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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

August 2008



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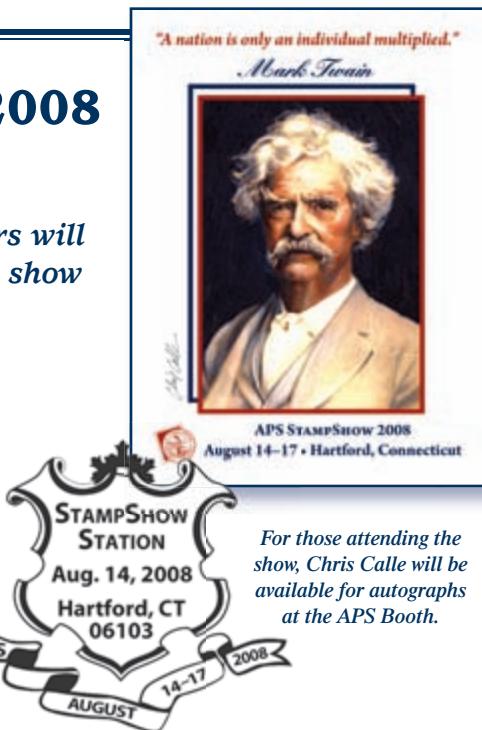
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table of contents

August 2008 • Volume 122 • No. 8 • Whole No. 1,291

730 Zeppelin Posts at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair: Integrating Philately & History

by Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz A classic example of placing a stamp issue in its philatonical, social, and cultural context.



Page 730

736 Robert E. Levy and the Film Industry

by Richard Adler Part of the history of the early years of the American motion picture industry preserved in correspondence and remembered on stamps.



Page 736

742 Mineral Wells, Texas — Held for Postage

by Charles A. Fricke Incorrectly assessed postage can add to a postcard's postal history.



Page 746

746 America's Loneliest Islands

by Steve Pendleton Even the tiniest, most desolate Pacific islet can surprise us with a postal history.



Page 720

Featured Columns

720 Collecting Coast to Coast — Wayne

Youngblood Special Covers Mark Special and Not-So-Special Events — Cacheted covers can mark a special memory for an individual, an organization, or a nation.

726 Back-of-the-Book — David Straight

Taxing Philatelists: When Semi-Postals Are Not Enough — When the fee on semipostal stamps didn't raise enough money for famine relief, Russia began to tax the export of Russian stamps.

792 Worldwide in a Nutshell — Bob Lamb

The Grenadines of St. Vincent — Individual island stamps from this chain of volcanic islands are considered "philatelic" and so not valid for postage.

APS News

Advertisers Online	783
APS Snapshot	700
Blount Symposium 2008	734
Book Reviews	789
Classifieds	780
From the Executive Director	759
In the Know: Summertime Reading	768
Index of Advertisers	774
June at the APC	762
Letters to the Editor	704
Luff Awardees: Clark, Luft & McCann	752
Membership Report	778
Mueller Awardees: Berlin & Milgram	702
President's Column	755
Sales Talk	766
Show Time	770
U.S. New Issues	784

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The Premier Philatelic Magazine in the Nation

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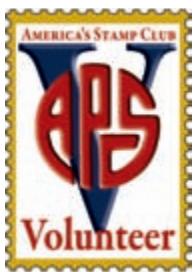
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APS Salutes Volunteers



In a long overdue salute to the backbone of organized philately, the APS will recognize those hard-working individuals who contribute their talents, time, and energies to benefit stamp collecting and the Society with the newly established APS Volunteer Recognition Awards. This year's awards will be presented at the General Membership Meeting at StampShow in Hartford, Connecticut — August 16 at 9 a.m. Each recipient will receive a pin, certificate of appreciation, and many thanks for a job well done.

There are four categories for the awards:

- **National Promotion/Service** — Maximum of five recipients per year
- **Local Promotion/Service** — Maximum of ten recipients per year
- **Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist** (Ages 25–40) — One recipient per year
- **Outstanding Young Philatelist** (Ages 15–24) — One recipient per year

According to Dictionary.com, “a volunteer is a person who willingly offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking and without pay.” Volunteers are the main ingredient in the recipe for a healthy future for the hobby.

The APS is proud to announce the first APS Volunteer Recognition Award recipients:

2008 National Promotion/Service Winners

- R. Tim Bartshe (Colorado)
- John Kevin Doyle (Illinois)
- Thomas M. Fortunato (New York)
- David A. Kent (Connecticut)
- Foster E. Miller (Maryland)

2008 Local Promotion/Service Winners

- Donald La Berteaux (Georgia)
- Edward H. Jarvis (California)
- Linda L. Lawrence (Kentucky)

- Leonard Lukens (Oregon)
- G. Scott Ward (Missouri)
- Dorothy (Dottie) Winter (Michigan)
- Harry C. Winter (Michigan)

2008 Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist

- Jay Bigalke (Ohio)

2008 Outstanding Young Philatelist

- Joyce V. Adams (Indiana)

Congratulations and thank you to all of the winners of the inaugural Volunteer Recognition Awards. The hobby would not be same without your blood, sweat, and tears!

Do you know a deserving volunteer? April 1, 2009, is the deadline for nominations for next year's awards, which will be presented at StampShow 2009 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 8. A nomination form is available online at www.stamps.org/almanac/VolunteerForm.pdf, or by calling 814-933-3803.

Eligibility requirements are:

- Five or more years of service (three years for the Outstanding Young Philatelist).
- APS and APRL board members and staff are not eligible.
- Luff Award winners are not eligible.
- National Promotion/Service Award winners may not subsequently win the Local/Promotion Service Award.
- Each award may only be won once.
- APS membership is not required.

When nominating a volunteer, please include years of service to philately, positions or offices held with local clubs or specialty organizations, mentoring, and shows. To make your nominee stand out, please cite evidence of excellence, initiative, and creativity.

Send your nominations to APS Awards Nominations, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823, by fax to 814-933-6128, or by e-mail to apsinfo@stamps.org.

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Berlin & Milgram Receive 2008 Mueller Award

The first annual United States Stamp Society–Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article published in a single year of *The American Philatelist* has been awarded to co-authors **Steven J. Berlin** and **James W. Milgram** for their engaging and colorful piece, “Early Mail Robberies in the United States,” which appeared in the November 2007 AP. Dr. Steven J. Berlin is a podiatrist who has been a stamp collector for more than fifty years. He now has a major interest in interrupted and disaster mail. Dr. James W. Milgram is an orthopaedic surgeon who has collected covers and letters since high school. He has a wide range of interests in U.S. postal history, including Civil War patriotic stationery and trans-continental mail.

At the winter APS AmeriStamp Expo in Riverside, California, the American Philatelic Society proposed establishing an annual award for the best article published each year in *The American Philatelist*. The newly established United States Stamp Society–Barbara R. Mueller Award consists of a \$1,000 cash stipend and recognition on a permanent plaque to be displayed in the editorial office of *The American Philatelist*. This year’s winners will be honored in a ceremony at StampShow 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut.

Barbara R. Mueller is one of the United States Stamp Society’s most prominent members, chairing committees including the Postal History and Markings Committee and the Essays-Proof Committee, editing *The United States Specialist* 1972–1977, and contributing prolifically to that journal over six decades. She has previously been honored by induction to the USSS Hall of Fame and the APS Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame, and is a recipient of the APS John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

Tracing its roots back to 1926, the United States Stamp Society, the nation’s preeminent organization devoted to the study of U.S. stamps, is a non-profit, volunteer-run association of collectors to promote the study of classic and modern postage and revenue stamped paper produced for use in the United States and U.S. administered areas. It is Affiliate No. 150 of the APS. To learn more about the USSS, visit www.usstamp.org.



The 2008 USSS-Barbara R. Mueller Award-winning article will be featured online throughout the month of August at www.stamps.org

Watch the AP early next year for information on voting for the 2008 recipient.

THE 1898 IMPERFORATES FROM THE NUMERAL ISSUE

Special Offer #A222

In the auction of the Archives of the American Bank Note Company in New York in 1990 was a treasure-trove of items for the collector of Canadian stamps. It is well known that many of the issues were represented in proof form. These were normally done in full sheets printed on India paper that was often mounted on card.

What is not generally known however is that one of these auctions lots contained a few sheets of imperforate stamps! This was the lot comprising the 1898 Numeral Issue. A small number of sheets in that lot were found to be printed on stamp paper! It was the only such lot in the entire auction. Only six values of the set were found in this form. I was fortunate lately to purchase a lot containing some of these rare Numeral imperforates, probably because they were not recognized for their true worth. The price was right, as they say, and a deal was quickly struck.

In this offer you will find imperforate pairs of the half cent, one cent, two cent, five cent, eight cent and ten cent values. The two cent value is the rare die II. The complete set of six pairs is in choice very fine condition and unguammed as printed. Current list price for the set is \$6,450.00. My price is just \$3,795.00. Payment terms are available if required.



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letters to the editor

Selling on StampStore

In late 2002 I decided to sell a 30-volume worldwide collection with some excellent material in it. I inquired of several dealers and I sent a list of the best material to one of them. They offered me a price that was a fraction of what I knew the collection was worth, but still I could have sent the whole thing to them and it would have been out of my hands.

This collection had been in the making for thirty years, and I decided to sell it with the same care with which I had formed it. The APS StampStore was relatively new at the time, and I decided to sell it on Stampstore.

By my calculations, I have just sold item no. 5,000; this is from the more than 6,000 items I have submitted over the years (and still am submitting periodically). The total I have netted (not grossed, which is actually 20 percent more) is well over three times what I was offered by the dealer. I will never get back the total amount I put in over all those years, but I am doing extremely well, far better than I ever expected when I envisioned selling that many volumes. The down side is that I have had to copy more than 6,000 sales sheets, prepare the stamps, and mail them to the APS — a lot of blank paper bought, more than a few ink cartridges for the printer, plus

the time spent preparing the stamps. The up side is not only the amount of money I have got back for the stamps but the fact that, when the stamps sold, I did not have to ship them, worry about insurance, or pay mailing costs. The APS does this. I find this trade-off well worth it.

Finally, by preparing sets or pages (my own prepared pages were allowed by StampStore), I found that it was actually a way to say farewell to my collection. I know this sounds soapy, but any one of us in the APS who puts care into forming a collection will know that overseeing its dispersal is a form of closure.

Over all these years, I have worked with one of the most efficient and cooperative people I have ever dealt with in the stamp world — Renee Gardener. She returns my e-mails incredibly quickly and always has the appropriate information on hand. Her work is a tribute to the APS. I salute Renee and her staff for the incredibly hard work they do in the face of difficult financial and staffing pressures.

So, if you have a collection to sell, think about it. If you are willing to prepare the sales sheet, prepare the stamps — including correctly describing them and their condition — and mail them



to StampStore, in the long run you will be very happy with the results. While you can sit at home and sell them on ebay, remember that the shipping and all of the hassles involved with preparation, insurance, and mailing to a huge variety of customers also will be yours. I have found the APS StampStore by far the best way to dispose of my collection, both in terms of ease and financial returns. Stampstore works!

Dan Putnam

New London, Wisconsin

Editor's Note: Be sure to take advantage of the StampStore "Members' Only Special" for August. See page 760.

Thanks!

Thank you for such a wonderful philatelic publication. It's a shame other magazines in the philatelic field of en-

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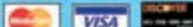
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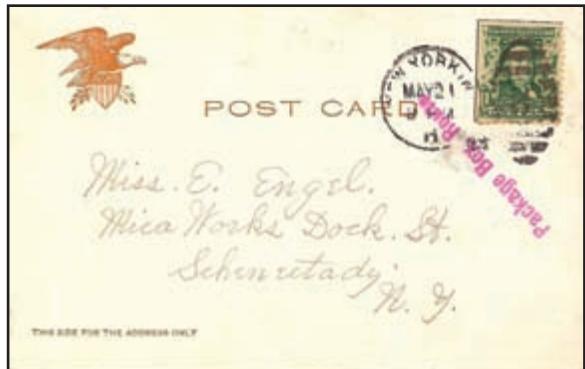


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'Package Box Route'

I have enjoyed reading Wayne Youngblood's articles in *The American Philatelist* for some time now and was particularly interested in "Received in Package Box Collection" (June, page 532). I do babbles in auxiliary

markings and over the years have come across two postcards with such markings. I also wondered what these markings meant and discovered it was the Post Office's polite way of explaining the delay in delivery. Illustrated are scans from my collection. The Metal Die-Hub from New York, 1915 seems to fit well with the geographical area and time frames mentioned in his article. However, the second magenta rubber-stamped marking, while from New York, is dated 1905 and reads, "Package Box Route." I'm wondering if Mr. Youngblood might have any further information on this marking.

Richard Benjamin
Marietta, Georgia

Youngblood replies: Your magenta marking is new to me. It's obviously the same type of thing I wrote about, but one I've not seen. I'm copying Barb Boal on this e-mail and will forward her the image in case she wishes to run it as a letter. Perhaps one of our readers will have more information.

deavor cannot be as good as yours. *Linn's News*, for example, is good for covering new issues, but overall it has not kept up with its storied past.

I have been a member of APS for seven years and I plan to stay with it as long as I can. I'm also a Phillies baseball fan. I first saw a Phillies game in Connie Mack Stadium in spring of 1962 when Roy Sievers played first base, and I was eight years old. I played the game myself as a second baseman and an outfielder. "Moose" Skowron was still kicking around first base at the time!

Thanks again for a wonderful publication!

Francis P. Gannon Jr.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NO Tape!

I feel that I must write in connection with the letter from Verril Stalberg in the June issue of our great magazine "Good Deed Backfires" (page 527).

The writer complains that a friend had "taken him to task" for sending a letter with the stamps fastened on the

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- A central search area for "Encapsulated Our Finest PSE Graded XF95 to GEM100" with a "Did-You-Order: 866-729-5959" phone number.
- A "Value Tracker" section with three postage stamp images.
- A "Price List" section with a "New accepting PayPal" note and logos for VISA, MasterCard, and American Express.
- A "PSE Graded Stamp" section with a "Price List" link.
- A "Population Report" for SC# 433 showing a 10-cent U.S. postage stamp.
- A "Population Report" for SC# 433 showing a 5-cent U.S. postage stamp.

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Thank you so very much for your assistance with my father's stamp collection. Your knowledgeable and quick assessment of the material and generous price paid made a hard time much easier and it was a pleasure spending the day looking through the material with you. It was also wonderful doing business with you, too.

Ginger Monka
Indianapolis, Indiana

Take a moment now and call Dr. Bob.

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STAMPS


envelope by being "scotch-taped" (on the edge).

He is obviously a member and contributor to *The American Philatelist*, so must also be a philatelist or a stamp collector. Therefore he should know that "scotch-tape," along with petroleum base adhesives (glues) and the proverbial coffee cup, should never be in the near vicinity of stamps.

As for tying the stamps to the envelope "on the edge," I must assume he means the white edge where the perforations (of whatever type) are located, not the sheet's elvedge. Perforations, to collectors, are of as much (sometimes more) importance as the design or subject portrayed on the stamp. Water based glues — lick and stick stamps — can be soaked off the cover without too much trouble. Self adhesive stamps can be too, although far more patience is needed. So why not use the adhesive supplied with the stamps?

Now, if he was using mint hinged stamps from an old collection, where the gum had become damaged getting the hinge off, then a water-based glue should

have been used. Scotch-tape — never.

I do agree that the USPS (together with our U.K. P.O.) should consider using water-based gums only. Between them, they are killing used stamp collecting. It's already hard enough to get our youngsters away from electronic games and into a hobby that can teach as well as entertain them.

**Bill Trower, President
American Stamp Club
of Great Britain
Hockley, Essex, U.K.**

Successful Selling

I read with great interest the Letter to the Editor in the June issue by Rev. Donald A. Seeks, "How NOT To Sell a Collection" (page 524), and I think my experience might surprise him.

In my mid-eighties, with no family members interested in my collection, I, too, contacted a reputable dealer, who advised that a representative would come to my home to look at my collection. He arrived as scheduled, looked it over, and he, too, said that the entire collection would have to go back to his

company for estimate of value. He had cartons and taping material in his car, so we packed everything up (about twenty large books), put them in his car — and away he went.

But here is where my story differs. Within forty-eight hours I received a call from the owner of the company, offering me a price. The price was not acceptable to me, so I requested that they return my collection, freight collect, as agreed.

Within forty-eight hours my entire collection was returned, all intact, and freight prepaid! I must share the name of the dealer with you. It was Earl P. Apfelbaum, Inc., of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

My heirs know that, upon my death, they are to contact the Apfelbaum's for disposal of my collection. While we did not agree on the price, you could not find a more ethical dealer.

**Phil Edelstein
Danbury, Connecticut**

Heed Good Advice

When I read the Letter from Rev. Donald A. Seeks in the June AP, I thought



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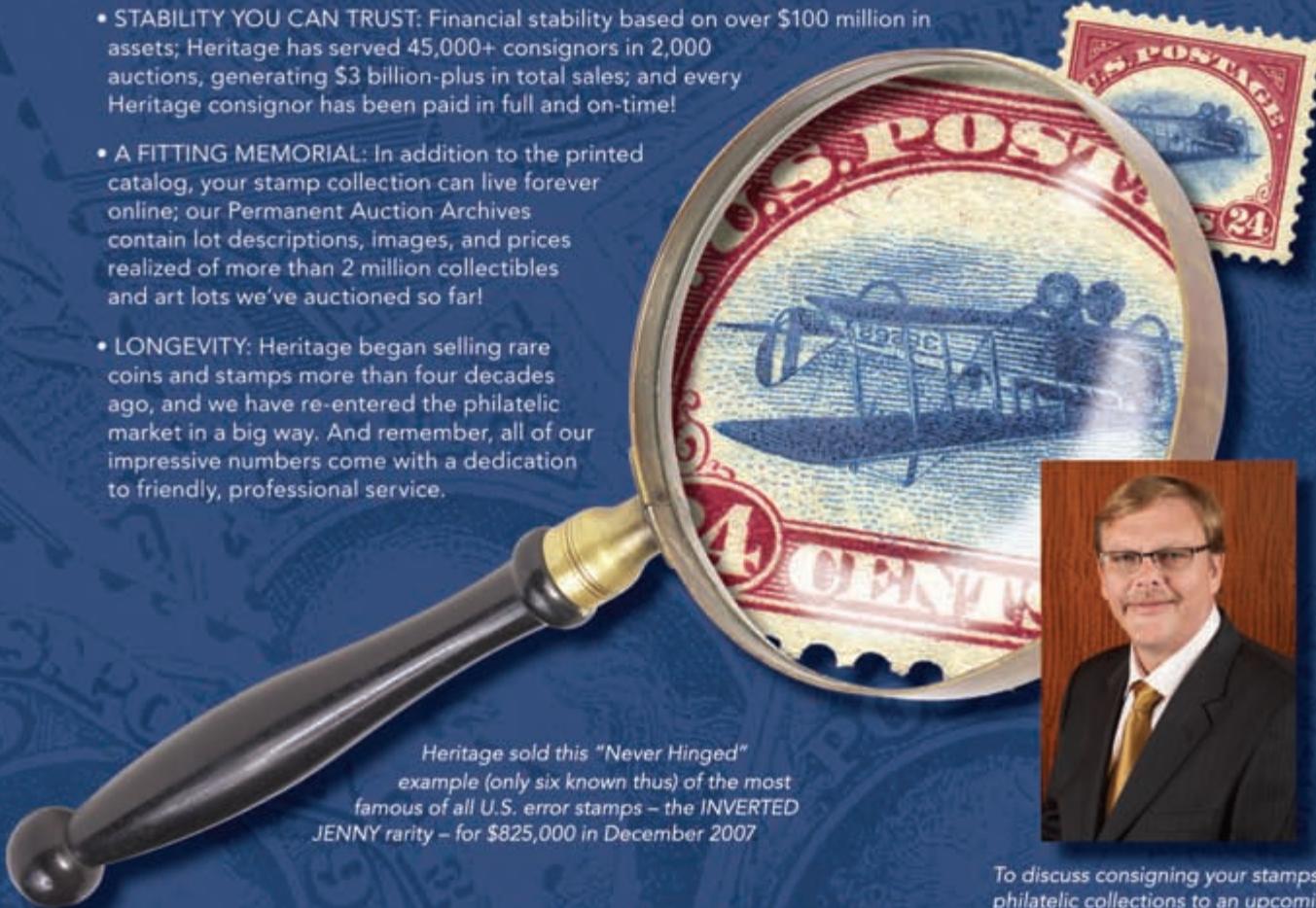


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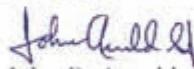
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Oct. 6, 2006

Dear Mr. Bailey:

It was great working with you. Since this was my first experience with disposing of a collection, I was a little apprehensive. However, I was impressed at the very beginning of the process by your quick response to my initial letter. From that point on, it was nothing but up. Your examination of the collection and the expiations you gave me concerning the value of certain stamps was very enlightening. At the end of the process, when you handed me the check, I knew I had chosen the correct company.

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Mr. George Bailey
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August 8, 2007

Dear Mr. Bailey:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation for the professionalism in which you handled the purchase of my United States stamp collection. I feel that I received the best service and I enjoyed the conversation coupled with the basics of grading the various stamps in my collection. I am very satisfied with the cash settlement. I would recommend Edward D. Younger and you, Mr. Bailey, to any stamp collector seriously interested in selling his collection.

Sincerely,


Sean DeDomenico
Haddonfield, New Jersey

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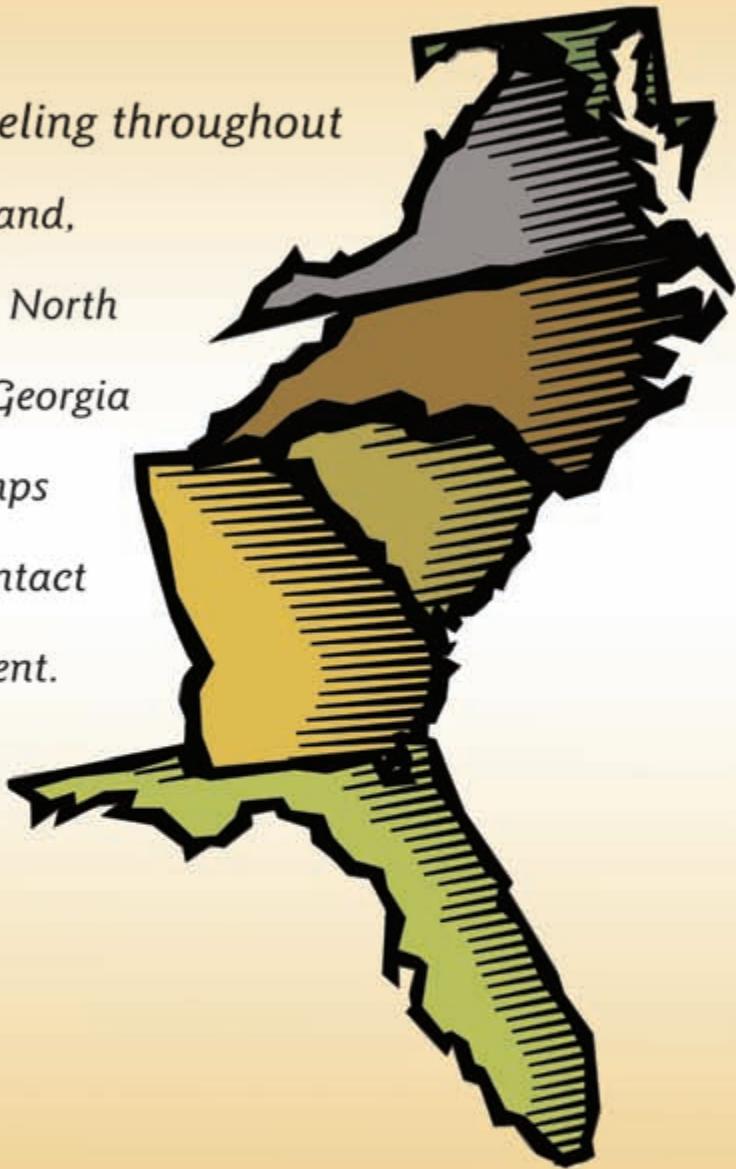


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the letter was written by me!

Dealing with a buyer clear across the country, despite the appearance of great reputation, can be a nightmare. They can and will offer less and then sit on it until you are frustrated beyond your wits. The same thing happened to me with a dealer back East who swore he would give me more for my U.S. collection than the offer I had received from another dealer. I had even been a customer of his and a good deal of the material came from him. Once the collection arrived in his hands, he controlled the entire transaction. I was told there were faults, then there was centering, then the market was weak, but he still wouldn't make a committed offer, and just let me hang. Finally he made an offer way below the agreed amount. I was about to tear my hair out, because I had to pay taxes and just got worn down over the preceding months. Needless to say, it was a horrible experience.

I then wanted to sell my Canadian collection. I went to a local dealer whom I saw at shows. He came to my house and

in forty-five minutes gave me a check for the amount I was asking. A HUGE difference compared to the months it had taken before with the so-called big-time reputable dealer.

