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# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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**1122**

## CHRISTMAS EXPERIMENTS

BY RICHARD D. MARTORELLI

**U.S. Postal Service Often Tried  
New Things With Holiday Stamps**

Christmas postage has been a real test tube, from the concept of depicting a religious theme on a stamp to the use of luminescent tagging, precancels, and self-adhesives.



**1138**

## COVERS LINKED TO WWI SEA BATTLE

BY ALBERT-FRIEDRICH GRUENE

**German and British Naval Forces**

**Clashed Twice Off Coast of South America**

Sailors' covers offer a philatelic thread from Asia to the Falkland Islands to Germany. Also, the latest World War I commemorative stamps.



**1132**

## GRAND STAMP

BY CHARLES POSNER

**Post Office Honored Huge Project in 1952**

The Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state was the largest manmade project ever. The dam and its water reclamation project were easy subjects for a new stamp, described in Posner's series on stamps from the 1950s to the 1980s.



**1162**

## A COVER'S STORY

BY VINCENT CENTONZE

**A Modern Collectible**

The letter postmarked in 1919 doesn't look like much, but the author found that the addressee and his family had an interesting story.

# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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# FEATURED COLUMNS



**1116**

## COLLECTING COAST TO COAST

BY WAYNE L. YOUNGBLOOD

### A Modern Collectible

The Snowflake stamped envelope of 1988 was a commercial disaster, but has led to a set of intriguing philatelic covers.



**1154**

## THE BRITISH EMPIRE

BY NOEL DAVENHILL

### Mediterranean Island of Cyprus

The colony marked 50 years as a colony in 1928 with a set of its first engraved pictorials. Surprisingly, the king appears on just one of the 10 stamps.



**1208**

## WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

### Republic of Turkey

Straddling Europe and Asia, the remnant of the Ottoman Empire has developed and adapted its postal system through wars and political changes.

# DEPARTMENTS

**1204**

2015 New Stamps

**1182**

Advertisers Online

**1194**

Annual Indexes

**1101**

APS Election Candidates

**1191**

Classifieds

**1094**

How I Became a Stamp Collector

**1183**

Index of Advertisers

**1096**

Inside Philately

**1164**

Inside the National Postal Museum

**1098**

Letters to the Editor

**1188**

Membership Report

**1176**

Our Story

**1106**

Philatelic Happenings

**1092**

President's Column

**1172**

Sales Talk

**1180**

Show Time

**1114**

World Stamp Show-NY 2016



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# Panama Exhibit Takes Top Award at Show

## Ecuador Celebrates 150 Years of Its Postage Stamps



**I**t gave me great pleasure to have been invited to be president of the jury at ExpoAFE 150 Años which was held September 29 to October 2 in Quito, Ecuador. This was the Federación Interamericana de Filatelia (FIAF) Congress show for 2015, held in commemoration of 150 years of Ecuadorian postage stamps.

Our congratulations go to the organizing committee led by president Georg Maier and executive director Teddy Suárez for gathering about 600 frames of outstanding exhibits. Alfredo Frohlich won the Gran Premio (grand prize) of the show for his outstanding showing of "Panama, the Path Between the Seas." The two Reserve Grand Prizes went to Richard Drews, for "The U.S. Issues of 1861–1868," and Jesús Sitjà Prats, for "Maritime Mail of the Pacific Coast of South America (1819 to UPU)."

Quito is a lovely city about 10,000 feet above sea level, surrounded by several volcanos, one currently active. The show was located on the campus of the Catholic University, a great location.

Our thanks go to Carlos Vergara, the U.S. commissioner, for all of his help during the show, and our other U.S. judge, Jim Mazepa. Jim and his wife, Jean, and my wife, Jackie, and myself, went on an adventure into the Amazon jungle after the show, but that's a story for another time.

Lastly, I must thank Georg and his wife, Giti, for taking good care of the Mazepas and Reinhards while in and around Quito.

### Upcoming Society Elections

In this issue of *The American Philatelist* you will continue to see candidate advertising for the upcoming American Philatelic Society elections. The ballot will be included in the May issue.

The entire APS board is up for election and you will see many new faces as you read the candidate statements. There will be contests for many of the positions. Please read all of the information put before you very carefully and don't forget to vote.

This is a very important year as we choose leaders to take us into an unpredictable future. The hobby is changing and arguably contracting. There are fewer stamp shows, fewer local stamp clubs, fewer philatelic newspapers and magazines, and fewer young collectors.

On the other side, there is the Internet, with eBay and other similar sites attracting untold thousands of collectors. We need leaders who can navigate all of this and move our great hobby forward. So please vote for those who you feel can be most successful in the endeavor.

