

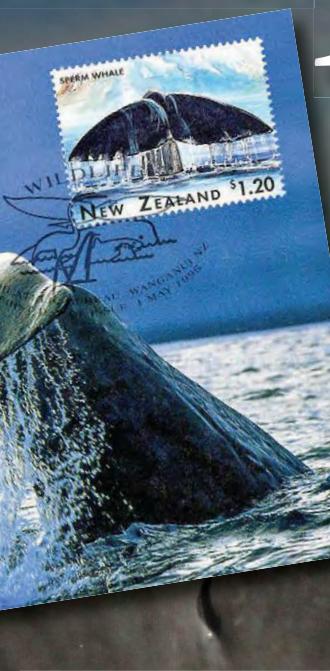
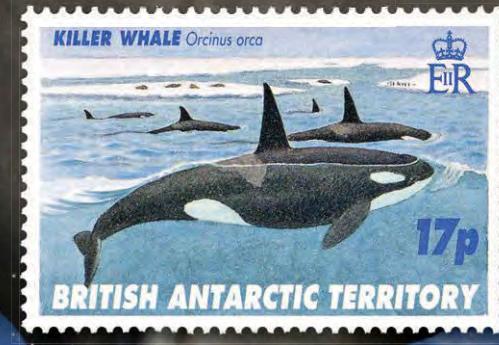
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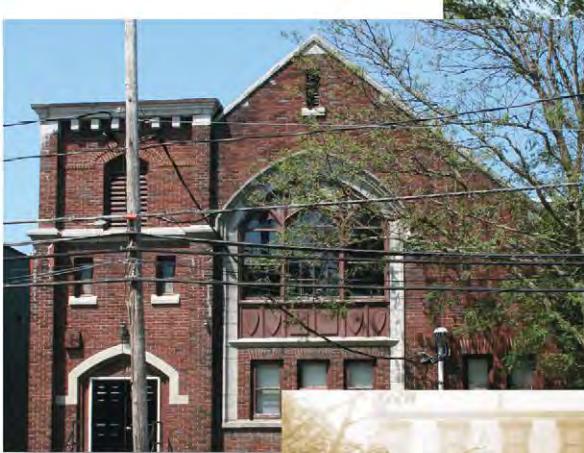
AMERICAN PHILATELIST

March 2014

Journal of the American Philatelic Society

Maxis on Maxis





From 1949 to 1989, Mystic was headquartered in a historic building on Main Street (above).

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Perforations at Right



USA #C23b var 1938 6¢ Eagle
Dark Blue & Carmine, Horizontal Imperf Pair



Canada #46a 1893 20¢
Victoria Horizontal Imperf Pair



France #17a
1853 Napoleon III
25¢ Milky Blue



Korea #211
1955 Reconstruction
20h, WMK Wavy Lines



Modena #5
1852 Coat of Arms 40c
w/o Periods, Gutter Block

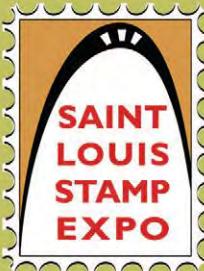
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Republic of Estonia With postal service dating from the Crusades, Estonia has had a complex postal history, particularly during the twentieth century.

AMERICAN PHILATELIST

Since 1887 — The Premier Philatelic Magazine in the Nation

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2014 APS Events

StampCruise
May 17–24 • Destination — Alaska



Summer Seminar on Philately

June 15–20

American Philatelic Center • Bellefonte, PA

Volunteer Work Week

July 21–25

American Philatelic Center • Bellefonte, PA

APS STAMP SHOW

August 21–24 • Hartford, Connecticut

AEROPHILATELY 2014 & Postal History Symposium

September 12–14

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Come Visit Us in Pennsylvania



The weather here in the Northeast this winter has been more like what one might expect in the Midwest, especially the Chicago area. I certainly know about the Chicago area since my son and his family live in the far west suburbs and we visit them twice each winter. This all leads me to dream of summer vacations, more so than usual. One of the first places that comes to mind is Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Why Bellefonte? The American Philatelic Center, of course. For those of you who have never been to our "home," you are in for a very pleasant surprise. For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit, you know what I am talking about. Our staff is there to help you have an enjoyable time. Why not give them the chance?

While thinking about the trip, you might want to consider two very special weeks. The first is Summer Seminar, this year to be held June 15–20. During this week you can participate in several educational seminars and have a great time socializing with other society members. This year's major course offerings include:

- Collecting Precancels
- Effects of World War II on Atlantic Air Mail Operations
- Fundamentals of Expertizing
- Stamp Technology
- Washington-Franklins

For further information go to www.stamps.org/Summer-Seminar.

The second special opportunity is Volunteer Work Week, to be held this year July 21–25. There are many important tasks that fall behind, only because our wonderful staff just doesn't have the time to get to them. You can help by taking on some of these tasks. A full list of possibilities, and further information, can be found at www.stamps.org/Volunteer-Work-Week. Probably the best part of the week is interacting with our staff and with your fellow society members.

Then, as summer winds down, plan to attend APS StampShow, to be held August 21–24 in Hartford, Connecticut. This is our annual Convention show, with more than 100 dealers and 900 frames of exhibits. There will be something for everyone, including several seminars and meetings every hour, and booths staffed by your favorite societies and dealers.

American Philatelist Advisory Board

I am happy to be able to announce this very qualified group of your fellow members who, working together with the AP staff, will be recommending changes in the AP that will make the magazine more interesting to more of our members. I'm sure



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that our editor, Barb Boal, would love to get letters with suggestions on what you would like to see in the pages of the *AP*. The Advisory Board also will be considering changes that might make the magazine more attractive as a membership recruiting tool. The members of the Advisory Board are Rodney Juell, Chairman, John Hotchner, Robert Odenweller, Patricia Stilwell Walker, Ken Trettin, and Wayne Youngblood.

Executive-Level Reorganization

By now most of you know that the APS Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to hire an additional person at the executive level. This person will become the Executive Director. Our current Executive Director, Ken Martin, has been offered the newly created position of Chief Operations Officer and has agreed to accept this position once he is satisfied that he will be able to work together with the person hired and with the division of responsibilities. It will take several months to find the right person to add to the staff. Until that person is hired the administration of the Society will continue to be solely in the hands of the present Executive Director. The job of being responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Society as well as the long-range planning and visionary thinking needed to secure our future has grown to a point of being too much for one person to deal with. Ken and the new E.D. will decide on a mutually agreeable division of responsibilities.

How Did You Become a Stamp Collector?

Many of us have interesting stories about how we became a stamp collector. I would like to begin a series of brief stories here on just this topic. Send me your story and you could see it in a future column. No guarantees, but we will try to use as many as we can over the months to come. I'll start off with my own story this month.

I was eight years old, growing up in a lower middle class apartment house in New York City. In those days you had many friends of all ages who lived in your apartment house or an adjacent one. One of my "friends" lived in the apartment directly beneath mine. He was about twice my age. One day I saw him with a stamp album. Upon talking with him I found out that he was, indeed, a stamp collector. He gave me some stamps. I became a stamp collector. But that is only part of the story.

This young man was a member of a notorious street gang, had been in and out of youth detention facilities, and, years later ended up in Sing Sing prison. At that point I lost contact with him (thankfully!). There was for several years a common bond between us, STAMPS. Collecting stamps brought together two kids of completely different backgrounds. I can only pray that years later his stamp collection may have kept him out of further serious problems.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Philatelic Exhibiting; Another View

I would like to respond in part to the letter on "Fairness in Philatelic Exhibiting" by Robert M. Bell and Reuben A. Ramkissoon published in the January AP (page 24). There is much I could comment on, but I will focus on the call for more transparency in the judging process and especially the publishing of individual judge's scores for each exhibit. That idea indicates the authors may not understand how the judging process works and I want to make sure the AP readers know before they decide on the merits of that idea.

After the jury members have walked through all the exhibits they retire to the jury room. The chief judge then asks each judge to give their opinion on the medal level that should be awarded to an exhibit. If all the jury members recommend the same medal for an exhibit there is no discussion and the chief judge moves on to the next exhibit.

It is not uncommon for there to be differences of opinion. Let us say three judges recommend a vermeil medal and two judges "vote" for a gold. It is not so simple as to say that the vermeils prevail, although in the end they may. In reality there is much discussion when there is not unanimity in the judges' initial recommendations. The judges have often given their initial opinion of exhibits

using such phrases as "vermeil plus" or "gold minus," which can indicate the jury is not that far apart. The chief judge will open it up for discussion and those in the minority and the majority can give their reasons for their recommendation. During this period opinions are often changed and a consensus is reached; it is not uncommon for the minority to have persuaded the majority. I have been in jury rooms where a minority of one has been able to make such a convincing case that the rest of the jury is swayed to his/her point of view.

At those times when a consensus is not reached the chief judge may decide there is no choice but to let the majority rule. On other occasions the chief judge may have the jury go back out on the floor and review an exhibit together as a group. Often a consensus is reached in that process.

If the suggestion were followed to publish each individual judge's evaluation of an exhibit, all we would be doing is publishing the individual judge's initial impression. What is the benefit of that, knowing how the whole process works? It would be like at the conclusion of a jury trial publishing a list of which jury members initially voted guilty or not guilty.

So why don't all philatelic judges reach the same conclusion if they are good judges and well trained? In reality, judging is very subjective, even with the



guidelines in the rule book. Time does not allow each judge to study each page of each exhibit. One judge may notice something the others missed. Judges don't have equal knowledge of each exhibit subject. Often the assigned first responder has done the most advanced study in preparation. If judging were so simple that judges always had the same opinion why bother with a panel? One judge is all that would be needed.

Mike Ley
(Judge and Exhibitor)
Doniphan, Nebraska

Exhibiting Questions

In a recent Letter to the Editor Rob Bell and Ruben Ramkissoon expressed a need for a new standard for judging exhibits. I have exhibited, but I can honestly say I am not interested in awards. My purpose in exhibits is to enlighten and educate those who might have similar interests.

However, the gentlemen raise valid points. Is the purpose of an exhibit to show how capable the exhibitor might be to hire research and artwork; is it only to exhibit the financial resources the exhibitor has at his/her disposal? This type of outside assistance should be noted in the exhibit or in the show descriptive.

The observation that only exhibits of non-modern material can win a Cham-

pion of Champions award seems valid. Is there a bias in the judging?

Some would remark about the rarity say of a Jenny invert, there are one hundred of them. Yet in my collection I have an item of which there are three known. Yes, the invert is worth thousands and my stamp has a catalog value of one hundred dollars. But it is rare. Is

the old to be valued more than the unusual or unique? Does the current exhibit judging discourage the younger or less affluent collector from exhibiting? If we wish to grow our hobby let us open the door.

This comes to the issue: should judging be assigned in like categories and should judges be familiar with the ma-

terials they are judging? Do not get me wrong, I love seeing great exhibits — I have been going to major stamp shows since 1958. But I also see great merit in what is more recent. I may not collect in that area, but it is just as important.

Daniel F. Ring

Woodstock, Illinois

Iwo Jima Stamp

Every once in a while something unexpected turns up at the bottom of a carton at auction. I won lot 2250, consisting of a U.S. collection of stamps and covers, at a Phil Weiss auction held at his Lynbrook, New York gallery. I had conducted a pre-auction examination of the lot, but sometimes you miss the details. What I found was a mundane looking cover of a plate block of the 1945 Iwo Jima stamp (Scott 929). I was surprised when I noticed it was signed by Joe Rosenthal, the AP photographer who took the original image. The cover is not a First Day Cover, which would have a cds of July 11, 1945.

This cover has a cds of July 27, 1945 posted in San Francisco, California. It is clear that Arthur E. Mansbach, a noted collector in Los Angeles, had prepared the cover for Rosenthal's autograph, sent it to him under cover, and that Rosenthal had complied by sending it back to him through the Postal Service as shown.

The Iwo Jima stamp was the only one of the military service stamps that were issued before the conclusion of World War II. The others — for the Army (Scott 934), Navy (Scott 935), Coast Guard (Scott 936), and Merchant Marine (Scott 939) — were released after the conclusion of the war, between September 28, 1945 and February 26, 1946. There was no Air Force stamp, because they were part of the Army at that time. The Marines were part of the Navy, so how did they get this honor? It was because of the iconic nature of the photo. It was and still is the best photo of military action ever taken, and it resonated with the public. The Government produced 3,500,000 posters with the Rosenthal image to aid in the sale of War Bonds and it remains the most widely reproduced photo in American history. Almost 400,000 first day covers of the stamp were sold. Rosenthal won the Pulitzer Prize in the year the photo was taken, which has never happened again.

There was, however, controversy. It was claimed that the photo — which was taken on February 23, 1945, five days after the invasion — was posed and was not of the original flag raising. The photo was not posed, but it was the second flag raised. It seems that on the morning following the raising of the first flag, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal was on the scene and requested that the flag be given to him. The disgusted 2nd Battalion Marine Commander Chandler Johnson complied, then had a second much larger flag raised to replace the one given to Forrestal. Photographers were advised and, with sniper fire still prevalent, Joe Rosenthal got his shot.

Rosenthal passed away in 2006 at the age of 94. It is not known how many covers and posters he signed in his long life, but I got one of them! Auctions are like a box of chocolates — you never know what you might get. The cover now resides in the collection of Marine Col. Robert Farkas (Ret.) in New York City.



Mel Oshen, Roslyn, New York

Joe Rosenthal

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Laurence Davis
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"Many thanks for your help in purchasing my lifelong collection. I really had worried about the difficulties in selling the collection, but your professionalism and the very generous offer was and is greatly appreciated. Please drop in and see me the next time you're in Texas."

Chuck Whitney
Rockport, Texas

"I would recommend Dr. Bob with any transaction involving philatelic material. He deals in a very up front manner and truly pays a fair price. I was reluctant to sell my stamp collection, but he made the whole process so enjoyable and his offer even exceeded what I thought I would receive. Thanks, Dr. Bob!!"

Brad Peterson
Waterloo,

"As you know, Dr. Bob, I have collected stamps since before World War II and have always taken pride in my collection. You were excellent to work with and I find you to be very professional. I was also pleased with the offer you paid me for the entire collection."

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Wartime Air Mail to Africa

Ken Lawrence's excellent article on air mail to and from Africa during World War II, "Via Miami 1941–1945," in the January AP (page 32) brought back many memories. My first flight, in 1947, was aboard a "flying boat" that had been converted from wartime service and was similar to the Clipper aircraft that played such an important role during the war.

Having spent most of my working life living and traveling in Africa, I could appreciate the challenges which Pan Am — particularly its Clipper pilots — faced in establishing wartime routes and services to a little-known part of the world.

Kevin Lowther

Springfield, Virginia

Exciting Article

Ken Lawrence's article, "Via Miami 1941–1945: FAM 22, Trans-Atlantic Air Mail. Part 1: To and From Africa," in the

January AP really piqued my interest. The first thing I did was go to my FAM-22 album. I have about 33 of the possible 36 initial first flight covers. I am missing 7a, 9c, and 9b.

I was excited at the thought of adding additional FAM-22 commercial covers to my collection. I started my search and have already come up with one. It was on a UC 6. There is an additional 6 cents paid with a pair of the 3-cent Win the War stamps. The return address is APO 212 New York. The cancel on the cover is April 29, 1944, APO 627, Kuming, China. There is in the lower left corner this note: "Contains one CBI roundop." Below that is the sender's signature.

I am looking forward to FAM-22, Part 2. Maybe I can turn all this into an exhibit.

Fred Rickert

Sacramento, California

More on FAM 22 and PAA Operations

AP readers interested in a clear explanation of the fate of FAM 22 and the complex World War II operations of PAA in the South Atlantic are referred to the articles by John Wilson and Bob Wilcsek in *Airpost Journal* issues from October 2008 to December 2013.

Jim Graue

*President, American Air Mail Society
Valleyford, Washington*

Wonderful Air Mail Postal History

I thoroughly enjoyed the article in the AP, "Via Miami 1941–1945: FAM 22 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Part I: To and From Africa." Although I do not collect or particularly follow air mail philately, Ken Lawrence's postal history research and writing style combined to produce a truly entertaining and absorbing gem appealing to most any philatelist's in-

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terest. I find myself looking forward to the next installment. Congratulations to Ken Lawrence for a fine piece of postal history writing.

Michael J. Brown
Lightfoot, Virginia

Pan Am & Postcards

I am writing in reference to the January issue of *The American Philatelist*. I found the cover story, "Via Miami 1941–1945, Part I" by Ken Lawrence, incredibly interesting and fascinating, especially since I am a native of south Florida.

It was not a surprise to me that the government or military would use Pan American Airways and Miami as a base. First, Pan Am was founded in Key West with a mail contract from Key West to Havana, Cuba. The office building is now Kelly's Restaurant. Once they began taking passengers the airline moved to Miami and built a seaplane terminal that is now Miami City Hall — originally in the Village of Coconut Grove.

Secondly, Pan Am had an extensive international presence, most notably in this case a subsidiary was the Intercontinental Hotel chain. I look forward to Part II.

As a postcard collector, I loved "Dining Out" in Philadelphia," by Charles Fricke (page 44), especially because I also dine out frequently.

Juan L. Riera
Miami, Florida

Town Name Correction I

I enjoyed the two articles about World War II Trans-Atlantic Air Mail by

Ken Lawrence in the January and February issues of the AP. I was just about to put the February issue down when the very last illustrated cover (page 158) caught my eye. The caption says that the cover was mailed from China on 9/3/45 and arrived at Knoxville, NY on 10/10/45. I had never heard of Knoxville, NY so I Googled it and came up empty.

Having grown up in the 40s and 50s in Bronxville, NY and knowing that Palmer Road is the main east-west drag in the town, I am 100% certain that the addressee lived in Bronxville, not Knoxville, NY. Bronxville is an affluent suburb of New York City and is located on the Bronx River in Westchester County. Perhaps if you held the mail piece up to the light you could see beneath the Examiner's tape and confirm my hunch.

George Bartling
Roanoke, Indiana

Town Name Correction II

I have enjoyed both parts of Ken Lawrence's articles, "Via Miami 1941–1945, FAM 22 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail. The photos of the covers are really interesting. In page 158, however, the photo caption says "arrived at Knoxville, New York." I suggest that should read "Bronxville, New York" as confirmed by the back stamp.

John H. Morrison
Evanston, Illinois



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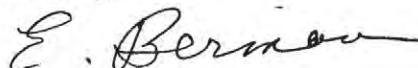
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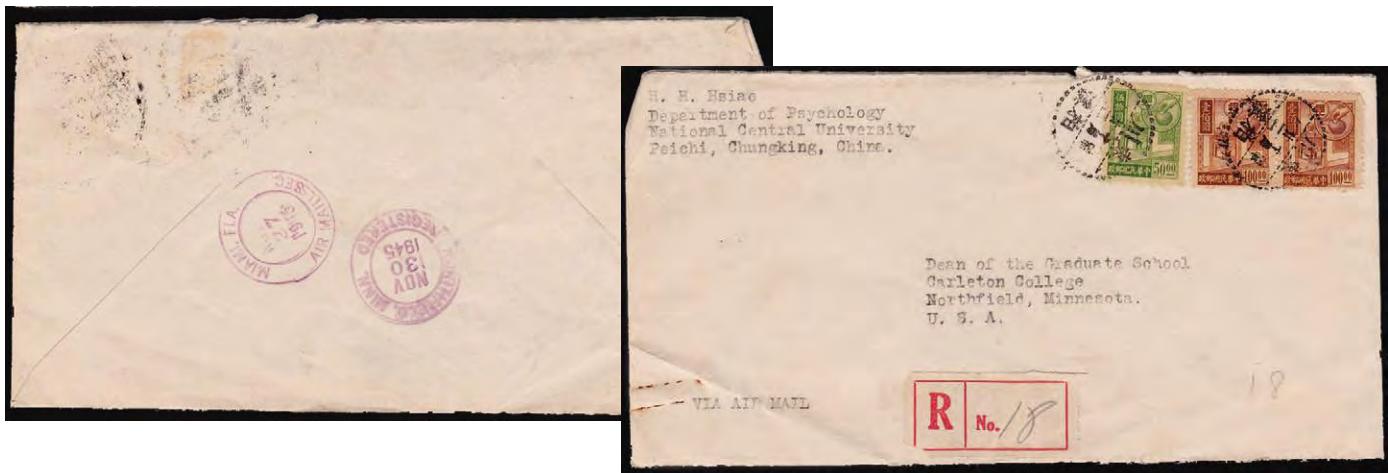
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Town Name Correction III

The two-part article by Ken Lawrence on FAM 22 was most interesting. However, on page 158 of the February AP I believe there is an error. There is no Knoxville, NY. There is, however, a Palmer Road in Bronxville, NY. I believe that the censor tape obscured the correct city of the addressee.

Stewart B. Milstein
Brooklyn, New York

Flight Update

Ken Lawrence's two-part article on the history of FAM 22 during World War II was very informative and explained the postal markings found on surviving covers. Ken gives November 16, 1945 as the ending date for the final Cannonball trip, but at least one flight from Chungking to Miami occurred a week later.

The cover shown (above) origi-

nated at National Central University, Peichi, Chungking, China. (The image was downloaded for reference recently from an online auction site — I don't own the cover.) The two strikes of the postmark, which is entirely in Chinese characters, reads Sichuan (province — top line), November 22 [center line], and Peichi (in Wade-Giles transliteration; also spelled "Paichi"). There is presently

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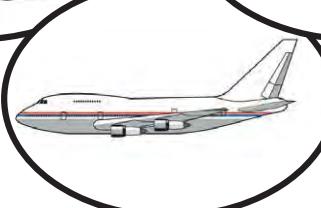
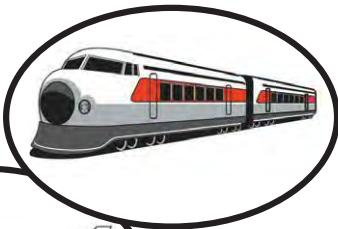


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a town named Bai Ji (in Pinyin, the official language of the PRC) about 150 miles northwest of Chungking, presumably the same place. A cursory search on Google didn't turn up a connection between Peichi/Bai Ji and the National Central University, which moved from Nanking to Chungking when the Japanese invaded China in the 1930s.

The cover was backstamped at Miami five days after it was mailed in China, about right for the flying time of about 3½ days between Chungking and Miami. This cover demonstrates that

the details of the winding up of this important World War II air mail route still need to be determined.

Leonard Piszkiewicz

Santa Clara, California

Author's response: Leonard Piszkiewicz is correct, and the cover he spotted is a gem. I'm grateful he had the presence of mind to capture an image for the record. We need a lot more information about this route, much of which still rests on the wrong side of a government security classification barrier long after the fact.

The November 16, 1945 date I reported for the last Cannonball flight from China to Miami is found on page 112 of *Pictorial History of Pan American World Airways* by Paul St. John Turner, an author who enjoyed favored access to Pan Am's corporate records while the company was still in business.

The U.S. military's official history, *The Army Air Forces in World War II*, edited by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate has a chapter in Volume 7 titled "Airline to China" by Frank H. Heck. On page 150 Heck wrote, "At the end of No-

A Post Office Mural

I was delighted to read the article on "U.S. Post Office Murals" by Steve Bahnsen and Bonny Farmer (June 2013 AP, page 562). I was just as delighted to see the eleven pictures of post office murals, all from the late 1930s and early 1940s, which accompanied the article.

Enclosed is an old black-and-white photograph of another post office mural, *Filling the Water Jugs — Haymaking Time*. The mural was commissioned to my late father-in-law, Gail W. Martin, and it was installed in the Danville, Indiana post office in 1939. Danville, at the time, was a rural town surrounded by farms, not too far west of Indianapolis. Mr. Martin was a young man of 26 and a serious art student who had grown up on an Indiana farm. He became a distinguished artist and an art professor at the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut.

In the summer of 1995 my son, Martin, and I visited Danville with the intention of seeing for ourselves the mural we had heard about but, being from Pennsylvania, never seen. And there it was, colorful oils on canvas. Martin, who was named after his artist-grandfather, was just as impressed as I. The postmistress informed me that the post office would be moving into a newer, larger facility and that she hoped G. W. Martin's mural would be professionally moved and installed into the new post office. Months later I telephoned Danville to find out if the move had been made with a successful transfer of the mural. I was told that the mural remained where it originally had been installed due to the likelihood it would be damaged during the transfer.

Also in 1995, as it happens, John C. Carlisle published *A Simple and Vital Design; The Story of the Indiana Post Office Murals*, with photography by Darryl Jones (Indiana Historical Society; ISBN 0-87195-110-X). This wonderful book tells the story of three dozen murals and the artists who painted them. Mr. Martin's mural is included.

David Buday

Doylestown, Pennsylvania



vember the Hump was officially closed, though some special mission flights over the route were made thereafter."

On page 64 of David Crotty's new book, *Pan American Airways 1939–1944 Atlantic Wartime Operations Catalog*, the author cited a document he found in Pan Am's archives at the University of Miami Richter Library that gave an even later date: "The last Africa-Orient flight is reported to have been on June 20, 1946, and that was when the last crews got to go home. The official ceremony commemorating the last flight was on June 25, 1946."

Mail carried on any of these late flights must be scarce, because trans-Pacific air mail service from China to the United States was restored in September 1945.

Dining Out

Charles Fricke's article on "Dining Out" in Philadelphia" (January AP, page 44) brought a smile to my face. I remember as a youngster having lunch with my

parents and grandparents at the Horn and Hardart at 14th Street and Irving Place in New York's Manhattan. I was always the one who had to put the nickels, dimes and quarters in the slots to get the food and drinks.

In the 1980s I worked near the last Horn and Hardart, located on 42nd Street on the east side of Manhattan. By then the coins were gone and you had to purchase tokens to make the machines operate. The doors to the sandwiches got stuck frequently and the beverage dispensers did not work properly. In addition, the homeless element was making the restaurant into their home. You could tell the end was coming.

Even though it no longer exists, I have fond memories of the old automat.

Steven Scheibner

Bayside, New York

Yalamanchili ("A Philatelic Tour of Indo-American Relations," January AP, page 50). Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa are also notable in that they are two of only seven people granted honorary United States citizenship; the others being Raoul Wallenberg, William Penn and his second wife, Hannah, the Marquis de Lafayette, and most recently Casimir Pulaski in 2009.

Gilbert Leidig Jr., M.D.

Landenburg, Pennsylvania

Illustrating Envelopes

Pre-delivery doodling was not included in Wayne Youngblood's series, "The Art of Envelope Illustration" (Part I, December 2013, page 1008; Part II January AP, page 26). I'm not referring to cachets.

Doc Melberg in Wisconsin, now deceased, and I put phun in philately before the age of computers. On our correspondence we drew something near the stamp, but were careful not to touch



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it. For example, on the fish issue I drew a taut line leading back to a bent rod. Doc served on the submarine *Whale* in World War II, so I did something similar for the sub stamps. Doc countered with a carefully burnt postcard from his visit to the Grand Canyon. (It was after the great fires there.) I'm only sorry I saved none of these.

Before assigning damaged foreign stamps to the recycle bin, stick them on the lower left corner of an envelope. I make a point of doing this on Get Well cards.

Alfred Gruber
Newark, Delaware

What Border?

I'd like to point out, just for the record, that with the release of the 2013 "Inverted Jenny" sheet, the USPS celebrated its most famous mistake — and made another one.

The new mistake is not as spectacular as the old one, but it's clearly notice-

able to us Virginians who live east of the Chesapeake Bay — which, according to the map on the border of the sheet, is a place that does not exist. The map shows no boundary separating Maryland and Virginia east of the Chesapeake. As a result, the "Eastern Shore of Virginia" (two counties, 50,000 people) appears as a part of Maryland.

Other state boundaries are complete and whole insofar as the design of the sheet permits, even as far south as lower Georgia and Alabama. So why is Virginia's border left out — carelessness or ignorance?

We on the Eastern Shore of Virginia are used to this sort of thing, and see it all the time on lesser maps (restaurant placemats, company logos, TV commercials). But surely we can expect a little better from the U.S. Postal Service. After all, we do get mail here — from Richmond, not from Annapolis or Baltimore.

So, to any who are lucky enough to have purchased one of the "corrected"

versions of the new invert sheet: Congratulations! But it's still wrong.

Kirk Mariner

Onancock, Virginia

Another Collecting Angle

Though I'm a bit tardy in my response, the article by Lou David Allen on "Pretty Stamps" in the November 2013 AP (page 1044) was of great interest to me.

