

AMERICAN PHILATELIST

The Journal of the American Philatelic Society

June 2009



Afghanistan's Broken Postal System *Redux*



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—	Tiffany Dinner — Thursday, August 6, Cash bar 6:30 p.m.; Seating 7:15 p.m. \$125 \$ _____ Caesar Salad), Bleu Cheese Crusted Filet with Merlot Sauce paired (includes \$50 donation) with Green Tea Salmon with Shiitake Mushrooms and Key Lime Pie
—	Adult Beginners Course — Saturday, August 8 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. APS Member/Spouse \$15 \$ _____ General Public \$20 Learn about soaking, identification, catalogues, and tools. Participants receive tongs, magnifier, and stamps.
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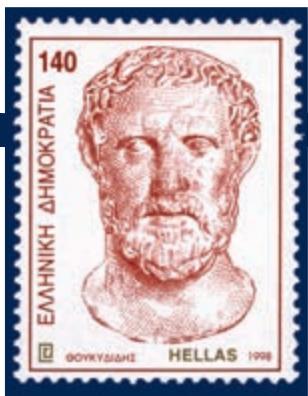
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by Shane Guyer Young collector learns about behind-the-scenes work and the fun of exhibiting.

530 Pittsburgh + Philately = STAMPSHOW 2009

Places to see and things to do when you're not visiting dealers' booths or viewing exhibits.



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FEATURED ONLINE

The Philippine War

by Steve Turcik The philatelic story of a seldom-remembered war.



AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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

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

Opinions expressed in articles in this maga-

zine are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society and/or the magazine. *AMERICAN PHILATELIST* cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *AMERICAN PHILATELIST*, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

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A Balanced Operating Budget

I am happy to report that the APS and APRL have made great strides towards being able to adopt a balanced combined operating budget for the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2010, to be voted on for approval by their respective boards this coming fall. To get to this point was not easy or pleasant; it involved personnel cuts, salary freezes, ending company pension contributions, year-end bonus elimination, and the end of travel reimbursement for board members, among other things. After much work and many hours spent on where and how to make these budgetary changes, the boards of the APS and APRL voted unanimously to adopt these **Phase 1** changes that will remove a projected \$200,000 from the FYE 2009 operating budget and an additional \$200,000 from the FYE 2010 operating budget. Many thanks to APS staff, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the APS and APRL boards for their efforts and diligence in bringing about these changes.

Our APS/APRL staff have taken the brunt of the sacrifice in this expense reduction. The elimination of two positions, Executive Director Peter Mastrangelo (Ken Martin was named Interim Executive Director) and Public Relations Manager Fred Baumann were necessary. Fred's responsibilities will be shouldered by other staff, as was done previous to 2004. Remaining employees are subject to the effects on their income and benefits as listed in the first paragraph. Board members, who are unpaid volunteers, will no longer be reimbursed for travel expenses to the board meetings, but can attend by teleconference as they choose. In the past year we have grown accustomed to using telephonic means to conduct our board meetings.

We cannot freeze employee salaries, benefits, etc., indefinitely, nor is that the intention. These cost-saving modifications are in place through FYE 2010. By then we must have a plan and process in place to allow for these restrictions to be removed. What and how will we decide to make that possible?

Phase 1 is the first step in a process to bring the Society's current operating expenses in line with its operating income. **Phase 2** will be a look forward to see how the Society will deal with changes in the economy, membership, fund raising, and the like over the next several years (in some cases, out as far as twenty years). While much of this will be based on projections and not realities, we nonetheless should examine each business the Society engages in and be sure it is reaching its fullest potential and that it provides a value/member relationship that is in keeping with our mission.

Membership and fund raising are two things that really drive the Society. Ideally, dues from the membership should cover the bulk of our operating expenses. Fund-raising revenue should fund growth, capital improvements, and special programs. Attracting new people to the hobby is a priority, because every additional 1,000 members yield \$25,000 (after the cost of supplying *The American Philatelist* to each member) that funds our operating income and pays for other APS services. We believe diversity is where we should focus our efforts; yes, the Society tried this before, but that should not preclude us from going at it again if it is proper to do so.

Fund raising, or development as it is often referred to, is another source of income for us. The Cam-



A Bright Idea...



Scott No. 14 • Catalog: \$5,000
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Scott No. 296 • Catalog: \$200
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paign for Philately is very active and meets every two weeks, discussing potential candidates to ask for pledges, projects for funding, and methodologies for the processes. The APS is fortunate in that it is blessed with a membership that is very giving and generous. The object is to reach out and "compete" for the donation dollars of an individual in a sincere and professional manner. The 2008 contributions were at 83 percent of 2007's, which is not terrible, considering the economic setback that occurred in September 2008 and the fact that the last four months of each year is when we receive the bulk of that year's donations. Nonetheless, we will step up our development efforts and look to the positive side of our memberships' generosity.

LearnAboutStamps.com

On another front, a project that was incubated in the New Initiatives Committee of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum (NPM) has matured and gone out on its own! Hosted by the APS, the website, www.learnaboutstamps.com, was launched in April and is the hobby's premier "finding guide." Concise and nicely designed, the site is intended to "point" to websites for which the user is looking. This is just one of the many ways that your

Society is working with other organizations to build the hobby; jointly sponsored by the APS, NPM, United States Postal Service, and The Philatelic Foundation.

President's Challenge

Another is the **President's Challenge**. The NPM's New Initiatives Committee developed the concept of posting videos on YouTube and utilizing other social networking avenues to promote stamp collecting. Here is how the contest works. Create a short video and upload it to YouTube. After that is done, e-mail the YouTube link to videocontest@stamps.org. A panel of three APS accredited judges will choose the video that best promotes stamp collecting. You have until June 30th to win \$250 worth of APS products or services and be featured in a future *American Philatelist*. The award will be announced at the APS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh on August 8, 2009. You get to help the hobby and receive a \$250 bonus as well! The \$250 to fund this APS award will be donated by the guy who made the Trains and Stamps video.

Need tips or help on how to easily make a video? Go to www.stamps.org/videos and get instructions and see the current entries. It's fun to make a video and it will help grow the hobby.



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U. S. POSTAL HISTORY



3c 1851 — Blue Cameo Produce Merchant Cover

A 3c Yellowish Rose Red (Scott #11) on an immaculate blue cameo corner card cover for a Baltimore produce commission merchant, tied by blue Baltimore, Md. cds and addressed to Frederick, Md., accompanied by a 2009 Philatelic Foundation certificate.



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letters to the editor

Not the Earliest

In the April 2009 issue, Wayne Youngblood writes in his sidebar, "Bull's-Eye Cancels on Revenue Stamps" (p. 314), "Among the earliest SOTN revenues I have been able to locate is a January 20, 1862 example..." which he has pictured on the page and captioned as "A January 20, 1862, SOTN cancel is among the earliest possible on U.S. First Issue revenue stamps." It would be, except that the stamp with the cancel was first issued on October 2, 1862 and not delivered until October 24, 1862. The law that brought the First Issue stamps into being was not passed until July 1, 1862, and none of the First Issue U.S. revenues were printed before September 17, 1862 or delivered before September 29 of that year. The cancel on Wayne's stamp is a case of January dating forgetting the year has changed, as we are all prone to doing when writing checks. Sorry, but it's not all that early.

The first handstamped cancels on First Issue revenues appear in late October or early November of 1862. The earliest in my collection (still on the check) is dated November 18, 1862, and perfectly SOTN.

Bob Hohertz
Northfield, Minnesota



New Bull's-Eyes?

I have just read Wayne Youngblood's second article on bull's-eye cancels ("How Do You Collect Bull's-Eyes," April AP, page 312), and I have a suggestion: a new form of such collections with spray-ons.

Locate the center of a commemorative stamp $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the right side of the envelope and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top. This should give a readable cancel. Try it and alter to suit. It works for me.

Hubert Kleasen

President, Cuyahoga Falls Stamp Club
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Author's reply: Thank you very much for your letter and suggestion. It may well be worth a try. Still, I miss the old-style bull's-eyes!

First 50 Women

I read with great joy and excitement the April 2009 News/APS EVENTS article on the APS website. I collected women of achievement and women's history on stamps and then added FDCs to my collection. Fred Baumann's introduction to the album is right on target! I was a dealer in first day covers (Tipex Inc from about 1972-1985), and I created and produced the Women's History First Day Cover Series by NOW-NY. One of my goals was to promote the issuance of more U.S. stamps honoring women and women's history. The publication "The

First Fifty Women on U.S. Stamps" created for free use in the public domain is a great idea and will help get more stamps honoring women issued. The First Fifty Album is fabulous. I expect the Album to be a great success and future editions to highlight the progress made by women and by the USPS.

The American Philatelist published an article I wrote about the Women's History FDCs in October 1995 ("FDC Series Gives Birth to Museum," page 946). I hope many of your current readers will go into the archives to read it.

I commend you on the Album and, as a National Women's History Museum board member, I recommended the album be linked to our website www.nwhm.org.

Thank you for your wonderful new album.

Judith Kaplan
Altamonte Springs, Florida

'Dear Doctor'

I really enjoyed the article "Mysterious Island" by Steve Pendleton in April's AP page 316. In particular, I was pleased to see one of my specialties illustrated, an Abbott Labs promotional postcard mailed from Easter Island. Commonly referred to as "Dear Doctor" postcards because of the introductory salutation found on most of them, they brought what we would call junk mail to an art form.

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As far back as 1896 drug companies used postcards sent from faraway lands as a way of advertising their products to doctors. Often these were produced as a series, with a card sent every few weeks to recipients and touting a specific medication. The native scene on the picture side complemented the text, which extolled the virtues of the drug to the populace and ultimately to the doctor and his clients.

The Easter Island postcard is an especially valuable one and has sold at auction for upwards of \$200. It comes from Abbott's second series of cards, mailed between 1966 and 1969, sent not only to doctors but also nurses, as displayed in the article. It was not mailed in 1968 as the description mentioned but 1966 instead, as were all others like it that I've run across.

But the real irony was apparently missed: The postcard was mailed from Easter Island on Christmas Day, December 25!

"Dear Doctor" cards have proven to be a fascinating collecting area for philatelists and deltiologists alike. Check

out the Dear Doctor Postcard Collector Club online at www.geocities.com/deardrhc/. Membership is free! You'll find a variety of articles as well as an ever-growing checklist of thousands of cards and varieties.

Tom Fortunato
Dear Doctor Club Founder
Rochester, New York

Serendipity

Hermann Ivester's article in the April *AP* ("The Stamp Act of 1785," page 350) reminded me of one of my favorite finds. About twenty years ago I bought an unsorted collection of a few hundred of the commoner blue Great Britain stamped revenue cut-outs. The whole batch couldn't have been more than \$25. The die used for every stamp can be identified, as each die has a distinguishing number or mark of some sort. As I recall from my readings the individual dies cost something like £10 to make, which was a serious amount of money back in 1775. Because of this the British Treasury folks wouldn't just throw them away after the Stamp Act had been repealed. When I

organized the batch carefully, using the latest catalogue, and I was delighted to find that one was an "America" die that had the word "America" ground off so it could be used in Britain. If my example still had the "America" across the top it would be a fairly big ticket item. "As is" it is not very valuable dollar-wise. However, to me, as a student of history, it's priceless.

George Russell
Long Valley, New Jersey

Oops I

I like all the articles in *the American Philatelist* but I particularly like the one about "Murder in Stampland" by Michael Peach and James Gray (April *AP*, page 354). I had never heard about Mr. Hooper and I have been collecting in over a half century.

I would like to point out a small error on the caption of the January 2, 1888 membership postcard from Hooper to J.A. Craig. Instead of "Excuse note," it should read "Excuse haste."

Mike Raguin
Medford, Massachusetts



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Ginger Monka
Indianapolis, Indiana

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S.G. 16a

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Oops II

As always, I read the magazine all the way through. Found only one typo this month. In the article about Hooper on page 356, penultimate paragraph, line 5, "1984" should be "1894."

Keep up the good work! As we strive for perfection, we must remember that we can never achieve it.

Joseph Scafetta Jr.
Falls Church, Virginia

Incomplete Translation

Some readers may have been misled by a statement and an illustration caption in Ralph Harpuder's "My Parents' Wedding & Rabbi Joachim Prinz" (March AP, page 232).

Speaking of German Jewry's social visibility thus being a target for anti-Semitic propaganda, Harpuder states: "A good example [of such propaganda] is an anti-Semitic paper currency issued in 1923...," implying that the Weimar Republic's Reichsbank issued such a note.

Harpuder compounded the misrepresentation with an illustration of this "example" — obverse and verso — captioned: "Anti-Semitic paper currency issued 1923...." Had he provided a full translation of the leaflet's verso text, it would have been clear to readers that this was a propaganda leaflet with its call "to join Hitler and become a Nationalist Socialist" printed just below the anti-Semitic message.

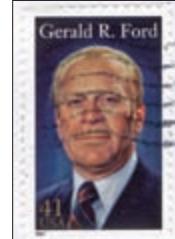
The Reichsbank did not issue currency with anti-Semitic propaganda during the Weimar Republic, and while anti-Semitic publications proliferated during the Hitler regime following the 1933 takeover, the currency of the NS regime remained free of anti-Semitic statements.

James Fraser
Morris Plains, New Jersey

Facial Adornment

I didn't know President Ford had a mustache. Interesting cancel!

Ken Jenkins
Las Vegas, Nevada



The American Philatelist reserves the right to edit letters for length and content; not all letters that are received are able to be printed in the AP.

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First-Day Bull's-Eyes Offer Challenge, Creativity

by Wayne L. Youngblood

Probably the most widely collected form of United States socked-on-the-nose (SOTN) cancels includes those stamps bearing bull's-eye first-day cancellations. These items are of interest to bull's-eye specialists, first-day collectors, and many different topical and thematic collectors. FDBEs items are not only interesting and challenging to pursue, they're fun to create as well.

Much like standard SOTN stamps, the earliest first-day bull's-eyes were completely non-intentional creations. Although they're not postal issues, among the earliest first-day bull's-eyes are those known for the 1898 Documentary and Proprietary Battleship revenue stamps. These issues were released July 1, 1898, to help fund the Spanish-American War. Two examples are shown. The Documentary stamp likely was used on July 1, as I've seen several examples from this same bank on that day and several succeeding days. The printed cancel on the 1½-cent Proprietary may or may not



Some of the earliest-known bull's-eye first-day items are Battleship revenue stamps dated July 1, 1898. Although they are scarce they are still fairly reasonably priced.

have been used on the first day, but is a first-day dated cancel nonetheless (much like the vast majority of U.S. stamps of the past few decades since grace periods were established). These items are relatively scarce, but do not usually sell for the same sums as earliest known uses of postage stamps.

Malfunctioning cancellation machines or well-struck handstamps created nearly all early first-day bull's-eyes. Others were created non-intentionally as a result of having either a pair or block affixed to a cover that was hit just right by the canceling device. All of these early cancels are rather scarce (some are rare),



and occasionally these will demand significant premiums. At the time, many collectors and dealers treated covers like these as inferior or damaged, not realizing that the first-day cancel was perfectly struck on the stamps they bore. It took someone with a creative mind to recognize them for what they are and find a ready market for them. That person was first-day cover pioneer Adam K. Bert.

About 1948, Bert began creating first-day bull's-eyes (FDBEs) and marketing them to collectors. From then until the 1990s (and even a few later), Bert created FDBE items for virtually every stamp, fostering interest in this area and actually creating the market and demand



Virtually all early SOTN first-day cancels were created by accident. Those shown here, from 1925–40, bear both handstamps and metal die-hub cancels.





An accidental form of FDBE is occasionally created when a pair or block is affixed to a cover.

To make up the then-current 5-cent air mail rate, several stamps were used on this 1932 Olympic first-day cover, yielding an absolutely perfect bull's-eye-canceled first-day stamp.

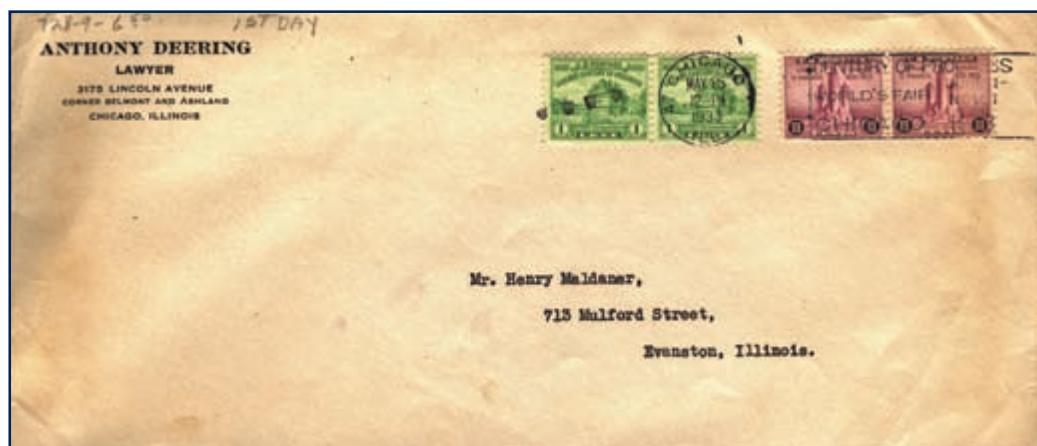
for them. Bert, who died at age 102 in 2007, stocked all the FDBE stamps he created. He also purchased "spoiled" first-day covers that had non-intentional bull's-eye cancels and soaked them off for stock. He produced and maintained a regular price list of these items.

For some issues there is more than one type of FDBE cancel available. From 1958–62, and again, briefly, during the late 1980s, so-called "medallions" were used in conjunction with first-day cancellation devices. These items, with their illustrative non-dated but related design elements, can be found struck as SOTN cancels on every stamp from these time periods. They are invariably scarcer than the actual FD-BEs. An example of a 1987 medallion single (along with the normal first-day cancel) is illustrated.

For most issues there are two dial types of first-day cancels: metal die-hub and handstamped. The handstamped types are almost always a little larger in diameter than those applied by machine, are easily distinguished, and are frequently collected as such. Examples of both types on the 22-cent Flag over Capitol Test stamp (Scott 2115c) are shown. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service also has a hand-stamp device known as a "bull's-eye device, which is just the circular-dated portion, without the "first-day" bar portion of the cancel.

If you have an interest in FDBE items — either as a specialty or to add to another collection, finding them can be a little difficult. They can be found in APS circuit sales books and in some dealer stocks, but not consistently. However, if you wish to create them you can still do so by submitting your own stamps for first-day cancellations.

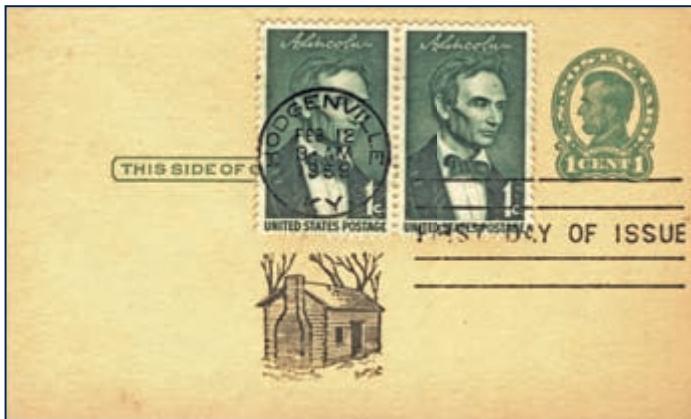
If you don't wish to go to the trouble to try to get well-struck metal die-hub cancellations you can simply request USPS to use its "bull's-eye" device on your stamps (and provide adequate instructions to center the cancel). But if you are persistent and



The creator of this cover affixed a pair of each of the 1-cent and 3-cent Century of Progress stamps on this FDC. The result was an accidental but beautiful BEFD stamp.



A corner-margin block of stamps on this 1943 FDC positioned the upper-left stamp to receive a bull's-eye.



This Lincoln tie-in postal card has a pair of 1-cent stamps affixed, leaving the left one bull's-eye canceled. Note the "medallion" below the dated portion of the cancel.



These 1987 Christmas stamps exhibit both a bull's-eye first-day cancel and a first-day medallion.



Metal die-hub and hand-stamped cancels have slightly different diameters. The metal die-hub markings are smaller.

For most issues there are two dial types of first-day cancels: metal die-hub and handstamped. The hand-stamped types are almost always a little larger in diameter than those applied by machine, are easily distinguished, and are frequently collected as such.

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Price List 76a

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A price list maintained by dealer Adam K. Bert for many years featured first-day canceled bull's-eye singles. Bert essentially created the market for these items when the time was right.

A USPS "bull's-eye" device was used to tie the Numismatics stamp to this 1901 cover addressed to well-known nummatist Virgil Brand.





A damaged or otherwise undesirable first-day cover can be used as a template to help you create first-day bull's-eye-dated stamps.

patient, you may well be rewarded with highly collectible bull's-eye canceled metal die-hub stamps.

To get a feel for where the cancellation die will strike the stamp, you'll want to obtain a few relatively recent first-day covers. The dial for FDCs is set a bit lower than the ones that used to be used for processing mail.

Illustrated is a junker first-day cover used as a bull's-eye template. As you can see, I've marked the center of the die-hub and then punctured the cover. By doing this you can lay the cover over any standard envelope, mark a light pen-

cil dot through the hole to approximate where the cancel will strike and have the spot in what should be the perfect position for receiving a first-day bull's-eye cancel.

Simply affix your stamp over the center of the dot to envelopes you wish to submit and include a note saying that you'd like your covers canceled with a metal die-hub device. If you prepare five to ten covers, the yield should be at least three to four perfect FDDBE items. If you end up with more you can always trade them or place them in circuit sales books.

Bulls-Eye Cancel Collectors Club

The current BCCC was founded in 1999 for those who collect any aspect of SOTN cancels. Membership is open with annual dues of \$15 for North America, \$20 for the rest of the world. Members receive the BCCC newsletter and can participate in occasional BCCC auctions. The *BCCC BULLETIN* is published quarterly. For more information, write to BCCC Secretary-Treasurer Stan Vernon, 2749 Pine Knoll Dr. #4, Walnut Creek, CA 94595-2044.

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Adventures of a Young Collector at AMERISTAMP EXPO

by Shane Guyer

My name is Shane Guyer and I live in Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania. I go to the Bellefonte Area High School, and I am in the 9th grade. My sister Dana, who works at the APS [Editor's Note: Dana is Director of Shows and Exhibitions], got me into the hobby of stamp collecting, and I love it! I started my collection on Disney stamps about three years ago and it just keeps on growing.

When I found out from my sister that there was going to be a stamp show in Texas, I wanted to go. But as time got closer I never got a plane ticket, so I figured I wasn't going to go. Then on the weekend after New Year's, my mom gave me an envelope. I opened it and was shocked to see one plane ticket for Arlington, Texas. I was so excited, I didn't know what to say! I was ready to have a great time with my sister and I was ready to learn a lot of new things about stamps.

Going to the AMERISTAMP EXPO in Texas in February was an amazing experience. Spending a week down south in the warm weather with friendly people was just what I needed to break up the winter. On my flight down, I couldn't stop thinking about what was in store for me. When we arrived on Tuesday, I was really excited. I couldn't wait to start setting up for my first show and get the chance to walk around and meet new people. On Wednesday, we spent the entire day unloading the truck with all the stuff that was needed for the APS and registration booths. For this being my first time volunteering at a show, I think I did a pretty good job. [Editor's Note: He did a TERRIFIC job!] I was able to keep up with the busy schedule and all of the running around trying to get things accomplished.

On the first day of the show, I was helping out at the APS booth with Wendy Masorti. We did everything together. Anywhere she went, I followed her to help. I also found time to enter my exhibit in the youth section and I was able to put it in the frame. I didn't get that much time to walk around on the first day, but I did get to see a dealer about my Disney stamp collection. The next day I helped Dana pass out papers for the first day ceremony for the Civil Right Pioneers stamps. I was able to sit and watch the ceremony after I was done helping out. It was interesting hearing the people talk about their life stories and about Civil Rights Pioneers stamps. Later that night I went to the awards banquet. The dinner tasted great, and to top it off, I won a silver bronze

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On my flight down, I couldn't stop thinking about what was in store for me during the next week.



Mark Banchik presents Shane with his Silver-Bronze award for his exhibit, "Walt Disney's Accomplishments."

I got to meet some amazing, generous, and friendly people. They gave me some good advice on improving my exhibit for my next show.
.....

for my exhibit. My name was the first one to be called of the night, and that made me feel pretty cool.

On the final day of the show, I got to spend the majority of the day walking around and talking to some dealers about my collection. I got to meet some amazing, generous, and friendly people. They gave me some good advice on improving my exhibit for my next show. After the show ended, we did the same stuff as the day before the show started but in reverse. We gathered everything, then wrapped it up and packed it, and put it back on the truck. After everything was done, we got a good night's sleep and the next day we started on our trip back to Pennsylvania.

I had the time of my life in Texas. I wish I could hop on a plane and go back. I had a better time than I could ever imagine. What made it an amazing experience was the people. I can't get over how nice everyone was.

I can't wait for summer to come so I can help with the next show in Pittsburgh!

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Pittsburgh + Philately = STAMPSHOW 2009

As the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers creates the Ohio River, collectors from across the nation and around the world will meet in Pittsburgh for APS STAMPSHOW 2009 — the philatelic event of the year.

The show begins at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, and runs through 4 p.m. Sunday, August 9, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The show is co-sponsored by the APS, United States Postal Service, and the American Stamp Dealers Association, and supported by the National Stamp Dealers Association. Show hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free to all.