### APS AmeriStamp/Southeastern Stamp Expo 2016

Our annual winter show is fast approaching. The dates are January 29 to 31 and the location is downtown Atlanta. No more suburbs for our Atlanta show; instead, a convenient downtown location in the center of the city. Those of you who have never been to one of our semiannual shows need to come see what you have been missing. Complete information can be found at [stamps.org/ameristamp-expo-ase](http://stamps.org/ameristamp-expo-ase).

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

The holidays are quickly approaching. I hope Santa brings each of you at least one philatelic gift. The year 2016 is going to be a great year for stamp collectors, with a once-every-10-year international show taking place May 28 to June 4 in New York City. This giant event will have something to offer everyone. Make your plans now. Discounted hotel rooms are filling up fast. For full information, visit [ny2016.org](http://ny2016.org).



The exhibit jury for the ExpoAFE 150 Años show held in Ecuador.

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# HOW I BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR

BY RACHEL D. JOHNSON

**I**t all began in London, England with chicken pox when I was 10 years old. I awoke that morning feeling sick with a headache and spots from head to toe. Our family doctor recommended bed rest and I couldn't go back to school until the spots had disappeared.

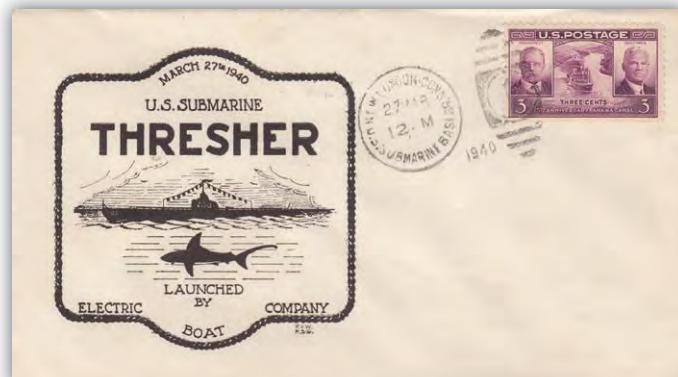
When I started getting restless my aunt came to visit and gave me a beginner stamp album with an envelope of stamps. It was enough to pique my interest and I started sorting little piles to separate the different countries. Alas there were no hinges so I found a glue pot and stuck each stamp down. When my brother came home from school he was horrified. "You aren't supposed to use glue, you've ruined the stamps!" He was 9 years older and was always correcting me.

I learned better. Later, Dad drove to a stamp dealer and bought me a large Viceroy album and an allowance for stamps. Page by page, I was able to accumulate stamps and take an interest in collecting with my brother's guidance and donations from friends and family.

My brother and his friend used to rummage through the city of London's business and bank dust bins for envelopes from all over the world. Collecting helped my geography and history to such an extent I usually won our Friday afternoon quiz, "Town and Country."

I continued to collect stamps through the war in Europe, 1939 to 1945, although it was somewhat limited in scope. I married a paratrooper from the 101st Airborne and arrived in Portland, Oregon, in 1946. I confess I broke the law by hiding the stamp album in my trunk. Currency laws were strict at that time but the stamps didn't have much value. My husband started school and we were living in student-type housing in Vanport, Oregon. The area was inundated by the swollen Columbia River in 1948. We lost everything.

I told a lab assistant at my work that I had lost all my



A World War II cover commemorating the March 27, 1940, launch of the submarine *U.S.S. Thresher*.

stamps in the flood. He sympathized and the next day there was a box on my desk stuffed with stamps and a stamp album. I offered to pay something and was refused. I had a wonderful time sorting and it definitely was an incentive to help others. This time I bought a loose-leaf album.

I have had several windfalls. A friend owned a stall in an antique mall. One day he gave me a large bag of album pages and old sales books he couldn't sell that he acquired with some antiques. During the Vietnam War, I accompanied my neighbor to a coin show. There was a box with about 100 ship and submarine covers that I checked because our son was serving in a nuclear submarine. The stall owner said I could have the whole box for \$10.

My mother used to assure me that it was better to be born lucky than rich. I didn't believe her in my younger days but I think she was onto something. Stamps have a wonderful way of encouraging friendships.

*Rachel lives on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and is a retired medical transcription supervisor.*

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# U.S. Stamp Program Moments in 2015

## New Issue Count Drops Significantly



The close of another philatelic year has arrived. I thought it might be interesting to take a look at a few notable moments related to the U.S. stamp program for 2015.