I am now contemplating selling a Spain specialty collection that took me twenty-five years to put together. I am petrified over sending it ANYWHERE in the mail. So I intend to deal again with full control over the transaction.

My fellow APS members should heed the good Reverend's advice.

James Di Pietro
Napa, California

Double Helix Praise

I wish to praise Dr. Roger Griffiths' superb article, "The Race to the Double Helix and Beyond," in the June issue of the *AP* (page 544). His extensive knowledge and research into the scientific elements and history of decoding and discovering the DNA structure and the attendant RNA and chemical elements of cell structure are truly impressive. The

philatelic elements and relationships are also an exceptional piece of research. If this is not a prize-winning piece of philatelic writing, then I am sorely mistaken.

These scientists did important, ground-breaking work. However, my sense of justice is offended by the lack of formal recognition that has been given to Rosalind Franklin and her work. Dr. Griffith says her work was "leaked" by Maurice Wilkins to Watson and Crick. In reading Dr. Griffith's article, I am drawn to the belief that Rosalind Franklin literally had her research stolen from her and given to Watson and Crick in an act of spiteful betrayal by Wilkins. Without Franklin's work in X-ray crystallography we would not have had any of the discoveries of the structure of DNA or RNA. The entire episode smacks of cold-war style espionage and skullduggery.

Rosalind Franklin is the sole woman in this saga. Is it for that reason that no effort has been made to set the record right and to give her the credit and accolades she surely had earned and that should have been hers? Wilkins must

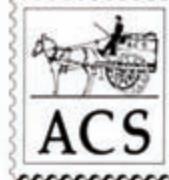


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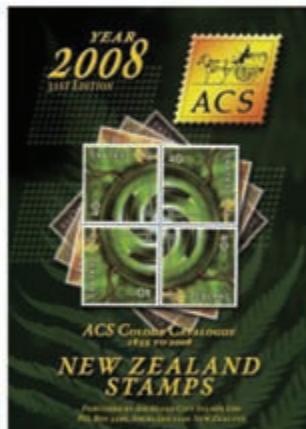
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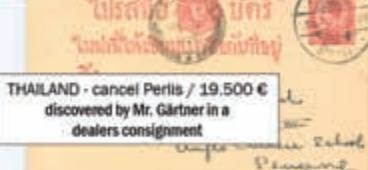
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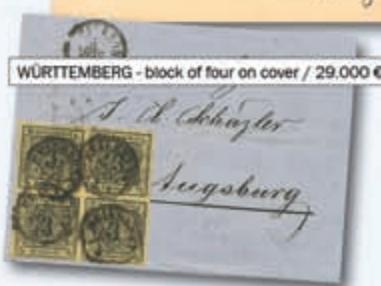
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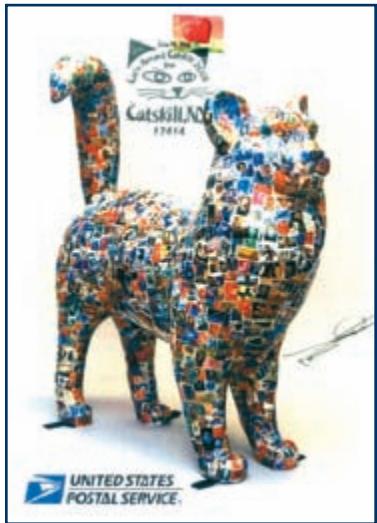
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Feline Filately

I had met some of your people at the big stamp show New York City some months ago and had promised to send information about *Phil the Philatelic Feline* when the time came.

Phil stands out front of the U.S. Post Office in Catskill, New York. He's more than two feet high and somewhat longer than that, and covered with ... well, I guess, thousands of stamps — worldwide, although mostly American in origin.

He will be auctioned in September. Last year a number of non-ticket holders were turned away from the auction, which had been sold out well in advance. APS members who might be interested in more

information can contact the Heart of Catskill Association, e-mail catskillchamber@mhcable.com or telephone 518-943-0989.

Dan K. Lalor
Catskill, New York

surely be a petty human being, and I am sure there is a special (hopefully painful) circle in the depths of Dante's *Inferno* for people like him. The shame is that even in the highest reaches of scientific achievements, petty jealousies still can cause grave harm and injustices.

Hats off to Dr. Griffiths for an excellent piece of work!

Murray Eskenazi
East Rockaway, New York

Correction

You might want to print a correction to the "Double Helix" article in the June issue ("The Race to the Double Helix and Beyond" by Dr. Roger Griffiths, page 544). On page 553, under the heading "Where Are They Now?" it says Francis Crick is currently president at the Salk Institute. Crick died on July 28, 2004.

Harriet Hall, M.D.
Puyallup, Washington

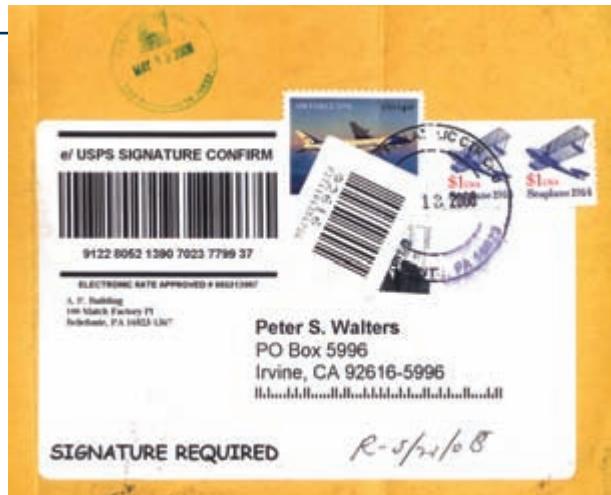
Barcode Mess

Apparently, it's time to call the U.S. Postal Service to task once again. Please note the complete disregard for the stamps used on the enclosed color copy of the wrapper from the APS circuit mailer I received today.

My own Postal Supervisor even commented on this to me when I came to the front counter. How could any postal employee place a zip code label OVER the stamps, rather than on the envelope itself outside of the address label?

I am a Life Member of the APS and have been a stamp collector for sixty-eight years. I rest my case.

Peter S. Walters
Irvine, California



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Special Covers Mark Special and Not-So-Special Events

What constitutes a special event? Obviously, if a special cacheted cover was created it must have been a special event ... or maybe not.

What is true is that the vast majority of so-called "special" covers have the thumbprint of a collector on them somewhere in the story of their creation. It's also true that there are a lot of fun covers lying around in dealers' boxes and accumulations just waiting for you to find. Many may not have great significance or value, but most are definitely interesting and can either form a great collection on their own or become a valued addition to your existing interests.

The golden era for special-event covers extended roughly from 1930 until the early 1960s. During that time, thousands of events, anniversaries, and other happenings — both major and mundane — were marked with the creation of special covers, with varying levels of expertise shown in their creation. At the time they were created, most of these covers were eagerly bought and sold for much more than many now bring when offered. As

the demand for these items waned, their significance perhaps forgotten, and as many collections containing them came to the secondary market, many special covers were consigned to the quarter box, destroyed by removing the stamps, or were simply dumped into large accumulations.

Today, interest seems to be reviving in some of these decades-old special event covers, due at least in part to the strong topical interest some have.

Perhaps the mother of all special events — at least in terms of spawning other "special" covers — was the bicentennial of George Washington's birth in 1932. Not only are rubber-stamped cachets such as the one shown among the most commonly encountered special event covers, they were the inspiration for many that came in their wake. But these were not the first.

Among the earliest of so-called "special event" covers are those that were created for ongoing national encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Northern veterans of the Civil War. The mint example of one of

What is true is that the vast majority of so-called "special" covers have the thumbprint of a collector on them somewhere in the story of their creation.

these covers, created for the 1901 (35th National Encampment), illustrated is a four-color lithographed production. Later GAR covers, including those for the 1932 and 1949 encampments, were produced by letterpress or simple rubber stamps.

Other military-related special-event covers produced by rubber-stamp devices include those for the 1932 Disabled Veterans convention and the 1948 Assembly of Confederate Veterans.

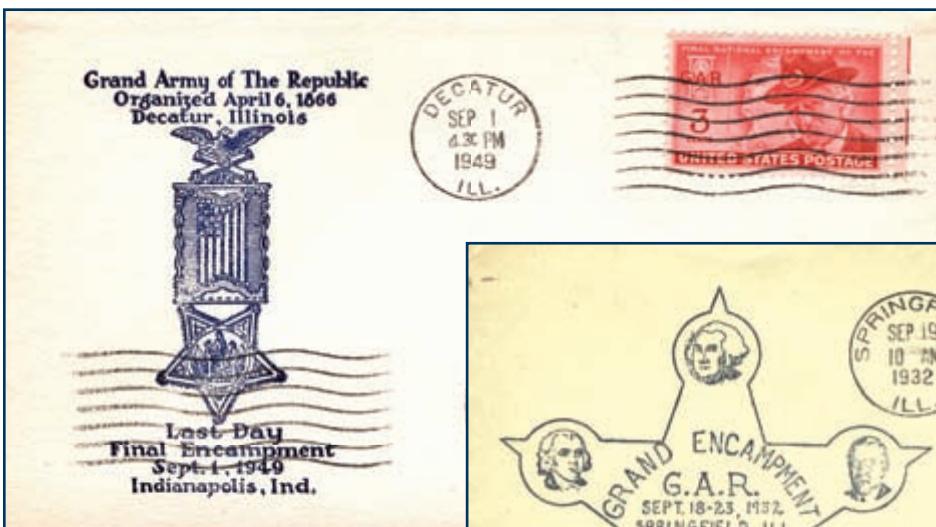
Some special covers are more valued for their cancels than their cachets, however, such as the covers created for Navy Day in 1932. Navy Day, established October 27, 1922, was to be celebrated each year on that date to honor the U.S. Navy (but petered out after 1949). October 27 not only recognized Theodore Roosevelt's birthday (he supported a strong U.S. Navy), but the anniversary of a 1775 report issued by a special committee of the Continental Congress favoring the purchase of merchant ships as the foundation for what became the American Navy. Dozens of Navy Day covers were produced over the years — particularly during the 1930s — but among the most desirable are those with pictorial cancels, such as the bicolored examples shown from Hawthorne, Nevada..



It can be argued that the many different special covers created to mark the bicentennial of George Washington's birth in 1932 were the genesis for the thousands of special-event covers created from the 1930s to the 1960s.



Among the earliest of the true cacheted special-event covers were those created for the various National Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic. This mint example is from the 1901 encampment.



Later GAR special-event covers weren't as spectacular as earlier examples.



By the late 1930s, individuals and groups such as the Art Covers Exchange began creating interesting covers for the sheer fun of it, and it wasn't unusual to find covers such as those illustrated that were produced with a multicolored silk-screen process. In this case the artistic cachets are the primary focus, with a secondary tie-in of appropriate cancellations. The 1948 "events" being commemorated by these covers are the first day of autumn (represented by a September 21, 1948, Maple, Wisconsin, cancel) and the first day of winter (from Winter, Wisconsin, December 21, 1948).

Of course, one of the largest sources of special covers over the years is the great number of stamp shows held each year. In some cases, the special cacheted covers may indeed be first-day covers. In others, the cover's primary purpose is to promote the show, but the collector may

find other historical or pop culture tie-ins to help make them more desirable.

The best covers in my opinion, however, are those with some sort of story.

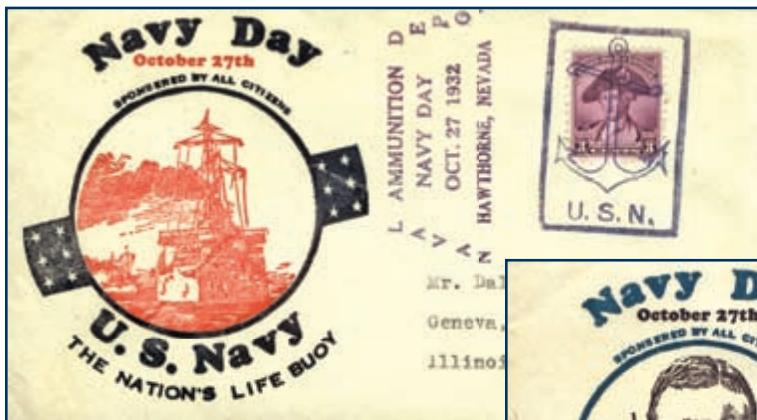
One cover (shown along with its contents) was created by the *New York Sun* with collectors in mind to promote its weekly stamp column, "The Stamp Collector." But it also marked the centennial of the founding of the newspaper. I suspect the creation of the cover had a great deal of collector involvement. The cover itself isn't spectacular. It is a single-color letterpress-printed cachet showing a printing press and the first edition of *The Sun*, canceled appropriately, in New York City September 2, 1933. The contents are far more interesting.

First is an insert card that gives details about the stamp column and ends with subscription information. The second insert is a full reproduction of the first edition of *The Sun*, dated September 3, 1833 (printed on the 2nd), complete with steamship news, public notices, and classified ads.

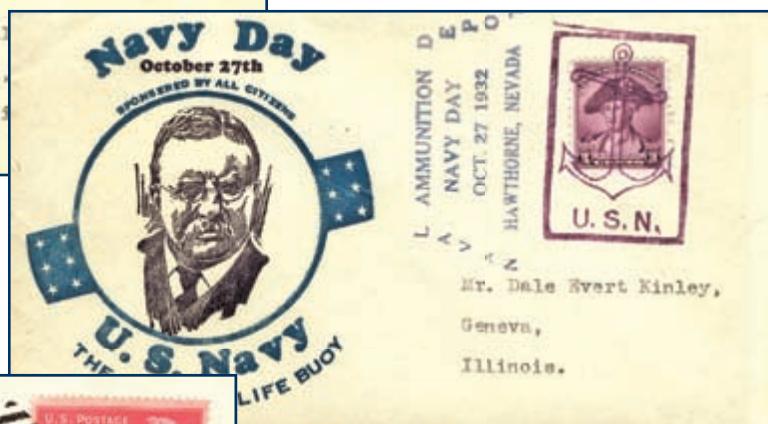
Perhaps my favorite special event cover — another with the heavy handprint of probably several stamp collectors — combines the strong topical tie-ins of Boy Scouts and Abraham Lincoln, as well as being tied to classic postal history and historical narrative. The reverse of the cover, fashioned as a folded letter, reproduces the wrapper side of a letter that was franked with Lincoln's signa-



Other relatively amateurish military-related special-event covers include those pictured here for the Disabled War Veterans and Assembly of Confederate Veterans.

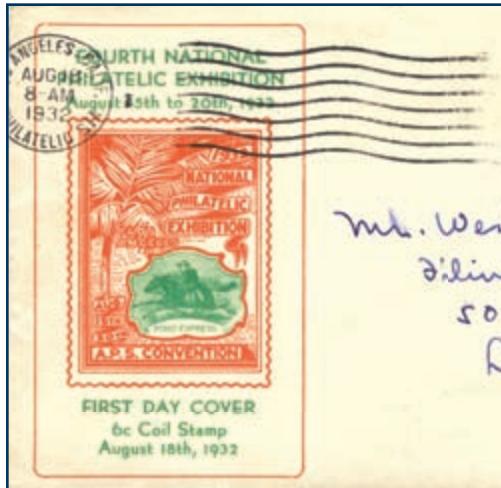


Although these covers, created for Navy Day 1932, feature well printed, high-quality cachets, they are more desirable for their bicolored pictorial anchor cancellations.



As special covers became more popular they became a form of artistic expression for some. These 1948 covers from Wisconsin feature autumn and winter themes with related cancels.





Mr. Wesley Bagley
Billing Section
501 W. 6th St
Los Angeles
Calif.

Stamp shows form the source of many special covers, including many cacheted first-day covers. This FDC for the 6-cent coil of the 1922 series was created for the 1932 APS convention.



Many stamp shows have relied on historical or popular culture connections to make their covers appeal to collectors.



Mr. Herman Herst, Jr.
Shrub Oak.
N.Y.

ture while he was postmaster of the New Salem, Illinois, post office. (He was appointed in 1833.) The first interior fold contains a note of explanation by the creators, giving a brief history of the New Salem post office, Lincoln's time as postmaster, the letter writer, and postal rates of the time.

The note of explanation also relates a couple of anecdotes about Lincoln as postmaster, including his supposed habit of carrying mail in his hat (after he sold his interest in the store that served as the post office) until he happened to meet the recipient, at which point he would deliver the item. Lincoln also was supposedly soft-hearted enough that he would not collect from a recipient who didn't have the money for postage. Since the postage on most mail at that time was not prepaid, the recipient was responsible. Thus, the relatively steep rates, ranging between 6½ and 25 cents (\$1.60-\$6.37 in today's dollars) were a hardship for



Mr. Verne O. Kaut
Found on Lake
Wisconsin.

In 1933 the New York Sun newspaper created a special cover to celebrate its centennial and to promote its weekly stamp column. Although the cover is interesting, the contents enhance its collectibility.

A Letter from Mathew S. Marsh to his relatives back East, franked by A. Lincoln postmaster at New Salem, Ill., in 1835

New Salem, Sept. 17th, 1835.

Dear Folks:

I have received your letters of July 21st and Aug. 20th, the latter came to hand yesterday enclosing the \$100—The time had expired that I borrowed the money for; having depended on Clarke's return before this. I had limited the time to 6 weeks from 3rd Aug—but his non-arrival made the rest of yrs. quite opportune. The Post Master Mr. Lincoln is very careless about leaving his office open & unlocked during the day—half the time I go in & get my papers etc. without any one being there as was the case yesterday. The letter was only marked 25 & even if he had been there & known it was doubtless, he would not charged me any more—luckily he is a very clever fellow & a particular friend of mine. If he is there when I carry this to the office—I will get him to "Frank" it—I do not know who could have cut off the figures from my former papers—the side margin is the best place to put them. The corner is often very much worn so as to render the writing or figures that may be on it unintelligible.—

I will take the July letter first in hand although there is but little that requires an answer in it. I should think that farming as it is carried on in this country would be an employment that would suit George & by engaging his attention would dispel ennui, which feeling is almost inseparable from an inactive life. The mind must be engaged on something or if it has no external objects to act upon it will turn inwardly & create dulness & abstraction.

This climate is rather damp than dry & subject to sudden changes, but we seldom have an east wind & it never rains from that quarter. It almost invariably storms from the S. W. which wind blows ½ of the year. The winter sets in about lat. of Jany. & lasts 6 or 8 weeks.—

Bilious Fever & Ague & Fever prevails more or less throughout the state particularly in the south where the land is flat or wet. We do not know that it is healthier in the northern than in the middle Counties. Morgan & Sangamon are two of the good counties as far as in the state.

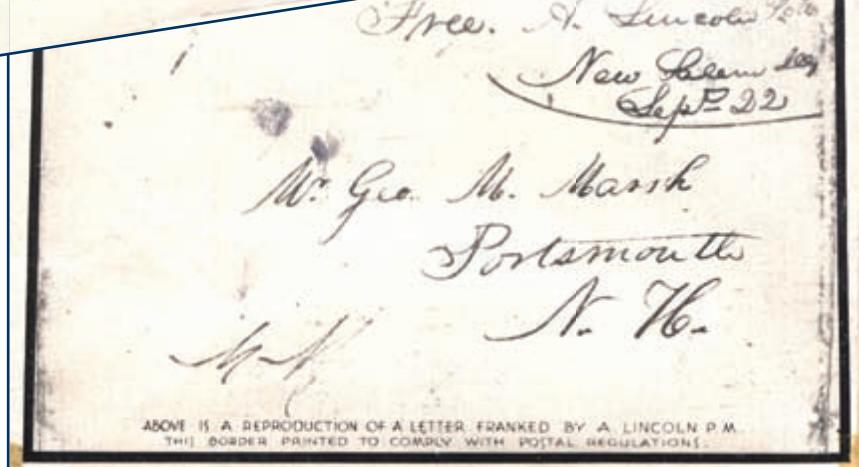
The River towns & in fact any situation near the water or swampy grounds is quite unhealthy, the country being so level that the water courses move slow—The Milk sickness which I presume is but little known in the East as those who live in such places keep the knowledge of it to themselves in order that they may have a chance of selling out. It exists in many of the Southern Counties & those that border on the Wabash—such places are by all means to be avoided, for neither the milk or flesh of the cattle that are affected with it, can be used. The true cause has not yet been ascertained but is supposed to spring from the stock eating some weed when the dew is on it. Most of the Emigrants to this state from the South come & still come in their wagons & always camp out & expose themselves very much after their arrival which is enough to make any one sick; & then the first settlers had no conveniences & when taken sick had no Doctor or physic and were obliged to wear out the diseases. Either of these diseases readily give way to medicine and are the only ones we have here, so that the Doctors have acquired a perfect knowledge of them. The Ague & Fever can be cured in 3 days at the expense of \$1 or \$2. Two or three medicines have been well known within a year that stop it on every day when had in time—it is used considerably more last fall but it only stops it for a few days, the present cure afterward renders its return certain. It did not let me have an intermission of more than a week—what is singular it comes only in warm weather & the subject has a great appetite when the fever is not on. This summer my health has been extremely good. I have made use of Bitters made of Indian turnip, Blood root and sarsaparilla, the first is very warming, the latter two are excellent for the blood. I have no fear of the ague now—There has been more sickness this summer than ever was known before—deaths however are rare and I am of opinion that as a general thing people enjoy better health here than in the East for there is hardly a family there but what has some member of it afflicted with some local complaint or other which I think may be attributed to their manner of living; while here where food is simple, people are never sick except in Aug. & Sept. We have not any lingering complaints like Consumption.

I must acknowledge that florid complexions are more rare than in the East. For my own part I am well satisfied with the Country.

Caroline is a good natured girl and this is all that be said in her favour, there never was any congeniality between us—her mind wants discipline.

Emily possessed a more vigorous imagination which gave impulse to her feelings tinctured her conversation with good ideas & rendered her on the whole very pleasing. It was altogether the mind expressed in her countenance & not her features that were attractive. I was made a fool of once & may be again but I now have no evidence in affairs of the heart. It seems H. P. is lost to me about 3 weeks since a paper containing a description of this county to W. P. The letter goes to New Salem, Ill. to M. S. Marsh. What next is to be done with it I was aware of the change when I made my delightful excursions there. The Miss H's are worth looking after. What G. C. wrote about my being attentive to a "sucker girl" had some truth in it. Yes! her name is Martha Jane Short & lives in Morgan County on Indian Creek, the timber of which can be seen from here distant 13 miles across a Prairie in the S. West direction. She possesses more qualities which assimilate with my peculiar disposition & comes nearer to the standard of what I consider essential in a wife than any girl I have ever seen. In stature middling height & slim—Light brown hair, black eyes, which suppress half their fire until she speaks, then through their soft disguise will flash an expression more of pride than ire & of love than either—Her age 20. Such is all the description I can give of the girl who at present stands the highest in my estimation. How long she will continue to do so I cannot assure you myself. I have no desire to be too exact in this matter in my previous letter if you will excuse me. I have no desire to live I never will marry but devote all my attention to seeing you made happy. I have one more point to add to the state & that is that the women have such an everlasting number of children—thus the population of the state is to be counted on. The natural increase of this state I know is greater than any other in the Union. According to the population this census (1835) to at least 250 or 300,000.

I am glad that there is some enterprize, If Real Estate rises in value it will be a great blessing to us all. We can be so much



many rural people, who could barely feed and clothe themselves.

The interior of the item reproduces (in small type) a very long letter from Mathew S. Marsh to relatives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, written September 17, 1835. The letter is a fascinating snapshot of the time, and discusses farming, weather, disease, and even mentions wild game and a tornado that passed through the area.

Once folded, the letter was carefully sealed with a small drop of sealing wax.

The cover's cachet contains the remainder of the explanation. It is franked with a 3-cent Lincoln coil (Scott 600), and is postmarked May 7, 1933, the 100th anniversary of the commissioning of Lincoln as postmaster. In the lower-left corner is the printed notation: "This Letter Carried Over The Lincoln Trail New Salem State Park to Springfield, Illinois by Scout" (a distance of about twenty-two miles). The signature of Jimie Haley indicates he was the Boy Scout to carry the letter, as Lincoln was purported to do.

It is not known how many letters were carried that day, how many scouts participated, or what happened to Haley, but this effort left a remarkable and highly interesting souvenir behind for collectors of the future.

I'm happy to be one of those future collectors.

The rather lengthy contents of the folded letter (left) covered weather, sickness, wild game, and other facets of daily life near New Salem, Illinois.

This 1933 cover combines the topical interests of Boy Scouts and Abraham Lincoln, and involves classical postal history and historical narrative as well.

Below: The reverse of the cover reproduces a folded letter signed by Lincoln when he was postmaster of New Salem, Illinois.

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Taxing Philatelists: *When Semi-Postals Are Not Enough*

The idyllic Volga River scene shown on the first Soviet semi-postals, with its rustic log cabin, peasants, and a side-wheel steamship, is reminiscent of Maxim Gorky's autobiographical tale of his boyhood along the greatest river in Russia. Reading *My Childhood* provides an interesting contrast to the most famous American tale of a boy on a river, *Huckleberry Finn*. However, the semi-postal stamps were not issued in celebration of literature, but as part of an international appeal for aid to relieve famine in the Volga River basin.