STAMPSHOW will feature a bourse of more than 140 dealers from throughout the nation and abroad, as well as live

auctions presented by two renowned firms — Regency Superior and Heritage. More than 14,400 pages of exhibits will provide attendees with hours of viewing pleasure. Crowning these displays will be the annual competition in which multiple-frame Grand Award-winners from the thirty national-level World Series of Philately shows held throughout the country during the preceding year vie for the prestigious title of "Champion of Champions" — a once-in-a-lifetime honor for the finest in philately.

Special Court of Honor exhibits at the show will include "C3a: The Story of the Inverted Jenny," and the discovery pane of the 1962 4-cent Dag Hammarskjold invert errors autographed by those who first recognized its rarity and significance.

Beginners and youth will find a warm welcome, at the booth for newcomers to

the stamp hobby, staffed by knowledgeable collectors. Another special area will guide youth through the basics of the hobby with free stamps, puzzles, hands-on demonstrations, and games.

STAMPSHOW will host three First Day ceremonies. The United States Postal Service will issue the next in the Flags of Our Country series. If you have never attended a first day ceremony, make sure you do.

Dirk Wales, noted director and author of *A Lucky Dog: Owney, U.S. Rail Mail Mascot* will be the featured speaker at the STAMPSHOW 2009 John K. Tiffany Dinner.

A Lucky Dog, according to one reviewer is "A satisfying tale, all the more pleasing for being true." In 1887, on a cold, rainy night in Albany, New York, a postal worker took pity on a shivering dog that had taken shelter in the depot.

Although it was against the rules, the supervisor allowed "Owney" to stay. One day, the dog jumped aboard a mail train and discovered he likes riding the rails. News of his adventures, which ultimately included a trip around the world, spreads as he traveled, and people gave him baggage tags from the places he visits. Owney's saga is memorably captured in this charming book, accessible to anyone who loves dogs — or the U.S. Railway Mail Service!

Dirk's newest book (and his fifth children's book) *A Further Adventures of A Lucky Dog: Owney, U.S. Rail Mail Mascot*, will be released this September.

On Friday, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Area Dirk will be bringing Owney to life with a reading.

Pittsburgh

The city and its surrounding countrysides offer the visitor many attractive sites to explore, from the historic to athletics and from the arts to educational — not to mention those that are just plain fun! Here are just a few "must sees."

Kennywood

About twenty minutes from Stamp Show, Kennywood Park in West Mifflin is one of Pittsburgh's best-loved historic landmarks. Opened in 1898 as a trolley park, the park was known, up to the 1990s as "The Roller Coaster Capital of the World," with three old wooden coasters still in working order, along with a newer steel coaster, the "Phantom's Revenge," and one indoor coaster, the "Exterminator." The park features a variety of other family-type rides, with a total of 32 general-admission attractions, plus 14 more child-only rides in "Kid-dieland." Visitors also will enjoy games, food, and exciting live shows. Open daily from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 10 p.m. Adult admission is \$33.99, or \$20.99 for children under 46 inches tall, and \$18.99 after 5 p.m. A Senior FunDay pass that includes most rides and shows is available to guests over the age of 55 for only \$16.99, or just \$9.99 after 5 p.m. Call 412-461-0500 or visit www.kennywood.com.

Pittsburgh Firsts

- First newspaper west of the Alleghenies (1789) — *The Pittsburgh Gazette*
- First Ferris Wheel (1893)
- World's First Commercial Radio Station (1920) — KDKA
- First Ice Capades (1940)
- First All-Aluminum Building (1953) — Regional Enterprise Tower (formerly the Alcoa Building)
- First Polio Vaccine (1954) — Dr. Jonas Salk at the University of Pittsburgh
- First U.S. Public Television Station (1954) — WQED
- First Retractable Dome (1961) — Mellon Arena
- First Mass Transit Busway System (1964) — Allegheny County Port Authority
- First Nighttime World Series Game (1971)
- First Robotics Center (1979) — Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute
- First Internet emoticon, the smiley :-) (1982) — Carnegie Mellon University computer scientist Scott Fahlman

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Pittsburgh's Famous Food

- The Big Mac, the world's most famous hamburger, was 'invented' near Pittsburgh by McDonald's franchise owner Jim Delligatti in 1967 and distributed nationally in 1968.
- Heinz Ketchup, invented in Pittsburgh by H.J. Heinz.
- Pierogies, found at restaurants throughout Pittsburgh, reflect the city's Polish heritage. Cooked in butter, these delicious dumplings are stuffed with potato and other flavorings depending on the creativity and tradition of the cook.
- Chipped Ham is one of Pittsburgh's most famous foods. This spicy lunch meat made its debut in 1933 at Isaly's, a locally based family chain of dairy stores. Former Pittsburghers are known to have it trucked or flown across the country when they get a hankering for this hometown favorite.
- The Klondike Bar, another Isaly's original, is a vanilla ice-cream bar dipped in pure chocolate and packaged in a familiar silver wrapper. They cost a nickel when Sam Isaly invented them in 1929.
- Fried Zucchini Strips — thin, crispy and savory, are a hometown original and popular as an appetizer.
- Pittsburgh Salad — take any salad and top with french fries.
- Primanti Bros. Sandwich — A sandwich with the fries and coleslaw added right in. Invented during the Depression so that day laborers could hold their entire lunch in one hand.

Senator John Heinz History Center

From the drama of the French & Indian War to legendary Pittsburgh Steelers football match-ups, discover 250 years of Pittsburgh history at the Senator John Heinz History Center — the largest history museum in Pennsylvania. Six floors and 275,000 square feet of exhibition space, including the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, a dynamic museum-within-a-museum. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for students and children (4-17), and free for children ages 3 and under. To find out more, call 412-454-6000, or visit the Center online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Set on seventy-seven acres just five miles from downtown, the "fiercest place in Pittsburgh" is home to thousands of animals representing hundreds of diverse species, and proudly exhibits twenty-two threatened or endangered species, with seven habitats painstakingly designed to replicate the wild. The PPG Aquarium features state-of-the-art exhibits including a stingray tunnel, a two-story shark tank, and innovative revolving tanks. Showcased are penguins, a Pacific giant octopus, jellyfish, potbellied sea horses, an electric eel, live coral, polar bears, and sea otters. In addition, their "Kids Kingdom" is one of the top-rated childrens' zoos in the nation. Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors (60+), \$11 for children (2-13), and free for children under age 2. Parking is free. For details, call 412-665-3640, or travel on the Internet to www.pittsburghzoo.com

The National Aviary

"The nation's premier bird park," Pittsburgh's National Aviary is America's only independent, indoor, nonprofit aviary, and the nation's largest aviary. It's a must-see for bird lovers, with more than 600 birds of 200 different species, many of which are threatened or endangered in the wild.

Originally built by the city in 1952, the National Aviary is located on Pittsburgh's Northside, within Allegheny Commons West Park in Allegheny Center, just a mile from the Convention Center. Open seven days a week with summer hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8.50 for children (ages 2 and up), and free for children under age 2. Parking is free. For details, call 412-323-7235, or visit the colorful National Aviary website at www.aviary.org.

The Nationality Rooms at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning

The Cathedral of Learning is the centerpiece of the University of Pittsburgh's main campus in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, located about four miles east of the STAMPSHOW 2009 venue. Its forty-two-story, 535-foot Late Gothic Revival spire faced with Indiana limestone is the tallest educational building in the Western hemisphere. On its first and third floors are the Nationality Rooms — twenty-seven classrooms depicting, donated by, and decorated in the styles of the many ethnic groups that helped build the city. Tour hours are Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children 8-18. To arrange a tour, call 412-624-2000, or send an e-mail to natrooms@pitt.edu. Take a virtual tour of

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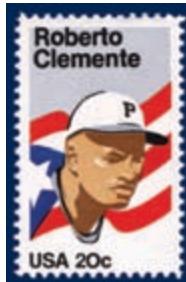
Fallingwater

About forty-seven miles southeast of Pittsburgh, near Mill Run, Fallingwater is regarded by many as American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's greatest achievement. Built partly over a waterfall in the Laurel Highlands of the Allegheny Mountains as a home for Pittsburgh department store owner Edgar Kaufmann Sr., it is a masterpiece both in its dynamism and its integration with the

striking natural surroundings. In 1963 Kaufmann's son donated the property to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Nearly five million people have visited this U.S. National Historic Landmark since it was opened to the public. It is open from Thursday to Tuesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$12 for youth ages 6–12, with grounds-only passes available for \$8. To learn more, call 724-329-8501, or visit www.fallingwater.org.

Take in a Pittsburgh Pirate Home Game at PNC Park

PNC Park, which opened in 2001, is an intimate, classic-style ballpark that offers all the modern amenities while saluting the spirit of early American ballparks, like Pittsburgh's legendary Forbes Field, home to the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1909 to 1971. From August 1–9, the Pirates will play a back-to-back three-game series against the Washington Nationals, Arizona Diamond-



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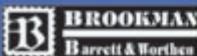
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backs, and St. Louis Cardinals about half a mile across the river from STAMPSHOW 2009. For information about the Pirates, go to pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com. For their August schedule, including links to ticket reservations, visit <http://tinyurl.com/c7gjn4>.

Rachel Carson Homestead

The Rachel Carson Homestead is a National Register of Historic Places site in Springdale, Pennsylvania, about half an hour northeast of Pittsburgh along the Allegheny River. Its late nineteenth-century five-room farmhouse was the birthplace and childhood home of Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmentalism movement. Explore the Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder organic garden, or hike the homestead's quarter-mile Wild Creatures Nature Trail.



Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War: A Guide to Across-the-Lines Postal History

by Steven C. Walske & Scott R. Trepel



Steven C. Walske
Scott R. Trepel

This publication by the Confederate Stamp Alliance contains new and comprehensive information about the most interesting aspects of Civil War postal history. It serves as a companion volume to the forthcoming CSA Catalog, as it provides background information and a summary classification system that will form the basis for the across-the-lines postal history listings.

In a recent review, Richard B. Graham remarked that this volume and the forthcoming "new catalog will provide a highly useful set of references, not only to collectors of Confederate stamps and postal history, but to those collecting Union postal history of 1860–65."

I recommend this book as an important reference in one's library.

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There is also the nearby thirty-four-mile Rachel Carson Trail, which offers a more strenuous jaunt and breathtaking views of the Allegheny River. The grounds and gardens are open to the public year round, and tours of the house are available year round by appointment. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children over 5 years old, and free for children under 5. For more information, call the Homestead at 724-274-5459, send e-mail to info@ra-

chelcarsonhomestead.org, or visit www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org

Carnegie Science Center

One of four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Science Center features 250 interactive exhibits, including the Omnimax Theater, Buhl Planetarium, miniature railroad exhibit, and the World War II-era submarine USS *Requin*. Located just across the Allegheny River from the convention center, the Carnegie Science Center is open Sunday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., call 412-237-3400 for details and admission prices or visit www.carnegiesciencecenter.org

Carnegie Museum of Art

Started by Andrew Carnegie himself in 1896, the Carnegie Museum of Art today showcases works of American art from the late nineteenth century, French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, and European and American decorative arts from the late seventeenth century to the present. The museum's Heinz Architectural Center is dedicated to architectural drawings and models. Its Hall of Architecture contains the largest collection of plaster casts of architectural masterpieces in America and one of the three largest in the world. While the marble Hall of Sculpture replicates the interior of the Parthenon in Athens. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m., admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+), \$11 for students (3–18), and free for children ages 2 and under. Call 412-

622-3131 or go to www.cmoa.org.

Frick Art & Historical Center

About twenty minutes east of downtown Pittsburgh, "the Frick" is a cluster of museums and historical buildings focused on the interpretation of the life and times of Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919), industrialist and art collector. The five-acre complex with lawns and gardens in the city's Point Breeze neighborhood includes Clayton, the restored Frick mansion; the Frick Art Museum; the Car and Carriage Museum; the Greenhouse; the Frick children's playhouse; and the Café. Scheduled for exhibition during Stamp Show 2009 is "The Dutch Italianates: Seventeenth-Century Masterpieces from Dulwich Picture Gallery, London" — a display of forty influential paintings from the collection of England's oldest public art gallery. The Center is open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Frick Art & Historical Center, The Frick Art Museum and the Car and Carriage Museum is free. The Frick offers a number of docent-led, thematic tours that interpret Clayton, the

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Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Also across the river, about a mile from the show, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh has been housed within the Old Post Office building since 1983. (Graced with a four-story, copper domed rotunda and an enclosed courtyard, the building opened in 1897 as the main post office for the city of Allegheny.) Among the many engaging activities for kids of all ages that will be available during STAMPSHOW TV's *Bob the Builder* and his *Can-Do Crew* invite aspiring builders and their families to explore the world of building and repair. Open Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m., admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 and older and children 2-18, free for children under 2. Call 412-322-5058 or visit www.pittsburghkids.org

The Andy Warhol Museum

Another point of interest just across the Allegheny River, this institution honors Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol with the exhibition of more than 500 of his works in the seven-story former warehouse. Opened in 1994 as one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, "the Warhol" features extensive permanent collections of art and archives related to one of the most influential American artists of the twentieth century, and is a primary resource for anyone seeking insights into contemporary art and popular culture. Closed Mondays, the museum is open Tuesday through Thursday as well as Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$9 for seniors 55 and older, \$8 for children 3-18 and students with proper I.D., with half-price admission on Fridays. To find out more, call 412-237-8300 or visit www.warhol.org.



Allegheny Observatory

Less than four miles north of the convention center in Riverview Park, the University of Pittsburgh maintains the city's first observatory, built in 1902. The facility now has three telescopes under its three domes, including the forty-seven-foot-long, four-ton, thirty-inch Thaw Memorial Refractor. Thursday and Friday night tours begin at 8 p.m. and last until approximately 10 p.m. A short slide or film presentation is shown, followed by a walking tour of the building finally ending up at the thirteen-inch Fitz-Clark Refractor, used on clear nights to view whatever celestial objects are within range. Tours are free, but group or individual reservations are required. To make a reservation, call 412-321-2400 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, leave your name and phone number, and someone will return your call. If the tour is not full you can make reservations up to the day

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of the tour; however no reservations will be accepted after 5 p.m. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cf6bdo>.

Mount Washington

Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights are located directly south of downtown Pittsburgh, surrounded by West End, Beechview, Beltzhoover and Allentown. This neighborhood's popularity as a place to live and a tourist attraction has grown rapidly in recent years. For a small fee, two cliff-climbing cable railways or "inclines" built in the nineteenth century carry sightseers up the steep ridge for spectacular views of the city. The Duquesne and Monongahela Incline are open year-round. For details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/376ljh>

Sampling of Nearby Great Places To Eat

August Henry's City Saloon — 936 Penn Avenue, 412-765-3270, www.augusthenrys.com. Located within a block of the Convention Center, the restaurant serves up American comfort food in a turn-of-the-century, casual atmosphere.

Bigelow Grille — Doubletree Hotel, One Bigelow Square, 412-586-1850, www.bigelowgrille.com. Award-winning restaurant serves up contemporary American cuisine with a bit of Pittsburgh flair. One of 2007 *Pittsburgh Magazine's* "25 Best Restaurants."

Christos Mediterranean Grill — 130 Sixth Street, 412-261-6442. Authentic Greek cuisine. Restaurant owner Christos Melacrinos, once personal chef to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, has decorated the place with personal mementos and family photos.

Mallorca Restaurant — 2228 East Carson Street, 412-488-1818, www.mallorcarestaurant.com. Finest Spanish continental cuisine, award-winning wine list, and world class service located in an historic three-story townhouse.

The Original Fish Market — 1001 Liberty Avenue, 412-227-3657, www.originalfishmarketphg.com. Popular Pittsburgh seafood restaurant located in the downtown Westin Convention Center. Food is always beautifully presented. Be sure to save room for dessert.

Le Pommier — 2104 E. Carson St., 412-431-1901, www.lepommier.com. Modern French cuisine served in a French-country style atmosphere. Seasonal food and memorable desserts.

Primanti Brothers — 46 18th Street, 412-263-2142, www.primantibros.com. And who can leave Pittsburgh without trying a Primanti Sandwich on Italian bread with its layers of coleslaw and french fries, all prepared fresh daily? The original location in the Strip district (above) is open 24 hours a day, but there are thirteen other locations to chose from to sample this "true taste of Pittsburgh."

Take the Bus & Leave the Driving to Us!

August 10th is the perfect time to visit the American Philatelic Center. You've enjoyed your time at StampShow, and what could be a more perfect end to the adventure than a one-day side trip to APS headquarters in Central Pennsylvania?

A bus will depart from the Westin Hotel Convention Center in Pittsburgh at 7 a.m., on Monday, August 10. You will arrive at the APC around 10:30 a.m. and depart at 4 p.m. On the return trip, the bus will make a dinner stop at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant & Old Country Store in Altoona for one hour, returning to the Westin in Pittsburgh around 8:30 p.m.

During your visit you will be able to meet the staff, take a tour of the facility, meander through the stacks in the American Philatelic Research Library, shop 'til you drop in the Sales Division or the In-Kind Donations Gift Shop, visit the historic Headsville Post Office, and more.

Reserves your space on the bus by July 15 — the cost is \$45 and a minimum of 25 people is required. For more information contact Gretchen@stamps.org. You may register for your trip online at www.stamps.org/stampshow.



For more information about STAMPSHOW,
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or visit the show online at www.stamps.org/Stampshow

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Afghanistan's Broken Postal System *Redux*

by Lawrence Cohen

In "Afghanistan's Broken Postal System" (*American Philatelist*, Vol. 121, February 2007, pp. 128–36), I reported on the years of turmoil and neglect that had — nearly — crippled the Afghan postal service. My views resulted from first-hand experience while serving in Afghanistan in late 2003 and again from September 2005 to September 2006. During these assignments, I became familiar with General Post Offices (GPOs) in Kabul and in the western city of Herat. At both locations, I purchased stamps from the postal window. I drank *chai* with the staff at the Herat GPO. (I also once mailed a small package from the Herat GPO to my wife in Brazil; unfortunately, the package never arrived.) To my surprise, each GPO sold stamps going back more than seven decades. Bizarrely, all the stamps are still utilized for postage. Afghan Post clerks did not discriminate among the ages or regimes of the stamps they sold.

I again traveled to Afghanistan in October 2007 and February 2008. I visited the Kabul GPO and purchased a range of available stamps. Little had changed at the GPO. In Octo-

ber two postal vehicles were parked in front of the building. Nearby was an unused postal container. The GPO's cavernous hall contained few customers. Business was only slightly more brisk at the nearby teller windows of Afghan Wireless, the Ministry of Commerce's telecommunications branch. Clerks worked at "bare bones" teller windows. The only electronic devices evident were small calculators on empty desks. Although a new computer training center (reportedly a gift of the Government of France) was situated just inside the main entrance, only a couple of terminals were in use. By February 2008, the GPO's stamp window had been relocated to a tiny corner office near the GPO entrance. The main hall was even quieter than it had been four months earlier.

In my earlier article I led a "philatelic caravan" through twentieth-century Afghan history. In this account, I will examine more carefully the individual stamps and their hidden political or cultural stories. The stamps used to tell the story are stamps I purchased at the Kabul GPO teller window in October 2007 and February 2008; items procured during previous visits are not included. These stamps extend

our understanding of Afghanistan beyond just a historical chronology, as we can observe how Afghanistan has both changed and yet remained the same throughout its tumultuous history.

First, let's briefly review Afghanistan's recent political chronology:

- An independent modern Afghanistan is established in 1919 under reform-minded Amanullah Khan following the Third Anglo-Afghan War.
- Under political pressure, Amanullah Khan is forced to abdicate in 1929; Mohammed Nadir Shah claims the throne.
- The monarchy of King Zahir Shah (1933–1973) follows the 1933 assassination of Zahir Shah's father, Nadir Shah.
- Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud Khan dethrones his cousin the king and establishes the (Socialist) First Afghan Republic (1973–1978).
- Daoud is overthrown and killed in the *Saur Revolution*; a Marxist (*Khalq*) People's Democratic Republic, led by the despotic Noor Mohammad Tureki (April 1978–September 1979), is established.
- The short-lived Marxist Government of Hafizullah Amin (September–December 1979) follows Tureki's assassination.
- Soviets intervene in Afghanistan December 26, 1979; Russian commandos kill Amin; the Communist (*Parcham*) Governments of Babrak Karmal (December 1979–November 1986) and Haji Mohammad Chamkani (November 1986–September 1987) follow.
- The last Soviet troops depart Afghanistan 1989.
- The Second Afghan Republic of (Communist) Mohammad Najibullah (September 1987–April 1992) succumbs to the Mujahadeen; President Burhanudeen Rabbani (June 1992–September 1996) heads fractious Mujahadeen coalition.
- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (Taliban), led by Mullah Mohammad Omar (September 1996–November 2001) overwhelms most of the country.
- U.S.-led invasion expels the Taliban and allows the institution of the Transitional Authority under interim president Hamid Karzai (November 2001–October 2004).
- The Second Afghan Republic is restored and Hamid Karzai is elected president (October 2004–present).

All of the stamps issued under this assortment of regimes still serve as valid postage, and many remain available for purchase in city post offices. This seems odd. Consider the deeply irreconcilable regimes: a monarchy, a republic, a "People's Democratic Republic," a Soviet-imposed Communist state, a warlord-led coalition, the Taliban fundamentalist state, and the current nascent democratic system! In the normal course of events, would not government authorities



The ruins of the "Green Mosque" are depicted on this 1932 stamp, the oldest purchased by the author at the Kabul GPO.



Central Post Office, Kabul, Afghanistan.



The sanctuary and main temple ruins at the strategically located Hellenistic city of Ai Khanoum.



Jug shaped like a female torso dates from the first to second century CE. If not looted from the National Museum it would undoubtedly have been destroyed by the Taliban had they found it.



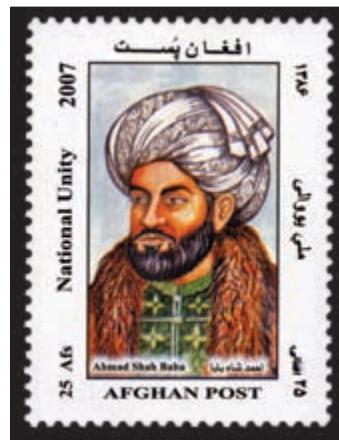
Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni (971–1030).



Qalai Bist Arch near Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province (also seen on Scott 275, issued 1932).



Kabul fortress Bala Hissar sacked by the British in 1880 during the Second Anglo-Afghan War.



Ahmad Shah Baba, also known as Ahmad Shah Durrani, is considered the founder of modern Afghanistan. His Durrani Empire stretched from the Punjab and Kashmir to present-day Iran.



Wild boar and snow leopard represent some of Afghanistan's vanishing wildlife.



Buffalo Riders in the Snow, issued for World Tourism Day 1984.



Stamps promoting tourism and national pride have appeared since the 1960s.



reject trappings from the hated preceding rulers?

Afghan currency underwent periodic conversion with regime change. Moreover, during the 1990s war-torn Afghanistan suffered from hyperinflation. The resulting economic disorder deflated the value of previously released stamps. And yet the old stamps remained on sale.

After enduring frequent and violent political change, such an open attitude towards the philatelic symbols of earlier regimes may seem highly unusual. Yet Afghan postal officials seem not to take notice. Postal anomalies abound. For example, my previous article shows a postcard on which were placed stamps of King Zahir Shah and the man who overthrew him, his cousin, Mohammad Daoud!

An Ancient Land

The oldest stamp I purchased at the GPO in October 2007 is a common 1932 issue from the reign of King Zahir Shah's father, Mohammed Nadir Shah (Scott 269). It shows the ruined Khwadja Parsa Mausoleum in Balkh. More commonly called the *Masjid Sabz* or "Green Mosque" (due to its green-tiled, ribbed dome), the edifice dates from the thirteenth century Ghorid period. Over the centuries, one Islamic dynasty has followed another. The Ghorids defeated the Ghaznavids (more below) and burned their capital Ghazni in 1149, but the Ghorid heyday did not last. They were soon defeated by the Khwarezmid Empire which was, in turn, routed by the Mongols in 1220.

Located near present-day Mazar-e Sharif in northern

Afghanistan, the city of Balkh (Bactra) is indeed ancient.

A major trading center since at least the third millennium BCE (Before Christian Era), Balkh is known, in Arabic, as the "Mother of Cities," because of its antiquity. Bactra served as one of the capitals of the Achaemenid Empire until it was conquered by Alexander the Great in 329 BCE. From 250 BCE it served as the Hellenistic capital of the Greco-Bactrian kingdom. Bactrian coins, both real and imitation, can still be found in Kabul's bazaars. Balkh was completely destroyed by the Mongols in the thirteenth century, a fate visited on a number of Afghan communities by Genghis Khan.

Another Hellenistic city founded during the era of Alexander the Great (3rd–2nd Century BCE) is Ai Khanoum or "Lady Moon," strategically located at the junction of the



Where are the customers? Teller windows on a quiet morning, Central Post Office, Kabul.



A comparison of souvenir sheets honoring Afghanistan's cultural heritage: (left) bronze vases from the Ghasnavid Dynasty, the first great Islamic empire in the region, issued 1967, and (right) 2003 Afghanistan Tourism issue featuring a "Historical Object."



Two stamps commemorating Farmer's Day, one from 1984 and one from 1996.

The 1996 stamp issued by the Burhanudeen Rabbani-led Mujahadeen Government — soon to collapse before the Taliban onslaught — has “farmer’s day” (*ruz daqan*) in Dari on the top left of the stamp. Pashto, the language spoken by about half of Afghans, is not on the stamp. The Rabbani regime was dominated by Dari-speaking ethnic groups. The Taliban were exclusively Pashtun. Note also the stamp’s highly inflated 1,500 Afghani value.