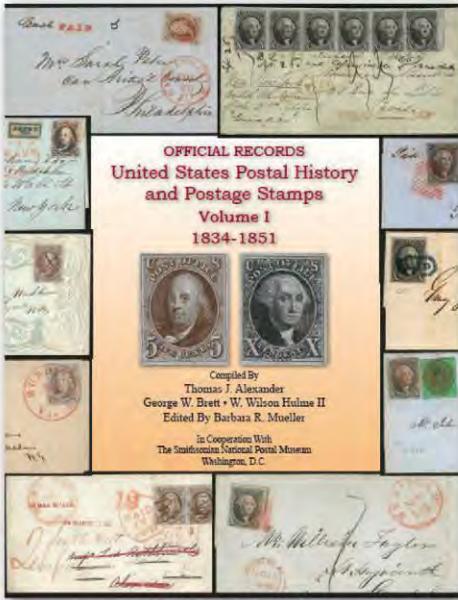
I have long known that I collect differently from most others. Varieties, flyspecks, and EFOs are not on my radar. A "complete" collection has no appeal. In fact, I realized that I don't collect "stamps" but art and design. This means that inexpensive stamps, even some from out-of-the-way islands or kingdoms, can be the most appealing. But so, too, can the usual heroes: engraved classics or the good graphic art of your favorite country's latest commemorative.

This approach to philately keeps me as excited as when I first started col-

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lecting in 1956, and also serves me well when introducing youth to share the same enthusiasm for stamps.

I appreciated the recognition that the "Pretty Stamps" page gave to this angle of collecting. I would like to have seen further description of why the author found these stamps "pretty." Give us more!

Ron Tabbert

Golden, British Columbia

Uncanceled Postage

For many months now I've received first class letters with applied stamps that have not been cancelled. The envelopes I've received are of different sizes. At the bottom front, each has a black barcode plus numerical 9-digit zip code. There is also a black imprint of the first two capitalized letters of my last name followed immediately by a 2-digit number. The reverse bottom has a pink barcode of a different type.

The affixed stamps are first-class stamps of 1960–1990 vintage, so there are many stamps on the envelope. The

stamps may have been bought at stamp shows for less than face value.

Have the stamps actually been cancelled in some way? Has any other collector noticed this?

John J. Coupal
Lexington, Kentucky

Sensible Suggestion

I am writing in response to the letter by Steve Henderson in the August issue of the *AP* regarding the use of Express Mail envelopes as a source of free cardboard for stiffeners of ordinary mail ("Express Envelopes as Stiffeners," page 717). I had intended to respond as soon as I read the letter, but decided to hold off until my return from APS StampShow in Milwaukee.

I made a number of purchases at the show. At the end of the day, my stamps were contained in one FedEx envelope, five Priority Mail envelopes, and one paper notion bag imprinted with the logo of the National Stamp Dealers Association.

My thought is: why can't the Post Office at least charge for their mailing materials at their cost? The amount paid could apply towards the cost of the eventual mailing of the Priority Mail item. If I paid, say, 25 cents for a flat rate envelope, I would then pay the balance of \$5.35 at the time of mailing. The same could be done with the padded mailing envelopes and boxes. The value could even be like Forever stamps. If the Postal Service has to raise the sale price as their printing costs rise, the previously printed envelopes and boxes could rise in value too. This would help compensate a business for keeping a supply on hand. At the very least it would reduce or stop hundreds (or thousands or even millions) of envelopes and boxes being taken away from the post offices and being used for all sorts of non-postal revenue purposes.

Dan Rusnak

Richmond, Virginia

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Philatelic Poetry

For those members of the APS who enjoy poetry, I would like to provide a reference to a poem that appeared in *The New Yorker* on September 10, 1966. The poem, titled "Philatelic Lessons: The German Collection," was written by Lawrence P. Spingard. Five lines from the poem read:

Red post horns blow a tinny kind
of song
About the borders like an antique
rage,
While in Saxony the one-Groschen
stamp
Shows John the First within a rose
medallion
Pointing his chin at some
corpulent battalion.

Any collector who owns that stamp might enjoy adding the poem to his or her library.

Louis Phillips

New York, New York

Advice for Dealers

In the January issue of the *AP*, Richard and Virginia Ried of Ried Stamps noted the decline in dealer attendance and buyers at stamp shows ("Dealers Speak Out," page 21). They also noted that stamp stores are getting to be rare. As a seasoned collector with fifty years in the hobby, I agree with their observation. Things *are* changing. We in the hobby should be willing to change also, as we adapt to this new reality.

At one time, all a dealer had to do to be a profitable concern was just to show up at stamp shows. Today that's not the case. Dealers must have a better grade of inventory and they must have what buyers want. Setting up at a show bourse with nothing but space fillers for novice collectors ain't going to work anymore.

I can't recall how many times I've heard collectors and buyers exit a bourse with this comment, or something like it: "Same old tired inventory." Buyers want

what they don't have. I've even seen them go home, pretty much empty handed, when they were just trying to upgrade their holdings.

As a result, years ago, I started placing ads in the Classified section of our *Electric Co-op News* magazine. Where else can you reach 161,000 readers monthly for \$12? It's produced five new members for our stamp club, plus I've been able to purchase more than thirty inactive collections in the past five years. This has allowed me to create and upgrade my personal holdings and also has produced a huge dealer inventory that I'm forever expanding.

This approach is not for dealers in the "buy and flip" contest. It will eat up too much of your time. Being long retired, I enjoy the process though. My "dealer" inventory will one day go to my son in Arizona for his retirement income.

So, to dealers I say, "upgrade the quality of your stock, advertise in new venues, and expand your inventory via

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Scott No. 245. \$5 Columbian Issue of 1893. An outstanding corner margin single.

"You can't put together a good collection unless you are focused, disciplined, tenacious and willing to pay more than you can possibly afford... whenever I considered buying anything, I would step back and ask myself does this make the cut?"

From a recent article in *The New York Times*, quoting one of this country's leading art collectors about building a world-class collection. He availed himself of an advisor and you should as well.

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ephemera, etc., for topical collectors." It's a change or go dead world out there.

Peter G. Ladron
Rock Falls, Wisconsin

Three Challenges

Regarding the letter from the owners of the Ried Stamp Company in the January AP (page 21), I believe there are three challenges causing the death of stamp collecting.

One: I grew up in the 1930s. We had little money and I worked at whatever jobs I could get to help out the family. What every kid in the neighborhood did was go to the library and collect stamps. We saved our pennies and nickels, then went to the dime store and bought stamps. We traded stamps with each other. We got stamps from Europe from relatives. We had limited other activities, primarily sand lot baseball.

Two: Today people have money. They encourage their kids to be active in sports, thus leaving little time for hobbies considered dull and boring.

Three: Today dealers charge anywhere from 70%–100% of *Scott Catalogue* prices for stamps. Yet at the same time they pay only 30% or less of Scott when they purchase stamps from collectors.

Joseph Rapotec
Seven Hills, Ohio

19th-Century Albums

Those who think they have seen every quirk in philately have probably not worked their way through too many albums published before 1900. If every word of what follows is not exactly accurate, may I be condemned to spend my remaining days on a desert island with Nicholas Seebeck as my sole companion.

At a European auction several months ago, I purchased a third edition Lincoln album printed in London in 1894. It was advertised as containing 2,500 stamps that were stuck down. Upon examination, I found this was a proper description; the stamps, in fact, had been glued to the pages. As is my habit, I began disassembling the contents by turning to New Zealand, a country whose nineteenth century issues are of particular interest to me. I was happy to see unused copies of nos. 63, 64, and 65 and into my stamp lift they went after I had clipped them from the album page.

Two hours later, they had separated from the page remnant, but there was something unusual about them. They appeared to be on thick paper, a variety of printing with which I was unfamiliar. Under the microscope went the least valuable of the three, the 64, and my confusion deepened. A circular Napier

cancellation clearly showed through, but it was not on the surface of the stamp. Then my microscope revealed the slightest abnormality of perforations, one that had escaped my naked eye.

Determined to get to the bottom of the mystery, I soaked the "stamp," promising myself that I wouldn't touch it for twenty-hours. At the end of that time, there were two stamps, the unused one and the Napier-cancelled one. Whoever the collector had been had glued the first to the second and then the second to the album page, but only after aligning the two stamps so perfectly that a collector would think there was only one stamp. How this was done is beyond me, but it must have been meticulous work taking hours and hours. This is particularly true since the effort was repeated 150–200 times in the album, including several stamps where an unused stamp was mounted on a more valuable used one. For example, an unused Italy 33 was mounted on a used copy that was perfectly collectible bearing a Palermo numeric cancellation.

The lesson of course is to expect the unexpected when collecting nineteenth-century stamps. It would be interesting to know if another reader has had a similar experience or one even more bizarre.

John M. Knapp
Chicago, Illinois

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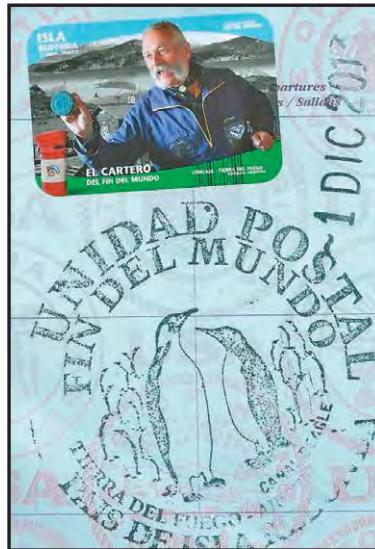
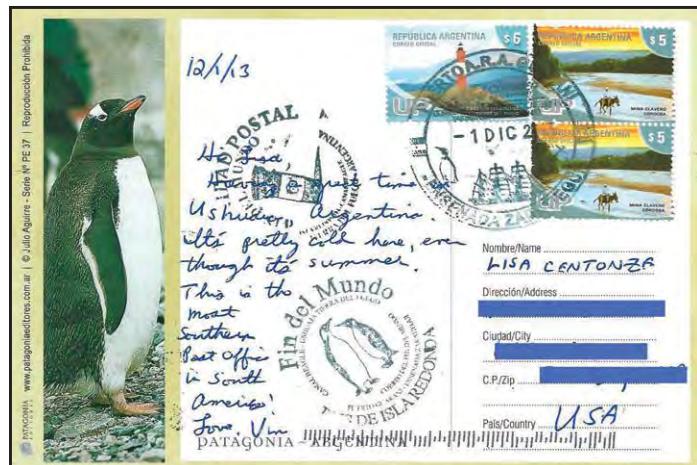
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Post Office at the End of the World

I recently visited Ushuaia, Argentina, a town at the southernmost tip of South America that most people have likely never heard of. There's not much one would expect to do in Ushuaia. It's a port of embarkation for cruises to Antarctica, so most foreigners who go there usually do so for a short layover before meeting their cruise ships. However, for many South Americans, Ushuaia (which boasts 80,000 inhabitants) is often a destination in itself because of Tierra del Fuego National Park, an incredible cornucopia of lakes, woodland forests and snow capped peaks at the terminal foothills of the Andes Mountains. In summer the park boasts beautiful vistas, and in winter it offers some of the best skiing in the world. During my visit to Ushuaia, I had the whole day to spend before boarding my cruise ship in late afternoon. Without much else to do, I took a day excursion to Tierra del Fuego. While strolling along the shore of Bahia Ensenada, a lake in the park that straddles both Argentina and Chile, I happened upon what is reputedly the southern-most post office in the world, appropriately named *Fin del Mundo*, (End of the World). This one-room wooden shack, built onto a lakeside dock, is a functioning, full-service Argentine government post office. Needless to say, I spent a considerable amount of time in the post office, perusing the philatelic souvenirs that covered the walls and preparing all manner of covers and cachets. The friendly postmaster, Carlos, is used to philatelists occasionally stopping by, and he gladly indulged my questions about this remote post office. He applied the quintessential *Fin del Mundo* postmark to a sticker with his picture into my passport and was happy to pose for photos as he cancelled my postcards and assortment of philatelic items that I thrust in front of him. So, if you enjoy out-of-the-way philatelic destinations, then make sure you visit Tierra del Fuego and its post office at the End of the World.



Vincent Centonze
Land O Lakes, Florida



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The “Unvert” Flies to the APS Headquarters

by Mercer Bristow

The American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) has issued its first certificate for one of the one hundred U.S. souvenir sheets of the famous “Jenny Invert” that were intentionally produced with the airplane “right-side up.” APEX #206689 has been issued for what we have affectionately named the “Unverted” Sheet. It will not be assigned a Scott number but is noted following the listing for the normal inverted souvenir sheet, Scott 4806, issued in 2013.

When Art Vanriper of Sayre, Pennsylvania read about this issue in *Coin World* he visited the post office in nearby Waverly, New York. The postal clerk said she had forty-four sheets in stock. He pondered a few moments and decided to buy all of them. The clerk then remembered one that was on display and he bought that as well.

He casually opened each one, then put them aside for a time. Later, when he looked at them more closely, he realized that one was the “Unverted” sheet. He called me in



APEX Director Mercer Bristow explains the certificate to proud owner Art Vanriper.



mid-December and asked if we had issued any certificates. I replied that we hadn't and he arranged to visit us at the American Philatelic Centre in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, he sent information about his discovery to the Postmaster General who returned a signed and numbered (#4) paper acknowledging the fact.

Art arrived at the APS on January 20 with his wife and mother. After scanning in the sheet, we had one of the noted authorities in modern U.S. philately, Ken Lawrence, examine it for us. On the back of the sheet, he noticed that it was from plate position 2, which was so noted.

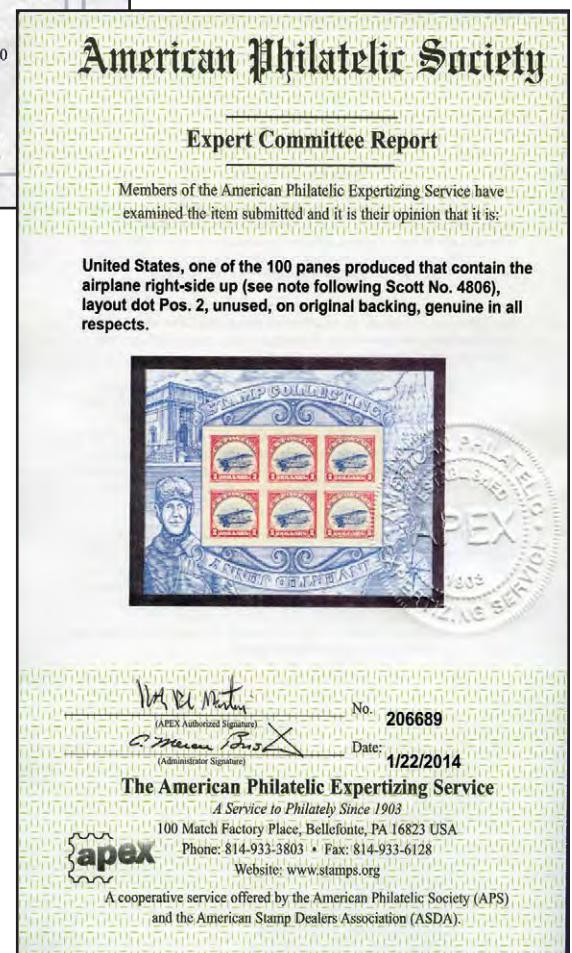
We then gave the family a tour of the restored Match Factory complex, purchased by the APS/APRL in 2002, and completely renovated. Space not needed by the Society or the Library is now fully occupied with ten tenants. The Vanripers were much impressed by the restoration of the nineteenth-century brick factory complex and by the future physical location of the Research Library (a move that is still a couple of years in the future).

I hope one day the APS will be able to obtain one of these "Unverts" to be displayed alongside our copy of the original Jenny Invert from 1918.

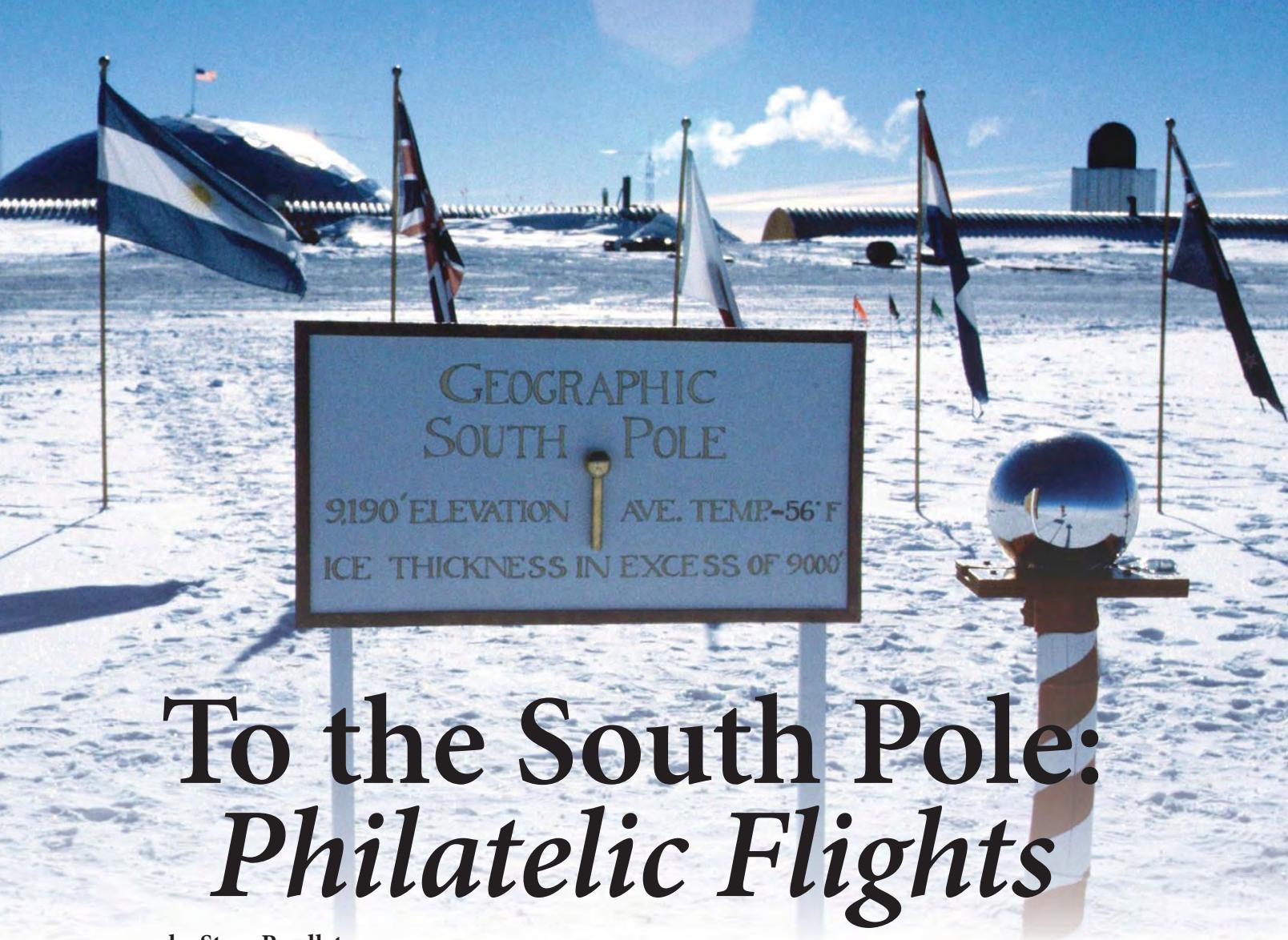
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To the South Pole: *Philatelic Flights*

by Steve Pendleton

Antarctica is by far the most forbidding continent on the globe. The constant cold, atrocious weather, and icy landscape even today make it dangerous for man. It is no wonder that relatively faster, more comfortable modes of travel are very popular here. After all, which method of travel would you prefer: a comfortable wingside seat or hauling everything by man-power a thousand miles?

Of all the places in Antarctica, it's the South Pole that has attracted the most attention historically. Beats me why — the Antarctic Peninsula is more spectacular. Maybe it's just because it's there. Since the days when Amundsen and Scott struggled so mightily to reach it, by far the most preferred way to get to the Pole has been by flying.

Luckily for philatelists, many flights have been philatelically documented. Since a private seat for a civilian tourist costs in the vicinity of \$40,000–\$45,000 today, it's a lot cheaper for collectors to ride along vicariously on some of these flights. It's probably better for our nerves as well.

Historic Flights

The honor of being the first to "fly" in the Antarctic goes to the immortal Robert Falcon Scott. During his first expedition into the icy continent in 1902, he stepped into a balloon. I don't know how high he ascended or what he saw. I don't think he carried any covers aloft either. What a prize they would be!

The first aerial visit to the South Pole was made by the famous polar pioneer, Richard E. Byrd. On November 28–29, 1928, Byrd (as navigator), Bernt Balchen (pilot), Harold June (co-pilot and radio operator), and Ashley McKinley (aerial photographer) lifted off from the Little America base in their trusty Ford Tri-motor, nicknamed the *Floyd Bennett*. The trip was not without its dangers. While flying up the little-known Liv Glacier, it became evident that the weight carried by the plane was too much for the 11,000-foot altitude they need to reach to clear the pass. Hundreds of pounds of food and empty fuel cans had to be jettisoned, and the aircraft flew over the crest of the glacier with just a few hundred yards to spare.

A few covers were flown on this occasion. They have a special "Floyd Bennett South Pole Air Mail" cachet, a "Nov. 28 '29" marking, and were serviced on the expedition ship *City of New York*. They were signed by Byrd and Balchen. Others may not have the signatures and have a simple "South Pole Air Mail"; these probably were not carried, but are still interesting souvenirs.

Byrd did not see the Pole from the air again until February 15, 1947 when he, with two aircraft, flew from the Little America base to the pole as part of the Navy's 1946–47 "Operation Highjump." This time, however, his goal wasn't to reach the South Pole but to fly beyond it, into the area known as the "Pole of Inaccessibility." They managed to fly about a hundred miles beyond the Pole before having to turn back. The Navy operation was partly to discover and map more of the Antarctic territory, and also, as Byrd said in a November 12, 1946 press release, "to train naval personnel and to test ships, planes and equipment under frigid zone conditions."

The only cover from this mission I have seen bears a typewritten notation: "This letter was flown by US Navy R4-D aircraft no. 12415 from Little America to the South Pole on Feb. 15, 1947 (signed) Plane Commander Lt. George H. Anderson." It also has the common Operation Highjump cachet.



Richard E. Byrd, Antarctic Explorers,
Scott 2388

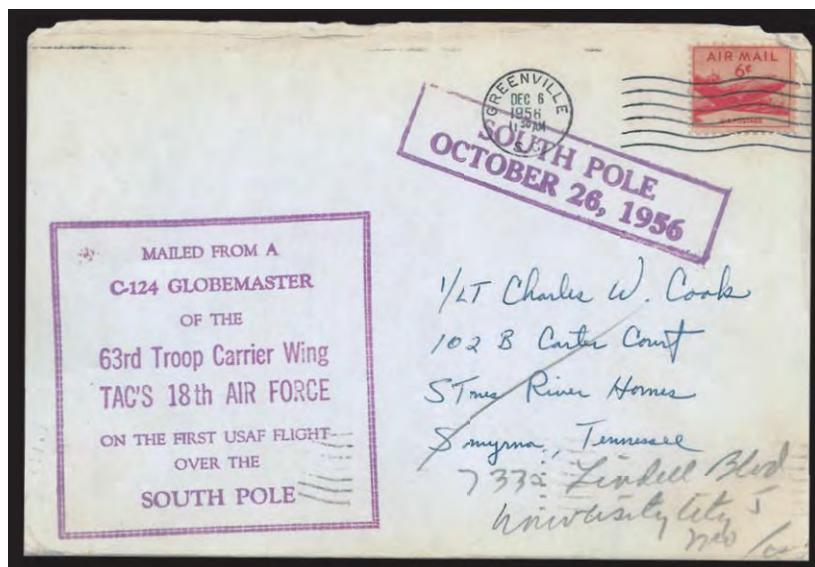


"South Pole Air Mail," February 19, 1930. This cover is like the ones flown on this date, but is not signed.





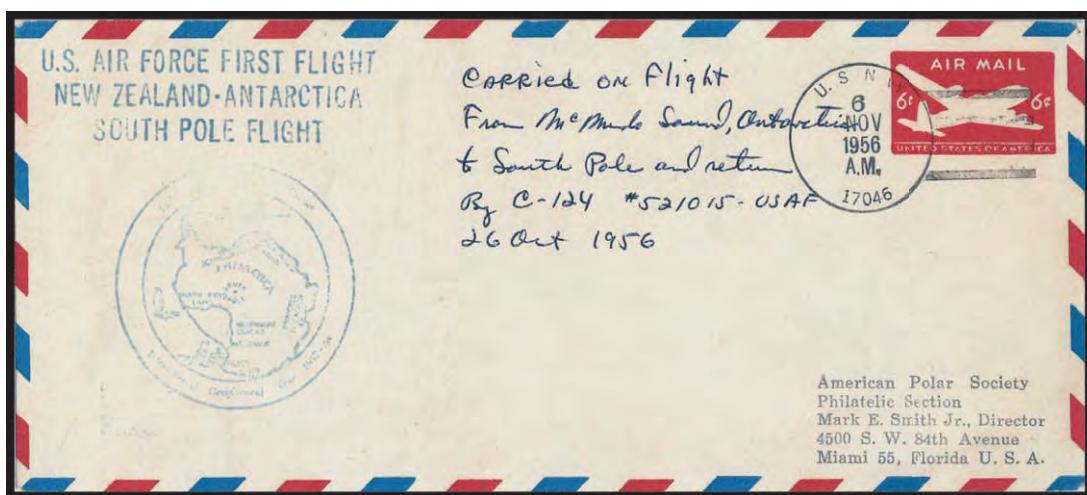
McMurdo Station.



"Mailed from a C-124 Globemaster of the 63rd Troop Carrier Wing TAC's 18th Air Force on the First USAF Flight over the South Pole," October 26, 1956. This flight reconnoitered the Pole more than a month before the landing.

The first actual landing took place only a few days later, on October 31.... After only a few minutes on the ground in -58°F weather, the Admiral uttered the immortal line: "Let's get the hell out of here!"

**"U.S. Air Force First Flight
New Zealand – Antarctica
South Pole Flight,"
November 6, 1956.**
Manuscript note: "Carried
on flight from McMurdo
Sound, Antarctica to
South Pole and return by
C-124 #521015-USAF 26
Oct 1956."



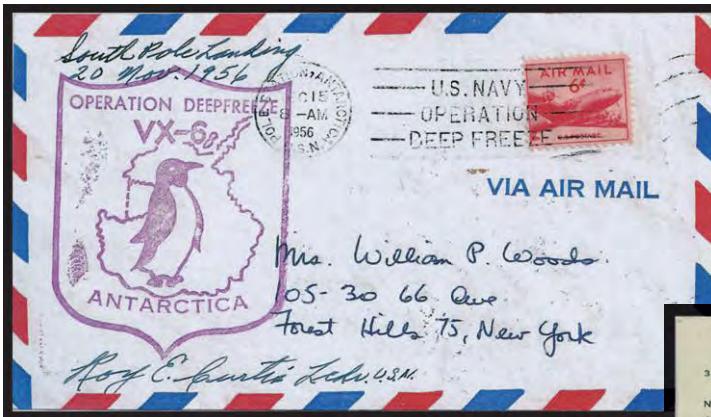
Establishing the South Pole Base

During the 1950s the United States began to become more concerned with establishing Antarctic bases. This was partially a result of increasing scientific curiosity, but a lot of it was because the Russians were becoming active in the area. When the USSR announced plans for a base at the Pole, the United States reacted by pushing for a permanent American base there.

However, such a base could only be built and maintained by air. The difficulties were enormous. The Pole is 800 miles from McMurdo Station on Ross Island, which would become the major U.S. polar station. (See McMurdo Station via a live webcam at www.usap.gov/videoclipsandmaps/mcmWebCam.cfm.) In addition to the extreme cold, it is also at an elevation of 9,500 feet. These factors meant that the United States would have to rely on very large aircraft in almost impossible flying conditions. It wasn't even known if such aircraft could land and take off again from the Pole.

A number of planes were flown down from New Zealand to McMurdo Station at the end of 1955 and surveys were carried out. On January 8, 1956, one of them carried Admiral Byrd over the Pole once more. It was the last time he was to see the South Pole. Byrd died the following year at the age of sixty-eight; he is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

On October 26, 1956 a C-124 Globemaster aircraft from the 63rd Troop Carrier Wing flew over the Pole. This event was marked by several cachets. One was a rectangular device simply reading "South Pole/October 26, 1956." Others bear written notations.



Left: "Operation Deepfreeze VX-6 Antarctica," December 15, 1956. This flight landed the Seabees and constructed the first base at the Pole.

The first actual landing took place only a few days later, on October 31. Admiral George Dufek was aboard a U.S. Navy R4D nicknamed *Que Sera Sera*. The pilot was Conrad Shinn. After only a few minutes on the ground in -58°F weather, the Admiral uttered the immortal line: "Let's get the hell out of here!" The takeoff was successful, although the newly invented JATO (Jet Assisted Take Off) bottles had to be used. To the great relief of planners, it demonstrated that landings at the Pole could be made.

On November 20 a group of Seabees was landed and the construction of a South Pole base was begun. After eighty-four more flights, enough supplies and buildings had been transported — all by air — to allow a wintering-over party of eighteen to survive the long polar night.

These journeys are known to have been documented philatelically with pilot signatures and the VX-6 Squadron cachet. After the first year, the brief pioneer period of South Pole flight was ended, but there were many such events to come.

