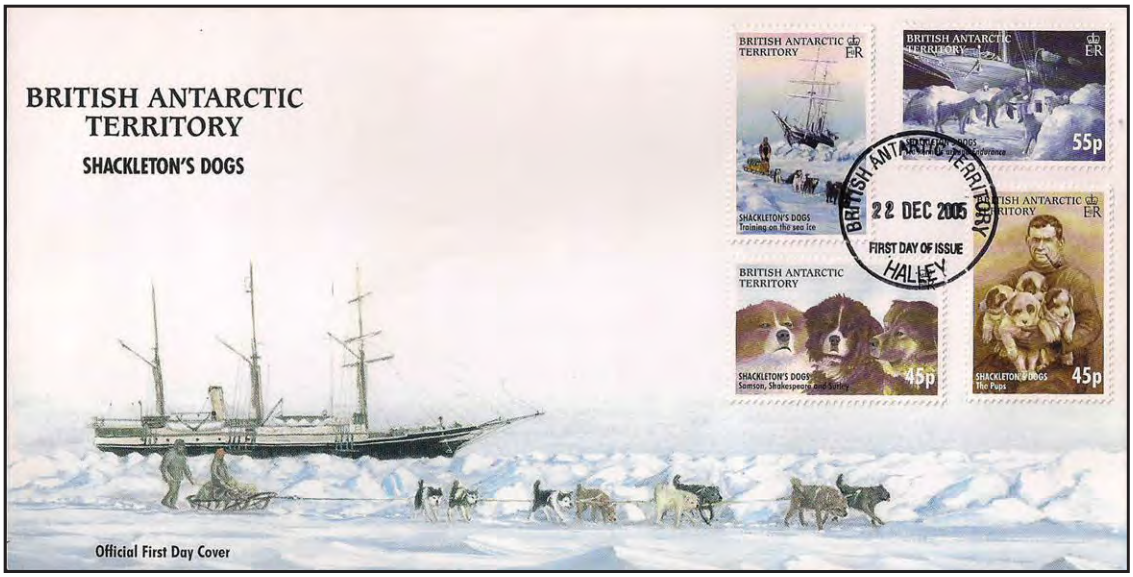
By February 22, 1915 the ship had attained is farthest southern position — tantalizingly close to land. However, shortly thereafter they became entrapped in the ice, as shown on Falkland Islands 759. Shackleton had prepared for this possibility. Expedition photographer Frank Hurley took a number of classic images of the ship in the ice — some at night, lit by hundreds of lights strung along the masts and all timed to light at once (South Georgia 31 and BAT 350). Kennels for the sled dogs were set up on the ice and they were kept in training (BAT 361–363). No one knew that, in the end, all the animals would have to be humanely destroyed.

For about eight months the ship remained frozen in place. The men busied themselves with tasks to enhance the expedition supplies. They also had soccer competitions, helped Hurley make photographs, and even held variety shows. Nonetheless, they remained aware of the precariousness of their position. The ice continued to tighten its hold on the ship, and on October 26, 1915, the dreaded order came — abandon ship.

As the ice pushed against the ship's hull, the *Endurance* heeled to one side and began to collapse under the pressure. Eventually all that was left was a tangle of wreckage on the ice. This scene is shown on BAT 285 and Falkland Islands 759. The men erected temporary shelters on the pack (shown on BAT 286) and waited and watched as the remains of the *Endurance* slipped under the pack. They were alone.

Since no one knew where they were, the only hope of survival was to haul their remaining gear and the ship's lifeboats manually across hundreds of miles on the Weddell ice pack

Left to right: Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 1972, South Georgia Scott 31: *Endurance* in ice of Weddell Sea. Ships Named Endurance issue, 2005, BAT Scott 350: *Endurance* 1914–1915, trapped in ice.



Dogs of Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 2005. Top left to right: BAT Scott 364, Training on the sea ice; BAT Scott 363, Ice kennels around *Endurance.*

Bottom left to right: BAT 362, Sampson, Shakespeare, and Surely; BAT Scott 361, The Pups.

to open water. For more than five months the men pulled three craft, always towards the north. Finally, in April 1916 they came to the end of the pack. But now they were faced with another dilemma — where to go? The only human habitation within hundreds of miles was the summer whaling station at Deception Island. There was, however, one piece of land more or less within reach — Elephant Island.

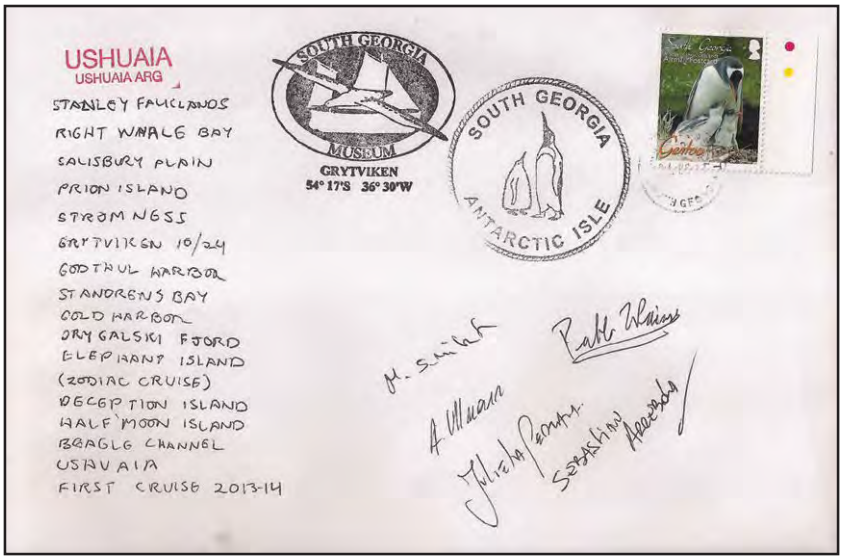
Left to right: Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 2000, BAT Scott 285: Wreckage of *Endurance;* BAT Scott 286: Camp on pack ice.

Elephant Island

In three journeys to the Antarctic, I have seen some chilling places. So far, however, none has matched the hostility I felt at Elephant Island. This is a fairly large island to the east of the main South Shetland chain. It is almost completely surrounded by huge cliffs and glaciers running down to the sea from a mountainous interior. This place is so unfriendly to man that no scientific station has ever been established here (although the Brazilians did erect two rescue huts). Even after the Shackleton expedition it remained relatively unexplored. It was not until two British Joint Services Expeditions (1970–1971 and 1976–1977) ventured there that the interior was mapped.

After leaving the pack, the three lifeboats sighted the eastern cape of Elephant Island on April 15, 1916. They rowed along the northern coastline, searching for a suitable refuge. They finally came on a small

Above: Photographic view of Elephant Island.
Right: Distant view of the statue of Capt. Luis Pardo erected by the Chilean government on the beach at Elephant Island. Photos taken by author.



The *Ushuaia* (and the author) visited Elephant Island in 2013. The signatures are those of the lecture staff.

beach, but it was unsuitable because it was vulnerable to being inundated by large waves. Rowing farther west, they rounded a small point, later called Cape Wild. Here, on April 17, 1916, land was reached at last.

Almost a century later, we also sailed into the tiny bay. There is a very small beach, much eroded since Shackleton's day. In fact, the beach today is really too dangerous to land on unless you have completely calm waters — which doesn't happen often. The bay is otherwise completely surrounded by ice-covered black cliffs. We cruised along the cliffs in our zodiacs, coming almost within touching distance of the rocks. We got close enough to the landing site to see, rather incongruously, a statue erected there.

As you might expect, postal history from Elephant Island is pretty scanty. Obviously, Shackleton's men had no way of sending mail. It was not until the two Joint Services Expeditions in the 1970s that mail originating on the island became available to collectors. Since then such mail usually comes from visiting ships. Occasionally there might be an Elephant Island cachet, but usually the documentation is a notation on the cover such as the one I made during our visit.

For the expedition's men, however, the landing must have seemed like a godsend after so many months of ice and open water. But Shackleton faced one more almost insurmountable problem. There was still no way of letting anyone know where they were. Whaling ships would not be arriving at Deception Island for several more months. Shackleton realized that there was only one possible solution — he had to sail to the whaling stations on South Georgia for help.

The Journey to South Georgia

The sturdiest of the lifeboats, the *James Caird*, was selected for the task. First, however, it had to be prepared for the long sea journey. Small masts were installed and the boat was "decked" over with canvas. Shackleton selected five other men to accompany him. The boat was only twenty-three feet long, and a photograph of her launch from Elephant Island shows that with the decking, oars, etc., there was barely room for the six-man crew.

While the *Caird* was being prepared, those who would re-

Left to right: Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 1972, South Georgia Scott 32: Launching of sail boat *James Caird*. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer, 2005, BAT Scott 287: Launch of the *James Caird* from Elephant Island.

Left to right: Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 1972, South Georgia Scott 33: Route of *James Caird* to South Georgia. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer, 2000, South Georgia Scott 254: Voyage Across Scotia Sea to South Georgia, April 24–May 10, 1916. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer, 2000, South Georgia Scott 255: Shackleton leads Crean and Worsely up the last ridge before Stromness Whaling Station.

main overturned the two remaining boats to form the basis of a shelter. The resulting space became known as "The Snuggery," for it was surely that. Frank Wild was selected to head this group, with the primary mission of keeping up morale. In this he was remarkably adept. It was his fourth expedition to the Antarctic in fifteen years. Wild would serve on a total of five polar expeditions:

- 1901–04 *Discovery* Expedition with Robert Falcon Scott
- 1907–09 *Nimrod* Expedition with Ernest Shackleton
- 1911–14 Mawson/*Aurora* Expedition with Douglas Mawson
- 1914–17 *Endurance* Expedition with Ernest Shackleton
- 1921–22 *Quest* Expedition with Ernest Shackleton

King Haakon Bay-Stromness Trek, 50th Anniversary, 1996, South Georgia. Top row left to right: Ernest Shackleton and Ridge 2493 Point of No Return (Scott 204); Frank Worsley and King Haakon Bay from Shackleton Gap (Scott 205). Bottom row left to right: Map of Shackleton's Route (Scott 206); Tom Crean and Manager's Villa, Stromness Whaling Station (Scott 207).

In 2011 South Georgia issued a set of four se-tenant stamps recognizing Wild and the four major expeditions in which he participated and for which he was awarded a four-bar Polar Medal (Scott 439a–442a). And in 2013 an issue from Australian Antarctic Territory marking the centennial of the Mawson Expedition included one honoring Frank Wild as leader of the Western Party of the Expedition (AAT Scott L176).

On April 23, 1916 the *Caird* was launched on its quest, hoping to reach one of the active whaling stations. Despite the fact that South Georgia was 800 miles away and this was the southern winter, Shackleton hoped to reach their goal in about four weeks. The historic image taken by expedition photographer Frank Hurley as the *Caird* was pushed into the surf has appeared on several stamps, notably South Georgia 32 and 386, and BAT 287. Their planned route is shown in South Georgia 33, while the craft under sail can be seen on South Georgia 254–255.

The relatively calm water shown on South Georgia 254, however, is not the norm for the Scotia Sea. When I crossed it, we experienced more typical conditions: about 40 mph winds and a bouncing ship. I can only imagine what it was like for the men of the *Caird*, with ice buildup constantly needing to be chipped away, clothes that were

Above: History of South Georgia, 2003, Scott 296d; Shackleton's Island Crossing.

Left: Ernest H. Shackleton, Explorer, 2009, South Georgia Scott 387: Shackleton, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean after crossing South Georgia

Stromness whaling station today; photograph taken by the author.

never dry, and in constant danger of capsizing as storm waves broke over the tiny vessel. Luck and good seamanship were with them, however, and in an astonishing fifteen days they caught sight of South Georgia. The seas were too rough to attempt a landing, and during the next night hurricane force winds carried them back out of sight of land. They regained the ground lost and on the afternoon of May 10, 1916, despite heavy seas and hidden reefs, they finally managed to ship oars and slip the *Caird* through a narrow opening into the relative calm of King Haakon Bay. They had made the crossing, but now they were faced with one more hurdle: the bay was on the west coast of the island, the whaling station on the east.

Having spent a week on the eastern shore of South Georgia, I can truthfully say that it is one of the most magnificent but rugged coasts you can imagine. Mountains rise up to 9,000 feet within a few miles of the coast. The few whaling stations located there at the time huddled at the ends of steep fjords. The interior was little known and it was across this unmapped terrain of mountains and glaciers that help lay — some twenty miles away.

Shackleton left three men with the *Caird* and with two companions, Crean and Worseley, began the final trek to Stromness, one of the whaling stations. For more than thirty hours they struggled across the mountains, knowing one misstep could cause their deaths. The fiftieth anniversary of their heroic trek was commemorated in 1996 by a set of four stamps from South Georgia (Scott 204–207). The crossing also was depicted on South Georgia 296d and 387.

At last, on the morning of May 20, they heard in the distance the sound of a factory whistle. They were at the head of a valley and at the foot of it lay the tiny whaling station of Stromness. The 7 a.m. whistle was blowing to summon the men to work. When the exhausted expedition members staggered into the settlement, they were so filthy that no one recognized them at first. A boat was sent round to King Haakon Bay to rescue the remaining three men and the news of the survival of the expedition was radioed to the rest of the world. The men prepared to return to civilization and Shackleton began to organize a rescue of the men left behind on Elephant Island.

From top: Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer, 2000, Falkland Islands Scott 760: Shackleton and Chilean tugboat *Yelcho*. Rescue of Shackleton Expedition, 50th Anniversary, 1967, Chile Scott 361: Capt. Luis Pardo and *Yelcho* in Antarctica. Cover with block of four stamps: Rescue of Shackleton Expedition, 75th Anniversary, 1991, Chile Scott 960a-d: Lt. Luis Pardo and Sir Ernest Shackleton; Rescue ship, *Yelcho*; Sailor pointing to survivors; the *Endurance*.

Today, Stromness is a site abandoned for more than fifty years and slowly decaying. Tourists cannot wander into the ruins as there is a lot of exposed asbestos and rusting machinery. However, I was able to see the manager's villa where Shackleton and his companions were finally welcomed. It is boarded up and getting blasted by the elements. It was snowing when I was there.

Rescue at Last

The first rescue attempt was made by a whaler from South Georgia; however, the ice forced the ship to turn back. Another two efforts to reach the

stranded men were blocked by ice or bad weather. Not receiving much help from the British Admiralty, Shackleton went to Puntas Arenas, a Chilean city on the Strait of Magellan. There he managed to persuade the Chilean government to lend him a small tug, the *Yelcho*.

Although captained by a brave man, Luis Pardo, the vessel was really unsuitable to sail to the Antarctic in the winter; nevertheless, in late August they made the attempt. The *Yelcho* and her captain appear on stamps from Falkland Islands (Scott 760) and Chile (Scott, 361, 960a-b). Another 1967 issue by Chile (Scott C271), based on Scott 361, shows Captain Pardo beside a map showing Chile's claim to a slice of Antarctica. It is his statue that stands on the beach at Elephant Island, to honor his skill and courage in bringing the tiny rescue tug safely to its destination.

Captain Luis Pardo, 1967, Chile Scott C271: Capt. Pardo, *Yelcho* and map of Chile's claim to Antarctica.

Statue on Elephant Island honoring Captain Luis Pardo.

Sir Ernest Shackleton issue, 1972, South Georgia Scott 34: Ernest Shackleton and *Quest*.

August 30, 1916 was just another cold day on the beach at Elephant Island. Plans were well underway for a desperate attempt of their own. They had been preparing one of the remaining boats to sail along the coast in an effort to reach the whaling station at Deception Island. All they had to do was continue to survive until the weather broke in early October. Some of the men were preparing a soup made from seal backbones. Others were collecting limpets along the shore. Frank Hurley first spotted the rescue ship, and George Marsh alerted the other men, who came running down to the water's edge. Shackleton came ashore in a lifeboat, and swiftly, almost as if they had never been there, the men were transported to the tug. Every man had survived.

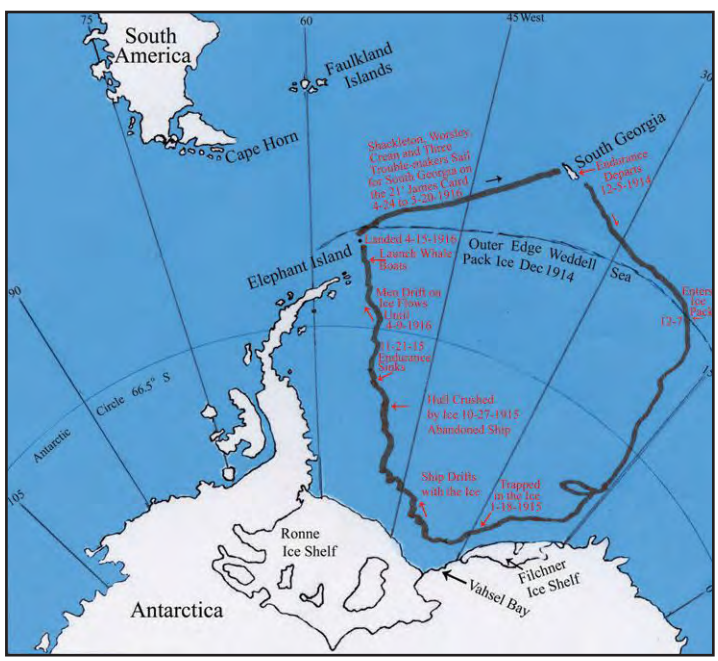
Left to right: Shackleton's Grave, 1980, Falkland Islands Dependencies Scott 1L44. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Polar Explorer issue, 2000, South Georgia Scott 256: Shackleton's grave.

And After....

The expedition itself, of course, was considered a failure. However, the successful rescue of the entire expedition, despite the incredible hardships they endured, has entered Antarctic lore as the most dramatic of journeys.

Once the rescue was competed the crew went their separate ways. World War I was raging, and most of the men returned to England and entered military service. Two of them, Alf Cheetham and Tim McCarthy, were killed in action. The last member of the *Endurance* crew, First Office Greenstreet, died in 1979.

After the war Shackleton returned to South Georgia



Map of Shackleton's route.

Left to right: Shackleton's Memorial Cross, 1980 Falkland Islands Dependencies Scott 1L43. History of South Georgia, 2003, Scott 296e: Shackleton's Memorial Cross.

aboard the *Quest* on an expedition to circumnavigate the Antarctic by sea. Eight members of the original *Endurance* crew signed on with him, among them the ship's surgeon, Dr. Alexander Macklin. The *Quest* reached Grytviken, South Georgia on January 4, 1922. It was a beautiful evening, but Shackleton had not been feeling well and Dr. Macklin stopped by his stateroom that night. Shackleton's last words to his friend, who had repeatedly urged him to slow down, have been widely reported: "You are always wanting me to give up something. What do you want me to give up now?" Minutes later, in the early hours of January 5, Shackleton died of a massive heart attack. He was forty-seven years old.

Although his body began the return journey to England, Lady Shackleton requested that her husband be buried where he loved to be. On March 5, 1922, the great explorer was laid to rest in the Norwegian Lutheran Church Cemetery in Grytviken, South Georgia. His grave can be seen on FID IL44 and South Georgia 256, 400. A Memorial Cross erected across the bay by members of the *Quest* can be seen on FID 1L43 and South Georgia 296e.