Farmer's Day stamp for 1985 shows a family with camels. A red-clad woman leads the family — a highly implausible scene, even in 1985.



A DC-3 flies over the palace in Kabul.



An Ilyushin IL-62. No Russian-built aircraft remain in the Ariana Airlines fleet.



One year prior to the issuance of the 10th Anniversary of Ariana Airlines stamps, an Ariana DC-3 crashed in Herat; all twenty-one people on board perished.

Amu Daria (the ancient Oxus) and Koktcha Rivers in the modern Afghan province of Takhar. A structure from Ai Khanoum, the remains of a Greco-Bactrian Temple is shown on a stamp issued in 1972 (Scott 863) as part of the Visitez L'Afghanistan series. Archaeological efforts at both Balkh and Ai Khanoum were halted in the late 1970s as security in the country deteriorated. During the intervening years of conflict, both sites were systematically looted.

One stamp features a jug shaped like a female torso (Scott 793, issued 1969) that dates from the Kushan Empire (150 BCE–300 CE). The stamp indicates the archaeological find comes from the Bagram period (1st Century BCE–2nd Century CE [Christian Era]), which places it within the epoch of regional domination by the Kushans. Because the Kushan Kingdom straddled important trade routes between India, China, and the Middle East, many rare objects from as far away as Egypt were excavated at the site. The jug likely is one of the several hundred fascinating objects discovered at Bagram after World War II by French archaeologists. If the jug was part of the Afghan National Museum collection in



Darulaman Royal Palace in Kabul was constructed in 1923 by King Amanullah; it was destroyed and looted in 1992.

Kabul, chances are that it has been looted or destroyed.

Miraculously, Afghan Museum curators secretly preserved many unique archaeological masterpieces during the years of turbulence, including Taliban rule. Items from Ai Khanoum, Bagram, and two other sites were hidden in crates in the Central Bank. The objects were on display May –September 2008 at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, “Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul.” Today, of course, Bagram is the site of the large U.S. military base fifty kilometers north of Kabul.

The bronze vases on a souvenir sheet (*Scott* 767–768, imperf, issued 1967) date from the Ghasnavid period, 977–1186 CE, the first great Islamic empire in the region. The Ghasnavids defeated the Persian Samanids and extended Islam throughout what had been a multi-religious Afghanistan, consisting of Buddhists, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Jews, and others. The greatest of the Ghasnavid kings, Sultan Mahmud (971–1030), (no *Scott* number,³ issued 2007) transformed his capital Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, into one of the great centers of Islamic culture. As noted above, the Ghasnavids were overcome by a new Muslim dynasty, the Ghurids, in



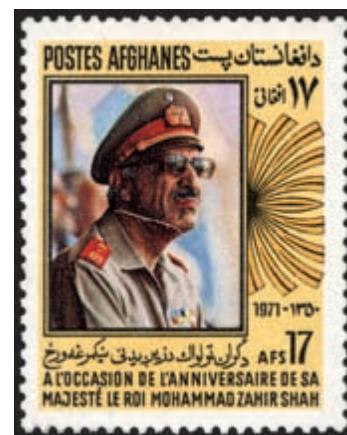
Unused mailbox, Central Post Office, Kabul. Note Saturday–Thursday collection times.



Nadir Shah and the Monument of Independence. Although Nadir Shah abolished most of Amanullah Khan's reforms, he took steps to modernize the country with road construction and the introduction of a banking system, and forged international commercial links.



Zahir Shah ruled Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973 when he was overthrown by his cousin, the Prime Minister. Zahir Shah died July 23, 2007, in Kabul. He was 92.



The reform-minded Zahir Shah fostered the establishment of a National Assembly, which met for the first time in 1965, three years after the stamp honoring it was issued.

1971 stamp commemorating the fifty-seventh birthday of King Zahir Shah, October 14. This is the only issue that depicts the king wearing glasses.



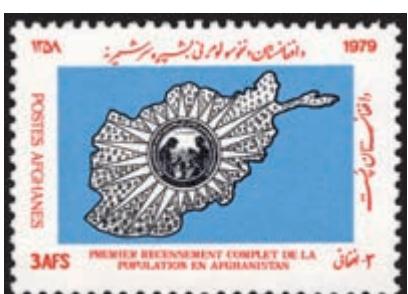
During the 1960s Afghanistan received international development assistance for many infrastructure projects, including construction of the Sirobi Dam.



Under the rule of King Zahir Shah, Afghanistan issued a U.N. commemorative each year from 1948 to 1974.



The International Peace Year stamp issued in 1986 was the first use of the U.N. emblem on Afghan postage in twelve years.



Following completion of Afghanistan's first census, commemorated with this 1979 stamp, its population began to decline sharply.



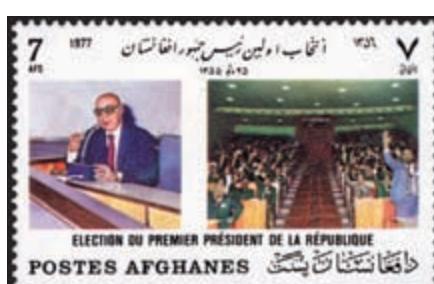
From left: The design element surrounding the holy sites in this 1981 issue is the Arabic letter "H" for "Hijara." The black structure on the right is the Kabba in Mecca. This 1996 issuance commemorating the birth of the Prophet Mohammed is not recognized by the present government in Afghanistan.



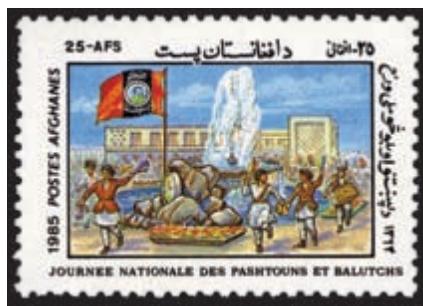
Women made up a large proportion of Afghan medical professionals during the Communist regime.



Mohammad Daoud led a coup d'état to become Afghanistan's newest leader in 1973, but his regime was short-lived. He was assassinated in 1978.



Pashtun and Baluchi men dance and sing in front of a fountain and a Pashtunistan flag in this 1985 stamp recognizing National Day of Pashtuns and Baluchis. In reality, a majority of the Mujahadeen fighters were Pashtun.



A prominent red star is a rare element on Afghan stamps, despite many Communist-themed issues.



From left: During the Communist regime, women portrayed on stamps often wear red and hold a baby in their arms. This one is unique, however, in that the woman also holds a weapon on high.

Green and red (shown in the woman's dress) are two of the three colors on the Communist-era Afghan flag (black is the third color). Note the U.N.-style olive wreath surrounding the globe.

A red-clad mother rocks a cradle. Her dress is un-Afghan in style and color and perhaps is more reflective of Central Asia. Three white doves symbolize peace.

the twelfth century. The Ghorids built the beautiful arch at Qalai Bist (Scott 949A, issued 1978), which stands near present-day Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province.

During the sixteenth century, Babur, founder of the Mogul Empire in India, lived in Kabul's Bala Hissar fortress (Scott 291, issued 1934). Ahmad Shah Durrani (1723–1773), also known as Ahmad Shah Baba (no Scott number,³ National Unity issue, 2007), established Afghanistan's first modern empire with its capital at Kandahar. At its height, the Durrani Empire stretched from the Indian Punjab to Persian Mashhad in present-day Iran.

The nation's cultural legacy, its wildlife and flora, and the promotion of tourism continue to be important subjects of philatelic releases. But after a quarter century of devastation, recovery will be difficult. Few wild Afghan animals such as the wild boar (Scott 811, issued 1969) and the even rarer snow leopard (Scott 1083, issued 1984) still can be found. Yet, even in the midst of terrible upheaval, the promotion of tourism is a common subject of Afghan postage stamps. One example from the Communist government is Buffalo Riders in the Snow, which commemorates World Tourism Day (Scott 1108, issued 1984). Other stamps, such as Scott 687–689 issued in 1964 and Scott 774–776 issued in 1968 also reflect government interest in promoting tourism, a continuing theme of many Afghan stamps from the mid-twentieth century to the present day (no Scott number,³ issued 2006 to celebrate World Tourism Day). Unfortunately, much of Afghanistan's cultural heritage already has been lost, including the Bamiyan Buddhas. In 2003 the interim national government released Historical Object of Afghanistan Tourism Day (Scott 1417,¹ issued 2003). Significantly less striking than its predecessors, the stamp offers only a vague hint as to the caliber of Afghanistan's glorious past.

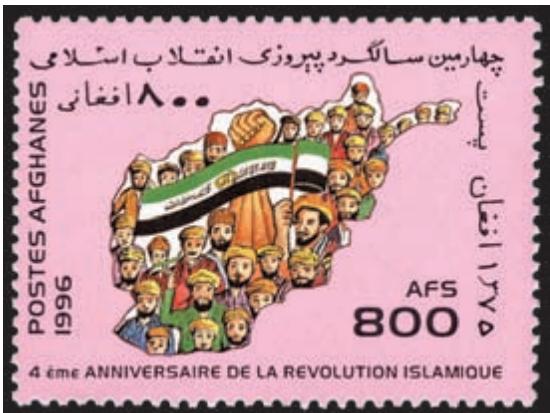
Not surprisingly, given its low level of economic development, Afghan agriculture remains primitive to this day. Most Afghans reside in the countryside and live off



Aghan Wireless windows — a busier side of the Central Post Office, Kabul.



From Left: In a strong message directed against the Mujahadeen, International Woman's Year 1983 shows a woman of peace standing on a broken missile as she releases a white dove. Although by 1986 the woman is shown wearing more traditional garb, red and green continue to be the primary colors for her clothing.



Stamp commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Mujahadeen's victory over Soviet-backed forces; note that the new flag does not contain the color red. The prominent figure center right appears to be Ahmad Shah Masood, leader of the Northern Alliance, who was assassinated September 9, 2001, by Al Queda. Masood is a national hero in Afghanistan today.

It is a fascinating aspect of Afghan postal history that, regardless of the regime, annual issuances continued to commemorate the nation's 1919 independence.

the land. Rural scenes often appear to be little changed from biblical times. Wheat is still harvested by sickle, as shown in Farmer's Day (Scott 1064, issued 1984); oxen pull wooden plows (no Scott number,² issued 1996). In some parts of Afghanistan, particularly among the nomadic *kuchi* tribes, camels serve as beasts of burden (Scott 1125, issued 1985).

Because of the country's rugged terrain, aviation plays an important role in modern transportation. In the 1940s Afghanistan began to develop its aviation sector (Scott C10, issued 1951). As aviation services expanded, a national airline company, Ariana (Scott 715–717 imperf, issued 1965) was established in early 1955. Initially, Ariana Airlines possessed a fairly respectable reputation. Unfortunately, it began to suffer from an increasingly marginal safety record that only worsened as the country slipped into civil strife. During the Communist period, USSR-built aircraft were introduced into the Ariana fleet (Scott 1095, issued 1984). However, the Russian aircraft did not survive the Civil War, Taliban misrule, international sanctions, and the U.S. bombing campaign in October 2001. The airline was reconstituted in December 2001. Despite its currently weakened condition, Ariana flies today both domestically and internationally, using Boeing and Airbus airplanes.



Above: 66th Anniversary of Afghan Independence.

Left: 67th Anniversary of Independence. Both stamps were issued during Soviet occupation, The Communist government sought to employ latent Afghan nationalism to solidify its control and counter the Mujahadeen.

A Developing Nation

Afghans date their independence as a modern state from August 19, 1919, following the stalemates Third Anglo-Afghan War. The country's first ruler, Amanullah Khan (1892–1960) seized authority from his father and led the fight for Afghan independence.

Although initially very popular, Amanullah Khan earned the wrath of the country's powerful conservative elements when he instituted a modern-style constitution incorporating equal rights and individual freedoms. His seat of power, the Darulaman Palace in Kabul (Scott 296, issued 1934) was constructed in 1923 and destroyed during the factional fighting in 1992. Under pressure from anti-reformists, Amanullah Khan abdicated his throne in 1929 and went into exile. He was replaced by Mohammed Zahir Shah (Scott 329, issued 1939–61) who abolished many of Amanullah Khan's reforms. After only a four-year reign, Zahir Shah was assassinated November 8, 1933, by a teenager acting for supporters of Amanullah Khan.

Proclaimed King at age nineteen, following the assassination of his father, the erudite Zahir Shah (Scott 383, issued 1951; Scott 786, issued 1968; Scott 851, issued 1971) inherited a backward, tribal-based, de-centralized government. Outside the capital Kabul, governmental authority was exceedingly weak. Zahir Shah promised political and social reforms and allowed women access to education. He promulgated a new constitution in 1964 that recognized the establishment of a National Assembly (Scott 597, issued optimistically in 1962), which met for the first time in 1965. Despite the king's favorable views towards modernization, however, Afghanistan remained overwhelmingly cemented to its traditional roots.

During his four-decade reign, King Zahir Shah fostered expanded international ties for the isolated nation, including agreements on development assistance. The United States

and other countries, including the Soviet Union, funded many infrastructure projects such as the construction of the Sirobi Dam (*Scott 752*, issued 1967) for both hydroelectricity and agriculture. Among the projects funded by the United States were the Ring Road from Kabul to Herat and the Kandahar Airport.

During his reign, King Zahir Shah strongly backed multilateralism. The United Nations (*Scott 461*, issued 1958, and *Scott 534*, issued 1961), which Afghanistan joined in 1946, was featured on at least one stamp annually from 1948 to 1974. Following Mohammad Daoud's establishment of the First Afghan Republic in 1973, a single U.N. commemorative was released, the 1974 issue. From then until late in the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the annual United Nations issuance disappeared from Afghan postage. With the International Year of Peace issued in 1986 (*Scott 1197*) the U.N. emblem appeared again on Afghan stamps for the first time in twelve years.

Downward Spiral

While the country's conservative rural base was growing suspicious of the king's efforts to change Afghan society, urban elements were becoming equally frustrated with the country's laggard pace of modernization and progress. In 1973 the king's cousin, Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud (*Scott 923*, issued 1974) led a coup d'état while the king was receiving medical treatment in Italy. Daoud established the Afghan Republic, became its president (*Scott 938*, issued 1977), and instituted aggressive reform measures reflecting his socialist beliefs.

His regime did not last. On April 27, 1978, Mohammad Daoud was overthrown and Afghanistan came under the control of a maniacal Marxist, Noor Mohammad Tureki. Tureki embarked on a radical land reform program, and imprisoned and executed thousands. During his short reign of terror, Afghanistan completed its first population census (*Scott 957*, issued 1979). Ironically, that same year the population of Afghanistan began to undergo a radical decline as millions departed the country as refugees or became casualties in the fighting. Tureki himself was executed in September 1979 and another Marxist, Hafizullah Amin, became president.

Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev suspected Amin of being a CIA lackey desirous of reversing Afghanistan's Marxist government and decided to intervene. On December 26, 1979, Soviet troops entered the country and Amin and his family were killed.

Among the postal issuances during Afghanistan's Marxist-Soviet dominated period (1978–1989) ironies abound. Despite death and destruction, the regime sought vainly to preserve a sense of normalcy. For example, religion might



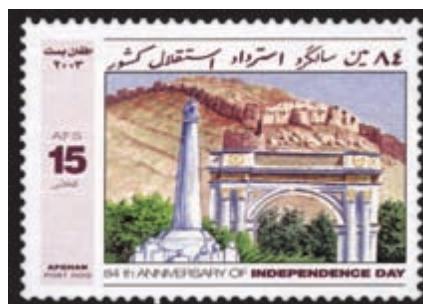
Author with Postmaster, October 2007, Central Post Office, Kabul.

seem to be an almost anathema topic for a philatelic issuance by the Communist government. Mujahadeen fighters viewed themselves as engaged in a *jihad* against the godless Communists, and opposition to the Soviet presence and Afghan Communist rule early had taken

on a religious undertone. However, the 1400th anniversary of the *Hijara*, Mohammad's flight in 622 from Mecca to the city of Medina (*Scott B93*, issued 1981) provided the government with an opportunity to demonstrate its Islamic credentials by issuing a commemorative stamp. No one was fooled. In fact, although the stamp honoring the *Hijara* showed holy sites in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the Saudi government itself was beginning to provide large-scale support to the Mujahadeen. A 1996 stamp issued by the Rabbani government commemorating

the birth of the Prophet Mohammed has more convincing religious bona fides, but that issue and other stamps released between 1996 and 2001 are not recognized by the current government.

In a similar vein, with the National Day of Pashtuns and Baluchis stamp (*Scott 1155*, issued 1985), the government recognized Afghanistan's largest ethnic group. A commemorative stamp honoring Pashtunistan Day, August 31, had been an annual feature of Afghan philately since 1951. On the 1985 stamp, the Communist government made an unusual concession to Pashtun identity. The flag on the up-



Afghan Post commemorated the 84th Anniversary of Afghan Independence with a 2003 release. Note that English has replaced French on Afghan stamps.



Working towards a landmine-free Afghanistan. Afghanistan is one of the heaviest mined countries in the world, with an estimated 10 million mines yet to be deactivated. Thousands of people are killed or injured every year.

per left side of the stamp is not the Afghan (Communist) flag, which consists of horizontal black, red, and green stripes; instead, it represents Pashtunistan and dates from 1947.

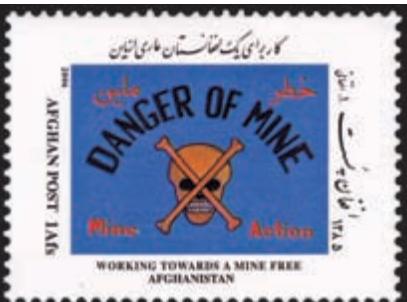
Unlike the beneficent scene depicted, however, there was little joy among Pashtuns during the 1980s. A majority of the Mujahadeen fighters were Pashtun.

After an initial flourish in 1978–1980, outright symbols of communism on Afghan postage appeared less frequently during the rest of the Communist period. One exception is World Communications Year (Scott 1041–1042, issued 1983). On these stamps a red star is prominently displayed — along with a dove of peace, a common element in many stamps during the 1980s.

Although not in themselves a symbol of Communism, women became frequent philatelic subjects during the

Communist regime. While Afghan stamps from the 1960s and 1970s occasionally feature women's topics, from 1979 through the 1980s women receive prominent attention. Under Communism Afghan women, particularly in urban areas, enjoyed a greater modicum of freedom than ever before. Many became professionals in the field of medicine, such as the doctor (or nurse) depicted on International Children's Day (Scott 1252, issued 1987).

Stamps issued during the Communist rule often attempt to portray the peace-loving nature of women. The 1980 International Women's Day commemorative (Scott 970, issued 1980) is a notable exception. The AK-47 (with bayonet) clutched in the heroine's right hand contrasts dramatically with the child held in her left arm and the dove perched on her shoulder!



The stamps issued for the two succeeding International Women's days were much less aggressive. In the 1981 stamp (Scott 984) the mother holds her child and releases a dove. One year later (Scott 999), the theme is identical: mother, child, and white dove of peace. All of these women wear red dresses, as do many women portrayed on stamps during this period. The choice is subliminally socialist; red clothing is not normally worn by Afghans.

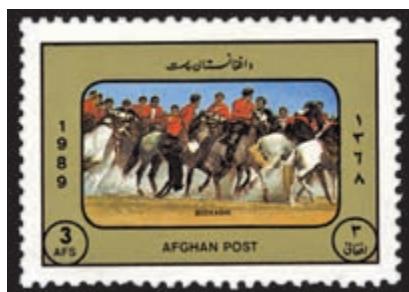
The 1983 International Women's Day issuance (Scott 1023) shows a woman holding a child and standing astride a broken missile. For International Children's Day 1986 (Scott 1193), a more humbly clad green-robed woman holds her two children. The ubiquitous dove of peace flies overhead. The transformation in the portrayal of women from heroic warrior to meek village mother is noteworthy. A few years later, the situation for Afghan women would change even more dramatically for the worse as reactionary pseudo-religious policies against women were introduced by the Taliban.

As Soviet and Afghan Communist military forces continued to suffer from incessant Mujahadeen resistance, the Soviet Union became eager to disengage from Afghanistan. The 1988 Geneva Accords authorized the withdrawal of "foreign" troops, and the last Soviet soldiers departed the country on February 15, 1989. Sadly, Afghanistan's violent era did not end with the retreat of the Soviets. Following the collapse of the Afghan Communist regime in 1992

and the establishment of the Islamic-based Rabbani government, hopes were high that the country once again would move in a forward direction. Instead, the nation collapsed even further. By the fourth anniversary of the Communist downfall (no Scott number,² issued 1996), Mujahadeen ranks were deeply divided. The Taliban was able to defeat the fractured Mujahadeen groups and



In the sport of *buzkashi*, horseback riders attempt to carry a headless goat to a goal. It is definitely an extreme sport!



enter Kabul a few months later.

Taliban rule ended in late 2001 with the successful U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. With the inauguration of the interim transitional authority government led by President Hamid Karzai, the Afghan Postal Service began its slow reconstitution as a national institution, a process that continues to the present day.

It is a fascinating aspect of Afghan postal history that, regardless of the regime, annual issuances continued to commemorate the nation's 1919 independence. Stamps issued during the Soviet occupation included those honoring the sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh independence day anniversaries (*Scott* 1154, issued 1985, and *Scott* 1208, issued 1986), released in an unsuccessful attempt by the Communist government to counter the appeal of the Mujahadeen insurgency by appealing to latent Afghan nationalism. Much later, following the fall of the Taliban, one of the first postal issues of the interim Transitional Authority Government was a stamp commemorating Afghan Independence Day (no *Scott* number,⁴ issued 2003).

The Future

Today, Afghanistan faces many challenges. Among the legacies of a quarter century of violence are the millions of land mines that still litter the country (no *Scott* numbers,⁵ issued 2006). Afghan institutions such as Afghan Post suffered terribly from years of neglect and ill-management. However, some Afghan institutions are making a comeback. Afghanistan's national sport *buzkashi* has appeared on numerous issues, including the two illustrated (*Scott* 549, issued 1961, and *Scott* 1382, issued 1989). *Buzkashi*, which is essentially mayhem on horseback, can be seen today during the winter months. Kite-flying, the Afghan version of which was introduced to the West through Khaled Housseni's 2003 book *A Kite Runner*, has returned throughout the country. The introduction of democratic government and the infusion of massive Western assistance cannot quickly reverse or repair the broken system. However, Afghanistan's future is more promising than its immediate past. Perhaps music and dance, as depicted on a postage stamp issued in 2006 (no *Scott* number⁶) can once again become part of the fabric of Afghan society.

Endnotes

1. *Scott Catalogue 2009* editors note that "An additional stamp was is-



Don't expect home delivery quite yet. Author with Afghan Post vehicle, Central Post Office, Kabul



Can dancing and music one day make a comeback?

However, Afghanistan's future is more promising than its immediate past.

sued in this set. The editors would like to examine any example."

2. *Scott Catalogue 2009* editors note that "Mavlavi Allahdad Balkhi, Pres-

ident of Post of the Afghanistan Postal Administration, has declared that 'the stamps which have been printed after year 1989 are false stamps.' The following stamps have been condemned as unauthorized by the Afghan Ministry of Communications..." There follows a descriptive list of stamps issued in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001. *Scott Catalogue* numbering picks up again in 2002 with Scott 1384 honoring military leader Ahmed Shah Masood.

3. *Scott Catalogue* numbers have not been given to Afghan stamps since No. 1434, the December 4, 2004, issue honoring the Inauguration of President Hamid Karzai, due to the lack of a consistent source of new issues.

4. *Scott Catalogue* numbers have been issued only for stamps received; thus, some issues between 2002 and 2004 are not yet catalogued by *Scott*.

The Author

During a 27-year career with the U.S. Foreign Service, Lawrence Cohen has worked in Mexico, Honduras, India, Hungary, Nigeria, Brazil, and Afghanistan. His interest in stamps, which began in the 1960s, focuses on those locations where he has visited or served. He currently is a private consultant, Lawrence Cohen Associates, Inc.



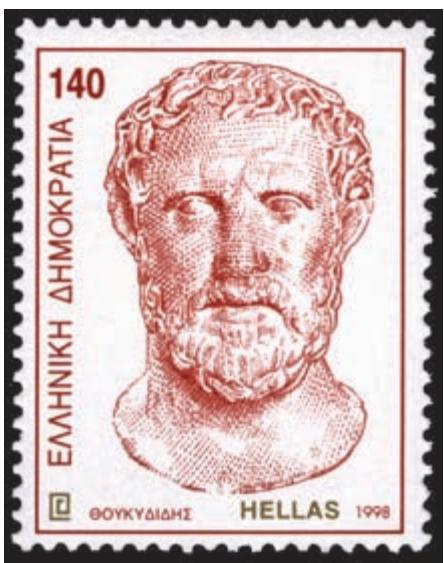
The Greek counterparts to the major triad of Etruscan gods were Zeus, supreme god of Greek mythology; Hera, wife of Zeus; and Athena, goddess of wisdom/justice.

à e Etruscans

by Vincent De Luca

Who were they? Where did they come from? What kind of language did they speak? Not too long ago it was nearly impossible to answer any of these questions, but new discoveries in Etruscan necropolises and other places have permitted scholars to better understand and elucidate some of the enigmas surrounding this mysterious and great civilization, which controlled most of central Italy, as well as territory in the north and south of the peninsula (including Rome), between the ninth and third centuries B.C.

The Greek historian Herodotus¹ (c.484–425 B.C.) claimed a Lydian origin for the Etruscans. According to Herodotus, during the seventh century B.C., a group of Lydians² led by Tyrrhenus (variously identified as a son of the Lydian king or as a son of the demi-god Hercules) sailed toward the coast of central Italy across what is now known as the Tyrrhenian Sea. Upon their arrival the colonists changed their name from Lydians to



Greek historian Thucydides.