In the spring of 1921, the grain-producing regions in the Ukraine and the Volga basin received no rain. However, weather alone did not cause the famine. Grain production had already been reduced more than 50 percent by the disruptions of the Great War, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the subsequent civil war in Russia. Those events, coupled with the Soviet forced grain collection policies, had left the peasants with no grain reserves to tide them over the dry year. The breadbasket of Russia was empty, and when no crop could be planted, starvation loomed for an estimated 13 million peasants. Large numbers of orphaned, homeless children roamed the countryside and flocked to the larger cities.

The Central Commission for Aid to the Starving, having responsibility for famine relief, restoration of the economy in famine-stricken regions, and rehabilitation of homeless orphans, issued four semi-postal stamps (Scott B14–B17) in December 1921. Each of the red, green, or brown Volga River stamps sold for 2,250 rubles — 2,000 for famine relief and 250 for postage; a fourth stamp depicted a relief worker administering aid. These stamps were printed in blocks of four on the scrap ends of sheets left from printing new definitive stamps the previous August.



Side-wheel steamer towing a barge of famine relief supplies for peasants living along the Volga River.

Semi-postal overprints on remainders from the 1918 Chain Breaker, first issue of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

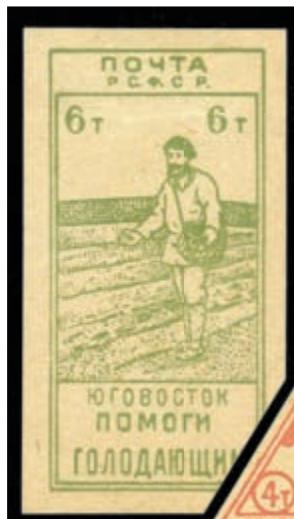
Given the condition of the impoverished Soviet economy, international sales to philatelists would be necessary if any famine relief funds were to be raised. Additional semi-postal issues followed the next year. Famine Relief overprints were applied to the 1918 Chain Breaker issue (Scott B18–B23) in February 1922. In April, crudely lithographed sheets containing four different designs in four different shapes (Scott B30–B33) totaling 133 stamps were released without gum. These stamps were the first to acknowledge that the famine region also included Ukraine and the Don River basin.

When the various semi-postal issues failed to raise enough funds to eliminate starvation, in October 1922 the Central Committee of Soviets imposed an export tax on stamps, paper currency, and other collectibles being mailed to collectors abroad. However, real famine relief came not from philatelists, but from the private American Relief Administration, headed by Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce. Already feeding the starving and homeless in central and eastern Europe, the American Relief Administration started food deliveries to the Soviet Union in August 1921. In December, the United States Congress appropriated \$20 million; also, American military officers were granted leaves of absence to assist in the Soviet Union. Private donations



were solicited through postcards addressed by famine victims and reading in part, "We are in great need of food in Russia. Help us in our distress." Individual Americans donated more than \$6 million for famine relief. At its height, the American Relief Administration was feeding about 10 million out of the 12 million starving people being supported by foreign relief efforts.

Once a tax has been established, it is difficult for any government to relinquish a source of income. So, the stamp export tax continued to be collected until 1941, long after the famine had ended. Edward Stern, proprietor of the Economist Stamp Company in New York, and the first American stamp dealer to visit



The themes include worker and peasant solidarity and images of planting crops again.

the Soviet Union, reported in 1924 that "private individuals are not permitted to send any stamps out of the country except through this [philatelic] Department, and then only for exchange purposes with collectors in other countries."¹ Originally, exchanges of philatelic material were limited to single copies, not exceeding a total value of 500 gold rubles. For tax purposes, the value of the stamps was determined from the current French *Yvert* catalogue, with 2,000 francs being the maximum export allowed. Tax rates were revised several times, and the export limit was eventually raised to a catalogue value of 5,000 francs. The list of taxable items was expanded to include stamps, paper money, picture postcards, postal stationery, and foreign catalogues.

Although Stern wrote about a new Soviet catalogue of legitimate stamp issues and the trial of four men for counterfeiting Batum overprints, he said not a word about the use of export tax stamps.

A new design was prepared for the export tax stamps, but the Post and Telegraph Commission decided to overprint surplus stamps instead, beginning with the Chain Breaker, the first revolutionary issue. Czarist insurance stamps, World War I semi-postals, and

out-of-date revolutionary stamps also were later overprinted. Letters containing stamps for export had to be sent to one of the exchange control offices, for inspection and tax collection. In addition to Moscow, at various times the location of other control offices included Leningrad, Kharkov, Tashkent, Tiflis, Vladivostok, Simferopol, and Rostov-on-Don. Tax stamps usually sealed the flap of the envelope. Letters coming into Russia that contained collectibles were



The rate of 6,000 rubles for a postcard indicates the extent of inflation in the Soviet Union by 1922.

The postage and registration fees were paid with three Lenin memorial stamps and two worker definitives; the export control tax stamp is upside down at the bottom.



opened for inspection and the tax stamp was affixed to any convenient place on the envelope. The exchange control stamps were available to collectors only in philatelic shops and had an overprint reading, "For Collectors," which rendered them invalid for tax payment.

The third set of export tax stamps, seven denominations from 5 kopecks to 1 ruble, were overprinted on czarist World War I semi-postals and issued January 1, 1925. The 1926 cover from Moscow to G. Hochkeppeler, of Danzig has the 25k overprint on the 7k of Mother Russia and her children. The tax of 25 kopecks was collected on stamps having

a catalogue value between 301 and 500 French francs in the Yvert catalogue. The purple rectangular cancel that covers the tax stamp reads, "Contains philatelic and paper money material, inspected and passed for postal transmission abroad without hindrance." A serial number and signature follow a citation of the tax regulations.

By the late 1920s, the international philatelic trade, along with many aspects of stamp collecting in the Soviet Union, were regulated by the All-Russian Society of Philatelists, a quasi-governmental organization. Its corner card, as the Soviet Philatelic Association, shows on a



1934 shipment to the Acme Stamp Company, of New York. Since the envelope was intended for international exchanges, the return address is in English and the other text in German. Participation in the Society was encouraged through tax schedules that charged non-members three times the member rates. Also, in typical Soviet bureaucratic style, the 1932 tax schedule provided a 25 percent discount for branches of the Society involved with collective exchanges, and a 50 percent discount for exchanges with workers' organizations. The tax stamp sealing the back flap of the cover is from the sixth, and final, issue, a return to overprints on the Chain Breaker. Given the variable rates and discounts, it is not possible to calculate the value of the contents from the 10 kopeck stamp alone.

For Further Reading:

- George H. Jaeger, "Russian 'Mourning' Stamps and Philatelic Permits," *The American Philatelist* 37 (1924): 404–405.
Hilary Norwood, "Tax Stamps for Philatelic Exchanges," *British Journal of Russian Philately* 63 (1986): 117–23.

Endnote

- Edward Stern, "Philatelic Conditions as I Found Them in Russia," *Collectors Club Philatelist* 3 (1924): 106.

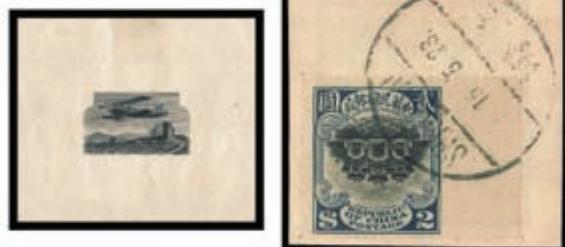


Note the routing of this package at a time when international air mail was developing, but had not yet bridged the oceans. The red circular German handstamp at top shows service on the regular Moscow to Berlin air mail flights. From Germany the letter traveled by ship to New York for a total of ten days in transit. The 50-kopeck stamp commemorates the tenth anniversary of Soviet air mail service.



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Zeppelin Posts at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair: Integrating Philately & History

by Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz

As a zeppelin collector and professional historian, I have striven to bring the two very distinctive approaches of each discipline together in my life, my hobby, and my career. By sharing my experience, I hope that other collectors will rethink their approaches to collecting, exhibiting, researching, writing, and judging to expand their perspectives, ask new questions, and, as chef Emeril Lagasse says, "Kick it up a notch."

Why do I think this is important? I believe it is one way to reach potential philatelists and to share the rewards of our hobby as being fascinating and meaningful on multiple levels. This article discusses my holistic approach to the hobby, and includes an example from my own research, which integrates the story of zeppelin mail, the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, and the diplomacy that stabilized a potentially volatile situation. I hope to illustrate the way in which philately, in context, can touch people's lives and inspire new as well as fellow collectors.

As a collector of philately and related ephemera and artifacts, I relish each detail and thrill to each newly discovered fact. A descriptive approach identifies each object collected and, often through exhibiting and writing, relates objects to one another — all celebrated because they exist and because I have collected them for some reason.

As a historian, however, I place objects, details, and facts into a larger framework, asking how each relates to the historical process.

As a collector of philately and related ephemera and artifacts, I relish each detail and thrill to each newly discovered fact.

torical process. In other words, I put the research in context and interpret it. I must answer what historians call the "So what?" question, and I must develop a thesis that presents a fresh perspective.

By reading the current literature in both fields — philately and history — I am able to apply ideas from other philatelists and historians to my own work. For example, in his book *The Postal Age*, David Henkin examines mail users rather than the state postal system or the envelopes themselves.¹ As a result, he makes new discoveries about how mail changed lives and how lifestyles changed mail handling in the nineteenth century.

Henkin inspired me to examine the mail in my collection that the LZ127 *Graf Zeppelin* had flown from Germany to Brazil to the United States and back to Germany on the 1933 Chicago flight. I was stunned to discover that forty

of sixty covers in my United States dispatches had names of Germanic origin for either the American sender or American addressee. German-speaking immigrants comprised the largest ethnic group in Chicago, almost 13 percent of the city's population in 1930. Even Ernst J.

Kruetgen, the city's postmaster, was of German heritage. So while other collectors also serviced mail, the *Graf Zeppelin's* visit was a source of special pride for the German American community. This evidence proved significant when I studied the German American community's reaction to the zeppelin visit.²



Hugo Eckener

Large die proof of the 50-cent *Graf Zeppelin* stamp issued in 1933 for the flight of the airship to A Century of Progress, Chicago's second world's fair.

Case Study: 50-Cent *Graf Zeppelin*, A Century of Progress Stamp

Approaching Chicago at daybreak on September 26, 1933, Commander Hugo Eckener ordered the *Graf Zeppelin*, a 775-foot long German airship, to fly west beyond the city and then to circle clockwise, although a northerly route from Indiana with an approach to Chicago from the east over Lake Michigan would have been more expeditious. After circling above the city for about an hour, the *Graf Zeppelin* flew north to suburban Glenview for a brief exchange of passengers and mail.

Adolph Hitler, leader of the National Socialist party, had become Chancellor of Germany earlier that year. The German government had required the Zeppelin Company to paint the National Socialists' swastika banner, which was one of the two official German flags, on the port side of the upper and lower tail fins. Rather than display the two red billboards featuring twenty-foot swastikas, Eckener preferred to show Chicagoans the starboard side of the craft, which featured the traditional tri-color German flag.³

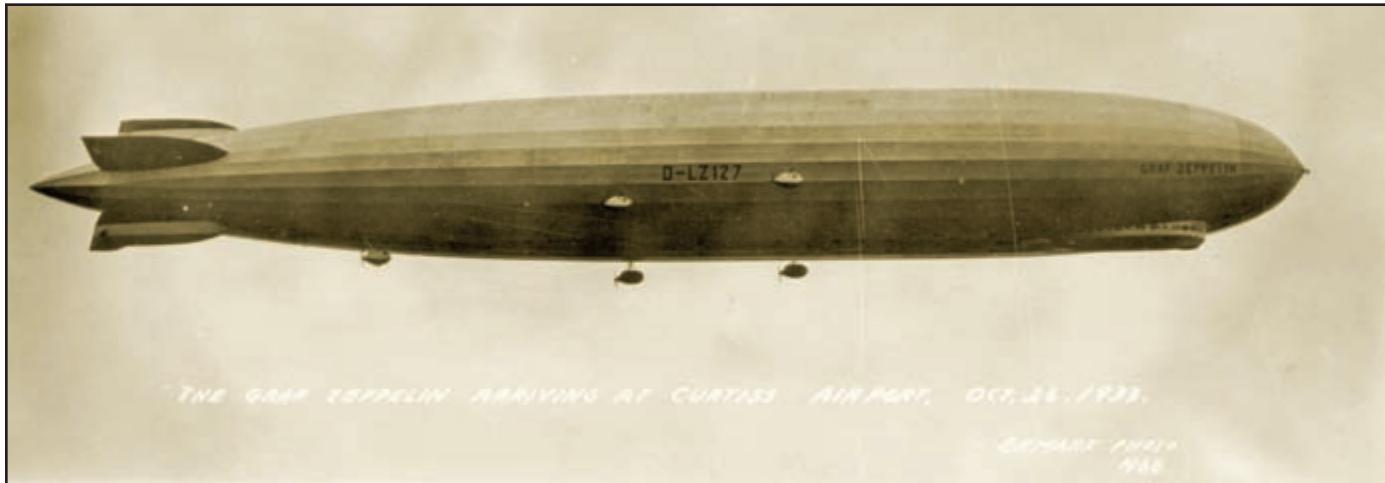
Willy von Meister, the United States special representative of Luftschiffbau Zeppelin GmbH, the Zeppelin Company, was in the control car with Eckener during the approach to Chicago. He asked why Eckener had not taken the shorter circle. "And let my friends in Chicago see the swastikas?" asked Eckener, who had a doctorate in psychology and was sensitive to the German community's reaction.

As a result of the arrival time, the choice of the flight



path, and the press's selections of which photographs to publish to represent this flight, however, the local population saw more images of the *Graf Zeppelin* with the swastika than without it. In flying a route that brought the airship toward Chicago from the east at daybreak, the *Graf Zeppelin* became a silhouette against the sunrise. Photographers could either take photographs of the shadow side of the airship over the lake or, as it made its circle over the fairgrounds and central business district, of the sunlit side with the less photogenic elements of the city in the background. In order to photograph the *Graf Zeppelin* with the fairgrounds in the same image, one newspaper photographer shot his images from an airplane. He was able to capture the sunlit side of the *Graf Zeppelin* over the Chicago World's Fair, and consequently his photograph showcased the swastika. The *Chicago Daily News* and the *New York Times* published these images, reaching yet a larger audience than the eyewitnesses.

Germany's *Graf Zeppelin* became the fair's most powerful and divisive emblem of national identity. As a symbol of Germany and its technological progress, the *Graf Zeppelin* captured the public's imagination and ultimately became an international symbol of goodwill and cooperation. On the



The LZ127 *Graf Zeppelin* over the landing field north of Chicago with its starboard fins painted with the tri-color German flag.

other hand, the swastika broadcast anti-Semitism and Hitler's National Socialist policies. The swastika clearly inspired racial pride and patriotic obedience in Nazi followers, but it antagonized or embarrassed many German Americans.

On August 1, 1933, the Zeppelin Company had responded to an official invitation from Rufus Dawes, president of A Century of Progress. Hugo Eckener had accepted the invitation, saying that the LZ127 would visit Chicago as an extension of the final trip of the 1933 season to Brazil if the United States Post Office Department would issue a zeppelin postage stamp. Eckener had requested the stamp because he needed to secure adequate financing before committing to the special flight. He had proposed sharing profits from the sale of the zeppelin postage stamp. The plan was not unique. Philatelists had already financed several special flights of the *Graf Zeppelin*.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's lack of support for the stamp threatened to bury the idea and create diplomatic problems with Germany. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, which designed and printed postage stamps for the Post Office Department, had prepared three designs of the stamp to be presented to Roosevelt for his final approval. The president immediately protested, "This zeppelin is just toddling back and forth across the ocean. I don't see why a stamp should be issued again for it," and he rejected the issue.⁴ Negotiations followed, and Secretary of State Cordell Hull advised that the breach of diplomacy resulting from the rejection of the stamp issue would be a disaster. The argument swayed Roosevelt, and the new zeppelin stamp was available at the New York City post office just ten days after its approval.

As printed, the 50-cent green stamp depicted the *Graf Zeppelin* without the swastika, the Federal Building at the Chicago fair, and one of the zeppelin hangars in Friedrichshafen, Germany.⁵ The United States Post Office Department would receive 15 percent or 7.5 cents of the fifty-cent rate. The remaining 42.5 cents would be paid to the German Postal Administration to help offset the expenses of the Zep-

pelin Company for operating the *Graf Zeppelin* at a cost of about \$300 an hour.⁶ The Zeppelin Company expected to realize \$10,000 from the United States stamp sales, but it actually accrued several times that amount. More than 100,000 American stamps on souvenir envelopes were flown, in addition to mail carried from Germany, Brazil, and more than sixty other countries.

Meister informed fair president Rufus Dawes that the *Graf Zeppelin*, operating under the auspices of the German government, would fly the flags of the German government, including the swastika. He then posed the issue of possible protests by Jewish citizens in response to Nazi harassment of German Jews and laws that stripped them of German citizenship. Dawes wanted to be prepared for a possible demonstration against the swastika emblem or the arrival of the pro-Nazi German ambassador and former chancellor, Hans Luther. The Post Office Department made special arrangements to examine all mail and parcels intended for delivery to the zeppelin. Postmaster General Farley also requested that local authorities cooperate to assure proper protection for passengers and the crew.⁷

Because of a bomb threat, Eckener altered his flight plans slightly. He decided to fly to Chicago and make a short landing in a closed field. The day before the *Graf Zeppelin*'s arrival in Chicago, the press announced that the great airship would arrive at about nine o'clock the next morning. In fact, the *Graf Zeppelin* arrived three and a half hours earlier. Because of the misinformation provided to the press and the sheriff's order to close the airport to those without passes, only a few hundred spectators were on hand at the landing field besides the landing crew, press, and welcoming officials.

Following a busy day of touring the fairgrounds and attending luncheon and dinner events, Eckener was present of the Zeppelin Day evening event at Chicago's Medinah Temple. Thousands of enthusiastic German Americans filled the hall, many wearing the Zeppelin Tag lapel pin sold at the door for fifty cents. The program included patriotic German music, with speeches by the mayor, representatives of the



Envelope flown by the *Graf Zeppelin* over the world's fair. The cachet maker Walter Poppenger, who was also the addressee, had a name that suggests German ancestral heritage.

German community, Eckener, and Luther. Postmaster Kruegen, president of the German Group of the World's Fair, had refused to attend what he saw as a Nazi reception.

News of the gathering had, of course, reached the general public. Theodore Light, a twenty-year-old stamp collector, went with a friend to Medinah Temple that evening, hoping to get Eckener's autograph on some letters he had mailed himself via the *Graf Zeppelin* using the special zeppelin stamp. Upon arriving home from work he found that his mail delivery included envelopes transported by airship from Miami and Akron to Chicago. Meanwhile at Medinah Temple, limousines dropped off local politicians and members of the diplomatic corps. Delighted to discover that the public was permitted to enter, Light and his friend joined the crowd. Once inside, however, they "found ushers all in storm trooper uniforms and across the stage was the biggest flag I have ever seen and it was the swastika." The astonished young men looked at one another, thinking that this was the wrong place for them to be at that moment, and said "Let's forget about autographs and get out of here."⁸

The swastika experiences at the exposition forced German Americans, Chicago's largest ethnic group, to face difficult choices of national allegiance even before the outbreak of the Second World War, to reassess their identity, and to act on their convictions. The German Group of the World's Fair had tied its nationalism to the proud display of German accomplishments, both cultural and technological. It had fought the display of the swastika at all fair events because it represented a political party and anti-Semitism. When the *Graf Zeppelin* arrived with swastikas on its fins, there was no way to prevent the Consul General in Chicago and the German ambassador from displacing the German Group of the World's Fair as the welcoming leadership of the community. German Americans in Chicago were forced to make choices, not only of their political alliance but also of their identity as Germans or Americans. By the time the fair closed in No-

vember, Chicago's German societies had divided over Nazi policy and the Jewish question. They had been able to distinguish the differences between the symbols of the *Graf Zeppelin* and the swastika. German Jews in America and German Christians in America would, however, find themselves no longer unified as "German Americans."

Conclusion

By placing the 50-cent *Graf Zeppelin* stamp in the context of its philatelic story as well as its social and cultural story, the significance of this issue is enhanced and has a stronger appeal to larger audiences without diminishing the philatelic study aspects. While many collectors research and study the subject depicted on a stamp, the production of a stamp, or the uses of a stamp, fewer collectors ask, "Why was this particular stamp or series issued at this time (beyond fulfilling a rate need) and what impact did it have on senders, recipients, and society?" Examining cause and effect can inspire collectors and researchers to ask new questions and, as a result, can offer new insights. As for me, thinking outside the traditional philatelic box has allowed me to understand not only how the United States government and post office helped subsidize this 1933 flight but also the role of the *Graf Zeppelin* and the 50-cent stamp as symbols of progress and goodwill during tough political times and economic strife.

Endnotes

1. David M. Henkin, *The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).
2. For an expanded study of this story, see: Cheryl R. Ganz, *The 1933 Chicago World's Fair: A Century of Progress* (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008).
3. *Chicago Tribune*, October 26, 1933, 4; and LZA 016/385-6 Fahrberichte LZ127 [logbook], 1933, Archiv der Luftschiffbau Zeppelin G.m.b.H., Friedrichshafen. Wilhelm von Meister, interview with author, Peapack, New Jersey, July 1976. *Chicago Daily News*, October 26, 1933, p. 4-5; and "Mid-Week Pictorial," *New York Times*, November 4, 1933, p. 7.
4. Meister interview.

Following a bomb threat, Commander Hugo Eckener ordered an earlier arrival than reported in the press. The clock inside the control car indicates it was shortly after 7 a.m. That clock, however, was set for Eastern Standard time so that it was actually just after 6 a.m. in Chicago.



5. The artists at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used a 1929 photograph of the *Graf Zeppelin* from its landing at Mines Field in Los Angeles on the World Flight. At that time the zeppelin carried no government flag on its fins. Stamp Design File, National Postal Museum Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington DC; *Graf Zeppelin* postage stamp files, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, DC.

6. *Chicago Daily News*, October 26, 1933, p. 1. On March 26, 1931 the Reichspost and Luftschiffbau Zeppelin agreed to the Zeppelin Company's share of the postal revenue: five-sixths of the total fees paid for mail carried by the airship. John Duggan, "Income from Carrying the Zeppelin Mail," *Zeppelin* 12 (February 1997): 12. For arrangements of the United States fees for this flight, see E. R. White to F. W. von Meister, Stamp Design File, National Postal Museum Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, DC.

7. James Farley, Postmaster General, to Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, October 23, 1933, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.

8. Theodore Light, interview with author, tape recording, Morton Grove, Illinois, October 25, 1993.

The Author

Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz is co-editor of *The Zeppelin Collector* and Chief Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. This article is drawn from her presentation at the 2007 Postal History Symposium and her book *The 1933 Chicago World's Fair: A Century of Progress*.

When the Mail Goes to War

The 2008 Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Society, will be held in the museum's Blount Conference Room on September 26 and 27, 2008. This will be the third annual national conference for academic scholars, philatelists, and industry experts to discuss their research into the history of postal organizations and systems.

The theme for the 2008 Symposium is war and the mail, broadly interpreted to include everything related to defense and the postal system in all countries and eras.

Postal topics are usually framed in peaceful terms: mail "binds the nation together" by enabling commerce and encouraging technological development, while stamps are "works of art in miniature" or "little paper ambassadors" of national culture and achievement. Often overlooked is the fact that when a nation goes to war, its stamps and postal system are always an integral part of the mobilization — and the relief effort.

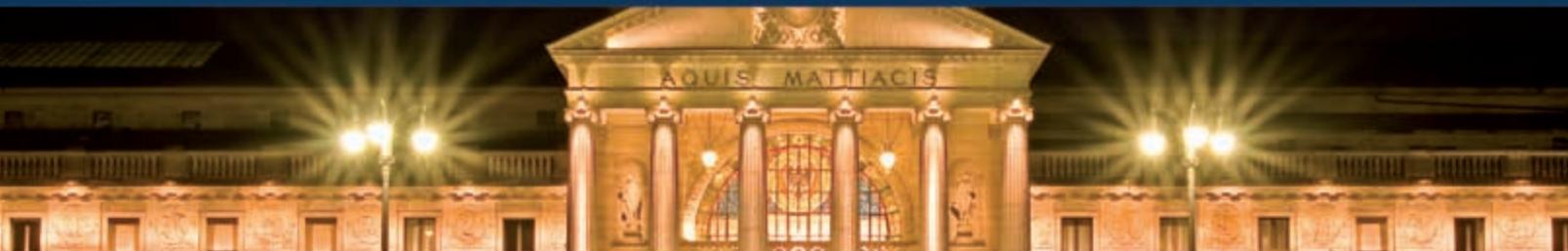
Friday the 26th will begin with a luncheon talk by Cheryl Ganz on "Z" is for *Zeppelin*, followed by an open house in the museum and library. Around 5 p.m., we will have a talk by Lynn Heidelbaugh on the NPM military collection and the plans for a new exhibit. Then, at 6 p.m., we will have a presentation with our Key Note Speaker(s).