The day after we visited Stromness, we landed at the old whaling station of Grytviken. One of the traditions of visiting tourist ships is for the passengers to gather at the head of The Boss's grave. Suitable poetry is read, copious amounts of liquor are consumed and the remainder doused on the grave site. I saluted his adventure in a single word: "Indomitable."

In November 2011 Wild's ashes, which had long been forgotten, were discovered and reinterred alongside Shackleton's grave in the whaler's cemetery on South Georgia. It had been the final wish of Shackleton's longtime second-in-command.

Philatelic Note

The years 2013–2016 comprise the centenary of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. If past events are any indication, there will be a number of additional stamps issued by such entities as British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia, and probably Chile in honor of the expedition.

Acknowledgments

I am indebted to expedition leader Monika Schillat (from whom I have learned much about the Antarctic in two trips), plus her staff of irrepressible lecturers aboard the good ship *Ushuaia*.

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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.

First Day Cover honoring Frank Wild (1873–1939), 2011, South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands Scott 439a: Polar Explorers issue.

The Falkland islands Philatelic Bureau recently announced a new South Georgia issue to be released November 5, 2014 in honor of the expedition's centenary. The twelve stamps recognize three members of the group: Frank Hurley, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean. In addition, the stamps feature many photographs shot during the venture.

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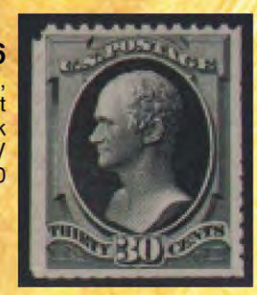

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Mount Rainier

by Paul Malan

Mountains have always fascinated me. This is due perhaps, at least in part, to the fact that I grew up in St. Louis, in the heart of the Midwest, where one needed to travel several hundred miles just to gaze upon something that is referred to as a mountain. I remember, at a very early age, seeing photographs of the Swiss Alps and being absolutely enthralled.

I began collecting stamps in 1962, when I was in my mid-teens. My early stamp collecting activities were pretty typical. I acquired an inexpensive worldwide album and began filling it with all sorts of colorful and interesting bits of paper. I started getting approvals from some of the well-known companies of that era. I obtained some cheap mixtures. I carefully looked up my stamps in the *Scott Catalogue*, and was quite pleased whenever I had something that was more than a few cents over the minimum value. My knowledge of geography and currency rates went up exponentially, and it sure was a lot of fun. Over the next few years, I subscribed to stamp periodicals like *Linn's* and *Western Stamp Collector*. I eventually graduated to a Citation album and then to the Scott Internationals. I acquired a few slightly better items by ordering stamps from dealer price lists and by purchasing special offers and job lots listed in the periodicals.

Among the stamps that I acquired was the 1934 U.S. National Park Series. Many of my early stamps were ordinary looking, but these looked really good (and still do!). The 3-cent value was particularly impressive. It showed something called Mt. Rainier, which must be better than just any old mountain, because it was also a national park.[1] It didn't take much effort to learn that Mt. Rainier was in the state of Washington, the northernmost state on the Pacific Coast, but this was as much as I knew about Mt. Rainier for many years.

After moving to Portland, Oregon in 1977, I discovered that Portland is ideally situated for hiking and taking pictures of scenery. The Columbia River Gorge and Mt. Hood are not far away. Only a little farther away are the Oregon coast and Mt. St. Helens, and a little farther away still are Mts. Jefferson, Adams, and Rainier. Mount Rainier is close enough to Portland that one can drive there, do a substantial hike, and make it back home in one day, but it's a very *long* day. It takes three hours to drive to the Paradise Region on the south side of Mt. Rainier, where I eventually would do most of my hiking.

Shortly after moving to Portland I followed my other passion and joined both of the local stamp clubs. And then, sometime around the mid-1990s, I began to think about the 1934 Mt. Rainier stamp. I began to see references to the old stamp in books of hiking trails and in National Park Service literature. They stated that the old photograph had been taken at a place called Mirror Lake, and sometimes gave the general vicinity — the southwest part of Mt. Rainier National Park, in an area called Indian Henry's Hunting Ground.

3¢ Mt. Rainier and Mirror Lake (WA), Scott 742.

Revisited

I was pretty sure that none of the hikes that I had done up until then had brought me anywhere near the place where the old photograph was taken. I decided to hike to Mirror Lake, see what the area looked like, and, if possible, take a picture that would duplicate the view shown on the old stamp. Of course, it occurred to me that I could write an article about going to Mirror Lake and have it published in a philatelic periodical. Naturally the article would be illustrated by the old stamp and by my new photograph. I thought that it would be very interesting to stamp collectors to see how much the view had changed since 1934. It seemed like the perfect way to combine all of my main interests in life (outside of family and employment matters): stamp collecting, hiking, and photography.

When I began to explore just how I would get to the site, however, things didn't look very promising. There are three routes to Mirror Lake, and they all appeared to be long and strenuous. Most of my hiking at Mt. Rainier involved leading group hikes, and Mirror Lake just didn't seem suitable, since I generally avoid taking a group that might include inexperienced hikers somewhere that I haven't seen. So I kept putting off going to Mirror Lake, and the years rolled by.

Scott 742: Mt. Rainier & Mirror Lake

The stamp that was the starting point for this article is Scott 742, one of the ten stamps issued during 1934 to commemorate National Parks Year. Since it had a face value of three cents, the then current domestic letter rate, the Mt. Rainier stamp had the largest quantity issued, just over 95 million. I could not find any mention of the National Parks Series' designer, but Max Johl states that the vignette for Scott 742 was engraved by J. C. Benzing, with the frame and lettering by W. B. Wells. Typical of many other commemorative stamps of that era, the National Parks Series was printed on a flat press in sheets of 200, then issued to post offices in panes of 50 perforated and gummed stamps. White unwatermarked paper was used. The ink color was deep violet, and the vignette was based on a photograph by Asahel Curtis.

Because Curtis was born in 1874 and was active as a photographer from the 1890s until his death in 1941, the photograph could have been taken any time between the mid-1890s and 1934. Johl states that in 1922 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing prepared several scenic designs, including Mt. Rainier and Mirror Lake, and that the same scene was used for the National Parks Series. My best guess is that it was taken before 1922, during August or September (since there is no snow in the foreground), and probably no later than mid-afternoon. I would love to see a high-quality print of the original photograph, just so that I can determine whether or not the stamp's designer or engraver took any liberties.

Asahel Curtis, known to his close friends as "Ace," grew up in Minnesota. His father was a Civil War veteran whose health had been seriously impaired during his military service. It was because of his ill health that

Souvenir sheet prepared for the American Philatelic Society issue, August 28, 1934 (Scott 750).

the family moved to the Pacific Northwest in the late 1880s. Unfortunately, a year or so after the move, the elder Curtis died. For several years the family was nearly destitute. Their financial condition only improved when the children became old enough to enter adult professions.

In the early 1890s Ace's older brother, Edward, took up photography and went to work at a photographic studio in Seattle. In a few years the business was doing well, and Edward bought out the former owner. In the mid-1890s Ace went to work in his brother's studio, at first doing various jobs in the darkroom, but in a year or two he was taking photographs on his own.

The Yukon-Klondike gold rush that began in 1897 was a really big event, not just for Alaska and Northwest Canada but for the United States in general — and for Seattle, in particular, as most of the prospectors coming from the United States passed through the city and obtained much of their supplies there. The Curtis family delegated Ace to make a photographic history of the gold rush.

He arrived at Dawson City late in 1898 and, not surprisingly, along with two partners, the 24-year-old Curtis soon spent most of his time working a claim. Apparently all the good claims had already been taken, however, because their claim produced only enough gold to verify that there was indeed gold in the area. Curtis did spend some time photographing what was taking place around him, and he sent the photographs to his brother in Seattle. Edward arranged to have a variety of them published, but apparently didn't give any credit to Ace, who was furious. So bitter was the dispute that the brothers parted company and never spoke to each other again. When Ace died four decades later, his children sent a telegram to Edward to inform him of that fact; there was no reply.

Edward behaved and thought of himself as an artist. His main goal was preserving photographically the traditional culture of North American Indians. He arranged his subjects carefully and paid a lot of attention to composition. He is said to have carried around a large paraphernalia of Indian artifacts and costumes, just in case his subjects didn't look authentic enough. Ace also photographed Indians, but he showed them just as they appeared on whatever day he showed up. "One brother photographed a white man's romantic dream of the Indian past; the other showed what a changing culture looked like at the moment of his visit."[2] Edward's photographs attracted the attention of famous people like Theodore Roosevelt and J. Pierpoint Morgan, who supported his vision. His work today can be found in major museums.

Ace, on the other hand, was what most people would call a commercial photographer or photojournalist, and a great booster for Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. His work appeared in newspapers and commercial brochures. He photographed the transportation, commerce, and agriculture of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the people who lived there, whether at work or play.

Additionally, he was an avid outdoorsman, particularly when it came to mountain climbing. He was the first professional guide on Mt. Rainier. He (along with a partner) made the first recorded ascent of Mt. Shuksan. He was a founding member of The Mountaineers, a Seattle club devoted to staging mountain climbing expeditions. However, by today's standards, he would not be considered an environmentalist. Ace was in favor of development. He was all for the construction of railroads, highways, canals, dams, factories, and skyscrapers. He thought that these things represented progress, and that they were the best way to ensure the continued prosperity of the human population of the Seattle area. Such considerations as overpopulation, depletion of natural resources, and pollution were hardly even considered. To Ace and many others of his generation, it seemed like there would never be an end to the salmon in the Pacific Ocean or trees in Pacific Northwest forests.

When I started working on this article, I obtained two books about Ace (all that they had) from the local library. Each book showed dozens of his photographs and included relatively brief text about his life and times. They noted his attraction to Mt. Rainier and featured a few Rainier photographs. However, neither book included the photograph used for the 1934 stamp, and neither even mentioned that

Ace's photograph had been used on a stamp. It seems astounding that the people who put these books together either didn't know about the 1934 Rainier stamp or thought it so unimportant that they simply omitted it.

Mt. Rainier & USPOD/USPS

The 3-cent National Parks stamp of 1934 was only the first of several items of postal paper to show Mt. Rainier. Indeed, the 1934 stamp itself appeared in several different formats. Only a few weeks after Scott 742 appeared, the same stamp image was used in a new format, a souvenir sheet of six (Scott 750) complimenting the APS convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Everything about the stamps was the same, except that the SS stamps were imperforate.

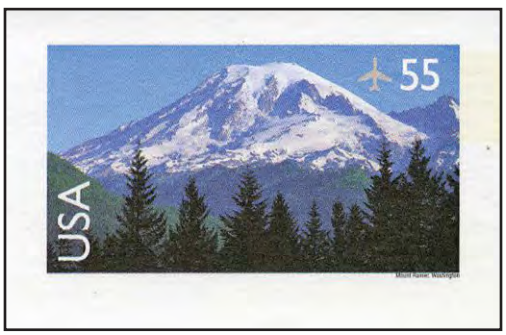
Subsequently, both of the above issues saw new life by being included in the Farley special printings. The basic stamp was issued in full sheets of 200 imperforate and ungummed stamps (Scott 758). The souvenir sheet appeared as full sheets of twenty souvenir sheets (120 stamps), likewise being imperforate and ungummed (Scott 770). The actual stamp image was the same for all of the above issues — the same engraving, the same deep violet color, the same paper.

It was more than three decades before Mt. Rainier appeared again, and then it was not on an actual stamp. In 1966 the U.S. issued an 11-cent air mail postal card (Scott UXC5) for international use. The imprinted stamp, or indicium, includes the wording "VISIT THE USA," the U.S. flag, and map outlines of the forty-eight contiguous states, plus Alaska, and Hawaii. On the left side of the card, and taking up almost half of the card's front, are four photographs, obviously chosen to encourage foreigners to visit the United States. Clockwise, from upper left, they show Mt. Rainier, the skyline of New York City, Miami Beach, and an Indian chief on horseback. The view of Mt. Rainier is quite similar to the view on the 1934 stamp, and I suspect that it was chosen for that very reason.

Mt. Rainier's next date with the USPS came twenty-three years later in 1989, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Washington statehood. A standard 25-cent commemorative stamp was issued. It shows a moonlit scene with Mt Rainier in the background and a canoe with one inhabitant on a lake in the foreground. A USPS news release stated that the view was from Reflection Lake. In a letter to *Linn's*, Dickson Preston asserted (and I agree) that it doesn't look like Reflection Lake, which is in the Paradise region on the south side of Mt. Rainier. Preston suggested that it looked much more like Tipsoo Lake, which is on the east side. The stamp's designer, Howard Rogers, acknowledged that the stamp's design isn't based on any specific lake, and that he had made up what appears in the foreground.

An 11-cent air mail postal card for international use, 1966 (Scott UXC5). On the left side of the card are four photographs, including one of Mt. Rainier.

Washington Statehood, 100th Anniversary issue featured a view of Mt. Rainier, 1989 (Scott 2404).



A 55-cent air mail postal card, 1999 (Scott UXC27). Mt. Rainier appears in the card's indicium.

Mt. Rainier appeared next on a 55-cent air mail postal card (Scott UXC27), issued in 1999. This time Mt. Rainier appears in the card's indicium. The photograph on which it was based was taken by Ric Ergenbright, who stated that it shows a view from Stevens Canyon Road (in the southeast part of the park) and that it was taken "early on a July morning in 1996, not long after sunrise."

Only three years elapsed before Mt. Rainier's next appearance, in 2002, this time as a minor design element on one stamp in a large se-tenant group. This was the Greetings from America issue, a pane of fifty 34-cent self-adhesive stamps. On the Washington stamp (Scott 3607), Mt. Rainier shares about 1½ square inches with the text "GREETINGS

FROM WASHINGTON" and "USA 34," an apple, the Space Needle, and the downtown Seattle skyline. Mt. Rainier was included, but that's about all that is certain. Since 2002 was a year when postal rates changed, the USPS saw fit to reissue Greetings from America as 37-cent stamps, the Washington version being Scott 3742. As far as I can tell, the two Washington State stamps are identical, except for the face value.

Greetings from America issue, 2002 (Scott 3607). Mt. Rainier appears as a design detail.

The latest appearance of this formidable mountain was in 2010 when the National Parks Types of Air Post and Air Post Postal Cards of 1999–2009 were issued in a booklet of twenty cards, including Scott UX607, Mount Rainier.

My Journey to the Mountain

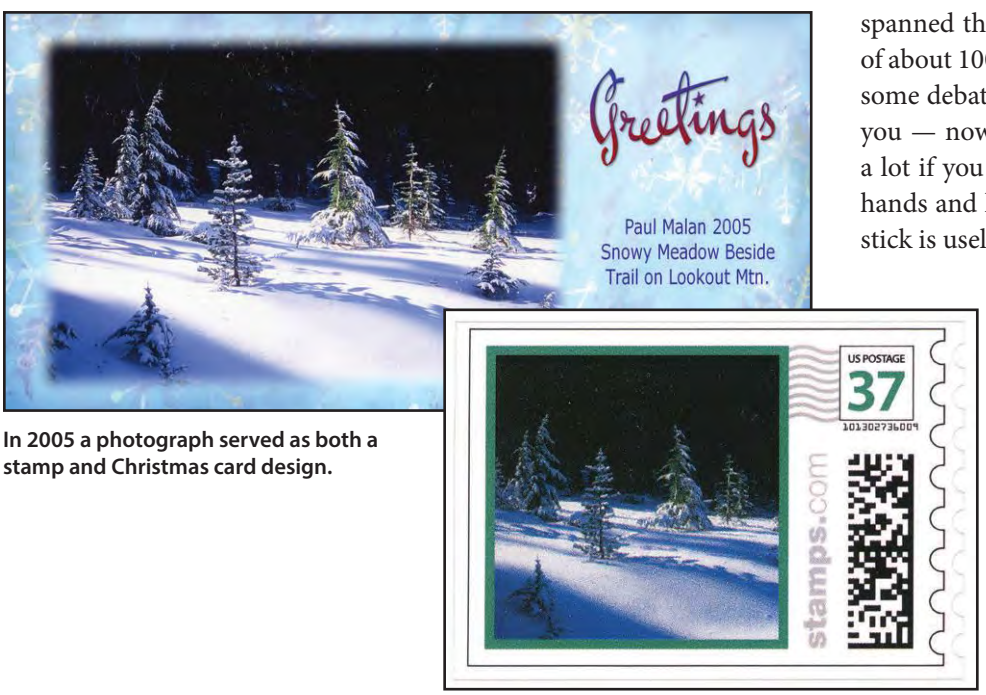
September 2005 — Monsoon: At the beginning of 2005 I decided that this would be my year to go to Mt. Rainier, hike to Mirror Lake, and take that special photograph. After all, I certainly wasn't getting any younger. I had just turned 59, and while I was still capable of doing pretty strenuous hikes that might end at any time.

There was an added incentive. The previous year the USPS had begun to offer personalized (or customized) postage, making it possible to have one's own photographs turned into actual postage stamps. I missed out on the first brief trial period, but following the program's reinstatement around the middle of 2005, I have used several of my scenic photographs in this way. For Christmas 2005 I used the same photograph both for custom printed Christmas cards and for the postage used to mail them. I was hoping to create a stamp for my 2006 Christmas cards as well, this one featuring Mirror Lake and Mt. Rainier.

As I was driving to Mt. Rainier, an ominous mass of clouds seemed quite literally to be following me. I planned to spend the night at National Park Inn, before setting out the next morning for Mirror Lake. I awoke around 4:30 a.m. The first thing that I was aware of was the sound of water dripping. Not a good sign! Well, it rained, and then it rained some more, and then it just kept on raining. I heard that five inches of rain fell in a little over twenty-four hours. Saturday morning I gave up and went home. I never went near a trail head. I never saw the summit of Mt. Rainier. In fact, I saw the sky only briefly, and that was during my drive to and from the park.

August 2006 — Exploratory Hike: Early in August I talked by phone with a ranger at Mt. Rainier. I learned that I would be able to drive to the trail head where I hoped to start my hike, and that the trail itself was free of snow and was being used. When I got to the beginning of the trail, however, there was a sign to the effect that the trail is not maintained and that use of the trail is not recommended. I went ahead anyway.

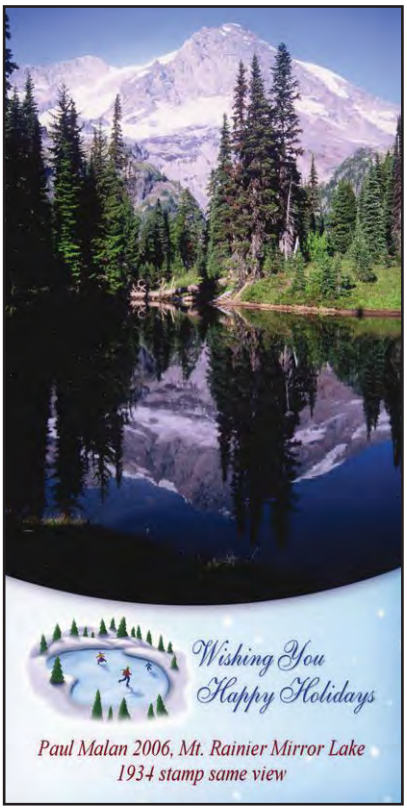
After two miles I came to a junction with Wonderland Trail, the 95-mile trail which goes all the way around Mt. Rainier. I turned to the right (south) and in another fifty yards I got to a suspension bridge. What few suspension bridges I had encountered in the past were no more than fifteen or twenty feet long and, even if there were some mishap, the worst that I would have experienced would have been getting wet and dirty and perhaps acquiring a few cuts or bruises. *This* suspension bridge was different. It spanned the Tahoma Creek canyon at a height of about 100 feet and was sixty yards long. After some debate I crossed the bridge, and I can tell you — now that I'm an expert — that it helps a lot if you hold the railing or ropes with both hands and look straight ahead. Also, a walking stick is useless.