Italian pictorial cancel:
Exhibition Etruscans in Time (2001).



Greek historian Herodotus shown in a German pictorial cancel from the city of Finsterwalde, issued in 1984.

Tyrrhenians, to honor their leader. This belief in a Lydian origin was shared by another Greek historian, Thucydides (c.460–400 B.C.) (*Greece Scott* 1924), who wrote that the primitive inhabitants of Lemnos (an island in the Aegean Sea) were known as Tyrrhenoi or Tirrsenoi, the Greek name for the Etruscans.

An opposing view was held by Greek critic and historian Dionysius of Halicarnassus (first century B.C.), who wrote a massive history of the founding of Rome. He believed that the Etruscans were a primitive people, indigenous to Italy, who “did not resemble any other people in their language or in their way of life.” In fact, Dionysius was on the right track. Today, modern researchers agree on the autochthonous origin of the Etruscans.

What confused most Etruscologists for many years was the discovery of a sixth century B.C. funerary stele found in 1885 on the Greek island of Lemnos with inscriptions similar to the Etruscan language (it appears to be a dialect). The writing on the upright stone was in a known alphabet and marked the grave of a warrior, but the text itself has never been satisfactorily translated.

Although the Etruscans were known to have a body of written literature, no specific examples have been found so far. However, there are some important discoveries that have shed light on their obscure language. Preserved in the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb in Croatia is the so-called *Liber Linteus* (Latin for “book of linen”), which contains the longest known Etruscan text — about 1,200 legible words. It was found in 1848, wrapped around an Egyptian mummy



Etruscan area of influence.



Ancient Tarquinia was one of the first permanent Etruscan cities.

of the third century B.C., and the writing wasn’t identified until 1891. The words on the reused linen suggest some kind of religious calendar with many repetitive names of gods and dates.

In recent years, more finds have come to light, adding considerable information to our knowledge of the Etruscan language. In 1964 three gold foils named the *Pyrgi Tablets*³ were discovered. The bilingual inscriptions were in Phoenician and Etruscan, and proved invaluable in deciphering more of this mysterious language. Another recent find is the *Tabula Cortonensis* excavated in 1992 near Cortona⁴ in the central Italian province of Arezzo, but not made public until 1999. The bronze plaque is approximately 11 by 18 inches and was broken into eight pieces (one of which is missing) in antiquity. It contains about forty lines of Etruscan text and appears to record a land transaction.



Many early Etruscan settlements were in the Tuscany region of Italy.

linguists, because it resembles no other known language. The surviving texts are written in an alphabet that resembles a common form used in ancient Greece, and seems to have been diffused about 700 B.C. by Greek colonists of Magna Graecia who arrived from the island of Euboea in the Aegean Sea. The territory held by the Etruscans, known as Etruria,⁵ lay north of Magna Graecia and extended roughly from the Po River Valley in northern Italy to the Tiber River in Latium, including parts of the Campania region and the island of Corsica. The Latin name *Etruria* derives from the Greek name *Tyrrhenia*, whose people were called by the Romans *Tusci*, from which the name Tuscany originates.

The first known permanent Etruscan settlements, Tarchna and Vetluna, were established around the mid-ninth century B.C. *Tarchna* was later named Tarquinii by the Romans, and a small city continued to exist on that site until the Middle Ages. The modern town of Tarquinia (*Italy Scott 1469*), located nearby, took its name from the ancient city. *Vetluna*, named *Vetulonia* by the Romans, was located near the modern city of Grosseto in Tuscany (*Italy Scott 2747*). From there the Etruscans spread southward into Latium and zones of Campania, where about 600 B.C. they founded the cities of Capua and Irna. Following its later alliance with Rome, the renamed Capua became a byword for luxury. It was burned by the Saracens in 841 A.D. and a new town by the same name arose a short distance away from the parent city. Irna evolved into the Roman colony of Salernum in 194 B.C. — the modern town of Salerno remains a beautiful and vibrant city today. According to Greek historian Strabo (c.63 B.C.–c.24 A.D.),



Tinia, the supreme sky god in Etruscan mythology.



Scene of Etruscan women driving chariots from a tomb fresco.

the Etruscan influence in the region extended to Herculaneum (Ercolano) and Pompeii.

The Etruscans were expert farmers and they had a high degree of skill in the metallurgical arts as well. They worked and traded copper and iron, metals that were plentiful on the islands of Elba, off the coast of Tuscany. Between the eighth and seventh centuries B.C., the Etruscans dominated the Tyrrhenian Sea and established trade with the Greeks of Magna Graecia, and later with the Phoenicians, Cypriots, and other people from the Near East. Eventually this activity led to what has been called the “Orientalization” of the

Etruscans, who were strongly influenced by Eastern art and artifacts, as later evidenced in their tomb goods and art.

The Etruscans never achieved a real national unity, but during the sixth century B.C. they formed a confederation of twelve city-states, also known by the name *Dodecapolis* (Greek for “twelve cities”), with Tarquinia as the leading city. [AUTHOR’S NOTE: From this point on, I will use the current Italian names of the twelve cities. Readers will find a chart at the end of this article giving the names of the cities in Italian, Etruscan (if known), and Latin. A fourth column will give the Italian regions where the cities are located.]

During the seventh century B.C., the Etruscans conquered Rome; in fact, the last three of Rome’s seven kings were Etruscans: Lucius Tarquinius Priscus (reigned 616–578 B.C.), Servius Tullius (reigned 578–534 B.C.), and Lucius Tarquinius Superbus⁶ (reigned 534–510 B.C.). It was during this period of the Etruscan monarchy in Rome that Etruscan religion was popularized. Many elements



Players on the double-pipe and lyre from a tomb fresco.



Scene from the story of Achilles and Troilus.



Etruscan dancers.

were similar to those in other Mesopotamian countries. In Etruscan mythology, Tinia (*Greece Scott 2259*) was the supreme god of the skies, equivalent to the Roman Jupiter or the Greek Zeus (*Greece Scott 1557*). He, his wife Uni (Juno/Hera, *Greece Scott 1556*), and Menrva (Minerva/Athena, *Greece Scott 920, 1550*) formed a triad of gods who controlled all the lesser deities.

The Etruscans reached the apogee of their power in 535 B.C., when they allied with the Carthaginians to destroy the Phocaeans fleet near Aleria or Alalia in Corsica. Phocaea was a Greek colony in Asia Minor that had settled the islands of Sardinia and Corsica. After the naval battle the Etruscans claimed Corsica, while Sardinia went to the Carthaginians. Following this victory the Etruscans attempted to expand their sphere of influence north of the Italian peninsula but were stopped by the Gauls.

At the height of their power, the Etruscans were a powerful military force whose naval vessels dominated most of the Mediterranean Sea for about two centuries. They built massive stone walls around their settlements, some of which remain to this day. Culturally, they practiced divination from observations of birds in flight or from inspection of the entrails of sacrificed animals (haruspicy), and decorations in Etruscan tombs suggest that they believed in an afterlife. Etruscan women appear to have enjoyed a great deal of autonomy and even to have been granted a nearly equal status with men, a freedom that shocked later Greek and Roman writers. Women could go out alone and even drive chariots, such as the ones shown on San Marino stamp of 1974 (*Scott 855*) depicting a chariot race from a sixth century B.C. fresco from the Tomb of the Hill at the necropolis of Chiusi.

Etruscans enjoyed gladiatorial combat, a cruel amusement they bequeathed to the Romans. They loved music and dance, and one of their favorite instruments was the double-pipe, which had originated in Asia Minor and can be seen along with a lyre in a frescos depicted on a San Marino stamp (*Scott 854*). The fresco is from the Leopard Tomb at Tarquinia. Another Etruscan tomb painting from the Tarquinia necropolis shows dancers performing (*San Marino Scott 857*). The Triclinium Tomb dates from the fourth century.

The Etruscan necropolis at Tarquinia consists of underground chamber-tombs spread across the countryside



Above: Terra-cotta winged horses that once decorated an Etruscan altar at Tarquinia.
Right: "Young Velca."



Chimera of Arezzo: part lion, part goat, part snake.



Capitoline She-Wolf, the symbol of Rome and long attributed to an Etruscan sculptor, has recently been declared a Medieval work of art.

.....
At the height of their power, the Etruscans were a powerful military force whose naval vessels dominated most of the Mediterranean Sea for about two centuries.
.....



Terra-cotta "smiling couple" sarcophagus.



Stamp triptych issued for Italia '85 and featuring Etruscan art.

for about two and a half miles. The tombs, dating from the sixth to the second centuries B.C., typically are decorated with scenes of life and death, including depictions of everyday life that supply evidence of the customs, beliefs, and civilization of the Etruscan people. A fresco in the Tomb of the Bulls, dating from about 500 B.C., shows a scene from the story of Achilles and Troilus (*San Marino Scott 856*). An exquisite depiction of a young woman, called "Young Vel-



View of the terra-cotta couple and the tomb in which the sarcophagus was found.



Terra-cotta head of Hermes.



Decorated "duck" jug.

ca" (Italy Scott 2228 and 2440) and dating from 470 B.C., can be seen in the Ogre's Tomb.

One of the most impressive collections of Etruscan finds can be admired at the Archaeological National Museum of Tarquinia. Among the most prized objects in the museum are the magnificent terra-cotta Winged Horses (Italy Scott E3-E36 and a San Marino pictorial cancel of 1998) dating from the fourth century B.C. The Winged Horses once decorated the facade of the *Ara della Regina* (Queen's altar) temple at Tarquinia.

The Twelve Cities of the Etruscan Confederation

<i>Italian Name</i>	<i>Etruscan Name</i>	<i>Latin Name</i>	<i>Italian Region</i>
Arezzo	unknown	Arretium	Tuscany
Cerveteri	Caisra/Cisra	Caere	Latium
Chiusi	Clevisn	Clusium	Tuscany
Cortona	Curtun	Corito	Tuscany
Perugia	Perusna	Perusia	Umbria
Populonia (ruins)	Pupluna/Fufluna	Populonia	Tuscany
Veio (ruins)	Veia	Veii	Latium
Tarquinia	Tarchna	Tarquinii	Latium
Vetulonia (ruins)	Vetluna	Vetulonia	Tuscany
Volterra	Felathri	Volaterrae	Tuscany
Bolsena	Velzna	Volsinii	Latium
Volci (ruins)	Velch/Velca	Vulci	Latium

Clearly, art was an important element in Etruscan life; although, unfortunately, most of the magnificent temples and public buildings they constructed did not survive, except for a few fragmentary ruins. Most of the material culture that survived is in the form of sarcophagi, funerary objects, and frescoes discovered in their necropolises. Some of these masterpieces have been reproduced on stamps. The famous Chimera of Arezzo, a bronze from the fifth century B.C. (*San Marino Scott 757*) is

on exhibit at the Archaeological Museum of Florence. The sculpture represents a terrifying mythical beast with a lion's body, a fire-breathing goat's head coming out of its back, and a snake for a tail. Another marvelous example of Etruscan art, and one reproduced in many forms even today, is the fifth century B.C. bronze known as the *Lupa Capitolina* or Capitoline She-Wolf (*Italy Scott 439-440*) attributed to the Etruscan sculptor Vulca of Veio, who lived in the sixth century B.C. The she-wolf became the symbol of Rome in the fourth century B.C., after the capture of the city of Veio by the Romans. The twins Romulus and Remus were added in the fifteenth century by the Florentine artist Antonio del Pollaiolo (1432-1498).⁷

In 1984 Italy issued a three-stamp triptych (Scott 1610-1612) to promote the International Philatelic Exhibition "Italy '85." The center stamp shows the show's logo. The two side stamps were dedicated to Etruscan art. The stamp at the left (Scott 1610) shows a bronze statuette of an Etruscan Warrior from c.450 B.C.; the one at the right (Scott 1612) reproduces a rare silver mirror dating from the fifth century B.C. with figures in relief. Both items are held by the Archaeological Museum of Florence.

Affluent Etruscans were buried in large, rich tombs with elaborate wall frescoes and varied grave goods, including furniture. One of the most fashionable commodities was a sarcophagus with its lid surmounted by sculpted figures of the husband and wife, commonly portrayed with gentle "archaic smiles." A detail of a sixth century B.C. polychrome terracotta sarcophagus showing one such smiling couple is pictured on a stamp issued by San Marino (Scott 756). This sarcophagus, known as the *Sarcofago degli Sposi*, was discovered in a tumulus tomb at the necropolis of Cerveteri. It shows a young married couple who appear to be reclining at a banquet. An Italian stamp (Scott 2748) from a series honoring the regions of Italy shows the same couple, plus



Etruscan golden jewelry: parade fibula, case-shaped earrings, embossed stud, Medusa head.

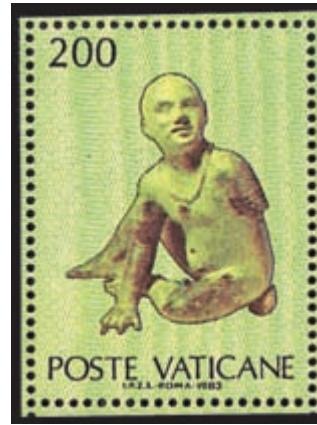
the tomb where the sarcophagus was found and a map of the region, Latium. The sarcophagus is now in the Etruscan National Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome.

Other grave goods represented on stamps include a terra-cotta head of Hermes (*San Marino Scott 755*) dating from 510 B.C., found at the site of the *Portonaccio Temple* at Veio near Rome, and a finely decorated duck-shaped jug (*San Marino Scott 754*) dating from the fourth century B.C.

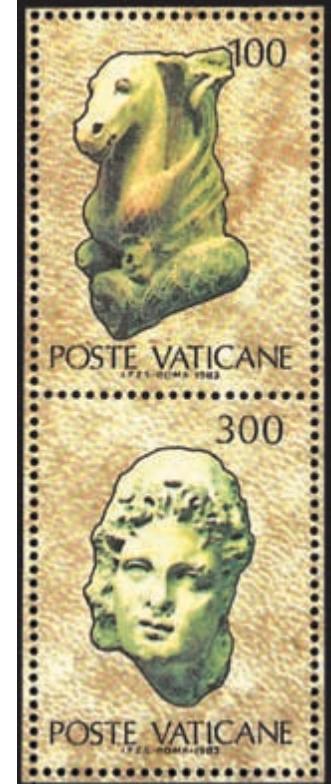
The Vatican's Gregorian Etruscan Museum, one of the most important in the world, is the repository of a collection of precious gold objects that were discovered in 1836–37 in an almost intact tomb dating from the seventh century B.C. and located at Cerveteri. The site is known as the Regolini-Galassi Tomb, after its discoverers. Etruscan gold objects are notable for their granulation and filigree, still unsurpassed for their refinement. In 2001 the Vatican issued a set of four stamps (*Scott 1197–1200*), with denominations in lire and euros, depicting some of the priceless gold items from the tomb: a large parade fibula (clasp), dating from c.675 B.C.; typical case-shaped earrings from the sixth century B.C.; an embossed stud depicting a dying warrior dating from c.425 B.C., and a striking Medusa head from the Hellenistic period of the third century B.C.

Other Etruscan finds at the Gregorian Etruscan Museum are pictured on two of the three souvenir sheets (*Scott 718 a-f, 719a-f, 720a-f*) issued by the Vatican in 1983 for the “Papacy and Art — U.S. Exhibition” that traveled to New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. A fifth century B.C. terra-cotta horse head found at Cerveteri is shown on the 100-lire (*Scott 719a*). A mid-second century B.C. man's head carved from a volcanic stone, and found at the necropolis of Vulci, is pictured on the 300-lire stamp (*Scott 719c*). Finally, a bronze votive statue of a child dating from the third century B.C., and discovered at Tarquinia, is depicted on the 200-lire stamp (*Scott 720b*).

The decline of Etruria began with a series of defeats, starting in 496 B.C. when the Romans were victorious against the Etruscans in the Battle of Lake Regillus not far from Rome. About 474 B.C., a crushing blow to the Etruscan fleet was inflicted at Cumae near Naples by the tyrant of Syracuse, Hiero I. In 423 B.C. the Etruscan cities in Campania were occupied by the Samnite people of south-central Italy, and in 400 B.C. the Gauls subjugated the Etruscans north of the Po River. In 396 B.C., after a siege lasting a number of years, the Romans conquered the key city of Veio and gradually concluded their campaign with the total occupation of Etruria in 264



Etruscan art depicted on Papacy and Art souvenir sheets: terra-cotta horse head, man's head carved from volcanic rock, bronze votive statue of a child.



B.C. Thereafter, the Romans annexed all Etruscan territories into their mighty empire. But Roman civilization owed a great deal to the Etruscans: the Servian Wall that protected Rome and the Cloaca Maxima that drained water from the city; the art of divination and haruspicy; the Lictor fasces;⁸ and many other items, both practical and symbolic, that contributed to the greatness of Rome.

Endnotes

1. Herodotus, of course, is remembered by philatelists for his description of the Persian official messenger service in his history of the Persian Wars: “It is said that as many days as there are in the whole journey, so many are the men and horses that stand along the road, each horse and man at the interval of a day's journey; and these are stayed neither by snow nor rain nor heat nor darkness from accomplishing their appointed course with all speed.” (HERODOTUS, Herodotus, trans. A.D. Godley, vol. 4, book 8, verse 98, pp. 96–97 (1924).) The more familiar translation carved above the entrance to the James A. Farley Post Office in New York City reads: “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” This phrase has become the motto of the modern U.S. postal service.

2. Lydia was an ancient country of Asia Minor (now Turkey) that has the distinction of being the first country to coin currency.

3. Pyrgi (or Pyrgoi) was one of the three ports of the ancient Etruscan trading city of Caere (modern Cerveteri, near Rome).

4. Modern-day Cortona has its origins in the Etruscan city of Curtun.

5. Current scholarly consensus is that Etruria gradually arose between the tenth and eighth centuries B.C. Around 850 B.C. the original Etruscans supplanted the Villanovan culture, which dated from about 1000 B.C. and was named for

a necropolis discovered in 1853 in the town of Villanova near Bologna. The Villanovans cremated their dead, placing the ashes in rough pottery urns that were buried in graves. During the Etruscan historic age, inhumation replaced the Villanovan custom of cremation, and nothing is more distinct and contrasting than the poor Villanovan tombs and the rich Etruscan necropolises found together at Cerveteri, now a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site.

6. Many legends surround the reign of Tarquinius Superbus (Tarquinius the Proud). He was said to have murdered his predecessor, Servius Tullius, at the urging of his wife, the old king's daughter Tullia. Despite ordering major civic improvements to the city, ultimately his reign became tyrannical in the extreme. A revolt followed and he was banished, thus ending the Etruscan domination of Rome.

7. On July 10, 2008, the eminent archaeologist Adriano la Regina announced that recent radiocarbon dating of the famous statue showed it to have been manufactured in the seventh or eighth century A.D., making it the work of a Medieval artist and not an Etruscan. However, Cicero describes a similar statue in the first century B.C., and it may be that there was indeed an earlier Etruscan sculpture on which the Medieval version was based.

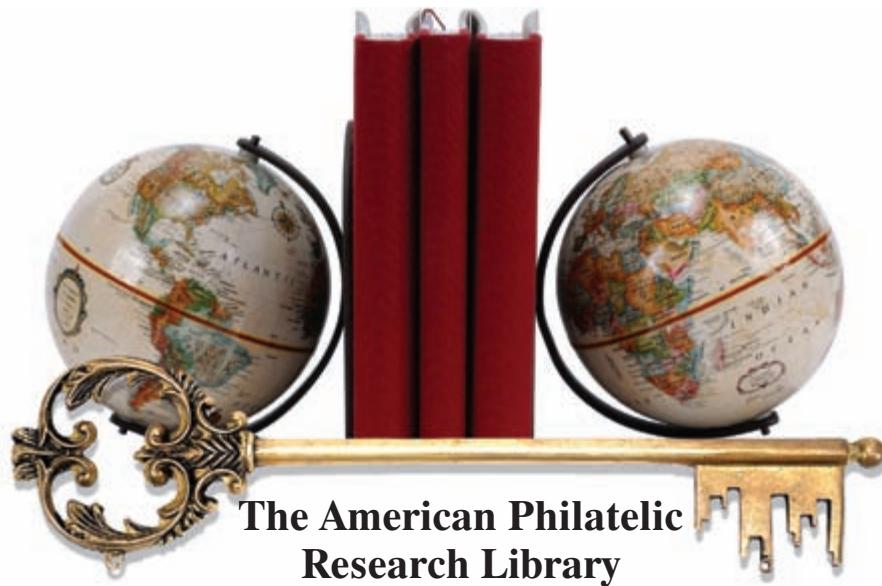
8. The bundle of elm or birch rods tied to an axe and carried by magistrates' attendants as symbols of civic authority.

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The Author

Vincent De Luca's philatelic interests include post-World War II Italian postal history and theographics about Leonardo da Vinci, European castles, and the olive (*Olea Europaea*). He has written for a variety of philatelic publications, both national and Italian, and has collaborated on the Italian catalogues *SASSONE di Storia Postale* and *Uniàcato di Storia Postale*.



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The assembled puzzle was scanned in several sections on a flatbed scanner and “stitched” together with Photoshop Creative Suite 2.

When Hobbies Collide

by Roger L. Black

Philately, jigsaw puzzles, and digital art have been long-time passions of mine and have led me to develop a graphical fusion of these hobbies. The result is an exploded view of a stamp puzzle displaying the actual stamps.

After assembling a Springbok jigsaw puzzle titled *Postage Paid*, I was intrigued by the potential challenge of collecting all the stamps displayed on the 500-piece puzzle. At first glance, it appeared to be a simple task, but appearances can be deceiving. Assembling the puzzle turned out to be moderately difficult, although it is not one of the “grand master”

puzzle varieties. And the stamps shown on the puzzle are common, worldwide varieties. However, the task of identifying and collecting them required about six months of painstaking research before I had completed the project.

Challenges included assembling the puzzle, scanning it in sections, stitching the image sections together, and separating the puzzle image into individual stamp “fragments.” Identification, cataloguing, and collecting each stamp required research and patience. After obtaining the individual stamps, the final challenge was to display the result in an exploded view of the puzzle showing each stamp and its corresponding *Scott Catalogue* number.

How It All Worked

The puzzle is Springbok 400PZL8041, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches x 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It is an octagonal shape, with stamps appearing in randomly oriented positions radiating from the center toward the outside edges.

Scanning: I scanned the assembled puzzle in several sections on a flatbed scanner and “stitched” them together with Photoshop Creative Suite 2(CS2). Then I digitally separated each stamp from its neighboring stamps and placed it in a radial pattern exploded view to provide space for Scott number identification. The original random orientation of the stamps was maintained.

Identifying: The most difficult stamp to identify was one depicting a rocket launch with the moon in the background, and I reasoned that it had something to do with a moon mission. The letter “A” was visible near the bottom of the stamp as the last letter of the country name; however, there are 194 country names that end in the letter “A,” so that clue was not much help. Identifying this stamp required extensive searching in catalogues and online search engines. The stamp’s country of origin finally was revealed during an online auction search. The stamp is Poland Scott 1292 (Launching of Russian Rocket).

Some other difficult stamp fragments were a yellow flower — Bulgaria Scott 1560 (Narcissus); a red “zipper-like” object — Denmark Scott 451 (Electrical Power); a nativity scene — Burundi Scott 222 (*Adoration of the Shepherds* by Juan Bautista Mayno); a blue arm holding a missile — German Democratic Republic Scott 405 (Arms Breaking A-Bomb); and a red stamp showing a Bulgarian hero — Bulgaria Scott 1579 (Nikolas Kofardjiev).

Collecting: Of the 251 stamps depicted on the puzzle, 143 were in my existing worldwide collection. Only one United States stamp was used in the puzzle (Scott 1192). The 108 stamps I needed to complete the collection were purchased primarily from online sales and auctions, local stamp sales, and private collectors.

Displaying: As the purchased stamps arrived, they were scanned, and overlaid on a Photoshop file layer above the matching stamp fragment, resulting in an exploded view of the real stamps. Another layer was created to show a green transparent mask above the real stamps to help me keep track of those that had been scanned and displayed.

The Next Project

I am currently collecting stamps for a 2000 piece Springbok puzzle titled STAMPS. It is proving to be a difficult challenge. Although it has fewer stamps (168 stamps), forty-seven of them appear in small, fragmented pieces with only tiny clues available. If you are gifted at identifying stamps, try some of the more difficult ones. If you recognize any, please e-mail your answers to me: rlbck999@cableone.net.



Each stamp was digitally separated from neighboring stamps and placed in a radial pattern exploded view to provide space for Scott number identification.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Mike Helland for posting the exploded view of *Postage Paid* on his website, Springbok Fever, (http://home.att.net/~mike_helland/). Visiting Mike’s website is one of the best ways to view the completed stamp/puzzle graphic, since it has a zoom feature. Also, thanks to Steve Streit Director, Product Development, Springbok (Copyright ©2004 — Allied Products, Inc), for the encouragement and permission to write this article.

The Author

T Roger Black has collected stamps and jigsaw puzzles for more than twenty years. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) since 2000. Roger is a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP). He is a retired mechanical engineer and project manager. He is currently engaged in artistic photo restorations depicting western families.



A comparison shows the difficult stamp fragments next to the actual stamps.

My Favorite Hobby

by David C. Churchman

My favorite hobby? No, it isn't stamp collecting, although philately runs it a close second and has some intimate connections to its use. My number one avocation is hobby printing — to be more specific, **Letterpress Hobby Printing** (as opposed to Xerography intaglio, offset, or stone lithography).