Over the Pole(s)

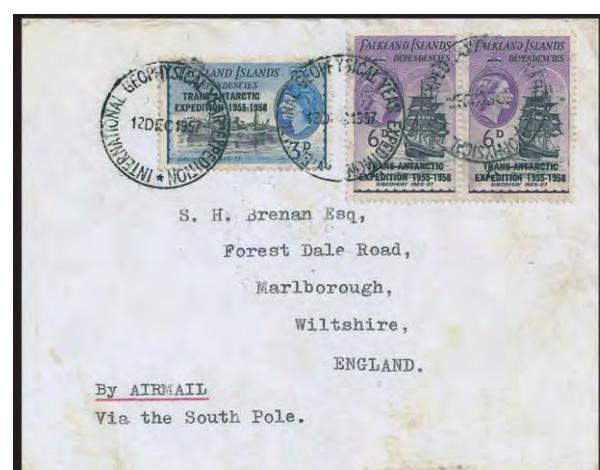
Over the next decade there were literally hundreds of flights made by the VXE-6 Squadron (the name was changed from VX-6 in 1969); however, at least four other major flights (but not landings) were made to the South Pole and philatelically documented. These are known as the Wilkins, Rockwell, and Dustin flights. Additionally, there was one made to commemorate Pan American Airways' fiftieth anniversary.

Wilkins Flight. The first flight was named for the famous Australian polar explorer and pilot, Sir Hubert Wilkins. He was born in 1888, and had flown in both the Arctic and Antarctic. In 1957 he organized a flight over both the North and South Poles that does not actually appear in records, because the flight used several different pilots and aircraft. Covers for it exist that have an Antarctic map and a place for information to be filled in. We learn that one aircraft flew over the North Pole on September 12 then visited Honolulu on September 26. Another aircraft crossed the South Pole

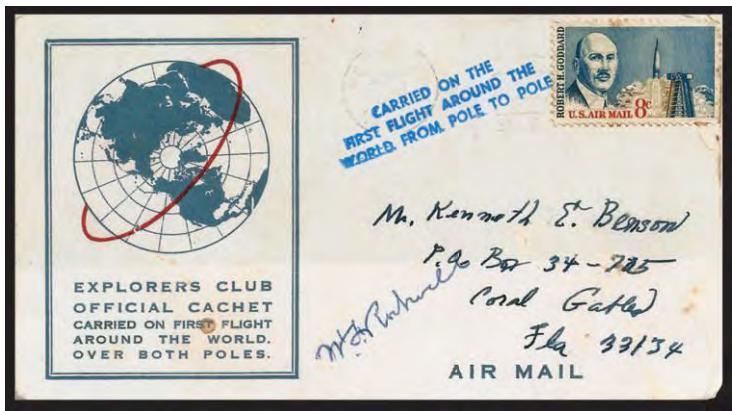


Above: Cover addressed to Hubert Wilkins in Anchorage, Alaska from the Sir Hubert Wilkins 1957 flights over both Poles, named in his honor: North Pole on September 12, and South Pole on October 17. Signed by Wilkins.

Left: Sir Hubert Wilkins.



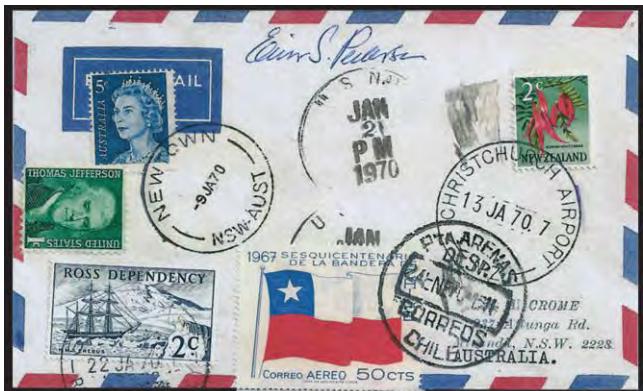
Commercial cover flown by Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition plane, December 12, 1957.



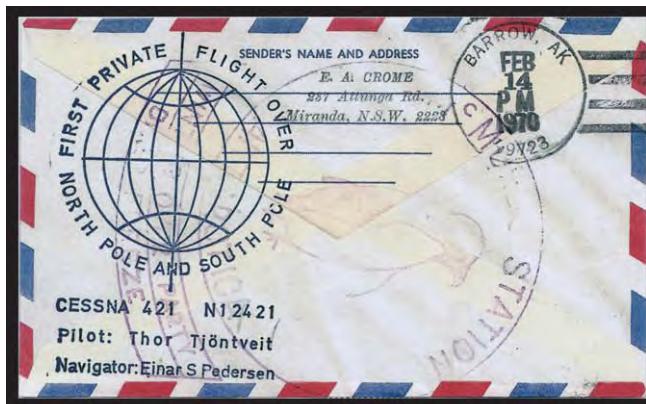
Rockwell Flight cachet sponsored by the Explorers Club, "Carried on the First Flight Around the World from Pole to Pole," 1965. Signed by Rockwell.



Dustin Trans-Polar Flight, postmarked Boston, MA, November 8, 1963. Signed by "Flight Leader F. O. Dustin" and his wife Helen B. Dustin, "First woman to fly over both Poles."



Tjöntveit/Pedersen Flight, first private flight over the Poles, 1970. Front and back of cover showing cancels from various stops.



on October 17. My cover was cancelled at Anchorage on September 3 and at Little America, Antarctica on November 10.

The event was in the nature of a last hurrah for Wilkins. He died in November 1958 and the following year, as per his wish, the U.S. Navy spread Wilkins' ashes at the North Pole.

Rockwell Flight. The next voyager was a Boeing 707-320G nicknamed the *Pole Cat*. The aircraft was sponsored by Col. W.E. Rockwell and Howard Williams, and the flight is commonly known as the "Rockwell Flight." The plane was piloted by Capt. Fred Austin and Harrison Finch. It carried a total of thirty-five, with the crew. They left from Palm Springs, California, but the official start was in Honolulu on November 14, 1965. Overflying both Poles, the plane returned to Honolulu on November 17. The total time in the air was only sixty-two hours, setting a speed record for the double overfly.

Several thousand "official" covers were carried, with the printed cachet: "Explorers Club / Official Cachet / Carried on First Flight / Around the World / Over Both Poles." There was an additional three-line handstamp. These were temporarily confiscated by the Post Office since they were not considered "official" mail. About 200 privately serviced covers were carried as well. Some of these have the flight details.

Dustin Flight. In 1968 Fred Dustin, who had been an engineer on Byrd's second Antarctic expedition, conceived a novel idea. He would lead a round-the-world-over-the-Poles flight, but this one would be in honor of the late Admiral Byrd. This was largely a commercial venture with sixty-eight paying passengers to be carried aboard a Convair 990A aircraft.

The plane left Boston, Massachusetts on November 8, 1968 and reached the North Pole the following day. Eight stops later, it landed briefly at McMurdo — something no commercial aircraft has been allowed to do since. The South Pole was sighted on November 22 and the plane headed home. After nine more stops they landed in Boston on December 3. The passengers included Mrs. Dustin, the first woman to fly over both Poles.

Special commemorative covers were printed for the "Dustin Trans-Polar Flight." The design included a portrait of Byrd. On the back there is a rectangular cachet noting each stop on the trip.

Pan American Airways Anniversary. The final flight was in the nature of a celebration marking the fiftieth anniversary of operations

by Pan American Airways. A round-the-world flight was planned that would use a Boeing 747SP Clipper named *New Horizons*, a model specially built for ultra-long range flying. The aircraft took off from San Francisco, California on October 28, 1977. It did not need to make many stops, so the globe-girdling flight was completed in record time: only fifty-four hours, seven minutes.

Several different cachets are known. The most common is a rectangle with the names of the various stops inscribed inside. These envelopes were canceled at the San Francisco International Airport.

The Little Guys

The thought of braving the Antarctic wilds in a large jet may not be particularly sexy to contemplate, but consider the tiny one- and two-engine aircraft whose pilots tried their luck at the Pole. Possibly the most famous of these was **Max Conrad**, the “flying grandfather.” He and his Piper Aztec aircraft, the *St. Louis Woman*, successfully crossed the North Pole in 1968. He tried the South Pole during the 1969–70 season, only to crash land there. The partially successful flight carried 2,000 postcards that were cancelled at the Pole on January 22, 1970.

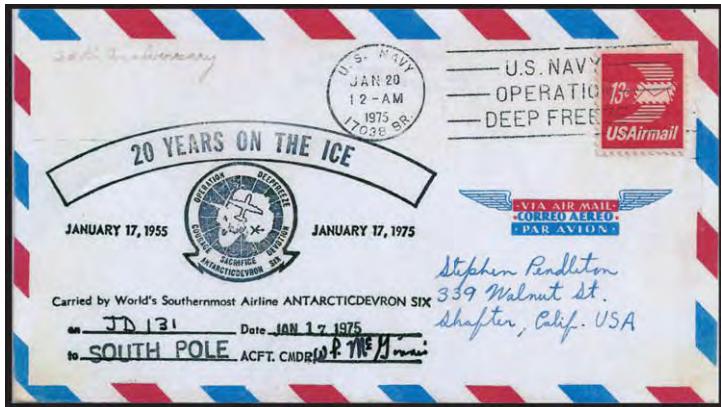
Two other daredevils weren’t far behind. Pilot **Thor Tjöntveit** and navigator **Einar S. Pedersen** had just participated in the England-to-Australia Air Race and decided to go on to both Poles in a Cessna 421. Leaving Sydney, they reached the South Pole on January 22, 1970 and then went on to overfly the North Pole on February 14. Covers from their flight bear a circular cachet reading “First Private Flight over North Pole and South Pole.” They were cancelled at several landing sites.

Captain Elgin Long, flying a twin-engine Piper Navajo called *Crossroads*, was the first (and possibly only) solo pilot to fly over both Poles. He did so from November 11 to December 3, 1971, using San Francisco as a start and finish. A few covers are believed to have been carried on his flight.

Finally, there are **Richard Norton** and **Calin Rosetti** who attempted both Poles in a single-engine Piper Malibu in 1987. They left from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, reaching the South Pole on January 19, 1987. Before they made it to the North Pole, however, they crashed. It took five months to return and repair the craft. They finally crossed the North Pole on June 11. One hundred sets of covers noting the beginning and ending of the journey were carried.

A Few Other Flights

The **Fuchs & Hillary Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition** is famous for the first land crossing of the continent. However, it also had an air component: aircraft were used to lay depots and scout possible



“20 Years on the Ice, January 17, 1955 • January 17, 1975.” One of the VXE-6’s many flight cachets. This one marks the 20th anniversary of their Antarctic mission.

paths for the tractors. In December 1957 four expedition members flew a De Havilland Canada Otter from Shackleton Base via the Pole to New Zealand’s Scott Base. This was the first nonstop transpolar flight via the Pole.

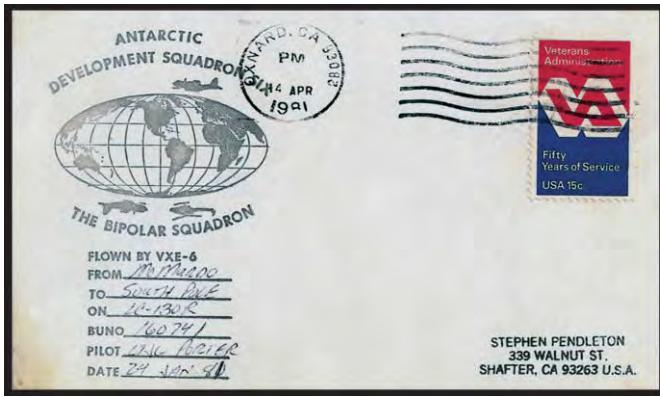
Argentina sponsored several pioneer flights, including “**Operación sur Cama**.” This was made by three FAA (Fuerza Aerea Argentina) planes, one of them a Douglas C-47. Flying from Argentina via several of its polar bases, the aircraft stopped at the Pole on November 4, 1965, before going on to McMurdo to complete a trans-Antarctic flight. Special cached covers were carried and canceled at both the Argentine bases and the Pole.

A Word About VX(E)-6

The present U.S. polar station, the redesigned and newly dedicated Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station (operated year round by the National Science Foundation), is the third U.S. base at the South Pole since 1957. But it would not exist without the efforts of the U.S. Navy’s VX-6 Squadron. This unit was established January 17, 1955, changing its name to VXE-6 in 1969. They were usually based at McMurdo Station, and their task was simple: provide supply and transport for the hundreds of scientists and dozens of camps scattered



“Fifty Years of Airmail Progress 1927–1977.” Pan Am’s 50th anniversary flight began and ended in San Francisco.



"Antarctic Development Squadron Six / The Bipolar Squadron," flown January 24, 1981; postmarked April 14, 1981. Typical VXE-6 flight from McMurdo Station to the South Pole.

all over the icy continent.

In one year alone (1971), they made 152 flights just to the Pole. In 1999 that number exploded to 320. Over the forty-four years they served on the ice, the total number of Antarctic flights made by the squadron numbered in the thousands. The unit was disestablished in 1999 and their duties taken over by the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York National Guard.

Year after year, the pilots and personnel of this unit went out of their way to accommodate philatelic requests. Polar philatelists usually have a number of covers serviced



"First Single Engine Circumpolar Flight. / Flight of the Arctic Tern. Rosetti. January 1987, Norton. / This cover was carried onboard of [sic] the Piper Malibu airplane during its flight around the world." First single-engine plane to fly over both poles.

on VXE-6 flights. I suppose some of these aviators received accolades for their accomplishments. All I can say is that it must have taken (and still takes) a lot of guts to do what they have done. But then, you could say that of anyone who flies in the Antarctic.

One Final Note

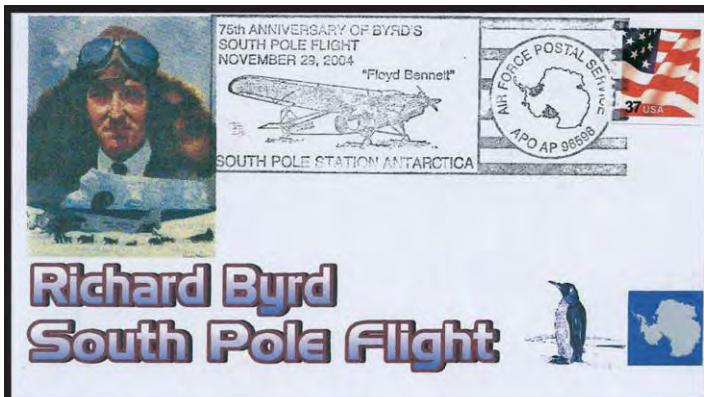
In an article like this, it is all too easy to miss an event. I do not claim to have a complete list of pioneer polar flights, and would be interested to hear of other early flights that carried cards and/or covers.

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The Author

Steve Pendleton, a retired teacher, has collected Antarctica and Pacific and ocean isles for more than thirty years. He has had more than 750 articles published in philatelic and regional magazines.



South Pole pictorial cancel commemorates the 75th anniversary of Richard Byrd's first flight over the South Pole.



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Large \$1
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US\$148,200



1968 Victory US\$222,290



1968 unissued "Whole Country is Red"
US\$652,000



1912 Essays set of 13 US\$96,325



1884 registered cover from Customs Takow
in Taiwan to Oldenburg, Germany US\$385,300



6ca Imperf Between US\$26,675



Taiwan first Flying Geese set
blocks of four US\$74,100



1882 Large Dragon / US Combination
US\$237,100

New Orleans'

A Postcard Collector's Dream Come True!

by Nan H. Burby

I had never even thought of collecting postcards until a moment of boredom at a stamp show in the New Orleans area in the late 1990s. My husband, a stamp collector since childhood, was absorbed, and I wandered over to a dealer who had a display of New Orleans postcards. The next thing I knew I had bought my first postcard for collecting purposes (a card depicting the Morning Call Coffee Stand¹ in the French Market) and, at the same time, I paid the most I have ever paid for a card...\$35!

Thus, a new hobby was born, and New Orleans, I was to discover, offered an unending supply of collectible cards. (I was also to discover that you *never* buy a postcard featuring the city you are in. You do much better buying New Orleans' cards at, say, a stamp show in Spokane, Washington.)

During the eight years we lived in New Orleans I came to realize what a special place the Vieux Carré (better known as the French Quarter, but also known originally as La Nouvelle Orleans) is. This 108-square-block area was established as a city in 1718 by the French explorer Bienville (Jean Baptiste LeMoine, brother of Iberville) on a beautiful crescent of the Mississippi River and was named in honor of the Duke of Orleans. The new city was to be a military, trading, and administrative center for the French government. Adrien de



"Morning Call Coffee Stand, French Market, New Orleans, La. / New Orleans' Most Famous Coffee Drinking Place."



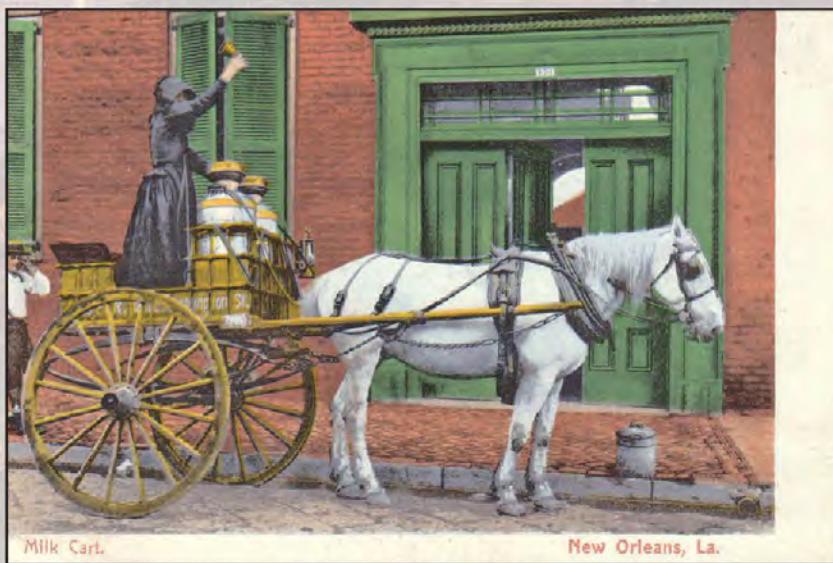
French Quarter



Pauger, a French military engineer, drew up a plan for the city in 1721 and, with few exceptions, the design and even the names of the streets established by de Pauger are what we find in the French Quarter today.

The French Quarter is a city within a city that has survived changes of government (French, Spanish, French again, and then finally American in 1803), destructive fires (in 1788 and again in 1794, after which the Spanish government passed rigid building codes), extreme poverty (after the Civil War and during the Depression), Louisiana politics, and hurricanes! In 1860, before the Civil War, New Orleans was the sixth largest city in the United States, but by 1890 it had dropped to thirteenth.² What growth there was in the city was in the "American sector" (the other side of Canal Street) with tall buildings going up and large homes being built. At the same time, the more wealthy Creoles of French and Spanish descent moved out Esplanade Avenue toward Bayou Saint John, which leads to Lake Pontchartrain.

By the early 1900s the Quarter was virtually a slum, filled with the poor and immigrant labor, and although some New Orleanians thought the only solution would be another fire, in 1925 the New Orleans City Council passed an ordinance protecting the old colonial city from the encroachment of modern business. It was the first municipal ordinance adopted in the United States to protect a historic area. In addition, the Vieux Carre Commission was approved by a state constitutional amendment in 1936 and was given the power to preserve the historic integrity of the Quarter. The commission controls all renovation and rebuilding with strict codes. Henceforth, the "toute ensemble" of the Quarter was preserved, and in 1966 the Quarter as a whole was desig-



"Milk Cart" (1906).



"In the French Quarter" (1907). Two women delivering milk. Sign above store advertises "Owl Cigar Now 5¢." Manuscript note: "Would you like a ride? May 21 07."



"Old Creole Praline [sic] Candy Woman" (1914).



"Steamboat loaded with Cotton" (1915).

nated a National Historic Landmark.³

Alas for a collector, the French Quarter was not at its best during the prime postcard years. Two of my earliest cards (1906 and 1907) show milk carts going through strangely deserted streets, and the empty square with a "candy woman" selling pralines (1914) indicates she didn't have many customers. The busiest place, of course, was the harbor and the river flowing by. A 1915 card shows a steamboat literally



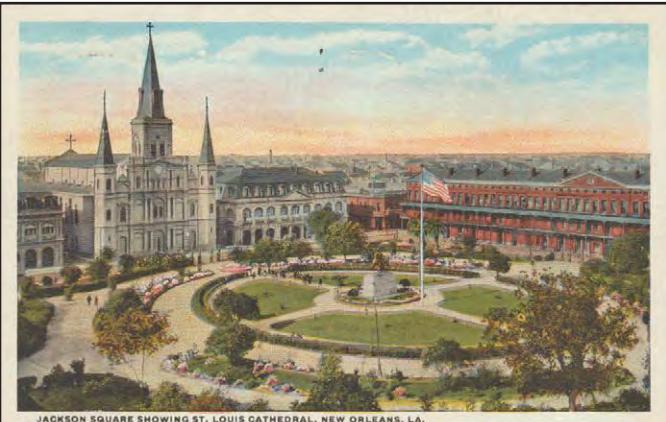
"Cotton Landing Levee" (1908).

overloaded with bales of cotton, while an earlier one (1908) shows the busy cotton landing levee.

The earliest postcard I have of the "heart of the Quarter" — the Place d'Armes that was laid out by Bienville in 1719 and renamed in honor of Andrew Jackson after his defeat of the British in the 1815 Battle of New Orleans — shows in the foreground the Jackson Monument as well as the St. Louis Cathedral. The card dates from 1918 but I'm sure there are



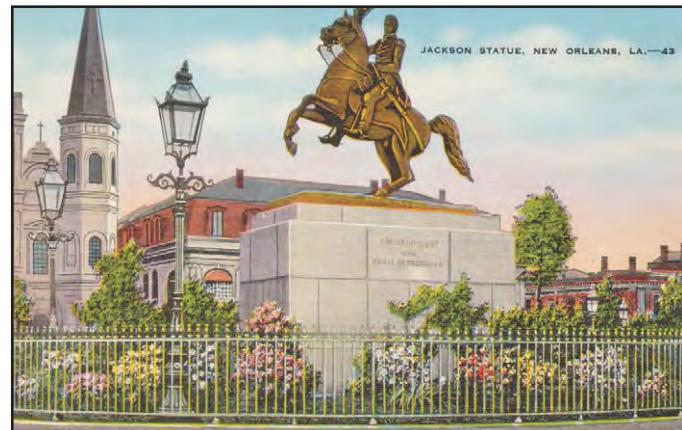
"Jackson Monument and St. Louis Cathedral" (1918).



"Jackson Square Showing St. Louis Cathedral" (1922).



"Interior of St. Louis Cathedral" showing its famous murals, added in 1892.



"Jackson Statue" erected in 1842. The inscription on the base, "The Union Must and Shall Be Preserved," was added by order of Gen. Benjamin F. Butler following the city's capture by Union troops in 1862.



"French Market" (1907).



"French Market" (today).

earlier ones. A card from a little later, 1922, has a better view of the buildings surrounding Jackson Square, showing (from left to right) a partial view of the Cabildo, St. Louis Cathedral, the Presbytere, and the Pontalba Apartments. Unseen is a third side, the open view to Decatur Street and the river, and a fourth side, the Pontalba Apartments to the left of the Cabildo.

The first church on the site selected by Bienville was built and donated to the city in 1724 by Don Almonester y Roxas, a wealthy Spaniard, only to be destroyed by fire in 1788. The present building dates from 1794. The interior mural decorations were added in 1892. The statue of Andrew Jackson in the square was erected in 1846 at a cost of \$30,000 and was designed by Clark Mills. The inscription, "The Union must and shall be preserved," was added by General Butler's orders when New Orleans was occupied by federal troops during the Civil War. The Pontalba Apartments, which flank the square on two sides, were built in 1849 by Baroness Micaela Almonester de Pontalba who chose the design based on apartment buildings she had observed in Paris. They feature outstanding cast-iron balconies with the initials A and P interlaced, representing the two families, Almonester and

Pontalba. (Baroness Pontalba also paid for the beautification of Jackson Square in 1848, adding pathways and gardens.) The Cabildo was erected in 1795 as the seat of the Spanish government for the Province of Louisiana. The site of the Presbytere was originally occupied by a monastery, destroyed by the 1788 fire. A residence for the cathedral clergy was in the process of being built when the 1794 fire occurred. So, even though the current building is referred to as a Presbytery, it never served as such. It was bought by the U.S. government in 1813 but sold to the city to be used as a court house in 1853.

Other early postcards in my collection include:

A 1913 card (copyrighted in 1907) of the French Market. The card notes that the early vendors at this market were first Indians and later truck gardeners from a settlement of German immigrants upriver from New Orleans, i.e., the German coast. The building was first erected in 1791 by the Spanish only to be destroyed by a hurricane in 1812.

A postcard of Café Du Monde, the famous French Market coffee stand, across the street from Jackson



Sign reads: "Café du Monde / Coffee & Doughnuts / Original French Market Coffee Stand" (c1930s).



"U.S. Mint" (1906).



"Front View of the Ursulines Convent" (1910).

Square. The part of the cancellation that shows the date is unreadable but the card is probably from the 1930s.

A 1906 card of the U.S. Mint (identified by the writer as "Where they make the 'stuff'"). This massive Greek Revival building, designed by William Strickland, was built in 1835 on the site of a former Spanish fort. Coins were produced there between 1838 and 1909.

A 1910 front view of the Ursulines Convent, again with a funny quip by the card writer — "How would you like to enter?" The building, one of the oldest structures in the Mississippi Valley and New Orleans, was occupied by the Sisters of St. Ursula from France in 1749. The sisters conducted the first Catholic school, the first Indian school, the first Negro school, and the first orphanage in New Orleans.

A 1903 card of a French cottage on Chartres Street that was the home at one time of the Confederate hero General P.G.T. Beauregard, a New Orleans native. The residence was built in 1827 (on land purchased from the Ursuline nuns) by auctioneer Joseph Le



"Chartres Street, 'Vieux Carré'" (1903).

Carpentier. His daughter and her husband, attorney Alonzo Morphy, lived with him. Paul Morphy, a World's Champion Chess Player, was born in the house. Following the end of the Civil War, Beauregard, "The Great Creole," rented a room in the house while seeking a job.

A 1940s card of Madame John's Legacy on Dumaine Street, built in 1726 and considered by some to be the oldest surviving structure in the Mississippi Valley. (It vies for that title with the Ursulines Convent.) The home was built by Jean Pascal, a sea captain from France, who lived there with his family until he was slain by Natchez Indians in 1729. There is speculation that the house had to be rebuilt after the 1788 fire. The building acquired the name, Madame John's Legacy, from its role in a story by George Washington Cable. The building is a raised cottage plantation type, entirely different from most other houses in the French Quarter.

A 1908 card of Madam Begue's Famous Breakfast House. Considered the most famous of all New Orleans' restaurants, it was located at 823 Decatur. A 1932 card of the Napoleon Bonaparte House, built



"Madame John's Legacy in the New Orleans' French Quarter"
(c1940s).



"Madam Begue's Famous Breakfast House" (1908).



"Napoleon Bonaparte House" (1932).



Reproduction postcard of c1895 original with a view of Royal Street.

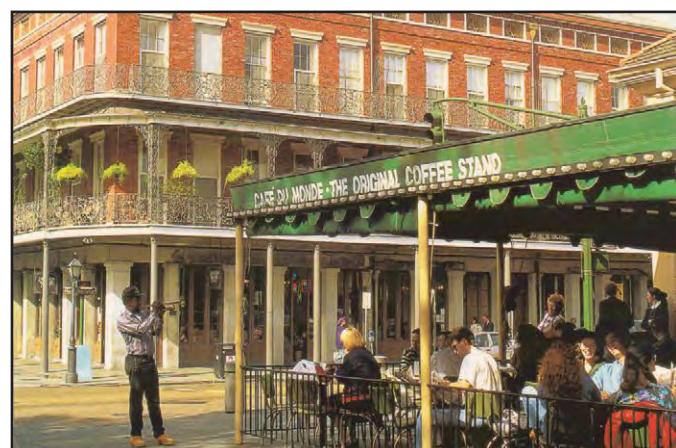
in 1814 as a possible home for Napoleon after he escaped from Elba Island. Napoleon died, however, a few days before the departure of the ship to bring him to New Orleans.

A reproduction postcard of Royal Street, one of the principal thoroughfares of the French Quarter, circa 1895.

The wonderful thing about these early postcard scenes in the French Quarter is that, due to the 1925 ordinance to protect the old colonial city and the constant vigilance of many, you can still find these same buildings today — well cared for and protected. The postcard racks in the Quarter are full of current cards showing these same settings from the past — Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, the Cabildo (now home to the Louisiana Historical Museum, displaying items such as the death mask of Napoleon and the “founding stone” of the colony dating to 1699), the Presbytere (now part of the Louisiana State Museum), and the Pontabla Apartments (with the St. Peter Street building owned by the City of New Orleans and the St. Ann Street building owned by the Louisiana State Museum). The two near identical buildings have commercial enterprises on the bottom floors

with residences on the second and third, just as when they were constructed. Both the Cabildo and Presbytere are National Historic Landmarks.