On Saturday the 27th, panels will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end in the late afternoon.

Institutions presenting at the Symposium include The Holocaust Museum, International Committee of the Red Cross, Department of State, Canadian Postal Museum, Denmark Postal Museum, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, to name a few.

General Panel Topics and Themes (five panels; seventeen papers) include: Propaganda, Morale, Censorship, the Home Front, and Logistics and Systems at Work.

To register online visit: <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposium2008/registration.html>.



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32
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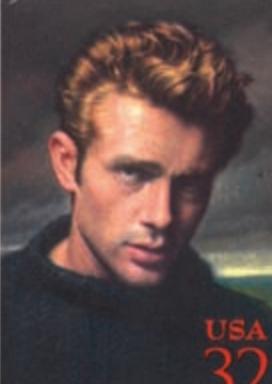
WILLIAM DICKSON (1860-1935) Motion pictures
1998

THE BARRYMORES



Performing Arts USA 20c

JAMES DEAN



USA
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1996

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USA



The Great Train Robbery - 1903



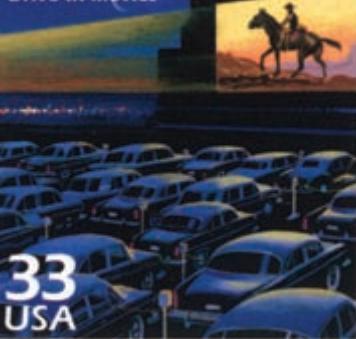
JAMES CAGNEY

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Charlie Chaplin's Little Tramp

Drive-In Movies



33
USA

33
USA



Movies Go 3-D

USA
32

ALFRED HITCHCOCK

1998

Robert E. Levy & the Film Industry

by Richard Adler

The American motion picture industry has been well represented over the years on stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Honored luminaries have included those from the silent era (Scott 2819–2828), those who bridged the change from “silents” to “talkies” such as Al Jolson (Scott 2849), and numerous modern stars including the Barrymores (Scott 2012), Douglas Fairbanks (Scott 2088), James Dean (Scott 3082), James Cagney (Scott 3329), Cary Grant (Scott 3692), and Audrey Hepburn (Scott 3786). Classic films have been honored as well (Scott 2445–2448), as have directors such as D.W. Griffith (Scott 1555). Even the industry itself has twice been the subject of stamps (Scott 926, 1727).

During the early decades of the twentieth century, numerous movie studios appeared, annually turning out hundreds of reels of black-and-white silent movies for a public fascinated with this new form of entertainment. Competition for the public dollar, or in those days what could more accurately be called the public “nickel,” was intense, and the large majority of the businesses quickly disappeared as they disbanded or became incorporated into larger studios.

Among these studios was REOL Productions, organized by Robert E. Levy in New York City in 1920. Offices of the company were established at 126 West 48th Street. My interest in this particular subject is personal. Robert Levy was my cousin, or rather, my grandmother’s first cousin. Several past and present Hollywood personalities are in our family, but I became particularly interested in Levy and the role he played in the early motion picture industry.

Levy was born in England in 1886.

Several years later, his family entered the United States, eventually settling in New York City. As a young man, Levy married Ida Sussman; in time they would have three daughters.

In 1914 Levy entered the entertainment business as General Manager of the Ideal Company of Hollywood, the parent organization for several enterprises, including the Eclair Film Company. He realized that he would be unable to compete with the increasingly wealthy, larger studios, and so decided to address a particular public niche — the African-American audience. Previous portrayals of Black Americans (and, shamefully, a portrayal that would continue for decades) had depicted them as stereotypes: shiftless, lazy individuals.¹ Levy wanted no part of the stereotype. Rather, he intended to portray his subjects as they really were: persons

with the same challenges and difficulties as anybody else, but whose problems often were compounded by prejudice and poverty. His movies were directed primarily towards black audiences, an early part of the genre known as “race movies” that existed in the United States up to the end of World War II. The *Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter* notes that REOL Productions “specialized in non-stereotypical, African-American silent films based on literature by Black authors.”² Indeed, one of his last films, *The Call of His People* (1922) not only was based on the short story “The Man Who Would Be White” by Aubrey Bowser, but Bowser himself was hired to adapt the text for the screen.

Levy would draw many of his actors from the Lafayette Players, the first stock company in Harlem consisting entirely of African-Americans.³ The Players were organized in 1915 by a young dancer named Anita



Robert E. Levy (right) and brother Albert.

Bush.⁴ Among the company's original members were the fine actor Charles Gilpin, who originated the lead role in Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones*, and Arthur "Dooley" Wilson, who would later become famous for his portrayal of "Sam" in the movie classic *Casablanca* (Scott 3152). Eventually forming four companies (the others were based in Chicago, Atlanta, and Cleveland), the Players toured the United States, performing legitimate dramas before both Black and White audiences in most major cities.

In 1916 Levy purchased the management rights to the Lafayette Players (so-named after the company's move to the Lafayette Theatre, also known as the "House Beautiful").⁵ In 1928 he moved the Players from New York to Los Angeles, where they performed at the Lincoln Theatre. However, loss



The 50th anniversary of the *talking picture* (1977) received a stampfeaturing a movie projector and a phonograph (Scott 1727).

Alice Dunbar, Paul's widow.

Dunbar was among the first African-American poets to become nationally known. Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872, the son of Joshua and Mathilda Dunbar. Both his parents were former slaves, although his father had escaped to serve in the 55th Massachusetts Infantry

Regiment and the 5th Massachusetts Colored Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War. Paul would use many of their stories as inspiration for his own writing. Despite being the only Black student attending Central High School in Dayton, Dunbar became editor-in-chief of the school paper and was elected president of the school's literary society. Sadly, the racism of the time limited his employment opportunities, and after graduation he went to work as an elevator operator.

In 1893 his first book of poetry, *Oak and Ivy*, was published, leading to an invitation to recite at the 1893 World's Fair. There he met, and became friends with, the venerable Frederick Douglass. His second book of poems, *Majors and Minors* (1896) was favorably reviewed by the famous literary critic William Dean Howells in *Harper's Weekly*, making Dunbar a national figure. It was here that Dodd, Mead & Company entered the picture, combining his two books and reissuing them under a single title, *Lyrics of a Lowly Life*, with an Introduction by Howells.

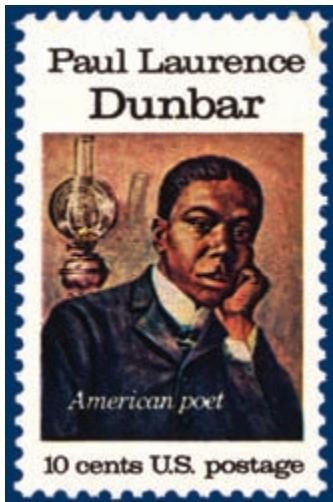
Eventually Dunbar would write eleven volumes of poetry. A poem written in 1899, "Sympathy," speaks of understanding the feelings of a caged bird. The final verse reads:

I know why the cage bird sings.
Ah, me, when its wings are bruised and
its bosom sore.
It beats its bars and would be free.
It's not a carol of joy or glee,
but a prayer that it sends from its heart's
deep core,
a plea that upward to heaven it flings.
I know why the caged bird sings.

Author and performer Maya Angelou was to use the opening line as the title for the first volume of her



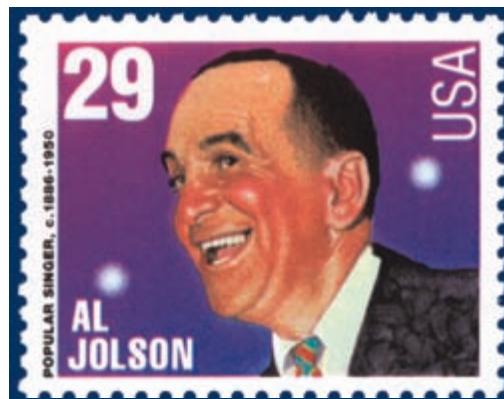
Silent Screen Stars, set issued 1994.



Poet and novelist Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906) was honored with a stamp in the 1975 American Arts issue (Scott 1554).



Humphrey Bogart (1899–1957) starred in a number of classic movies, including *Casablanca*, in which former Lafayette Player Dooley Wilson played the unforgettable “Sam.” (Scott 3152) Although Wilson was a singer, his instrument was the drums, so his piano playing in the movie had to be dubbed. The Bogart stamp was issued in 1997 as part of the Legends of Hollywood series.



Al Jolson (1886–1950) was one of the early movie stars who managed to bridge the silent films to the “talkies.” Stamp issued as part of the American Music series 1994 (Scott 2849).

Dunbar also began writing a series of novels, several of which were published before his early death in 1906 at the age of 34. Among these novels were *The Uncalled* (1898) and *The Sport of the Gods* (1902).

In 1898 Dunbar married Alice Moore, a teacher and writer from New Orleans whom he had met several years earlier. A short time later he contracted tuberculosis, an illness that would contribute to the couple’s separation in 1902. After Dunbar’s death Alice remarried, but she continued to be known as “the widow of Paul Dunbar.” In 1975 Dunbar was honored with a stamp in the American Arts issue (Scott 1554).

The correspondence⁶ between Levy and Dunbar’s publisher is interesting in its own right. In addition, it serves as an early example of how rights to a plot originating within a novel can be turned into a movie. The letters concern Levy’s request for permission to adapt the plots from the two novels mentioned above for movie scripts.

The correspondence begins with a letter dated January 14, 1921, in which Levy offers the sum of \$1,000 for permission to adapt “any or all” of Paul Dunbar’s novels for movie production:

With reference to our telephone conversation this morning I understand that you have some works of PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR, which may be available for my purpose in producing motion pictures.

I would be willing to pay you the sum of One Thousand (\$1000) Dollars for the privilege of adapting any or all of the novels written by PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR with the



The Classic Films issue (1990) commemorated perennial favorites *The Wizard of Oz*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Beau Geste*, and *Stagecoach* (Scott 2445–2448).

understanding that if I should not use any or all of them within five (5) years, they may revert to you and that the sum mentioned would be in payment of the right and privilege of using the name of PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR and adapting his novels for motion picture use only.

The response from the publisher, on January 17, opened the negotiations, and indicated that movie adaptation rights already were associated with standard prices:

In view of the fact that there are something like half a dozen volumes of these books which would be available, and that the price per volume for the motion picture rights of a novel is from \$3500 to \$10,000, we could scarcely consider your offer to pay \$1000.... On the other hand, we quite understand that because of the author's race and because these stories deal entirely with negro life, there would probably be a comparatively limited field for the film possibilities. If, therefore, you are willing to increase your offer to \$2500, we will take the matter under serious consideration....

Another round of correspondence led to a January 31 letter from the publisher to Alice Dunbar (who was living in Wilmington, Delaware), laying out the financial returns to be had and requesting her "prompt answer" by return mail:

We have had what appears to be a firm offer from a motion picture concern to buy the film rights of two of Mr. Dunbar's novels (just which two is not yet determined) for \$1000 for the two.... According to our contract for the book rights, we pay you one-third of the royalties on the books, and we assume that this proportion would apply to a sale for picture rights. We should want as our own commission for handling the matter and making the sale twenty percent of the total or \$200.00 in all. The balance would be divided as mentioned above.

Thus, of the \$1,000 offer from Levy, Alice Dunbar stood to make about \$267.

Her response, dated the same day, indicates her willingness to proceed:

I thank you very much for your letter concerning the matter of the picture rights to two of Mr. Dunbar's books. It seems a reasonable offer and as far as I am concerned, I think it advisable to close with it.

Would you mind telling me the name of the firm which made the offer? The Monumental Pictures Company, J. Williams Clifford, Director, asked me some time ago about the feasibility of using some of Mr. Dunbar's books or poems for pictures. I wrote them that I thought some of the books would film well,



Pioneering director D.W. (David Lewelyn) Griffith (1875–1948) was featured on a 1975 stamp from the American Arts issue (Scott 1555).

especially "The Dove of Landry", as it is a western book, and "The Sport of the Gods", and I think I mentioned "The Uncalled." I suggested that he write you, and take the matter up with you, as to the financial remuneration to the publishers. I am interested to know if he adopted my suggestion.

However, there apparently was some confusion as to who owned the rights to Dunbar's work, at least so far as their adaptation into screenplays was concerned. On February 5, 1921, the publisher

sent a telegram to the writer's mother, Mathilda Dunbar (still living in Dayton):

Decision on offer for Dunbar picture rights imperative Monday. Otherwise cannot consummate arrangement.

DODD, MEADE & COMPANY, Inc.

Her response, dated the following day, was brief: "Have decided to accept your offer."

On February 8, the publishers wrote to Levy, advising him that, for the sum of \$1,000 (which had been received), they confirmed the sale to him of "the World's Motion Picture Rights" for Paul Dunbar's novel *The Sport of the Gods* and gave him three months' time to select one more novel by Dunbar "for use as a motion picture ... without further charge."

The contract was agreed upon and signed in April and a May 16 letter from the legal firm of Lenz, Sigler & Denlinger in Dayton, Ohio, acknowledges receipt of payment of \$533 "to Mrs. Mathilda Dunbar in settlement on agreed price for the motion picture rights of the two books of her son, sold to Robert Levy." A similar contract for a second novel, *The Uncalled*, was signed in May of that year.

The movie version of *The Sport of the Gods*, directed by Henry Verner and starring Elizabeth Boyer, Lucille Brown and Edward Abrams, premiered in April 1921. Brown would later appear in several more prominent films, including *Magnificent Obsession* (1936) and *The Thin Man Goes Home* (1945). The novel told the story of the tragic results of a black family's move north to a city (widely regarded as New York-Harlem) following the internment of the father, falsely accused of theft and sentenced to life in prison. Although mother Fannie tries to keep the family together, the daughter Kitty abandons her church singing for a job in a seedy cabaret, while the son, a young barber, comes to find his comfort in a local bar, the Banner Club, where he gradually succumbs to alcoholism, a disastrous affair with a showgirl, and ultimately commits murder.

The six-reel, black-and-white silent film — adapted for the screen by Clarence Muse, a black dramatic actor and newspaper columnist — was promoted as "by Paul Lau-

rence Dunbar — America's Greatest Race Poet." Movie posters advertised it as a "True To Life Story Of Action, Thrills And Heart Interest With An All-Star Cast Of Colored Artists" and the film opened in Chicago to popular acclaim and glowing reviews. From there it traveled to New York (where Alice Dunbar is quoted in a local newspaper as calling it "a wonderful picture"), out to Los Angeles, and (in 1924) back East to Baltimore.

Unfortunately, no copy of the film is known to exist, so it is hard to say how closely Muse's adaptation followed the original story line. Nor is it known why Levy did not continue with a production of *The Uncalled*. Altogether he is credited with eleven "black" films:⁷

<i>Eyes of Youth</i> (1920)	<i>Easy Money</i> (1922)
<i>Sport of the Gods</i> (1921)	<i>Spitfire</i> (1922)
<i>Secret Sorrow</i> (1921)	<i>The Schemers</i> (1922)
<i>Ties of Blood</i> (1921)	<i>Call of His People</i> (1922)
<i>Burden of Race</i> (1921)	<i>Jazz Hounds</i> (1923)
<i>The SImp</i> (1921)	

By 1924, however, financial losses and competition from larger film companies had forced REOL Productions out of business.

As noted earlier, Levy continued his management of the Lafayette Players, moving with them to Los Angeles in 1928. After the Players disbanded in 1932, Levy remained in the

entertainment business, working as a theater manager and, later in life, as an editor for a detective magazine. He died in 1959.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Iris Snyder, Associate Librarian at the University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware, as well as the staff at the Museum of African-American History, Detroit, Michigan.

Endnotes

1. Daniel Leab, *From Sambo to Superspade: The Black Experience in Motion Pictures* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975).
2. *Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2003): 3. Online version available at www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Newsletters/AACv17n1.pdf.
3. Thomas Cripps, *Black Film as Genre* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1978).
4. Sr. Francesca Thompson, "The Lafayette Players: An Oral History" in *Drop Me Off in Harlem*, <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/exploring/harlem/themes/lafayette.html>.
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6. Alice Dunbar-Nelson Papers, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
7. *Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter*, op. cit.

The Author

Richard Adler is a professor of microbiology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

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Mineral Wells, Texas — Held for Postage

by Charles A. Fricke

When it comes to picture postcards, the postal ratings imposed on them by postal clerks and postmasters can be wide and various. For example, what appears to be a simple case of mailing an unpaid picture postcard from Mineral Wells, Texas, to Havana, Cuba, in 1907 has a story all its own.

The postcard is addressed to "Miss Elizabeth Funk/c/o Secretaria De Gobernacion / Havana Cuba." The reverse shows a picture of boaters on a placid lake with the caption "A Delightful Evening on Lake Pinto, Mineral Wells, Texas." There is a manuscript note: "A delightful health resort. Brown," but no return address. The card was mailed unpaid and has a number of postal markings indicating that it was held for postage in Mineral Wells and then subsequently routed to Cuba with a 2-cent stamp.

The various postal markings include two "Held for postage" handstamps, with one crossed out and the other extremely faint, and a penciled "6/9." The card also has a magenta handstamp reading down at the left, "This is the Mail/ Letter/Packege for which you sent postage." Finally, there is a receiving postmark of "Havana, Cuba. Div. de Carteros / Rec'd o / Jun 28 / 1907."

In summary, the postmaster/postal clerk in Mineral Wells evidently sent an official card to Miss Elsie Funk in Havana, Cuba, informing her that they were holding mail for her and that two cents in postage was needed for it to be sent on. Eventually the card was forwarded with a 2-cent stamp affixed, but the postmaster was clearly out of line when it came to following the postal treaty rates between the United States and Cuba for first class mail. According to the 1907 Postal Guide:

Foreign Mails

260. Note 3.—Cuba.—4 Letters and postal cards must be dispatched even if they do not bear any postage stamps.... Prepayment of postage upon any article mailed



Address side of a picture postcard mailed unpaid to Cuba in 1907 and held for postage in Mineral Wells, Texas; then routed to Cuba upon receipt of two cents for postage.

in the United States can be affected only by means of United States stamps.

5 Each short-paid article will be marked by the Exchange office with the letter "T" and the amount of postage due. The amount and only this amount will be collected of addresses upon delivery of the article.

Thus the card should have been transmitted to Cuba with the "T" and the amount of postage due, which would have been the equivalent of one cent, the domestic postage rate for mailing a picture postcard as first class mail, according to the postal treaty between the United States and Cuba. To complicate matters further, the postmaster apparently charged Miss Funk two cents, an overpayment of one cent. It might be that the postmaster felt that one cent wasn't sufficient postal recompense for the work involved or it might be that he was thinking that with one cent due in Cuba the correct amount would be double the deficiency or two cents. Then again, he might just have decided it should be the 2-cent UPU postcard rate.

An example of a picture postcard properly sent to Havana from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the 1-cent postal treaty rate is shown for comparison. It was mailed with a 1-cent stamp on February 5, 1907, and has Havana receiving mark three days later. The addressee had moved from Havana and the card was forwarded to Sta. Fe, Isla Pino.

Whatever the reasoning behind the request for postage from Mineral Wells, the postmaster/postal clerk certainly didn't follow postal regulations, but did produce a rather formidable picture postcard with an unusual postal history heritage.

The Author

Charles A. Fricke has received the APS Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research and has been inducted into the APS Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame. He continues to enjoy research and writing on unusual philatelic items.



Picture postcard mailed to Cuba in 1907 at the correct 1-cent postal treaty rate.

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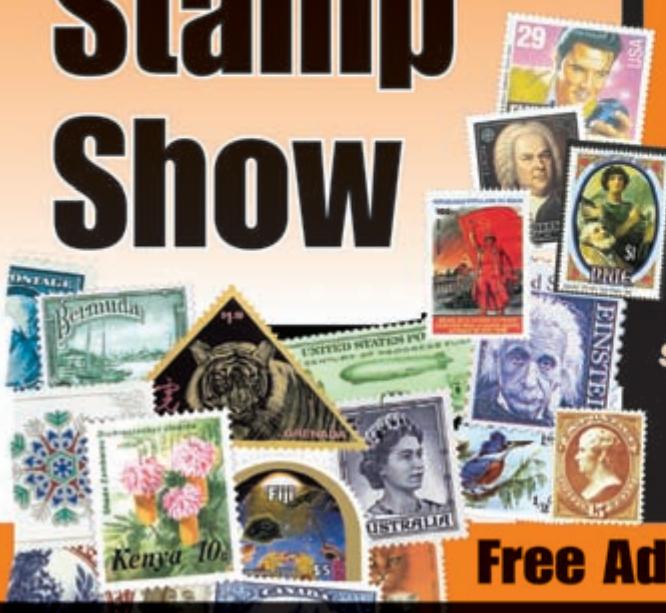
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America's Loneliest Islands

by Steve Pendleton

Most Americans don't know it, but this country owns a number of pretty isolated islands. Some are volcanoes in the Aleutian Islands, and there is a chain of tiny islets northwest of Hawaii that were established as a National Monument in June 2006. However, there are also a number of minuscule *motus* (Polynesian for tiny islets) scattered around the central Pacific. Few Americans have ever heard of Johnston, Swains, Rose, Jarvis, Howland, or Baker, yet these dots of land (mostly low-lying coral atolls or islands) are among the most isolated in the world — and they belong to us.¹

The last two listed are of particular interest, both historically and philatelically. (Yes, they do have a philatelic history, skimpy though it might be.) Neither Howland nor Baker take

up much space on a map — each of them only occupies less than one square mile of land (Howland is about 455 acres, Baker about 405; Howland is shaped like a curve, Baker is more rounded).

You probably won't have much trouble locating them on a map. That's because they are the only two pieces of land in an awful lot of ocean. The two lie about thirty-eight miles apart, several hundred miles south of the Line Islands and a lot farther east of the main islands of Kiribati (the old Gilbert Islands).

These aren't your tropical island "dream pieces" of real estate — both are very dry, with practically no vegetation. Baker rises to a height of about twenty feet. Both have fringing coral reefs that lie very close to shore — no swimming in an idyllic lagoon either!



Baker Island

It isn't certain who actually saw Baker first. There isn't any evidence that the Polynesians settled there (I think they knew a bad bet when they saw one). The island is reported to have been sighted in 1825 by Captain Starbuck of the whaler *Lopez*, and it was known for a time as New Nantucket by other early whalers. However, it finally was named for Michael Baker, captain of the whaler *Gideon Howard* out of New Bedford, who visited the island in 1832 and 1839.

The island became known for its extensive guano deposits,² and in 1857 it was claimed for the United States by agents of the American Guano Company. From 1857 to 1878 the company had crews on the island mining the bird droppings. Huts and tramways were constructed. An 1869 report describes the island as being generally tolerable because of the cooling effect of the trade winds. The report also notes that they had rescued two survivors of a Chinese fishing junk that had been blown all the way from the Far East.

Many whalers seemed to visit there. So many, in fact, that a small box was placed on the shore that sailors could use as a deposit box for letters to be sent home via the next returning ship. I don't think that any letters from this box have survived, but if any do, they would be considered a Pacific rarity.

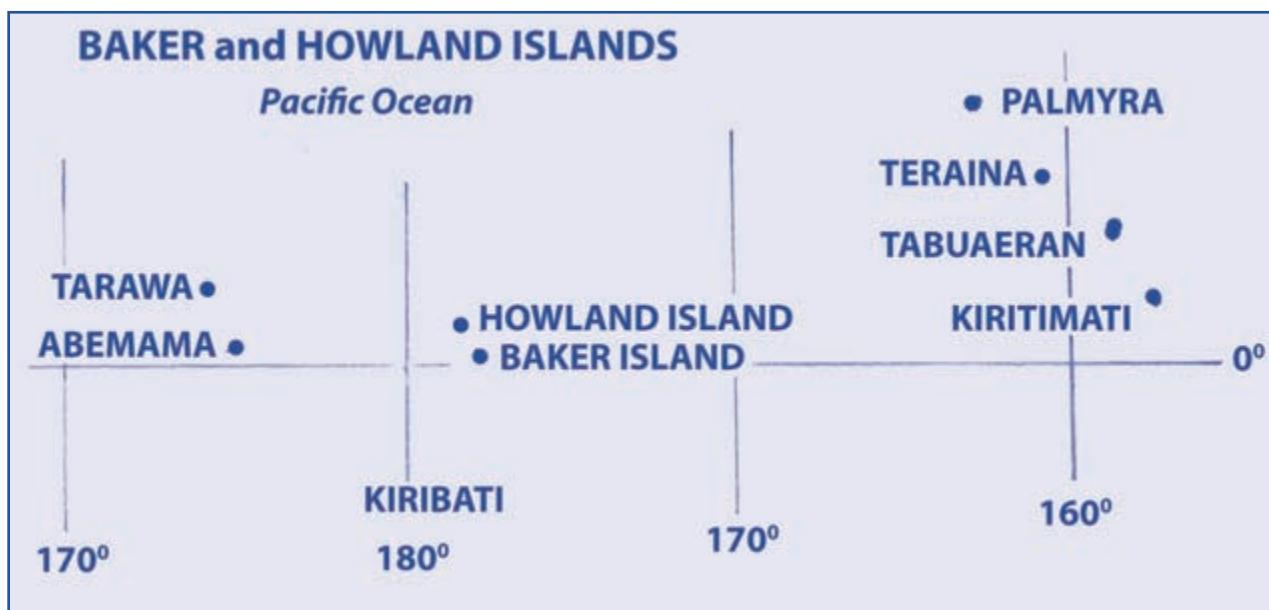
After the guano mines were depleted in 1891, Baker sank into obscurity — for a time, at least. In the early 1930s interest began to increase in these bits of Pacific land, for their

A 1934 visit by the cruiser *Astoria*, on maneuvers in the central Pacific, is reflected on cancellers dated September 4, 1934.

potential use as airstrips for transpacific flights.