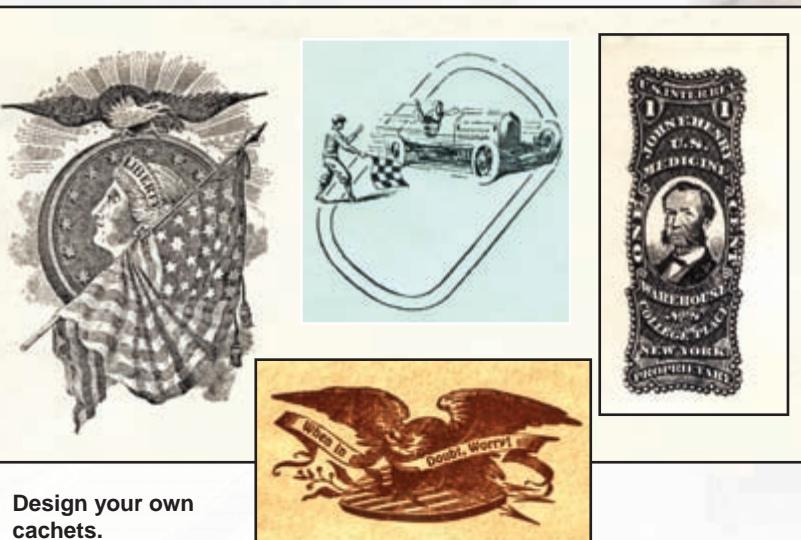
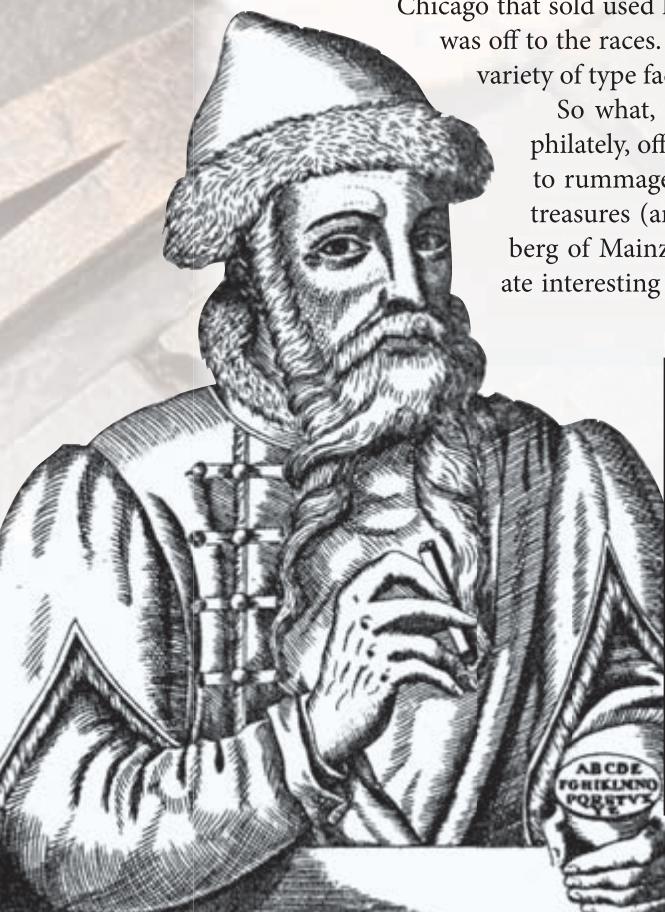
My first exposure to letterpress (or what Scott calls "Typo" or "Typographed") was in grade school, way back in 1946. Unruly boys had to take wood shop, metal shop, and printing back in those segregated days (girls were shunted off into home economics), and the printing part consisted of learning to use handset type and running a floor-model platen letterpress. Even though I knew nothing of this ancient craft, I was instantly smitten by the process of assembling individual pieces (each piece had a letter cast into the top end) of metal type into readable (mostly!) forms, and seeing them printed on the large Chandler & Price press in the shop anteroom.

My parents, obviously stunned by my sudden interest in a school class, found a small tabletop press at a church bazaar and presented it to me for Christmas that same year. I played with it for a couple of years and then lost interest after matriculating to high school. Later, after college and two years in the Army, I retrieved the press and type from my parent's basement and stored it in my own basement until 1963 when I had a chance to buy a much bigger press from the widow of a stamp club member.

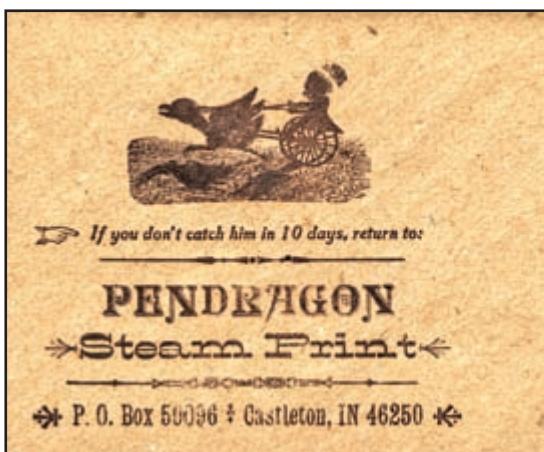
After that, and with the discovery of a company in Chicago that sold used letterpress ephemera, it was off to the races. Bigger and better presses followed, along with a bewildering variety of type faces and ancillary accouterments.

So what, you ask, is the big deal? Hobby printing, unlike traditional philately, offers a third dimension to the collecting urge. You not only get to rummage through old warehouses unearthing historically interesting treasures (and, remember, the letterpress goes back to Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz, Germany, circa 1440!), but you can then use them to create interesting and useful objets d'art. Stamp collecting lets you collect, ar-

Hobby printing,
unlike traditional
philately, offers a third
dimension to the
collecting urge.



Design your own
cachets.



Create corner cards.



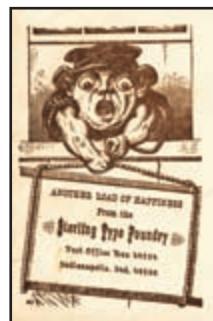
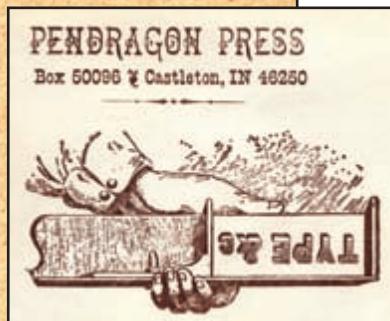
Don't forget the stationery.

range and exhibit, but you're never going to use that 90-cent 1869 series mint stamp on an overweight letter!

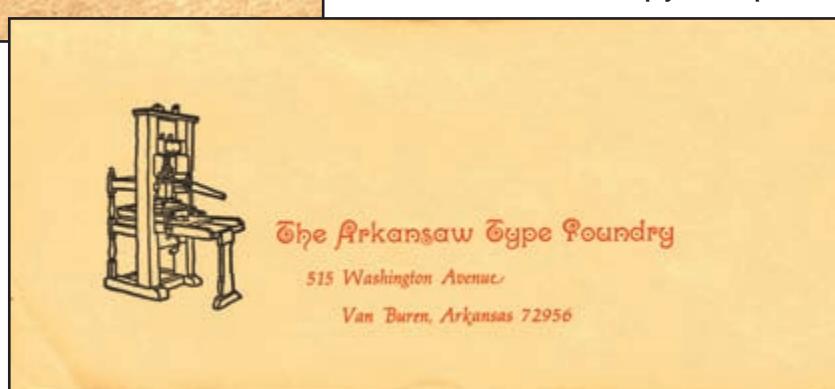
Hobby printing goes that extra step. With minimal training, you can print cachets, corner cards, reply envelopes, stationery, note pads, posters (if your press is large enough), business cards, and all manner of what printers call "run-of-the-hook-jobs."

While smaller tabletop presses are no longer being manufactured, there are plenty of used ones around (look under "Graphic Essentials" in the Business section of eBay). Larger floor model presses (Chandler & Price being the ones most frequently encountered) also are readily available at prices ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. These are serious commercial machines capable of excellent work, with speeds of 1,000–1,500 impressions per hour and driven by fractional horse-power electric motors.

Type fonts are still being cast, although the number of firms offering handset type has shrunk in the past few years. Things like ink, paper, press accouterments, type cases, pica rulers, and miscellaneous tools can be bought at places like Avery Paper Company and from a few firms that specialize in keeping a 575-year-old craft alive.



Make reply envelopes.



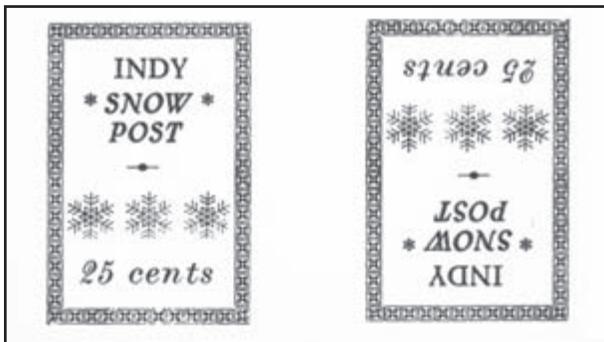
First Day Covers are a great project.

The philatelic aspects of hobby printing are many. Probably the most obvious being First Day Cover cachets. All you need (after suitable artwork has been created) is an engraving or two (available from photoengraving firms at modest cost), a supply of ink and envelopes, and you're on your way! These days, the type and artwork can be created on a computer and a photopolymer plate can be made from your file. You lose some of the fun of hand-setting the individual let-

.....
Freedom of the press and a slightly skewed view of the world offer unlimited possibilities for Philatelic Phoolishness, and a small printing press is all you need to turn brain waves into reality.



Cinderella postal cards.



Local post label created by the author.



Bogus overprint series for a fantasy takeover of Ethiopia by Danzig!



Made-up
Civil War
postmaster
provisional.



ters, but make up for it in speed.

Besides the usual commercial job work used in my business, I have created oddball pseudo-philatelic items — not for profit, but for my own amusement — such as a local “Snow Post,” a cinderella Hawaiian postal card, an entirely bogus Canadian Souvenir Sheet, a wholly made up Civil War postmaster provisional, a New Brunswick revenue (“License to Hunt Seals”), and a series of occupation stamps (the “infamous takeover” of Ethiopia by Danzig in 1920), which have very Germanic-looking overprints on Ethiopia Scott 120–134. The stamps themselves are cheap (especially the reprints) and colorful, and the overprint is designed to show off various fraktur type fonts from my basement printshop. Somehow the temptation to have a 58-square-mile enclave (Danzig) conquer and occupy a country the size of Texas and Arkansas put together was more than I could resist.

In the planning works I have a postal card from the Kauai Railroad on Maui, further incursions by those rascal-



Imaginary 1931–32 New Brunswick revenue, “Licence To Hunt Seals.”

ly Danzigers (the island of Reunion being a prime candidate for the rapacious Huns), and whatever else pops into my head.

Another joy of this hobby is No Rules! Freedom of the press and a slightly skewed view of the world offer unlimited possibilities for Philatelic Phoolishness, and a small printing press is all you need to turn brain waves into reality.

Want to know more? Intrigued with the thought of printing an upside down airplane? Don’t mind getting ink on your best blue serge? Want to learn to print, perforate, roulette, blind emboss and rubricate? Sign up today for this June’s “APS Summer Seminar” class in Letterpress Printing and go home with a smile on your face ... and a blue serge with accent colors!

The Author

Dave Churchman is a Civil Engineer, APS Lifer, and a longtime student of The Black Art of Letterpress with a basement full of printing “junque” and some spillover in two barns and a garage!



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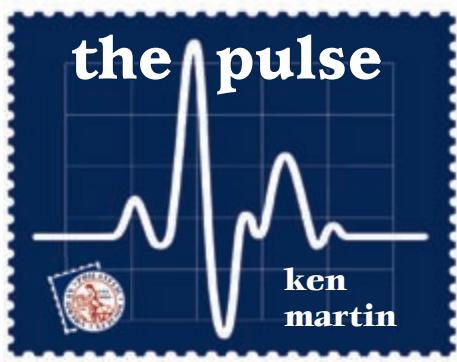
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keep you aware of current happenings of the Society, our plans and aspirations, and answer a few of the many questions we get.

Have You Voted?

The ballot for the election for our 2009–2011 APS Board was included in the May issue and if you have not voted yet, you have only a few days left to cast your ballot, which must be received by June 6.

Opportunities to Visit the APC

June 6 is also the first of our official "Summer Saturdays." To accommodate summer visitors, the Library and Circuit Sales departments will be open six Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: June 6, June 20, July 18, August 1, August 15 and August 29. Tours of the facility also will be available on these days. Of course visitors are welcome all year around Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A few of the out-of-state visitors

As you read last month, Executive Director Peter Mastrangelo left the Society's employment as of April 30. I am Ken Martin and I am now serving as Interim Executive Director. I have been a member of the APS for twenty-nine years, beginning as a volunteer in the Library while I was a Penn State student in 1982 and joining the Society as a full-time employee in the Sales Circuit division in 1995.

Regardless of change, serving you and promoting the hobby continue to be the reasons for our existence. I will try to

who stopped in between early March and mid April include Mike and Nancy Demody (Colorado); Virginia Randolph (District of Columbia); Bob Baldwin (Massachusetts); David Olson (New Hampshire); Allan Adelson, Don Dietel and Ray Nichols (New Jersey); William Hart, Anthony Labrum, Mark Scheur and Gene Yount (New York), Jim Allsop, Hendrik Burgers, Les Molnar and Michael Graf (Ontario) and Britton Culpepper and Richard Rasmussen (Virginia). A group from the DC area, including National Postal Museum Assistant Curator Dan Piazza and his wife Jill, Matthew Cassetta, Virginia Randolph, and Don Sever, also made one of their regular pilgrimages.

In May we expect a group from the Collectors Club of New York and look forward to hosting the WE (Women Exhibitors) Festival, May 28–31 and, of course, June 21–26 will bring nearly 100 out-of-town members for our annual Summer Seminar, which is preceded by SCOPEX, the annual local show of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, June 20–21. (My first visit to the Society was as a student for the Third Annual Summer Seminar at our brand new former State College building in 1982.)

We're also hoping that many of you will take advantage of the proximity of APS STAMPSHOW in Pittsburgh, August 6–9 and will visit us before or after the show. A chartered bus day trip is available the Monday following the



show. For more information contact Gretchen Moody at gretchen@stamps.org. And spaces still remain for the August 10–11 "Collecting Expo" and "Fakes and Forgeries" courses at the American Philatelic Center (see page 570 for details).

In addition to visitors, summer also brings many community functions to the American Philatelic Center. As I write this, there have been four community functions in the APC in the last five days. These generate a little revenue **and** expose a significant number of individuals to stamp collecting.

News

Because of the time required for printing and mailing the *American Philatelist*, the most timely Society news is available from our website and monthly e-newsletter sent to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses (unless requested otherwise). If you

do not have e-mail or Internet access you may have missed that the Board recently approved the ASDA June 26–28, 2009 Santa Clara Mega Event as a one-time national show. Rossica, the APS affiliate for Russian Philately is meeting at the event and has worked hard for a wonderful exhibition. Additionally, contracts have been signed with Heritage Auctions of Dallas, Texas and Regency/Superior of St. Louis, Missouri and Beverly Hills, California to be co-official auctioneers for our August 6–9 STAMPSHOW in Pittsburgh.

Beginning Adults

A new website portal, LearnAboutStamps.com, is the result of collaboration with the National Postal Museum, the United States Postal Service, and the Philatelic Foundation. The site does not provide content itself but tries to provide links for answers to questions a beginning adult would likely have about the hobby.

Thank You!

Major thanks to the United States Stamp Society for its recent gift of \$5,000 to support the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship. With this donation, additional cash gifts, and members' generous use of eBay "Giving Works/Missionfish" to donate portions of a number of sales of stamps on eBay, we have nearly enough funds to sup-

port three Fellows for the first year of the program. Fellow applications are being screened and we look forward to having our first group of youth begin their year long fellowships in August at STAMPSHOW.

Question of the Month

We get lots of questions. Here is one from new member Gerald Herrin of Missouri for which suggested answers would be welcome:

"Does anyone have any method or way of assisting a color-blind stamp collector?" Thus far, the best and only suggestion I have received is that printers can determine color based on the dots in the rosette patterns of printed items. This might work for photogravure stamps but wouldn't for intaglio engraved stamps.

Omissions

Regrettably, at least two significant 2008 donations were missed in our April donor recognition issue. Member

Paul Davies and the Lakeside Foundation gave \$50,000 in honor of Mr. Davies' father-in-law, Stephen Bechtel. Bechtel was an APS member for sixty-two years. Also member **Muriel Ro-**



Stephen Bechtel.

wan gave approximately \$5,000 in material, asking that it be sold and the proceeds used to support our Youth Programs. Our apologies to Mr. Davies, the Lakeside Foundation and Ms. Rowan.

Three-Quarters of a Million Lots Sold

APS members have sold more than three quarters of a million lots on the APS StampStore, www.stampstore.org, since its inception in 2000. And coming soon will be a more powerful search engine, wish list features, and an eBay auction option.

Checking the APS Pulse

Yes, we do have a pulse — although it may be a little high at the present time, as we prepare for a busy summer, promote the hobby, and serve you. In my column I will try to alert members to items of current interest and importance to the hobby.

What's on your mind? By the time you read this I hope I have had an opportunity to talk to many of you at WESTPEX, ROPEX, or the WE Festival. However, you don't need to wait for an APS town meeting or an American Philatelic Center event. Feel free to use the contact me at execdir@stamps.org or at 814-933-3817 to share your ideas and thoughts any time.



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Sales Book Category Distinction

In the December edition of this column, I talked about the distinction between the European Colonies and their related independent countries with respect to mounting material in sales books. And I noted that the independent countries should be mounted in separate books from the colonies. This month, I want to focus on sales books containing related areas other than colonies.

The best advice I have for sellers is to mount single-country or single-focus sales books. When we receive sales books that contain areas or countries that are very closely related, we must determine which circuit category is appropriate for the books. For example, Danzig and Saar, because they are German areas, usually are mounted together in books. While there might be collectors who buy items from both areas, there are many others who want to receive only one or the other. Our supplies of Danzig and of Saar are very low

and have been for some time. Mounting these two areas into two separate sales books helps us target the books for the collectors who specifically asked for one or the other.

Other combinations occur that force us to mark a sales book for a more general focus category. For example, mounting French Colonies and Monaco in the same book forces us to place the book into the more general France & Colonies category. The serious collector of Monaco would not think to request this general category for his or her want list. The same can be said for combining German Colonies and German States (Germany pre-1945) or combining Japan, China and Ryukyu Islands (Far East).

For U.S. covers, in particular, we often receive the various areas of cover collecting mixed together in one sales book. When a seller inserts first day covers in a book with postally-used, twentieth-century covers, which category should we select for circulating the book? The first day covers probably will not sell in the twentieth-century covers circuits. Books with both nineteenth- and twentieth-century covers in them are in the same situation (I wanted to say the same boat, but makes them Ship Covers). Separate cover designations would be the more general nineteenth century, twentieth century, and postal stationery categories — each including these additional separations: advertising (hotels, agriculture, etc.), patriotic (Civil War, World War II, etc.), states (one state or region in a book), topicals (animals, ships, etc.), cancels (pictorials, fancy, etc.), events (war,

Narrow focus is the phrase to remember when mounting sales books for any category

USS *Constitution* tour, etc.), picture postcards (which could be considered a general category), and others. First day covers usually are mounted separately from any other covers, but may be included in topical books.

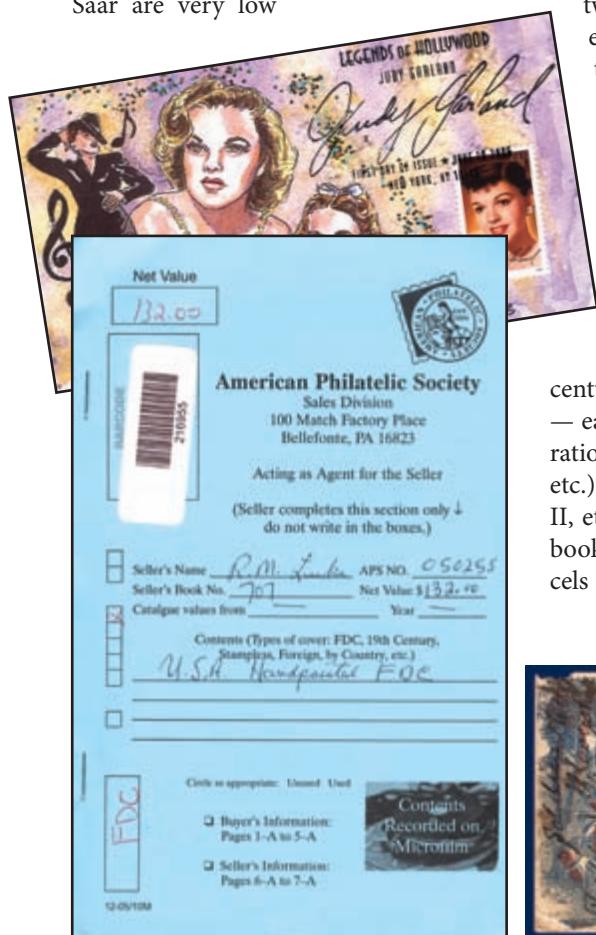
We have the categories of “Blocks of Four,” “U.S. Plate Blocks,” and “Zip/Mail Early Blocks.” Mixing them in one book will most likely result in low sales for the book. Mounting single stamps in a book with blocks and/or covers will result in keying the book for the U.S. General category. **Narrow focus** is the phrase to remember when mounting sales books for any category, and remember to check our “need” list each month.

Transportation

We now have sales books containing various forms of transportation and have established a separate category for these circuits. You will receive topical material in the areas of cars, ships, planes, trains, buses, carriages, helicopters, motorcycles, bicycles, balloons, blimps, roller skates, scooters, etc. Just ask to receive the Topical Transportation circuit and you can be one of the charter members on this new circuit category.

Sales Division at STAMPShow

As we did in Hartford last year, the Sales Division will have sales circuits next to the APS booth in Pittsburgh. We will fine-tune the categories we take to the show, making the more popular categories available for browsing. Many members were introduced to the circuit system last year. Attendees would enter the show, visit with dealers on the show floor and wind-up sitting at the “circuit table.” We hope to add to your STAMPShow experience again this year.



Sales Division Summer Saturdays

We will be open for business on six Saturdays this summer: **June 6, June 20, July 18, August 1, August 15, and August 29**, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Regular weekday hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.)

Reminder on StampStore Posting Fees Change

Effective July 1, 2009 the posting fees for items submitted to StampStore will be ten cents per item. This is the first change in the posting fees since StampStore was established in 2000. Rather than have fees change in a convoluted manner we are simplifying them to ten cents per item, regardless of the item value or number of items submitted in one shipment.

How I Got Into Collecting

This is how Gary Weiss got his start in stamp collecting:

In the late 1960s–early 70s, when I was in my late teens and early 20s, a family friend constantly tried to ease me into stamp collecting. I constantly but politely refused, citing my all-abiding interest in coins. Then, in 1972, I traveled to what was then Yugoslavia and discovered several generations of cousins (my maternal grandparents were Croatian). Somewhat immediately, I was sparked with an interest in all things Croatian. This included, of course, the philately of Croatia and Yugoslavia. This, in turn, led to various levels of involvement with stamp collecting: forming of collections, including both stamps and covers (correspondence with my cousins were prime inclusions!); APS and Croatian Philatelic Society memberships; a few years' worth of articles written for various philatelic publications; appreciative attendance at every local stamp show; etc. My philatelic activities have declined a bit during the last few years, with my late-in-life marriage and its concomitant, time-consuming pressures. But I still have the bulk of my collection(s) (minus some material sold on eBay), and I hope to delve back into the field some inde-

fineable day in the future. With all the ups and downs of my involvement, though, I'm still enriched by the stamp hobby, and periodically I think to myself, 'Thank you, Carl, for introducing me to stamps!'

'5 For 10' Categories (Needs)

We need U.S. items — except U.S. First Day Covers, U.S. Mint post-1950, U.S. Used post-1950 and U.S. Plate Blocks post-1950. You can earn coupons for free blank books and mounts for every 10 completed books containing material from a set list of categories. (*Each group of 10 or more qualifying books must be received at the same time and at least a value of \$50 per book. é coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving.*) Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Details are sent with blank sales book orders. You also may visit www.stamps.org and click Sales Division and How to Sell. [NOTE: Single-country books usually have better sales.] Below are categories that are in



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Stamp Classes

The APS Education Department often is contacted by members who wish to share their enjoyment of the hobby with newcomers, but would like some assistance preparing a program. To meet this need, we have created *Stamp Collecting Fun*, a slide show available on the Education page of the APS website. It can be used to teach the basics of the hobby to adults, children, and Scouts and includes notes for the instructor.

Virtual StampCampus

The *Basic Stamp Collecting* course on the virtual StampCampus is being offered online for four weeks beginning September 21. Instructor and *American Philatelist* "Back to Basics" columnist Ada Prill will provide information and instruction on the fundamentals of the hobby. Newcomers to the hobby or collectors in need of a refresher will value the lessons on stamp history, ways to collect, and how best to preserve and store your collection.