In 2005 a photograph served as both a stamp and Christmas card design.

At this point I had already been hiking for several hours, and due to a late start was unlikely to arrive at my destination in time to make the round trip in daylight. So I turned around and went back the way I had come. I decided to wait until the beginning of September before making another attempt.

September 2006 — Success! This time I was determined to



From left: The author's photograph of Mirror Lake. The Mirror Lake photograph served as the design element for the author's 2006 Christmas card. The Mirror Lake photograph as a postage stamp.

get an early enough start and make a serious effort at reaching the lake. The sun was shining, the air was clear, and the flies were not nearly as numerous as in August. I tried to maintain a pretty good hiking pace, because I knew that, even if we made it to Mirror Lake (I was accompanied by two members of my local stamp club), we would have a short window of opportunity, and I wanted as much time as possible for photography. We got to the suspension bridge around 2 p.m. Because it's a long span, only one person should be on the bridge at a time, and going slowly was a necessity. A little before 3 we were across and heading to the southeast on Wonderland Trail. Around 3:45 we finally reached Indian Henry's Hunting Ground, a semi-forested plateau that takes up several square miles.

Eventually, we went over a small rise and there was Mirror Lake. My first reaction to finally seeing the long anticipated lake was disappointment at its size. It isn't just small — it is *tiny*! I believe that I have never seen a body of water that small referred to as a lake. In ordinary terminology it would be a pond, a wonderfully situated pond, a pond that reflects Mt. Rainier quite well, but still a pond. I'm quite confident that anyone who could hike to Mirror Lake could throw a rock all the way across the "lake" at its widest extremity.

The photograph for the old stamp appeared to have been taken in a relatively open area, where there were only a few small and medium-sized trees. Today, the area is a fairly dense forest, with the only gap in the trees being the one that allowed a view of the Rainier summit. It required almost no time or effort to find the spot where Ace had taken his photograph. It was easy to line up the small group of trees at the far side of the lake against the Rainier horizon line.

I took verticals and horizontals, moved to various places around the shoreline, and just kept shooting, taking twenty-one pictures in all. By 5 p.m. it was time to go. We were going to have a bit of a race with the sun to get back to the trail head — which we actually reached just about the time it got completely dark (8:40 p.m.).

The Photographs

My original reason for going to Mirror Lake was to show fellow collectors how the view from lake side had changed. As might be expected, trees that were small in 1934 have gotten larger, and a few new trees have started growing. What seems rather odd is that the trees that make up the group that is just to the right of center in the stamp image seem not to have grown at all since 1934. Also, they seem to be turning brown, which leads me to believe that they are dying and might not be standing much longer. The amount of water in the lake seems to be about the same. There is obviously much less snow on Mt. Rainier in my photo than there was when Ace took his photo. How much this has to do with global warming, and how much it relates to the time of year when each of the photographs was taken, I can't say.

My goal had been to create a horizontal photograph of Mirror Lake, that would match as closely as possible the image Ace had taken many decades ago. However, when I examined my photographs carefully, I concluded that none of the horizontals looked good enough. I hadn't captured as

Franked with the original 3-cent Rainier stamp (Scott 742), the author's 24-cent customized photostamp showing Mirror Lake, and two 6-cent Eisenhower stamps (Scott 1393).

much of the lake as I would have liked (a 28 or 30 mm lens would have been better). Also, the left side of each of the horizontals was too dark, due to the fact that at the time of day we were at Mirror Lake most of the left foreground was in deep shadows. The best image turned out to be a vertical composition in which I was able to get (vertically speaking) all of the lake plus a little bit of grass at the very bottom.

Postscript: The Christmas Card

Ever since I started collecting stamps, I have tried to make my outgoing mail as interesting as possible. I look on sending mail not as a chore but as an opportunity. In the mid-1980s I created a two-frame exhibit (not intended for serious philatelic competition), entitled "STAMP OUT DULL MAIL!" But the Christmas season is when I really get carried away. In years past I have been known to use combinations of fractional postage stamps, send my cards to towns with Christmas-related names to get postmarked, and use elaborate arrangements of Christmas Seals on the envelopes' backs.

Even though it doesn't have a "Christmas" look about it, I decided to use the Mirror Lake photograph for my Christmas cards. I also decided that I wanted to frank my Christmas envelopes with both the old Mt. Rainier stamp and a personalized postage stamp containing my Mirror Lake photograph. I acquired from local dealers a moderate quantity of Scott 742, and I had 24-cent personalized postage stamps created. Finally, to make up the then first class rate of 39 cents, envelopes like the one shown were created.

So, getting to Mirror lake was quite an adventure. What I found was probably not all that dramatic. Some things had changed indeed, but much had not. Considering my age and how (un)likely it is that I'll ever make it back, I'm just glad I didn't miss the opportunity.

Endnotes

1. Check out the National Park Service website at http:/www.nps.gov/mora/index.htm for more information.

2. Murray Morgan, Foreword to *The Asahel Curtis Sampler*, edited by David Sucher (Puget Sound, OR: Puget Sound Access, 1973).

The Author

Paul Malan is a semi-retired mainframe computer programmer analyst who works part-time at the Oregon Department of Forestry. A stamp collector for just over fifty years, his main philatelic interests are worldwide postally used, U.S. first issue revenues, and photostamps.

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What's in a Name?
Israel's Postal Service in 1948

by Robert A. Moss

Over the course of six months in 1948 the postal authority in the area now known as Israel imposed four different identities on its postage stamps: Palestine, Provisional Government, Hebrew Post, and Israel. This essay considers the historical background and corresponding philatelic expression of those rapid changes.

Palestine Scott 19, 5 mils British Egyptian Expeditionary Force stamp overprinted "Palestine" in Arabic, English, and Hebrew.

Palestine

The area bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the west, the Jordan River and Jordan on the east, the Sinai Peninsula and the Gulf of Aqaba on the south, and modern Lebanon and Syria on the north has been a cockpit of conflict for millennia. In biblical antiquity, Canaanites, Israelites and Egyptians variously invaded or defended this area. The Philistines, a non-Semitic possibly Aegean people, colonized the coastal plain and clashed with Israelites led by Kings Saul and David. It is from the Philistines that the name "Palestine" is derived, a name later applied by Roman rulers to the whole of the territory.

Two hundred years after the Israelite kingdom of David and Solomon fractured into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah (ca. 930 BCE), an Assyrian invasion (ca. 730 BCE) led to the destruction of the northern kingdom and the exile of most of its inhabitants, leaving only the southern kingdom of Judah and its principal city of Jerusalem. Invasions by Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks followed over succeeding centuries. Then, after a brief recrudescence of Jewish rule under the Hasmoneans (ca. 116–63 BCE), Roman conquest reduced Judea to a Roman province. The advent of Jesus and the rise of Christianity under Roman rule, particularly after the conversion of Emperor Constantine in 325 C.E., made Palestine a center of Christian devotion and pilgrimage. Following the Arab invasion of 636 C.E., various Moslem dynasties ruled Palestine, interrupted briefly by the Crusader conquest in 1099 C.E. The recapture of Palestine under Saladin in 1187 C.E. was followed by Mameluke rule from Egypt and, ultimately, control by the Ottoman Turkish Empire from 1516 C.E.

In modern times, the crucial event was the conquest of Ottoman Palestine by British forces during the First World War (1917–1918). This change of hegemony loosened Palestine's Eastern roots and opened it to Western European influence. In particular, the Balfour declaration of 1917 committed Great Britain to support Zionist aspirations for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In 1922 the League of Nations formally granted Britain a mandate to govern Palestine. The Mandate for Palestine was to last twenty-six years until, pursuant to the United Nations partition plan adopted in late November 1947, Britain terminated the Mandate on May 14, 1948, withdrawing its troops and administrators.

The very first postage stamps specific to British Palestine (1920–1923) foreshadowed the Arab-Jewish divide. The British Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF), which had occupied Palestine, printed postage stamps for civilian use in 1918. These were valid in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Transjordan, but in 1920 separate overprinted issues came into use for Palestine and Transjordan. Illustrated is a 5-mils EEF issue overprinted "Palestine" in the three official languages of the Mandate: Arabic, English, and Hebrew.

The Arabic inscription, "Filistin," matches the English "Palestine." This is transliterated into Hebrew characters in the lower overprint ("Palestinah"). Jewish members of the advisory council argued that the appropriate Hebrew inscription should be "Eretz Yisrael" or "Land of Israel," the traditional Jewish name for the Holy Land. Arab advisors opposed this request, citing its political overtones. As a compromise, the Mandatory authorities retained Palestine in Hebrew characters, but added the letters *aleph* and *yud*, an abbreviation for Eretz Yisrael. This device would appear on subsequent Palestine stamps.

The first pictorial definitive Palestine stamps were issued in 1923. Additional values were added in 1927, 1932, and 1942. Eventually there would be eighteen denominations from 2 mils to 1 Palestinian pound (plus four color changes) in the set. Despite the final total of twenty-two different definitive stamps, only four designs were used: Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem (3-mils), the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem (4-mils), David's Tower in the wall of Jerusalem (20-mils), and a view of Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee (50-mils). The

Palestine Scott 64 (3 mils), 66 (4 mils), 77 (20 mils), and 78 (50 mils): Rachel's Tomb, Dome of the Rock, David's Tower, and View of Tiberius.

scenes were chosen to include sites of significance to Moslems, Jews, and Christians. Illustrated is a cover with five Palestinian definitives, postmarked March 13, 1947 and sent from Ma'abarot, a kibbutz (communal farm and settlement) in the Sharon Plain, to Haifa.

As 1948 began, the postal authority of British Palestine remained in force as it had since 1920, and the pictorial definitives continued in use until the end of the Mandate.

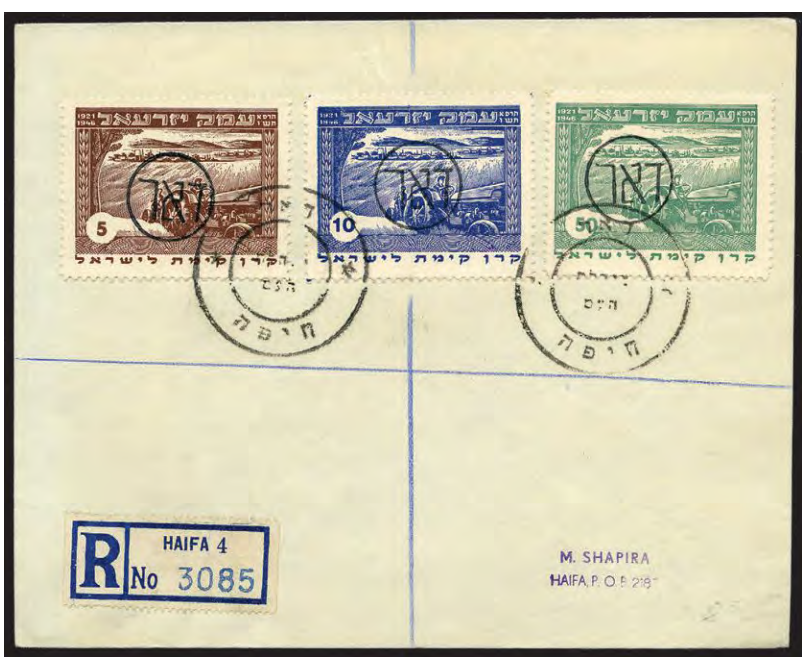
The Provisional Government

The leadership and most of the Jewish community in Palestine accepted the U.N. partition plan of November 1947; the Arab leadership did not. Violent skirmishes broke out almost immediately, and Palestine, still under nominal British control, continued in a state of intracommunal conflict of varying intensity and location over the next few months through early 1948. From April 14, 1948, a month before the announced end of the Mandate, British authorities began to terminate postal services. The cessation of service was chaotic rather than orderly, with battle zones or road blocks restricting postal access for various towns. The nascent Jewish government, or People's Administration ("Minhelet Ha'Am"), authorized the postal usage of labels that had been issued by the Jewish National Fund (JNF).

The JNF, founded in 1901, used donations to buy land in Palestine for the settlement of Jews. It also planted millions of trees in denuded areas, built dams and parks, and supported agricultural development. From 1902 until the late 1940s, the JNF sold labels to raise money. These labels, designed to resemble postage stamps and issued in various denominations, featured people and events from Jewish history, as well as scenes of land development in Palestine.

In 1948 JNF labels were overprinted in He-

Five Palestine definitives used on cover, March 13, 1947: Scott 63 (2 mils), 64 (3 mils), 66 (4 mils), 68 (6 mils), and 73 (10 mils).



Registered 1948 interim period cover with JNF labels overprinted "Doar": Bale 17–19, cultivation of the Jezreel Valley.

First day of Provisional Government postal administration in Rehovot, May 2, 1948: Bale 5, JNF labels picturing Theodore Herzl.

JNF labels overprinted "Doar" and picturing the map of the U.N. partition plan for Palestine: Bale 104–106 with Jerusalem cancel on the first day of the Israel Post, May 16, 1948.

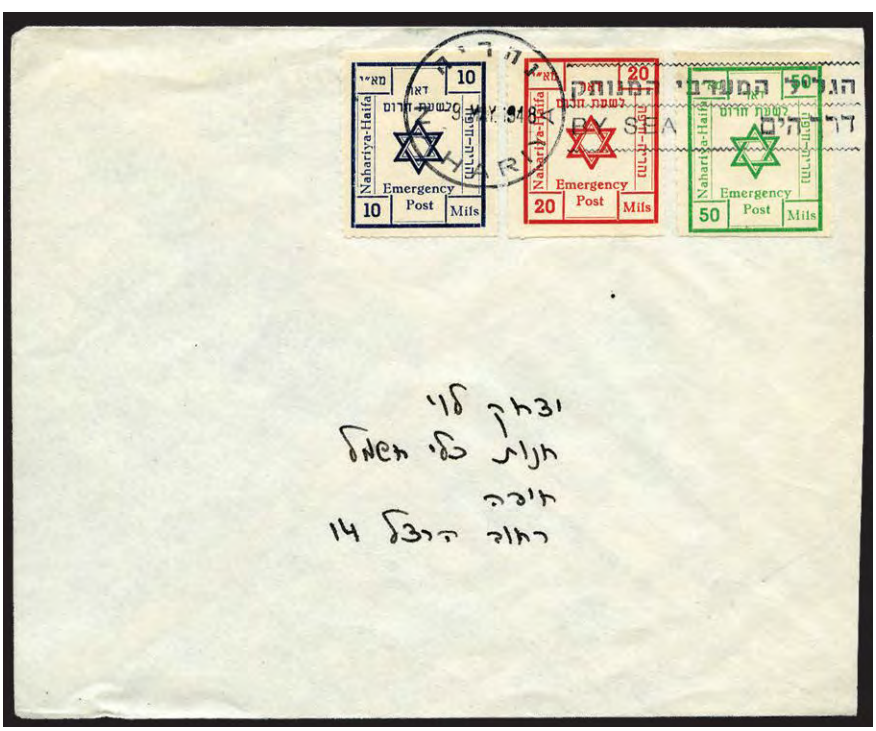
brew *"Doar"* (Post) in Tel Aviv (violet or red ink) and Haifa (black ink), and used throughout the country from May 2 through May 22. In addition, Palestine stamps remained valid until May 15, 1948, the day after the declaration of the State of Israel. Finally, certain towns — notably Nahariya, Safed, and Rishon Le Zion — printed local issues. This time of confusion and improvisation, known as the *interim period*, obviously provides a very rich postal history.

The first example shown from this period is a registered cover mailed in Haifa. The Minhelet Ha'Am cancels bear no date. The stamps, which carry Haifa Doar overprints, depict cultivation of the fertile Jezreel Valley. These labels were issued originally to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the purchase of the land by the JNF.

A second example represents the first day (May 2, 1948) of the new postal administration in Rehovot, a town in central Israel that is home to the Weizmann Institute of Science. The labels are not overprinted, but are marked with the date and cancelled in Hebrew "Doar" and "Minhelet Ha'Am Rehovot." The design is a portrait of Theodor Herzel (1860–1904), the founder of the modern Zionist movement, with David's Tower in Jerusalem in the background.

The third example is a cover postmarked "Minhelet Ha'Am Jerusalem" on May 16, 1948, the first day of the State of Israel postal service. At this time, the Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem were under siege by Arab forces. The labels, inscribed "State of the Jews" in Hebrew and overprinted Doar, reproduce the original U.N. partition plan map; the darker stippled areas were assigned to the Jews, while the lighter areas were allotted to the Arabs, including the central West Bank. The dark spot near the center of the West Bank is Jerusalem, which was to be internationalized.

A fourth example is a cover franked with Nahariya locals marked "Emergency Post," in both Hebrew and English. Nahariya, on the northern Israeli coast, normally dispatched its mail overland to Haifa. At the time, however, the road to Haifa was blocked by Arab forces in the town of Acre, forcing mail from Nahariya to be sent by boat to Haifa, and then on-



Nahariya local issue "Emergency Post," May 9, 1948: Bale 113–115.

Mixed usage on a 1948 interim cover: Palestine Scott 77 and Tel Aviv overprinted Doar JNF labels (left to right) Bale 9, 23, 33.

Palestine definitives and revenue stamps, all overprinted 10 mils and "Emergency Post Tiberius" on a cover mailed May 3, 1948.

ward to its destination. The cancel is May 9, 1948 and reads, in English, "Western Galilee By Sea." The addressee is one Isaac Levy in Haifa.

A fifth example illustrates mixed usage of a Palestine definitive and three JNF labels overprinted Doar in violet ink (Tel Aviv). The cancel is "Minhelet Ha'Am Tel Aviv," but no date is indicated. The subjects of the three labels are Eliezer Ben Yehuda, whose dictionary fostered modern Hebrew; the immigrant ship *Sha'ar Yashuv* (*A Remnant Shall Return*), which had been refused entry into Palestine by the Mandate authorities; and the water pipeline intended for the reclamation of land in the Negev Desert.

A final example is a registered letter sent to Isaac Gitman in Tiberius on May 3, 1948. The Palestine definitives are overprinted in Hebrew "Emergency Post Tiberius," and the valuations are all overprinted at 10-mils. Note, too, the use of Palestine revenue stamps, similarly overprinted.

Doar Ivri issues, Scott Israel 1–9 on a first day cover; first day of Israel Post, May 16, 1948.

Hebrew Post

The State of Israel was declared in Tel Aviv on Friday afternoon, May 14, 1948. Because the Sabbath followed immediately, the first business day for the Israel Post was Sunday, May 16, 1948. A set of definitive Israel postage stamps had been prepared in advance to replace the Palestine stamps and JNF labels, but the preparations had to be carried out in secret because the British Mandate was still in force. The stamps were printed on a letterpress supplied by the *Ha'Aretz* daily newspaper, manually perforated, and later prepared in rouletted version. Differing grades of paper and gum, color trials, and essays also contributed to an exceedingly complex potpourri of variants.