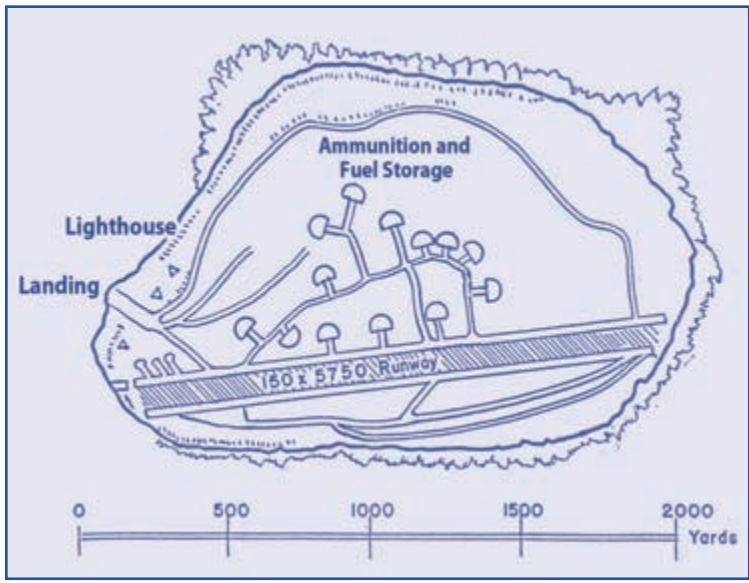
The first philatelic evidence of this new interest came in 1934. The cruiser *Astoria* was sailing on maneuvers in the central Pacific and during this cruise she stopped at a number of islands, including Kingman Reef, Baker, Howland, Christmas Island, Palmyra, and Guam. Each of these stops was marked by the postal officer aboard ship with a suitable notation between the ship canceller's killer bars. The *Astoria*'s visit to Baker is reflected on cancellers dated September 4, 1934.

The next two years were busy ones for Baker Island. During 1935 the schooner *Kinkajou* visited many of the Central Pacific Islands in search of possible air bases. The expedition (called the Oceanic Islands Survey) was led by Dr. Francis Coman, a veteran of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic cruises. The *Kinkajou* reached Baker Island on August 8. A few covers were given a three-line cachet in red ink that read: "Oceanic



Baker and Howland Islands in the central Pacific Ocean.





Wartime map of Baker Island.

Islands Survey/BAKER ISLAND/AUG 8, 1935."

At about the same time another vessel visited Baker — with an entirely different task in mind. This was the USC-GC *Itasca*. The *Itasca* did not prepare covers specifically for Baker Island; however, it did have cacheted covers showing a map of the "Third Equatorial Cruise," which visited Jarvis and Howland, in addition to Baker.

The mission of the *Itasca* wasn't to scout for airfield sites, it was to establish American sovereignty by landing colonists. What this involved was taking groups of four Hawaiians — recent graduates of the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii — to each of the islands.³ They were supposed to stay for three-month tours. Houses were built, gardens started, and the men engaged in weather surveys and in general investigations of the islands (which wouldn't seem like much of a chore). On Baker they established a small settlement called Meyertown, named for an Army officer, Harold Meyer.

In addition to the *Itasca*, a number of other ships were

involved with supplying Baker: the *Tiger*, *William J. Duane*, the *Shoshone*, and, most often, the *Roger B. Taney*. These ships sailed between 1935 and 1942. I am sure that covers from these voyages exist, but I do not believe there are any postal mentions of Baker.

The complete story of the reasons for colonization was a bit obfuscated. The Post Office said that an air mail service was being planned by land-based aircraft that might use the islands — something that wasn't true.

Mail from the colonists is said to exist; however, I have not seen any actual examples. There are no known postal cachets or cancels. Such mail may be identified by a return address, as it was actually mailed in Hawaii.

When World War II broke out, the colonists were in an unprotected state. In January 1942 the remaining men were evacuated aboard the destroyer *Helm*. On January 31 the destroyer was attacked by Japanese aircraft, but no damage was done. While the civilians were gone, Baker was about to achieve its biggest population — and importance.

On July 30, 1943, a group of Engineer troops landed on Baker. Their objective was to build an airstrip that would be used to help protect the central Pacific islands from Japanese operations in the Gilberts. By September 1 the island was occupied by a garrison of about 2,120 men under the command of Lt. Col. Philo Rasmussen. The airstrip was extended to a length of a little over a mile. This field took over a large part of the south half of the island. The rest of the island was used as sites for ammunition and fuel storage.

After the Tarawa landings,⁴ the Baker airstrip was no longer strategically important. In March 1944 it was evacuated, and the facilities gradually became unusable.

Baker was assigned APO number 457. The island post office was opened on September 10, 1943. The last known date of use was February 24, 1944, although the official closing date wasn't until March 1944. For many years this number has been considered one of the rarest APO numbers of the Pacific campaign. It is estimated that perhaps only twenty or so exist.

For a short time after the end of the war, Coast Guard Unit 91 was stationed on Baker Island. They were involved with a LORAN (Long Range Aid to Navigation) station. Since that time, there has been no known philatelic activity there — and few visitors. It is now a National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquartered in Honolulu.



APO 457 designated Baker Island 1943–44.

Howland Island

Howland is much like Baker, although it seems to have a bit more vegetation. It was discovered by Daniel McKenzie, captain of the American whaler *Minerva Smith* on December 1, 1828. There were guano deposits on this island as well, which were worked for a time in the later nineteenth century.

Several American ships visited in the early 1930s. The *Astoria* marked its visit on September 4, 1934, with the island name in its killer bars. The *Pelican* did the same on October 30, 1936.

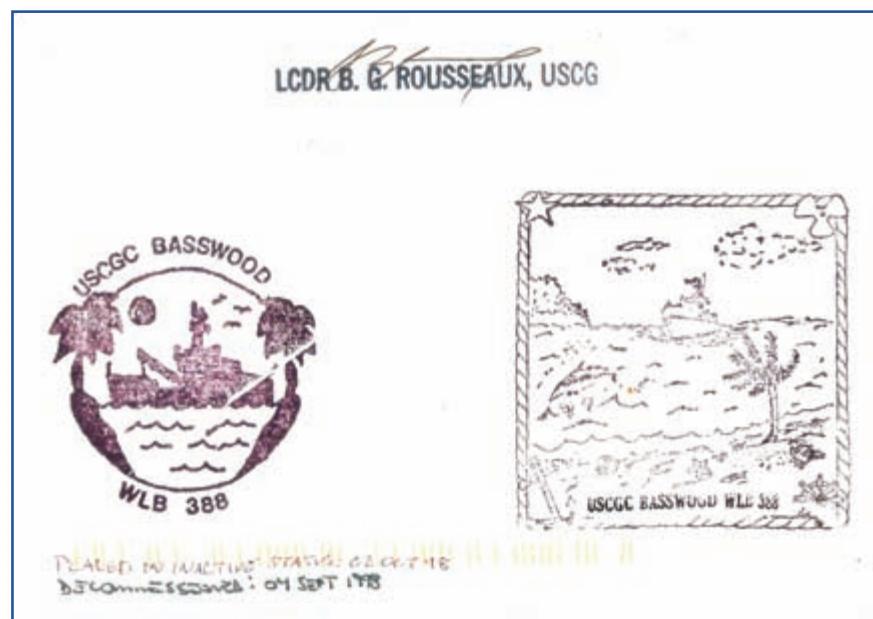
As with Baker, Howland was visited by the *Kinkajou* in 1935, and covers are known with a Howland cachet. This one differed somewhat from the Baker Island marking. It is a double-line cachet in purple ink, reading "HOWLAND ISLAND/OV. 30, 1935." To the left is the design of a seagull and underneath that is a one-line marking reading "Oceanic Islands Survey."

The *Itasca* brought a small group of Hawaiians to live on Howland. Their postal history is the same as that of the Baker settlers, but with one tragic difference. In December 1941 the Howland settlement was the object of a Japanese air raid. Two of the settlers were killed in the attack; their graves remained when the survivors were evacuated by the *Helm*.

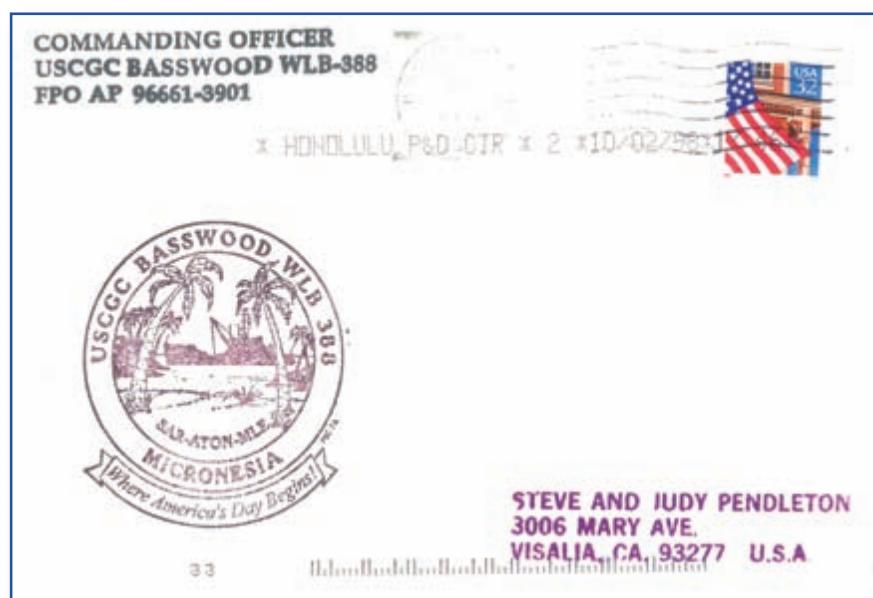
There is one area, however, where the postal history of Howland differs greatly from that of Baker Island. It can be explained in two words: Amelia Earhart.

The story is well known. Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan were attempting a round-the-world flight in 1937. The 2,556-mile leg from New Guinea to Howland was particularly hazardous due to the tiny size of the low-lying island and the imperfect state of radio navigation equipment. Among other problems, Earhart and Noonan apparently were transmitting on the wrong frequency and the quality of their reception was poor. The *Itasca* was stationed nearby to help them home in on Howland, which had been

"Amelia Earhart Search" cachet used on USS Colorado's trip to Howland 1937.



Two of the cachets used aboard the USCGC Basswood.



The USCGC Basswood made several visits to Baker and Howland before being decommissioned in 1998.





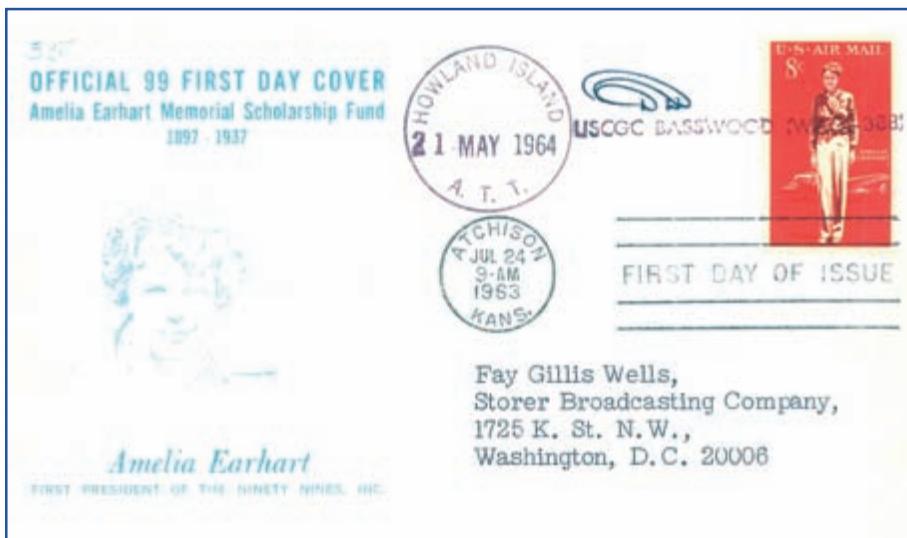
"En Route Howland Is." is one of several cancels used by the USS *Colorado* during the search for Amelia Earhart.



1963 Amelia Earhart issue.



Earhart in cockpit, 1936.



"Official 99 First Day Cover" in support of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund, May 21, 1964, Howland Island.

prepared with a tiny, primitive air-strip.

Earhart's plane never arrived. The last positive report had them flying over Nukumanu Island, about 800 miles into their journey from New Guinea. After a series of garbled transmissions, all contact was lost.

Several vessels participated in the search for the missing aviatrix. The USS *Colorado* postal clerk prepared several different cancels during this time. One reads "En Route Howland Is." and was used July 4–6, 1937; a second reads "Howland Is. Area," used July 9; and a third reads "Howland Is." used July 10. The USS *Cushing* joined the search; it has a cancel reading "Howland Island Search Test" that was used July 14.

Once the search for Earhart and Noonan died down, and the colonists were evacuated, Howland pretty much receded from the news. Since that time, about the only philatelic activity has been generated by visits of the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Basswood*. In 1963 First Day covers were prepared for the Earhart 8-cent air mail stamp. Some of these were cacheted for the "99" women pilot's organization. As a means of raising money for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund, some of these FDCs were taken aboard the *Basswood*. They received a circular "Howland Island A.T.T." cachet dated May 21, 1964, as well as a one-line ship's cachet.

The *Basswood* was a boon to philatelists, having a number of cachets prepared onboard. Unfortunately, the vessel was decommissioned September 4, 1998.

A DXpedition visited Howland briefly in 1993 aboard the yacht *Mathias*; however, I do not believe any mail came from the trip, although QSL cards from the radio expedition are known. For non-ham radio operators the following translations may be useful:

- *DXpedition* — an expedition made by ham radio operators

to uninhabited locations to send radio messages

- *QSL cards* — written confirmation of a radio communication sent through the mail, usually sent by a manager, and not necessarily from the expedition itself.

Endnotes

1. For images of these and other small U.S. possessions, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services website at www.fws.gov/pacificislands/.
2. The phosphorus- and nitrogen-rich droppings of seabirds have been highly prized for centuries, first for their use as fertilizer and later for their role in the production of gunpowder and matchheads. Although the term is used to refer to bird, bat, and even seal droppings, the word *guano* came from the Incan language of Quicha and means “the droppings of seabirds.” The low rainfall on Baker helped ensure that the valuable nitrates did not leach away into the soil.
3. See “The First Colonization Period of Jarvis Island During the Administration by the Department of Commerce” by Edwin H. Bryan Jr. at <http://home.att.net/~higley.family/earlycolony.htm> for a “diary” account of their adventures on Jarvis Island.
4. The Battle of Tarawa, November 20–23, 1943, was one of the bloodiest encounters in the Pacific war zone. The heavily fortified island of Betio in Tarawa Atoll had to be taken before U.S. forces could begin their offensive in the Marianas. Although a day’s heavy naval shelling and air bombardment seemed to have reduced the island to rubble, the Japanese defenders were deeply entrenched in underground bunkers with connecting tunnels and they were prepared to fight to the last man. By the battle’s end only seventeen Japanese and 129 Koreans remained alive out of a force of nearly 4,800. The U.S. Marine casualties were 1,001 dead and 2,296 wounded — all for a piece of land not much bigger than Baker, but one whose possession was vital to the war in the Pacific.

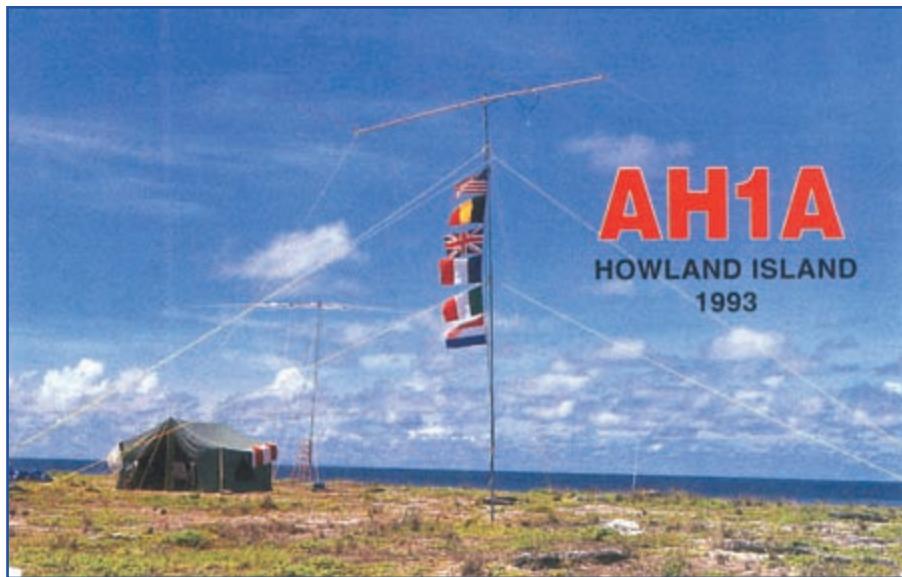
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QSL card from 1993 DXpedition to Howland Island. Note how flat the island is.

The Author

Steve Pendleton, a retired teacher, has collected Antarctica and Pacific and ocean isles for more than thirty years. He has had more than 500 articles published in philatelic and regional magazines. He also has made two voyages to the South Pacific, but not, at least so far, to the Line Islands.

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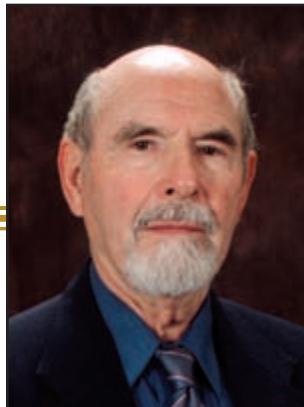
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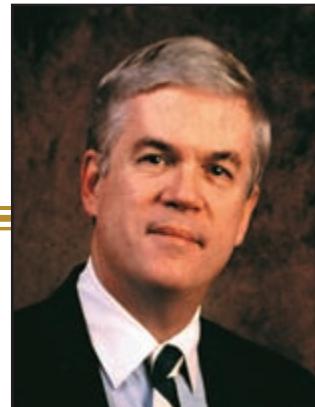
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Nancy B. Clark



Stanley J. Luft



Peter P. McCann

Clark, Luft, & McCann 2008 Luff Honorees

The Luff Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by the American Philatelic Society. Established in 1940 in honor of prominent American philatelist, John N. Luff and APS president from 1907 to 1909, the awards are presented each year at Stamp Show for meritorious contributions to philately by living philatelists.

Nancy B. Clark, Stanley J. Luft, and Peter P. McCann have been chosen to receive the 2008 John N. Luff Awards. The recipients will be honored at the 2008 Stamp Show Awards Banquet on Saturday, August 16, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Nancy B. Clark of Marstons Mills, Massachusetts, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Luff Award for *Exceptional Contributions to Philately*.

Nancy's widespread accomplishments touch on many fields in organized philately; however, her efforts on behalf of youth philately stand out among her many activities. Beginning some thirty years ago she was a counselor working with Boy Scouts to help them achieve a badge in stamp collecting. She founded and ran stamp clubs that held regular meetings and exhibitions in three schools with grades from K to 8 plus a magnet high school. In 1982 she hosted a regional Benjamin Franklin Leader Exchange Conference for teachers at the Ropex show.

Prior to the Ameripex show in 1986 she worked to develop the Y.E.S. (Youths Exhibiting Stamps) project. She trained postal service personnel in exhibiting techniques and judged the final entries. This exhibiting promotion enabled five youngsters and their parents to attend Ameripex at USPS expense. In 1986 Nancy received a grant from the Council of Philatelic Organizations to design and develop youth areas for national shows. She hosted the first FIP-level youth judging seminar in North America. At the 1994 Peach State Show she set a record with fifty-four frames of youth exhibits at a national show.

Nancy hosted a youth philately symposium in Woods Hole,

Massachusetts, and served as co-chair of Stamp Camp USA in 2002. She chaired the committee for the youth and beginners area at Washington 2006, partnering with the APS and the USPS. She prepared materials for and participated in an outreach program for 2,500 teachers for the Smithsonian Institution's "Teacher's Night."

Nancy's service to the American Philatelic Society has been long-standing at so many different levels. These include chairing the youth activities committee, serving as APS representative to the FIP youth commission, developing youth judging guidelines, presenting postal history seminars, and working as a nationally accredited judge for more than twenty-five years. She has served on several APS committees including judges' accreditation, international relations, and postal history. She was an APS director at large 1993–1997 and served as Society treasurer 1999–2003. For several years she has organized and hosted the weekly "APS Stamp Talk with Nancy Clark" on wsRadio.com.

She has served on the juries of eight international exhibitions and was the U.S. commissioner to seven international shows and team leader for three international shows. She served as vice president and president of the Rochester Philatelic Association and chaired Ropex. Nancy was a founding member and president of the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs, and a founder of the Peach State Stamp Show, which she chaired throughout its WSP accreditation. She served as president of Olymphilex 1996 and as secretary and director of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. In 2003 she was a founding member of the Auxiliary Markings Club and currently serves as its president. She is a director of the Massachusetts Postal Research Society and treasurer of the Mobile Post Office Society.

Nancy Clark has written dozens of articles that have appeared in *The American Philatelist*, the American Philatelic Congress books, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, and many postal history

journals. She has been honored with the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs Service Award, the Rowland Hill Lifetime Achievement Award of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, the APS Ernest Kehr Award, and the Clyde Jennings Award of the EFO Club. She is a Fellow of the Royal of London. She has won national and international Gold awards for her many different exhibits. In view of her many years of service in organized philately and her continued and dedicated promotion of youth philately, the committee recommends that she be honored with the Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately.

Stanley J. Luft of Golden, Colorado, has been selected as the recipient for the 2008 Luff Award for *Distinguished Philatelic Research*.

Stan has contributed significant research in the realm of French philately as reflected in his exhibits and his writings. He is an internationally recognized expert in all areas of this field. He has written or co-authored more than 100 articles that have appeared in various journals, but largely the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. His writings have also appeared in *The American Philatelist*, *Postal History Journal*, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *The American Philatelic Congress Book*, *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, *London Philatelist*, and *Feuilles Marcophiles*.

In the field of books, Stan wrote the three-volume work *The Regular Issues of France According to Their Normal Postal Usage* (1974, 1979, 1984). He is also the author of *Military and Postal History of the Revolutionary Armies in the West of France 1791–1802* (1993). With co-author William Waugh, he wrote *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with Their Postal Markings 1815–1983* (1984).

His personal research is recorded not only in his writings but also in his many exhibits that have achieved more than thirty Gold awards, several Reserve Grands, and one grand award nationally. At FIP exhibitions he won three large Golds as well as a Prix d'Honneur at London 1990. The areas on which these researched exhibits and his writings have touched include French revolutionary and Napoleonic armies, French military campaigns from 1823, Alsace-Lorraine from 1870, the 15-centimes Sage issue, the 30-centimes Cameo Sowers, the 25-centimes Marianne de Décaris, and Paris suburbs 1760–1883.

Stan was a founding member of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie in 1978, a member of the Union Marco-phile since 1974, and was elected a corresponding member of the Académie de Philatélie in 2001. He edited the *France & Colonies Philatelist* 1993–2000 and served as a director of the society 1971–2007. He has been an accredited chief philatelic and chief literature judge. He is past president of the Philatelic Society of Cincinnati and is a long-standing member of the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show organizing committee where he has served as president and show chairman. He is past president of the Collectors Club of Denver, served on the council of the American Philatelic Congress and chaired its Boehret Award committee.