A second StampCampus course, the ever popular *Keys to Exhibiting*, will return this fall, beginning September 21 and ending by Thanksgiving. APS Instructor and Judge, Janet Klug offers this six-lesson course over a period of ten weeks. Since this is a project-based course, students should expect to spend several hours per week completing their assignments. While not a prerequisite, having ample material to create an exhibit is important in order to receive the full value of the instruction offered. Students

will not have the time to acquire the necessary material while taking the course and preparing an exhibit. Participants will find having a basic working knowledge of word processing software is useful in completion of this course. Beginning exhibitors are welcome.

Register for StampCampus courses online at www.stamps.org or by calling 814-933-3803.

STAMP SHOW 2009

At APS STAMP SHOW in Pittsburgh, the Education Department is organizing several events and opportunities for young and old. On Friday, August 7, the author of the *Owney the Dog* books, Dirk Wales, will read from his picture books for children. Join us in the USPS Kid Zone at 10 a.m. for a reading from Wales' *Adventures of a Lucky Dog* and from his latest book, *the Further Adventures of a Lucky Dog*. Wales will be happy to sign books after the readings.

The adult beginner class, *Stamp Saturday*, will be offered August 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is available online or at the STAMP SHOW registration booth. The cost is \$15 for APS members and \$20 for nonmembers. *Stamp Saturday* is a rare opportunity to learn about stamp collecting from friendly, helpful stamp experts and fellow collectors. Discover where to find stamps, how to safely store and handle your collection,

how to soak, how to use a stamp catalogue, tricks for identifying stamps, and much more. Participants receive stamp tongs, a magnifier, helpful handouts and brochures, a selection of worldwide stamps and covers, personal attention and answers to questions, and — best of all — the opportunity to start acquiring stamps for your collection right away!

Boy Scouts in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area will have the unique opportunity of taking the *Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Workshop* on either Friday or Saturday, August 7 or 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scouts will complete the work necessary to obtain their badge, as well as receiving tools to enhance their enjoyment of the stamp hobby. The cost is \$15 and preregistration is required. The deadline to register is Monday, July 27.

Teachers in public, private, or home schools can attend a *Stamps in the Classroom* workshop Thursday, August 6, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Today's teachers need standards-based lessons that meet the needs of all their learners, using hands-on methods. This workshop will assist teachers in recognizing



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how stamps can be useful tools for students to enjoy education while mastering those standards. The cost is \$10 and participants will receive basic collecting tools, along with stamps and lesson plans to help them begin when they return to the classroom. Register online at www.stamps.org or by calling 814-933-3803.

Young Stamp Collectors of America members will gather at STAMPSHOW on Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m. Newcomers under age 18 are always welcome!

The inaugural class of the **Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship** also will be introduced to APS members at STAMPSHOW. The vision of the YPLF is to allow youth who have already shown an interest in stamp collecting to experience an enriching and dynamic experience with a specific aspect of the hobby. This program is available thanks to the generosity of APS members who are eager to see our hobby grow for future generations.

Short Courses

Join us at the APS Headquarters in Bellefonte immediately following APS STAMPSHOW 2009 in Pittsburgh for your choice of two courses to be held August 10-11:

Fakes and Forgeries, with Bill Dixon

of APS Circuit Sales, will provide you with the knowledge to identify questionable material, primarily non-U.S., more successfully. The first day will cover the history of these relatively low-priced forgeries; the rudimentary tools of the trade for spotting fakes and forgeries; a short list of helpful reference works; how to use the library to build your reference clipping file; and techniques for examining an item to determine its authenticity. Day two will be hands-on with several hundred of the more common fakes and forgeries that you may find in lots offered for sale.

Collecting the Expos, with Ken Lawrence, will cover some of the most popular and attractive U.S. postage stamps that have been issued specifically to promote and commemorate world's fairs. Included will be stamped envelopes for the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition at Philadelphia, stamps and envelopes for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition at Chicago, stamps for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha, and twentieth- and twenty-first-century fairs since the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Students will learn how specialists gather expo material into great collections that can be treasured and displayed with pride.

The cost for either course is \$149 for APS members and \$249 for non-members, including lunch both days and Monday dinner. Enroll by July 20 and receive a \$15 discount!

The *Exhibiting for the Prize* course, taught by APS Judge Rich Drews, will be offered October 7-8, prior to SESCAL in Los Angeles, California. Students will learn how judging is carried out in all the various exhibiting divisions. They will discover what considerations — including treatment, succinctly conveying knowledge and research, and difficulty of acquisition — are likely to affect award levels, and will gain insights into what is in the mind of judges as they make their decisions. Students will learn what separates Silver and Vermeil Awards from Gold, and what it takes to reach the sought-after Grand Award level. Exhibitors will be encouraged to bring their exhibits for assistance and comparison with a wide range of successful exhibits in all disciplines.

The course is \$195 for APS members and \$295 for nonmembers. A \$15 discount is available until September 16.

Register for these courses online at www.stamps.org or by calling 814-933-3803.

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show time

To obtain a listing in this section, submit a "Show Time" form, available online at www.stamps.org or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time. Listings are free to shows sponsored by APS chapters and affiliates. Shows that do not include exhibits are identified with *B*. Grand award winners from *WSP* shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition.

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

Virginia **June 5-7**
NAPEX, National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean. Contact Thomas Lera, frontier2@erols.com; www.napex.org; 703-205-0600. *WSP*

New Jersey **June 6**
Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse,

Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun>; 856-667-3168.

Alabama **June 6-7**
HUNTSPEX, Huntsville Philatelic Club, Tom Vevill Conference Center University of Alabama, Huntsville 550 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville. Contact Heinrich Hahn, hhahn@bellsouth.net; http://www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html; 256-536-7785.

Canada **June 12-14**
Royal 2009 Royale, St. Catharines Stamp Club & RPSC, Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines, Ont. Contact Stuart Keeley, stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca; www.royal2009.ca; 905-227-9251.

Ohio **June 12-14**
National Topical Stamp Show, American Topical Association, Dayton Convention Center, 33 East Fifth Street, Dayton. Contact Robert J. Mather, burrobob@wi.rr.com; www.americantopicalassn.org; 262-968-2392. *WSP*

Kentucky **June 21-22**
LOUIPEX 2009, Metro Louisville Stamp Society, St. Leonard's, 440 Zorn Avenue, Louisville. Contact German Dillon, german.dillon@insightbb.com; www.metrolouisvillestampssociety.org

New Jersey **June 27**
Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Lutheran Church

Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun>; 856-667-3168. 502-749-4131.

Connecticut **June 28**
NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; <http://www.NHPS1914.org/>; 203-389-2863. *B*

Ohio **June 28**
Hudson Stamp Bourse, Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 240 Hines Hill Rd. (Near Rt. 8 and Ohio Turnpike), Hudson. Contact David G. Pool, lincolnway@sssnet.com; 330-832-5992. *B*

New York **July 10-12**
Metro Expo New York Stamp Show, Metropolitan Expositions LLC, Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th Street between 9Th & 10th Aves. on 57th St., New York. Contact Elaine Dunn, stampnews@aol.com; www.metroexpocom; 603-424-7556. *B*

Michigan **July 11**
Bay De Noc Stamp and Coin Club Show, Bay De Noc Stamp and Coin Club, Bay De Noc College Cafeteria, 2001 N. Lincoln Ave., Escanaba. Contact Mark Kuehn, triplejump@charter.net; 906-785-2103. *B*

Minnesota **July 17-19**
Minnesota Stamp Expo, Twin City Philatelic Society, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis. Contact Tom Eckers, tome56@earthlink.net; www.stampsmnnesota.com; 763-533-1860. *WSP*



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Nevada**July 25-26**

Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, Nevada Stamp Study Society, National Bowling Stadium, 300 North Center Street, Reno. Contact Harvey Edwards, renostamp@earthlink.net; <http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>; 775-246-4769.

North Carolina**July 25-26**

CHARPEX 2009, Charlotte Philatelic Society, Harris Conference Center, 3216 CPCC Harris Campus Dr. (formerly CPCC West Campus Dr.), Charlotte. Contact Gene Zhiess, ejzhiss@carolina.rr.com; www.charpex.info; 704-563-8110.

Connecticut**July 26**

NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; <http://www.NHPS1914.org/>; 203-389-2863. *B*

Ohio**July 26**

Hudson Stamp Bourse, Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 240 Hines Hill Rd. (near Rt. 8 and Ohio Turnpike), Hudson. Contact David G. Pool, lincolnway@sssn.com; 330-832-5992. *B*

Massachusetts**July 31-August 2**

AMERICOVER, American First Day Cover Society, Holiday Inn, 342 Adams Place, Boxboro. Contact Norm Elrod, nelrod@blomand.net; www.afdc.org; 931-473-6164. *WSP*

New Jersey**August 1**

Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun>; 856-667-3168.

Michigan**August 1-2**

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

Ohio**August 1-2**

CINPEX 09, Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society, Hugh Watson (Greenhills) American Legion Hall, 11100 Winton Road, Cincinnati. Contact Jim Siekermann/Ron Maifeld, jims150320@aol.com; www.freewebs.com/gcps; 513-825-4379/714-759-5580 Cell. *B*

Pennsylvania**August 6-9**

APS STAMP SHOW, American Philatelic Society, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh. Contact Dana Guyer, stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org; 814-933-3803 ext 217; Fax 814-933-6128. *WSP*

Washington**August 8**

Strait Stamp Show, Strait Stamp Society, Sequim Masonic Lodge, South 5th and Pine, Sequim. Contact Cathie Osborne, rickcath@wavecable.com; 360-683-6373.

Pennsylvania**August 10-15**

PSS National Convention, Precancel Stamp Society, Inn at Greentree, Greentree. Contact Robert Bruhn, grturff@yahoo.com; 330-478-0642. *B*

Kansas**August 15-16**

The Wichita Show, Wichita Stamp Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. Contact Ralph Lott, 316-747-2118.

Connecticut**August 23**

NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; <http://www.NHPS1914.org/>; 203-389-2863. *B*

Maryland**September 4-6**

BALPEX, Baltimore Phil. Soc., Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt

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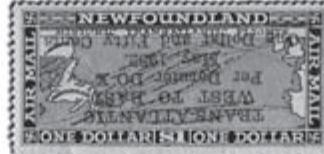
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Valley. Contact Robert E. Gibson, Sr., balpex@verizon.net; www.balpex.org; 410-332-4741. *WSP*

Canada

BNAPEX 2009 SEAWAYPEX, British North America Philatelic Society, Ambassador Conference Resort, 1550 Princess Street, Kingston, Ont. Contact Jerome C. Jarnick, jarnick@wowway.com; www.bnaps.org; 248-689-1966.

New York

Metro Expo New York Stamp Show, Metropolitan Expositions LLC, Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th Street between 9th & 10th Aves. on 57th St., New York. Contact John Dunn, stampnews@verizon.net; www.metro expos.com; 800-635-3351. *B*

Arkansas

32st Annual Stamp & Postcard, Mountain Home Area Stamp Club, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hwy. 62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home. Contact Bill Burdick, whbj@suddenlink.net; 870-425-7799.

Florida

Ocala Stamp Show, General Francis Marion Stamp Club & Florida Stamp Dealers Assoc., Ramada Inn, 3810 NW Bonnie Heath Blvd. (I-75 & US 27), Ocala. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org/www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-6897.

Nebraska

Omaha Stamp Show, Omaha Philatelic Society, Metro Community College-South Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Omaha. Contact Edgar Hicks, edgar@fcstone.com; www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org; 800-228-2316 ext 2506. *WSP*

Pennsylvania

SEPAD.TWO, Metropolitan Expositions LLC &

September 11-13

BNAPEX 2009 SEAWAYPEX, British North America Philatelic Society, Ambassador Conference Resort, 1550 Princess Street, Kingston, Ont. Contact Jerome C. Jarnick, jarnick@wowway.com; www.bnaps.org; 248-689-1966.

September 11-13

Metro Expo New York Stamp Show, Metropolitan Expositions LLC, Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th Street between 9th & 10th Aves. on 57th St., New York. Contact John Dunn, stampnews@verizon.net; www.metro expos.com; 800-635-3351. *B*

September 12-13

32st Annual Stamp & Postcard, Mountain Home Area Stamp Club, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hwy. 62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home. Contact Bill Burdick, whbj@suddenlink.net; 870-425-7799.

September 12-13

Ocala Stamp Show, General Francis Marion Stamp Club & Florida Stamp Dealers Assoc., Ramada Inn, 3810 NW Bonnie Heath Blvd. (I-75 & US 27), Ocala. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org/www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-6897.

September 12-13

Omaha Stamp Show, Omaha Philatelic Society, Metro Community College-South Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Omaha. Contact Edgar Hicks, edgar@fcstone.com; www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org; 800-228-2316 ext 2506. *WSP*

September 18-20

SEPAD.TWO, Metropolitan Expositions LLC &

CASDA, Park Ridge Hotel & Conference Center at Valley Forge, 480 North Gulph Road, Rte 422, I-76, King of Prussia. Contact Elaine Dunn, stampnews@aol.com; www.metro expos.com; 603-424-7556. *B*

Texas

Greater Houston Stamp Show, Houston Philatelic Society, Humble Civic Ctr., 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy., Humble. Contact Denise Stotts, stottsdj@swbell.net; www.houstonphilatelic.org; 281-955-9664.

Nova Scotia

NOVAPEX 09, Nova Scotia Stamp Club, Dartmouth Sportsplex, Dartmouth. Contact John Hall, www.nsstampclub.ca; 902-434-6529.

New York

StampExpo 400, Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, Empire State Plaza, 25 Quackenbush Sq, Albany. Contact Conrad Novick, stampexpo400@nystampclubs.org; http://www.stampexpo400.org/; 518-512-3776.

Wisconsin

MILCOPEX, Milwaukee Phil. Soc. Inc., Mount Mary College Bergstrom Hall, 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee. Contact Carol Schutta, harryncarol@hotmail.com; www.milwaukee philatelic.org; 414-464-6994. *WSP*

Illinois

CUPEX, Champaign-Urbana Stamp Club, Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street, Urbana. Contact Louise B. Toft, louiseb@pubserv.com; www.prairienet.org/cusc/; 217-359-9115.

Connecticut

NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com;

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California

October 2-4

WINEPEX 2009, Redwood Empire Collectors Club, Marin Center Avenue of the Flags, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. Contact Kurt Schau, auctions@harmerschau.com; 707-778-6454.

New Jersey

October 3

Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Luthern Church Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun; 856-667-3168.

Florida

October 3-4

Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo, Tampa Collectors Club, Holiday Inn Express, 4732 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org/www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-6897.

New Jersey

October 3-4

Clifton 2009 Fall Stamp, Cover, and Post Card Show, Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. Contact Thomas Stidl, stidl@verizon.net; www.cliftonnj.org/stamp; 973-471-7872. *B*

Ohio

October 3-4

Cuy-LorPex 2009, Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, Lutheran High School West, 3850 Linden Rd., Rocky River. Contact Ray Simko, ranrsimko@msn.com.

Ohio

October 3-4

STEUPEX, Fort Steuben Stamp Club, Holiday Inn - Steubenville, 1401 University Blvd., Steubenville. Contact Verna Tarr, myernal@comcast.net; 304-797-0046.

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New York**October 8-11**

The 2009 ASDA Fall Postage Stamp Mega-Event, American Stamp Dealers Association, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. Contact Joseph Savarese, asda@erols.com; www.asdaonline.com; 516-759-7000; 516-759-7014.

California**October 9-11**

SESCAL, Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles Airport, 6225 W. Century Blvd. Contact Carl Shaff II, c2shaff@aol.com; www.sescal.org; 213-383-7111.

Illinois**October 10**

Will County Stamp Show, Philatelic Club of Will County & Naperville Area Stamp Club, Messiah Lutheran Church, 19901 S. Houbolt Road (Jefferson-Route 52 & Houbolt), Joliet. Contact Max Zollner, mezollner@comcast.net; http://www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapwillcounty.html; 815-725-7544.

Oklahoma**October 10-11**

Lawton/Fort Sill Annual Stamp Show, Lawton/Fort Sill Stamp Club, Super 8 Motel, 2202 Indian Trail Rd., Lawton. Contact Bernard S. Pawloski, Jr., obiks4@yahoo.com.

Pennsylvania**October 11**

Fall 2009 CAPEX, Capital City Philatelic Society, Linglestown American Legion, 505 N. Mountain Road-I-81 Exit 72, Harrisburg. Contact Linn Kinney, 717-732-7813.

New York**October 16-17**

STEPEX 2009, Elmira Stamp Club, Big Flats American Legion Post, 45 S. Olcott Rd. (I-86, Exit 49), Big Flats. Contact Alan Parsons, alatholleyrd@aol.com; 607-732-0181.

Indiana**October 16-18**

INDYPEX, Indiana Stamp Club, Indianapolis

Marriott East Hotel, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis. Contact John Becker, indypex@indianastampclub.org; http://indianastampclub.org. *WSP*

Delaware**October 17**

58th Annual Stamp Show, Dover Stamp Club, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 425 North DuPont Highway, Dover. Contact Melvin Nace, doverstampclub@aol.com; 302-674-0837.

Pennsylvania**October 17**

GETTYPEX 09, Blue & Gray Stamp Club, Gettysburg Fire Company, 35 North Stratton Street, Gettysburg. Contact Dwight L. Monn, dmmonn@pa.net; 717-624-4864.

Michigan**October 17-18**

MOTOPEX, Motor City Stamp & Cover Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights. Contact Robert Quintero, qover@comcast.net; www.motorcitystampandcover.com; 248-546-0038. *B*

New Mexico**October 17-18**

NewMexPex 2009 Stamp Show, Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho. Contact Paul L. Morton, p.morton@att.net; http://www.newmexicostamps.com/; 505-867-9664.

Connecticut**October 18**

THAMESPEX, Thames Stamp Club, Waterford High School, Rope Ferry Rd., (Rt. 156 & Rt. 1), Waterford. Contact Obie Hill, obiehill@tvccconnect.net; 860-464-0000.

Oklahoma**October 23-24**

OKPEX, Oklahoma City Stamp Club, First Christian Church Gym, 3700 N. Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City. Contact Joe Crosby, joecrosby@cox.net; 405-749-0939. *WSP*

Michigan**October 24-25**

Kent Philatelic Society Stamp Show, Kent Philatelic Society, Aquinas College-Donnelly Center, 1607 Robinson Road, SE at Woodward Lane, Grand Rapids. Contact Ron Mrozinski, oldkentstamps@gmail.com; www.oldkentstamps.com; 616-891-9878.

Connecticut**October 25**

NHPS 14th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; http://www.NHPS1914.org/; 203-389-2863. *B*

Pennsylvania**October 30-November 1**

U.S. Classics 2009, U.S. Philatelic Classic Society, American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte. Contact Wade Saadi, wade@pencom.com; http://www.uspcs.org/2009APS_NPM_USPCS_Meeting.html; 212-513-7777.

Pennsylvania**October 31**

Fall Stamp Expo, Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society, Eugene C. Clark, Jr. Community Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg. Contact Quinn Witherspoon, rspran@pa.net; 717-264-1252. *B*

Florida**October 31-November 1**

Fall Sarasota Stamp Show, Sarasota Philatelic & Venice Stamp Clubs/Florida Stamp Dealers, Sarasota Hotel, 7150 N. Tamiami Trail (Hwy 41), Sarasota. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org/www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-6897. *B*

Indiana**October 31-November 1**

AWPEX 2009, Anthony Wayne Stamp Society, Concordia Lutheran High School, 1601 Saint Joe River Road, Fort Wayne. Contact Jim Mowrer, stamp4@verizon.net; 260-471-2469.

Michigan**October 31-November 1**

AAPEX, Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence



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Bldg., Washtenaw Comm. College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Contact Harry & Dottie Winter, <http://aastampclub.googlepages.com/>.

New Jersey

November 7

Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun>; 856-667-3168.

Pennsylvania

November 7

Annual Reading Stamp Club Show, Reading Stamp Collectors Club, Leesport Farmer's Market-Banquet Hall, State Route 61 in North Leesport. 8 Miles North of Reading, Reading. Contact Kent Weaver, kewsr@prodigy.net; 610-779-0175. *B*

New York

November 7-8

SYRAPEX 2009 - Celebrates the 90th Anniversary of the Syracuse Stamp Club, Syracuse Stamp Club, Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle, 6555 Old Collamer Rd., South, East Syracuse. Contact Michael Ammann, kmarializ@juno.com; [www.syracusestampclub.org](http://syracusestampclub.org); 315-468-3710.

Pennsylvania

November 7-8

PITTPEX 09, Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville. Contact Ron Carr, rgc211215@aol.com; [www.virtualstampclub.com/apschap_psp](http://virtualstampclub.com/apschap_psp); 412-561-6562.

California

November 13-15

Filatelic Fiesta 2009, San Jose Stamp Club, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose. Contact Stephen Schumann, sdsch@earthlink.net; filateliciiesta.org; 510-785-4794. *WSP*

Virginia

November 13-15

VAPEX, Virginia Philatelic Federation, Inc., Lexington George Washington Inn & Conference

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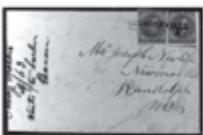


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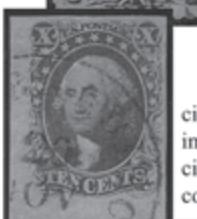


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Center, 500 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg. Contact David B. Collins, rainbowx2@cox.net; <http://vaphilatelic.org>; 757-872-6264. *WSP*

Ohio

Rubber City Stamp Club 90th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse, Rubber City Stamp Club, Akron General Health & Wellness Center, Rt. 18 at Crystal Lake Road, Montrose (Akron). Contact Tom Hirschinger, 330-336-8227.

Illinois

CHICAGOPEX, Chicago Philatelic Society, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights. Contact Kevin Doyle, doyle-stamps@att.net; www.chicagopex.com. *WSP*

New York

Autumn Stamp Festival, Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. Contact George H. Gates, gghg53@aol.com; 716-633-8358. *B*

Connecticut

NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; <http://www.NHPS1914.org/>; 203-389-2863. *B*

California

PENPEX, Sequoia/Peninsula Stamp Clubs, Redwood City Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Contact Kristin Patterson, penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com; www.penpex.org; 408-267-6643.

Florida

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. Contact Francis

Ferguson, show@florexstampshow.com; www.florexstampshow.com; 407-493-0956. Cell. *WSP*

Michigan

FERNPEX, Ferndale Stamp Club, Oak Park Community Center, 14300 Oak Park Blvd. (9 1/2 mile Rd.-West of Coolidge), Oak Park. Contact Fred Como, Jr., 313-527-2059.

New Jersey

Merchantville Stamp Club Saturday Bourse, Merchantville Stamp Club, Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 5600 North Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.), Pennsauken. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun; 856-667-3168.

Connecticut

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Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com; http://www.NHPS1914.org/; 203-389-2863. *B*

2010

Ohio

COLOPEX, Columbus Phil. Club, Makoy Center, 5462 Center Street, Hilliard. Contact Chuck Wooster, cwooster@aol.com; http://www.colopex.com. *WSP*

Arizona

ARIPEX, Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa. Contact Bill Chesser, mchesser@availe.com; www.aripexonline.com; 602-956-3497; 480-967-4827. *WSP*

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California

February 19-21

APS AmeriStamp Expo, American Philatelic Society, Riverside Convention Center, Riverside. Contact Dana Guyer, stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org; 814-933-3803 ext 217; Fax 814-933-6128.

Missouri

February 26-28

St. Louis Stamp Expo, Area Clubs, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. Contact David Kols, expo@regencystamps.com; www.stlstampexpo.org; 800-782-0066; Fax 314-361-5677. *WSP*

Florida

February 27-28

BAYPEX 2010, Florida Stamp Dealers Association & Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue, N., Largo. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org/www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-6897.