The subject and design of the new stamps, provided by Otte Wallish, featured ancient coins from the eras of the First Jewish-Roman War (66–73 C.E.) and the later Bar Kochba Revolt (132–135 C.E.). The first or Great Revolt ultimately led to the sack of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Second Temple, and the final siege and mass suicide of Jewish defenders at Masada, the fortress palace erected atop a mesa in the Judean desert by Herod the Great. The Bar Kochba Revolt

Essay with a Doar Ivri design, but inscribed "Judah (Yehudah)": Bale ED 7-I.

First postage due issue, Scott Israel J1–J5; Doar Ivri stamps overprinted "Dmei Doar" and franked with Scott 7.

also ended in defeat and catastrophe: a vengeful Emperor Hadrian resolved to erase the very memory of Judea or Israel. He replaced the name of the province of Judea with *Syria Palaestina* and renamed Jerusalem *Aelia Capitolina*; Jews were barred from entering the city. By choosing as his motif ancient coins struck during the last two periods of Jewish independence, however brief, Wallish provided a symbolic continuity between the forlorn events of two millennia past

First issue inscribed "Israel," Jewish New Year issue, September 26, 1948, Scott 10–14.

Second coinage issue, December 18, 1949, Scott 21–26.

and the hopeful moment of the rebirth of Jewish polity in the Holy Land.

A key problem for the Israel Post was what name to inscribe on the new stamps, as the country's official name had not yet been chosen. Several alternatives were considered, including Israel, Land of Israel, Judah, and Zion. As the day of independence approached, and no decision had yet been made, it was decided to forego a country name and simply inscribe the new stamps "Doar Ivri," or "Hebrew Post."

In the event, "Israel" was chosen as the new nation's name, announced on May 14, 1948 during the reading of the Israeli Declaration of Independence. The Doar Ivri stamps went on sale two days later. Shown on the previous page is a first day cover bearing all nine of the Doar Ivri values. The Tel Aviv cancel reads (in Hebrew), "First Day of the Hebrew Post." On this cover, the descriptive "tabs" or selvages of the stamps do not appear. An essay for an alternative 15-mils stamp with the country's name shown as Judah (Yehuda) exists. Other essays are known inscribed "Eretz Yisrael."

The Doar Ivri stamps also were used as postage dues, overprinted "Dmei Doar." An example is postmarked March 31, 1949 in Haifa and franked with a 250-mils Doar Ivri stamp. The cachet is for Independence Day and features the arms of the State of Israel above a medallion labeled 70 C.E. and inscribed "Judaea Capta." It depicts a triumphant Roman soldier and a grieving Jewish woman. Adjacent to the coin is the modern insignia of the Israeli Defence Forces.

Israel

The Doar Ivri stamps continued as valid postage through April 1950, but by then a number of new issues had appeared with the proper name of "Israel." The first issue of the Israel Post to bear this designation was the Jewish New Year set of September 26, 1948, also designed by Otte Wallish. As under the Mandate, the stamps display their identity in Hebrew, Arabic, and English. The motif is a "flying scroll," described on the tab as a seal found on excavated wine and oil jugs given as taxes to the ancient kings of Judah. Later archaeological specimens suggested that the seals actually depicted a winged sun. The cachet on the cover reads "Rosh HaShanna, 5709."

A coda to this era of Israel's postal history is found in a reprise of the low-value Doar Ivri coin stamps, now inscribed "Israel." This "second" coinage set appeared on December 18, 1949. The tabs describe the 3-, 5-, and 10-prutot stamp designs as representing the first revolt, while the 15-, 30-, and 50-pr values represent coins of the second revolt. The cachet and scroll celebrate immigration to Israel; note the expansion of

the population to a million citizens; and promise "teaching of the language to immigrants and integrating them into the cultural, economic, and social life of the state." A third coinage set appeared in 1950 with similar stamps but revised tabs that referred to the War of the Second Temple and the War of Bar Kochba, instead of the first and second revolts.

Thus, in the half year from April to September 1948, the genesis of modern Israel was reflected in four successive postal regimes. Seldom has postal history been so directly tied to the history and drama of a nation's birth.

Acknowledgment

My thanks to Professor Kenneth B. Moss of Johns Hopkins University for helpful comments and several translations from the Hebrew.

The Author

Robert A. Moss is Research Professor and Louis P. Hammett Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He collects British covers, Channel Islands, Israel, and the Faroe Islands.

2897 *Large Blue 1995* ***Sheet Stamp***

2913 *Small Red 1995* **2914** *Large Blue 1995* ***Coil Stamps***

2916 *Small Red 1995* ***Booklet Stamp***

Water-Activated Stamps

2915 *Large Blue 1995*

2915A *Small Red 1996*

2915B *Large Blue 1996*

2920 *Large Blue 1995*

2920D *Large Blue 1996 Avery Dennison Printing*

2921 *Small Red 1996*

Booklet Stamp

Self-Activated Stamps

2915C *Small Red 1996* ***(Very Scarce!)***

2915D *Small Red 1997*

3133 *Large Blue 1996*

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"Thar She Blows!"

The Saga of a Whaler's Letter

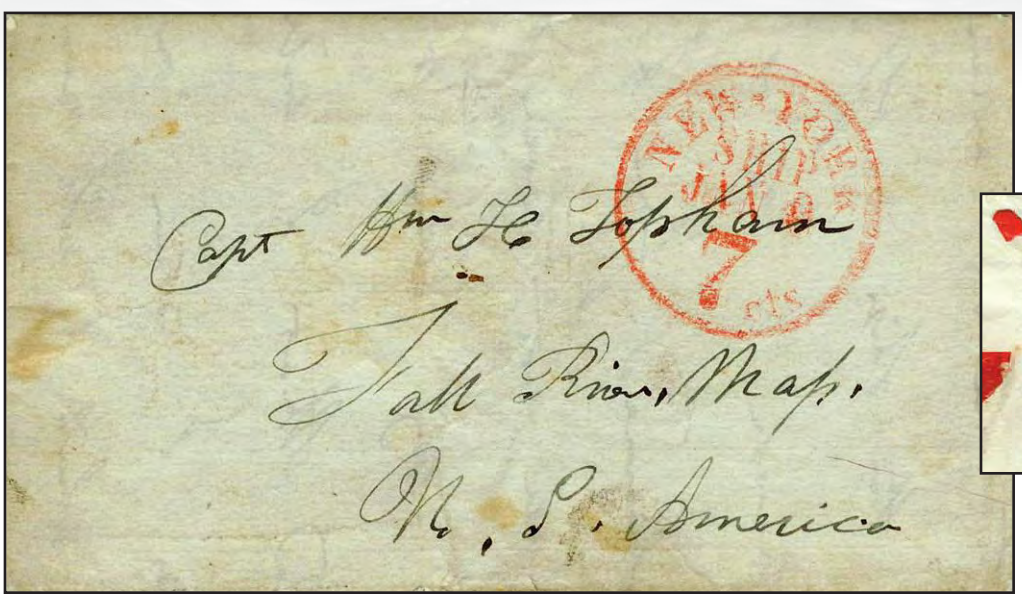
by G. Adolph Ackerman

Some years ago I purchased a stampless folded personal letter[1] sent by the captain of one of the first American whaling ships to hunt the rich waters off the coast of Kamchatka, a peninsula the size of Japan that is separated by a narrow stretch of the Bering Sea from the Aleutian Islands that form the tail of Alaska. The letter, dated August 10, 1845, was dispatched to Fall River, Massachusetts, a half a world away.

The folded letter is addressed to Capt. Wm H Topham/ Fall River, Mass./ U.S. America. The "New-York Ship" postmark is for seven cents (two cents ship + five cent inland delivery up to 300 miles). The month is January but the actual date is obscured. The wax sealed reverse has a transit marking of Vera-Cruz *Franqueado* ("paid") December 5 (?). Transit time from Kamchatka waters to Fall River was almost exactly five months, based on a date notation of January 9, 1846 at the bottom of the letter. The Trans-Mexico postal route was an appreciably shorter transit than if the letter had traveled around the Horn. The first page of the letter reads:

> Kamchaska, August 10th 1845
> Dear Abby
> I am now bound to the port of Petropanthki in Kamchaska[.] a ship is in sight coming out a merchantman and I send these few lines hoping you will get them before you hear the report of my wound[.] 2 weeks ago I shot my left wrist nearly half off. broke no bones, and it is nearly well with no danger at all. I have had a very bad season 800 lbs (260 sperm) but ships last season have took from 1 to 2000 after this date[.] I shall be at home the first of May oil or no oil.

It is signed "Yours, affection/ William." The handwriting on the address and text show them to be in the same hand. Therefore, the captain wrote and addressed the letter to himself (William Topham) to be picked up by a family member or authorized agent at the Fall River post office for delivery to his wife, Abby. According to the letter's text, the letter was given to the captain of a merchant vessel leaving Kamchatka's port town of Pet-



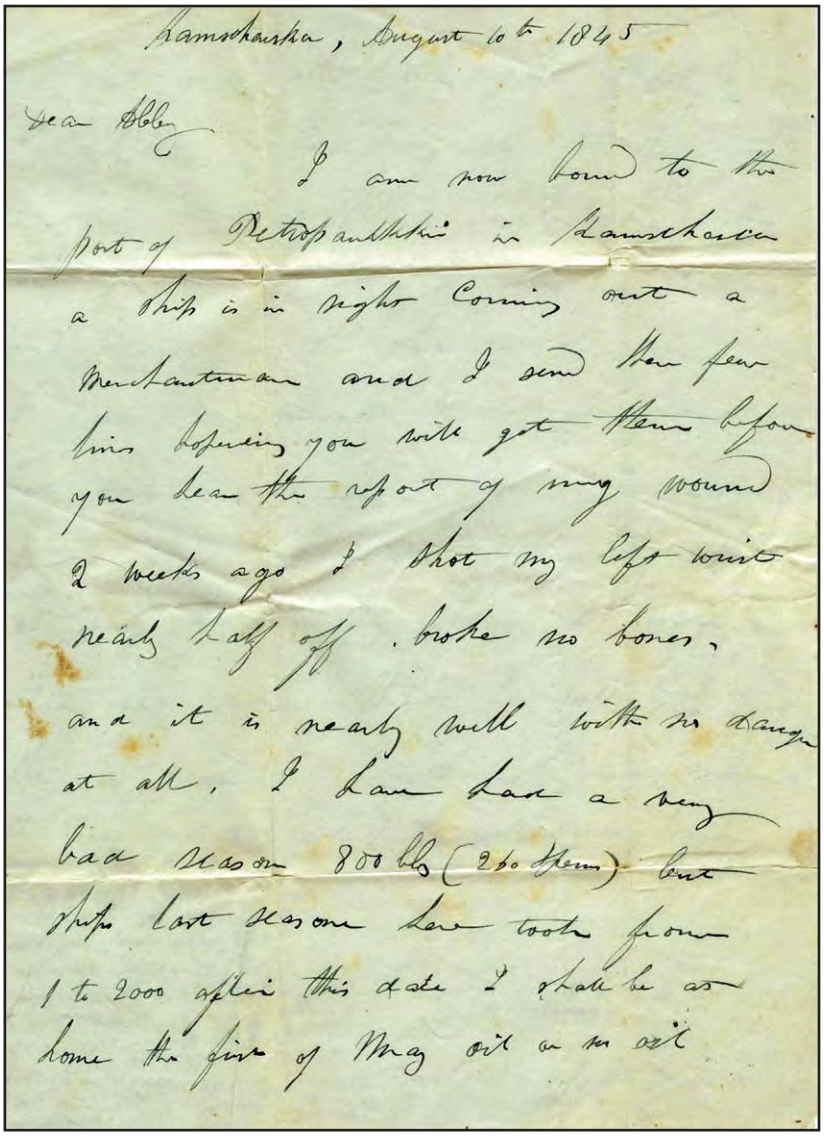
Whaler's folded stampless letter (1845) to Fall River, MA with red-orange New York ship 7 cts. postmark dated JAN ? (1846).

Whaler's folded letter wax sealed reverse. with Vera-Cruz Franqueado (paid) Dec 5 (?) postmark. The ends of the paper flaps make it difficult to determine the precise postmarked day.

ropavlovsk to be transported by ship and then through the mails to the eastern United States.

The fascination with whaling endures today, nearly one hundred years after the last sail-powered whaler embarked from New Bedford (1924) and long past the days of whale-oil lamps and whalebone corsets. We all know the meaning of the call "Thar She Blows," and are enthralled by Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851) and other tales of romance and adventure on the high seas. Verifiable accounts of whaling voyages are highly prized, for they provide rare, intimate, and historically valuable records. Topham's letter provides a glimpse of whaling in the 1840s and the circuitous passage of mail from Kamchakian waters to New England.

Historically, by the mid-eighteenth century, American whaling ports extended from New York to New England. Around the turn of the century American whalers began to sail around the Horn into the Pacific as the Atlantic fishing grounds became less lucrative and the whaling industry entered what would be known as its "Golden Age." By mid-century, however, the whale population had diminished in the southern Pacific as well, and English, French and American whalers moved northward along the North American coast. In the Far East they sailed into the Sea of Japan, then into the Sea of Okhotsk (1843–44) and further northward along the Kamchatka coast and further north into the Bering Sea (1844–45).[2-4] The Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) emerged as the major site for whalers to procure supplies for their ventures and for transporting their catch from the Far East to North America. The harbors of Honolulu and Lahaina flourished.


Kamschaska, August 10th 1845

Dear Abby

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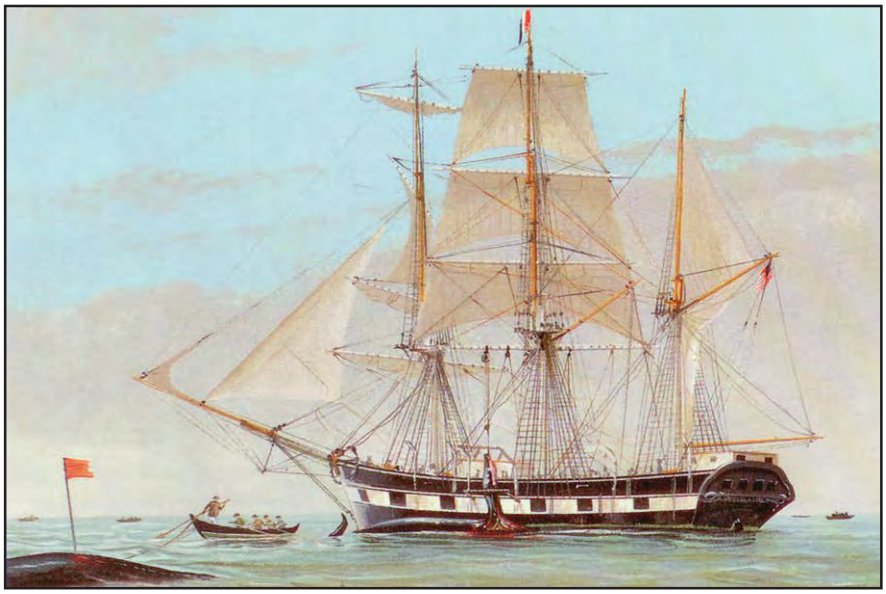
First page of Topham's letter to his wife. Letter dated August 10, 1845 from Kamchaska (Kamchatka).

Following the Letter's Transit Route

Let's start Capt. Topham's journey by examining the whaling archives. The New Bedford Whaling Museum Library and *The Whalemen's Shipping List* show that the ship captained by William Topham was the *Canada* out of New Bedford.[5,6] The *Canada* was the largest whale ship in New Bedford's fleet and was similar to the well-known vessel the *Charles Morgan*. The *Canada* embarked for the Pacific Northwest on New Year's day 1843 with a crew of thirty-five. Circling the Horn she sailed along the North American coast to Vancouver Island (no log for the *Canada's* voyage is known). Fishing in the region proved disappointing during the 1843/44 seasons, prompting Topham to sail to the reportedly more lucrative waters of the Far East.[4]

Charles Morgan **Historic Preservation stamp, 8-cent, 1971 (Scott 1441).**

Wintering at Lahaina, Sandwich Islands in 1844–45, the *Canada* voyaged to the far-eastern shores of Kamchatka in the spring of 1845.[6] While fishing in Kamchatkan waters with several other whalers, Topham boarded the whaler *Mount Vernon*, according to the *Mount Vernon's* log (July



Postcard showing whaler *Charles Morgan* and sailors retrieving their catch. (John Batchelor, 1992 from *Historic Sailing Ships Postcards*. Dover publication).

16, 1845).[7] The log entry also stated that Topham had injured his wrist. Not long after that, offshore of Petropavlovsk, he wrote the letter to Abby and possibly one to the ship's owner (Burton Ricketson).

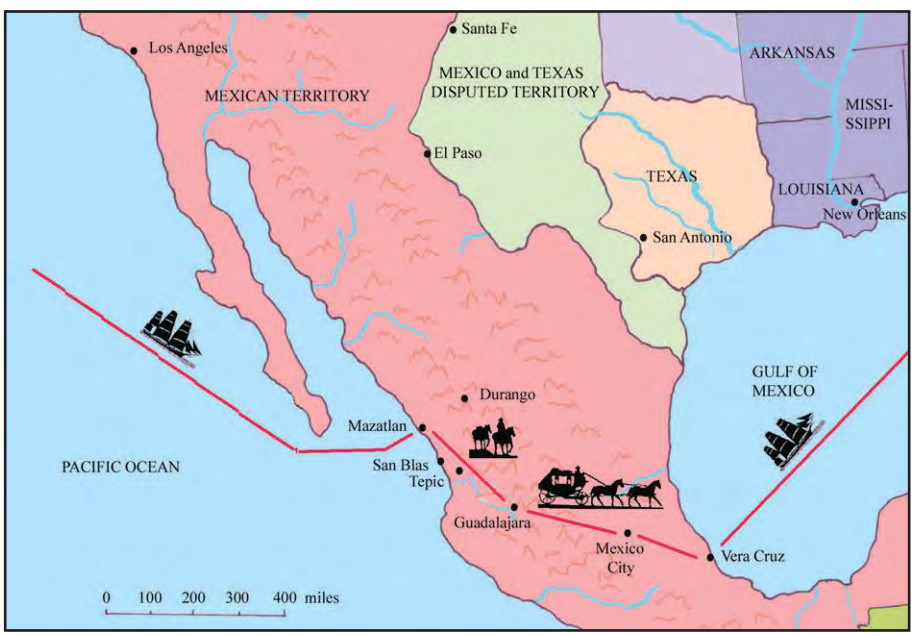
According to the shipping dates listed in a local Hawaiian newspaper, of the three merchantmen leaving Petropavlovsk in 1845 only the bark *Montreal* coincided in time to have met the *Canada*.[8] The *Montreal* was probably carrying furs from Petropavlovsk for trade in Hawaii. Accepting the mail packet, the *Montreal* sailed on to Honolulu arriving on September 3, 1845 after a 24-day voyage (about 3,000 miles).

In Honolulu Topham's letter was transferred to the Swedish brig *Sir Charles Forbes*, which sailed eastward on September 26 to Mazatlan, Mexico (about 3,200 miles).[8] In Mazatlan the letter was sent along the Trans-Mexican postal route to Vera Cruz via Guadalajara and Mexico City (900+ miles).[9] Mazatlan was the most important harbor on Mexico's west coast, followed by St. Blas. Goods from the Far East, Hawaii, and California entered Mexico here. On the Atlantic side, Vera Cruz was the major port trading goods and sending/receiving mail pouches from Europe and North America for dispatch to the interior.