He is a fellow of the RPSL and has won the France & Colonies Philatelic Society Gerard Gilbert Memorial award for philatelic literature three times for his books. In view of Stan Luft's research contributions to the philately of France and



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GUERNSEY	Harry Potter (2479-35)	11.08
HONG KONG	The Beatles (Music)-self adhesives (6) (2421-6)	13.79
IRAQ	International Polar Year (491-2)	5.68
ISRAEL	International Polar Year, souvenir sheet (492a)	5.68
ISLE OF MAN	Battle for the Falkland-ships, helicopter (926-31)	11.60
IVORY COAST	Lunar New Year Gold Silver souvenir sheet (1254)	28.61
JERSEY	Musicians-musical notes, instruments (1738-41)	6.90
LIECHTENSTEIN	UN/Israel Joint Issue-Holocaust Remembrance Day Sheet (1915)	16.73
MADEIRA	TT Motorcycle Races (10)	15.69
MOZAMBIQUE	Lighthouses, Dolphins & Whales (4)	12.31
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	Minerals (4)	14.21
NEVIS	Europa 2007-Boy Scouts, Windsurfing (1248-51)	7.68
NORFOLK	Minerals (1242-6)	9.66
NORWAY	Famous Musical Works-Cartoon Sheet of 8	12.65
PALAU	Marine Fauna, souvenir sheet-limpet, mollusk, fish anemones (261)	7.45
PERU	AIDS (3)	6.16
PITCAIRN IS.	Fauna '07-cat, fish, dog, turtle, bird, penguin-12 values (1134)	18.02
RUSSIA	WWF-Parrot Fish Sheetlet of 16 (1510)	16.46
ST. THOMAS	Dogs (4)	7.31
SENEGAL	Pitcairn Migration-ships, palm trees (5)	9.25
SURINAM	Lighthouses-Booklet of 10 self adhesives (1522a)	27.48
SWEDEN	Cowries-Sheet of 6, shells, snails	6.15
TADZIKISTAN	Bush Dogs (Sheet of 4) (1599)	15.10
TOGO	Cats (4)	18.74
TRINIDAD	Sports-rafting, cycling, mountain climbing (3) (1567)	13.75
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VANUATU	Whales, souvenir sheet (646a)	7.55
VATICAN CITY	Wildlife-birds, polar bears, horses (5)	4.28
	Wildlife, souvenir sheet-birds, polar bears, horses	4.28
	AIDS In Africa, souvenir sheet	5.19
	29th Paris-Dakar Rally-off road race, cars, motorcycles (2)	7.06
	Ferrari Race Cars (8) (1357)	15.63
	Sea Rescue Sheetlet w/Lighthouse in Margin-ship & map	12.20
	Dogs-windmill (295-300)	12.33
	WWF-Turtles (4)	6.31
	Anti-Smoking, souvenir sheet-Children's art (768)	8.74
	Mozart Sheet (1014)	8.32
	(2007)-Zodiac Signs (12 values)	5.25
	Birds Sheet of 4 (Camels in margin)	5.20
	Fruit, self adhesive (924-8)	10.49
	Goldini, souvenir sheet (fold out)-theatre (1356)	9.61

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related areas, he is recommended for the 2008 Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

Peter P. McCann of University Park, Florida, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Luff Award for *Outstanding Services to the American Philatelic Society*.

Peter has served the Society in many ways over a number of years. He is an APS accredited chief philatelic judge and chief literature judge and has judged at more than 125 national shows since 1986. He served on the Committee for Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges 1993–2007, and was chairman of CANEJ 1997–1999. In the 1990s he chaired the International Relations Committee and also the Greater APS Fund Committee for four years each.

From 1995–1997 he was APS Vice President and Recorder on the Board of Vice Presidents, and from 1997–1999 was Chairman of the BVP. He was elected president of the APS in 1999 and served two terms, after which he continued service on the board as the immediate past president from 2003–2007. He was the APS delegate to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) from 1997–2005. During his many years of service to the Society he has been a salient promoter of the APS in his national and international activities.

Peter continues as an ambassador of the Society through his service on international juries and his current office in the FIP. He has judged at eleven FIP exhibitions since 1993, several times as vice president of the jury and as team leader. In 2004 he was elected vice president of FIP, responsible for FIAF, Statues

and Rules, and the Postal History Commission.

His enthusiasm for philately is reflected in several dozen articles that he has written, and his service as co-editor and co-author of books pertaining to his interests in the islands of the Caribbean and South Atlantic. He has exhibited nationally and internationally, and has won national Grand awards with two different exhibits. Peter has always been willing to share his knowledge with collectors and has presented judging and exhibiting seminars at APS shows.

The high regard in which Peter McCann is held in the philatelic community has been recognized with many awards and honors, including fellow of the RPSL, Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition National Merit Award, trustee of the Philatelic Foundation, co-chairman of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, board of directors and committee chairman at Washington 2006, past president of the American Philatelic Congress, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and the British Philatelic Study Group.

He is also recipient of the Eugene Klein Memorial Award of the American Philatelic Congress, the Phoenix Award of the Phoenix Philatelic Association, and the Skavaril Award for service to the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society. In 2007 he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

In view of his long and dedicated service to the APS, the Luff Award Committee proposes that Peter P. McCann be honored with the 2008 Luff Award for Outstanding Service to the American Philatelic Society.

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August — Enjoy Summer Before it Ends

The stamps this month will be the 42-cent Bierstadt and the Sunflower — issued at Hartford — where I know I will see you! And four 42-cent Disney: Imagination stamps will appear on August 7, together with four matching 27-cent postcards.



August features StampShow 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut; followed by the AFDCS convention in Falls Church, Virginia, the next weekend; and, at the very end of the month, Balp ex in Baltimore, Maryland. Three great shows for those of us on the East Coast.

And, in between, get to the beach or the mountains, cool off, and rest up before the bustle of Fall. And, remember, make sure your stamps are properly and safely stored for *their* summer.

The Year in Review

It was just a year ago that I had the honor of being sworn in as your President — along with a Board that has more than half “new faces.” We have accomplished a lot in that year, but there is a lot more that we need to do and that we will see accomplished during the coming year. The overall “theme” has been to build a digital foundation for the APS of the future. While we had expected that the new website would be online early this year, we discovered that there were a myriad of developments, requirements, and capabilities that had arisen since the contract had been agreed to more than four years ago. It then became clear that it would be more cost-effective to start over — with the view of a completely new, robust, and up-to-date site coming online a year from now.



During the past year, however, we have proceeded with a number of other initiatives. Portions of *The American Philatelist*, including this column, is now available online on the first of the month. In addition, each month we feature online an article from past issues of the *AP*, and this archive is growing. We now have a first-of-the-month e-mail blast with all the latest APS news. We have always had an e-mail service to notify members of nearby WSP shows



USPS First Day Ceremonies at StampShow 2008

Thursday • August 14 • Noon
Albert Bierstadt's *Valley of the Yosemite*
Friday • August 15 • Noon
42-Cent Sunflower

— we are in the process of extending this to information about club and affiliate shows as well. We asked the Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibition Judges (CANEJ) to undertake a comprehensive look at the rules for WSP shows and at the judging criteria. They are also producing a guide for shows. We conducted a membership survey and have in recent months been in the process of implementing the suggested improvements. Finally, we undertook a comprehensive look at the rules for APS elections with a view to ensuring both an orderly as well as an equitable process.

Membership

It is no longer satisfactory for us to sit back and let collectors find and join us. We, each and every one of us, need to be proactively recruiting. When you sign in at the APS booth at this month's Stamp Show, take one of the little APS stickers and put it on your show badge — it identifies you as a member of the Society. Also, pick up some membership applications — and as you meet people at the show, let them see your enthusiasm in stamp collecting, and ask if they are members. If not, sign them up!

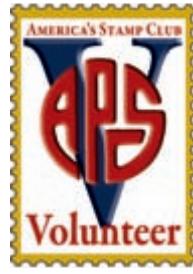
The most important factor is YOU. The selling point in recruiting is your enthusiasm and obvious joy in being a stamp collector. If you approach a potential member with this joy, recruitment will be easy!

E-Mail Newsletter

I hope you are enjoying our monthly e-mail newsletter. We want you to know what is happening at the APS, and in the hobby, on a timely basis. The purpose is to enhance and accelerate our communications with our members. We understand, however, that some of our members have not yet received an e-newsletter. If you haven't seen the first issues and want to receive our newsletter, just let us have your e-mail address. Also, be on the lookout for our "blasts," which we have traditionally sent out to members in the area around a WSP show shortly before the event. We are about to extend this service to other club and affiliate shows; the details are being worked out and will be announced at our meeting at Hartford.

At Hartford we will be giving out the new Volunteer awards. These are being awarded to members who have demonstrated unusual dedication to the hobby over many years. There are four levels: National Promotion/Service,

Local Promotion/Service, Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist, and Outstanding Young Philatelist. There is a distinctive pin, which will be awarded, along with a certificate, at our General Meeting on Saturday August 16. We also will be awarding the Mueller Prize for the best AP article in 2007. All the honorees are being announced elsewhere in this issue and will be posted on our website as well.



My New Collector

Last month I mentioned that my namesake grandson, now seven, is a new stamp collector. His attention was caught by the "Nature of America" sheets and then by the "Star Wars" sheet, and I told how I had made up a loose-leaf note book, put his name on the front, and put some stock sheets at back. Recently I visited him and gave him some more stamps. He now knows what he has and doesn't, and clearly told me he doesn't want to have to soak any stamps that are duplicates! It is a joy to be his mentor.

Youth

Speaking of youth, check out the website of Youth Stamp Collectors International (www.ysci.org). This represents a very successful program addressing youth, entry-level adults, and educators that has been running for some time in the Pacific Northwest. Some of you may have seen their programs at last year's Stamp Show in Portland, at Westex, Pipex, and at the recent NTSS show. It is run by Carol Edholm, whom I have asked to head up the APS Committee on youth and entry-level collectors.

Finally, check out the *American Philatelist* reprints on our website (www.stamps.org/Services/ser_ArchivedArticles.htm). The featured article this month is "Postage Stamp for a Day: The Trinidad World War I Red Cross Charity Label" by Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon. The article covers the origin of a controversial "one day" stamp issued by the Red Cross and accepted for use by the Trinidad and Tobago Post Office.

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from the executive director

by peter mastrangelo



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Mastrangelo".

Since this issue of *The American Philatelist* will be available during StampShow, I am reminded of the countless hours of preparation that go into such a major event. It is not just the work of our staff that makes this show a success, it is also the time and effort each dealer puts into making sure they have the right mix of inventory for potential buyers, the countless hours that exhibitors devote to award-winning exhibits, the preparation that presenters devote to the variety of workshops and seminars held in conjunction with the show, and the unheralded volunteers who help behind the scenes putting up and taking down exhibit frames, judging exhibits, helping with registration and much, more. Our thanks go out to each and everyone who helps make this event such a success! If you are at the show, please stop by our booth to meet your APS staff.

What a Week!

More than 100 students, instructors, and presenters convened in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, to attend Summer Seminar 2008. The week started with Scopex (June 21–22), the local stamp show and bourse of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, held each year in conjunction with the Summer Seminar. Two American Philatelic Center dedications were held on Saturday: the St. Louis Patio dedication highlighted the historical connection of that great city to the early years of the APS, and the APRL thematic reference collection was dedicated in memory of Mary Ann Owns and George Guzzio.

Seminar attendees first gathered on Sunday evening with an opening reception and then spent the next four days attending major courses and electives of their choice. Attendees capped off their week at the Thursday evening banquet with a keynote presentation by former Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin Bailar. Additional activities included a stamp auction, a buy-sell-trade night, and, of course, using Library resources and searching through circuit sales books to fill out personal collections. The Headsville Post Office,

Welcome to StampShow!

our contract post office facility, also did a very brisk business. Our thanks go out to all attendees, instructors, special speakers, staff, and invited guests for another extraordinary week!

APS/eBay Relationship

As of June 30, 2008, the working relationship between APS and eBay to manage eBay's Stamp Community Watch program has ended. As I reported to the Board of Directors at our meeting last January, eBay has rolled out a new reporting system in its efforts to improve the system-wide reporting mechanism for fraudulent and misidentified items. This process changes the manner in which it works with "community watch" groups, including the Stamp Community Watch (SCW).

For a number of years APS had an agreement with eBay that outlined our role in managing the stamp community watch process in concert with eBay SCW expert volunteers. We contracted with Frank Sente (former APS Director of Administration) to manage this process. Late last year, eBay confirmed to us that they were doing away with all "industry specific" agreements in 2008.

The SCW is essentially an eBay committee. Through our previous agreement, Mr. Sente managed the review process of SCW experts, communicating with sellers prior to an item being taken down, thus giving them a chance to change a listing, while educating them about the questionable item in

Summer Saturdays

The APC will be open two more Saturdays this summer — August 9, and August 23 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The American Philatelic Research Library, APS Circuit Sales, and APS Administration Offices will be open to serve you.

Stamp clubs may want to organize a day trip for one of these Saturdays (please just let us know beforehand).

the process. In this manner, we have helped clear the community of questionable items, and the seller was given the opportunity to change a description prior to its being taken down. eBay will now rely directly on its various experts to take down an item when questioned by an expert, without the vetting and education process that Mr. Sente's services previously provided.

While eBay's process is still evolving, they have indicated to us that there will be an appeal process incorporated into their new system. During our conversations with eBay representatives over the past few months, we have outlined various concerns with the new process and we continue to have input in this regard. In the meantime, all sellers on eBay should continue to insure that their listings are accurate and described properly. If unsure, prior to listing material, avail yourself of one of the expertizing or identification services offered by various vendors, such as APEX, or Quick ID available through APS.

Finances and Membership

The APS experienced a larger than expected membership decline when members who did not renew were dropped in April. Our rolls at the end of April counted 38,743 members (our May and June numbers are now about 39,000). Our revised budget projections are based upon 40,000 members by the end of the year. This is about 1,700 members shy of our original budget projections, and thus leaves an \$88,000 shortfall in our originally projected membership dues income. Even with other adjustments in our projected income, we are \$133,000 shy of our original 2008 budget. Revised projected income for 2008 is \$4,158,355, compared to \$4,291,264 in the original 2008 budget.

On the expense side, our budget has always been tight. Compounding that, like all businesses, we have been facing

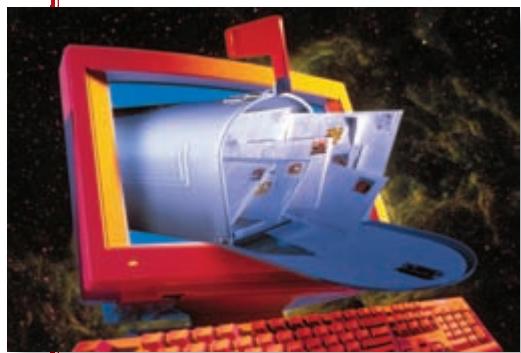
increasing costs in a number of areas and yet must attempt to continue those programs, services, and other activities that are vital to both our present and future operations. All that being said, as we approached the usual mid-year review of our budget, it became clear that we would have a shortfall.

When we prepare and review our budgets each year, we look at two bottom lines. The first is our operating budget bottom line *before* depreciation, and the second is our bottom line *after* depreciation. In recent years, we have attempted to balance our operating budget prior to depreciation expenses; yet, our bottom line after depreciation has consistently been in the red. When we prepared the 2008 operating budget, we projected a surplus of \$111,264 before depreciation, leaving a very small surplus after depreciation (essentially break-even). Our revised 2008 budget leaves an operating deficit of \$13,242 before depreciation and a \$112,834 deficit after depreciation. By watching our expenditures for the remainder of the year we'll work at reducing the operating deficit before depreciation, yet cuts would have been more dramatic if we attempted to fund depreciation. At this point our efforts are focused on increasing membership up to and beyond the 40,000-member level.

In my column last month, I reported that we had instituted a staff reduction as part of this process. That decision was financially driven and impacted departments that can more readily absorb portions of the workload associated with the positions that were eliminated, while minimizing disruptions in service to our members. The department heads of each of the departments involved were consulted in this process. Subsequently, budgets were finalized, discussed with the Presidents and Treasurers of the APS and APRL prior to submission to the Joint Finance Committee. The Joint Finance Committee reviewed and approved the revised budgets via telephone conference call on May 19. On



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May 28 both Boards met and approved the budgets in joint Executive Session, per our policies since personnel matters were being discussed. As per our practice, decisions made in executive session are ratified at the next open session of the APS Board of Directors.

Staff reductions rest within my purview as Executive Director. I do not make these decisions lightly. While this decision was business driven, it does impact those whose jobs were eliminated in a very personal way. To that end, we provided what help we could within our available resources. Each employee was provided with a full month's equivalent in salary/wages and health benefits (if full-time). For those

who were eligible, compensation for accrued vacation was provided and they also are able to draw upon any unemployment benefits that they may be entitled to. "Outplacement" services (interview and job coaching, resume preparation, job search services, etc.) also are being provided at our expense to those former full-time employees who elect to avail themselves of those services. Lastly, if we have openings in the future, these employees, if available and qualified, are eligible for re-hire. Our staffing levels now sit at 36.8 FTE (full-time employee), down from 39.9 FTE. The APS and APRL continue to operate day-in and day-out serving our members.

— Paid Advertisement —

Mystic Stamp Company 85 Years of Buying Stamps

America's leading stamp dealer, Mystic Stamp Company of Camden, New York, is celebrating its 85th year in 2008.

Mystic was founded in 1923 by Lawrence K. Shaver. Shaver sold his collection of U.S. 3¢ 1851's for two hundred dollars, using the funds to buy stamps for resale.

That humble start sits in stark contrast to the current Mystic, which now spends over \$15 million a year buying stamps. In fact, Mystic reports it has spent between \$45 and \$50 million to purchase stamps over the last three years.

Mystic has earned a solid reputation for paying collectors and dealers more for

panied by the stories published in *Linn's* covering the important stamp acquisitions Mystic has made.

The market for the world's rarest stamps has always been highly competitive. In this well-documented and publicly observed arena, it's easy to demonstrate how Mystic certainly lives up to its reputation of paying more for stamps.

Do you recall the images of a young boy raising an auction paddle to purchase a stamp of a little under a million dollars in 1998? The boy was Zachary Sundman, the son of Donald Sundman, Mystic's President – and the stamp was the 1868 1¢ Z Grill.

Since then, Mystic has made headlines acquiring many more rare stamps. In fact, Mystic traded the 1¢ Z Grill for the unique Jenny Inverted Plate-Number Block. This "Big Trade" fascinated the public when it was featured by major TV, radio, print and Internet news outlets around the world in 2005.

According to Mystic, its stamp-buying hotline – 1-800-835-3609 – was extremely busy during this time.

Many other examples of Mystic's high prices paid have been documented in the pages of *Linn's*, as well. For example, when the National Postal Museum

held two auctions to sell deaccessioned U.S. Revenue stamps, Mystic was the main buyer. Mystic spent over \$3 million on the revenue stamps and paid over 60% of the prices realized.

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

Many collectors were pleasantly surprised to hear Mystic purchased worldwide stamps, as they too could benefit from the firm's remarkable high prices paid.

Although high-profile philatelic acquisitions are a great way to demonstrate how Mystic pays more for stamps, the vast majority of the firm's purchases are made quietly, from individual collectors and small dealers.

Mystic's ads are packed full of facts, which help collectors make an informed decision about selling their stamps to Mystic.

The man leading Mystic's aggressive buying program is Mark Morrow, a world-renowned expert on stamps and the stamp market.

Over the past 35 years, Mark has likely spent more

money on stamps than any other American buyer! Mark and his team are constantly traveling the U.S. purchasing stamps.

Mystic receives hundreds of letters from collectors and dealers describing how pleased they are with the professionalism and convenience of Mark's service and high buying prices.

For a longtime stamp collector, the decision to sell stamps can be very stressful. Mystic's buyers understand this and are considerate of the needs of the seller. Mark Morrow explains the process of selling stamps to collectors and makes them comfortable with the decision to sell. Best of all, Mystic pays the highest prices for stamps the market will allow. So whether Mystic's buying team is dealing with a savvy dealer or an individual who has simply inherited stamps, they pay high prices every time.

This is great news for collectors with stamps for sale. By simply calling 1-800-835-3609, you can get honest advice on the best way to proceed with the sale of your collection.

Mystic's impressive retail business continues to grow. So its need to buy more stamps continues to grow, as well. In the next few years, Mystic will focus even more on purchasing stamps from around the world. Particular interest is being paid to former British Colonies and other former European Colonies. The stamps of Asia, and specifically of China and Japan, are of special interest as well.



Donald Sundman, President of Mystic, is proud of the high prices paid to collectors and dealers selling their stamps.

Mystic is also interested in acquiring high-end collections from private dealers and smaller dealers. The company's buyers are prepared to make generous offers for impressive collections... and back them up with a check "on the spot."

But, no matter what type of philatelic material you have for sale, it would be smart to contact Mystic. The company needs all types of stamps and stamp-related products. And with its proven reputation for paying more, any stamp seller should definitely make the toll-free call to 1-800-835-3609.

Simply make that call and Mystic's expert stamp buyers will guide you, helping you to make a confident decision about the sale of your stamps.

After 85 years of buying stamps and serving stamp collectors, Mystic has the expertise to correctly value all of your stamps, and the resources to purchase them all. Call 1-800-835-3609 and see why it's easier to deal with the best.



Mystic Stamp Company began buying stamps in 1923. Now – 85 years later – Mystic has grown to become America's leading stamp dealer. The company spent more than \$15 million on stamps last year alone. If you're looking to sell stamps, contact Mystic's expert stamp buyers by calling 1-800-835-3609.

stamps. In fact, the statement "Mystic Pays More For Your Stamps" has become the company's motto in ads.

As readers know, Mystic often prints advertisements featuring testimonials from the people who have sold stamps to Mystic. Many times these ads are accom-

June at the APC

*Scopex • June 21–22, 2008
Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society Stamp Show*



From left: A young collector searches through a dealer's box at SCOPEX. The bourse was a-buzz with collectors eager to buy. Tom Fortunato and Wayne Youngblood judging exhibits.



St. Louis Patio Dedication • June 21, 2008



Plaque celebrating John K. Tiffany and Charles H. Mekeel and the St. Louis-APS connection also features a list of the contributors to the Patio project.



Above left: St. Louis Patio and entrance to the Gordon and Mary Morison Pavilion and Headsville, West Virginia, Post Office and General Store.

Right: Under the shade of a tent, Gary Hendren explains the APS and St. Louis connection.

*Mary Ann Owens-
George T. Guzzio
Thematic Reference
Collection Dedication
June 21, 2008*



Clockwise from top: Family and friends gather to honor two of the hobby's premier topical philatelists — Mary Ann Owens and George T. Guzzio.

Mary Ann's brother, Paul Aspinwall, studies an exhibit celebrating her passion for the hobby.

President of the American Topical Association, Jack Andre Denys, the Guzzio family, and Paul Aspinwall pause for a Kodak moment during a reception following the dedication.

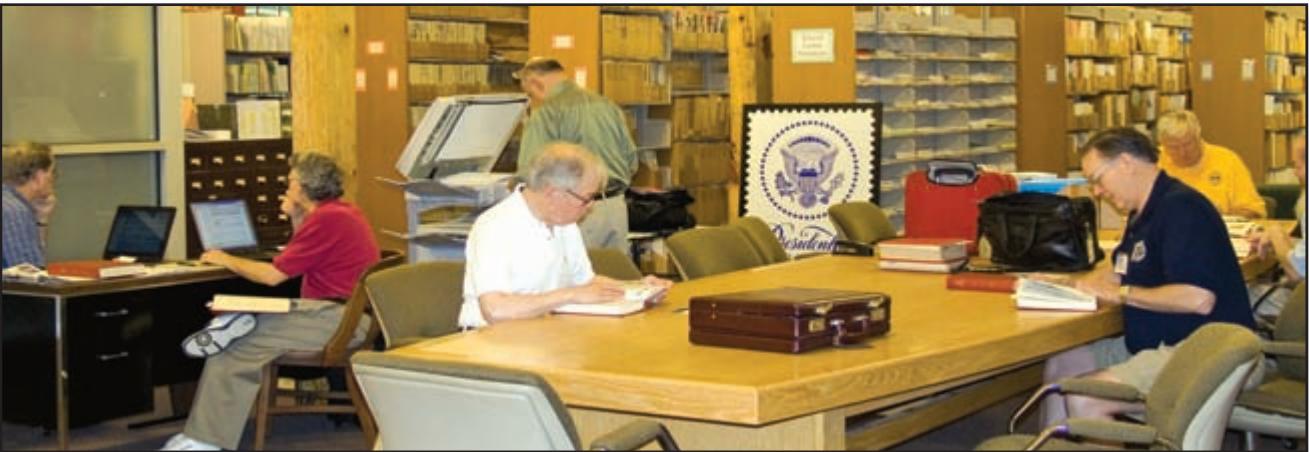
Summer Seminar • June 22-27, 2008



Top left: Stamp Technology instructor Wayne Youngblood prepares to begin.

Top right: Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois plan their strategy for the day's postal history project.

Right: Seminar student pours over boxes of donations looking for the perfect find or, better yet, a philatelic bargain.



Summer Seminar students take advantage of some spare time to do research in the APRL.



Above: Former Postmaster General Ben Bailar entertains attendees with stories "From the Corner Off ce."

Right: Gene Yount, Susan Butler, Peter Butler, Ian Kimmerly, and Dick Osman celebrate a great week, the hobby, and new friends. Cheers!



Above: George Fekete and the Computers and Philately students share some favorite websites before getting down to work.