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Ohio**March 6-7**

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

Wisconsin**March 6-7**

Stampfest 2010, Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1414 S. 92nd Street, West Allis. Contact Carol Schutta, harryncarol@hotmail.com; www.milwaukeephilatelic.org; 414-464-6994. *B*

Ohio**March 19-21**

Garfield-Perry March Party, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Masonic Auditorium, 36th & Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Contact Roger Rhoads, rrrhoads@aol.com; www.garfieldperry.org. *WSP*

Pennsylvania**April 9-11**

Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Contact Steve Washburne, pnse@att.net; http://home.att.net/~pnse/; 215-843-2106. *WSP*

New York**April 15-18**

Spring Postage Stamp Mega-Event, American Stamp Dealers Assn., APS & USPS, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. Contact Matthew Hansen, mvhansen@asdaonline.com; www.asdaonline.com; 516-759-7000; Fax 516-759-7014. *WSP*

Texas**April 16-18**

TEXPEX, Southwest Phil. Foundation, Doubletree Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria, 4099 Valley View Lane (LBJ Freeway at Midway Rd.), Dallas. Contact Tom Koch, tkoch@utdallas.edu; http://www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.htm; 972-883-4951; 972-883-2473. *WSP*

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California	April 23-25	Lera, frontier2@erols.com; www.napex.org; 703-205-0600. *WSP*
WESTPEX, Western Phil. Exhibitions, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. Contact Edward Jarvis, ejarvis@westpex.com; www.westpex.com; 415-387-1016. *WSP*		
Massachusetts	April 30-May 2	Philatelic Show, Northeastern Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn, Boxborough. Contact Jeff Shapiro, dirtyoldcovers@aol.com. *WSP*
Colorado	May 14-16	Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX), Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc., Holiday Inn - Denver International Airport, John Q. Hammonds Trade Center, Chambers Rd & I-70, Denver. Contact Ronald Hill, rmss@rockymountainstampshow.com; www.rockymountainstampshow.com; 303-241-5409. *WSP*
New York	May 14-16	ROPEX, Rochester Phil. Assoc., ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd., Rochester. Contact Dave Robinson, stampmf@frontiernet.net; http://www.pastamps.org/ropex.html; 585-266-2524. *WSP*
New Jersey	May 28-30	NOJEX, North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc., Crown Plaza, Meadowlands, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus. Contact Robert G. Rose, rose@phks.com; www.nojex.org; 973-966-8070. *WSP*
Virginia	June 4-6	NAPEX, National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean. Contact Thomas
Illinois	June 25-27	National Topical Stamp Show, American Topical Association, Crowne Plaza Denver Airport, 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver. Contact Robert J. Mather, burrobob@wi.rr.com; www.americantopicalassn.org; 262-968-2392. *WSP*
Illinois	August 6-8	AMERICOVER, American First Day Cover Society, Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook. Contact Norm Elrod, showinfo@afdcos.org; www.afdcos.org; 931-473-6164. *WSP*
Ohio	August 7-8	CINPEX 10, Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society, Hugh Watson (Greenhills) American Legion Hall, 11100 Winton Road, Cincinnati. Contact Jim Siekermann/Ron Maifeld, jims150320@aol.com; www.freewebs.com/gcps; 513-825-4379/714-759-5580 Cell. *B*
Virginia	August 12-15	APS STAMPShow, American Philatelic Society, Richmond Convention Center, Richmond. Contact Dana Guyer, stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org; 814-933-3803 ext 217; Fax 814-933-6128. *WSP*
Wisconsin	September 17-19	MILCOPEX, Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., Mount Mary College Bergstrom Hall, 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee. Contact Carol Schutta, harryncarol@hotmail.com; www.milwaukeephilatelic.org; 414-464-6994. *WSP*
Illinois	October 9-10	CUPEX, Champaign-Urbana Stamp Club, Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street, Urbana. Contact Louise B. Toft, louiseb@pubserv.com; www.prairienet.org/cusc/; 217-359-9115.
New York	October 21-24	The 2010 ASDA Fall Postage Stamp Mega-Event, American Stamp Dealers Association, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. Contact Joseph Savarese, asda@erols.com; www.asdaonline.com; 516-759-7000; 516-759-7014.
Michigan	November 6-7	AAPEX, Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Comm. College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Contact Harry & Dottie Winter, http://aastampclub.googlepages.com/.
California	November 12-14	Filatelic Fiesta 2010, San Jose Stamp Club, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose. Contact Stephen Schumann, sdsch@earthlink.net; filatelicfiesta.org; 510-415-6158. *WSP*
Ohio	November 13-14	Rubber City Stamp Club 91st Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse, Rubber City Stamp Club, Akron General Health & Wellness Center, Rt. 18 at Crystal Lake Road, Montrose (Akron). Contact Tom Hirschinger, 330-336-8227.
Illinois	November 19-21	CHICAGOPEX, Chicago Philatelic Society, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights. Contact John Kevin Doyle, doyle-stamps@att.net; www.chicagopex.com. *WSP*

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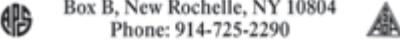
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membership report

No. 4, April 30, 2009



NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during April 2009. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to June 30, 2009, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the September 2009 issue.

Abuelshar, Addi S. (215718) **Lawton, OK** JORDAN; 40
Adelsberger, Alex S. (215721) **Emmitsburg, MD** BANK NOTE ISSUES; 25
Aguilo, Francisco R. (215728) **Caguas, PR** 65; Retired
Allen, Bill (215817) **Lansing, MI** COVERS-CONFEDERATE; 48; Carpenter
Ammon, Kim A. (215818) **Allen Park, MI** Floral Designer
Angert, Mark L. (215672) **Weston, FL** WORLDWIDE; 64; Retired
Asseo, Luis C. (215773) **Hialeah, FL** US COMMEM; 62
Baab, Bill (215800) **Augusta, GA** US REV-SPACE RELATED; 74; Retired
Baker, David P. (215776) **Midlothian, VA** US; 65
Baker, W. B. (215709) **Benton, MS** US-UK-SHEETS-PLATE BLKS; 61; Retired
Ballo, Joseph (215673) **Ellicott City, MD** PRE 1960 GER; 63; Software Engineer
Barnes, Dennis (215730) **Saint Louis, MO** 40
Baum, Jeremy P. (Y-215765) **North Caldwell, NJ** EARLY CANADA & PROVINCES-QUEEN SETS; 17
Bellew, Hilary S. (215686) **Houston, TX** US; 65
Blackmore, Rebecca A. (215766) **Indianapolis, IN**
Bloeser, Jeffrey J. (215755) **Ballwin, MO** 19TH C-WASHINGTON/FRANKLIN-AIR MAIL; 41; Financial Advisor
Bolduc, Paul B. (215810) **Stafford Springs, CT** US; 61; Retired
Borges, Gilbert (215788) **South Dartmouth, MA** US, FDC; 78; Retired
Bowling, Stephanie (215708) **Pikeville, KY** WORLDWIDE-US-FDC; 34; Student
Breskas, Vaidas (215694) **Surrey, England**; 31
Bundy, Joel T. (215789) **Chesapeake, VA** COMMEM; 46; Physician
Burgos, Martha (215726) **Victorville, CA** 29
Cantor, Gary (215813) **Merion Station, PA** US-ISRAEL; 56
Carey, John N. (215801) **West Hartford, CT** US REV-REV STAMPED PAPER ON ENTIRE DOCUMENT; 73; Public Accountant
Caulfield, Josephine A. (215767) **St. Michaels, MD** ECLECTIC; Retired
Conley, Robert L. (215746) **Coorparoo, QLD, Australia** US-ICELAND-AUST STATES; 44; Economist
Cordero, Julio (215756) **Miami, FL** 65; Retired
Cornwall, Richard J. (215671) **Taunton, MA** TOPICALS-FDC-WORLDWIDE; 69
Cuadra, Gilbert (215764) **Gainesville, TX** CENTRAL AM; 54
Dadukian, Willis R. (215751) **Ocala, FL** US; Retired
Davies, Kenneth W. (215807) **Andover, MA** 50; Pension Actuary
Day, Dan (215806) **Concord, NH**
De Plato, Victor P. (215787) **Tonawanda, NY** US; 65; Federal Employee

DeWal, Wayne (215725) **Arlington, TX** DUCK; 61; Cataloger
DiEgidio, John A. (215781) **San Antonio, FL** US SINGLES, PLATE BLKS; 62; Retired
Dodd, Barry L. (215693) **Redondo Beach, CA** US; 63; Manager
Dolata, Warren T. (215743) **North Ridgeville, OH** AIR MAIL-PREXIES-WILDLIFE; 36; Chef
Dombrowski, Richard (215674) **Erie, PA** 75; Retired
Dzwonczyk, John G. (215690) **Avon Lake, OH**
Eads, Howard L. (215700) **Mason, TX** LIGHTHOUSES-WWII-MARTIN LUTHER; 68; Retired
Escobedo, Michael P. (215717) **San Diego, CA** WWII-FRENCH-CARTOONS; 36; Financial Operations
Escover, Jack (215761) **San Jose, CA** US; 68; Teacher
Fairfield, John H. (215797) **Palmer, AK** 62
Fazio, John D. (215697) **Fairport, NY** US, PLATE BLKS; 63; Financial Controller
Fello, Bruce A. (215745) **Pittsburgh, PA** 43; Cook
Fryer, Appleton (215710) **Plainsboro, NJ** US DEFINITIVES-AIR MAIL-DUCKS; 55; Municipal Manager
Gebbie, Ray E. (215685) **Oakland, CA** GER-AUSTRIA; 60; Software Engineer
Getsman, Ronald L. (215747) **Bismarck, ND** US-CANADA-ISRAEL; 62; Retired
Gidron, Yanai (215796) **Karkur, Israel** ISRAEL-GER-SAAR; 55
Gist, Robin (215698) **Pleasanton, CA** PLATES-SHEETS-FDC-UN-SAAR; 44; Engineer
Graves, W. Jody (215731) **Temecula, CA** Realtor
Gulyas, Marge P. (215732) **Waterbury, VT** 58; Management
Gunnarsson, Gylfi (215768) **Delta, BC** DENMARK-US; 68; Retired
Guthrie, Jan (215750) **Conway, AR** 65

Harper, Michael (215733) **Gibbstown, NJ** US, BANKNOTES, CONFEDERATES-AUST, OLD STATES-FDC-MINT SHEETS-1837/1901 QV, CLASSIC QUEENS HEAD; 35; Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Harrell, Barry (215808) **Richardson, TX** WORLDWIDE-WWII-US; Electronics Technician
Harris, Jon C. (215759) **Dallas, TX** 69; USPS Dues Clerk
Hebert, Mary Jeanne (215772) **Grosse Pointe Park, MI** 63; Retired
Hirsch, Tim (215734) **London, England** 53; Director
Hoban, John J. (215735) **San Diego, CA** GENERAL; 77; Retired
Hoffman, Rena P. (215682) **Hendersonville, NC** 62
Holcombe, R. Michael (215736) **Moncks Corner, SC** MINT US & UN; 65; Banker
Hostler, Robert (215711) **Auburn, CA** US; 63; Retired
Imholt, Tim (215712) **Methuen, MA** WORLDWIDE; 37; Research Scientist
James, John E. (215719) **Cupertino, CA** 48; Medical
Jenkins, Delores (215737) **Charleston, SC**; 62; Retired
Joels, Manuel (215782) **Surfside, FL** 46
Judd, Dennis W. (215798) **Puyallup, WA** US-SCOUTING; 52; Route Sales
Kalbfell, Barbara B. (215701) **Naperville, IL** 62; Retired
Kane, Phillip W. (215795) **Herkimer, NY** US; 63; Retired
Kass, Gary A. (215707) **Sandy Hook, CT** US; 57; School Principal
Keizer, Gerrit J. (215752) **Port Coquitlam, BC** CANADA-US-W EUR; 64; Retired
Kenyon, Joseph Clark (215724) **Ambler, PA** US; 44; Artist
Kerrest, Jacques D. (215723) **Palo Alto, CA**; 62
King, Richard W. (215792) **Gibsonia, PA** US; 61; Sales
Klein, Thomas P. (215738) **Evanston, WY** 63; Retired
Koch, Rudy (215748) **Ocean City, MD** MINT US SHEETS; 45; Computer Technician
Kornrich, William J. (215687) **Miller Place, NY** US-WORLDWIDE; 46; Physician
Kramer, Donald W. (215727) **Swanton, MD** PLATE BLKS; 56
Kravitz, Christine M. (215819) **Redford, MI** ICELAND-AUST-SCAND; 39; IT Manager
Kutzke, Henry A. (215815) **Rodeo, CA** 62; Retired
Leistman, Richard (215769) **Whiting, NJ** US-CANADA-WORLDWIDE; 67; Retired
Lesaar, Effamay S. (215739) **Winter Springs, FL** 84; Retired
Liu, Susan P. (215691) **Pasadena, CA** US-CHINA; 61; Attorney
Loungeway, Gloria (215757) **Tallahassee, FL** US-USED UK-XMAS-AVIATION; 37
Lovell, Jonathan B. (215722) **Rhinebeck, NY** 67

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 215409 through 215550 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, Mar. 31, 2009	40,035
New Members	141
Reinstated	27
Expelled.....	4
Deceased	29
Resignations.....	46
Dropped, Non-payment of Dues	3,257
Total Membership, Apr. 30, 2009	36,867

Lowe, Martin D. (215677) **Thomaston, CT** 63; Flooring Specialist
Mack, Robert J. (215716) **Mooresville, NC** US; 72; Retired
McCarthy, Steve (215790) **Oneonta, NY** US SINGLES; 63; Retired
McGann, Albert J. (215763) **Fort Myers, FL** US-UN-RYUKYU; 73; Retired
McKinney, William F. (215740) **Russellville, MO** US-CANADA; 54; Railroad Engineer
Meyer, Ben (215741) **Chattanooga, TN** US-CANADA-RARE-COVERS; Consultant
Mikulka, Michael J. (215770) **Crystal Lake, IL** PRE 1980 US-PRE 1945 FOREIGN; 54
Moliterno, Leland N. (215820) **Flint, MI** US-WORLDWIDE; 59; Carpenter
Moon, Mickey (215742) **Barstow, CA** US-FRANCE-GER; 80; Retired
Moreno, Fidencio D. (215675) **Culver City, CA** REV-CANAL ZONE-CIVIL WAR-AIR MAIL-POSTCARDS; 56; Sales Manager
Morgan, Rhonda R. (215777) **Marshall, MI** GER-PRUSSIA-US HISTORICAL & NEW PRINTS; 39; Housekeeper/Landscaping
Moroski, Linda (215799) **Ashtabula, OH** VINTAGE; 55; Educator
Munroe, Courtland L. (215705) **The Villages, FL** PHYSICIANS; 69; Physician
Nasr, Bassam H. (215676) **Fort Gratiot, MI** US COMMEM-WORLDWIDE; Physician
Nassau, Richard N. (215688) **West Chester, PA** 55
Nelson, Lyle F. (215771) **Fresno, CA** MINT US; 66; Retired
Owings, George W. (215753) **Dunkirk, MD** US; 64; Retired
Packer, Elysa M. (215802) **Kailua Kona, HI** US-WORLDWIDE; 83; Retired
Pando, Lisa A. (215803) **Melbourne, FL** US; 49; Registered Nurse
Peloquin, Nelson C. (215713) **Easton, PA** COVERS, MILITARY, DEAD COUNTRIES & GOVERNMENTS; 64; Retired
Perkins, Charles Brad (215814) **Austin, TX** MINT US; 62; Retired
Phillips, Gerald L. (215775) **Pipestone, MN** GB MACHINS-US USED US PNC SINGLES; 66; Retired
Price, Roderick A. (215696) **Palo Alto, CA** WORLDWIDE; 56
Radaelli, James (215760) **St. Marys, PA** 46
Rademacher, Bruce E. (215692) **Iowa City, IA** SPACE-SCIFI-US COMMEM; 51; Pharmacist
Raezer, Mark E. (215762) **Springdale, AR** US; 44; Client Services Executive
Rensema, Robert H. (215720) **Lebanon, MO** US; 87; Retired
Rios Joels, Carlos L. (215684) **Surfside, FL** 24
Ritchey, David L. (215749) **Katy, TX** US; 48; Lawncare
Rosenbloom, Harry (215804) **Jacksonville, FL** GENERAL; 78; Wine Consultant
Rouda, Davia R. (215809) **Tiburon, CA** 42
Rutigliano, Paul V. (215778) **Tenafly, NJ** US; 70; Treasurer

Sammis, Ronald (215811) **Taylors, SC** EARLY 20TH C US; 81; Retired
Sanders, Teresa (215714) **Northport, AL**
Sandifer, Eddie (215715) **Jackson, MS** US-CANADA; 79; Semi Retired
Scrivami, Arthur J. (215779) **Leonia, NJ** US; 59
Seelye, William D. (215816) **Lincoln, CA** US; 75; Retired
Seminsky, Joseph J. (215683) **Lancaster, OH** US; 62
Shuster, Gerard D. (215794) **Gautier, MS** HARD TO FIND; 70; Retired
Sieling, Mark S. (215821) **Arlington, VA** PRE 1940 MINT US SHEETS; 59; Retired
Sieracki, Marcus T. (215702) **New Richmond, WI** US-CANADA PLATE BLKS-HUNGARY;
Skiffington, Dennis G. (215812) **Peekskill, NY** 39
Slocum, Melonee Lotterhos (S-215805)
Jacksonville, FL DELTIOLOGY-BIRDS-AGRICULTURE; Librarian
Snyder, James R. (215754) **Bossier City, LA** US, REV; 52; USAF
Sparks, Dale (215791) **Cave Creek, AZ** AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY STAMPS; 41
Spetzler, Frank (215729) **Seminole, FL** 64; Retired
Spilker, Jerald (215678) **Cape Carteret, NC** US-ISRAEL; 71; Retired
Stamos, Aristotle (215780) **New York, NY** US-CANADA-VAT-WORLDWIDE; 73; Concierge
Stepleton, James V. (215793) **St. Louis, MO** POSTAL HISTORY (MISSOURI, KANSAS, INDIANA); 62; Attorney
Storz, Leigh (215695) **Roseville, CA** US-GER-AUST; 50; Financial Analyst
Thackeray, Donald (215704) **Gardena, CA** US-WORLDWIDE; 86; Retired
Thomas, April (215679) **Ashland, OR** US-GB-SWISS-FRANCE-WORLDWIDE; 68; Naturalist/Author
Venn, Aaron T. (215785) **Algonquin, IL** MINT CLASSICS; 37
Venn, Heather D. (S-215786) **Algonquin, IL** MINT CLASSICS; 39
Walker, Thomas E. (215784) **Spring Mills, PA** TRANSPORTATION; 54; Semi-Retired
Walker, W. Bradford (215703) **Sugar Land, TX** US; 80; Retired
Waxman, Philip A. (215699) **White Plains, NY** ISRAEL-JEWISH; 50
Weick, Richard H. (215758) **Fort Wayne, IN** 80; Retired
White, Kent (215680) **Lincoln, CA** US-VAT-PRE 1950 WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired
Wiskoff, Marc B. (215783) **Wellington, FL** COMMEM; 61
Wright, Terry D. (215681) **Piqua, OH** SHIP COVERS-INDIA-SPACE-PAINTINGS-ART; 59; Retired
Xavier, Decool (215706) **Boeschepe, France** 36
Yoakum, Nick C. (215689) **San Diego, CA** US; 70; Retired
Zhao, Lei (215774) **EI Monte, CA** 41
Ziebarth, Katrina (215744) **Midland, MI** 40

DECEASED

Adams, W. Randolph, Jr. (111617), St. Louis, MO
Anderson, Eugene R. (077129), Tiburon, CA
Ausmus, Reginald E., III (194685), La Verne, CA
Barker, Samuel H. (7430-052333), Richmond, VA
Booman, Robert A. (7524-052452), Gulf Breeze, FL
Colbert, Edward A. (173389), Timmins, ON, Canada
Coney, Robert S. (148502), Winchester, KY
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Goodwin, James E. (133315), Cottage Grove, OR
Green, Herman L. (209840), Walnuport, PA
Heesche, W. H. (156571), New Braunfels, TX
Kalbfell, Kenneth W. (138738), Naperville, IL
Krejci, James F. (191208), Abilene, TX
Lesaar, John C. (7106-050549), Winter Springs, FL
Lowe, Richard H. (117507), La Marque, TX
Martin, Patrick E. (172940), Fairfax, VA
Mosher, Ernest A. (169097), Topeka, KS
Noble, Charles L. (150867), Ozark, AR
Pierce, William H. (205276), Las Vegas, NV
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Schmidt, William R. (177274), Coventry, CT
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Sumption, Audrey N. (085711), Rosamond, CA
Ultee, A. J. (4667-032825), Waynesboro, VA
Witt, Arthur, Jr. (199940), Columbia, MO

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Browning, Barry T. (208186), 4210 Grand Ave., Deland, FL, for conduct unbefitting a member for failure to account for APS Sales Circuits (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8), and failure to respond to official Society correspondence.
Douglas, Barry L. (128204), 3044 Brughs Mill Road, Fincastle, VA, for conduct unbefitting a member for failure to settle philatelic indebtedness (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8), and failure to respond to official Society correspondence.
Schaem, Stephen B. (211886), 1272 Market St., #214, San Francisco, CA, for conduct unbefitting a member for failure to account for APS Sales Circuits, failure to settle philatelic indebtedness (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8), and failure to respond to official Society correspondence.
Smith, Michael Y. (212500), 5450 Bruce B. Downs, Suite 143, Wesley Chapel, FL, for conduct unbefitting a member for failure to return or pay for books borrowed from the American Philatelic Research Library, failure to account for APS Sales Circuits, failure to settle philatelic indebtedness (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8), and failure to respond to official Society correspondence.

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U.S. new issues



Thanks for the Memory

On May 29, 2009, in San Diego, California, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent Bob Hope commemorative stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20 stamps.

The stamp honors actor Bob Hope (1903–2003), a man who devoted his life to making people laugh. Well-known for his many television appearances, Hope also found success on the live stage, in radio shows, and in motion pictures. He became one of the most honored and beloved performers of the twentieth century.

The stamp portrait by artist Kazuhiko

Sano, Mill Valley, California, is based on an image of Hope from the NBCU Photo Bank. Sano's previous works for the Postal Service include the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stamp in the Literary Arts series (2007) and the Frank Sinatra stamp (2008).

Denomination: 44-cent Commemorative

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Derry Noyes, Washington, DC

Artist: Kazuhiko Sano, Mill Valley, CA

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset,

Microprinting, "USPS"

Printer: Ashton Potter Ltd.,
Williamsville, NY

Press Type: Mueller Martini, A 76

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 21.34x 36.07 mm (image);

24.89 x 39.62 mm (overall); 215.24 x
182.09 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: P followed by 4 single digits

Marginal Markings: Front: Header: "BOB

HOPE — Thanks for the Memory";

Plate block numbers in 2 positions.

Back: ©2008 USPS; USPS logo; Price;

Plate position diagram; Proprietary notice; Biographical text behind each stamp.

Seabiscuit Stamped Envelope

On May 11, 2009, in Kansas City, Missouri, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent, Seabiscuit definitive stamped envelope. The envelope, designed by John Mattos of San Francisco, California, depicts a scene from the exciting 1938 horserace between Seabiscuit and War Admiral. A small unassuming champion, Seabiscuit raised the hopes and spirits of a beleaguered nation during the Great Depression with a series of unlikely victories.

The Seabiscuit stamped envelopes will be available in the following formats:

- #10 regular envelope
- #10 window envelope
- #9 regular envelope
- #9 window envelope
- #6½ regular envelope
- #6½ window envelope

Denomination: 44-cent Stamped Envelope
(a) Format: #10 Regular Envelope

Series: American Scenes

Art Director: Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA
Designer/TypographyArtist: John Mattos, San Francisco, CA

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd., Cheektowaga, NY

Press Type: Halm Industries Inc., EM 4000 & Jet Press Plus

Paper Type: 61# Postal Envelope, Type I, Class I, Block

Adhesive Type: Water-activated

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Green

Envelope Orientation: Horizontal
Sizes (w x h): 241.30 x 104.78 mm



(envelope); 47.63 x 28.58 mm (image)

Marginal Markings: ©USPS 2009;
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE logo; Certified Fiber Sourcing; www.sfiprogram.org; THIS ENVELOPE IS RECYCLABLE AND MADE WITH 30% POST-CONSUMER CONTENT; Recycling logo

(b) Format: #10 Window Envelope

(c) Format: #9 Regular Envelope

Sizes (w x h): 225.43 x 98.43 mm (envelope); 47.63 x 28.58 mm (image)

(d) Format: #9 Window Envelope

(e) Format: #6 3/4 Regular Envelope

Sizes (w x h): 165.1 x 92.08 mm (envelope); 47.63 x 28.58 mm (image)

(f) Format: #6 3/4 Window Envelope

Love: King and Queen of Hearts

On May 8, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent, Love: King and Queen of Hearts definitive stamp with two different designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) convertible booklet of 20 stamps.

In this latest offering in the Love stamps series that began in 1973, the USPS is paying clever tribute to the world's favorite "game" with the issuance of the King and Queen of Hearts, the latest stamps in the Love series. Artist Jeanne Greco, New York, New York, created the art on her computer for the two stamp designs, one showing the King and one showing the Queen, using images from eighteenth-century French playing cards as a reference.

Over the years, the Love stamps have featured a wide variety of designs, including heart motifs, colorful flowers, and the word "LOVE" itself.

Denomination: 44-cent Definitive

Format: Convertible Booklet of 2 (2 designs)

Series: Love

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Designer/Artist: Jeanne Greco, New York, NY

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD



Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Engraver: Keating Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR), Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type I

Adhesive Type: Pressure-Sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black, Green

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 26.67 x 19.56 mm (image); 30.23 x 23.11 mm (overall); 115.57 x 127.0 mm (booklet)

Plate Numbers: V followed by 5 single digits

Marginal Markings: Cover Side: ©2008

USPS; Stamp images; Two different designs; "LOVE"; Twenty 44¢ Self-adhesive Stamps; \$8.80; Barcode (678800); USPS logo; Promotional text; Plate block numbers

The Simpsons

On May 7, 2009, in Los Angeles, California, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent "The Simpsons" stamp, in five designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) convertible booklet of 20 stamps.

With these stamps, the USPS recognizes "The Simpsons," the longest running comedy in the history of American prime-time television, now entering its twentieth year as a regularly scheduled half-hour series "The Simpsons" exploded into a cultural phenomenon and remains one of the most groundbreaking and innovative entertainment franchises throughout the world.

Art Director, Derry Noyes, Washington, DC, was pleased to use original artwork by Matt Groening. Groening, a cartoonist, created the Simpson charac-





ters and named them after his own family: Parents Marge and Homer, Sisters Lisa and Maggie (the baby who conveys emotion by sucking on her pacifier), and Matt's alter ego, Bart.

"The Simpsons" also are available as a 28-cent stamp postal card. The cards have five different designs, each a different member of America's favorite cartoon family: Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie. Each card has the corresponding Simpsons stamp preprinted, so just write a note and drop it in the mail! There also will be four different booklet cover designs, one each of Homer, Marge and Maggie, Lisa, and Bart.