The Trans-Mexican postal route began operation in the early nineteenth century and continued until the Mexican-American War in mid-1846.[9,10] The route became an important express postal link between cities on the Atlantic and Pacific sides, shortening transit times by nearly one month. With perfect connections, transit took about sixteen days. This overland route predated train connections in Mexico. Mail packets from the Pacific, primarily from Hawaii, were carried by pack mule/horse over the Sierra Madre Mountains east of Mazatlan and transferred to a stagecoach after reaching the low lands near Guadalajara and Mexico City. Stage transport continued eastward to Vera Cruz.[9,10] St. Blas also served as an alternate Pacific starting point for the Trans-Mexican route. The trail was hazardous and robberies were common.

Usually mail was handled by commercial firms that maintained special accounts to pay the appropriate Mexican postal charges. Postal rates across Mexico were expensive for the times (4 reales = 50 cents) and were paid by the sender or his agent.[10] Although the Trans-Mexico route was active, carrying passengers and mail to/from the Pacific and Atlantic, only eighty-six postal items have been recorded to date, most commercial in nature.[10] Topham's letter is number eighty-seven. It is unique among them in being a personal letter rather than a commercial piece.

Arriving at Vera Cruz, the letter was stamped with the *Franqueado* (paid) postmark dated December 5 (?) . The letter was then transferred to the bark *Ann Louis*e, which left Vera Cruz for New York on December 14, 1845. It arrived in New York harbor on January 8, 1846, a distance of approximately 2,200 miles.[11,12] Mail was off-loaded and the New York ship postmark applied. The letter was rated at 7 cents

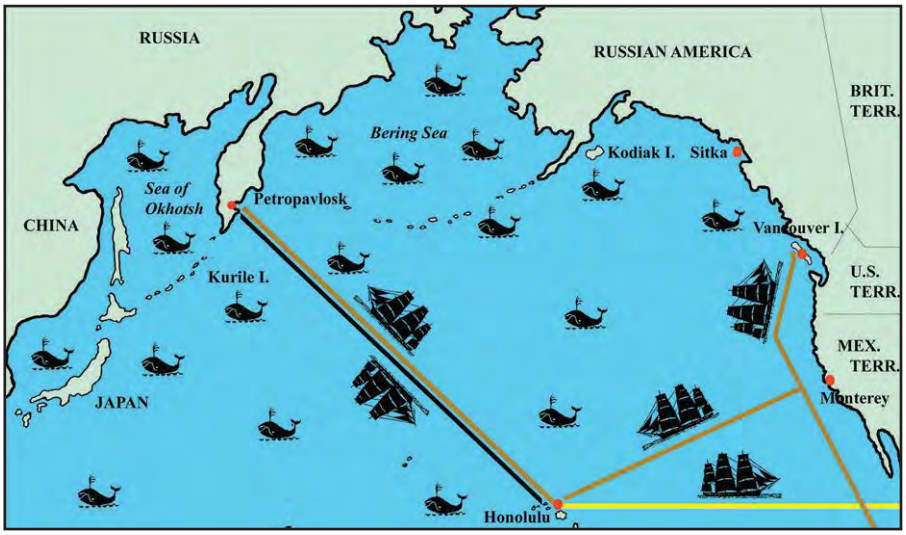


Trans-Mexican postal route: Mazatlan to Vera Cruz (ca.1845).

(2 cents for ship carriage and 5 cents for inland transport). The postmark, though ill-defined, reads January with a single digit numeral, possibly an 8.

The last leg of the letter's journey was from New York to Fall River, Massachusetts (about 200 miles). Passage took only one day, based on Topham's brother-in-law's notation on the letter (January 9, 1846). The timeline suggests that transit was probably via train rather than stage, thereby completing the letter's transit from half a world away. It was a five-month journey over land and sea — an approximate distance well in excess of 9,000 miles. Importantly, Topham's letter is the only one verifiably known to have originated on board an early whaler sailing the coast of eastern Russia and dispatched to New England via ship and the Trans-Mexican overland route.

After hunting the Kamchatka waters, the whale ship *Canada* returned to New Bedford via Lahaina before circling the Horn. It docked in New Bedford, Connecticut on April 8, 1846 after nearly three-and-one half years at sea.[6]



Voyages of the whaler *Canada* (brown) to the Northwest, Hawaii, and Kamchatka; the merchant ship *Montreal* (black) from Kamchatka to Hawaii; and the Swedish brig *Sir Charles Forbes* (yellow) from Honolulu to Mazatlan.

Acknowledgments

I thank Michael Dyer of the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library for carefully checking the whaling archives and Fred Gregory whose help and knack for finding archival shipping records was impressive. I also thank Dennis Pollack for helpful suggestions regarding the story line.

Endnotes

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The Author

Dr. Adolph Ackerman is a retired professor of medical microscopic anatomy. He has written numerous scientific and philatelic articles and has shown his Russian air mail exhibit nationally and internationally. He is a past president and board member of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately and is a member of the Worthington Stamp Club.

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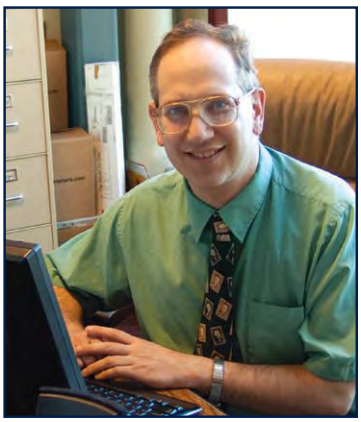


I hope you had a wonderful National Stamp Collecting Month in October. Now would be a great time to thank some of the many individuals who serve the hobby as volunteers. Past APS president Nick Carter showed his appreciation for the many unsung heroes of the hobby by establishing awards for volunteers who have provided five or more years of service to the hobby. First given in 2008, the awards are offered in four categories: National Promotion/Service (up to five awardees), Local Promotion/Service (up to ten awardees), Outstanding Young Adult (ages 25–40, and Outstanding Youth (under age 25, three years service minimum). Call, e-mail or visit our website (stamps.org/volunteer-recognition-awards) for the nomination form.

Dues Notice Information

The 2015 dues notices are scheduled to be sent a few days after this issue is placed in the mail. For the eighth year in a row there will be no dues increase for 2015. Please note that you will receive this mailing even if you are a life member or your dues are prepaid for 2015 you will receive this mailing. It is the least expensive way we can send every member our latest publication brochure and list of 2015 educational offerings. The Publications brochure now includes about fifteen American Air Mail Society books, four APS digital publications, and recent years of *The American Philatelist* and *Philatelic Literature Review* on CDs.

This year, for the first time, we have included a *Learning Opportunities* brochure. In addition to our week-long Summer Seminar, during 2015 we will offer four two-day "On the Road Courses," six Internet-based StampCampus courses, and ten "Collecting Connections" Internet-based courses for which individuals may choose specific sessions for as little as $20 each. We also will continue to offer free, live Internet tutorials on the APS and APRL about how to use our services.

As in past years, the dues notice includes the opportunity to subscribe or renew to the Library's quarterly *Philatelic Literature Review.* You also can use the opportunity to provide extra financial support to the APS as a sustaining or contributing member or with a designated donation.

We encourage prompt renewals to save us the cost of mailing reminders. You can pay online on our website by credit card or from funds in your APS account, mail back your renewal, or pay by a phone call to 814-933-3803. If calling, please note that our offices will be closed on the Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving and the Thursday and Friday of Christmas week. Also, please note that since last year we have begun accepting payment by Discover, in addition to MasterCard and Visa.

Membership Growth

We appreciate the efforts by many of you that have resulted in increased membership applications for *five consecutive months*. Combined with a 91.0% retention rate, which is the highest in more than ten years, our 12-month paid member loss has dropped to under 500, the lowest in about twenty years!

An important step in reversing the trend and growing the membership in 2015 is an excellent response to the dues mailing. Our members are very loyal and we hope to reward you with additional benefits. Not all of our regular services and benefits are used by everyone, but we hope that small additions — such as being able to offer Air Mail Society publications at slight discounts from retail, increasing the audience for members selling stamps through

APS & APRL Holiday Schedule

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. When you are planning your travels, please note that the American Philatelic Center will be closed:

- Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28
- Thursday, December 25 & Friday December 26
- Thursday, January 1

The APS and APRL will maintain their usual hours, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. EST, on the remaining days of those weeks.

The American Philatelic Center staff wishes all APS members and their families the happiest of holiday seasons.

It's Time To Pay Your 2015 APS Dues

Don't miss out on YOUR favorite APS Services!

Watch the mail for your 2015 APS membership renewal notice. If you do not receive your notice by November 30, please contact us at: 814-933-3803 or requests@stamps.org

Regular APS Membership	$45.00
Junior Membership (J prefix)	$45.00
Youth Membership (Y prefix)	$22.50
Spouse Membership (S prefix)	$22.50
Canadian Regular & Junior Membership*	$55.00
Foreign Regular & Junior Membership*	$65.00

*Canadian & Foreign Membership is $45.00 with the online *American Philatelist* only.

StampStore, an accessible online database of past expertizing certificates, and a planned AmeriStamp Expo coupon book exclusively for APS members — will make you even more likely to continue your membership.

Calling All Photographers!

In 1934, during the era of the New Deal, the Section of Painting and Sculpture of the Treasury Department established a "48 States" art competition to commission artists to create public art in post offices. The Council of Philatelists at the National Postal Museum is seeking help in photographing murals in local post offices and writing up information on them. These photographs and text will be combined to make a presentation that will become part of the NPM website.

Color photos must be at least 300 dpi and be in either a TIFF or Large JPEG format. Anything less than 300 dpi will be rejected. There should be at least one photo of the mural and one photo of the Post Office (street view). We also need the physical address of the location of the mural so we can add it to our Google map.

Photographers and the dates the pictures are taken will be identified. Additionally, if your photographs are accepted, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum will require a copyright release that will be sent to you after acceptance of the photos. Photos should be sent to lizhisey@comcast.net. The same e-mail address should be used for any questions.

Package Mailing

A reminder that all packages 13 ounces or more sent by the United States Postal service for which stamps are used for payment *must* receive the USPS green AVSEC (Aviation Security) marking or a USPS PVI label with zeroes (0.00) on it to prove it was passed over the USPS counter and not mailed in a blue drop box. If you print out your own postage at home, you are okay, because the postage can be traced back to you through your payment record. Otherwise, any packages mailed without these markings may be returned to the sender by the USPS with a sticker affixed on it that has an airplane with a slash through it. Since 2001, the American Philatelic Center has been stamping our outgoing packages with the Aviation Security marking. To prevent any delay in the arrival of your packages we remind you to follow these

guidelines. Additional information can be found on the USPS website at www.usps.com/business/web-tools-apis/domestic-mail-service-standards-api.pdf

Aerophilately 2014

As President Steve Reinhard also reports in his column, Aerophilately 2014 was a success. Collectors traveled from around the world to attend, including New Zealand, Australia, Colombia, Romania, Switzerland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. We were delighted that many of the attendees were first-time visitors to the American Philatelic Center and that many hope to return. One of the visitors from Australia first visited in June and a second visitor from Australia for whom this was his first visit plans to make a second visit when he comes to the ASDA New York show in late October.

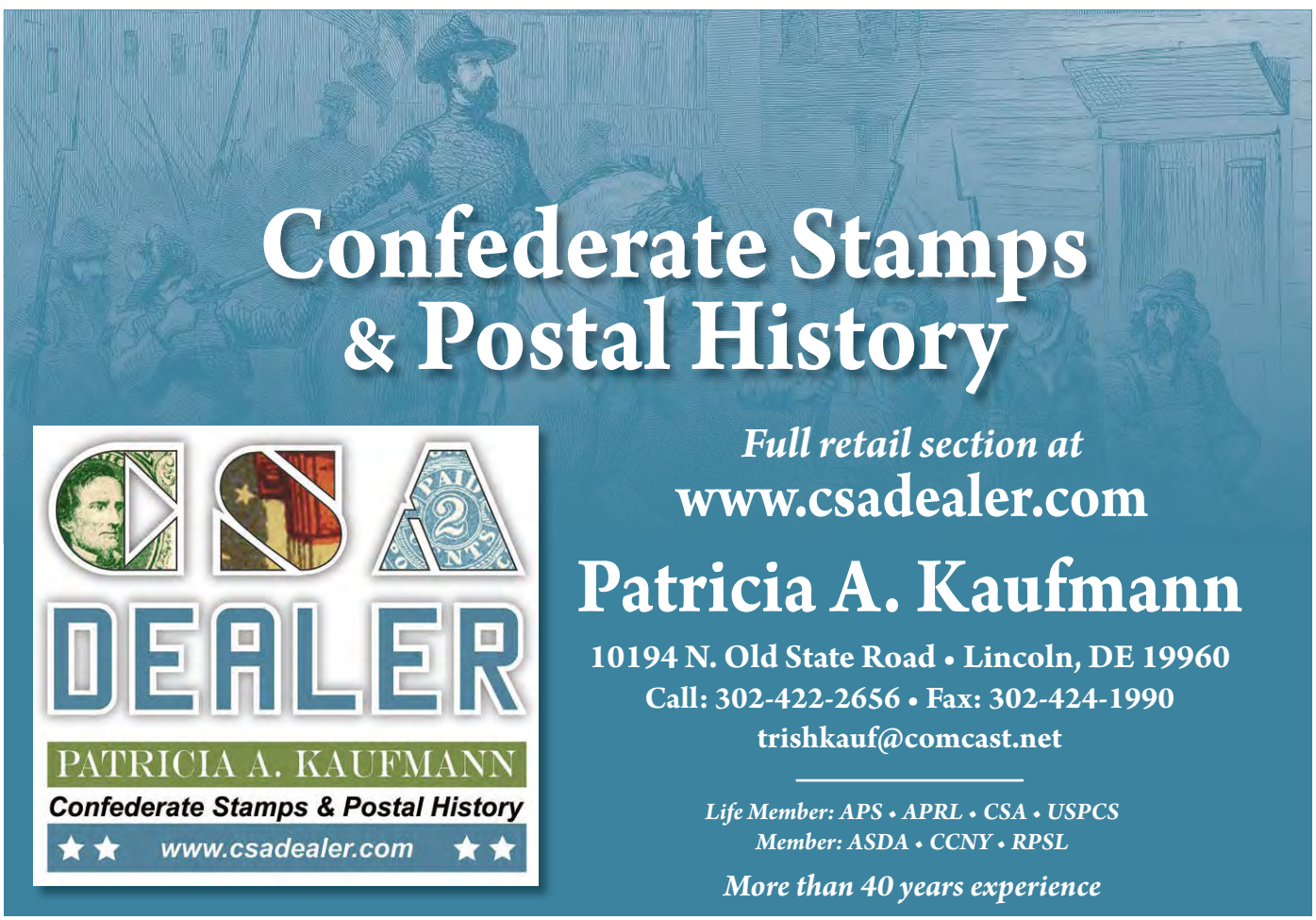
Thanks to the American Air Mail Society for having their event at the APC. In recent years, events have been held by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, the United States Stamp Society, and the Women Exhibitors. We would welcome hearing from other APS affiliates interested in having an event here.

500 Teachers Need Stamps

Finally, a good problem. Despite receiving more than 1,500 gifts of stamps already this year, with nearly 500 teachers now enrolled in our "Stamps Teach Plus" program for grades three to five, we are running out of stamps to provide them. Stamps Teach Plus provides teachers with lesson plans, posters, activity cards, and postage stamps! Students also may receive a free one-year membership in the APS Young Stamp Collectors of America club. (Lesson plans only are also available for teachers of other grades.)

Off paper stamps are preferred as more can fit in a flat-rate priority box, but on paper stamps are welcomed. An assortment of different stamps is preferred to bulk gifts of single stamps, which require more labor in order to ensure that every teacher receives a variety. Any excess stamps you have and are willing to donate can be sent to us at American Philatelic Society, Stamps Teach, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Please be certain to include your name and address on the outside of the box and in an enclosed note so that we can provide you written acknowledgment, which may be used for tax purposes. Donations for U.S. taxpayers are normally deductible if you itemize. Gifts that we estimate to be valued between $5 and $25 will receive a postcard acknowledgment and gifts with an estimated value of over $25 will receive a written letter. Please note that the IRS prohibits the recipient of the donation from determining the value and to claim over $5,000 requires a qualified appraisal which is the responsibility of the donor.

Thanks in advance for any help you can provide!



Young Friends of APS enjoy time getting acquainted. (L to R): Bryan Metz, Neil Coker, Dave Blog, Larry Fillion, Frank Garmon, Kimberlee Fuller, James Weigant, Matt Kewriga, Alex Haimann.

Young Friends of APS

by Brandon Nugent

From the perspective of a 29-year-old collector, stamp shows can be intimidating events. In the past, I always considered them to be a means to an end: I'd cope with a rather unwelcoming environment in order to acquire interesting material for my collection. At the few smaller shows to which I ventured in the area where I used to live, I was just about always one of the youngest people in attendance. At the bourses, many dealers and even some fellow collectors regarded me with a degree of aloofness bordering on suspicion. It felt like I didn't "fit in" at those events. Other people knew each other; I knew no one. Super sophisticated and specialized collecting interests were *de rigueur*. Friendliness was generally not the order of the day. To be quite honest, that sentiment pretty much turned me off to shows, and I gradually stopped attending them. Since none of my close friends happen to collect stamps or have an interest in postal history, my interaction with other collectors tapered off to the point that receiving or mailing an APS sales circuit was the closest thing I could consider to be contact with fellow philatelists.

Then, something changed that gloomy perspective and gave my collecting a new energy. Fittingly, this little bit of magic came in the mail, postmarked Bellefonte, PA.

APS Executive Director Ken Martin chats with Larry Fillion and Kimberlee Fuller.

Earlier this year, I received a letter signed by a few young stamp collectors. They'd asked the APS for names and addresses of members under 50 years old and sent out a mass mailing to gauge interest in holding some sort of gathering for young philatelists in conjunction with StampShow 2014 in Hartford, Connecticut. They called themselves the "young friends of the APS" and seemed to be both sincere and serious about addressing that sense of isolation that other young stamp collectors apparently felt as well.

Although I've been an APS member (with the exception of a few years during college) for about fifteen years, I'd never even considered attending the national show. It always seemed to take place far away from me. When I lived in New Orleans, it was in Richmond; when I lived in DC, it was in Sacramento. Why spend so much money on airfare and a hotel just to attend an event where I wouldn't feel all that welcome anyway? That cash could buy a lot of new material instead!

My interest was piqued, however, and I contacted James Weigant, one of the signatories of that letter. James was incredibly passionate, excited by the response he'd gotten from other young collectors who responded to the letter,

and eagerly planning "young friends" events to make Hartford "the best StampShow ever!"

James' enthusiasm was contagious, and soon I found myself booking an airline ticket to travel to Hartford to attend StampShow 2014. Ironically, this year's event was more distant from my residence than ever before! My job requires periodic relocation, and I've been living in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina since January. I'd be traveling nearly 5,000 miles and spending more than fifteen hours in transit to get to the show!

I'm glad that I did, because StampShow 2014 with my fellow "young friends" was a radically different experience. By the end of the weekend, I'd snared a great deal of new material, enjoyed my fair share of excellent food and drinks, saw an array of fascinating philatelic items, and met many new stamp collecting friends.