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Circuit Program Anniversary

Our computer program for the sales circuit operation is six years old this month. In August 2000, we had placed the inventory on a database program, setting up the easy and efficient transition of that information to our present program in August 2002. After working with this system for six years, you might wonder: "How did we ever manage without computerization for the first 115 years of the APS Sales Exchange/Division's existence?" You guessed it; everything was done with cards, cards, and more cards.

We know there are members out there who have not used the sales circuits to buy material since before August 2002. We have had several of them return to the circuits recently and they are happy with the changes we've made. Along with the preprinted report sheets, there are mailing labels supplied for forwarding the circuit to the next member, and a note section for letting us know about any problems members find in the circuit books and also any ideas or suggestions for how we can improve our service. Members who call us for information usually get an answer during the phone call, rather than waiting for us to research the answer and call them back. Sellers also can get a printout of how their books are progressing in sales.

Since the beginning of the APS sales program, all types of collectors have benefitted from using our services. It does not matter whether you are a beginner, intermediate, advanced, or expert col-

lector; there is something for all in our inventory of \$8.5 million.

BEGINNERS — If you are just starting to collect stamps or are beginning a new interest area, this is one of the best venues for obtaining items for your collection. Imagine receiving a box of sales books containing 500 to 1,500 stamps in a category for which you have a nearly empty stamp album. Talk about having fun!

INTERMEDIATE — Among the 500–1,500 stamps you receive in a circuit, there are plenty to choose from for filling holes in your collection.

ADVANCED — Yes, there are hard-to-find items to be discovered in the sales books. We have many advanced collectors who are selling stamps through us and they are high-quality items. Call us for our suggestions on how you might use the circuits for finding material for your collection.

EXPERTS — You can help us with identifying problems of authenticity and identification of items in the sales books, while at the same time finding the items that have eluded you for years. Many of these items are inexpensive, too. Our experts, or examiners, in the Sales Division, have been finding these items in sales books for years.

Those who stereotype the sales books as "not advanced enough" for them are missing the chance to buy items that are being offered by other advanced col-

lectors. Evidence of what members are finding to buy can be seen each time we process a returning circuit. Many of them sell for \$200–\$800, tidy sums for a six-person circuit.

If it has been awhile since you bought from the circuits or if you have never used this service, contact us for specific information about your collecting interests and visit www.stamps.org/Services/ser_buyingselling.htm.

Circuits at STAMPSHOW

Don't forget to visit the APS booth at StampShow in Hartford, Connecticut, August 14–17 to browse through the sales circuit books we will have with us at a side table. A wide variety of categories will be represented. Check last month's column for specifics on how to have fun looking through these special circuits.

Show Special

There also will be a special sale of blank sales books at StampShow. For every ten blank sales books purchased, you will receive an additional five books of the same type. Stop by the APS Booth, say hello to our Sales Division representative, buy some blank books, and browse through the circuit books.

How I Got into Stamp Collecting

It is appropriate that we have Shaun Malloy's entry into stamp collecting to share with you this month. Shaun lives

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in New England and this year's Stamp Show is almost in his backyard.

I suspect that my story is a stereotype of most philatelists my age. I grew up in a small town in northern New Hampshire known for its long, harsh winters. I was given a *Modern Postage Stamp Album of the World* for Christmas 1945. It had a red hardbound cover and started with Abyssinia and ended with Zambia. Collecting the WORLD seemed a daunting challenge, but the long, dark winters certainly gave me time and incentive to start collecting.

Included with the stamp album was a booklet from H.E. Harris & Co., Boston, Massachusetts, where you could order stamps on approval that would be sent right to your home! This was a perfect set up for me. Most of my weekly allowance and paper route money went to the Harris company! I knew that President Roosevelt was a stamp collector and I was fascinated at being able to travel the World through my collection.

This fascination of the World beyond northern New Hampshire inspired me to pursue a career in later life that would allow me to do just thattravel the World! On the last page of that old red stamp album I had written, "In Dec. 1946 I, Shaun Malloy, have 1,346 stamps in this book. I am 11 years old. I worked hard on my collection this year. It is my first year."

'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 be worth at least \$50 per book.* The coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving.) Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Details are sent with blank sales book orders. You may also 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 very short supply at this time:

- U.S. Fancy Cancels
- U.S. Plate Number Singles
- U.S. Precancels
- All European Colonial stamps
- Bermuda
- German States
- Global Covers (postally used)
- Hong Kong
- Jamaica
- Japan pre-1950
- Vatican City

Postage on Packages

With the increases in postage, circuit members should consider using postage stamps for forwarding circuits to the next members. It is a real present to receive used, higher-denomination stamps on packages, particularly when U.S. stamps and covers are the contents of the circuits being sent on. And, the recipients appreciate it. As always, you should ask the postal clerk for at least a \$0 meter-stamp to indicate that the package was mailed through a clerk.

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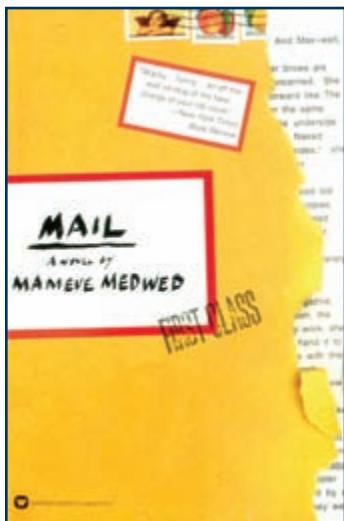
Summertime & the Reading is Easy

It is now high summer, and throughout stampdom many collections are at a seasonal standstill. Although a few earnest souls are busy building new exhibits for the first fall shows, most of us are content to keep up with the yard-work, crank up the grill, and smell the roses.

One of the pleasures of warmer weather is light summer reading, and it may surprise you to learn that the American Philatelic Research Library has a lot to offer in that regard — with the accent on stamps, of course. To keep you “In the Know” this month, we thought we’d show you how to use the Internet to generate a list of books suitable for summertime reading and available from the APRL.

(Remember, if you haven’t got a computer at home, free Internet access is available at your local public library, along with librarians who are ready, more than willing, and able to show you how to use them.)

Start by going to www.stamps.org and clicking on the blue tab marked “Library” that you’ll find at the top of the page. Then — in the list arranged vertically on



Mail by Mameve Medwed is a sharply drawn comedy of class, family and romance that follows the rocky relationship between a Harvard writing instructor and “her handsome, working class mailman.”

“Online Catalogue.” This will bring up a “Catalogue Search” box on your screen.

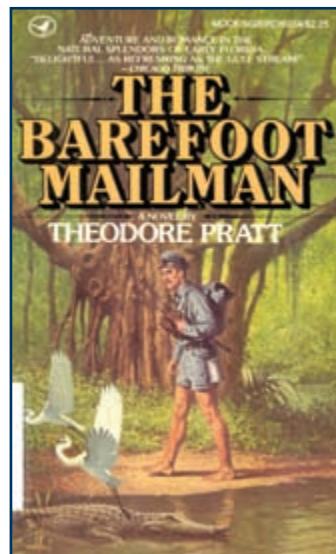
Under “Record Type,” enter “book.” Under “Subject,” enter “literature with philatelic themes.” Then scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on the button marked “Submit Query.”

This will bring up a list of eighty-nine “hits” — that is, “books” with “literature with philatelic themes” — including titles such as *The Adventures of Tommy Post-office*; *The Antigua Stamp; Cancelled in Red*; *The Crying of Lot 49*; *The Dutch Blue Error*; and *Seven Little Postmen*.

For more information about an individual title, click on “Full Display,” which is underlined in blue beneath each title. For example, clicking on Margaret Wise Brown’s *Seven Little Postmen*, you get the following additional information about this title:

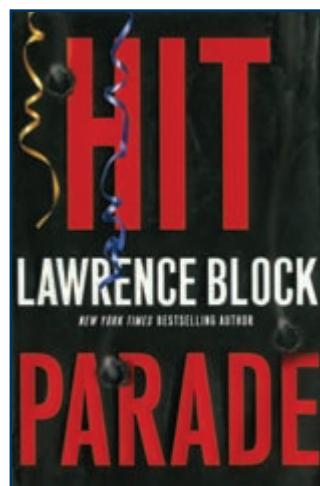
Title	Seven little postmen
Author	Brown, Margaret Wise by Margaret Wise
Place	New York
Publisher	Simon and Schuster,
Publication Date	1952.
Subjects	United States Juvenile Literature Literature with Philatelic Themes Post Offices Postal Service
Type	Book
Language	English
Phys Desc	[28] p.: col. ill.; 20 cm.
Notes	“A Little Golden Book”

Notice that this title would have come up in any of five different “Subject” searches. While “A Little Golden Book” might be perfect for summer bedtime reading for the kids, it may not be what you had in mind. If that’s so, it’s easy to eliminate books for children from your search. Go back to the “Catalogue Search” box, and enter “book” again under “Record Type.” This time, however, under “Subject,” enter “literature with philatelic themes” juvenile litera-



Postally premised paperbacks from the American Philatelic Research Library include *The Barefoot Mailman*, the story of a letter carrier in the wilds of Florida during the 1880s.

ture.” Because the exclamation point means “NOT,” this directs the search away from any title that also is categorized as “juvenile literature.” This will cut the previous list down to fifty-seven “hits.” (Bear in mind that these numbers do change as new titles are constantly



Hit Parade is one of two titles with a philatelic twist on APRL shelves and written by Lawrence Block, an APS member and this year’s Tiffany Dinner speaker August 14 during STAMPSHOW in Hartford.

added to our holdings.)

In the same way that the exclamation point (!) may be used to limit your search, the ampersand (&), which means "AND," may be used to further refine it. For example, a search for "literature with philatelic themes & air mail" cuts the number of "hits" down to 25 titles. (These categories are somewhat subjective, so you may prefer to look over the entire list of titles and call up "Full Display" for additional details of any that interest you.)

A search of "literature with philatelic themes & humor" yields just two hits. However, if you eliminate "literature with philatelic themes," and enter "hu-

mor" alone in the subject box, you get 41 "hits" — a freewheeling assortment that includes *The Doonesbury Stamp Album*, *Alice Through the Pillar-Box and What She Found There: A Philatelic Phantasy*, Clyde Jennings' *Court of Honor (?)*: Some of Philately's Most Outstanding "Characters," MAD's *Talking Stamps*, and Walt Kelly's *Pogo Puce Stamp Catalog*.

Of course, the same search tools, principles, and symbols may be put to more serious philatelic research. But relating them to lighter summer reading fare provides an introduction to this subject that even non-collectors can enjoy.

To close out our literary subject, those who attend the annual APS Tif-

fany Dinner on Thursday, August 14 — the opening day of StampShow 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut — will have a rare treat in the keynote speaker that evening: award-winning, best-selling mystery author and APS member Lawrence Block. Philatelists are most likely to know Block for his enthralling tales of the introspective, stamp-collecting killer-for-hire John Keller. The APRL currently has two of the Block's books, *Hit List* and *Hit Parade*, along with other mystery titles with a philatelic connection.

And remember: If you have questions, the American Philatelic Research Library has answers!

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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

Michigan **August 3**
Northwestern Michigan Coin, Stamp and Postcard Show, Northwestern Michigan Coin and Stamp Club, Odawa Hotel (formerly Victories), US 131 South, Petoskey. Contact Richard Silet, rsllet@putup.com; 906-643-7941.

Washington

Strait Stamp Show, Strait Stamp Society, Sequim Masonic Lodge, 700 So. 5th and Pine, Sequim. Contact Cathie Osborne, rickcath@olympen.com; 360-683-6373.

Michigan

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

Connecticut

APS STAMPSHOW, American Philatelic Society, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford. Contact Dana Guyer, stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org; 814-933-3803 ext. 217; Fax 814-933-6128. *WSP*

Kansas

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

Virginia

AMERICOVER, American First Day Cover Society, Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Contact Norman Elrod, showinfo@afdc.org; www.afdc.org. *WSP*

Missouri

St. Louis Fall Stampfest, Greater Mound City Stamp Club, Parkway Central High School, 369 N. Woods Mill Rd., Chesterfield. Contact Gary Hendren,

August 9

g2hslm@msn.com; 314-576-5261.

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*

Ohio

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

Canada

BNAPEX 2008, British North American Philatelic Society, Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park St., Halifax, Nova Scotia. Contact J. A. Forbes, Jr., jafrbs@aol.com; www.bnaps.org; 902-435-7075.

Maryland

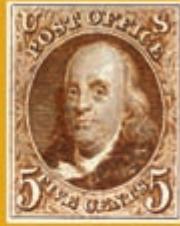
BALPEX, Baltimore Phil. Soc., Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt Valley. Contact Robert E. Gibson, Sr., balpex@aol.com; www.balpex.org; 410-332-4741. *WSP*

New Jersey

MERPEX XXXII, Merchantville Stamp Club, West Jersey Masonic Center, Berlin-Haddonfield Rd. at Route 295 Exit 32 Interchange, Cherry Hill. Contact Dave Grayson, merpex@aol.com; www.hometown.aol.com/merpex/club.html; 856-667-3168.

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Mississippi**August 30-31**

GULFPEX, Gulf Coast Stamp Club, St. Martin Community Center, 15004 Lemoyne Blvd., Biloxi. Contact Bob Marousky, gulfcoaststampclub@yahoo.com; 228-875-9836.

Nebraska**September 5-7**

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

Pennsylvania**September 5-7**

Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Contact Chip Blumberg, pnse.info@verizon.net; 610-828-8631. *WSP*

Arkansas**September 6-7**

31st 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.

Colorado**September 6-7**

APEX Stamp Show, Aurora Stamp Club of Colorado, Windsor Gardens Auditorium, 595 S. Clinton St. at intersection with 9600 E. Alameda Ave Ave., Denver. Contact Sergio Lugo, lugosppe@msn.com; 33-691-0393.

Montana**September 6-7**

Great Falls Stamp Show, Great Falls Stamp Club, Knights of Columbus Hall, 902 Central Ave., W., Great Falls. Contact Jerry Woodward, 406-453-2298. *B*

Ohio**September 6-7**

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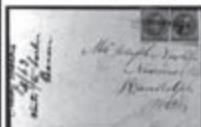
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Wisconsin

September 12-14

MILCOPEX, Milwaukee Phil. Soc. Inc., Bergstrom Hall, Mount Mary College, 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee. Contact Rob Henak, henak@execpc.com; 414-351-1519. *WSP*

Alabama

September 13

MONTAPEX, Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Holiday Inn, I-65 at Exit 179, Prattville. Contact Dwayne Selix, stamper98@mindspring.com; 334-365-2992. *B*

Florida

September 13-14

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; 727-364-6897. *B*

Texas

September 19-21

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

Ohio

September 20-21

Mavex Annual Stamp Show Exhibition and Bourse, Mahoning Valley Stamp Club, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, 4310 Kirk Rd., Austintown. Contact George Riebe, GeorgeRiebe@aol.com; 330-792-8724.

Georgia

September 26-28

Southeastern Stamp Show, Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Cobb County Civic Ctr., 548 S. Marietta Pkwy., Marietta. Contact Scott Mark, mark_s@bellsouth.net; www.stampclubs.com; 770-619-2917. *WSP*



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Pennsylvania**September 27**

WESCOPEX, Westmoreland County Philatelic Society, Circleville Fire Hall, 129 Robbins Station Rd., North Huntingdon. Contact James Vaughn, jkvaughn@wpa.net; http://www.wpa.net/~jvaughn/WCPS/Wescopex.htm; 724-423-545.

California**September 27-28**

Humboldt Stamp Show, Humboldt Stamp Collector's Club, Red Lion Hotel Reedwood Ballroom, 1929 4th Street, Eureka. Contact Norm Allen, cardon3442@suddenlink.net; 707-442-3205. *B*

New Jersey**September 27-28**

Clifton 2008 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*

Washington**September 27-28**

Apple Harvest 2008 Bourse, Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Red Lion at the Park, 303 W. North River Drive, Spokane. Contact J. Wilson Palmer, ickyburg@comcast.net; www.spokanestampcollectors.org; 509-443-8147. *B*

Connecticut**September 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*

California**October 3-5**

WINEPEX 2008, Redwood Empire Collectors Club, Marin Center Avenue of the Flags, Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. Contact Kurt Schau, auctions@harmerschau.com; 707-778-6454.

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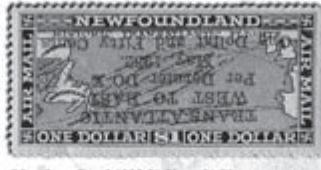
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Vermont**October 4**Crossroads Stamp Show, Upper Valley Stamp Club, Mid-Vermont Christian School, Gilson Avenue, Quechee. Contact John Lutz, jalutz@yahoo.com; 802-728-6212.**Illinois****October 4-5**CUPEX, Champaign-Urbana Stamp Club, Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street, Urbana. Contact Louise B. Toft, www.prairienet.org/cusc/; 217-359-9115.**Illinois****October 4-5**MSDA Fall Stamp Show, Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Wingate Inn, 600 Milwaukee Ave., Prospect Heights. Contact Jim Bardo, jtb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com; 847-922-5574. *B***New Jersey****October 4-5**CASDA, Doubletree Hotel, 515 Fellowship Road North, Mt. Laurel. Contact Jennifer Reeves, jreevesandcompany@hotmail.com; www.jamesreeves.com; 800-701-7091; 814-643-4585. *B***Utah****October 10-11**Utah Fall Stamp Fest, Utah Philatelic Society, Utah State Fair Park, Bonneville Building, 1000 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Contact Dave Blackhurst, dblackhu@wcfgroup.com; www.utaphilatelic.org; 801-580-9534.**California****October 10-12**SESCAL/AMERICAS, FIAF and Federated Phil. Clubs of Southern California, Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles Airport, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. Contact Carl Shaff, II, c2shaff@aol.com; www.sescal.org; 213-383-7111. *WSP***Illinois****October 11**

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.

Maryland October 11

Fall Tripex Stamp Show, Tri-State Stamp Club, St. Ambrose Church, 14923 Winchester Rd., SW, Cumberland. Contact Jeffrey Hutter, jeff.hutter@twrcommunications.com; 301-777-0379.

Michigan October 11

Kalamazoo Fall Show, Kalamazoo Stamp Club, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact Mike Dennany, irishdennany@yahoo.com; 269-623-5836.

Ohio October 11-12

Cuy-LorPex 2008, Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, Lutheran High School West, 3850 Linden Rd., Rocky River. Contact Stan Fairchild, cuylorstampclub@hotmail.com; 440-333-2536.

Pennsylvania October 12

Fall 2008 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 17-18

STEPEX 200, Elmira Stamp Club, American Legion Post, 45 South Olcott Road (just off I-86, Exit 49), Big Flats. Contact Alan Parsons, alatholleyrd@aol.com; 607-732-0181; 607-734-1754.

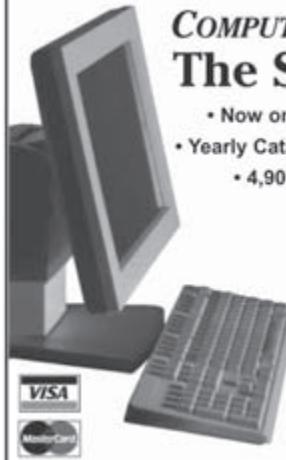
Delaware October 18

57th Annual Stamp Show, Dover Stamp Club, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 425 North DuPont Highway, Dover. Contact Melvin Nace, doverstampclub@aol.com; 302-674-0837.

Massachusetts October 18-19

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Michigan

October 18-19

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.

New Mexico

October 18-19

NewMexPex 2008 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.

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membership report

No. 6, June 30, 2008



NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during June 2008. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to August 31, 2008, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the November 2008 issue.

Akin, Thomas W. (214005) **New York, NY** CLASSIC US-CSA COVERS; 42; COO

Ancona, Nicholas F. (214041) **Fort Walton Beach, FL** US; 59; Retired

Assad, Moustafa M. (214038) **Sidon, Lebanon** MIDDLE EAST; 35; Auditor

Auxier, Amanda S. (214025) **Burgaw, NC** 28; Veterinary Technician

Bajenski, Richard J. (214027) **Houston, TX** IMPERIAL RUSSIA; 55

Berman, Steven H. (214094) **Allentown, PA** US-WORLDWIDE; 49; Physician

Bianchini, Guy J. (214000) **Ottawa, ON** MONACO-UPU; 68; Retired

Bosch, Brenna-Leigh (214068) **Shamong, NJ** ARCHAEOLOGY-EGYPT-GREECE-NEAR EAST; 39; Packaging Engineer

Boyd, Shirley M. (214022) **Sheboygan, WI** WORLDWIDE; 63; Retired

Braikova, Lubitzka D. (214067) **Lexington, KY** 28; Viola Player

Bricker, Robert J. (214003) **Pepper Pike, OH** US CLASSICS, RARITIES; 54; Professor

Clate, Anthony S. (214095) **Doral, FL** US-LIECH-REV; 45; Maintenance Superintendent

Clower, Jay R. (214020) **Grayson, GA** US; 40

Cramer, Mark (214044) **Placida, FL** 57

Creson, David L. (214050) **San Antonio, TX** 71

Crottinger, Lawrence I. (214028) **Fairfax, VA** US; 85; Retired

Davis, Nick C. (214009) **Fort Collins, CO** US; 41; CEO

Dearth, Robert R. (214086) **Hoschton, GA** US-CHINA-PRC-ROC; 63; Construction Manager

Demaree, Richard S. (214012) **Chico, CA** US-WORLDWIDE; 66; Retired

Dietz, D. Peter (214015) **Mountain View, CA** US; 77; Retired

Dillon, Robert K. (214101) **Roswell, GA** PRE 1930 US-CANAL ZONE-PHILIPPINES; 72; Retired

Donovan, Michael F. (214013) **Birkenfeld, OR** US-TERR; 79; Retired

Feigenbaum, Jonathan K. (214074) **Harrow, Middlesex, England** 38; Company Director

Festa, Jo Ann V. (214052) **Melville, NY** GER; 57; Professor

Firestone, Michele (214087) **Cathedral City, CA** 54

Foote, Graham D. (214039) **Thornlie Perth, Australia** US-CANADA-UK-SPAIN-FRANCE-SWISS; 70; Retired

Foote, Sherman C. (214021) **Lancaster, PA** US-GB-CANADA; 78; Retired

Forbes, Beverly J. (214034) **Carbondale, IL** 36; Student

Freiburger, Joe J. (214002) **Kimmell, IN** US; 47; Assistant Manager

Geary, Patrick (214029) **Cleveland, OH** USED US; 56; Retired

Gerus, David E. (214042) **Nanose Bay, BC** TONGA TIN CAN MAIL; 70; Retired

Gikas, James J. (214062) **Titusville, FL** 82

Gill, Dawn L. (214063) **St. Peterport, Guernsey** 28; Head of Retail & Philatelic

Gold, Norm (214054) **Seattle, WA** US-W EUR-BRIT COMM; 74; Retired

Goldenberg, Ronald A. (214016) **Margate City, NJ** 1847-1950 US; 66; Retired

Greiner, Steve (214065) **Ottawa, ON** AUSTRIA-HUNGARY-GER 42

Griffith, David (214081) **Douglasville, GA** US COMMEM; 67; Retired

Gross, John (214093) **Peabody, MA** 61

Hamilton, Kenneth W. (214076) **Sacramento, CA** Retired

Harter, Sylvia M. (214057) **Middlebourne, WV**; 50; Self Employed

Heath, Janet L. (214049) **Springfield, VA** US-UN-WORLDWIDE; 55

Helfert, Brian (214040) **Menominee, MI** WORLDWIDE; 45; Police Officer

Helmut, Lyle R. (214085) **Shipshewana, IN** US-WORLDWIDE-GER-FRANCE-ENGLAND; 48; Retailer

Ingalls, Janice M. (214061) **Farr West, UT** US; 72; Retired

Jacobson, Julian (213996) **Tamaral, FL** EARLY US; 75; Retired

Johnson, James M. (214069) **Winston Salem, NC** US-BRIT COL; 74; Retired

Jones, Rosetta M. (214055) **Kirkland, WA** 60

Jurkones, Jason (214060) **Bedford Park, IL** US; 35

Kempler, Jeffrey (J-214088) **Mamaroneck, NY** WORLDWIDE; 16; Student

Kerr, Frank E. (214084) **Panama City, FL** US-EUR-ASIA(SINGLES-BLKS-SHEETS-FDC)-HISTORY-WILDLIFE-SPACE; 55; Business Owner

Kordas, Grzegorz K. (214077) **Pine Grove Mills, PA**

Krievins, Victor B. (214089) **Abington, PA** US-COVERS, BOB-WORLDWIDE 52; Professional Philatelist

Kunkat, Stephan (214011) **Doerth, Germany** 39

Lamkin, Marianne (214024) **Coppell, TX**; 49

Lee, Thomas A. (214010) **Boerne, TX** PRE 1950 US, CONFEDERATE STATES; 65; Retired

Lehr, John C. (214017) **Germantown, MD** US-FDC; 61; Engineer

Lewis, Andy (214066) **Medford, NJ** US, REV; 44

Machunze, Gary E. (214102) **Trenton, NJ** CLASSIC US-C & S AM-FRENCH COL; 67; Retired