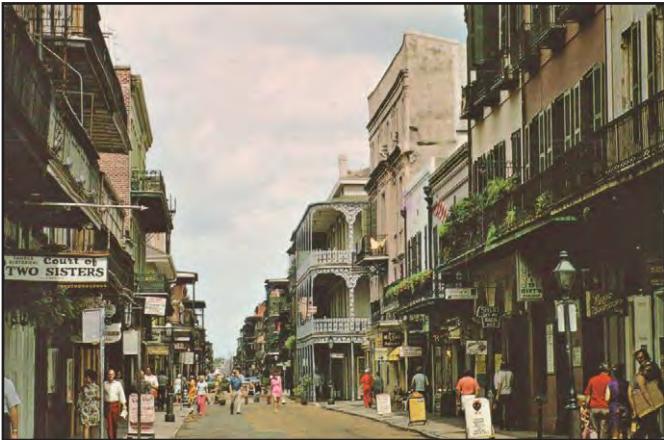
The French Market, which was remodeled in 1936, through the Works Progress Administration, and again in 1975, still has a popular farmer’s market, craft stalls, coffee stands, and the like. And the Café Du Monde continues to be



Awning reads: "Café du Monde — The Original Coffee Stand."



View of courtyard of the restored Beauregard-Keyes House.



A 1992 view of Royal Street taken from the same vantage point as the reproduction from 1895.

a favorite spot for locals and tourists alike. What could be better than rich Creole coffee, beignets covered with powdered sugar, and a little jazz music? The awning shown in the earlier card has been extended much farther out.

The U.S. Mint is now owned by the Louisiana State Museum and houses the New Orleans Jazz Museum and the Mardi Gras Exhibit. A highlight is Louis Armstrong's first trumpet.

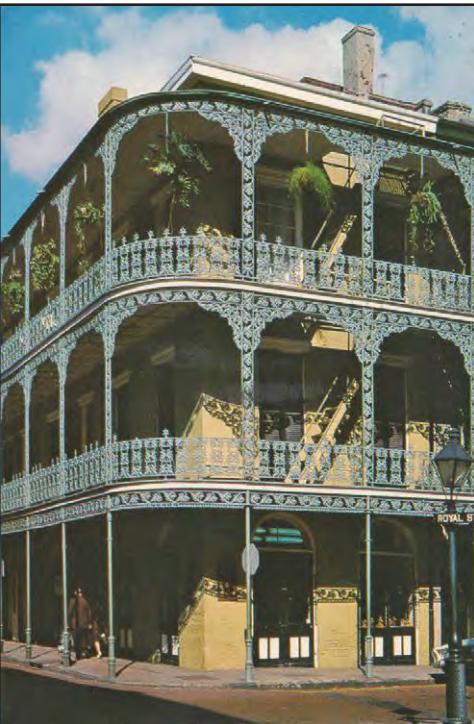
The Ursuline Convent building has been restored and is now home to Catholic archives dating to 1718. The convent was used by the Ursulines for ninety years. It now is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public.

Novelist Frances Parkinson Keyes, who adopted New Orleans as her own, bought and restored the old Beauregard house in 1944. The area comprising the courtyard and former slaves' quarters was the novelist's favorite part of the house and where she wrote many of her books. The Beauregard-Keyes House is open to the public for tours.

Madame John's Legacy became a boarding house in the late 1800s and was donated to the Louisiana State Museum in 1944.

The Napoleon Bonaparte House, at the corner of St. Louis and Chartres, today looks very much like the earlier card and is home to the famous restaurant and bar by that name.

And, interestingly, this postcard of Royal Street mailed in 1992 features a photograph taken from almost the same spot as the one in 1895. A wonderful example of Creole architec-



A close up view of cast-iron lacework on Royal Street.

ture, the street was home then and still is today to many historic buildings featuring cast-iron lace work. The building on the right, midway down the street in both cards, for example, was built in 1835 by Jean LaBranche and features intricate designs of entwined oak leaves and acorns. Another 1992 card features a closer look at the famous lace balconies at 700 Royal Street. A postcard from 1986 shows more excellent examples of cast-iron lace work on St. Peter's Street, very near Jackson Square.

Homes on all the streets in the Quarter also featured (and feature today) quaint courtyards and lovely gardens. (The 1986 card was sent by my friend, the late Bebe Freeman, to her mother. I love the message: "New Orleans is just as wonderful as always. We arrived about 7:00 last night. Had oysters,

gumbo & beignets before bedtime!" Bebe and her husband moved after retirement in the mid 1990s to New Orleans and lived in the Quarter on Chartres Street. They loved to round up some of the street musicians in Jackson Square and have a party in their courtyard.)

Of all my New Orleans postcards (and I have way too many!), one of my favorites is of Tujague's Restaurant on Decatur Street, just down from Jackson Square. (Interestingly, Tujague's is now in the building formerly occupied by Madame Begue's — a site transition made in 1914.) It was at Tujague's that our friends hosted a farewell party when we headed back north in 2000, and I treasure the memory of sitting out on the balcony, having a wonderful meal, and being sur-

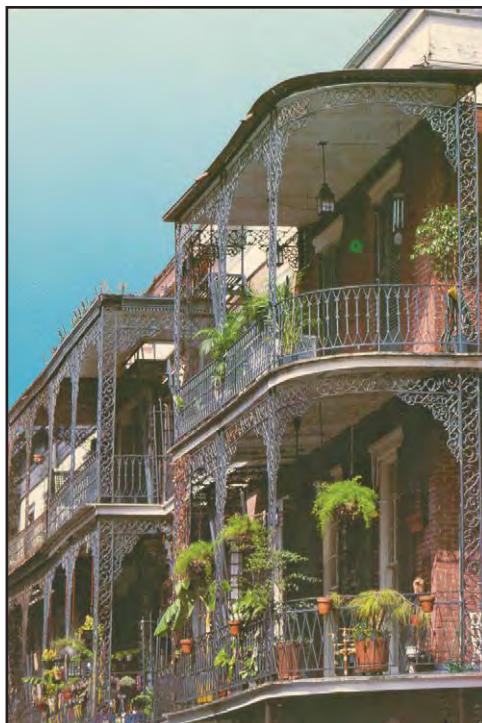
rounded by the sounds of the Quarter. The postcard notes that the restaurant was established in 1856 and that the card was mailed June 23, 1956, just shy of the restaurant's 100th celebration on July 14, 1956. That's New Orleans!

Endnotes

1. Long-time New Orleanians talk with great affection of the Morning Call Coffee Stand, established in the French Market in 1870. Sadly, it is no longer there, having relocated to Metairie, a nearby suburb in Jefferson Parish in 1974. It was promoted as being for "Connoisseurs in the art of French Drip Coffee."

2. Currently, New Orleans is the fifty-second largest city in the United States according to an article in the October 1, 2011 issue of *The Economist*, "Counting the Missing. Unwelcome Numbers for the Big Easy." The article notes that the last time New Orleans was this small was in 1910, "when much of what now comprises the city was still uninhabitable swampland."

3. Much of this early history of New Orleans, and the French Quarter in particular, is drawn from *The Second Battle of New Orleans: A History of the Vieux Carré Riverfront Expressway Controversy*, by William Borah and the late Richard Baumback (University of Alabama Press, 1981). These two



Equally elaborate are the cast-iron balconies on St. Peter's Street.

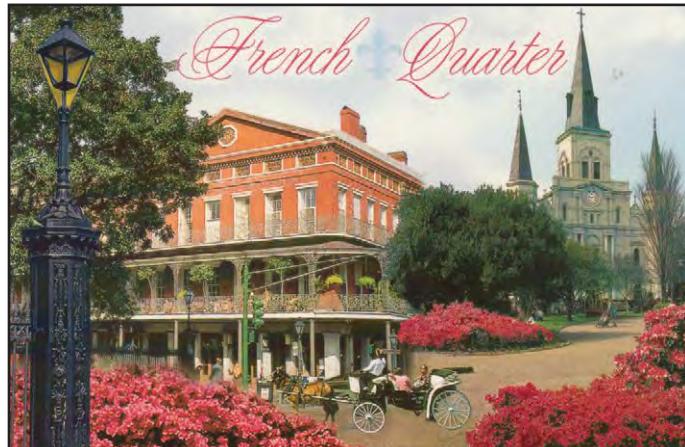
natives of New Orleans, both friends and in the late 1900s affiliated with the University of New Orleans, led this fight against the elevated expressway proposed in 1946 by Robert Moses, the great freeway builder in New York City. They write (page 2): "...the principal issue that unified opponents of the highway was their belief that a massive French Quarter freeway would irreparably harm Jackson Square, the site commemorating Andrew Jackson's victory in 1815 and the heart of the old city." It was a fight between the preservationists and the business interests. This time, the preservationists won the battle!

The Author

Tnan H. Burby is a retired journalist and postcard collector. She expresses thanks to her friend Barbara Askew, a native New Orleanian and long time hotel concierge and tour guide, for checking over this article. Barbara and Nan took a class from William Borah in the 1990s on New Orleans' architecture. Thanks to you, too, Bill.



A 1956 view of Tujague's Restaurant on Decatur Street, established 1856.



Modern view of the French Quarter with St. Louis Cathedral in background.

1847–1945

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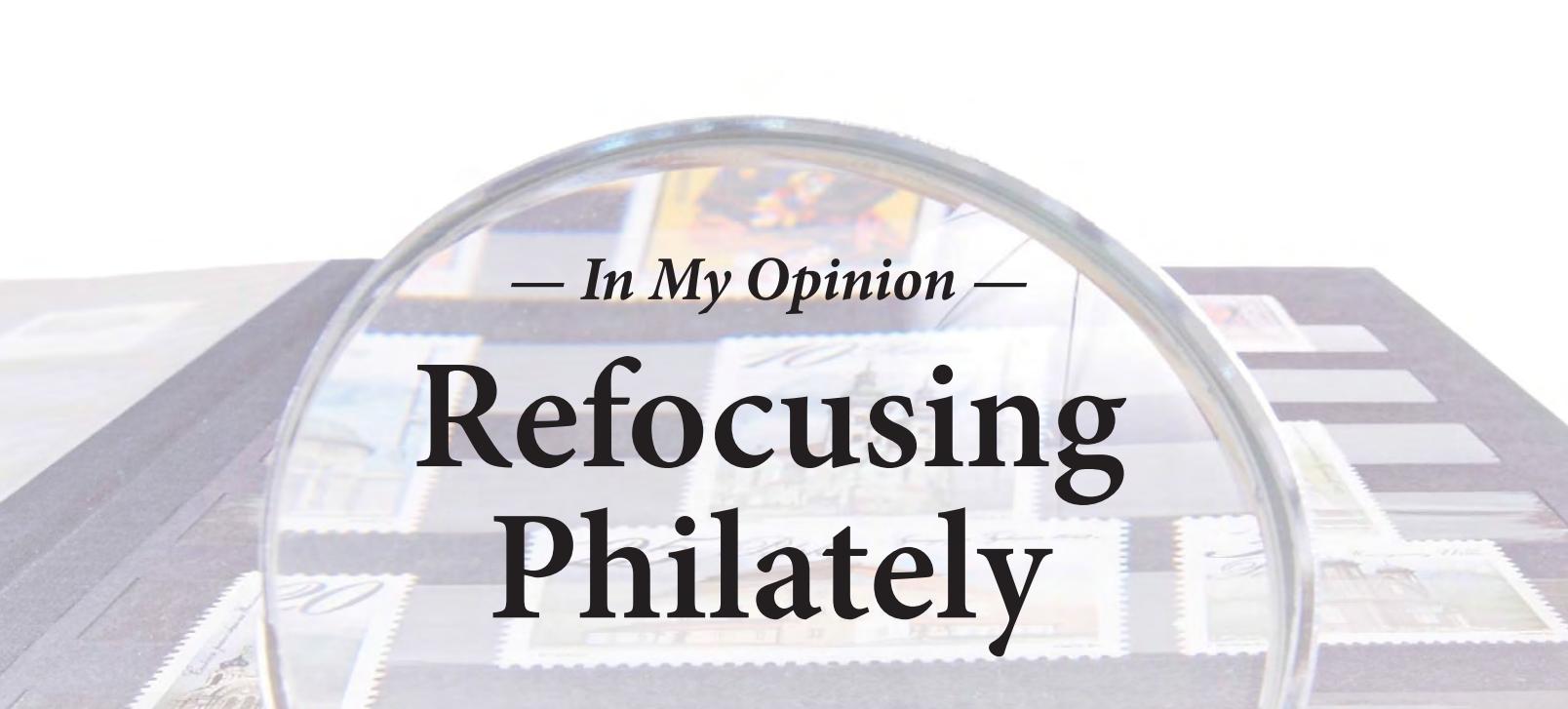
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— *In My Opinion* —

Refocusing Philately

by Dan Putman

APS members collect in a variety of ways from topical to worldwide to extremely specialized. This article is not directed toward individual collectors. It is directed toward the hobby as a whole and what we can do to give our thoroughly enjoyable pastime a future in the public consciousness.

Will postage stamps be around thirty-six years from now in 2050? Thirty-six years ago, in 1978, few philatelists foresaw the seriously negative effect of electronic communications on the hobby. Since then, e-mail, texting, Facebook, and a multitude of other electronic communication media have made letter writing a rarity. E-cards, e-valentines, e-invitations have taken over events that typically in the past were communicated by paper through the mails. The generation of which I am a part (at age 68) will almost certainly be the last to think first about sending an important letter or document by "snail mail." To my college students in their late teens or early 20s, electronic communication is so much a part of their upbringing that putting a sticky piece of paper on an envelope to mail a letter is something almost completely outside their range of consciousness. Will *their* children or grandchildren in 2050 have any meaningful concept at all of what philatelists mean by a "stamp?"

Almost all revenue stamps disappeared in the late 1960s with a very few exceptions. More efficient means were developed to collect revenue on officially approved transactions. The Hunting Permit Stamps — the Duck Stamps — are an exception and they may provide a clue as to one way philately as a whole needs to refocus. Duck Stamps are works of art — deliberately so with a healthy competition to be the chosen artist. It's not clear that most hunters buy them for that reason; perhaps most would just as soon pay the fee and get their license payment verified by computer. But many people, hunters and many others who are not philatelists,

value these stamps because they appreciate the beauty and artistry of the stamps themselves. I have been in a number of professional offices where copies of the stamps along with some version of a larger print or explanation are displayed prominently.

But it should also be remembered that, outside this exception, revenue stamps (which I dearly love) are almost completely forgotten by the general public. Tell someone you collect revenue stamps and they won't know what you are talking about. Even when explained to them, people will say something like, "They needed stamps for that?" This could well be the future of postage stamps as well. My point is that the traditional focus of philately on the careful and thoughtful collecting of stamps and covers as an ongoing partnership with some national stamp-issuing entity will likely be over by 2050. My real concern is that our hobby stands in danger of not just being a less significant source of enjoyment, but becoming a project that never enters the consciousness of young people growing up now. (Numismatics is not immune to this problem. Electronics may replace money of all sorts in the future but it may take longer. In 2100 people may wonder what a nickel was.)

What should we do if the very items we collect become extinct? I think a strong emphasis on history is the key in advertising the hobby and in framing it for the public consciousness. If philately is to survive as a hobby understood as both enjoyable and interesting, especially if stamps disappear, it needs to be seen as an important part of the study of history. For those people who see history as a whole as irrelevant, not much can be said. But then those people have virtually never been philatelists anyway. (They may be investors — that's a different issue.)

I know that postal history has always been a distinct part of philately that focused on the history of the mails. Based

on multiple articles in *The American Philatelist* over the years, postal historians have often tied the postal element into larger historical events. My point is that philately as a whole, stamps as well as covers, should position itself much more as part of the study of history. Stamps as much as covers are historical artifacts. I would like to suggest four ways that this “repositioning” of our hobby might be effected. None of them are mutually exclusive.

1. Beauty and Artistry

Many historical artifacts that are valued by the public are appreciated because they have an artistic or design element rarely seen today. The illuminations on medieval manuscripts appeal to people who have nothing in common with the religious views of the Middle Ages. Much the same holds true for more recent artifacts. There is a miniatures museum in Tucson that holds some of the most fascinating historical artifacts I have seen. Many were made in the nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries. Months and years went into the design and workmanship to create a general store of 1880 or a Great Gatsby type home of the 1920s.

Likewise, no one needs to tell a dedicated philatelist about the beauty and artistry of certain stamps or sets. In the United States the 1869 Postal Issue, the First Proprietary Issue, and the Second and Third Documentary Issues are amazing works of art with designs, engravings and color that would do justice to anyone interested in the art of miniatures on paper. Worldwide collectors can cite numerous examples from other countries. Many early British colonial issues come to mind.

But it's not just the Rembrandts of our hobby that are relevant. Many stamps, including more than a few modern ones, show a creative design and artistic flair that is both eye-catching and historically interesting, especially if such artifacts cease to exist. My point here is that we ought to advertise to the general public more than we currently do the beauty and artistry of stamps and frame the presentation as artistic miniatures on paper. If stamps cease to exist, the beauty of such stamps may be *more* treasured by anyone interested in history.



Artistic miniatures on U.S. stamps from 1869: Scott 118, Landing of Columbus, and Scott 120, Declaration of Independence.



Revenues from the 1870s provide stunning examples of American engraving: Documentary stamp, 1871, Scott R123.



An example of exquisite engraving in the twentieth century: Desert Plants, 1981, Scott 1942–1945 (Barrel Cactus, Agave, Beavertail Cactus, Saguaro).



Artistry in simplicity of design: Transportation Issue, 1995, Scott 2466, Ferryboat 1900s.



A classic image from American history caught on a stamp: Trans-Mississippi Exposition Issue, 1898, Scott 290, Hardships of Emigration.



New means of transportation were proudly displayed, including the earliest example of a plane on a stamp: Parcel Post, 1913, Scott Q7, Automobile Service, and Scott Q8, Airplane Carrying Mail.

America as a colonial power in the early twentieth century: United States Offices in China surcharged stamp, 1919, Scott K5.



torical facts at the time they were printed, some represent genuine shared ideals, and some represent the image that the government wanted to project. An analogy might be useful. Anyone who studies eighteenth-century Britain would be fascinated by artifacts that showed current historical facts, those that showed shared cultural values, and those that represented government attempts to manipulate the way people thought of themselves. This may seem like a stretch of an analogy but I do not think so. With the electronic revolution moving as fast as it is, paper artifacts doing all three of the things just mentioned may be an important way of understanding American history.

2. Documenting the Past

One of the most intriguing things about the Parcel Post Issue, The Trans-Mississippi Issue, and the Pan-American Issue (among others) is what they show about America at the time they were printed and what America thought about itself at that time. The scene on the 10-cent Trans-Mississippi stamp of the family surrounding their dead horse on the wagon trail is one of the most profound single-image statements I have seen of what nineteenth century pioneers went through. The automobiles in the Pan-American and Parcel Post issues were not reflections of the past when they were printed. They are what was *current* at the time. The World War II stamps of Iwo Jima or the American troops in Paris (among many others) are images of current or very recent events. Even the

often down-graded commemoratives of the late 1940s and early 1950s tell us a good deal about what America thought about itself at that time. If stamps cease to exist, these and many other stamps will be historical reminders of a time in the past that may be radically different from life in 2050.

To anyone in the future interested in history, the stamp for Future Farmers of America may be as historically worthwhile as a nineteenth-century stamp, because of what it tells about America at the time and what America thought about itself. Some stamps represent his-



How America saw its future at the turn of the nineteenth century: Pan-American Exposition 1901 cover showing the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building.

3. History of Communication and Finance

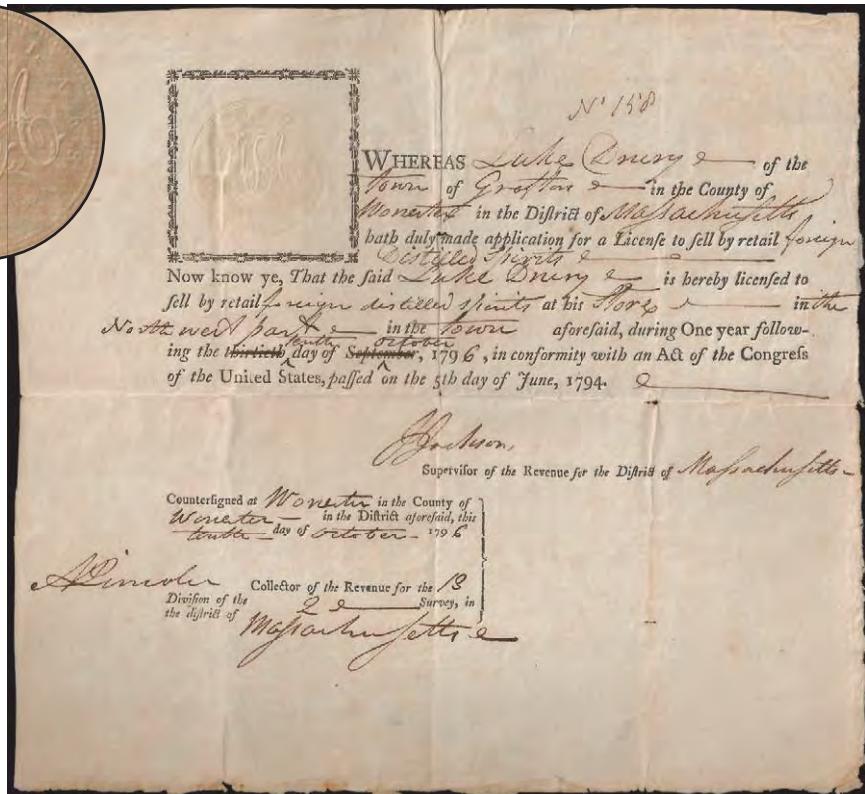
This ties into the previous point, and the history of postal communication has always been the specialty of postal history collectors. I would only suggest a broader framework. The history of the mails worldwide, which has been documented in many ways in AP articles, shows people's attempts to communicate through the use of the written word and to transmit those communications. In essence this is not different from e-mails or texting. The words may be different, there may be more abbreviations (!), and the mode of delivery

is far different but it is still written communication. Why can't traditional postal history be viewed as part of a much larger written communication history up to and including e-mail via Google Glass in 2050?

I am not sure how this connection to current written communication could happen. One of the most vexing problems is that e-mails, texting, and all the other electronic media messages today have a fleeting existence. But, while the words usually have a brief life span, a booming and ongoing written communication history is going on right now as you read this; it just is not a "postal" communication history. Joining postal history to electronic written communication sounds like an impossibility right now. But I am afraid that, if nothing is done to somehow connect the two modes of communication, the number of young people interested in what we traditionally call postal history will continue to decrease as electronic communication increases.

At least one possible relationship might exist and it has to do with a comparison of the pros and cons of each form of communication. Postal historians are in a unique position to raise important questions that rarely are addressed seriously today. Do we lose something when immediate short notes replace crafted letters? *What exactly do we lose?* This seems a vital question. It is often thought that the speed and immediacy of modern life is making the past increasingly irrelevant. The message comes across not just in advertisements pitching constantly new products but about everything from the latest TV shows to fashions. How people lived and communicated in the past is supposedly useless knowledge. But my experience with students has been that it all depends on how it is presented.

Just as an excellent history teacher (as some of my colleagues are) can make history "live" for today's students, so too can an understanding of how we have communicated with each other be made to live. How can we have young people come to realize (and visualize) that it was an "event" to receive a letter in the 1800s and to realize how the horse and rural post offices made life bearable for isolated families? (Role playing in classes might be an interesting exercise here.) That the death of their grandma in Chicago in 1870 might not be known by them for days and what that message had to go through to get to them? That it took weeks for a letter to cross the Atlantic by ship and that suffering, death and war depended on that?



Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper helped raise revenue to pay off the country's Revolutionary War debts: Embossed \$5 Federal stamp, Scott RM400, on a 1796 liquor license to sell "Foreign Distilled Spirits."

Or, to compare from the other side, that the Twitter message they received does not *at all* do justice to the sorrow their friend is experiencing in losing his or her job? Regardless of whether or not postal history can be tied into electronic written communication, postal history *can* live for young people and raise interesting and important questions. It depends completely on how it is presented.

I have not spoken about revenue stamps, except for the Duck Stamps. I personally find revenue stamps at least (if not more) interesting than postal issues, largely because their use documents the economic transactions of this country through the 1960s. Again, it is a matter of presentation to the public. Aside from the beauty of certain nineteenth-century issues, revenue stamps — especially on document — are a treasure trove of history. The best examples are the Private Die Proprietary Stamps and their uses, but many others come to mind.

The history of the tobacco stamps ties intimately into the history of this country, as do the enormous number of alcohol-related stamps. A tobacco stamp on a package of snuff or on a package of "cigarette tubes" has more historical interest than many other items usually considered worthwhile artifacts. The history of the marijuana stamps and their bizarre purpose would make a small book — not a purely philatelic book, but one that would be engaging to anyone interested in history. (My apologies if this has been done.)

The savings stamps — why they were issued, why they



Special Tax Stamp in the amount of 34 cents for the "Manufacturer, Distributer, Etc., of Opium, Etc." paid by the Keystone Pharmacy in Pittsburgh; good for March–June 1915.

were used and socked away by children and families — all this has intrinsic value to a person interested in American history. The reason for issuing revenue stamps ties this part of philately directly into important historical events, e.g., funding wars before the income tax. Many articles in philatelic journals have documented this point but perhaps we should use this as part of the repositioning of philately as a whole as an important part of history.

4. The Lives of Others

Movies and television shows about the lives of people in the past are extremely popular. That is unlikely to change, no matter how far technology might advance. My interest

in philately has led to an interest in letters from individuals in the past and the two interests go hand-in-hand. The letters are not from the rich and famous but from "everyday" Americans who write about the same things that we care about: good and bad relationships; dealing with diseases, accidents and death; how to survive. Why not connect philately in the public consciousness much more closely to the lives of those in the past? These letters were written, posted, and often had circuitous routes to get to the intended.

A lady's fiancé has tuberculosis (consumption) and she tells her father in a letter that she will give him one of the quack medicines that we now know will do nothing. It is an unfolding tragedy. Civil war letters are classics of describing firsthand what war is like, but I also have a large series of letters from a soldier in World War II who was there on D-Day (with a D-Day postmark), worked his way across France, was taken prisoner by the Nazis at the Battle of the Bulge, was repatriated at the end of the war, and, in the latest letters, seems to be having major problems re-adjusting.

There is a treasure trove of human history out there and it is history intimately connected to both postal and revenue collecting — the postmarks, the stamps, the receiving dates, the dates of transactions and the amount of tax due, etc. Again numerous articles in philatelic journals have been written about these connections. But I would argue that, for the face of our hobby that we present to the public, the primary emphasis should not be on the philatelic details themselves but the connection to lived events in the past. The content of letters and documents — a written version of a

war story, a love affair between "unequals," a consular service fee stamp on a 1952 visa for a Turkish family that wants to visit the United States — these are linked to the specifically philatelic history of the stamp, cover, or document.

I may be biased because of my own collecting interests but it seems to me that the single most effective way to keep philately alive in a rapidly changing world is to link stamps, covers, and document collecting to the lives of those in the past. It would appeal to a much broader audience and lead many to want to find out more details about, for example, the postal communication that occurred in the days when local stamps could send a cover or how soldiers in combat got letters home. No matter what happens to stamps in the future, linking philat-



College student letter from Middlebury, Vermont, dated July 8, 1842 in which the writer talks about "the ladies," a "certain professor," and a death in the family; sent to a fellow student at Yale College.

ely to living history is as close as one can get to a guarantee of stability for the hobby. Stamps, covers and stamped documents are not tangents to history. They are an intrinsic part of it.