(L to R): Brandon Nugent, Phillip Provance, James Weigant, Richard Mammana.

The first official "Young Friends" event took place on Friday evening when a number of the under 50-year-old recipients of that letter met in the lobby of the host hotel. We were joined by several beneficiaries of the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship. After a brief round of introductions, the group walked to the City Steam Brewery a couple of blocks away, where a private room had been set up for us. I enjoyed socializing with several new acquaintances while we savored a beverage (including wine featuring a stamp on the bottle label that James ordered specifically for the event!) and a lip-smacking buffet dinner. James and Alex Haimann, another signatory of the letter that I'd received, took some time to discuss the concept behind the "Young Friends of the American Philatelic Society." Their vision is to create a group within the broader APS organization, a "social alliance" of involved collectors who will foster a welcoming environment for the younger members of our hobby and who are interested in securing the future of the APS.

New members of the group were presented with thoughtful philatelic gifts. We also inducted an "honorary young friend" for his lifetime contributions to philately: John Hotchner, a past APS president, former member of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, accomplished author, and an all-around good guy.

Once dinner wrapped up, the whole group headed back to the hotel for more mingling. Many of us stayed for hours, talking about our backgrounds, collecting interests, and enthusiasm for this new "young friends" initiative. I made several friends that evening, and have kept up online communication through the new "Young Friends of the APS" facebook group (www.facebook.com/YFAPS).

The rest of the weekend was so much more fulfilling than any stamp show I'd previously attended. As I walked around the bourse and exhibits on Saturday, I kept running into people I'd met the evening before. It was amazing to finally feel like I belonged at a stamp show and to have friends to chat with during the day!

Sunday afternoon came too quickly, though, and it was soon time for me to fly back across the pond to Sarajevo. I certainly treasure the fond memories and strong friendships I made with fellow young philatelists at the show.

On Saturday afternoon, the young friends group met again, this time very informally, around a large table near the concessions. Everyone was eager to share their favorite finds from the show, so we revealed the stories behind items we'd snagged and passed around some of the more interesting material. It was nice to be around a group of collectors who were just as excited to hear about a set of low-value butterfly stamps that someone had been trying to find for ages as they were about another collector's rare cover purchased at auction. The energy and excitement that each person conveyed made us all wonder why we hadn't done anything like this before. That evening, after the Tiffany Awards dinner, several young friends again met in the hotel lobby for drinks and socializing.

By Sunday I began to realize just how much my overwhelmingly positive experience at StampShow 2014 was the result of the Young Friends' efforts to inject energy into the event. Sunday afternoon came too quickly, though, and it was soon time for me to fly back across the pond to Sarajevo. I certainly treasure the fond memories and strong

friendships I made with fellow young philatelists at the show. Don't get me wrong: there's nothing wrong with being an "old friend of the APS," of course! However, I certainly experienced an enriched dimension of the hobby when provided with the opportunity and impetus to share it with others around my own age. Credit, kudos, and props go to my new friends, and the coordinators behind all of this, Don Chenevert, Ken Martin, Alex Haimann, and James Weigant.

It's my hope that sharing this experience will encourage other young stamp collectors to take a leap of faith and find out just how much more you can enjoy and appreciate this hobby when you're able to share it with others your own age. If you are a young philatelist, please strongly consider attending the AmeriStamp Expo in Riverside, California and/or StampShow 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Your new friends look forward to meeting you there!

Note: If you're an APS member between 20-49 years old and want to learn more about getting involved with the APS Young Friends initiative, please contact James Weigant at jamesweigant@sbcglobal.net

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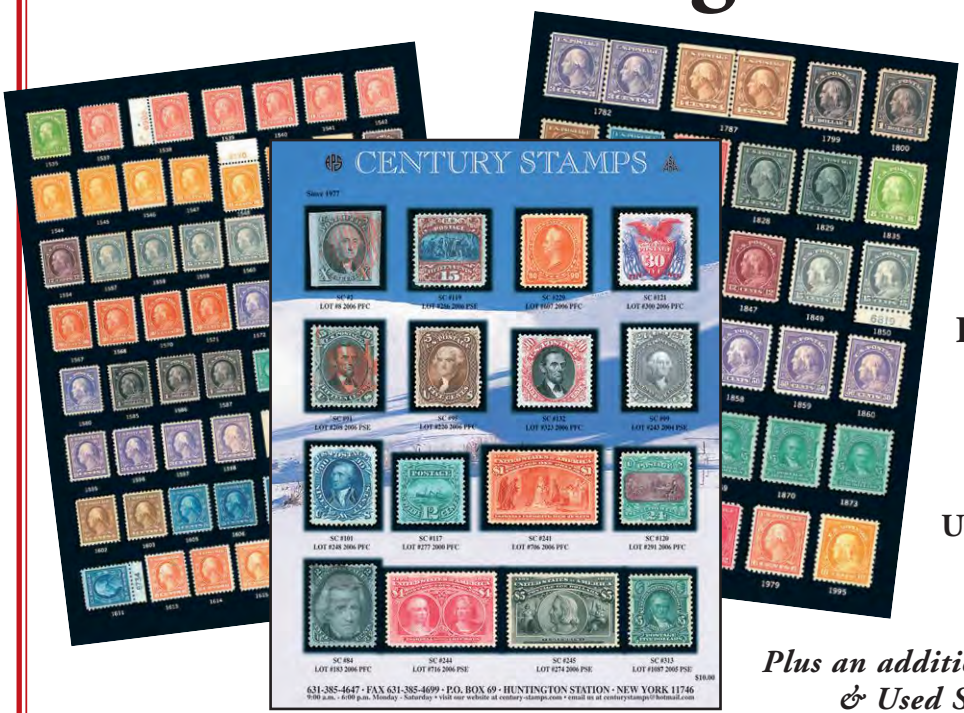

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The American Philatelic Society has been selling members' stamps for 128 years. The present-day Sales Division began as a simple stamp exchange for members when the Society was organized as an Association in 1886. It has since evolved into a major clearinghouse for members wanting to sell to and/or buy from other members. Some members are selling their duplicates, many others are selling their collections, and still others have bought auction lots to obtain certain items and are selling off items that are not in their collecting interests. There are also sellers who buy lots at auction specifically for mounting in sales books or selling on StampStore. Here are some interesting statistics about the Sales Division:

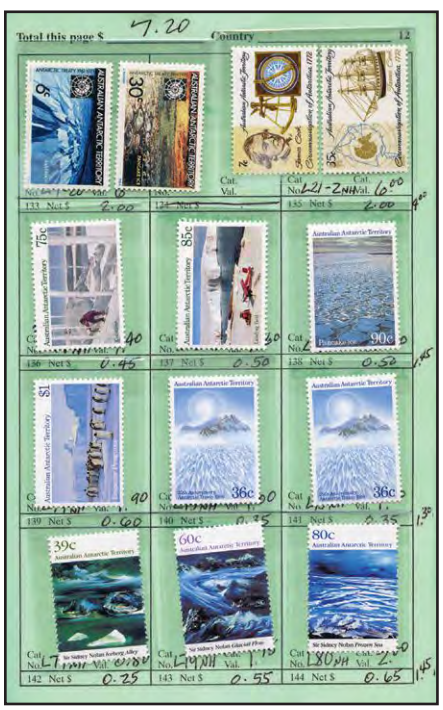
- Inventory of 40,000 sales books
- More than 3,000,000 items in those books
- Net value of more than $8,000,000
- Annual sales are around $1,400,000
- More than 3,400 members use this service
- Annual purchases per buyer average more than $425
- 3.7% of the *sellers* are member-dealers and account for 25% of the sales books, 25.8% of the inventory value, and 20.6% of the total sales
- 1.7% of the *buyers* are member-dealers and account for 2.1% of the purchases

Dealers have been using the Sales Division to sell some of their stock for many years. About half of the dealer-sellers have been submitting sales books for thirty years or more (one has about fifty-five years of experience with sales books) and have done very well. They know what sells and how to price their material. Their knowledge of the stamps they sell helps them present the material accurately. The buyer knows what he/she

Examples of Offered Stamps

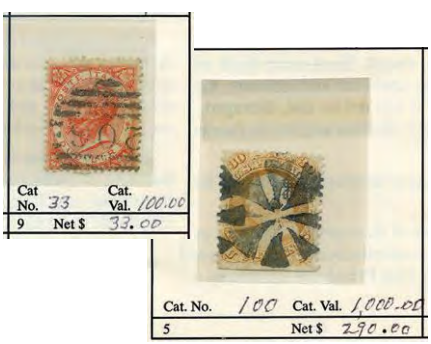
These images are meant to represent items that sellers have submitted for sale in the past.

This seller didn't collect Hungary, so he didn't know these stamps are notorious for fake overprints.



Good Buys:
Left: Australian Antarctic Territories stamps selling for about 30% of their catalogue values.
Right: Mexico Scott 129 used selling for 35% of catalogue value.

Below(left to right): Italy Scott 33 with numeral cancel selling for 33% of catalogue value. U.S. Scott 100 with fancy cancel selling for 30% of catalogue value.



is buying and that it is being sold at a fair price.

But you do not have to be a professional dealer to have successful sales. In fact, the experience of selling through circuit sales can be a great learning tool for the beginner as well. One seller learned a lot about misidentifications and counterfeits after submitting sales books for a couple of years and having items returned. Paying fines for unknowingly submitting counterfeits served as his motivation to learn more about accurate stamp identification. This seller did so and the results are that he has sold 46% of the value of his sales books during the last fifteen years (the average, system-wide, is 32%).

Another seller submitted his first sales books just two years ago and his sales have been 73%. He paid attention to sales books *he* had received in circuits, and when he began to submit some of his material, his presentation, identification, and pricing have made his own books successful sellers.

Yet another segment of our seller-members consists of experts in various collecting interests. They are successful because they know the market for those items, and make sure they have them identified correctly. Specialists appreciate receiving sales books of the experts stamps.

Example of a one-of-a-kind first day cover with cachet and stamp booklet attached.

Circuit Books at StampShow

The Sales Division has its own booth at StampShow for selling from sales circuits, when we can safely transport those circuits to and from the show. So far, we have taken the circuits to Hartford twice, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Columbus, and Milwaukee. This year at Hartford we had a lot of visitors at the booth, including members who have been selling and/or buying through us for some time. We also signed up a number of members for receiving circuits through the mail and introduced others to this service. Bill Dixon was the staff person at the booth, and he was able to help anyone who stopped by with general show questions or direct them to other booths for answers to more specific questions.

We had forty-three circuits of about twenty books each available for perusal as well as nineteen batches of Clearance books. Show sales from the Regular sales books totaled $4,264 and from the Clearance books $1,033. Thanks to all the members who stopped to see us at Hartford in August. We are planning to have a booth at the Grand Rapids show next year, and we look forward to seeing you there.

DUES Reminder

The dues notices will be in the mail by the time this issue arrives at your address. Please submit your dues payment for 2015 by the end December to insure that you will continue to receive the circuits and/or that your sales books will continue their circulations on the circuits. We review our list of Sales Division participants in January to determine who must be dropped for non-payment of dues at the end of that month. We appreciate your participation in our activities and want to share the joy of collecting with you all, but remember that only members can use this service.

APS Chapters

APS Chapters receiving circuits received schedule requests **for 2015** in their circuits sent after August 27, 2014. Please complete the form and submit it to us by December 1, 2014. If you mis-

The Sales Division Booth at StampShow was busy. Bill Dixon assists members with purchases and answers questions about the circuits.

Visit the Sales Division & StampStore Online!

www.stamps.org/Buy-and-Sell-by-Mail

placed the form, visit www.stamps.org, click on *Services* and *Buy and Sell by Mail* from the drop-down box. Then click *How To Buy* and scroll to the right side of the page. Under *Local Club Circuits*, click on *More Details* and you will see the information letter with the form at the bottom. Use it to notify us about your circuit schedule for next year. Be sure to include your Chapter's updated want list, as it may have changed from the one you submitted last year.

November Specials

Clearance Circuits

Request a Clearance circuit for any one of the categories listed here (no special era requests) during November and we will waive the 5% buyers fee. Each circuit requested will contain sales books *from only one category* for this special, but you may request an additional circuit each time you return a Clearance circuit to us. The circuits of "general" categories listed might contain single-country books. The demand will dictate whether a category is available for your next circuit. Requests for mint only or used only material might be difficult to fill in some categories, so check with us first if you want to apply one of these conditions to your request.

Qualifying Clearance Circuit Categories

U.S. Airmails (covers and stamps)
U.S. Blocks/booklets
U.S. Covers (General)
U.S. First Day Covers
U.S. General
U.S. Picture Postcards
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Eastern Europe
Europe (General)
France
French Africa
French Colonies
Germany (General)
Global General
Great Britain
Greece
Independent Africa
Ireland
Italy and Colonies
Middle East
Monaco
Netherlands and Colonies
New Zealand
Portugal and Colonies
Scandinavia (General)
South America
Southern Europe
Sweden
Switzerland
Topical General
Turkey

Direct On-Demand Circuits

Request a Direct circuit for any one of the categories listed in this section during October and November and we will waive the 5% buyers fee. Each circuit requested will contain sales books from only one category for this special, but you may request an additional circuit each time you return a Direct circuit to us. The circuits of "general" categories listed will not contain single-country books. The demand on this special will dictate whether a category is available for your next circuit. Requests for a more narrow focus within some of these categories might be difficult to fill, so check with us first.

Qualifying Direct Circuit Categories

U.S. Blocks/booklets
U.S. Covers (General)
U.S. Covers 1900-1945
U.S. First Day Covers
U.S. Postal Stationery
Australia
Balkans
British Empire (General)
Europe (General)
France
French Africa
French Colonies
Global General
Great Britain
Independent Africa
Italy
Monaco
Romania
Sweden
Switzerland
West Germany

'5 for 10' Categories (Needs)

You can earn coupons for free blank books for every 10 completed books (Clearance books do not qualify) containing material from a set list of categories. For more information and the list of qualifying categories visit http://stamps.org/Stamps-Needed or contact us to obtain a hard copy of the list. [Note: Single-country books usually have better sales.]

U.S. Airmails (stamps)
U.S. Back of the Book
U.S. Possessions
Bahamas
Bermuda
British Middle East
British Oceania
China
Danzig
Netherlands Colonies
Spanish Colonies
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The "Show Time" Calendar features a list of upcoming shows and APS events (shown in **green**). To obtain a listing, please submit a "Show Time" form, available online at www.stamps.org/Show-Calendar or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time.

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

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

Pennsylvania **November 1**
Annual Reading Stamp Club Show Reading Stamp Club, Leesport, PA Auction Pavilion, State Route 61 in North Leesport. 8 Miles North of Reading, Reading. ***B***
Contact: Kent Weaver, 610-779-0175
E-mail: kewsr@prodigy.net

California **November 1-2**
SACAPEX Stamp Show Sacramento Philatelic Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H. Street, Sacramento. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Joanne Berkowitz, 916-455-3659
E-mail: joannebe@pacbell.net
Website: www.sacramentophilatelicsociety.org

Michigan **November 1-2**
AAPEX 14, Ann Arbor Stamp Show Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Comm. College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859
E-mail: harwin@umich.edu
Website: www.annarborstampclub.org

Pennsylvania **November 1-2**
PITTPEX 14 Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Ron Carr, 412-561-6562
E-mail: rgc211215@aol.com
Website: www.presidentdrive.com

Connecticut **November 2**
THAMESPEX 2014 Thames Stamp Club, Clark Lane Middle School, 105 Clark Lane, Waterford. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Bill McMurray, 860-535-3668
E-mail: mcmurraypnc3@att.net

Canada **November 7-8**
Hamilton Fall Show Hamilton Stamp Club, Bishop Ryan High School, 1824 Rymal Rd., E., Hamilton. ***B***
Contact: Steve Forten
E-mail: southont@cogeco.ca
Website: www.hamiltonstampclub.com

Virginia **November 7-9**
ASDA Fall Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, Hilton Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington. ***B***
Contact: Van Siegling, 800-369-8207, ext. 4
E-mail: asda@asdaonline.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Iowa **November 8**
Tri-State Stamp Expo Tri-State Stamp Club, Hills & Dales Comunity Center, 3505 Stoneman Road, Dubuque. ***B***
Contact: Sally Maier, 563-451-3196
E-mail: maips.mai@gmail.com

Pennsylvania **November 8**
Johnstown Stamp Show Johnstown Stamp Club, Johnstown Senior Activities Center (Main Hall), 550 Main Street, Johnstown. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Charles D. Holtzman, Jr., 814-532-0199
E-mail: chazhjr@msn.com

Ohio **November 8-9**
95th Annual Stamp Exhibition Rubber City Stamp Club, Akron General Health & Wellness Center, Rt. 18 at Crystal Lake Road, Montrose (Akron). Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Robert Chandler, 440-526-9714
E-mail: chandler9143@roadrunner.com

Texas **November 8-9**
27th Annual Mid-Cities Stamp Expo 2014 Mid-Cities Stamp Club, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Stanley Christmas, 817-656-2925
E-mail: elvira6@swbell.net
Website: www.mid-citiesstampclub.com

California **November 14-16**
Filatelic Fiesta 2014 San Jose Stamp Club, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose. ***WSP***
Contact: Stephen Schumann, 510-415-6158
E-mail: sdsch@earthlink.net
Website: www.filatelicfiesta.org

New York **November 15**
Autumn Stamp Festival Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. ***B***
Contact: George H. Gates, 716-633-8358
E-mail: gghg53@aol.com

Virginia **November 15**
Charlottesville StampFest Holiday Inn & Conference Center, 1901 Emmet St. North, Rt. 29, ¼-mile North of Rt. 250 By-pass,

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Charlottesville. ***B***
Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net
Website: www.jackottstamps.com

Florida **November 15-16**
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

Indiana **November 15-16**
MSDA Indianapolis Show Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Lawrence Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Lawrence. ***B***
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676
E-mail: jfb7437@aol.com
Website: www.msdastamp.com

Illinois **November 21-23**
CHICAGOPEX Chicago Philatelic Society, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca. ***WSP***
Contact: Robert Glass
E-mail: boblglass@mac.com
Website: www.chicagopex.org

Ohio **November 22**
Black River Stamp Club Show Black River Stamp Club, St. Judes School, 590 Poplar St., Elyria. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Dennis Sadowski, 440-937-0069
E-mail: polisheditor@hotmail.com

Georgia **November 22-23**
Holiday SDAG Stamp Show Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, Mansour Center, 995 Roswell Street, Marietta. ***B***
Contact: Wava Neal, 615-828-2304

Connecticut **November 23**
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

Illinois **November 29**
SUPEX 2014 Suburban Collector's Club of Chicago, Operating Engineers Hall, 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Scott Mitchell, 708-254-3198
E-mail: scott.mitchell@advocatehealth.com

Virginia **November 29-30**
Fairfax STAMPFEST Elk's Club, 8421 Arlington Blvd., (Rte. 50), ¾ miles west of I-495 Beltway, Fairfax. ***B***
Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net
Website: www.jackottstamps.com

Kuala Lumpur **December 1-6**
MALAYSIA 2014 World Youth Stamp Exhibition
Contact: Nancy Clark
Contact address: P.O. Box 427, Marston Mills, MA 02648
E-mail: nbc@cape.com

Florida **December 5-7**
FLOREX — The Florida State Stamp Show FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Central Florida Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, 4603 West Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando. ***WSP***
Contact: Francis Ferguson, 407-493-0956-Cell
E-mail: show@florexstampshow.com
Website: www.florexstampshow.com

Virginia **December 5-7**
Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp Show Weyers Cave Community Center, 682 Weyers Cave Rd. (Rt. 256 East), one mile off I-81, Weyers Cave. ***B***
Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net
Website: www.jackottstamps.com

California **December 6-7**
PENPEX Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643
E-mail: penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com
Website: www.penpex.org

Ohio **December 6-7**
Worthington Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse Worthington Stamp Club, DiSalle Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 East 17th Ave., Columbus. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Mark Reasoner, 614-579-6526
E-mail: reasonerstamps@yahoo.com
Website: www.worthingtonstampclub.com

Maryland **December 13**
Laurel StampFest Holiday Inn Laurel West, 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel. ***B***

PR CHINA BUY Price

Mint, NH, XF Condition

Scott #	Price
1388a	$400
1399	400
1433	250
1452	200
1483	100
1492	400
1518	1500
1540	140
1541	150
1573	200
1586	1500
1617	200
1607 bklt	450
1647a bklt	130
1761	130

We buy other stamps not listed, also FDCs & covers.