Magerl, Greg (214080) **McAlester, OK** US-GER-VAT; 59; Government Employee

Manning, Robert T. (214046) **Georgetown, TX** MEDICINE-SCIENCE; 80; Retired

Markowski, Barbara E. (214023) **Salem, NH** TOPICALS; 59; Medical Administrator

Marks, Alexander W. (214030) **Lake Placid, FL** PRECANCELS-PERFINS-GER, COL; 68; Retired

Martino, Gail L. (214096) **Louisville, OH** COMMEM-NATURE-ARTS; 56; Education Consultant

Melcher, Nancy L. (214075) **East Fallowfield, PA** US-UN-CANADA-GB; 59; Financial Supervisor

Messin, Marlene A. (214083) **Lindstrom, MN** 72; Executive

Meyer, Allison S. (214103) **Roca, NE** 52

Moss, Ralph W. (214058) **State College, PA** 65; Writer

Moya, Francisco A. (214092) **Miami, FL** OLD STAMPS; 41; Mortgage Broker

Neely, Martin A. (214037) **Millbrae, CA** MINT US; 63; B&B Inn Owner

Palm, David D. (214031) **Newberg, OR** MINT US, PLATE BLKS, COVERS; 62; Retired

Parsons, Michael F. (214059) **Quispamsis, NB** NFLD-CANADA-US-THIRD REICH-ICELAND; 36; Audio/Video Representative

Pavsek, Edward J. (214064) **State College, PA**; Retired

Pina, Amy L. (214079) **Rincon, GA**; 42; Teacher

Pine, Stephen H. (214018) **Manalapan, NJ** US; 70; Retired

Procter, Philip (214048) **Milwaukee, WI** US-CANADA; 68; Retired

Reynolds, Patrick M. (214007) **Willow Street, PA** US PLATE BLKS; 67; Artist/Writer

Richards, Kenneth D. (214097) **Cincinnati, OH** PRE 1940 ROMANIA; 47; Laborer

Richardson, Ellen J. (214014) **Shirley, NY** 1890/1964 US-1900/1980 BRIT EMPIRE, COMM; Lawyer

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 213550, 213680 through 213696, and 213698 through 213711, and 213713 through 213736, and 213738 through 213852 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, May 31, 2008.....	38,996
New Members	171
Reinstated	101
.....	39,268
Deceased	29
Resignations.....	11
Total Membership, June 30, 2008.....	39,228

Rivera Oquendo, Rafael Angel (214053) **Lebanon, PA** US; 46; Retired

Rongone, Julie (214035) **Los Lunas, NM** 39

Rose, Ronald K. (214056) **Cayucos, CA** WORLDWIDE; 62; Retired

Savadge, David (214099) **Livermore, CA** EXPOSITIONS-WORLDS FAIRS-POSTAL HISTORY; Historian/Author

Sechen, George M. (214070) **Cohasset, MA** US UN; 85; Retired

Seltzer, Gregory N. (214001) **Fallston, MD** PALESTINE-ISRAEL-MIDDLE EAST 54

Shroud, Roger (214071) **Arthurdale, WV** AMERICAN HERITAGE, COMMEM, DEFINITIVES, SHEETS 57; Chemical Lab Technician

Siebecker, Richard C. (214004) **Sayre, PA** MINT US SINGLES-US USED WORLDWIDE; 55; Electrician

Silvia, Ron (214047) **Fall River, MA** SINGLES-PLATES; 61

Sirur, Rohit (213999) **Wildwood, MO** 34

Skoll, Harry A. (214090) **Gaithersburg, MD** 47

Skolnick, Jerome (214032) **Chicago, IL** PRE 1900 US-VINTAGE AUTOS-TRAINS-ENTERTAINMENT-HISTORICAL PERSONS-WORLDWIDE; 72; Program Coordinator

Spinelli, Dominic (214006) **Rome, NY** ZEPPLIN COVERS; 62

Staas, William H. (213998) **Churchville, PA** US; 64; Retired

Sweitzer, George W. (213997) **Crofton, MD** US COMMEM; 48

Tekel, Andrew J. (214098) **Dover, NJ** US; 43

Tickner, Kenneth (214051) **Seattle, WA** CLASSIC; 58; Marketer

Toro, Jorge A. (214026) **Cabo Rojo, PR** WORLDWIDE; 56; Dentist

Torres, Fernando (214072) **Dallas, TX** 19TH C US; 39; Physician

Urbistondo, Javier (214045) **San Sebastian, Guipuzcoa, Spain** 45

VanRiper, Marshall S. (214019) **Woodstock, IL** US-WORLDWIDE; 94; Retired

Wheaton, James (214082) **Elgin, SC** US COMMEMS; 60

Wilson, Cori (214073) **Kyle, TX** 39

Windt, Craig A. (214036) **Bay City, MI** USED US; 35; Teacher

Wolfgang, William (214008) **Little Elm, TX** MINT US; 42

Wright, Kenneth E. (214043) **Encino, CA** US; 46; Attorney

Yakovlev, Anton (J-214091) **Derwood, MD** 15; Student

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Yoder, Julius H. (214078) **Marion, IA** US; 78; Retired

Young, Susan Bensema (214100) **State College, PA** HORSES-FISH-DEER; 48; Self Employed

Zupancic, Robert E. (214033) **Kingman, AZ** US; 61; Retired

DECEASED

Berggren, George R. (184062), Port Costa, CA

Cook, James C. (1711-064967), Jupiter, FL

Dempsey, Jack J. (184751), Kitty Hawk, NC

Ekman, Kenneth W. (9951-069808), Orinda, CA

Feingold, Marshall S. (129930), Naples, FL

Ferber, Ignaz (126766), Monroe Township, NJ

Fox, William A. (6399-019528), Naples, FL

Hawkes, William C. (8843-061319), San Bernardino, CA

Hedman, Arthur T. (190400), Mantorp, Sweden

Jordan, William E. (108928), Batavia, OH

Lieberman, Leo (8644-060236), Jackson Heights, NY

Michael, Georgiana E. (2390-088057), Murphys, CA

Missahl, Chester H. (8441-058900), Duluth, MN

Nagy, Frank A. (7685-159314), Scottsdale, AZ

Penney, William F. (178946), Rocky River, OH

Peterson, Larry D. (5901-040382), Moses Lake, WA

Proulx, Raymond W. (6920-050627), Nashua, NH

Rosenthal, Lewis (116273), Monroe Township, NJ

Rothstein, Albert (4109-032465), Canton, CT

Schellinger Norman, A. (115234), Wichita Falls, TX

Schimmer, Karl H. (085675), Sausalito, CA

Shaub, Robert E. (11206-078319), Indianapolis, IN

Stern, Glen B. (6462-047969), Roaring Spring, PA

Thomas, Michael D. (9576-060348), Littleton, CO

Wade, Lee (202689), South Gate, CA

Wadleigh, Jonathan (196479), Brookline, MA

Warren, William C. (199809), Wadmalaw Island, SC

Waters, John S. (145240), Towson, MD

Wilbur, Marva Karling (3106-100955), Miami, FL

DEALER LISTING

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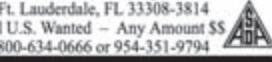
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u.s. new issues



USPS Honors Hoover Dam

On June 20, 2008, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a \$16.50 Hoover Dam Express Mail stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of 20. Named for former President Herbert C. Hoover in 1931, Hoover Dam is a civil engineering wonder and national historic landmark located on the Arizona-Nevada border about thirty miles southeast of Las Vegas.

Measuring 726.4 feet from its foundation rock in a Colorado River canyon to the roadway at its crest, Hoover Dam is the nation's tallest concrete dam. It was the tallest dam ever built when completed in the mid-1930s.

Hoover Dam's power plant uses water from Lake Mead to spin its turbines; for a time, this plant was the largest hydroelectric facility in the world. It continues to play a vital role in flood control; in water storage for irrigation and municipal and industrial use; and in helping to meet the power needs of the Southwest.

The painting on the stamp is by Dan Cosgrove of Chicago, Illinois. The view is looking upstream with Nevada on the left and Arizona on the right. At the base of the dam is the power plant. In the foreground, water flows from outlet works in the canyon walls. Behind the dam is Lake Mead, the huge reservoir created when Hoover Dam was completed. The artist also included the lake's so-called "bathtub ring" — a whitish rim of mineral deposits left by higher levels of water.

Denomination: \$16.50 Definitive

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Express Mail

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA

Artist: Dan Cosgrove, Chicago, IL

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset/

Microprinting "USPS"

Printer: Sennett Security Products/

Banknote Corporation of America, Inc.,
Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Phosphored tagged, Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 35.56 x 27.18 mm (image);

39.62 x 31.24 mm (overall); 181.10

x 177.80 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by

5 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* ©2008 USPS

- Price • Plate numbers on 4 corners

- of pane • Plate position diagram. *Back:*

- Barcodes (112700) on 4 corners of pane

- USPS logo.

Dynamic Design Duo

The work of husband and wife design team Charles and Ray Eames has one more place to call home: your mailbox. On June 17 in Santa Monica, California, the U.S. Postal Service dedicated a colorful and provocative pane of sixteen stamps honoring the Eameses' significant contributions to modern design, including furniture, architecture, film, and exhibits.

Perhaps best known for their furniture, the Eameses used new materials and technology to create high-quality products that addressed everyday problems and made modern design, including the molded plywood chair, accessible to all Americans.

Today, most of their furniture and many of their products still are being made and can be found in private homes and museums across the country. "This beautifully designed collection of stamps resonates with the love of imagery that Charles and Ray shared," said Eames Demetrios, grandson of Charles and Ray. "As Charles once said, 'Eventually everything connects.' They would have particularly enjoyed the extraordinary connections happening through these stamps."

Objects depicted on the stamps were selected from hundreds of items that represent the breadth of their extraordinary body of creative work:



Christmas Card — Charles and Ray Eames delighted friends and family during the holiday season with Christmas cards they designed themselves.

Hang-It-All — The Hang-It-All was designed in 1953 as an accessory for a playroom or child's bedroom.

Crosspatch Fabric Design —

Crosspatch is one of two fabric designs submitted by the couple to a 1947 competition sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Stacking Chairs — Introduced in 1955, these stacking chairs feature single-shell seats made of plastic that comfortably support the body. The simple design allows them to be stacked for storage or linked together in horizontal rows, a useful solution for temporary seating in public places.

Case Study House — Located in

Pacific Palisades, CA, the house was completed in 1949 as part of a program to create affordable homes out of materials and technology developed during World War II.

Wire-Base Table — Portable and practical, the petite table was ready for use anytime, indoors or outdoors.

Lounge Chair and Ottoman —

A recognizable symbol of 20th-century design, the lounge chair and ottoman modernized the traditional English armchair and became an instant bestseller.

La Chaise — Charles and Ray Eames submitted La Chaise to the 1948 International Competition for Low-Cost Furniture Design sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The Film Tops — For 7 minutes and 15 seconds, more than 100 tops from around the world dance and

whirl across the screen to a score composed by Elmer Bernstein.

Wire Mesh Chair — Introduced by the Eames Office in 1951, it was the first piece of American furniture to receive a mechanical patent.

Magazine Cover — Ray Eames created this cover for the May 1943 issue of *California Arts & Architecture*, an avant-garde design magazine based in Los Angeles.

House of Cards — Developed in 1952, the deck consists of 54 playing cards decorated with a starburst on one side and a photograph on the other.

Molded Plywood Sculpture — During the 1940s, Charles and Ray Eames experimented with a method for molding or bending pieces of wood in different directions. This abstract plywood sculpture was one of many they created as they experimented with the process.

Eames Storage Unit — Charles and Ray Eames introduced the Eames Storage Unit (ESU) in 1950 as a sleek and practical solution to home and office organization.

Aluminum Group Chair

The Aluminum Group Chair offered an affordable option for those seeking high-quality indoor-outdoor seating for the home or office.

Molded Plywood Chair — One of the Eames' most popular designs, the chair was mass-produced using a method for bending or molding plywood that they had developed during the 1940s.

Denomination: 42-cent Commemorative

Format: Pane of 16 (16 designs)

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Derry Noyes, 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: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Purple, gray, blue, yellow, magenta, cyan, black

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 36.07 x 27.56 mm (image);

39.62 x 31.12 mm (overall); 184.15 x

180.98 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by

7 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* Special

artwork on red background "CHARLES + RAY EAMES" • Plate numbers in 4 corners of pane • Caption: "Architecture, Furniture, Film, Graphic Design,

Industrial Design, Sculpture, Toys,

Exhibits" at bottom of pane. *Back:*

©2007 USPS • USPS Logo • Barcodes

(463000) in 2 positions • Price ".42

x 16 = \$6.72" • Proprietary notice •

Biographical paragraph on Charles and

Ray Eames • Descriptive paragraph

about each stamp design.

Olympic Games Postage Stamp Issued

The United States Postal Service issued an Olympic Games commemorative stamp June 19 during the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials — Gymnastics, held as part of the Visa Fan Fest at Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With the issuance of this stamp, the Postal Service continues its tradition of honoring the spirit of athleticism and international unity inspired by the Olympic Games. The stamp is being issued



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to coincide with the games of the XXIX Olympiad, which will be held August 8–24 in Beijing, China.

Designed by Clarence Lee, this stamp features a drawing by artist Katie Doka of a gymnast surrounded by ribbon-like design elements. In the upper right corner of the stamp, the denomination is surrounded by a graphic element that resembles the ink mark created by a Chinese “chop,” a carved wooden stamp often used for signatures or seals. The five Olympic rings appear in the lower left corner.

Denomination: 42-cent Commemorative

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Designer: Clarence Lee, Honolulu, HI

Artist: Katie Doka, Honolulu, HI

Art Director/Typographyher: Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprinting, “USPS”

Printer: Sennett Security Products/ Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged, Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black, purple, red

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 35.56 x 20.82 (image); 39.62 x 24.89 mm (overall); 181.36 x 146.05 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: “S” followed by 6 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* ©2007 USPS

- Price • Plate numbers in 4 corners of pane • Plate position diagram • Proprietary notice. *Back:* USPS logo • Barcodes (462900) in 4 corners of pane.

Love: All Heart

On June 10, 2008, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 42-cent, Love: All Heart commemorative stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive convertible booklet of 20 stamps. Illustrator Paul Zwolak of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, created the design for the 2008 Love series stamps. Entitled All Heart, the design focuses on a large, bright red heart that is being transported by its owner to an unseen beloved.

Denomination: 42-cent Commemorative

Format: Convertible Booklet of 20 (1 design)

Series: Love

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Artist: Paul Zwolak, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

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

Colors: Yellow, magenta, cyan, black

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 26.67 x 19.56 mm (image); 30.23 x 23.11 mm (overall); 151.13 x 98.43 mm (booklet)

Plate Numbers: “V” followed by 4 single digits

Marginal Markings: *Stamp Side:* Plate numbers in peel strip area. *Cover Side:* ©2007 USPS • Barcode (677800) • USPS Logo • Promotional text • Stamp image • Price “\$8.40” • “ALL HEART” • “Twenty 42-CENT FIRST-CLASS SELF-ADHESIVE Stamps.”

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APS

Wedding Hearts Special Stamps

On June 10, 2008, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service reissued Hearts special stamps. The Hearts stamps were issued in 2007 with different background colors and different denominations.

Nancy Stahl of New York, New York, based her designs on memories of a wide range of intertwined objects, including silver charms and old-fashioned garden gates.

(a) Denomination: 59-Cent Special (2-ounce)

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Weddings

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Carl T. Herrman, Carlsbad, CA

Artist: Nancy Stahl, New York, NY

Engraver: Keating Gravure

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),

Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Peach, gray, orange

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 20.32 x 25.15 mm (image);

23.11 x 30.23 mm (overall); 148.59 x

190.50 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by 3 single digits

Marginal Markings: Front: ©2007 USPS

• Price • Plate numbers in 4 positions.

Back: USPS Logo • Barcode (571600) in 4 positions.

(b) Denomination: 42-Cent Special (1-ounce)

Format: Convertible Booklet of 20 (1 design)

Engraver: N/A

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset,

Microprinting, "USPS"

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

Press Type: Mueller Martini, A76

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type I

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, cyan, magenta, yellow, green

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

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

23.11 x 30.23 x mm (overall); 127.00

x 115.57 mm (booklet)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by 4 single digits

Marginal Markings: Stamp Side:

N/A. Cover Side: Front: "Hearts".

"Twenty 42¢ First-Class Stamps". Back:

Promotional text • USPS Logo • ©2007

USPS • Plate numbers in one position •

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book reviews

by bonny farmer

Blue Mauritius; The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamp

Most Valuable Stamp by Helen Morgan. Printed 2008 by The Overlook Press/Atlantic Books, New York, NY. Hardcover, 320 p.p., b/w ill us., ISBN 978-1-59020-077-3. Available for \$29.95 from The Overlook Press, 141 Wooster Street, New York, NY 10012; website www.overlookpress.com; telephone 212-673-2210.

One look at the book jacket, the back of which contains the reproduction of an 1891 personal ad from the *Monitor* ("A stamp collector, the possessor of a collection of 12,544 stamps, wishes to marry a lady who is an ardent collector and the possessor the Blue Penny stamp of Mauritius, issued in 1847."), tells you what you are going to find inside the pages: an engaging and lovingly detailed account of the origins and travels of the twenty-six acknowledged one-penny and two-pence POST OFFICE stamps of the island of Mauritius.

The stamps were created by Joseph Osmond Barnard, a local "watchmaker, jeweller, engraver, printer and miniature painter" who had arrived on the island as a stowaway. In September 1847 he printed about 500 of each value: 1-penny (orange-red) and 2-pence (deep blue). Each stamp featured a cameo of the young Queen Victoria, and around the sides were the words POST OFFICE – POSTAGE – MAURITIUS – ONE PENNY (or) TWO PENCE. By June 1848 the small supply was gone and Barnard engraved new versions using the words POST PAID instead of POST OFFICE.

Over the years only 26–27 of the POST OFFICE stamps have survived; of these, nine are in permanent collections such as the new (2000) Museum für Post und Kommunikation, Berlin; the Swedish Postal Museum, Stockholm; British Library, London; the British Royal Collection; and most recently (2001) the Blue Penny Museum, Port Louis, Mauri-

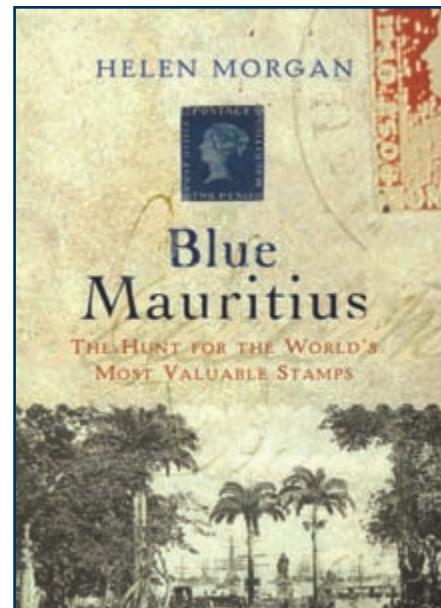
tius. The remainder are in private hands, although the whereabouts of more than half of these are presently unknown.

The first stamp to surface was in France in 1865, but May 1865 issue of *Le Timbre-Poste* made no bones about consigning the "Post Office Mauritius" to the "too fertile imaginations of fanciful collectors." The early philatelic community was in a quandary. Were the POST OFFICE stamps essays? proofs? errors? Speculation abounded. And when were they printed? The Mauritius post office was obliging but vague. Tropical conditions made the survival of records perilous. (An early Mauritius post office hand-stamp read: "EATEN BY RAT.") Even as early as 1878, only thirty-one years after they were printed, the current Mauritius postmaster, Thomas Henry Thompson, expressed as his opinion that the POST OFFICE stamps "had been made in Europe for the benefit of collectors."

A couple more examples appeared, and prices rose steadily as wealthy collectors vied for a Mauritius POST OFFICE stamp of their own. The most dramatic sale (in 1903) followed the discovery, by a Scottish civil servant named James Bonar, of a perfect specimen of the 2-pence blue Mauritius in a schoolboy album he had compiled in the 1860s.

The bidding started at £500 and rose rapidly, by hundreds, to twelve, thirteen, fourteen hundred. Charles J. Phillips, representing the Reichspostmuseum in Berlin, declared himself out. The penultimate bidder threw up his hands in frustration at the record bid of £1,450, and lot 301 was knocked down to an agent, Mr J. Crawford.

Shortly afterwards, in conversation with the Prince of Wales, one of the royal courtiers remarked, 'Did your Royal Highness hear that some damned fool has just paid £1,450 for a single stamp?'



'Yes,' the future George V is reputed to have replied. 'I was the damned fool.'

The author not only traces the history of each surviving stamp, but gives a detailed and highly readable account of the historical background of the people and places involved along the way — from George Herpin, who first commented on the Post Office variety, and Jean-Baptiste Moens, who was responsible for collecting much of its early history, to twentieth century collector Hiroyuki Kanai, who in 1971 owned six of the eighteen Mauritius stamps not in permanent collections. There also are discussions of the subsequent philatelic literature (fact and fiction) and even a true crime story or two. The illustrations, although in black-and-white and not of high reproduction quality, fit neatly into place and help move the story along.

In addition to telling the tangled tale of the Mauritius stamps, the text is enlivened with wonderful quotes from the philatelic literature, such as the note in an 1866 *Philatelist* observing that the word "philately" (coined by French collector George Herpin around 1862) has "the double charm of being very euphonious as well as slightly incomprehensible to

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all but the learned." Or Frederick Booty's comment in his 1862 guide to stamps that stamp collectors are "looked upon as hopelessly but harmlessly insane on the subject."

The text is followed by a Glossary (for non-stamp collectors), "condensed" Biographies of the Stamps, an interesting and lengthy section on Notes and Sources, a Bibliography, a note on the Mauritius Philatelic Society, and a basic Index.

One of the great pleasures of stamp collecting has always been the treasure hunt aspect; one of the great pleasures of this volume is following the clues, step by step, to unraveling the tangled, often mythic quality of the story of the Mauritius Post Office stamps.

Stamps that begin by being offered for public sale, although they may end up sequestered in the hands of wealthy collectors, still offer the possibility of discovery in unlikely places: a schoolboy's collection, dusty business archives, etc., where they might be discovered by anyone, even me or you!



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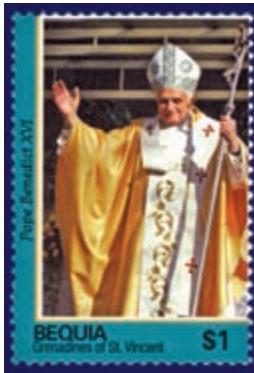
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The Grenadines of St. Vincent



Status: Part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Location: Southern Caribbean, running southwesterly from St. Vincent to Grenada

Area: 17 square miles

Population: 8,800

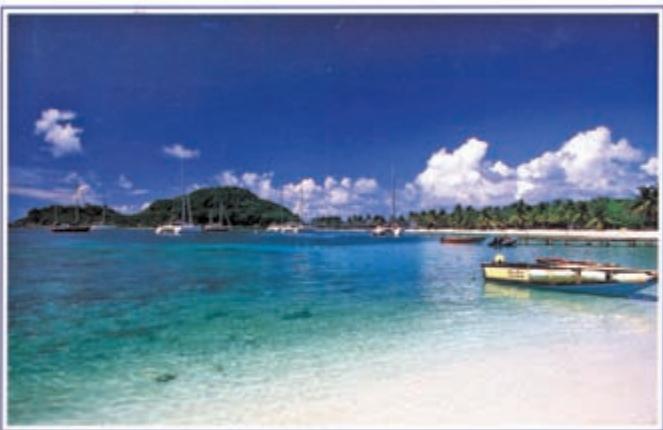
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (100c= EC\$1)

EC\$1 = about 37 cents (U.S.)

The British divided administration of the chain of volcanic islands known as the Grenadines between St. Vincent and Grenada. Planters from St. Vincent settled as far south as Union Island; therefore, the thirty-two islands from Union north were assigned administratively to St. Vincent. The Grenadines, one of St. Vincent's six parishes, is divided into two administrative districts: the northern includes Bequia and Mustique; the southern includes Canouan, Mayreau, and Union Island. The government representative for the north resides in Bequia and in Union Island for the south.

St. Vincent stamps were used in the Grenadines until 1973 when issues inscribed "Grenadines of St. Vincent" appeared. Beginning in 1984 stamps also began to appear bearing the names of the individual islands. General issues for the Grenadines continued to appear until 1994.

Each of these islands has one post office, which sells definitive postage stamps from St. Vincent. Stamps inscribed with the names of the individual islands are sold only by the Philatelic Agency in Kingstown. These stamps are considered "philatelic stamps" by the postal officials on the islands and are not accepted for postage. They are accepted on the mail only if the letter includes the proper franking in St. Vincent stamps. Often, the "philatelic" stamps will not receive a cancel.



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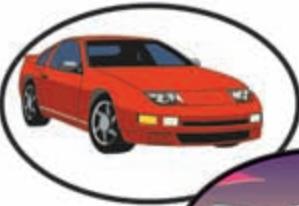
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