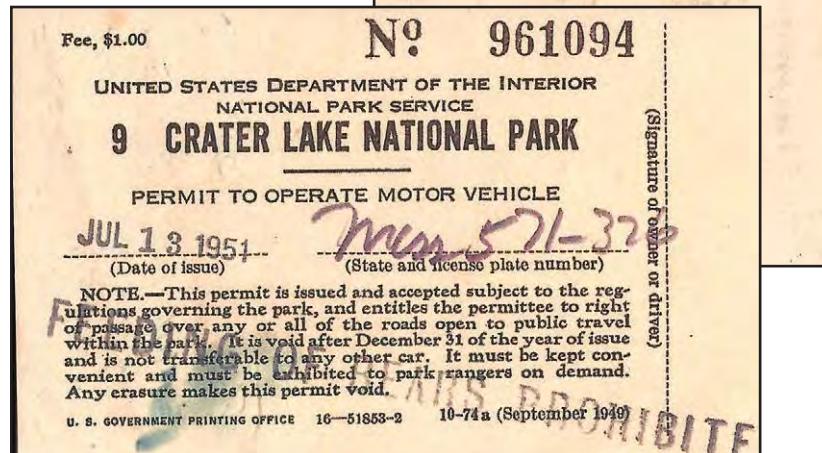
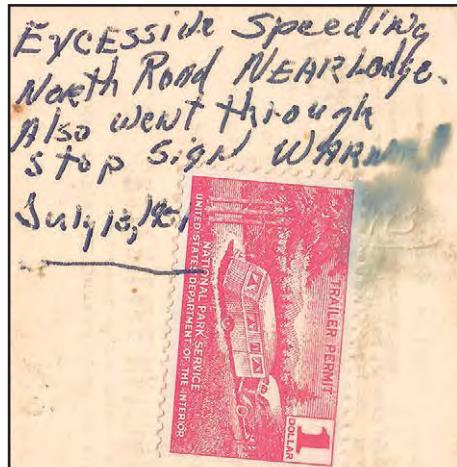
I may be way off-base. Perhaps stamps will not disappear but somehow be maintained for special purposes. Governments like stamps because their use lets them promote ideas that are popular, patriotic, or good for citizens to think about. Probably of most practical importance, stamps make money. But the latter will be less and less the case as electronic communication increases. As for honoring cultural icons or patriotic themes, that could easily be done online with more viewers than would ever view stamps. Perhaps stamps will just continue to be issued because people find collecting pictures of cartoons or movie stars interesting. Maybe, but I doubt it.

Without a continuing serious postal use, I do not see the economics of stamp-issuing worth doing, especially for an entity calling itself the Postal Service that is a semi-private corporation continually operating at a loss. Constantly raising stamp prices is not going to make the continuation of stamps more likely. Perhaps local and privately issued stamps will rise again. Probably not. Perhaps e-mails of the future will need some kind of "stamp" to make them transmittable. Unlikely. I hope I am wrong about the future of stamps, but I fear I may not be.

If philately is to survive, we need to think ahead. If we do nothing, there is a reasonable chance that stamp collecting as a hobby may disappear from the public consciousness. APS membership is declining and the fairly obvious reason is that fewer people, especially younger people, find the hobby a worthwhile and enjoyable project. The APS program, Stamps Teach, is definitely a step in the right direction. We need much more of that kind of initiative. We need to reposition our hobby in ways that give it a foundation for the future.

We encourage young people to come to stamp shows. Fine. What are they supposed to take away with them that would get them to stay in the hobby? Pitching something like a "collecting instinct" that some people may have or the idea that stamps are intrinsically interesting in themselves is increasingly irrelevant. The number of "natural" collectors is relatively small and, even for those who are, it is not clear why they would select stamps to collect when, if I am right about the high tech future, stamps will likely cease to exist or

By 1939 America had become a mobile society. A \$1 Trailer Stamp Permit, Scott RVT2, from the National Park Service granted a 1951 visitor to Crater Lake National Park permission to operate a motor vehicle with a house trailer attached. A manuscript note reports that the permit holder was stopped for "excessive speeding" and running a stop sign; a warning was given.



We need to give philately a foundation for the future, a future that might very well exist without stamps.

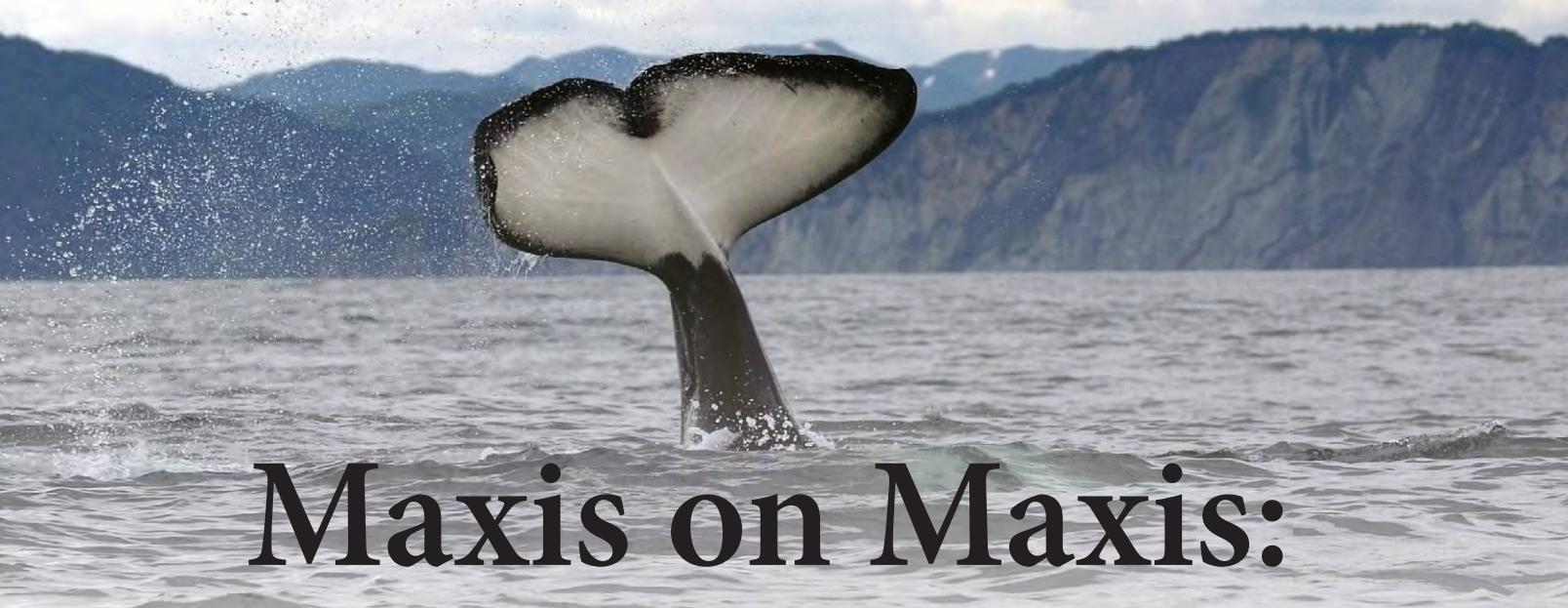
at least serve any useful function.

We need to give such people a specific reason to collect stamps. Moreover, without a context there would be no more "intrinsic" interest to stamps in the future than there would be in looking at an ancient Chinese vase when the viewer has no background. Vaguely pretty, but so are a lot of other things.

In the ways mentioned above, I have suggested refocusing philately as an integral and enjoyable way of appreciating history. But there may be other ways of keeping our hobby alive. I encourage readers to submit suggestions. I think "doing nothing" is a dead end. We need to give philately a foundation for the future, a future that might very well exist without stamps.

The Author

Daniel A. Putman was born in Wisconsin. He and his wife Elaine now split time between Wisconsin and Arizona. He taught philosophy for thirty-seven years at the University of Wisconsin–Fox Valley and now teaches outreach courses in Arizona. Dan has been a collector for more than forty years. He collects U.S. postal and revenue issues and combines them with a strong interest in American history. Dan has been an APS member since 1975.



Maxis on Maxis: *The Biggest Whales on Maximum Cards*

by Alastair Watson

Finding a beautiful postcard of a magnificent whale, fixing a postage stamp of the same whale to the picture side of the card, and then having the pair tied with a contemporary cancellation postmark featuring a pictorial image of the same whale is the challenge and joy of *Thematic Maximaphily*.¹ It has been called “philately’s masterpiece of art”² and “the most beautiful and exciting way in stamp collecting.”³ The following article takes a look at maximum cards that have captured four of the “biggest” whales.

Whales, dolphins, and porpoises belong to a diverse group of mammals known as the *Cetacea*. They are one of two groups that spend their entire lives in the watery realm (plant-eating manatees and dugongs make up the second group, the *Sirenia*). These sleek-skinned and streamlined mammals are excellent divers, searching below for food and mates, yet constantly returning to the surface to breathe. Their front limbs have become transformed into paddle-shaped flippers, their hind limbs are lost, and they propel themselves with their powerful horizontally-expanded flukes at the end of the tail.⁴ We often see these photogenic flukes, raised above the surface, just before the whale dives.

Living cetaceans have evolved into two subgroups — those that have filter-like baleen in their mouths, the baleen whales (approximately fourteen living species), and those that have teeth, the toothed whales, dolphins, and porpoises (approximately seventy living species). Common names are sometimes confusing: all those with baleen are called whales (and are relatively large), although some of the larger toothed ones are also called whales. Smaller toothed ones with long, pointed beaks are usually called dolphins. All have special adaptations for breathing, feeding, reproducing, and living in their large natural aquarium of the wild.⁵

The four “biggest” whales are found in all oceans around the world, and while the photographs on the maxicards were taken at the surface of the ocean, they give us at least a brief glimpse of these fascinating and largely unknown denizens of the deep. The stories that follow, likewise, are only a brief introduction to the lives of these four superlative whales. Each species is the “biggest” in some dimension or another: largest in size, longest flipper, deepest dive, or tallest fin. There are many postage stamps that depict these whales, but I have included just a few representative examples.



The Leviathan's sheer size and scale laid bare in the streamlined long and tapering body of the big blue whale (South West Africa Scott 442)

Biggest Whale

The blue whale is the most magnificent of all giants — a most suitable theme for maximaphily. In many ways the blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*, is the biggest of the biggest! It is the longest, the heaviest, and the loudest. Its outstanding size is well appreciated in a stamp from South West Africa.

Undoubtedly, the blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on Earth, heavier than twenty-five present-day African elephants and even the largest dinosaurs known from fossil records. Some of the plant-eating sauropod dinosaurs were massive and a few were estimated to be almost as long as the blue whale, but none were as heavy.

The longest blue whale measured was a giant female harpooned in the South Atlantic and landed on the South Georgia whaling station, Grytviken, in the early 1900s.⁶ She reportedly stretched the tape to almost 110 feet, 33.6 meters. The event is depicted on a sheet of stamps honoring the History of South Georgia, although the measurement is incorrectly listed as 35.5 m, ca. 116 feet). Try to imagine one of these Leviathans on a basketball court — it would be out of bounds at both ends!

The heaviest, another female blue whale taken in 1947, was estimated at 187 tons.⁷ The South Georgia stamp showing Guinness World Record Animal inaccurately gave her weight as 418,877,800 lbs, or 1000x overweight. The heaviest blue whale actually weighed piece-by-piece tared out at 134 tons (300,707 lbs), being a lean 89-foot female, killed early in the long austral summer feeding season. This chilly and grisly Herculean task was accomplished by eighty men in about four hours on the flensing deck of *Hashidate Maru*, a Japanese whaling factory ship in the Antarctic in January 1948.⁸ Despite its gargantuan dimensions, the blue whale with its smooth and mottled blue-gray skin, and long slim body has been called “the swiftest whale afloat.”

The blue whale posses the longest and largest bone known — its lower jaw or mandible may exceed twenty-three feet; a left-right pair of mandibles is sometimes used to create arches or monuments (Falkland Islands Scott 84). The mandibles form part of its cavernous mouth, which in a

single lunging-gulp may engulf up to 40–50 tons of prey-laden sea water taken into a huge distendable sac off the floor of the mouth reaching to its navel — the whale temporarily looks like a very plump tadpole. Once the water is strained out through the baleen filter the captured millions of tiny shrimp-like krill are swallowed.

In addition, the blue whale produces the loudest animal sound, emitted as enormous energy pulses at 185–190 decibels. These very low-frequency moans enable blue whales



The beauty and grace of the blue whale revealed. Adult female with weanling (6–8 months) on a maximum card (Australia Scott 2535). The pictorial postmark includes whale flukes.

to communicate over vast distances across the oceans (United States Scott 4069; South Georgia Scott 279c); a sound human beings feel more than hear. Truly a Leviathan beyond compare.

Blue whales were almost exterminated by the relentless slaughter of industrial whaling (1915–1950s), primarily for their oil to turn into margarine and soap, and latterly some meat as pet food and for human consumption.⁹ The total number of blue whales in existence prior to this extensive slaughter has been estimated at “more than 300,000”; currently the global population is estimated at 6,000–10,000. It is officially listed as an endangered species worldwide (Monaco Scott 1374; Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises Scott C128; United Nations, Geneva Scott 248). These giants are estimated to live 80–90 years and some believe they probably live even longer.

Both maxicards show the blue whale’s misty but dense respiratory exhalation or blow, up to thirty feet high. The first card was cancelled FDI 6 June 2006 at Ocean Shores, New South Wales, a hotspot for Australian whale-watching on the east coast just south of Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, although primary sightings here are humpback whales on their northward migration (see below, Biggest Flipper). The second was cancelled with a World Wildlife Fund pictorial postmark underscoring the world-wide conservation concern for this endangered whale (FDI September 21, 1983).



Head-on view of this adult blue whale illustrates its massive broad U-shaped head and the enormity of its body as it quickly and efficiently swims through the ocean (Republic of Palau Scott 25).

BIGGEST FLIPPER

The humpback whale is one of the best known whales, because of its flamboyant aerial behaviors. Humpbacks seem to perform: they are cherished by whale-watchers world-wide who see them breach (ending in a resounding, crashing, splash), lunge-feed (Alaska), lob-tail, and wave their remarkably long white flippers. It is the short, rotund relative of the blue whale, and its scientific binomial name aptly describes it — *Megaptera novaeangliae*

— the great winged creature of New England (where the type specimen was described),¹⁰ and so well displayed in a stamp from Bermuda.

Humpbacks are large filter-feeding baleen whales; adults average 35–50 feet in length, with a distinctive stocky bulky-bellied shape and characteristically very long and narrow flippers. These magnificent flippers extend to almost one-third their body length, which at 15–16½ feet rank as the largest appendage of any animal with a back-bone: in absolute and proportional length these are indeed the “biggest” flipper. Each flipper contains the same bones as in the human arm. In contrast, whales and dolphins have many more bones in each finger; pilot whales can have up to fourteen bones in their index finger, whereas humpbacks usually have seven.

Research in wind tunnels suggests that the humpback’s atypically long and very mobile flippers, which are uniquely adorned with knobby tubercles along the leading edge, are an exquisite hydrodynamic adaptation for tight maneuverability at slow speeds. These whales can make astonishing acrobatic turning maneuvers to catch prey,¹¹ making them the most acrobatic of all baleen whales.

This maxicard captures the spectacular result of a humpback’s incredible flukes-driven power in propelling its whole 25–30 ton body out of the water — a perfect “Kodak moment.” The pictorial postmark incorrectly depicts tail flukes with an extra central lobe pointing backwards rather than the normal pair of flukes separated by a central inward notch (see the correct version in maxicard photograph of sperm whale; and in other stamps and postmarks shown). Stamp tied to postcard by an FDI cancel of 15 June 1995 at Kingston (in the southern outskirts of Hobart), Tasmania, which is Australian Antarctic Division headquarters. This agency administers Australian Antarctic Territory



Backward breaching humpback whale on its winter tropical calving/breeding ground displays characteristic massive white flipper (Bermuda Scott 377)

(the authority for this philatelic issue). Breaching humpbacks showing their gigantic white flippers are a popular theme on postage stamps.

Humpbacks warrant another “biggest” since a photographically identified female, “AHWC no. 1363,” originally sighted at the Abrolhos Archipelago, off Bahia, Brazil (August 1999) was later photographed off the north-eastern coast of Madagascar (September 2001). The minimum swimming dis-

tance between these two breeding grounds is greater than 6,200 miles. This particular record is unprecedented. Previously known humpback migrations are typically in a north-south pattern between tropical calving/breeding areas in winter and their specific feeding grounds in mid-latitude and polar waters in summer. This female, therefore, swam east about one-quarter of the way around the globe — and traveled the longest recorded journey ever undertaken by a self-propelled mammal.^{12,13}

During the breeding season male humpback whales sing long repetitive songs, which are extraordinarily complex and composed of eerie cries and moans. These sophisticated sounds are presumed to function to attract prospective female mates or as a warning to other rivals; they are the longest known song in the animal kingdom — another “biggest.”

Biggest Dive

The great sperm whale is an animal of extremes. It is the “biggest” of all toothed whales and dolphins with its unmistakable body shape and enormous barrel-shaped blunted head, as seen here in a stamp from Bulgaria. The sperm whale is known for its extremely deep and prolonged dives. Adult males can grow to sixty-five feet in length and weigh as much as 55–60 tons, although mature females are notably smaller and, depending on the population, may average 30–50 percent shorter in length and weigh about one-third less at 13–15 tons. This great disparity in body size between the sexes is the most extreme in any whale or dolphin.¹⁴

The sperm whale is one of the ocean’s “biggest” divers: large adult males are capable of dives as deep as 6,500 feet and lasting more than one hour, as they forage underwater canyons for their favored large squid and some fish. Such profound dives make

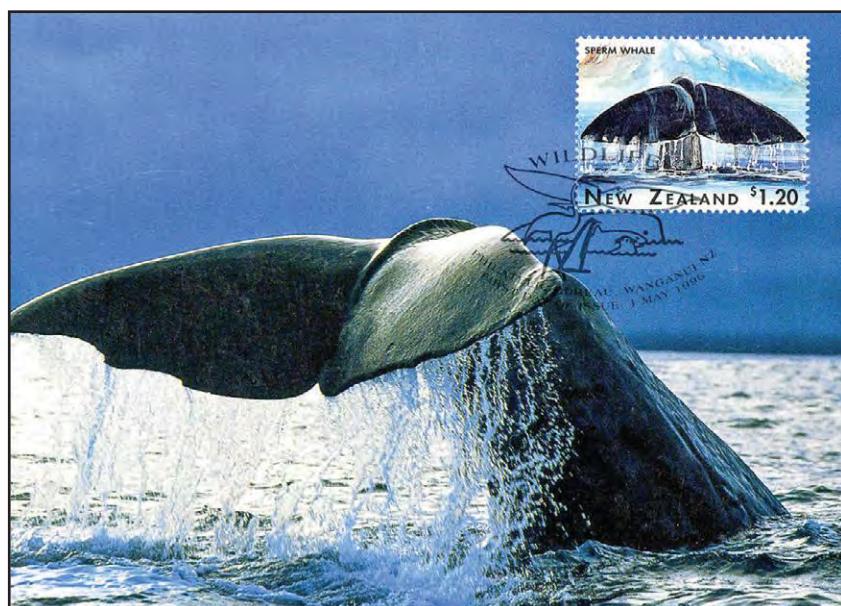


The largest brain of any animal housed at the rear of the gigantic barrel-shaped head of an adult sperm whale; note unique left-sided single blowhole at front corner and older binomen on this 1995 issue (Bulgaria Scott 3685).

it into the Guinness World Records. Females routinely dive to around 1,000 feet, feeding for about forty minutes. Similar to other marine mammals, sperm whales have special physiological adaptations to conserve oxygen as they hold their breath for a long time. When they dive the heart rate is slowed to fifty percent or less and blood is diverted away from tissues that are less sensitive to low oxygen levels, so the whale can maintain a good supply to the brain

and heart where oxygen demand is highest. These whales have enormous quantities of oxygen available in their voluminous blood supply and in their muscles; the latter due to prodigious concentration of the oxygen-storing protein, myoglobin (ten times that of human beings).

Sperm whales are found in the deep waters of all oceans and confluent seas across all latitudes, although this global distribution is divided. Females and their immature offspring rarely leave their tropical or sub-tropical feeding and calving waters. Pregnancy lasts 14–15 months and calves routinely suckle for about two years, although some may return for intermittent nursing until age ten. Males, on reaching sexual maturity at 6–10 years, leave the maternal breeding schools and form loose bachelor groups with other similar-aged males. A foraging young male “flukes-up” as it prepares for a deep dive close to the Kaikoura coast of New Zealand on this maxicard. With increasing age and size, males become

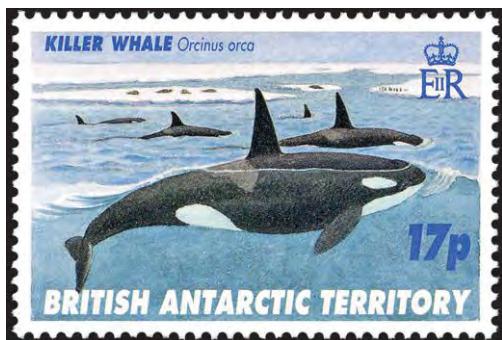


A male sperm whale lifts its thick triangular flukes high before descending in a feeding dive into the 3,000-foot abyss of the near-shore Kaikoura canyon (New Zealand Scott 1369); FDI pictorial postmark features the whale's massive head (at right) with representations of five other wildlife species.

more solitary and migrate and fed further toward polar waters. From about age 20–25, sexually mature males migrate back to tropical breeding areas, staying for some months, searching for potential mates. Males reach full size at about fifty years. The oldest sperm whales are estimated to have lived at least as long as an average human; based upon growth-rings in their teeth, some individuals are known to have lived beyond seventy years of age.¹⁵

The English name “sperm whale” comes from *spermaceti*, the characteristic semi-liquid wax found in a special chamber in its head, which early whalers fancied looked like semen or sperm of the whale. The bulk of its massive head is made up of the spermaceti organ containing this prized wax, once highly desired as specialized lubricating oil and important in household and public lighting during the pre-petroleum era. When alive, the whale is thought to use the spermaceti organ as part of its sophisticated echo-imaging system to act as a colossal acoustic bio-magnifier and focusing lens for its powerful sonic pulses. Active sperm whales emit a cacophony of sounds, many for social communication among family and friends and others at depth as key prey-detecting echoes, or perhaps even as prey-stunning sounds.

Its scientific name *Physeter macrocephalus*, is derived from Greek words meaning “blower” and “big head.” The head of a sperm whale amounts to one-quarter to one-third of its total body length and its distinctive blowhole is located



Two adult male Orca (in foreground) with their tall fin, in group patrolling Antarctic ice floes for potential Weddell seal prey (BAT Scott 244).

on the left front corner of this massive head; thus its signature large blow comes out forward at a forty-five degree angle. The sperm whale, like all toothed whales and dolphins, is unique among mammals in that it has only one nostril.

The sperm whale has 20–25 large conical teeth on each side of its underslung, and narrow Y-shaped lower jaw. These teeth, which fit into sockets in the upper jaw, do not erupt until puberty. No one or webcam has seen these giants dining,

but analysis of dissections suggest that these whales ingest their prey by a powerful suction, created by the tongue, and without need of their teeth. Sailors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries gilded these large ivory-like teeth with inked carvings known as scrimshaw.

Sperm whales became the center of the nineteenth-century whale industry where their high quality wax and oil products formed vital elements of pre-petroleum commerce. Sperm whales are prominent in art (primarily whaling scenes) and achieved literature fame as Ahab’s nemesis in Herman Melville’s 1851 classic work of fiction, *Moby-Dick*. On rare occasions, numerous live sperm whales may come ashore as a mass stranding. The cause of these impressive phenomena is unknown, but navigational error that brings them into a gradually sloping shallow bay with a cul-de-sac trap, together with their social cohesion, are thought to contribute.

An adult bull sperm whale possesses the “biggest” brain in the cosmos, weighing approximately twenty pounds (six times that of humans). Can we begin to fathom what they might be thinking in the dark depths with that unimaginably biggest mind!

BIGGEST FIN

The Orca, *Orcinus orca*, is the largest (“biggest”) member of dolphin family and is easily recognized by its unmistakable, boldly marked, body of glossy black and white and a tall dorsal fin. It has a heavy, robust, yet streamlined body with a rounded head and lacks the characteristic beak of other dolphins. This is a well-known whale. One need only remember the entertaining “Shamu” and “Namu” in captivity, “Keiko” starring in the film *Free Willy*, and most recently the wild, but “lost” youngster named “Luna.”

The beautiful Orca, sometimes referred to as the “killer whale,” is found in all oceans

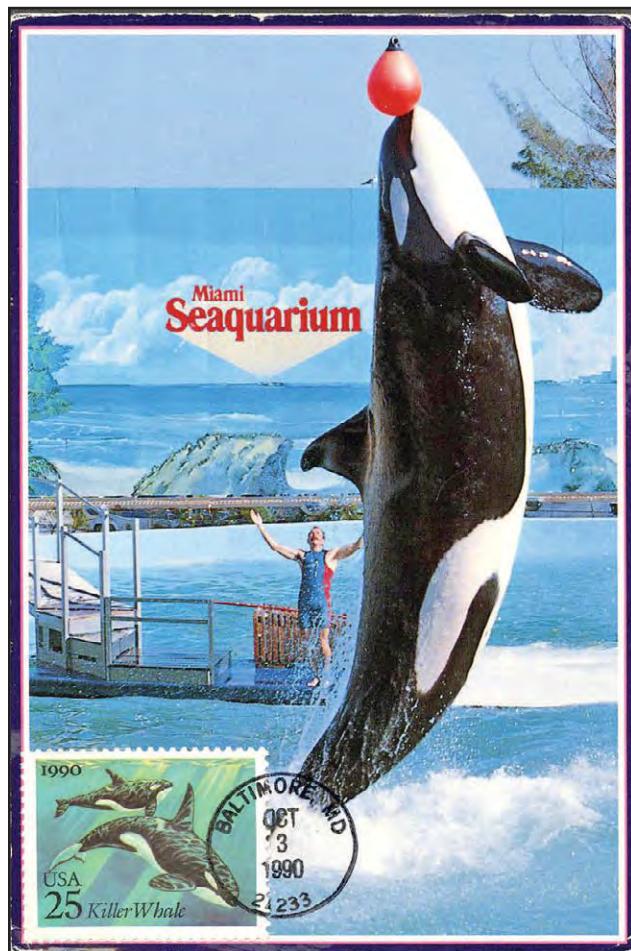


The strength and height of the great fin of an adult male Orca in the North Atlantic is clearly apparent in both maxicard photograph and stamp (Greenland Scott 303); First-Day-of-Issue pictorial postmark at Tasiilaq, the most populous community on the eastern coast and site of Greenland's only Philatelic Centre.

and seas on the globe, where it is the top predator. It has no natural predators other than man and devours just about any creature it chooses, including large whales. The largest population lives in the southern waters around Antarctica. Local populations often specialize in feeding on one particular prey — for example, herring (northern Norway), salmon (northeast Pacific “residents”), seals (Antarctica), sea lions (Argentina), rays (New Zealand), or dolphins, large whales, and sharks.

Orca have 10–12 very strong conical teeth in each side of the upper and lower jaws, which interlock when the mouth is closed. They are adept at hunting and capturing a variety of animals and sometimes hunt in small groups using sophisticated and cooperative techniques. Despite its name, there are no records that this whale has ever made an unprovoked attack and killed a human in the wild. Orca feature strongly in the history, art, and spirituality of many indigenous cultures.

Adult males are up to thirty feet in length, considerably larger than females. In addition, their fin is relatively straight, like a tall isosceles triangle, which may peak at as much as 6½ feet above their back. This is the tallest fin of any whale or dolphin — another “biggest,” and prominently visible in the maxicard from Greenland. Female Orcas possess a much shorter curved fin. Amazingly, the fin does not contain any bones, as is true of all cetaceans. In contrast to the bony rays in a fish’s fin, the fin of a whale is made of a dense semi-rigid core of collagen-rich fibrous tissue, just the same as in the tail flukes. Flippers are large and ovate in shape, quite un-



Female Orca “Lolita,” on card with regular rubber town-die cancellation of Baltimore’s Main Post Office (Zip 21233); same date and Post Office as FDI for pictorial postmark for the “Creatures of the Sea” joint issue with Soviet Union (Scott 2508).



Pictorial postmark, which included an Orca, for First Day of Issue, October 3, 1990, machine applied on souvenir page by the U.S. Postal Stamp Fulfillment Services Cancellation unit (Kansas City, MO). On-the-day cover requests at Baltimore Main P.O. and at the Aquarium FDI event could receive this special pictorial postmark by hand cancellation. Collectors could also mail-in their commemorative covers to SFS for up to 30 days after FDI date and request this postmark.



From top: South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands — Humpback Whale, Scott 185; Blue Whale, Scott 189; Sperm Whale, Scott 187; and Killer Whale, Scott 182.

like the sickle-shaped flippers of most dolphins. Orca are fast swimmers, recording short bursts up to 25–30 mph enabling them to overwhelm most dolphins and whales. Around the world there are at least five subtypes of Orca, each distinct in their size and external appearance, habitat range, specialized diet, vocalizations, and social structure.¹⁶

Orca have the second-largest brain among whales and dolphins — it is four times larger than the human brain. They are intelligent beings who are playful, curious, and demonstrate rich cognitive tools and mental flexibility with striking powers in their ability to solve problems. Moreover, they are notable in being highly social animals, comparable only to elephants, the great apes, and human beings. Like all these large-brained and highly social mammals, Orca have a long dependent childhood, and in the wild they live long lives, in stable extended family-based communities with complex social lives. These societies are based around a matriarch and her descendants, all using the same vocal dialect and having strong bonds among relatives. Females give birth after a 15–18 month gestation and all family members help take care of the calves, which are weaned between 1–2 years. The females breed until about age forty, successfully raising on average 4–5 young. Life span is between 50–80 years and as the females go through menopause they live for a decade or longer within their family group continuing to support and pass on the culture to pod members. Up to four generations may swim together. Unfortunately, Orca in captivity usually live significantly shorter lives, rarely beyond twenty years.