Rising Sun Stamps
P.O. Box 716, Marshalls Creek, PA 18335-0716
Phone: (Cell) 570-350-4393
E-mail: haruyo_baker@msn.com

Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net
Website: www.jackottstamps.com

Connecticut **December 28**

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

2015

Michigan **January 3-4**

BIRPEX 2015 Birmingham Stamp Club, Birmingham Masonic Temple, 37357 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: John Schuelke, 810-235-2641
E-mail: jschuelke1944@att.net

Louisiana **January 9-11**

New Orleans Winter Stamp Fest Crescent City Stamp Club, The Doubletree by Hilton, 2150 Veterous Boulevard, Kenner. ***B***
Contact: E. W. Jatho Jr., 985-871-9385
E-mail: ejatho@bellsouth.net
Website: www.ccscno.org

Pennsylvania **January 23-24**

York County Stamp Show White Rose Philatelic Society of York, York Expo Center — Horticulture Hall, 334 Carlisle Ave., York. Regional/Local Show with exhibits
Contact: John Hufnagel, 717-235-1528

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E.S.J. Van Dam, Ltd. www.canadarevenuestamps.com
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George Bailey www.glbstamps.com
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The Washington Press www.washpress.com
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Westminster Stamp Gallery, Ltd. www.westminsterstamp.com
WESTPEX 2015 Exhibition & Stamp Show www.westpex.com

E-mail: glenrockotts@comcast.net

California **January 23-25**
SANDICAL San Diego County Philatelic Council, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego. ***WSP***
Contact: Linda Mabin, 619-582-9311
E-mail: mabin7@cox.net
Website: www.sandical.org/

Georgia **January 30-February 1**
Southeastern Stamp Expo Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross. ***WSP***
Contact: Scott Mark
E-mail: sestampexpo@gmail.com
Website: www.sefsc.org

Florida **February 6-8**
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition Sarasota Philatelic Club, Inc., Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, (US 41) 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. ***WSP***
Contact: Elizabeth Hisey, 941-922-7191
E-mail: lizhisey@gmail.com
Website: www.sarasotastampclub.com

South Carolina **February 7-8**
Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show Myrtle Beach Stamp Club, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 101 Fantasy Harbour Blvd., Myrtle Beach. ***B***
Contact: Donn M. Ebert, 843-347-0087
Website: http://sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/

California **February 13-15**
APS AMERISTAMP EXPO **Riverside Convention Center, 3637 Fifth St., Riverside.**

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Florida **February 13-15**
ASDA Florida Winter Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale. ***B***
Contact: Van Siegling, 800-369-8207, ext. 4
E-mail: asda@asdaonline.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Flordia **February 15**
Annual Stamp Show West Volusia Stamp Club, Clarion Hotel, 350 E. International Speedway Blvd., Deland. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Mike Daley, 407-417-7818
E-mail: miked129e@gmail.com
Website: www.floridacsp.com/wvstamp/

Arizona **February 20-22**
ARIPEX Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa. ***WSP***
Contact: Kevin Lesk, 480-240-0388
E-mail: kwkual@aol.com
Website: www.aripex.org

Kansas **February 21-22**
The Cessna Show The Cessna Stamp & Coin Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. ***B***
Contact: Ralph E. Lott, 316-683-6593
E-mail: ralphlott@sbcglobal.net

Texas **February 27-March 1**
TEXPEX 2015 Texas Philatelic Association, Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 HWY 26 E, Grapevine. ***WSP***
Contact: Vince King, 940-898-1173
E-mail: vking@entechdesign.com
Website: www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.htm

Nebraska **February 28-March 1**
LINPEX 2015 Lincoln Stamp Club, Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N. 27th St., Lincoln. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Kenneth Pruess, 402-464-6939
E-mail: kpruess2@unl.edu
Website: www.lincolnstampclub.org

Florida **March 6-7**
NAPLEX 2015 Collier County Stamp Club, Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 295 F. & A.M., 5850 Tamiami Trail North (Rte 41), Naples. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Robert Hausin, 239-732-8000
E-mail: newengstmp@aol.com

Ohio **March 7-8**
McKinley Stamp Club Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: David Pool, 330-832-5992
E-mail: lincolnway@sssnet.com
Website: http://mksc.webs.com

Tennessee **March 7-8**
KNOXPEX 2015 — Manhattan Project Anniversary Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Knoxville-West, 9134 Executive Park Dr., Knoxville. Regional/Local Show with exhibits.
Contact: Bob Smith, 931-707-9853
E-mail: bob.gencon@gmail.com
Website: www.sefsc.org/knoxville-philatelic-society.html

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No. 9, September 30, 2014

Membership Report

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during September 2014. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to November 30, 2014 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the January 2015 issue.

Anthony, George T. (223736) **Shoemakersville, PA** USED WORLDWIDE-US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, PA POSTAL HISTORY, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES; 61

Asencio, John (223652) **Allendale, NJ** US 19TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS; 51

Bartlett, Kathy (223739) **North Attleboro, MA** US ADVERTISING COVERS, FDC, COMMEMORATIVES; 54

Bartoc, Alexandru Dan (223717) **Bucharest, Romania** AIR MAILS; 73

Bauter, Sandra (223709) **Braidwood, IL** US COMMEMORATIVES, CHRISTMAS SEALS, AIR MAILS-EPHEMERA; 67

Belkin, Fred (223665) **Bel Air, MD**

Berisford, Martin A. (223775) **Hilliard, OH** US; 77; Retired

Blanchette, Scott (223677) **Ocoee, FL** USED WORLDWIDE-US, FDC-SCIENCE/SCIENTISTS; Management Consultant

Blanco, Alejandro (223723) **Miami, FL** CUBA-SPAIN; 21

Bonet-Tirado, Bethzaida (223758) **Rincon, PR** PUERTO RICO; 43

Brideau, Bradley W. (223679) **Ashburn, VA** US, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, PLATE BLOCKS, IMPERFORATES-JAMAICA-CANADA-BACK OF THE BOOK-CINDERELLAS; 44; Security

Bushell, Alexander (223716) **Harrisonburg, VA**

Busowski, John D. (223732) **Winter Springs, FL** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-GERMAN THIRD REICH/OCCUPATIONS-BRITISH AFRICA-FRENCH AFRICA-GERMAN COLONIES; 59

Cairns, Hugh (223743) **Charleston, SC** MINT US, 1847/1900 CANCELS, PLATE BLOCKS, FDC, FULL SHEETS; 90; Retired

Caples, Robert M. (J-223666) **Towson, MD**

Cavicchi, Joseph F. (223767) **Wheeling, IL** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, CLASSICS, NJ POSTAL HISTORY; 63

Chang, Gilbert (223759) **Shah Alam, Malaysia** US-MALAYA/MALAYSIA-GREAT BRITAIN

Clark, Thomas (223735) **Taunton, MA;** 30

Cocker, Roger K. (223771) **Oldham, Great Britain** BARBADOS; 76

Conrad, David H. (223737) **Williams Bay, WI** POLAND-US CLASSICS, MINT-CZECHOSLOVAKIA; 71

Cooper, Geo S. (223688) **Cudjoe Key, FL;** 73

Cortes, Emilio (223776) **San Juan, PR** MINT NAUTICAL HISTORY-MINT PITCAIRN ISLAND-SHIPS-LIGHTHOUSES; 80

Coulter, Christy (223733) **Milwaukee, WI;** 34

Daryman, Barry (223726) **Jacobus, PA** BRITISH & FRENCH COLONIES; 76; Retired

De Pascale, Ernie (223710) **Athens, GA** US, CANCELS, POSSESSIONS-BURMA-LAOS; 70; Attorney

Diaz, Carlos (223774) **Miami, FL** US-MEXICO-EL SALVADOR; 62; Medical Doctor

DiRaimo, Salvatore (223738) **Utica, NY;** 56

Dirkes, David P. (223696) **Kirkland, WA** FOREIGN CANCELS; 51

Dompierre, John C. (223683) **Hoover, AL** US-WORLDWIDE; 67; Retired

Donath, Rob T. (223772) **Saratoga Springs, NY** SC POSTAL HISTORY; Retired

Drewe, Daniel D. (223753) **Red Deer, AB** CANADA, PROVINCES-US 20TH CENTURY-UN-CHURCHILL; 63; Online Stamp Sales

Ellis, Mary Ann (223744) **Tullahoma, TN** RUSSIA IMPERIAL, EARLY SOVIET ERA-US BUREAU PRECANCELS; 62; Nurse

Escapite, Rafael (223718) **San Francisco, CA** FRANCE-MEXICO-CHINA-JAPAN-SPAIN-GREECE-PORTUGAL-GREAT BRITAIN-ARCHITECTURE; Retired

Farina, Thomas E. (223684) **Hughesville, PA** US-SAAR-EARLY WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired

Farnam, Tony (223725) **West Fork, AR;** 55

Feeback, Sam (223689) **Lawton, OK** AIR MAILS-AUSTRALIA-PHILLIPINES-JAPAN-VIETNAM; 64

Filczer, Brett A. (223752) **Milwaukee, WI** US-GERMANY-HUNGARY; 49; Retired

Fisher, Maurice D. (223701) **Manassas, VA;** 74; Book Publisher

Germano, Joseph J. (223690) **Barnegat, NJ** 1840/1960 WORLDWIDE-US REVENUES, POSTAL STATIONERY; 67; Retired

Goldstein, Ronald I. (223654) **Southampton, PA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 72; Retired

Gomez, David M. (223727) **Huntington Park, CA;** 66; Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 223118, J-223257, 223309 through 223313, and 223315 through 223338, and 223340 through 223446 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, Aug. 31, 2014		31,430
New Members	138	
Reinstated	73	211
		31,641
Chapters Disbanded	2	
Deceased	22	
Expelled	2	26
Total Membership, Sept. 30, 2014		31,615

(Total Membership, September 30, 2013 was 32,241 a difference of -626)

Gourley, Wayne (223777) **Surgoinsville, TN** PRE WWII US; Auditor

Graves, Mark S. (223719) **Haslett, MI** CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN-USSR; 56; Government Contractor

Greene, Marlene H. (223720) **San Jose, CA** US; 81; Retired

Greene, Steven (223658) **Philadelphia, PA** US-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMANY-FRANCE-ITALY-GERMAN COLONIES; 63; Retired

Guice, Stanna (223742) **Fort Payne, AL**

Guldan, Michael (223745) **Massena, NY** FEDERAL DUCK; 57; Dentist

Hammond, Lou (223667) **Baltimore, MD;** 63; Retired

Harrison, George H. (223668) **Towson, MD** US-CHINA

Heinz, Thomas J. (223669) **Falls Church, VA** WWII GERMANY, OCCUPATION; 54; Self Employed

Hoffman, Robert W. (223702) **Fishers, IN;** 87

Horan, John G. (223682) **Wilton, CT** GREAT BRITAIN-ISLE OF MAN-US CLASSICS; 64; Retired

Indig, Fred E. (223670) **Potomac, MD;** 54

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Klimas, David J. (223712) **Palos Hills, IL** US AIR MAILS, CIVIL WAR COVERS, COMMEMORATIVES, FDC, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES-ENERGY; 47; Engineer

Knisely, Robert (223724) **Aliso Viejo, CA** US, COMMEMORATIVES, INAUGURATION COVERS; 69

Knowles, Michael L. (223779) **Seminole, OK;** 73; Retired

Kroger, Rudy A. (223708) **Houston, TX** SWITZERLAND-GERMAN STATES; Retired

Kuechenmeister, Clara (223656) **Arlington, WA** US, FDC-WORLDWIDE-CANADA-UN; 70; Retired

Kuhns, Scott A. (223703) **West Milton, PA** US; 40; Presentation/Training

Lalla, John (223681) **Grants Pass, OR** BELGIUM-SCANDINAVIA-CHRISTMAS SEALS-CINDERELLAS-GERMANY-SEMI POSTALS; 50

Lambert, Michelle (223722) **Athol, MA;** 42

Lang, Richard G. (223659) **Morongo Valley, CA** US COMMEMORATIVES; 70; Physician

Lee, Nola E. (223731) **Akron, OH** US, COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAILS, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, CLASSICS; 69; Retired

Lindler, Ron (223691) **Seneca, SC** US; 57; Restaurant Management

Llera, Ruben (223760) **Miami, FL** US 19TH CENTURY, NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS, WASHINGTON FRANKLINS, ESSAYS & PRROFS, LOCALS & CARRIERS; 52; Business Owner

Lopez, Roberto (223714) **Hialeah Gardens, FL** US, CLASSICS-BRITISH EMPIRE-AUSTRALASIA-LATIN AMERICA-EUROPE; 45; Registered Nurse

Low, George C. (223751) **Gloucester, MA** AUTOMOBILES-WORLDWIDE; 44; Director of Engineering

Lyman, Stephan (223766) **Narragansett, RI** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, PLATE BLOCKS; 72; Property Manager

Maas, William D. (223704) **Canterbury, NH** US COMMEMORATIVES-CANADA-DUCK; 69; Retired

Mapp, Alf J. (223705) **Portsmouth, VA;** 56; Retired

Martin, Gregory A. (223678) **Peoria, AZ;** 53

Mathis, Debbie (223768) **Warminster, PA;** 54

McLain, Louis W. (223780) **Youngstown, OH** US, TERRITORIES-CANADA; 69; Retired

Michewicz, Edward (223685) **East Haven, CT;** 69; Retired

Mingrone, Christopher (223764) **Point Pleasant Beach, NJ** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES-SPACE-ASTRONOMY; 49; Educator

Moser, Kathleen (223660) **Allenwood, PA** US; 61; Registered Nurse

Mote, Miranda (223661) **Cambridge, MA;** 44; Architect/Historian

Mulle, Paul J. (223692) **Berwick, PA;** 55

Nagaran, Michael (223706) **San Diego, CA** PHILIPPINES UNDER US OCCUPATION-CHESS; 67; Teacher

Nickell, Kirby R. (223680) **Saint Joseph, MO** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 58

O'Brien, Stephen (223662) **Glenside, PA** PLATE BLOCKS-SHEETS; 58; Baker

O'Connor, Lolita (223686) **Boerne, TX** MINT US, DUCK-GERMAN OCCUPATION/NAZI-MINT RUSSIA/SOVIET UNION-VATICAN CITY-CUBA-UN; 37; Business Co-Owner

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Painter, Lou A. (223711) **Wilmington, NC** US COMMEMORATIVES-AUSTRIA-FRANCE-GREAT BRITAIN-SWITZERLAND-USED WORLDWIDE; 61; Sales

Perkins, David H. (223663) **Walnut Creek, CA** US USED-SCANDINAVIA-VOLCANOS-EARTHQUAKES

Prall, Ronald E. (223746) **Orange, CT** COVERS-POSTCARDS-US; 61; Retired

Pranglin, Roxie (223650) **Corpus Christi, TX** US FDC, COMMEMORATIVES-PHILIPPINES-VENEZUELA; 58

Pratuch, Thomas G. (S-223671) **Merrifield, VA** VATICAN CITY-PONTIFICAL STATES; 62; Teacher

Ralph, William J. (223693) **Southbridge, MA** US-WORLDWIDE; 56; Automation Sales

Ramsey, Lionel D. (223728) **Dallas, TX** US, REVENUES, MINT, AIR MAILS, FDC, BLOCKS; 57; Mail Clerk

Renckert, Rhoda M. (223694) **Green Cove Springs, FL;** 69

Ribeiro, Helena (223707) **San Francisco, CA** WORLDWIDE; Executive Assistant

Riccardi, Thomas (223769) **Cleveland, OH** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, PLATE BLOCKS; 42

Riese, Steve (223715) **Plattsmouth, NE** USED WORLDWIDE-FOREIGN CANCELS, PERFINS-US BULLS EYE/SON CANCELS, USED-19TH CENTURY; 55; Engineer

Riggie, Joseph R. (223754) **Kenmore, NY** US; 62; Insurance/Surety Agent

Rivers, Frederick D. (223676) **Cumberland City, TN** US AIR MAILS, COMMEMORATIVES, FDC, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL), CIVIL WAR COVERS, PARCEL POST; 59

Rogers, Stephen L. (223734) **Easley, SC** USED US; 63; Retired

Roller, Ken (223675) **Saginaw, TX** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, COMMEMORATIVES, CUT SQUARES, FDC

Rosemark, Jessica (223649) **Reno, NV** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, COVERS, CA POSTAL HISTORY-USED WORLDWIDE; Retired

Rotruck, Gary O. (223747) **Burlington, WV** 1847-1950 WORLDWIDE; 75; Retired

Ruch, Judy A. (223765) **Myrtle Beach, SC** US, CIVIL WAR COVERS, CONFEDERATE STATES, COMMEMORATIVES, FDC, SPECIAL EVENT COVERS/CANCELS; 69; Retired

Sang, Peter B. (223729) **Chapel Hill, NC** US, FDC, FLIGHT COVERS-CANADA FLIGHT COVERS-DUCK; 73; Attorney

Schmidt, Jan K. (223713) **Loveland, OH** US, AIR MAILS, COILS, COMMEMORATIVES, SHEETS/SMALL PANES, OFFICIALS/OFFICIAL MAIL; 60; Clergy

Schreier, Sandra (223740) **Cypress, CA** US COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, FDC, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS; 66; Retired

Schroeder, Richard (223672) **Monkton, MD** MINT US; 73; Musician

Schwartz, Elwynn H. (223730) **Chattanooga, TN;** 67; Retired

Servos, Joe (223748) **Puslinch, ON** ERRORS-WORLDWIDE; 68; Retired

Sheppard, Vicki (223653) **Southern Pines, NC** USED WORLDWIDE-US COMMEMORATIVES-GREAT BRITAIN-POLAND-FRANCE-CANADA; 61; Clinical Psychologist

Sherrin, John H. (223749) **West Roxbury, MA;** 74; Retired

Shore, Samuel (223664) **Newbury Park, CA** US, PRIVATE DIES, EARLY, COVERS-AIRSHIP MAIL-WORLDWIDE; 60

Singer, Glen (223770) **Tulsa, OK** US COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAILS, COVERS; Engineer