(a) Denomination: 44-cent Commemorative

Format: Convertible Booklet of 20 (5 designs)

Designer/Artist: Matt Groening, Native of Portland, OR

Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC

Typographer: William Clarke, Fox Licensing

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer: Banknote Corporation of America, Inc./SSP, Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical



Sizes (w x h): 19.56 x 26.67 mm (image); 23.11 x 30.23 mm (overall); 115.57 x 127.00 mm (flat booklet)

Plate Numbers: S followed by 5 single digits

Marginal Markings: Stamp Side (In Peel Strip Area): "The Simpsons"; ©2009 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved." Other: Stamp image; Header: "The Simpsons"; TWENTY 44¢ SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS; 5 DIFFERENT DESIGNS \$8.80; ©2009 USPS; Promotional text; Barcode (679000)

(b) Denomination: 28-cent Premium Stamped Postal Card

Format: \$14.95 Stamped Postal Card Booklet of 20 (5 designs)

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Printer: Sterling Sommer Inc., Tonawanda, NY

Finishers: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd., Williamsville, NY

Press Type: Heidelberg, Speedmaster

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III, Block

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Card Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 104.78 x 150.62 mm

(image); 104.78 x 166.50 mm (overall)

Marginal Markings: Cover: Header: "The Simpsons™; 20 PREMIUM STAMPED CARDS \$14.95. Back: Image of stamps and post card; "The Simpsons™; "Embiggen your message with these cromulent stamped cards!"; 20 premium stamped cards featuring the unique characters that have made 'The Simpsons' the longest running comedy in the history of American prime-time television."; Promotional text; USPS logo; Item No. 897700; ©2009 USPS; "The Simpsons™ & ©2009 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved." Other: Image of character; "The Simpsons™; Descriptive text; ©2009 USPS.

Wedding (Rings)

On May 1, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent 1-ounce Wedding (Rings) special stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20 stamps. The new 1-ounce stamp features a photograph of two gold wedding rings resting on a small white pillow; a slender ribbon of white silk unites them. The photograph was taken by Renee Comet of Washington, DC.

Denomination: 44-cent Special (1-ounce)

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Weddings

Designer/Art Director/Typographer:

Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Photographer: Renee Comet, Washington, DC

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprinting, "USPS"

Printer: Banknote Corp. of America/SSP, Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Phosphored Tagged Paper, Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black, Gold





Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 26.16 x 19.05 (image); 30.23 x 23.11 mm (overall); 143.26 x 137.92 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: S followed by 5 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* ©2008 USPS; Price; ".44 x 20 = \$8.80"; Plate numbers in 4 corners of pane; Plate position diagram. *Back:* USPS logo; Barcodes (574100) in 4 corners of pane.

Wedding (Cake)

On May 1, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 61-cent 2-ounce Wedding (Cake) special stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20 stamps (Item 574100). This new 2-ounce stamp features a photograph of a wedding cake taken by Renee Comet of Washington, DC. The photograph depicts a three-tier cake topped with white flowers, their stems and leaves adding a contrast to the cake's creamy white frosting, and is sure to add a touch of beauty and romance to wedding correspondence.

Denomination: 61-cent Special (2-ounce)

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Weddings
Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Photographer: Renee Comet,
Washington, DC

Engraver: Keating Gravure

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type I

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

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

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 19.56 x 26.67 mm (image);

23.11 x 30.23 mm (overall); 139.7 x

146.05 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: V followed by 6 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* ©2008 USPS;
Price; Plate numbers in 4 positions;
Plate position diagram. *Back:* USPS
logo; Barcode (574100) in 2 positions.

U.S. Flag in Various Formats

On May 1, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent, definitive U.S. Flag stamp in one design. This stamp is available in the following formats:

- PSA coil of 3,000.
- PSA coil of 10,000.
- Water-activated gum (WAG) coil of 3,000.

This new stamp depicts a detail of an American flag from a photograph by Rick Barrentine of Duluth, Georgia. The detail, showing a softly folded flag, features most prominently the starry blue field, with red-and-white stripes occupying the remaining space.

Denomination: 44-cent Definitive

(a) Format: Coil of 3,000 (1 design)

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Terrence W. McCaffrey, USPS



Existing Photo: Rick Barrentine,
Duluth, GA

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Engraver: Keating Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.94 mm (overall)

Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black

Plate Numbers: V followed by 4 single digits (every 16th stamp)

On May 8, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 44-cent, U.S. Flag definitive stamp in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive coil of 100.

(b) Format: Coil of 100 (1 design)

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset/
Microprint "USPS"

Engraver: N/A

Printer: Banknote Corp. of America, Inc./
SSP, Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Sizes (w x h): 18.29 x 20.57 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall)

Colors: Red, Blue, Black

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Plate Numbers: S followed by 3 single digits (every 31st stamp)

On June 5, 2009, in McLean, Virginia (NAPEX Stamp Show, no ceremony), the Postal Service will issue a 44-cent, U.S. Flag stamp in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive, booklet of 10.

(c) Format: Booklet of 10 (1 design)

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Engraver: Keating Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall); 44.20 x
165.1 mm (booklet)

Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black

Plate Numbers: V followed by 4 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Stamp Side:* ©2009

USPS; USPS logo; Plate block number in one position. *Cover:* US Flag; Ten self-adhesive 44¢ stamps; \$4.40. *Back Cover:* Promotional text; Barcode (679300) in one position.

Tiffany Lamp Reissued

On April 28, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service reissued a 1-cent, Tiffany Lamp definitive stamp in one design in a water-activated gum (WAG) coil of 10,000 stamps. The stamp was previously issued in the following formats:

- March 1, 2003, water-activated gum (WAG) coil of 3,000.
- March 16, 2007, pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20.
- March 7, 2008, PSA pane of 20.
- June 7, 2008, WAG coil of 3,000.

Denomination: 1-cent Definitive

Format: Coil of 10,000 (1 design)

Designer/Art Director: Derry Noyes,
Washington, DC

Illustrator: Lou Nolan, McLean, VA

Modeler: Donald H. Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer: Banknote Corp. of America, Inc./
Sennett Security Products, Browns
Summitt, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Water-activated

Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black,
Green

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.28 x 20.57 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.43 mm (overall)

Plate Numbers: S followed by 5 single digits (every 14 stamps)



Purple Heart Reissued

On April 28, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service reissued the Purple Heart definitive stamp with a 44-cent denomination. This stamp was previously issued in the following formats:

- 2008, 42-cent pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20.
- 2008, 42-cent water-activated gum sheet of 100 (available only at Stamp Fulfillment Services, Kansas City, MO).
- 2007, 41-cent PSA pane of 20.
- 2006, 39-cent PSA pane of 20.
- 2003, 37-cent PSA pane of 20.

Denomination: 44-cent Definitive

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Designer/Art Director/Typographygrapher:

Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA

Photographer: Ira Wexler, Braddock, MD

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset/
Microprint "USPS"

Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.,
Williamsville, NY

Press Type: Stevens, Vari-size Security
Press

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall); 135.89 x
125.22 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: P followed by 4 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* ©2003 USPS;
Price; Plate numbers; Header: "Purple
Heart The Medal for the Combat
Wounded"; Plate position diagram.
Back: USPS logo; Barcodes (113700) in
4 positions.

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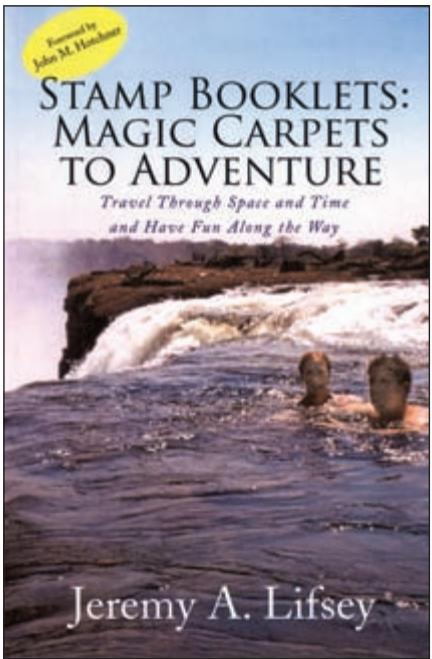
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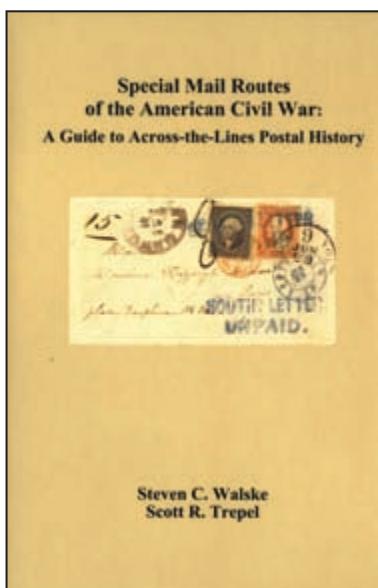
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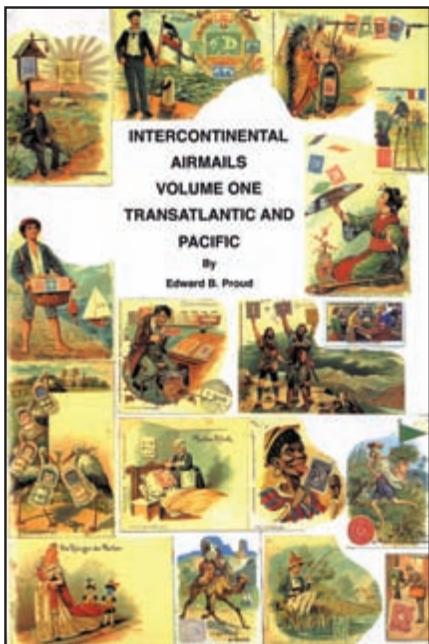
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book reviews

by bonny farmer

Stamp Booklets: Magic Carpets To Adventure, by Jeremy A. Lifsey. Published 2008 by the author. Paperback, 231 pp., b/w illus. ISBN 978-1-4363-5556-8. Available for \$19.99 from Xlibris Corporation: telephone 1-888-795-4274, e-mail Orders@Xlibris.com, website www.Xlibris.com.

The author begins his preface with the words, "This book is mainly for people who love to travel, but can't fly away as often as they would like." The intent of this chatty volume is to excite the reader about the possibilities for exploring the world that can be discovered by collecting stamp booklets — those handy little folders designed for the convenient carrying of postage stamps. The author's contention is that the images and information contained in stamp booklets can be the starting point for exciting armchair travels around the world. The book itself gives detailed and nearly irresistible information on how to get started.

The Introduction takes a brief look at the history of booklets from the first postage stamp booklet issued by Luxembourg in 1895. Chapter 1 gives more details on the varieties to be found. Chapter 2 looks at collecting themes and topics. Chapter 3 offers advice on how to find material. Chapter 4 discusses organizing, mounting, and displaying a collection. Chapter 5 addresses the monetary value of stamp booklets. Chapter 6 goes into more detail about determining how and what you might want to collect. Chapter 7 lists countries that have issued booklets honoring events in other countries. Chapter 8 presents suggestions of things to explore with modern booklets. These short chapters are followed by a bibliography, glossary, and index, plus four appendices listing other useful resources.

Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War: A Guide to Across-the-Lines Postal History, by Steven C. Walske and Scott R. Trepel. Published 2008 by The Confederate Stamp Alliance, Inc. Hardcover, 282 pp., color illus. ISBN 978-0-9818893-0-6. Available for \$65 (ppd) from Tony L. Crumbley, P.O. Box 681447, Charlotte, NC 28216; e-mail tcrumbley2@bellsouth.net, website www.csalliance.org/

Publications.htm. Make checks payable to the CSA.

This volume takes a close look at the special mail routes that were used to exchange letters "between correspondents in the Confederate States of America (CSA) and those across the military lines or frontiers separating the Confederacy from the rest of the world." The introduction further notes that although there is an abundance of new information that would benefit the advanced collector, the book's "primary purpose is to provide background and a framework that can be used by a new collector to build a postal history collection in this area." The framework used for this presentation is an examination of specific mail routes used to transport Confederate mail, which proves to be a very helpful format indeed.

The authors note that "The Civil War began slowly with the peaceful secession of South Carolina from the United States of America" (well, except for that little fort thing that started later that week...). However, even with an increasing number of announcements of secession, many people continued to believe that matters still could be resolved between the Northern and Southern interests. To this end, the United States actually continued to operate the Confederate postal system until May 31, 1861, but the abandonment of traditional postal routes had already begun and a final breakdown of the old system was inevitable as the conflict escalated. The closure of the old routes led to development of "special routes," which the authors have divided into seven categories: Suspension of the USA Post Office Across-the-Lines Route, Private Express Company Routes, Flag-of-Truce Routes, Trans-Mississippi Routes, Blockade Runner Routes, Trans-Rio Grande Routes, and Covert Mail Routes. Each of these special routes has its own chapter. Appendices offer census lists of known covers from the various routes discussed, lists of express offices & agents, lists of prisons in the USA and CSA, and Trans-Atlantic sailing tables.

The text is highlighted by very well-done route maps and wonderful illustrations of covers. Overall, this is fascinating account of the complexity of tracing mail

routes in a time of war, and offers a fine example of postal history as it should be written.

Intercontinental Airmails. Volume One: Transatlantic and Pacific, by Edward B. Proud. Published 2008 by the author. Hardcover, 632 pp, color & b/w illus. ISBN 978-1-872465-85-2. Available from Proud Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8PY, U.K. or for £80 from Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU, U.K.; e-mail vtrinder@aol.com, website www.vtrinder.co.uk

This volume contains lots of information on transatlantic air mail flights, from the pioneer attempts in the 1920s through World War II. Unfortunately, it will take a determined researcher to wade through the accumulation of data to uncover the story. There are fine illustrations and numerous charts and tables, but the overwhelming impression is that the author simply included every single piece of information to which he was privy, without a strong sense of how best to communicate this information to the reader. The index is far too brief to be of much help for a 632-page tome, nor do the individual chapters offer much guidance beyond their titles. Does it contain valuable information? Yes, indeed. But the philatelic researcher had best be prepared to spend some time unearthing the particular bits of interest to him.

Peru: Cancellation Handbook 1858–1873, by Erik A. Emsing. Published 2008 by the author. Hardcover, 120 pp., color illus. ISBN 978-0-615-22945-4. Available for \$85 from Erik Emsing, 17132 Amity Drive, Rockville, MD 20855; e-mail eemsing@verizon.net.

The first book on the postal cancellations of Peru appeared almost fifty years ago, in 1960. *Peru / A Study of the Postal Cancellations on the Issues of 1858 to 1873 / Classification and Quotation*, by Georges Lamy and Jacques-André Rinck, was based primarily on the authors' own collections but included as well information gathered for such eminent philatelists as Maurice Burrus, Major Barrington-Brown, Raymond Salles, and Philip Redknapp, among others. The 180-page work was notable for attempting to classify the considerable variety of can-

cellations, for being in three languages — French, English, and Spanish — and for including several high-quality color plates of covers. The 330 copies printed sold out within three months and work began on a second edition of 235 pages and 430 copies, which appeared in 1964. Ninety-four additional cancellations were included, for a total of 170, along with a German-language version of the text.

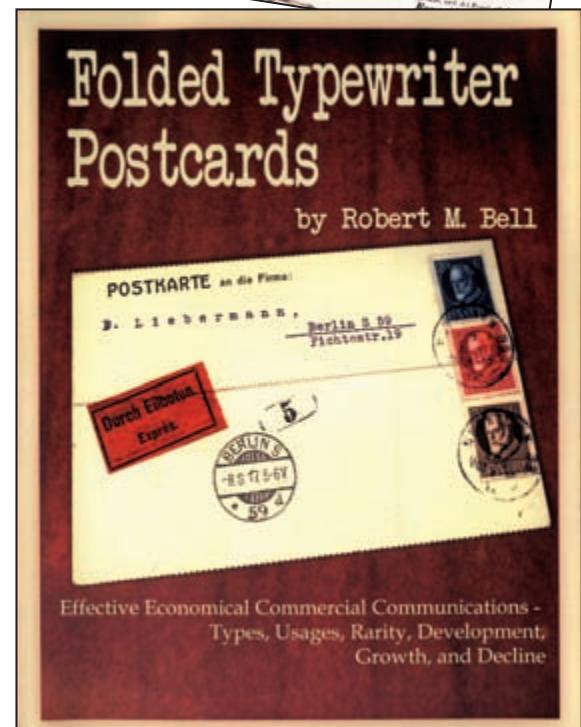
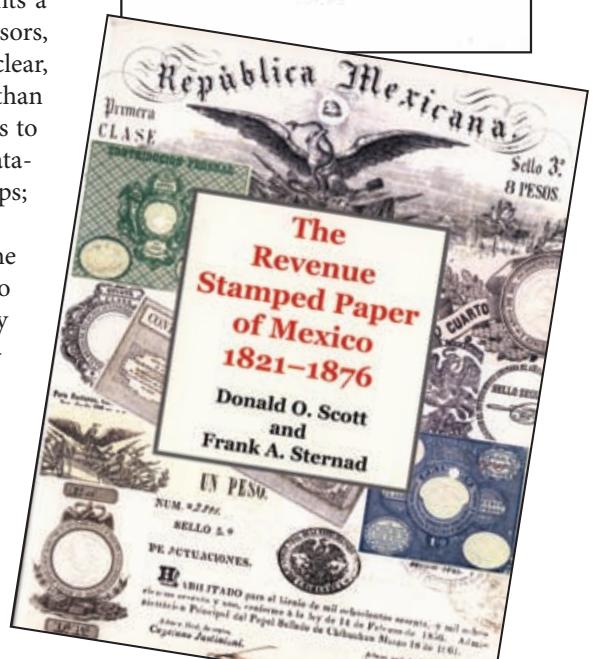
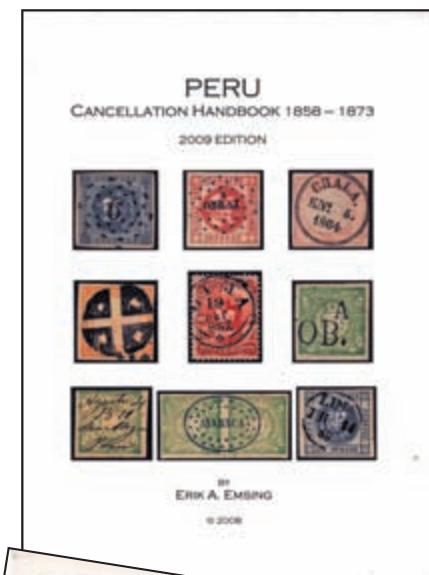
Now, almost forty-five years later, Mr. Emsing offers a compilation of these fascinating cancellations. It must be said that, as a handbook, it does not measure up to the Lamy-Rinck volume. However, as a catalogue, it represents a big improvement over its predecessors, primarily because of the large, clear, and colorful illustrations of more than 250 postal markings and the stamps to which they were applied. This is a catalogue of postal markings on stamps; covers are not included.

The author takes us firmly by the hand on page 5 and tells us "How To Use This Handbook." Step 1: identify the stamp. Step 2: identify the cancel class. Step 3: identify the cancel type. Step 4: identify the value. After a quick tour of the stamp issues, currency, postal rates, post offices, and other postal facilities, we get down to business on page 27, with the cancel class identifier, followed by cancel illustrations, and the cancellation price guide. The prices are in Euros.

The next edition would benefit from a map of the postal districts.

— Bill Welch

The Revenue Stamped Papers of Mexico 1821–1876. An Illustrated Catalog and History of Renta Papel Sellado in Post-Independence Mexico, by Donald O. Scott and Frank A. Sternad. Published 2007 by the authors. Paperback, xvi+351 pp. b/w illus. Available for \$50 (ppd within the U.S.) from Frank Sternad, P.O. Box 560, Fulton, CA 95439; e-mail fsternad@sonic.



net; payment by check, money order, PayPal.

Few of philately's byways offer so many rewards and challenges as the revenue stamped paper — *papel sellado* — of Latin America. First introduced in the Spanish Colonies in 1640 to help raise money for the endless wars of Philip IV, *papel sellado* continues to be used in some Latin American countries to the present day. In order for deeds, contracts, leases, court rulings, wills, and the like to be valid, they had to be written on this government-issued revenue stamped paper, which was issued in an often-bewildering variety of classes and amounts, good for varying periods of time and, not infrequently, revalidated for later use. One of the major challenges for collectors of these charming and elusive items has been a lack of catalogues and handbooks for what is a vast field; material is scarce and the classes, values, and uses are complex.

The Scott-Sternad catalogue, which represents three decades of collecting

and research, is an excellent piece of work and a welcome addition to the handful of guides to *papel sellado*. While most of the catalogue is a detailed guide to Mexico's *papel* for the fifty-five years following independence, including printing, paper and watermarks, a wide-ranging introduction covers the Spanish Colonial era. It will be of interest to anyone seeking to understand the place of *papel sellado* in Latin America's history. — Bill Welch

Folded Typewriter Postcards, by Robert M. Bell. Published 2008 by the author. Softbound, 123 pp., color illus. ISBN 978-1-60585-857-9. Available for \$35 plus shipping and handling from Robert M. Bell, P.O. Box 3668, West Sedona, AZ 86340; e-mail rmsbell@esedona.net.

Here is the tale of a special type of twentieth-century commercial mail — a clever postal form that let small-office secretaries type both address and short message on a single side, then fold, seal it to show the address, and send it on

its way, usually at a rate lower than that of any letter. These efficient, economical cards flourished in Europe from the 1930s to the 1970s, and made inroads in the Middle East and Africa, but never quite caught on elsewhere. By the mid-1980s they were all but gone, though many may still be found in postal history stocks, often appealingly priced.

The author, a retired physician, describes how these cost-effective little cards worked, and documents their production, patents, trademarks, types, special uses, rates and postal markings, with forty-nine full-size color illustrations enhancing the 124-page large-format softcover text. Occasionally the tables and the details seem to get in the way of the story itself (details that include more than most collectors care to know about non-postal small-business filing foibles). But Bell's book is testimony to what dogged inquiry can accomplish with an affordable and previously overlooked aspect of postal history. — Fred Baumann

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Republic of Serbia (*Republika Srbija*)

Status: Republic in the central Balkans between Romania and Bosnia Herzegovina

Capital: Belgrade

Population: 7,379,339 (2009 est)

Area: 29,905 sq miles

Currency: 100 Dinar = US\$1.39



Serbs moved into the central Balkans in the middle of the seventh century, settling along the borders of a declining Byzantine Empire. For more than 500 years internecine fighting and strong neighbors prevented them from unifying. Beginning in the twelfth century, however, national leaders emerged and the Serb kingdom grew to meet the threat of an expanding Ottoman Empire. The Turkish victory at Kosovo in 1389 — a momentous event in Serbian history — brought four centuries of Turkish control to an end. The nineteenth century saw the Serbs gain greater self-government as Ottoman power receded — although the path to independence was an uneven and often bloody one. In 1878 the European powers formally recognized Serbia's complete independence.

Although courier services existed earlier, the first public mail service was inaugurated May 6, 1840, coincidentally the day that the Penny Black appeared in Great Britain. The first Serbian stamps appeared in 1866. The assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince by a Serbian nationalist ignited World War I. The Central powers overran Serbia, and the Serbian government in exile was set up on the Greek island of Corfu, remaining there until the end of the war. Serbian official mail from Corfu did not require postage stamps. Unofficial mail used French stamps, although a few covers are known with Serbian stamps. Austrian stamps overprinted *Serbien* were used in Serbia itself.

In the chaotic months following World War I, Slavic-speaking regions of the disintegrating Hapsburg Empire were brought together — some reluctantly — into the Serb-led Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Serbian stamps remained valid until April, 1921, when they were superseded by those of the new kingdom. In 1929 the country changed its name to Yugoslavia.

In April 1941, Germany and its allies dismembered Yugoslavia, and Serbia became a separate state under German military occupation. Yugoslav stamps overprinted *Serbien* were initially used. Later, special stamps inscribed in Cyrillic were issued. After the Second World War, Josip Broz Tito, an independent-minded communist partisan turned Yugoslavia into a federated republic of six states, although Serbia retained its preeminence.

With Tito's death, however, nationalist rivalries reemerged. Slobodan Milošević, an ultra-nationalist Serb, who became president in 1989, brought these tensions to a head, causing the states to declare their independence. Milošević's efforts to hold the Serb-led Yugoslavia together caused an atrocious civil war. Serbia abandoned its claims to be the Yugoslav successor state and, beginning in 2003, its stamps were inscribed "Serbia and Montenegro," despite the fact that both regions effectively had their own stamps. In 2006 Montenegro voted for independence. Soon after that, stamps were issued bearing only that name.



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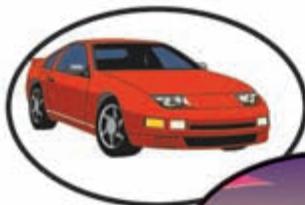
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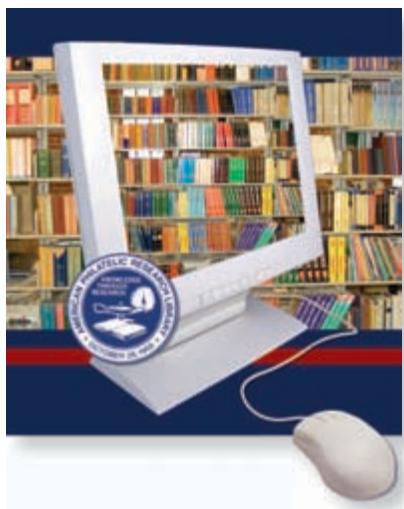
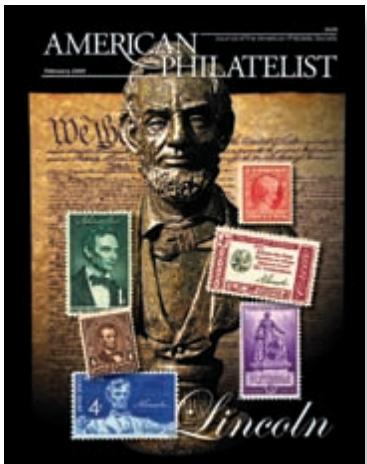
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