The last maxicard features “Lolita” a captive Orca for forty-two years performing at Miami Seaquarium, Florida.¹⁷ She has lived there alone for the last thirty-two years and is perhaps the longest lived Orca of the sixty-four that were captured from their family groups off southern British Columbia from 1964–77. The maxicard is postmarked “BALTIMORE, MD” — the city where the National Aquarium is located, and where one can see bottlenose dolphins; interestingly, the National Aquarium has never had an Orca. The first day ceremony for the 1990 Creatures of the Sea issue (including this 25-cent Orca stamp) was held at the National Aquarium where both the pictorial FDI rubber hand-cancel and the regular town-die hand-cancel were available; both rubber cancelers also were available at Baltimore’s Main Post Office (Zip 21233). This maximum card of “Lolita” is where this story began — as a purchase from Sebastian Safiano in Florida. Mr. Safiano encouraged me to write something about whales portrayed on maximum cards. The philatelic circle is complete.

Flukes Up!

These four whales are exceptionally special. Each commands the superlative of the biggest whale, and unimaginably so. Their mysteries abound. Additional “biggest” whales are waiting as candidates for attractive maximum cards.

These include: the Narwhal, *Monodon monoceros*, with the longest tooth (nine feet) (e.g., Canada Scott 1868); the Bowhead Whale, *Balaena mysticetus*, with the longest baleen (eleven-plus feet) (e.g., Faeroe Islands Scott 209); and the Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin, *Stenella longirostris*, with the greatest total number of teeth (up to 260) (e.g., Taiwan ROC Scott 3699). Dive in and see what interesting and thematically matching postcards and postmarks you can find, and keep an eye open for the newest issues. Enjoy the hunt ... to the maximum!

Acknowledgments

The author thanks and acknowledges Sebastian Safiano, maximaphilatelist!, who first planted this seed and encouraged it to bloom, and Sidney Ewing whose support and editorial wisdom helped fashion this piece. Becky, Claire, and Wei-Li also added comments of value. The USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services provided details of the First Day cancellations of Scott 2508.

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The Author

Alastair Watson enjoys fly-fishing and walking mountain paths. He is also interested in most things cetological, including the stamps of his homeland's endemic Hector's dolphin. This is his first contribution to *The American Philatelist*.

A Mini-List of Stamps on Marine Maxi-Mammals



Blue Whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

- Australia, 2006 (Scott 2535)
- British Antarctic Territory, 1977 (Scott 67)
- British Antarctic Territory, 1996 (Scott 247)
- British Antarctic Territory, 2003 (Scott 326–329)
- Canada, 2010 (Scott 2405)
- Grenada, 1982 (Scott 1142)
- Iceland, 1999 (Scott 875 + illustrated lower selvage)
- South Georgia, 1994 (Scott 189)
- South Georgia, 2002 (Scott 279b)
- South Georgia, 2004 (Scott 296c)
- South Georgia, 2012 (Scott 455–458)

Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

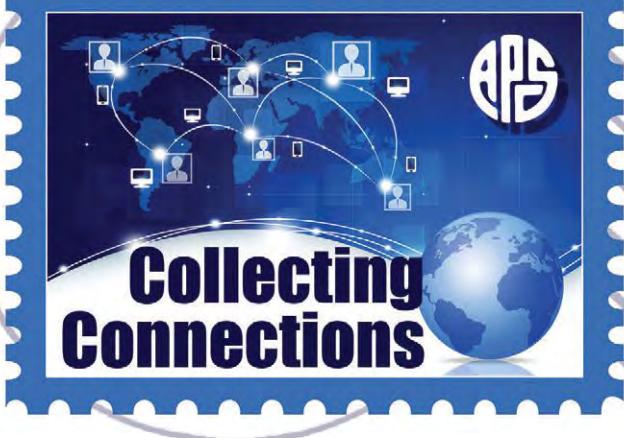
- Australia, 1999 (Scott 1738)
- Australia, 2006 (Scott 2534)
- Bermuda, 1978 (Scott 377)
- British Antarctic Territory, 1977 (Scott 66)
- Grenada, 1982 (Scott 1144)
- St. Helena, 1987 (Scott 487)
- South Georgia, 1994 (Scott 185)
- United States, 2006 (Scott 4069).

Orcas (*Orcinus orca*)

- British Antarctic Territory, 1996 (Scott 244)
- Grenada, 1982 (Scott 1140)
- Iceland, 1999 (Scott 873)
- South Georgia, 1994 (Scott 182)

Sperm Whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

- British Antarctic Territory, 1977 (Scott 64)
- British Antarctic Territory, 1996 (Scott 245)
- China, Republic of/Taiwan, 2006 (Scott 3701)
- Grenada, 1982 (Scott 1141)
- New Caledonia, 2002 (Scott 906a-b)
- Iceland, 1999 (Scott 874 + illustrated upper selvage)
- St. Helena, 1987 (Scott 485)
- South Georgia, 1994 (Scott 187)
- South Georgia, 2002 (Scott 279c)
- South Georgia, 2002 (Scott 279d)
- Tristan da Cunha, 1988 (Scott 436); scrimshaw
- Uruguay, 2001 (Scott 1912); Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* (1851)



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Searching the U.S. Postal Laws and Regulations Database with Tony Wawrukiewcz **March 8 at 4 p.m. EST**

The Postal Laws and Regulations (PL & R) database is part of the *Postal Bulletin* website. You will learn the two types of possible searches. The searches will include, but will not be limited to, special request envelopes, transient second-class rate, returned for better direction, re-registration, postage due stamps, re-mailing and enclosures.

Exhibiting 101: Writing a Solid Title Page and Synopsis with Tony Wawrukiewicz

July 23 at 4 p.m. EST and repeated on July 25 at 1 p.m.

The first step to successful exhibiting is making sure that your title page succinctly communicates your title, purpose, exhibit

type, scope, limitations, and organization to both the viewer and judge. The synopsis communicates ancillary information about your exhibit to the judges in a one- or two-page document by including why the subject is important, demonstrating knowledge of both the story and material used, showing that each item used advances the story, and that the material used is a challenge to obtain and in the best available condition possible.

Collecting Your Hometown Postal History with Tom Horn, APS Director of Sales Division

September 17 at 3 p.m. EST and repeated on September 18 at 1 p.m.

A letter's contents, the relationship of the writer or addressee to the history of the area, the connection between these figures and today's families, and your presentation of the postal history to members in your community will reveal more than is sometimes found in written histories. You also will learn tips on making better buying decisions.

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Participation

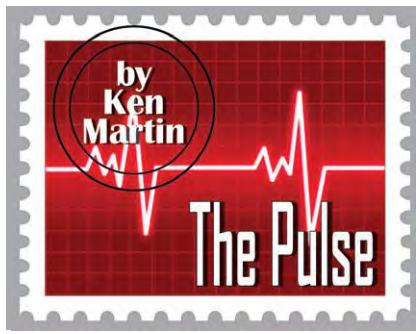
Prior to the module date, the APS Education Department will send you an invitation to a GoToMeeting session that will include the link to the module. Click on the link and you will join a Collecting Connection.

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Terry Dempsey, APS member after testing a module

learn



2013 Was a Good Year

I am pleased to report that financially 2013 was a good year for the APS and APRL. For the fourth consecutive year the APS/APRL budget was balanced according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Both the APS and APRL operating budgets exceeded their bottom line goals and combined cash flow was positive.

The Society and Library also took in more than \$1 million in gift income, most of which is not included in the operating budget. We completed an additional phase of the new Library space without borrowing any additional funds and saw a 15% growth in submissions to our Expertizing Service.

The major factors in our financial success are strong tenant income and watching expenses very carefully. Unfortunately, membership is still dropping, although at the end of January the loss of paid members over the previous twelve months was the lowest it has been since 1998. Members can view our 2013 balance sheet and statement of activities at stamps.org. Choose "About APS" and then "Business and Finance."

The APS website is treasure trove of resource material for members, with about 1,000 unique pages. Many of these pages feature links to files that provide additional information. Among the most popular pages are the APS online StampStore; the dealer and club (chapter and affiliate) listings; the show calendar; the listing of U.S. new issues; beginner information; free downloadable album pages and cachets; and estate information. If you are having trouble finding information you can always use the search box at the upper right corner of the screen, send us a query via e-mail, or give us a call at 814-933-3803.

"My APS," the members-only section of the site, gives members the opportunity to read the AP online, manage their account, view specials just for members, read the bonus content,



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and much more. To visit the "Members-Only" section you will need to create a login (your e-mail address that is on file with us and a password is all you need).

Other frequently visited pages on our website include the Online Exhibits, Stamp YouTubes, Articles of Distinction, and the monthly feature "Forged or Genuine," all of which provide a wealth of knowledge. Each month we scan and add a small section of our fantastic Reference Collection to the online archives. In February, German Local Posts was added; January was U.S. Commemorative Plate Blocks; December was Liechtenstein; and November was U.S. Counterfeit and Altered Stamps. And don't forget about our Union Catalog project, spearheaded by the American Philatelic Research Library, which not only provides the listings of holdings from more than ten of the finest philatelic libraries, but also offers a growing number of the catalog entries that include direct links to digital content.

Last fall we offered to host simple websites for APS chapters for a small annual fee. We were concerned that demand could exceed our resources, but thus far the response has been light. A basic site for the Brattleboro Club is now live and at least one more should be live by the time you receive this issue of the magazine. For more information, chapters should contact Wendy Masorti at wendy@stamps.org.

We are pleased to have identified nineteen Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge counselors from our membership. A subset of this group recently met by conference call, and we hope to share best practices and make materials available to help other members who wish to promote the hobby to Scouts.

With AMERISTAMP EXPO over, our focus turns to upcoming events at the American Philatelic Center: our June 15–20 Summer Seminar, the July 21–25 Volunteer Work Week, and the Eighth Postal History Symposium, which will be held September 12–14. Hartford, Connecticut, will be the host city for APS STAMPSHOW in August 21–24. We hope you are able to join us for one or more of these events.

The Postal History Symposium will be held in conjunction with AEROPHILATELY 2014, a national all-air mail philatelic exhibition with FIP recognition and worldwide participation

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hosted by the American Air Mail Society. The theme is "Development of Transoceanic Air Mail Service" and a call for papers for the symposium is available on the APS website.

In addition to symposium panels scheduled on Friday and Saturday, the weekend will include exhibits, a bourse, and three aerophilatelic talks (coordinated by the AAMS), as well as tours of the American Philatelic Center, a presentation on APRL resources related to air mail, and on Saturday evening a banquet featuring the symposium keynote speaker and AEROPHILATELY awards.

Thanks to Irv Miller for his special efforts to get to Atlanta in time to offer the *Detecting Damaged Altered and Repaired Stamps* "On-the-Road" course prior to the Southeast Stamp Expo. When Atlanta "shut down" because of ice and snow, Irv had to fly into Charlotte and drive from there, successfully navigating the highways around Atlanta to arrive in time. The Southeastern Stamp Expo had done a great job in promoting the course and we had fourteen students registered. Unfortunately, only about half of the students were able to duplicate Irv's success and make it to the course. Our thanks and congratulations to the Southeastern Stamp Expo on what we hear was an excellent show, including an APS town meeting led by Vice President Mick Zais and Librarian Tara Murray.

I also would like to thank two members for their recent cards. Library Trustee Don Heller found a postal card in an APS sales circuit from John Tiffany, our first president. The card now resides in the APS archives. Member Greg Dix sent us a postcard during a visit to Ghana. Thanks, Greg, we always appreciate hearing from our members.

About a year-and-a-half ago member Jim Boyles passed away. We appreciated his regular visits, enjoyed seeing his exhibit of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and were grateful for his years of efforts on the LANCOPEX show. The hobby is still benefitting from his generosity as our Library recently received his collection of philatelic literature.

We were recently saddened to learn of the January pass-



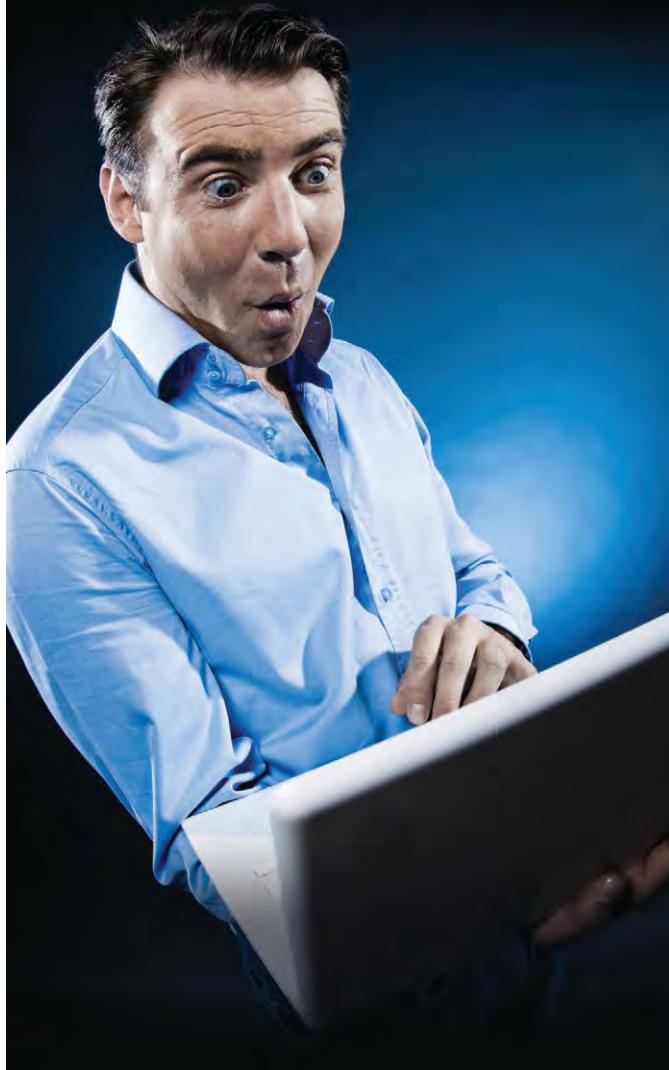
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ing of Dan Curtis, another friend of the hobby. Dan was a life long world class stamp collector, earning numerous awards and recognition for his collection and his revenue census work. He was a longtime member of the American Philatelic Society, the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and the American Revenue Association. At the time of his death, he was a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation and serving on the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists.

Each such loss leaves a hole in the hobby.

Our thanks to Greg Allen who has recently become a seasonal volunteer helping us to convert APS slide programs to DVDs. These programs can make great additions to club meetings.

Finally, congratulations to Diversity Committee chair Ann Dunkin who was recently nominated by President Obama to be the Environmental Information for the Environmental Protection Agency's new Assistant Administrator.

Keep enjoying the blessings of our wonderful hobby!

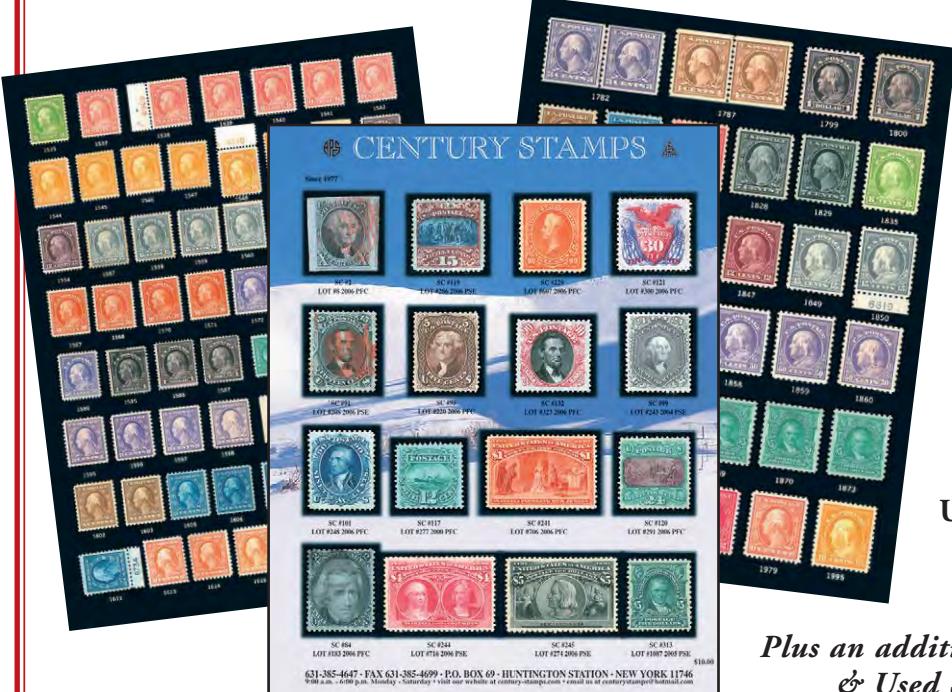
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Mike was long known as the pre-eminent expert of the stamps and postal history of Japan, serving as the Chair of the ISJP expertising service for 30 years.

As a lieutenant Commander in the USN, Mike spent much time in Japan, taking every opportunity to expand both his knowledge and collection. He developed a close association with the late Dean of Japanese philately, Dr. Soichi Ichida, to whom he credited much of his knowledge. He was an exhibitor at PHILATOKYO in both 1971 and 1981, and served as the U.S. commissioner there as well.

Mike's collection includes many rarities as well as detailed plate reconstructions, etc. Many of his items were acquired in the late 1950s through the early 70s, well prior to the explosion of Japanese philately internationally. Many items, to our knowledge, have never been offered on the auction block. The collection is strongest in the classics, with emphasis on the Dragon and Cherry Blossom issues, including cancellations and postal history.

Over the decades, Mike developed many friendships both here and in Japan. We at Dynasty are proud to present this legendary collection.

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APS Hall of Fame Inductees for 2013

The American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame was established at the 1940 APS Convention by President Rollin W. Flower. The award recognizes collectors posthumously for a lifetime of outstanding service in philately. The first class of honorees in 1941 included philatelic luminaries Sir Rowland Hill, John Nicholas Luff, John Walter Scott, Thomas Keay Tapling, John Kerr Tiffany, James Ludovic Lindsay (26th Earl of Crawford), Philip Mathias Wolfsieffer, Charles Easterly Severen, Frederick John Melville, Charles Lathrop Pack, Charles James Phillips, Edward Spring Knapp, Beverly Sedwick King, Hugh McLellan Southgate, and Ralph Andrews Barry.

This year's honorees are Earl Panero Lopez Apfelbaum, Richard B. Graham, and David Lee Straight.

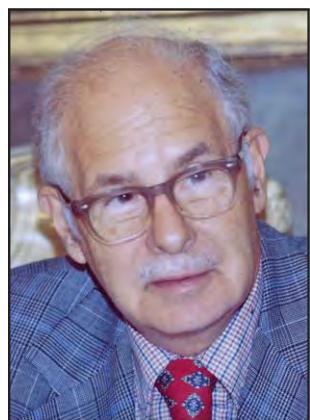
Earl Panero Lopez Apfelbaum (1905–1985)

Earl Apfelbaum, together with his father Maurice, established a part-time business to meet the needs of stamp collectors and turned it into an international firm that continues to this day. Earl and his father decided to convert their sideline into a full-time enterprise in 1930 and

opened their shop in Philadelphia. Earl often made road trips to sell his stock to collectors in other towns and cities up and down the east coast while his father tended to the main shop.

Despite the Depression the fledgling business survived, and even the economic climate caused by World War II did not prevent the business from growing. Later the firm began mail sales and public auctions before these mar-

keting methods were adopted by many of their competitors. In the 1950s Earl's son Martin joined the firm and revamped the retail business with a self-service stamp shop that attracted hundreds of collectors every week. Both the retail and public auction operations brought international



recognition and, by 1969, the company had a staff of more than twenty people.

Despite the hectic day-to-day operations of a major business, Earl found time to write and take part in organized philately. In the 1960s he began a popular column in *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* known as "Apfelbaum's Corner" that continued for two decades. A number of the columns were collected and published in book form in 1983. He was a founding member of the American Philatelic Congress and eventually contributed seven papers to the Congress books. He served the American Philatelic Society as secretary and vice president, and was president of the American Academy of Philately.

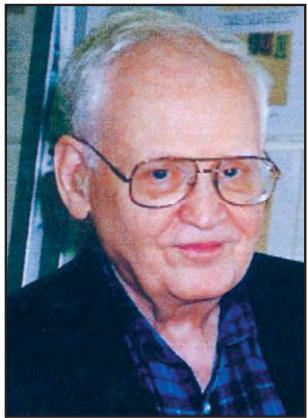
Earl's engaging style as revealed in his columns was reinforced by his outstanding speaking abilities. He was in great demand by clubs, societies, and other philatelic events to be guest speaker where he seldom used notes, drawing instead on his knowledge, experience, and endless anecdotes. He also recognized that most collectors used printed albums but were shunned by exhibitions where the awards went to those who prepared their own display pages. He then announced that his firm now offered the Maurice Apfelbaum award for the best exhibit on printed pages. Hundreds of these medals were used at regional and national shows around the country.

Earl helped organize the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, which flourished for many years, and later was merged into the Cardinal Spellman Museum. He received the SEPAD national merit award in 1963 and the APS John N. Luff award for exceptional contributions to philately in 1962. The Apfelbaum dynasty continues to this day as Earl's grandchildren operate the legendary firm.

Richard B. Graham (1922–2012)

Richard Graham was a highly regarded postal history expert, researcher, and author. He brought attention to the vast field of nineteenth-century United States and Confederate States postal history and helped popularize these areas for collectors. He wrote approximately 1,000 articles and columns that appeared in the philatelic press between 1960 and 2012. He was a vital force with the United States Philatelic Classics Society and its journal, *The Chronicle*, where he served as associate editor and then editor of its 1861–1869 section.

He also chaired the USPCS publications planning



committee for more than twenty years and helped produce several books. For many years he wrote a column on U.S. postal history for *Linn's Stamp News*. Approximately sixty of these columns were reprinted in his book *United States Postal History Sampler* (1992). His articles have also appeared in *The American Philatelist*, the *Confederate Philatelist*, the *Postal History Journal*, the American Philatelic Congress books, and elsewhere.

The USPCS recognized Graham's work with the Elliot Perry Cup (1965), the Carroll Chase Cup (1969), the Stanley B. Ashbrook Cup (1975), the Susan M. McDonald award (2005), and he was twice recipient of the Lester G. Brookman Cup for service to the society (1979, 1994). In 1989 he was honored with the society's Distinguished Philatelist award. Richard Graham was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame in 1991 and received the APS Luff award for distinguished philatelic research in 1992. He also was recognized by the Confederate Stamp Alliance with the Dietz award for distinguished service in Confederate philatelic research and writing.

David Lee Straight (1955–2012)

In a short life, David L. Straight accomplished more in philately than many do in a many decades-long career. David was a prolific writer and researcher. He published more than 250 articles ranging from pneumatic mail, to the history of the Registered Mail system, to the disgraceful treatment of E. G. Lewis by the Post Office Department, to extreme back-of-the-book topics. He had made acquaintances within the U.S. Postal Service who gave him access to more information about Post Office forms than has ever been published.

A librarian by training and vocation, David retired at

the age of 55 to write full time. He was constantly researching some esoteric subject, whether at the Yale Library, the Library of Congress, the National Postal Museum, or the Postal Service archives. His research notes fill many file cabinets. His articles appeared in *The American Philatelist*, *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, *Stamp Collector*, *Confluence* (devoted to Missouri history), and countless others.

David was quite vocal about making technology work for philately, at the same time realizing that files must be constantly upgraded to new technologies to keep them viable. He was one of the organizers of the Winton F. Blount Symposium on postal history and the impetus behind Volunteer Week at APS Headquarters. He was also the driving force behind the Philatelic Union Catalog, the Philatelic Librarians Roundtable, and Stamp Camp USA, serving as its first Chairman.

David was a long-time member of the board of the American Philatelic Society, a trustee of the American Philatelic Research Library, a vice president of the Postal History Society, presented several topics at Summer Seminar, and served several terms as an officer of the Greater Mound City Stamp Club, APS Chapter 4, and Webster Groves Stamp Club (all three in Saint Louis). He spent more than fifteen years on the Board of St. Louis Stamp Expo, filling more shoes than many realized. David was also curator of the Hawaii exhibit that was one of the opening exhibits when the William H. Gross Gallery opened at the National Postal Museum in 2013.

Straight was honored in 2011 by becoming a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and was presented the Elizabeth Pope Award for Lifetime Contributions to Philately by Saint Louis Stamp Expo.



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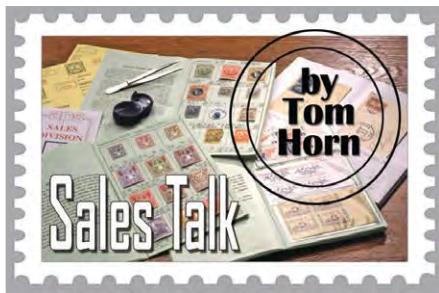
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*tax deduction, in accordance with IRS tax laws



Price Clarity in Sales Books

Total this page \$ 119.00		Country GERMANY	
	Cat. No. 39 Cat. Val. 8.00		Cat. No. 39a Cat. Val. —
1 Net \$.30	2 Net \$.40		Cat. No. 40 Cat. Val. .075
3 Net \$.30			
	Cat. No. 40 Cat. Val. .075		Cat. No. 41a Cat. Val. 1.75
4 Net \$.30	5 Net \$.70		6 Net \$.30
	Cat. No. 41a Cat. Val. 1.10		Cat. No. 45 Cat. Val. .050
7 Net \$.45	8 Net \$.25		Cat. No. 44 Cat. Val. .100
	Cat. No. 46a Cat. Val. .070		Cat. No. 46c Cat. Val. .800
10 Net \$.30	11 Net \$.30		Cat. No. 47 Cat. Val. .070
12 Net \$.30			

Total this page \$ 1.73		Country GERMANY	
	Cat. No. 67 Cat. Val. .70		Cat. No. 66 Cat. Val. .70
1 Net \$.08	2 Net \$.08		Cat. No. 79 Cat. Val. .20
3 Net \$.04			
	Cat. No. 46a Cat. Val. .30		Cat. No. 47 Cat. Val. .30
4 Net \$.14	5 Net \$.14		Cat. No. 76 Cat. Val. .35
	Cat. No. 97 Cat. Val. .140		Cat. No. 79 Cat. Val. .140
7 Net \$.28	8 Net \$.15		Cat. No. 98 Cat. Val. .140
	Cat. No. 49 Cat. Val. .70		Cat. No. 66 Cat. Val. .80
10 Net \$.14	11 Net \$.17		Cat. No. 118 Cat. Val. .110
12 Net \$.12			

Once in a while, we reconsider a suggestion made by a member, perhaps adding another member's comments to the equation, and put the suggestion into action. One such suggestion concerns a way to make buying easier and encourage participation in the mail approvals: when pricing stamps and covers in the sales books, *sellers should consider making the cents a multiple of 5*. As an example, a price marked as \$14.79 might be better listed as \$14.80 or \$14.75. This makes the buyer's calculation of purchases easier. Our checkers would find it easier to calculate a book's totals as well. Sample pages to the left illustrate the preferred pricing format (top) and a less desirable format (bottom).

There is the argument that there is a psychological reason for using a "9" or some other number as the last digit in the price. But here is another point: with the sales books, there are 560 sellers with as many styles of handwriting, some more challenging to read than others. Having all prices end in "0" or "5" makes deciphering simpler and avoids mistakes by buyers, Sales Division staff, and, yes, even sellers who sometime misinterpret their own entries when calculating the book totals.

So, along with entering the price numerals clearly enough to avoid confusion, using multiples of 5 would greatly reduce the paperwork necessary for sales book and report sheet accuracy. Please consider using this suggestion for the next sales books you submit to us for selling.

Delays in Receiving Circuit

Explanation 1. As you may have noticed, we have been offering a spe-

cial to sellers for the first three months of 2014. Details are in the last section of this column. There is a list of categories that are in very short supply. The special is designed to encourage sellers to submit sales books in these categories to meet the demands. Buyers should also note this list. The circuits for these categories might sit here waiting a month or two before there is enough material to fill the next round of circuits. This may be one explanation for a long time span between circuits in a particular category.

Explanation 2. Another reason involves the normal rotation of members on a list. As a circuit returns to us, the first member on that list drops to the bottom on the next list for that circuit category. That first member not only has to wait for the circuit to travel through the list and back to APS, but also has to wait for the *next* circuit to go through the list until it arrives at his/her address. To illustrate:

First, Circuit 001XYZ001 returns with its list of members (as given in the first column) and the new circulation list is prepared (as shown in the second column):

#001XYZ001	#001XYZ002
A	B
B	C
C	D
D	E
E	F
F	A

However, during the circulation of 001XYZ002, member D moves to another area of the country served by a different circuit of the same category and member F asks not to receive this category any more. Also, two new members ask for this category and are

in the same zip code area for this circuit list. The resulting list for the third round of the circuit is:

#001XYZ**003**

C
E
A
B
G
H

In list "002" everyone moved up one spot after **A** dropped to the bottom. For list "003", **E** jumps up two spots and **A** jumps three spots, since **D** and **F** are no longer on the list. **G** and **H** were placed on the list based on their proximity to other list members and near the bottom for their first run on the circuit.