Smith, Bennett B. (223750) **Wilmington, DE**

Smith, Carolyn A. (223762) **Auburn, WA** US-UK-SOUTHEAST ASIA; 66; Retired

Stone, Frank (223778) **Plano, TX** US-WORLDWIDE; 69; Retired

Strauss, Bradley J. (223687) **Brookline, MA** US, POSTAL HISTORY, POSTAL MARKINGS-MATHEMATICS-SCIENCE/SCIENTISTS-ANIMALS

Stwalley, Brian D. (223673) **Dillsburg, PA** ICELAND-US FANCY CANCELS; 42; Pharmacist

Swager, Joseph (223761) **Ypsilanti, MI** DENMARK-CANADA-FAROE ISLANDS-GERMAN STATES-SWEDEN-SWITZERLAND; 34; Software Engineer

Taylor, Gerald L. (223755) **Touchet, WA;** 75; Retired

Templar, Chris (223700) **Knoxville, TN** US FDC-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH-GREAT BRITAIN-RELIGION-BIBLICAL TOPICS; 70; Professor

Thayer, Christopher M. (223695) **West Des Moines, IA** PHILIPPINES-CUBA; 53

Thys, Frederic (223697) **Weymouth, MA** BELGIUM-BELGIAN CONGO-FOREIGN AIR MAIL; 56

Van Ausdal, Kevin (223763) **Centerville, UT**

Vogelman, John D. (223699) **Blasdell, NY** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, COILS, COIL LINE PAIRS, CANCELS, COMMEMORATIVES; 72; Retired

Walker, Ken (223756) **Wilbraham, MA;** 73

Walker, Mark (223651) **Tonka Bay, MN** US; 57

Ward, John M. (223757) **Tampa, FL;** 67; Government Manager

Whitman, Robert (223655) **Millis, MA** USED US, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES; 71

Wiggins, Warren I. (223657) **Menifee, AR** US, CLASSICS, CIVIL WAR COVERS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, AR POSTAL HISTORY, SPECIAL EVENT COVERS/CANCEL; 58

Wilhelm, Michael H. (223698) **Oxford, CT** GERMANY; 37; CRNA

Youngstead, John M. (223741) **Laguna Beach, CA** US 19TH CENTURY-CANADA-HONG KONG; 77; Retired

Zimmerli, Katherine G. (223674) **Gambrills, MD** US-WORLDWIDE; 71; Retired

Zimmerman, Susan (223773) **Elizabethtown, PA** US COMMEMORATIVES, COVERS, DEFINITIVES

Zundel, Robert L. (223721) **Willard, UT** US; 67

NEW CHAPTER

TEXPEX Foundation (223401), Texas. **CONTACT:** Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005

MERGED CHAPTERS

The Norfolk Philatelic Society (030753) and the Virginia Beach Stamp Club (090593) have merged to become the Tidewater Virginia Stamp Club (030753), Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA **CONTACT:** Gregory P. Waldecker, Sr., 7540 Yorktown Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505

DISBANDED CHAPTER

Stamp Club of Mobile (044136), Mobile, AL

Tidewater Intl. Topics Society (128392), Virginia Beach, VA

DISBANDED AFFILIATE

International Philatelic Golf Society (AF0183)

DECEASED

Beers, Ted A. (133479), Fort Collins, CO

Berman, A. William (9309-064435), East Northport, NY

Conrad, S. T. (8879-061980), Long Beach, CA

Davis, Ethan I. (8766-059771), Prescott, AZ

Ellis, Barry K. (11746-041342), Fort Wayne, IN

Greenblatt, Mary K. (145731), Towson, MD

Hamilton, Rod (10927-075076), Powder Springs, GA

Harris, Stanley L. (10044-066490), Naples, FL

Howat, John M.W. (100613), Baltimore, MD

Jefferson, James E. (6544-047160), Pacifica, CA

Keough, Francis (217482), Seattle, WA

King, Carlton J. (9315-064540), Sedalia, MO

Lays, James E. (128740), Denver, CO

Lehmann, Douglas K. (090936), Falls Church, VA

Loving, Lydia A. (182976), Norton, MA

Magid, Milton (6116-058123), Plymouth, CT

Mason, James H. (7239-064224), Ventnor City, NJ

McGuire, Charles E. (216820), Little Hocking, OH

Pound, Ira C., Jr. (121130), Stone Mountain, GA

Shoemaker, C. Adrian (10231-074039), Carlisle, PA

Wells, Ned M., Jr. (12171-040123), San Antonio, TX

Witt, Vern H. (5486-041671), Sheboygan, WI

EXPELLED

Bostwick, Mary Ann (120366), 155 Moodys Island Road, Nobleboro, ME, for conduct unbecoming a member for failure to settle philatelic indebtedness to the Society (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8).

Harris, Raymond C. (190683), 100 Hallman Hill East, Ste. 117, Homewood, AL, for conduct unbecoming a member for failure to settle philatelic indebtedness to the Society (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8).

APPLICATIONS RETURNED/RECALLED

Barcello, Kimberly D.

Bates, Jameson

Carter, Andrew

Creecy, Donald

Hauri, Roland

Nielsen, David E.

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Global: Silver Bells Wreath

On October 23, in New York City, NY, the U.S. Postal Service will issued the ***Global: Silver Bells Wreath*** Forever® International Price stamp, in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of ten stamps.

The USPS celebrates the winter holidays internationally with the Global: Silver Bells Wreath stamp. This is the second stamp in the Global Holiday series. This stamp offers a single price for any First-Class Mail International 1-ounce letter to any country in the world. As with all Global Forever stamps, this stamp will have a postage value equivalent to the price of a single-piece First-Class Mail International 1-ounce machinable letter in effect at the time of use. An elegant wreath of silver bells graces this round holiday stamp. The circle of densely packed bells is arranged against a deep green background, with a rich red bow anchored at the top of the wreath. Art director William J. Gicker and Michael Owens designed the stamp. Sally Andersen-Bruce photographed the wreath, which was constructed by Michael Owens. Angelica Dennis created the bow.

Denomination: Forever International Price
Format: Pane of 10 (1 design)
Series: Global Holiday
Designers: Michael Owens, Washington, DC; William J Gicker, Washington, DC
Art Director: William J Gicker, Washington, DC
Typographer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, VA
Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT
Engraver: N/A
Modeler: Donald Woo
Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint
Printer: Banknote Corporation of America/SSP, Browns Summit, NC
Press Type: Alprinta Model 74
Print Quantity: 30 million stamps
Paper Type: Raflatac USPS-P-1238
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Colors: Silver, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Orientation: Round
Sizes (w x h): 32.26 x 32.26 mm (image); 35.81 x 35.81 mm (overall); 209.55 x 114.30 mm (pane); 628.65 x 228.60 mm (press sheet)
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by five single digits
Marginal Markings: Front: Plate numbers in two corners of pane. Back: ©2014 USPS; USPS logo; Plate position diagram; Barcode (588)

Winter Fun

On October 23, 2014, in New York City, NY, the U.S. Postal Service will be issued the ***Winter Fun*** stamps (Forever® First-Class Mail priced at 49-cents) in four designs, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of stamps.

With four playful designs, Winter Fun stamps celebrate some of the sea-

son's most enjoyable activities: ice-skating, making snow angels, building snowmen, and bird-watching. The art for the ice skaters stamp was painted with acrylic on plywood with a dry brush technique to give the illustration a textured, folk-art feel. The art for the other three stamps was hand-sketched and then digitally manipulated. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps using existing illustrations by Janet Atkinson (ice-skating), Jing Jing Tsong (building snowmen and making snow angels), and Christine Roy (bird-watching).

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever
Format: Double-sided booklet of 20 (4 designs)
Series: Holiday Celebrations
Art Director/Designer/Typographer: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD
Modeler: CCL Label, Inc.
Manufacturing Process: Gravure
Engraver: WRE
Printer: CCL Label, Inc., Clinton, SC
Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)
Print Quantity: 400 million stamps
Paper Type: UPM Raflatac
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Stamp Orientation: Vertical
Sizes (w x h): 19.56 x 26.68 mm (image); 23.11 x 30.23 mm (overall); 146.05 x 60.45 mm (booklet); 146.05 x 362.71 mm (press sheet)
Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black
Plate Numbers: "C" followed by four single digits
Marginal Markings: Title printed on tab side; Plate numbers in peel strip area; ©2014; USPS logo; Barcode (300); Promotional text.

Glade Creek Grist Mill

On September 29, in Danese, West Virginia, the U.S. Postal Service issued the ***Glade Creek Grist Mill*** stamp (Priority Mail® priced at $5.75) in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of ten stamps.

The USPS celebrates one of West Virginia's most photographed landmarks with the issuance of the Glade Creek Grist Mill Priority Mail stamp. A 1976 re-creation of an old mill that once stood nearby, the Glade Creek Grist Mill is constructed of parts from three historic West Virginia mills. The stamp art captures the beauty of the structure in its pristine setting along Glade Creek in Babcock State Park in autumn. Designed by art director Derry Noyes, this stamp features the work of illustrator Dan Cosgrove.

Denomination: $5.75 Priority Mail
Format: Pane of 10 (1 design)
Series: N/A
Designer/Art Director/Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Artist: Dan Cosgrove, Chicago, IL
Engraver: N/A
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd., Williamsville, NY
Press Type: Stevens Vari-Size Security Press
Print Quantity: 5 million stamps
Paper Type: Non-phosphored Type III, Block Tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow
Stamp Orientation: Horizontal
Sizes (w x h): 36.07 x 27.56 mm (image); 39.62 x 31.12 mm (overall); 104.65 x 180.85 mm (pane); 209.30 x 542.54 mm (press sheet)
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four single digits
Marginal Markings: Front: Plate Number; Year of Issue. Back: ©2014 USPS; USPS logo; Plate position diagram; Two Barcodes (117300); Promotional text.

Breast Cancer Research

On September 30, in Sacramento, California, the U.S. Postal Service reissued the ***Breast Cancer Research*** semipostal stamp priced at 60 cents, in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps.

Semipostals are stamps sold at a surcharge to raise money for a particular cause. Originally issued in 1998, the stamp art depicts a woman standing with her right arm raised, reaching behind her head in the position recommended for breast self-examination. The drawing of the woman's body is set against a background of pastel colors from yellow to violet that cover the entire face of the stamp. Across the top of the stamp are the words "Breast Cancer." Circling the figure's right breast are the phrases, in all caps, "FUND THE FIGHT" and "FIND A CURE." Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp using original artwork by Whitney Sherman.

Denomination: Nondenominated First-Class Mail Semi-postal (60 cents)

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)
Series: N/A
Designer/Art Director/Typographer: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD
Artist: Whitney Sherman, Baltimore, MD
Engraver: N/A
Modeler: Donald Woo
Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint
Printer: Banknote Corporation of America/SSP, Browns Summit, NC
Press Type: Alprinta 74
Print Quantity: 20 million stamps
Paper Type: Raflatac, USPS-P-1238
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Colors: Yellow, Light Blue, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Orientation: Vertical
Sizes (w x h): 21.34 x 36.07 mm (image); 24.89 x 39.62 mm (overall); 150.36 x 183.90 mm (pane); 551.69 x 601.47 mm (press sheet)
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by six single digits
Marginal Markings: Front: Plate numbers in four corners of pane. Back: ©1998 USPS; USPS logo; Plate position diagram; Barcode (553000); Breast Cancer proceeds explanation; Promotional text.

Celebrity Chefs

On September 26, in Chicago, Illinois, the U.S. Postal Service issued the ***Celebrity Chefs*** stamps (Forever® First-Class Mail priced at 49-cents) in five

designs, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps.

The five chefs honored on these stamps — James Beard, Julia Child, Joyce Chen, Edna Lewis, and Felipe Rojas-Lombardi — revolutionized our understanding of food. Seeing cooking as a source of delight, they invited us to feast on regional and international flavors and were early but ardent champions of trends that many foodies now take for granted. The stamps feature digital illustrations by Jason Seiler that depict the five chefs in a style intended to resemble oil paintings. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps.

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever
Format: Pane of 20 (5 designs)
Series: N/A
Designer/Art Director/Typographer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, VA
Artist: Jason Seiler, Chicago, IL
Engraver: N/A
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd., Williamsville, NY
Press Type: Muller A76
Print Quantity: 20 million stamps
Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III, Block Tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Cool Gray
Stamp Orientation: Vertical
Sizes (w x h): 21.337 x 36.07 mm (image); 24.89 x 39.62 mm (overall); 215.90 x 165.10 mm (pane); 654.05 x 501.65 mm (press sheet)
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by five single digits
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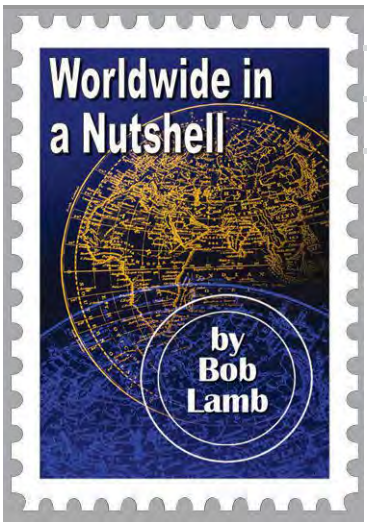

Republic of Belarus

Status: Nominal republic in eastern Europe
Population: 9,608,058 (est. 2014)
Area: 78,340 square miles
Currency: 100 kapeykas (kopeks) = 1 Ruble (BR).
US$1 = BR10,594

The Belarusians emerged in the late ninth century as part of the Kievan Rus' state. After the Tatars overran Kiev, what is now Belarus came under the control of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland.

The three partitions of Poland in the late eighteenth century brought virtually all of modern Belarus under Russian control. Under Russia, the Czar pushed Russification, abolished the Uniate Church, and banned the Belarusian language. These harsh measures, along with heavy taxes on an impoverished people, led to the first stirrings of nationalism. A failed anti-Russian insurrection in 1863 resulted in more repression.

As a strategic buffer on Russia's western borders, Belarus suffered enormous damage and loss of human life during the two world wars. It was not until 1971 that the Belarus population returned to its pre-World War II level.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Belarus declared its independence. The current President, Alyaksandr Lukashyenka, was first elected in 1994. His autocratic policies have maintained close ties to Russia. Government buildings in Minsk still display the Soviet "hammer and sickle."

Russian postage stamps were introduced on December 10, 1857 and remained in use until after independence — apart from a brief period in World War II, when parts of Belarus used stamps of the German Reichskomissariat Ostland.

Following the 1920 Polish cease-fire with the Bolsheviks, a popular anti-Bolshevik hero, General Bułak-Bałachowicz continued to fight. In November he led an offensive in southeastern Belarus that gained control of three towns. Hoping for a national uprising, he proclaimed an independent White Russian republic with a provisional government in Mozyr. The Belarusians were exhausted by six years of warfare and the uprising failed. After two weeks, he and his forces withdrew to Poland. A set of five postage stamps, perforate and imperforate, was prepared for his campaign. The stamps were never placed in use, but became available to philatelists.

Belarus became independent on August 25, 1991. The first Belarusian stamp appeared on March 20, 1992 , although Soviet stamps remained valid until January 25, 1993. In 1992 a few stamps were denominated in kapeykas. Rapid inflation, however, obviated the need for fractional currency denominations, and most stamps issued today are nondenominated.

(For expanded text and additional illustrations, see www.stamps.org/AP-Album.)

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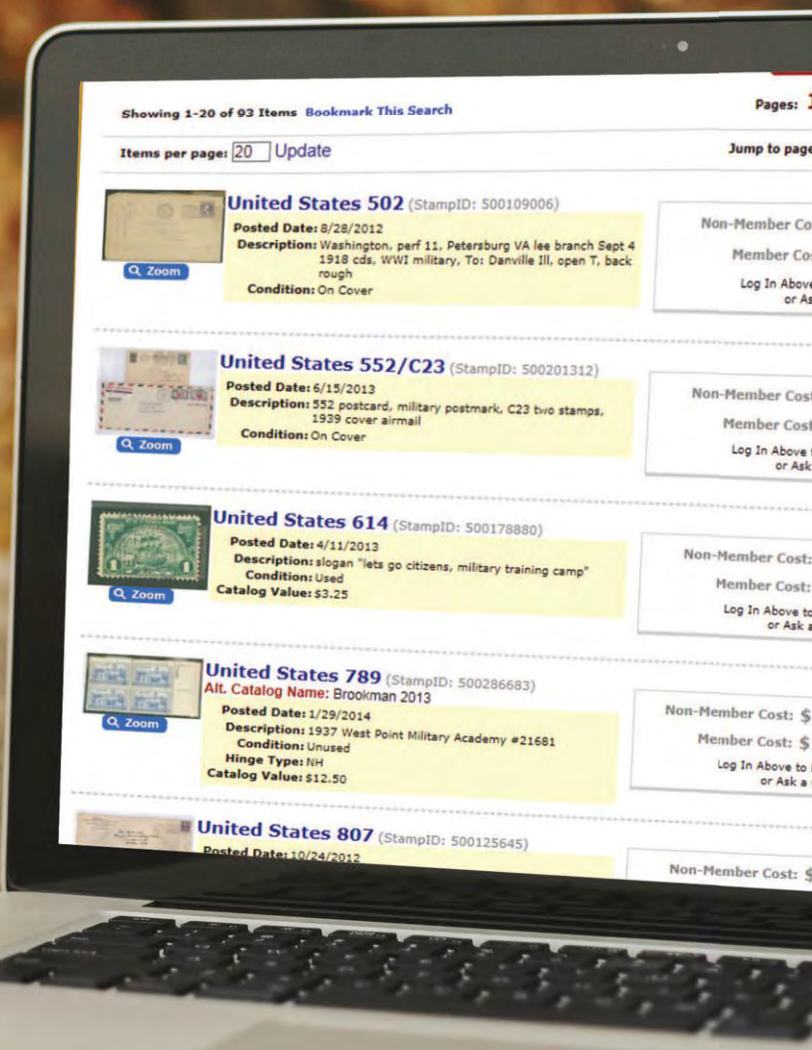

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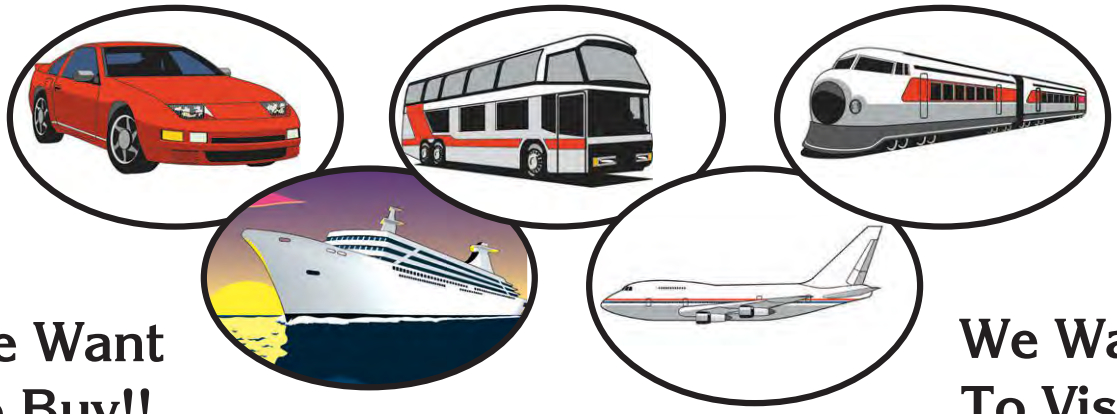

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