Explanation 3. The other major cause for a delay in receiving a circuit of any category is that a member is holding it past the seven days allowed for handling. Any number of reasons exist for such delays, including illness, family crisis, job loss, received a number of circuits in a short period, forgetfulness, procrastination, etc. We try to keep the circuits moving by sending letters and e-mails and making phone calls. Each case is handled separately, based on the circumstances, as some of the reasons are beyond the member's control, while others are not.

Contact us if you think it has been too long since you received a circuit in one of your categories of interest. We can let you know which of these delays is the cause.

USPS Tracking

We are still studying the effects of switching to the *USPS Tracking* from *Signature Confirmation*. So far, we have not seen a significant rise in lost circuits, but there have been a few more cases where some circuits have been exposed to moisture. Only a few of the stamps in these circuits are considered damaged, resulting in small losses. If you receive a circuit that has been exposed to moisture damage, please call us so we can give you instructions on how to handle the circuit.

One point to be considered is that *Insured Mail* labels indicate some value in the packages, whereas *Signature Con-*

firmation and *USPS Tracking* labels do not. This difference of information may explain why we went from annual losses of up to seventy-five circuits under the *Insured Mail* requirement to between fifteen and twenty annual losses with the other two labels.

Sales Book Retirements

While we are working on the Sales Division program upgrades, we continue to offer inventory status reports to those sellers who request them. Just send me an e-mail and let me know if you want it as an attachment in Word, Excel, or simply in the body of the e-mail. The report will include the APS book numbers assigned to your books, your book numbers, the category abbreviations, the dates the books were processed in the Sales Division, the original book values, the amounts sold at that point, and where the books are in the system at that moment. My e-mail address is twhorn@stamps.org .

Please note also that we have a system for pulling books out of circulation for retirement. There are two lists we generate, one for the regular 18-month circulation period and one for the 24-month choice. When trying to figure the retirement month for your sales books, look at the processing date on your acknowledgements and project either 18 or 24 months into the future. During processing, a book number is assigned based on a date near the middle of the month we received the book. We use that number as the cut off point for retirements. We pull

books that fall under that specified number and place them into the retirement process. The average number of books we retire each month is 1,975. The books scheduled for retirement in April will be pulled from circuits beginning the second week of March. The checks are cut around the fifteenth of the month for the sellers whose last names start with A through Mc and around the twenty-second of the month for Me though Z.

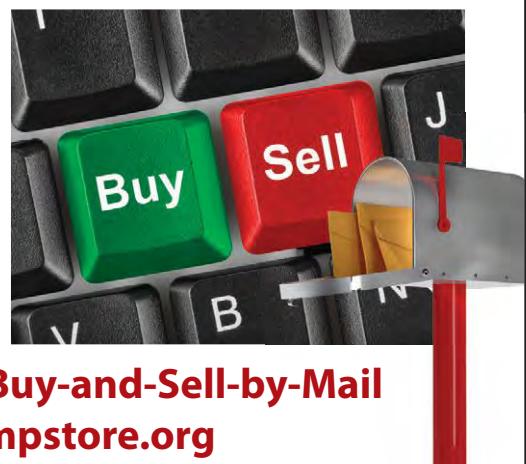
Please note that it is possible that not all ten books you sent to us in early September 2012 will be retired the same month. All books travel independently from all others and thus may take different amounts of time to travel the circuit. Thus, you might have seven books retired one month, one the following month, and the other two the next month.

Any seller's books that are in circulation when they drop membership in the Society — whether through resignation, non-payment of dues, or deceased — will continue to circulate until the book number is ready for automatic removal. As long as we have your current contact information, we will continue to issue checks and return unsold material to you or your designated heir.

Contact us about our form for notifying us with your "next of kin" information. The most recently submitted form will be the one in force when it is necessary to use the information. It is also important for sellers to inform the person they designate on the form about this and let them know to contact us when the time comes to act on that informa-

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tion. We will need something in writing from the seller's chosen contact as to the name and address of the payee for the checks and returns.

Specials for Sellers

We have several categories that have been in short supply for quite a while. Mentioning those categories in the section at the end of this column helps alert members who may have material to sell that now is a good time to submit sales books in these categories.

Beginning in January and running until March 31, 2014, we have been offering an additional reward to the "5 for 10." For every 10 books submitted for circulation in the categories listed here, we will *double the points* you receive to get free blank books. This means that instead of the usual 5 free books for 10 submitted, it will be 10 for 10. These are also listed online for the "5 for 10" program, but for these three months the reward is doubled. The qualifying categories are:

U.S. Air Mails (stamps only)

U.S. Back of the Book

U.S. Coils

U.S. Cut Squares

U.S. Fancy Cancels

U.S. Officials

U.S. Plate # Singles

U.S. Possessions

U.S. Precancels

Australian States

Bahamas

Baltic States

Bermuda

China (pre-1960)

Danzig

Egypt

Ethiopia

German Colonies

Hong Kong

India

Jamaica

Japan (pre-1960)

Liberia

Saar

Spain

Spanish Colonies

TOPICAL:

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Space (stamps only)

Sports (stamps only)



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Show Time

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

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

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

Indiana February 28-March 1

CALUPEX 2014 Calumet Stamp Club, Saint James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave., Highland.

Contact: Jerry Emerson, 2196621296

Website: <http://calumetstampclub.org>

Alaska February 28-March 2

Anchorage Philatelic Exhibition Anchorage Philatelic Society, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage.

Contact: Patrick Hoffmann, 9073462717

E-mail: phoffmann@alaska.net

Website: <http://anchoragephilatelic.org/>

Texas February 28-March 2

TEXPEX 2014 Texas Philatelic Association, Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 HWY 26 E, Grapevine. *WSP*

Contact: Vince King, 940-898-1173
E-mail: vking@entechdesign.com
Website: www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.htm

New Jersey **March 1**
Westfield StampShow Westfield Stamp Club, Westfuekd Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield.
Contact: Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318
E-mail: edjjg@alum.mit.edu
Website: www.westfieldstampclub.org

California **March 1-2**
NOVAPEX 2014 Redding Stamp Club, Redding Senior Cener, 2290 Benton Drive, Redding. *B*
Contact: A. Fracchia, 530-227-2133
E-mail: ajrv1938@charter.net
Website: www.reddingstampclub.com

Michigan **March 1-2**
MICHIPEX 2014 Michigan Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Avenue, Dearborn Heights.
Contact: John Bendzick, 313-277-2298

New York **March 1-2**
BUFPEX 2014 The Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga.
Contact: George Gates, 716-633-8358
E-mail: gghg53@aol.com

Tennessee **March 1-2**
KNOXPEX 2014 Star Spangled Banner Bicentennial Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn KnoxvilleWest, 304 Cedar Bluff, Knoxville.
Contact: Tom Broadhead, 865-974-1151
E-mail: broadhea@utk.edu
Website: <http://stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm>

Virginia **March 1-2**
SPRINGPEX 2014 Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield.

Contact: Chuck Koryda, 703-766-0057
E-mail: dunnloringstamps@yahoo.com
Website: www.springfieldstampclub.org

Wisconsin **March 1-2**
STAMPFEST Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall 14, S 92nd Street, West Allis. *B*
Contact: Carol Schutta, 2623881453
E-mail: harryncarolschutta@gmail.com
Website: www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

Connecticut **March 8**
NORPEX 2014 Norwak Stamp Club, Norwalk Senior Center, 11 Allen Road, Norwalk.
Contact: John Leskovsky, 203-846-2490
E-mail: hoffman1@optonline.net
Website: www.thenorwalkstampclubinc.org

Maryland **March 8**
Tidewater Stamp Club Tidewater Stamp Club, Easton Volunteer Fire Department Auditorium, Creamery Lane, Easton.
Contact: Hope Messick, 410-822-6471

Texas **March 8**
The Greater Rio Grande Valley Stamp Bourse McAllen Texas Stamp Club, Mission Historical Museum Annex (Old City Post Office), 200 E. Tom Landry, Mission. *B*
Contact: Steven Kirpes, 956-380-2930
E-mail: skirpes@hililine.net
Website: www.missiontx.us/citydepartments/missionhistoricalmuseum/

California **March 8-9**
FRESPEX 2014 Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis.
Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013
E-mail: starstamps@thegrid.net

Florida **March 8-9**
NAPLEX 2014 Collier County Stamp Club, Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 295 F. & A.M., 5850 Tamiami Trail North (Rte 41), Naples.
Contact: Robert Hausin, 239-732-8000

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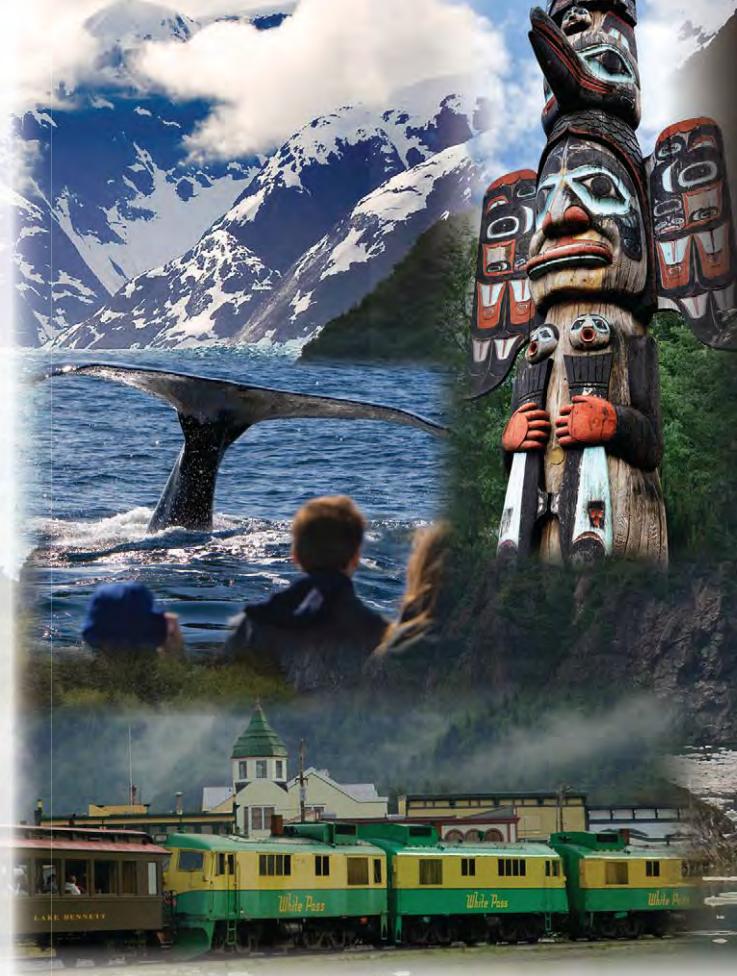
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Illinois

March 8-9
Rockford 2014 Stamp and Cover

Show Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd., Loves Park. *B*

Contact: Tim Wait, 815-670-5869

E-mail: t.wait@comcast.net

Website: www.rockfordstampclub.org

Ohio

March 8-9

McKinley Stamp Club Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton.

Contact: David Pool, 330-832-5992

E-mail: lincolnway@ssnnet.com

Website: http://mksc.webs.com

Tennessee

March 8-9

Nashville Stamp Show 2014 Nashville Philatelic Society, Fifty Forward, 301 Madison Street, Madison.

Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161

E-mail: show@nashvillephilatelic.org

Website: www.nashvillephilatelic.org

Massachusetts

March 9

SOPEX 2014 Samuel Osgood Stamp Club, Elks Hall, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence. *B*

Contact: Robert A. Dominique, 978-470-0583

E-mail: radpm67@gmail.com

Website: www.norcalstamps.org/sopex.htm

Illinois

March 14-16

ASDA Midwest Postage Stamp Show

2014 American Stamp Dealers Association, Linder Conference Center, 610 East Butterfield Road, Lombard. *B*

Contact: Amy Nicklaus, 973-267-1644

E-mail: asda@asdaonline.com

Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

New Hampshire

March 16

The Greater Nahua Stamp Show The Good Old Days Stamps, Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua. *B*

Contact: Robert Dion, 603-8605082

E-mail: iahdzip@yahoo.com

Ohio

March 16

Spring 'Filatelic' Fair Central Ohio Stamp & Postcard Dealers, Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., Worthington. *B*

Contact: Mark Reasoner, 6145-796-526

E-mail: reasonerstamps@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania

March 16

Spring CAPEX 2014 Capital City Philatelic Society, Susquehanna Township High School,

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Email: info@colonialstampcompany.com

URL: www.colonialstampcompany.com

3500 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. *B*

Contact: Linn Kinney, 717-732-7813

Missouri

March 19-20

Stamps and Stories of the 1920's On the Road Course, Prior to St. Louis Stamp Expo, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, St. Louis. *APS*

Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803

E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org

Website: <http://stamps.org/OntheRoadCourses>

Missouri

March 21-23

St. Louis Stamp Expo Area Clubs, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. *WSP*

Contact: David Kols, 800-782-0066

E-mail: expo@regencystamps.com

Website: www.stlstampexpo.org

Pennsylvania

March 22

HAVEX 2014 Havertown Stamp Club, Union United Methodist Church, 200 Brookline Boulevard, Havertown.

Contact: Stanley Sandler

E-mail: stanshel@msn.com

Rhode Island

March 22

StampShow 2014 Rhode Island Philatelic Society, Kelly and Gazzaro Post, 1418 Plainfield Street, Cranston. *B*

Contact: Mike Imbruglia, 301-785-8377

E-mail: msimbruglia@gmail.com

Website: www.nefed.org/rips/stampshow05.html

Wisconsin

March 22

BAYPEX '14 Green Bay Philatelic Society, St. Matthew's Church MultiPurpose Room, 2575 South Webster Ave., Green Bay. *B*

Contact: Ray D. Perry, 920-469-8925

E-mail: fiveperrys@athenet.net

Virginia

March 22

ROAPEX SPRING 2014 Stamp Show Big Lick Stamp Club, Unitarian Church, 2015 Grandin Road, SW, Roanoke.

Contact: Ali Nazemi, 540-815-2980

E-mail: nazemi@roanoke.edu

Website: www.BigLickStampClub.org

Alberta

March 22-23

Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show Edmonton Stamp Club, Central Lions Centre, 11113 113 St., NW, Edmonton. *WSP*

Contact: Ed Dykstra, 780-420-7243

E-mail: eddykstra@shaw.ca

Website: www.edmontonstampclub.com

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Florida **March 22-23**
TALPEX 2014 Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, Tallahassee Seniors Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee. *B*
Contact: Gerard York, 850-284-4712
E-mail: gerard_york@msn.com
Website: www.maf1.com/tsc/stampshow.htm

Ohio **March 22-23**
FINPEX 2014 Fort Findlay Stamp and Post Card Club, "The Lighthouse" Building, 10055 St. Rte. 224 West, Findlay. *B*
Contact: Scott Little, 419-296-5565
E-mail: moeberg2@roadrunner.com

New York **March 27-30**
ASDA Spring Postage Stamp Show
2014 American Stamp Dealers Association, The New Yorker Hotel, 181 8th Ave., New York. *B*
Contact: Amy Nicklaus, 973-2671644
E-mail: asda@asdaonline.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

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

Michigan **March 29-30**
Kalamazoo 2014 Annual Exhibition, Bourse and Cover Show Kalamazoo Stamp Club, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo

Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo.
Contact: Mike Dennany
E-mail: irishdennany@yahoo.com

New Mexico **March 29-30**
Mesilla Valley Stamp Show Mesilla Valley Stamp Club, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 East University Ave., Las Cruces.
Contact: Richard Hiss, 575-202-1937
E-mail: RHiss@comcast.net
Website: www.meetinlascruces.com

Washington **March 29-30**
2014 Apple Blossom Inland Empire Philatelic Society Hilton Garden Inn, 9015 West Highway 2, Spokane. *B*
Contact: J. Wilson Palmer, 509-443-8147
E-mail: ickyburg@comcast.net
Website: www.iepsstamps.com

Pennsylvania **April 4-6**
Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. *WSP*
Contact: Steve Washburne, 215-843-2106
E-mail: info@pnse.org
Website: www.pnse.org

Virginia **April 4-6**
Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp Show Weyers Cave Community Center, 682 Weyers Cave Rd. (Rt. 256 East), Weyers Cave. *B*
Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net

Illinois **April 5**
PARFOREX 2014 Park Forest Stamp Club, St. Irenaeus Church Gymnasium, Indianwood Blvd and Orchard Drive, Park Forest.
Contact: Ed Waterous, 219-613-6561
E-mail: ewwaterous@hotmail.com

Ohio **April 5**
TUSCOPEX 14 Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, 161 Tuscora Avenue, NW, New Philadelphia. *B*
Contact: Jim Shamel, 7409224610
E-mail: jimhelenshamel@hotmail.com

Florida **April 5-6**
West Pasco Stamp Roundup New Port Richey Area Stamp Club, Inc., Regency Park Civic Center, 10240 Regency Park Blvd., Port Richey. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.NPRSTAMPCLUB.COM/www.floridastampshows.com

Pennsylvania **April 5-6**
WILKPEX 2014 Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville.
Contact: Tom Donohue, 412-373-8697
E-mail: wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com

New Hampshire **April 6**
QPEX Manchester Stamp Club, American Legion Hall, 5 Riverside Rd., Hooksett.
Contact: Robert Dion, 603-860-5082
E-mail: ihadzip@yahoo.com

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GarfieldPerry March Party Stamp Club, La Villa Conference, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland. *WSP*		Contact: Jerry Shean, 541-772-5536 E-mail: geralshean@yahoo.com	
Contact: Roger Rhoads E-mail: rrrhoads@aol.com Website: www.garfieldperry.org			
Delaware	April 12	Wisconsin	April 13
DELPEX 2014 Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy (US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle.		DANEPEX 14 Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison.	
Contact: Bill Clark, 302-322-2719 E-mail: kmc4076@aol.com Website: www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com		Contact: Bob Voss, 608-8381033 E-mail: lestamps@charter.net Website: www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger	
Pennsylvania	April 12	California	April 23-24
Spring Stamp Expo Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society, Eugene C. Clarke Jr. Community Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg.		Collecting Western U.S. Postal History On the Road Course, Prior to WESTPEX, San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront, Burlingame. *APS*	
Contact: Quinn Witherspoon, 717-264-1252 E-mail: rspran@pa.net		Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803 E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org Website: http://stamps.org/OntheRoadCourses	
Virginia	April 12	Pennsylvania	April 25-26
7th Annual Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club Show Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club, Mercy Hall, St. John the Evangelist Church, 121 John E. Mann Street, Warrenton.		LANCOPEX 2014 Lancaster County Philatelic Society, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster. *B*	
Contact: Tony Tripi, 540-347-2567 E-mail: tripi@earthlink.net		Contact: Lou DiFelice, 717-572-3419 E-mail: loudifelice@gmail.com	
Indiana	April 12-13	California	April 25-27
Spring Stamp Fair Indiana Stamp Club, Lawrence Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin, Lawrence.		WESTPEX WESTPEX, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. *WSP*	
Contact: Tom Chastang, 317-913-9319 E-mail: tchast5@sbcglobal.net Website: www.indianastampclub.org		Contact: Edward Jarvis, 415-387-1016 E-mail: ejarvis@westpex.com Website: www.westpex.com	
Oregon	April 12-13	Connecticut	April 26
SOPEX 2014 Stamp Show and		MANPEX 2014 Manchester Philatelic Society, East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester.	

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Florida **May 3-4**
Largo Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave., N., Largo. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org

Pennsylvania **May 9-10**
BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Ave., Lyndora.
Contact: Tom Sivak, 724-287-1931
E-mail: tomsstamps@zoominternet.net

Louisiana **May 10**
Baton Rouge Stamp Show Baton Rouge Stamp Club, East Baton Rouge Council on Aging, 5790 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge. *B*
Contact: Zbigniew Cypel, 2258027919
E-mail: mrbretired@aol.com

Ohio **May 10**
TRUMPEX 2014 The Warren Area Stamp Club, St Demetrios Community Center, 3223 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, Trumbull County.
Contact: Howard Lutz, 330-282-2860
E-mail: howrex2@aol.com

Oregon **May 9-11**
PIPEX Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, Red Lion Hotel on the River Jantzen Beach,

909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland. *WSP*
Contact: Tony Wawrukiewicz, 503-244-8223
E-mail: tonywaw@spiritone.com
Website: www.pipexshow.org

Colorado **May 16-18**
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX) Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc., Crown Plaza Denver International Airport Convention Center, John Q. Hammonds Trade Center, Chambers Rd & I70, Denver. *WSP*
Contact: Steve McGill, 720-529-5942
E-mail: steve.mcgill@comcast.net
Website: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

New York **May 16-18**
ROPEX Rochester Phil. Assoc., ESL Sports

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Georgia **May 17-18**
Spring SDAG Stamp Show Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, Mansour Center, 995 Roswell Street, Marietta. *B*
Contact: Kim Conti, Executive Director, 7706307918

Wisconsin **May 17-18**
WISCOPEX 14 Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Retlaw Plaza Hotel, One North Main Street, Fond du Lac. *B*
Contact: Karen Weigt, 608-836-1509
E-mail: kweigt@tds.net
Website: www.wfscstamps.org

Alaska **May 17-24**
APS Stamp Cruise, *APS*
Contact: CruiseWorks, Inc., 18008766664
E-mail: Cruiseworks@aol.com
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Illinois **May 23-25**
COMPEX 14 Stamp & Postcard Show Combined Philatelic Exhibitions of Chicagoland, Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights. *B*
Contact: Charles Berg, 773-775-2100
E-mail: stampkingchicago@hotmail.com

Canada **May 30-June 1**
Royal 2014 Royale Nova Scotia Stamp Club, Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park Street, Halifax. *WSP*
Contact: John Hall, 902-4346529
E-mail: john_hall_13@hotmail.com

Website: www.royal2014royale.com

New Jersey **May 30-June 1**
NOJEX North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc., Crowne Plaza Meadowlands Exhibition Center, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus. *WSP*
Contact: Robert G. Rose, 973-966-8070
E-mail: rrose@phks.com
Website: www.nojex.org

Alabama **May 31 to June 1**
HUNTSPEX 2014 Huntsville Philatelic Club, University Center, University of Alabama In Huntsville, 1410 Ben Graves Drive, Huntsville. Contact: Michael O'Reilly, 256-52-74601
E-mail: mcoreilly@att.net
Website: www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

Kentucky **June 6-7**
LOUIPEX 2014 Metro Louisville Stamp Society, St. Leonard's Catholic Church (The Gym), 440 Zorn Avenue, Louisville. *B*
Contact: German Dillon, 502-558-0046
E-mail: german.dillon@twc.com
Website: www.louisvillemetrostampsociety.org

Virginia **June 6-8**
NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean. *WSP*
Contact: Darrell Ertzberger, 7035483366
E-mail: mteton@aol.com
Website: www.napex.org

Ohio **June 13-15**
COLOPEX Columbus Philatelic Club, DiSalle Center at the Ohio Expo Center, 717 East 17th Ave., Columbus. *WSP*
Contact: Mark Reasoner, 614-579-6526
E-mail: reasonerstamps@yahoo.com

Website: www.colopex.com

Pennsylvania **June 14-15**
SCOPEX 2014 Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte.
Contact: Don Heller, 814-861-5720
E-mail: dheller5720@yahoo.com

Oklahoma **June 20-21**
OKPEX Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City. *WSP*
Contact: Joe Crosby, 4057490939
E-mail: joecrosby@cox.net
Website: www.okcsc.org

Missouri **June 27-29**
National Topical Stamp Show American Topical Association, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis. *WSP*
Contact: Vera Felts, 6189855100
E-mail: american topical@msn.com
Website: www.americantopicalassn.org

California **July 11-13**
ASDA Northern California 2014 Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, The Westin Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Hwy., Millbrae. *B*
Contact: Amy Nicklaus, 973-267-1644
E-mail: asda@asdaonline.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Minnesota **July 16-17**
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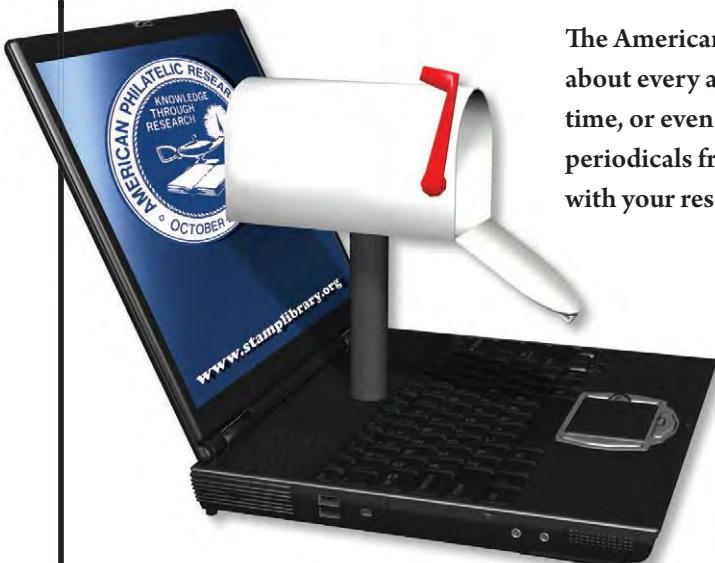
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Afrit, Yazid (222734) **Greenbrier, AR** US-FDC; 46; Assembly Worker
 Albertson, Mark (222754) **Kent, WA** US, COVERS-SWEDEN-UN; 56; Executive
 Aroner, David C. (222719) **Berkeley, CA** OLDER WORLDWIDE; 71; Retired
 Barnett, Jennifer M. (222699) **Nashville, TN** SPACE/JET/ROCKET COVERS-DOGS-US COVERS, COMMEMORATIVE PANELS-ANIMALS-WAR COVERS/STAMPS; 46; Archaeologist
 Bear, Dwight I. (222720) **Elida, OH** US; 61; Farmer
 Beier, Carl D. (222743) **Lincoln Park, MI** US, POSTAGE DUE, PLATE BLOCKS, 19TH C, PARCEL POST, WASHINGTON FRANKLINS; 75
 Benson, Charles (222755) **State College, PA** US, PRESIDENTS-EUROPE-BASEBALL-PHILATELIC HISTORY/MEMORABILIA-WAR COVERS/STAMPS
 Berty, James (222687) **Fort Myers, FL** US; 65; Retired
 Block, Gillian A. (222676) **Redlands, CA** GREAT BRITAIN-BRITISH AFRICA-AFRICA-19TH C-FOREIGN COVERS-EPHEMERA-SOUTH AFRICA; 51
 Blount, Fred (222769) **Sedalia, MO** US 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, CLASSICS, BUREAU ISSUES, COILS, PRECANCELS, PERFINs; Retired
 Boliek, Robert (222756) **Birmingham, AL** ALABAMA & EXPOSITION POSTAL HISTORY-19TH & 20TH C WORLDWIDE; 56; Lawyer
 Bolyard, Mark (222709) **Annandale, VA** US COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH & 20TH C
 Boothby, John (222701) **Las Vegas, NV** US SHEETS/SMALL PANES, AIR MAILED, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, FLIGHT COVERS; 67; Retired
 Borey, Michael (222757) **Saint Augustine, FL** US, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS; Retired

Cerasani, Drew (222725) **Byron, IL** US 19TH & 20TH C, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, BOOKLETS/PANES, ADVERTISING COVERS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING; 43
 Cereghino, Charles (222679) **Lake Zurich, IL**; 76; Retired
 Chamberlain, Michael E. (222773) **Great Falls, MT** US BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, COVERS, AIR MAILED, PLATE BLOCKS, FDC, POST CARDS; 73; Retired
 Chet, Randall (222707) **Zirconia, NC** US CLASSICS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, LOCALS & CARRIERS, POSSESSIONS-STAMP DESIGNS/DESIGNERS-FOREIGN CLASSICS; 49; Graphic Designer
 Cloutier, Rejean (222718) **Saint-Lambert, QC** FRANCE-WESTERN EUROPE-US CLASSICS; 59
 Collins, Alan L. (222728) **San Francisco, CA** ADEN-EUROPE-NETHERLANDS-SWEDEN; Retired
 Cramer, Stephen E. (222750) **Maplewood, MN** AMERICANA-US NAVAL COVERS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-KENYA/UGANDA/TANZANIA-STAMP DESIGN/DESIGNERS-SCOUTS-AVIAN; 67; Retired
 Currier, Ronald P. (222688) **Dallas, TX** US CLASSICS-CSA-MACHIN; 64; Company President
 Dailey, Robert (222749) **Charlotte, NC** US; 75
 Dees, Douglas H. (222726) **Wichita, KS** US CLASSICS, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS, SOUVENIR PAGES-FOREIGN COVERS-MUSIC/MUSICIANS/INSTRUMENTS; 50
 Dennett, Garland (222673) **Caldwell, ID** ARGENTINA-ISRAEL-PERU-PARAGUAY-EGYPT-US 19TH C
 Dixon, Deborah (222710) **Johnson City, TX** WORLDWIDE-DISNEY-ITALY-SCANDINAVIA-FRENCH POLYNESIA-HISTORY-CELEBRITIES; 60; Retired
 Domb, Sigmund (222775) **Basel, Switzerland**; 70
 Eggleston, John (222747) **Harrisburg, PA** US, FANCY CANCELS, POSSESSIONS, FEDERAL & STATE REVENUES/TAX PAIDS, CUT SQUARES, PLATE BLOCKS; 49
 Ehrhardt, Nicholas A. (222764) **Somerville, MA** RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS; 23
 Ehrhardt, Steven P. (222765) **Ithaca, NY** RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS; 62
 Engman, Ken (222721) **Irving, TX** US; 70; QA Inspector

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 222458 through 222464, 222466, and 222468 through 222534, and 222536 through 222541 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, Dec. 31, 2013	32,647
New Members	81
Reinstated	87
	168
	32,815
Deceased	42
Resignations.....	18
	60
Total Membership, Jan. 31, 2014	32,755

Evers, Ted (222704) **Highland, MD** US-GERMANY-HUNGARY-VATICAN CITY
 Ewald, Frank (222680) **Montvale, VA**; 67
 Flynn, Mark G. (222678) **Santa Rosa Beach, FL** US COMMEMORATIVES, USED; 65; Sand Sculptor
 Frasca, John L. (222658) **Carlsbad, CA** US 19TH & 20TH C, COVERS, ADVERTISING COVERS, FANCY CANCELS, CLASSICS
 Fredrick, Carla (222654) **Waterloo, IA** USED WORLDWIDE; 59; Paralegal
 Fukumoto, Tatsuo (222661) **Sakai City, Osaka, Japan** US 19TH & 20TH C, POSTAL HISTORY; 60
 Gaskin-Smith, Wanda (222774) **Greenville, TX** US, 19TH C; 71; Counselor
 Geng, Yun (222712) **Beijing, China**
 Goliat, Robert J. (222681) **Garfield Heights, OH** DUCKS-BASEBALL-WWII-PEARL HARBOR; Manufacturing
 Goreski, David R. (222669) **Oshawa, ON** US, 20TH C, AIR MAILED, BUREAU ISSUES-CANADA-ARGENTINA; Retired
 Grabowski, Paul (222731) **Northfield, MN** US 19TH & 20TH C, CANCELS, FDC, USED US, AIR MAILED; 66; Retired
 Guthrie, Douglas (222744) **Estacada, OR** US CANCELS, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, BOOKLETS/PANES; 58

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Guy, Vicky (222695) **Denton, TX** US
COMMEMORATIVES, COMMEMORATIVE PANELS, BOOKLETS/PANES, PLATE BLOCKS, TX POSTAL HISTORY, SOUVENIR PAGES

Hahn, Peter C. (222653) **Summerville, SC**
US 19TH C, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, POSSESSIONS-CANADA-MINIATURE SHEETS-FOREIGN SOUVENIR SHEETS; 69; Retired

Hamilton, Bart (222656) **Boise, ID** US AIR MAILED-LIGHTHOUSES-ASTRONOMY-AMATEUR/HAM RADIO-AVIATION-DISNEY; 54

Harper, Leonard (222736) **Amarillo, TX** US PLATE BLOCKS; 68; Minister

Helein, Conan (222666) **Clifton Park, NY**; 46

Ivashin, Victor S. (222722) **Santa Rosa, CA** RUSSIA; 67; Engineer

Jacobson, Gordon (222696) **Glendale, AZ** AUSTRIA-US 19TH C; 65; Retired

Jasberg, Keith A. (222698) **Tucson, AZ** ZAMBIA-PERU-COSTA RICA-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND; 68

Karam, Sharon (222727) **Folsom, CA** CHINA-AUSTRALIAN STATES-FRENCH POLYNESIA-FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY; Ephemera Dealer

Keith, Michael D. (222655) **New Florence, MO** MILITARY MAIL-US 19TH C-AMATEUR/HAM RADIO-CENTRAL AMERICA-MOROCCO-SOUTH AMERICA; 59

King, David H. (222713) **Minneola, FL** WORLDWIDE-US; 47

Kliewer, Ron (222667) **Great Falls, MT** US, PERFINs, BUREAU PRECANCELS-BRITISH EMPIRE-SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA; 64

Koenig, William M. (222652) **Saint Louis, MO** US COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH C, COVERS-AUTOMOBILES-AVIATION-TRANS; 69; Retired

Kusumoto, Richard (222772) **Makawao, HI** US FDC, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, SOUVENIR SHEETS, COMMEMORATIVES-PHILATELIC HISTORY/MEMORABILIA; 67

LaMont, David (222672) **Muncy, PA** US 19TH C, CLASSICS, COMMEMORATIVES, PA POSTAL HISTORY, WASHINGTON FRANKLINS, AIR MAILED, BANKNOTES; 61

Lee, Donald A. (222670) **Swan Lake, NY** US 19TH & 20TH, PLATE BLOCKS, CONFEDERATE STATES, SHEETS/SMALL PANES, COIL LINE PAIRS; 58; Retired

Levchuk, John (222717) **Columbia, MD**

Libby, David (222730) **Orinda, CA**; Public Relations/Marketing

Libby, Thomas (222768) **San Francisco, CA** US DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-SWITZERLAND-ROMAN STATES-VATICAN CITY-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-FIJI; 51

Loo, Jay Tsu-Yi (222689) **Lansdale, PA** TAIWAN-PRC-JAPAN; 81; Retired

Lowe, Keith D. (222671) **Kingston, PA** US 19TH C, IMPERFORATES, NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS, FEDERAL REVENUES/TAX PAIDS-GERMAN COLONIES & STATES; 50

Lowell, William (222690) **Farmingdale, ME** US-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMANY; 77; Retired

Lunduski, Larry W. (222674) **Fort Lawn, SC** US, AIR MAILED, CLASSICS-HUNGARY-JAPAN-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS; 64

Luyster, Joseph (222715) **Little Egg Harbor, NJ** METEOROLOGY-TRAINS-SCIENCE/SCIENTISTS-AVIATION-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN-US CIVIL WAR; Retired

Mandozzi, Mike (222767) **Arlington Heights, IL** US CHRISTMAS SEALS, COMMEMORATIVES, COVERS, POSTAL CARDS; 55

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- Request membership forms — Perhaps you have like-minded collector friends, or you attend a local collector group, society or club. You can request brochures and membership forms from the APS to pass on to your friends and contacts. Or, you can print a .pdf version. Be sure to write your name in as proposer!
- Add a signature block to your e-mail — If you send e-mail or use online forums, you could add a message to your signature block. For example “Learn More, Do More, Enjoy More with America’s Stamp Club” or “Proud to be a member of the American Philatelic Society.”
- Invite a friend to a chapter meeting or stamp show.
- Join our social network and share the news — The APS is on Facebook and Twitter. You can connect online, then post a link to your wall or tweet about our services.
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www.stamps.org/Promote-Membership

Have questions or don't use a computer or the Internet?
Contact Judy Johnson, judy@stamps.org or 814-933-3803, ext. 210

Mastronardi, Adrian (222657) **Buenos Aires, Argentina** MARITIME MARKINGS-LATIN AMERICA-LATIN WEST INDIES-PAQUEBOTS-FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY; 39

Mayse, Bert (222703) **Houston, TX** BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, AFRICA, AMERICA, OCEANIA-FRENCH AFRICA, COLONIES-BELGIAN CONGO-RWANDA-MEXICO; 63; Retired

McLean, Jeremy A. (222664) **Colorado Springs, CO** US, 19TH C, AIR MAILED, FANCY CANCELS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES; 44; Retired

McMurtrie, Shaun T. (222748) **Bellefonte, PA** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES; 35; K-12 Mathematics Coordinator

Meister, Michael J. H. (222745) **San Leandro, CA** US WESTERN COVERS, EXPRESS COVERS, AZ, CA & NV POSTAL HISTORY, NAVAL COVERS

Miller, Lee C. (222682) **Harrisburg, PA** US; 70; Physician

Miller, William R. (222650) **Loma Linda, CA** US 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAIL

Milleson, David L. (222716) **North Platte, NE** US SPACE COVERS-AUSTRALIA, STATES-ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES-FRANCE-JAPAN-PRE 1955 WORLDWIDE; 58; MS Teacher

Monteiro, Richard (222746) **Somerset, Great Britain** BRITISH EMPIRE & COMMONWEALTH; 47; Stamp Dealer

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Morinaka, Ken (222753) **Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan**
US COMMEMORATIVES, FDC, SPECIAL EVENT COVERS/CANCELS-CHINA-JAPAN-OLYMPICS

Morrow, Wayne (222706) **Concord, NH** US, 19TH C, COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAILED; 64; Medical Consultant

Oynes, Roxanne (222705) **Issaquah, WA**
AVIATION-BIRDS-SHIPS/BOATS-SPACE-TRANSPORTATION-VATICAN CITY-UN; 51

Parsons, David A. (222752) **Truckee, CA** US CLASSICS-GREAT BRITAIN-SWITZERLAND-LIBERIA; 65

Patterson, Gary (222708) **Gastonia, NC** US-TOPICAL-ICELAND; 73

Peck, Marian (222662) **Lebanon, PA** US 19TH & 20TH C, PA POSTAL HISTORY, PRESIDENTS-CENTRAL AMERICA-IRELAND

Peich, Michael (222770) **West Chester, PA** US 20TH C, COMMEMORATIVES-BASEBALL-AUTHORS/LITERATURE/LIBRARIES-FINE ARTS; 69

Pelaez, Bertha R. (222739) **Panama City, Panama**; 82; Retired

Perry, Joan S. (222776) **Simi Valley, CA**; 72

Plants, Bert (222766) **Tulsa, OK**; 53;
Epidemiologist

Prugh, E. K. (222684) **Vienna, VA**

Prystal, Joseph L. (222711) **Pittsford, NY** US AIR MAILED, 19TH & 20TH C, BOOKLETS/PANES, COMMEMORATIVES, COIL LINE PAIRS; 67; Retired

Racek, Robert (222659) **Brunswick, MD** US COMMEMORATIVES, POSTAL HISTORY-CZECHOSLOVAKIA-SLOVAKIA-US USED WORLDWIDE-CZECH REPUBLIC-TRAINS-CARS; 38; Personal Trainer

Radcliffe, Susan (222700) **Auburn, NY**

Ramirez, Julio (222740) **Jensen Beach, FL**
LITERARY AUTHORS-BASEBALL; 64; Retired

Reed, Ronald (222683) **Nampa, ID** USED WORLDWIDE; 67; Retired

Rhoades, Bernie (222665) **White House, TN** US COMMEMORATIVES, CLASSICS; 61

Rich, Chris J. (222693) **Auckland, New Zealand** US 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, COMMEMORATIVES, CLASSICS; 59; Electrician

Ridillia, Joseph (222738) **Shavertown, PA** US, COIL LINE PAIRS, 19TH C, FLIGHT COVERS, PROOFS; 50

Roberts, Carol Sue (222668) **Aiken, SC** US 19TH & 20TH C, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, CHRISTMAS SEALS, CLASSICS, AIR MAILED; 76; Retired

Robinson, James (222694) **Mentor, OH** US BUREAU ISSUES

Ryerse, Steven (222663) **Atlanta, GA** US 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, PLATE BLOCKS-SPACE/JET/ROCKET COVERS-ZEPPELIN COVERS/STAMPS; 54; Computers

Saffell, Dianne (222758) **Shreveport, LA**; 71

Samuels, Philip (222685) **Worthington, OH** US; 60; Physician/Medical School Professor

Schavilje, Craig (222686) **Crystal Lake, IL** WORLDWIDE; 70; Retired

Scott, Howard H. (222741) **Englewood, FL**; 74; Retired

Sheckells, Mary F. (222759) **Chattanooga, TN** WORLDWIDE; 70; Retired

Shirley, Teresa (222737) **Altoona, IA** US PLATE BLOCKS, BULLS EYE/SON CANCELS, FEDERAL REVENUES/TAX PAIDS, 19TH C-CHINA; 55

Shrivastav, Soven (222763) **Lewisville, NC**; 32

Smith, Dorothy Jean (222760) **Huntsville, TX**; 72; Retired

Smith, Ronald L. (222771) **Quantico, VA** US COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAIL, POSTAL HISTORY; 73; Military Consultant

Solly, Richard (222732) **Beckenham, Great Britain** POSTAL NOTES/ORDERS/MONEY ORDERS; 78

Soyer, Nickolay (222651) **Fair Lawn, NJ** EUROPE-FAR EAST-WAR COVERS/STAMPS-OCCUPATION ISSUES

Staab, Larry J. (222691) **Long Beach, CA**
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS-MALAYSIA-BRUNEI-SINGAPORE-US-CANADA-MEXICO; 80; Retired

Stephenson, Andrew (222714) **Prospect, NSW, Australia** US WESTERN COVERS, 19TH & 20TH C, CIVIL WAR COVERS-ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENTS-AUSTRALIA

Stevens, Donald A. (222660) **Flushing, MI** US, COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, SOUVENIR PAGES, WASHINGTON FRANKLINS; 63

Stiemens, Frits (222702) **Frigillana, Spain** BRITISH-GERMAN; 41

Stohlman, Robert F. (222723) **Gaithersburg, MD** US; 66; Retired

Stonebraker, Peter M. (222761) **Novato, CA** US COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, BLOCKS, FDC; 68; Retired

Swanson, Paul (222677) **Mission Viejo, CA** US, COILS, DEFINITIVES, POSTAL HISTORY-SWEDEN-US USED WORLDWIDE; 73; Retired

Sypher, Richard (222697) **Oldsmar, FL** US

Tatsis, George P. (222724) **Johnstown, PA**; 55; Minister

Tavares, Joe F. (222751) **Plano, TX** US-PORTUGAL; 62; Insurance Professional

Thomas, Michael O. (222733) **Broomall, PA** US; 69; Technologist

Warriner, John O. (222742) **Ponte Vedra Beach, FL**; 70; Retired

West, Douglas L. (222675) **San Marcos, CA** US, USED, AIR MAILED, COMMEMORATIVES, SOUVENIR SHEETS, PARCEL POST; 64; Retired

White, Michael (222729) **Slinger, WI** WORLDWIDE

Windesheim, Susan D. (222735) **Woodbury, CT**; 81; Retired

Young, Gregory L. (222762) **Centennial, CO**; 66; Retired

Zopf, Claire L. (222692) **Langley, BC** MAMMALS-CANADA-SWITZERLAND-MONACO-GREAT BRITAIN-UN; 70; Retired

NEW CHAPTER

Central Oregon Postal Collective (222540), Redmond, OR **CONTACT:** Robert Hood, 1157 S.W. 32nd Ct., Redmond, OR 97756

DECEASED

Allgaier, William E. (218855), Bluffton, SC

Amisano, Carlo W. (7683-066384), Tampa, FL

Baatz, Lillian L. (209214), Grand Rapids, MI

Barrington, Evan T. (6679-047607), East Orleans, MA

Bates, Warren B. (5408-040911), Thompson, CT

Boettger, Thomas V. (154327), Peoria, IL

Burke, David M. (10206-071989), Cantonville, MD

Butler, Joseph W., Jr. (213040), Macon, GA

Curtis, Daniel B. (092561), Tampa, FL

Dixon, John H. (184563), Southfield, MA

Dobbs, James C. (202151), Falls Church, VA

Duffendack, John Paul (172215), Leawood, KS

Giles, Robert L. (11353-068580), New York, NY

Gowland, Jeffrey (221704), Red Lion, PA

Gunn, Thomas A., Jr. (8857-061587), Plano, TX

Hall, Chris (217962), Kalispell, MT

Hatchett, Lavoy T. (6440-057322), Tulsa, OK

Hoffman, Hugh (1299-046506), White Plains, NY

Jalbert, Ronald L. (136721), Parkersburg, WV

Johnson, Lucius W., Jr. (142781), Palo Alto, CA

Katz, Boris (132919), Plainview, NY

Lavitt, Edwin M. (10349-71319), Rockville, CT

Lidstrom, Kermit (143219), Bismarck, ND

Martin, Larry L. (11367-068237), San Antonio, TX

Martin, Richard J. (087492), Chicago, IL

McClain, Fred L. (140234), Rockhill Furnace, PA

Miller, Terrill S. (136197), Albany, NY

Moravetz, Michael J. (167676), Libertyville, IL

Novitski, R. K. (7451-052742), Duluth, MN

Piper, Robert J. (11111-075603), Boulder City, NV
Rodin, Steven R. (212730), Mishawaka, IN
Rosser, Bernard S. (3788-019865), North Andover, MA
Saffell, Marlin K. (186959), Shreveport, LA
Sbardella, Pasquale (179654), New Bedford, MA
Sidsworth, Robert O. (9457-064336), Whitby, ON, Canada
Simmons, John L. (3478-036058), Downers Grove, IL
Skidmore, Donald (4809-145188), Danbury, CT
Speeter, Robert L. (10108-066895), Minneapolis, MN
Thompson, John S. (196395), St. Louis, MO

Tuchman, Stanley P. (7749-053966), New York, NY
Wasserman, Jack L. (4368-048793), Los Angeles, CA
Windesheim, Peter K. (155491), Woodbury, CT

Teupel, Jeffrey

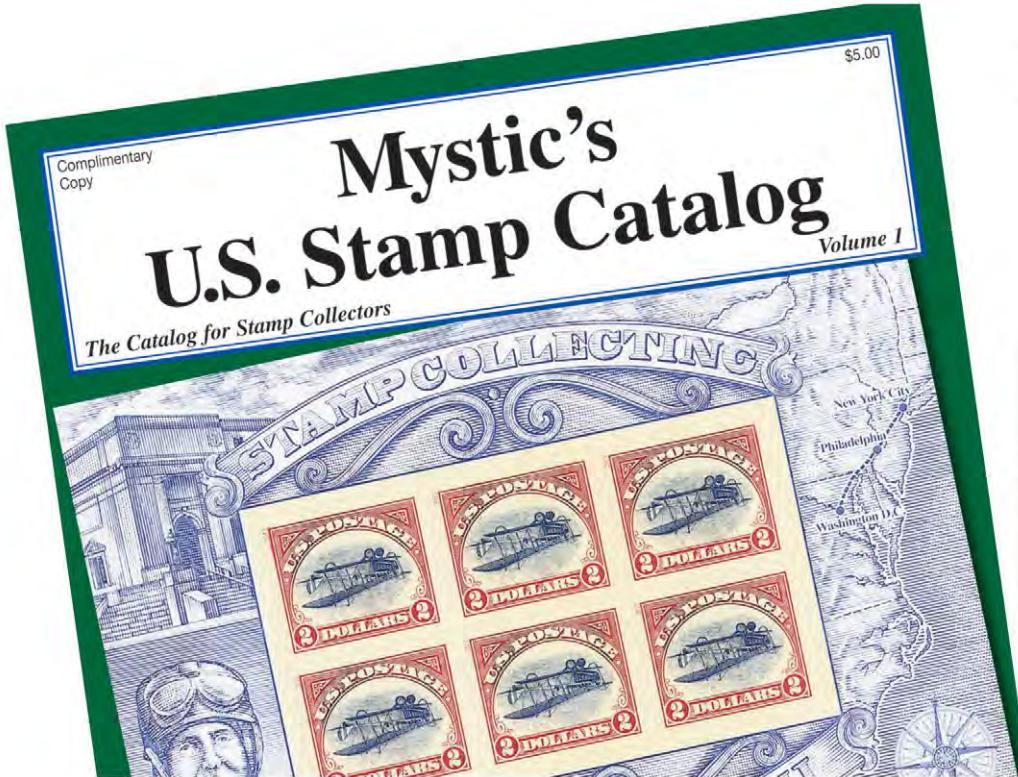
DEALER LISTING

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

Jacksonville Stamp & Coin, (Peter L. Dearing 099148-P), 4807 Water Oak Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32210, 904-388-5351. **FIRST DAY COVERS-US-WORLDWIDE-COLLECTIONS/LOTS/ACCUMULATIONS**

APPLICATIONS RETURNED

Bretschneider, David M.
Gatsis, Bob
Howland, Charles W.
Nyman, Clifford G.
Schommer, Robert W.



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Winter Flowers

On February 14, in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the American Philatelic Society AMERISTAMP EXPO 2014, Statehouse Convention Center, the U.S.P.S. issued *Winter Flowers* First-Class Mail stamps (Forever® priced at 49 cents) in four designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of twenty

stamps. *Winter Flowers* celebrates plants that brighten our dark winter days. Each of these four stamps depicts a close-up view of one plant — (clockwise) amaryllis, cyclamen, Christmas cactus, and paper white — with detailed and colorful renderings of its blossom and foliage. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the

Winter Flowers stamps, which feature art by William Low.

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever

Format: Double-sided Booklet of 20 (4 designs)

Series: N/A

Art Director/Designer/Typographyher:

Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Artist: William Low, Huntington, NY

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset/
Microprint "USPS"

Engraver: N/A

Printer: Banknote Corporation of America,
Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Print Quantity: 500 million stamps

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged, Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 19.55 x 26.67 mm (image);
23.11 x 30.22 mm (overall); 145.80 x
60.45 mm (booklet)

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black, Blue

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by five single digits

Marginal Markings: FRONT: Header:
"WINTER FLOWERS" "Twenty First-Class Forever® Stamps" • Plate numbers in peel strip area • ©2013 • USPS in peel strip area • Barcode (015645689107)

Shirley Chisholm

On January 31, in Brooklyn, New York, at the Brooklyn Borough Hall, the USPS issued the *Shirley Chisholm* commemorative First-Class Mail stamp (Forever® priced at 49 cents) in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps.

The U.S. Postal Service honors Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005), the first black woman ever elected to Congress, with the 37th stamp in its Black Heritage series. An outspoken politician who shattered barriers of race and gender in the 1960s and 1970s, Chisholm ran for president in 1972, becoming the first





African American and only the second woman to seek the nomination of a major political party. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp using a painting of Chisholm by artist Robert Shetterly. The portrait is taken from a series of paintings titled "Americans Who Tell the Truth." [Image unavailable at press time.]

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever Commemorative

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Black Heritage

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

Existing Art: Robert Shetterly

Engraver: WRE

Modeler: CCL Label, Inc.

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: CCL Label, Inc., Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Print Quantity: 33.5 million stamps

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged, Block; Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 21.34 x 36.07 mm (image); 24.89 x 39.62 mm (overall); 148.59 x 184.15 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "C" followed by four single digits

Marginal Markings: FRONT: Header: "BLACK HERITAGE" • "37TH IN A SERIES" • Plate numbers in four corners of pane. BACK: ©2013 USPS • Verso text • USPS logo • Plate position diagram • Barcode (471600) in upper right and lower left corners of pane • Promotional text.

The Star-Spangled Banner

On January 28, in Independence, Missouri, the U.S.P.S. issued *The Star-Spangled Banner* First-Class Mail stamp (Forever® priced at 49 cents) in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of twenty stamps, produced by security printer Ashton Potter, and a coil of 100, produced by security printers Ashton Potter and CCL Label, Inc.

This stamp commemorates the 200th

anniversary of *The Star-Spangled Banner* with a photograph of the flag that flies over Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore. This flag is a replica of the one that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner" after realizing that Fort McHenry had withstood the British attack of September 13–14, 1814. The picture of the flag was taken against a backdrop of fireworks during an annual celebration of Defenders' Day. Photographer Gary Clark said it was a challenge to get the fireworks and the flag in the same shot and that "the wind picked up quite a bit that night." Art director Phil Jordan designed the stamp. [Image unavailable at press time.]

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever

a) Format: Booklet of 20 (1 design)

Series: N/A

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA

Existing Photo: Gary Clark

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint "USPS"

Engraver: N/A

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

Press Type: Mueller Martini, A76

Print Quantity: 1 billion stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image); 22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall); 140.21 x 49.78 mm (booklet)

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four single digits

Marginal Markings: FRONT: Header: "The Star-Spangled Banner" Twenty First-Class Forever® Stamps • ©2013 • USPS in peel strip area • Plate numbers in peel strip area • Barcode (015645689008)

b) Format: Coil of 100 (1 design)

Print Quantity: 1,500 million stamps

Sizes (w x h): 22.12 x 24.89 mm (overall); 24.89 x 2212.24 mm (coil)

Plate Number Frequency: Plate numbers every 31st stamp

Coil Back Number Frequency: N/A

Marginal Markings: N/A

Other: Coil Wrap Barcode (07899003)

Ferns

On January 27, in Kansas City, Missouri, the USPS issued the 49-cent *Ferns* First-Class Mail stamps, in five designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive coil of 3,000 and 10,000 stamps. These five new stamps celebrate the beauty and elegance of ferns. Each stamp depicts a close-up photograph of a different species of fern: Autumn Fern, Goldie's Wood Fern, Soft Shield Fern, Fortune's Holly Fern, and Painted Fern. The shapes and textures of the fronds stand out against a stark white background, highlighting the placement of the leaflets along each fern's stem. Art director Phil Jordan designed the stamps using existing images by photographer Cindy Dyer. [Image unavailable at press time.]

Denomination: 49-cent First-Class Mail

a) Format: Coil of 3,000 (5 designs)

Series: N/A

Designer/Art Director/Typography:

Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA

Existing Photos: Cindy Dyer

Engraver: WRE

Modeler: CCL Label, Inc.

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: CCL Label, Inc., Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Print Quantity: 45 million stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III; Phosphor Tagged Overall

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Green, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

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

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24.89 x 22.09 mm (*overall*)
Plate Numbers: "C" followed by four single digits

Coil Number Frequency: Plate numbers every 30th stamp below stamp image
b) Format: Coil of 10,000 (5 designs)
Print Quantity: 50 million stamps

Love: Cut-Paper Heart

On January 21, in New York, New York, at the Time Warner Center, the USPS issued the *Love: Cut-Paper Heart* First-Class Mail stamp (Forever® priced at 46 cents) in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps. The 2014 Love stamp takes its inspiration from the paper cutting art tradition, particularly the form brought to America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by German immigrants. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp, which features an illustration by Q. Cassetti.

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Love

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Antonio Alcalá, Alexandria, VA

Artist: Q. Cassetti, Trumansburg, NY

Engraver: WRE

Modeler: CCL Label, Inc.

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: CCL Label, Inc., Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Print Quantity: 50 million stamps

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type I

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Red, Pink, Dark Red

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

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

30.23 x 23.11 mm (*overall*); 146.05 x 139.70 mm (*pane*)

Plate Numbers: "C" followed by three single digits

Marginal Markings: FRONT: Plate numbers in four corners of pane.
BACK: ©2013 USPS • USPS logo • Plate position diagram • Barcode (587200) in upper right and lower left corners of pane • Promotional text

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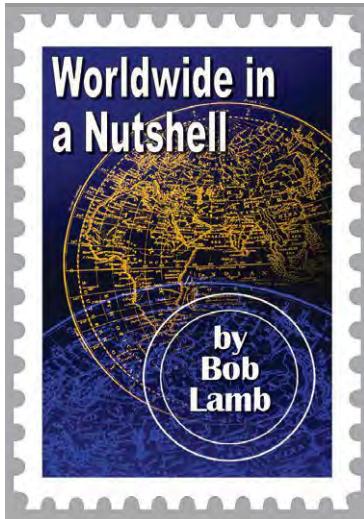
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Republic of Estonia

Status: Parliamentary Democracy in northeastern Europe

Population: 1,266,375 (2013 census)

Area: 17,462 sq miles

Currency: 100 cents = 1 Euro, 1€ = US\$1.37

Estonia has had a fascinating postal history dating from the crusades when there was a flourishing postal relationship with Europe and especially the Hanseatic cities. In 1636 Sweden regularized postal service to Estonia. The Russians opened post offices in all of Estonia's provincial capitals and in 1857 introduced postage stamps. German occupation brought the Ober Ost issue (Lithuania Scott 1N1–1N12). The Estonian government announced its first stamps on November 18, 1918.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in August 1939 awarded Estonia to the Soviets. Russian occupation and a Soviet reign of terror ensued. On August 1, 1940 responsibility for postal services was transferred to Moscow; Estonian stamps were demonetized on January 31, 1941. Hitler's attack on Russia brought German troops to Tallinn in September 1941 after weeks of fighting, and German stamps came back temporarily on December 1, 1941. While under German control, Estonia was administered by the Reichskommissariat Ostland, headquartered in Riga.

Extremely bloody battles marked the Russian reconquest of Estonia in 1944. Russia reestablished control of the postal service and German stamps were superseded by Ostland stamps (Russia Scott N9–N28). In addition, several towns issued local stamps during this period. As a result of Stalin's Russification policies, Russians make up about a quarter of the Estonian population today.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, Estonia regained its independence on August 20, 1991 and on October 1, 1991 Estonian stamps reappeared, although Russian postage remained valid until December 31. Since then, Estonia has established itself as a prosperous Western democracy with membership in the European Community, NATO, the OECD, and the Euro Zone.

(For expanded text
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