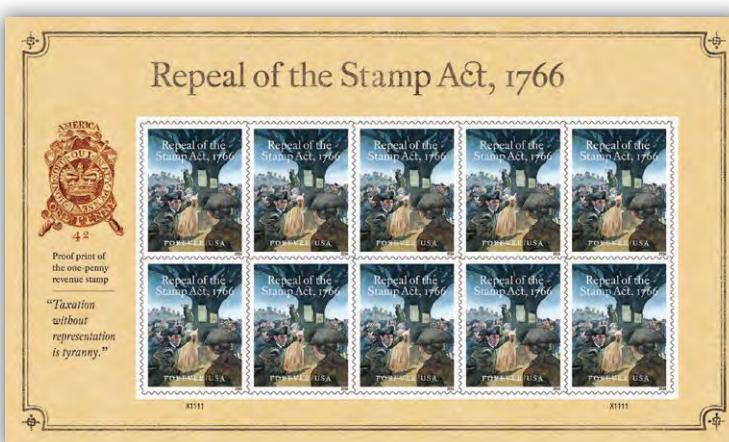
The biggest item that jumped out at me, after compiling the annual index of stamp issues that is published in this magazine, was the count of new stamps and postal stationery — at just 92 stamps. To some that number might seem high, but it's actually around half of what was issued in 2012. This year there were five months (June, July, October, November, and December) without any new commemorative stamps.

Some of this relates to changes in the Stamp Services management team early in the year, coupled with new legal review on stamp designs, and many more factors.



One of two World Stamp Show-NY 2016 stamps issued in 2015.

That said, collectors of U.S. stamps received a slight break on the cost to save stamps for 2015. Next year will likely see an increase in stamp issues because of the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 event in late May through early June. The USPS will likely use that opportunity to showcase its stamp program to the world through new issuances. We've already seen one of them, the Repeal of the Stamp Act 1766 stamp in a pane of 10. They also plan on issuing a World Stamp Show-NY 2016 commemorative souvenir sheet based on the 2015 pre-publicity stamp issue.

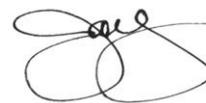


Pane of 10 Repeal of the Stamp Act 1766 commemorative forever stamps to be issued in May 2016 during the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 event.

ments with Christmas stamp issues where the U.S. Postal Service was tinkering with its offerings and different printing technologies.

Richard D. Martorelli explores a multitude of moments in Christmas stamp history and Wayne Youngblood looks at the Snowflake stamped envelope in detailed fashion.

Wishing you the best for the holiday season and here's to a bright 2016 for philately.



Editor,  
*The American Philatelist*

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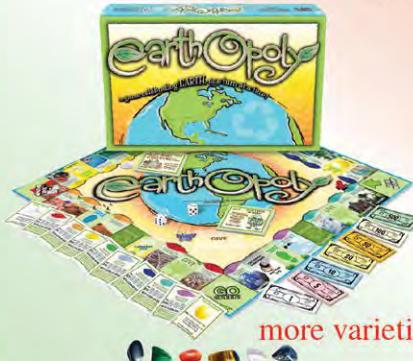
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Where Did the Microprinting Go?

I collect microprinting and unusual features of worldwide stamps, but I have a dilemma about the recent U.S. Summer Harvest stamps. The September *The American Philatelist*, bottom of page 892, says that the stamps were manufactured by offset with microprinting. I have searched diligently with a 30x microscope and found no discernable microprinting on the partial booklet I have retained. Is there an error in your article?

**G.R. Morse**

*San Diego, California*

**Editor's Note:** The microprinting inclusion in the text and the technical details box was our oversight. Your inquiry got us thinking though and we asked the USPS about microprinting because they also didn't use it on the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 commemorative stamps in August or on the Spectrum Eagle coil stamps in September.



One of four Summer Harvest forever stamps issued in July.

"Microprinting has been used pretty consistently on stamp issues featuring single designs," said Mark Saunders, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C. "Microprinting is only occasionally used on stamps with multiple designs."

When looking back at stamps issued in 2015, it appears that Sennett Security Products is the only printer that has used microprinting on all of the stamps it produces and Ashton Potter has been a little more selective.

## A Not-So-Horrible Thing: Collector Reaches Out to Writers' Group

I belong to the Horror Writers Association, and just recently started to promote stamps to them. It is more like a virtual organization because it meets only once a year at a convention, so there aren't monthly meetings where I could talk about stamps. But decided that I could do this through the monthly newsletter.

I published an article in the October 2015 newsletter about horror on stamps, a topic I am beginning to explore. Then I entered discussions with the editor, and I will have a

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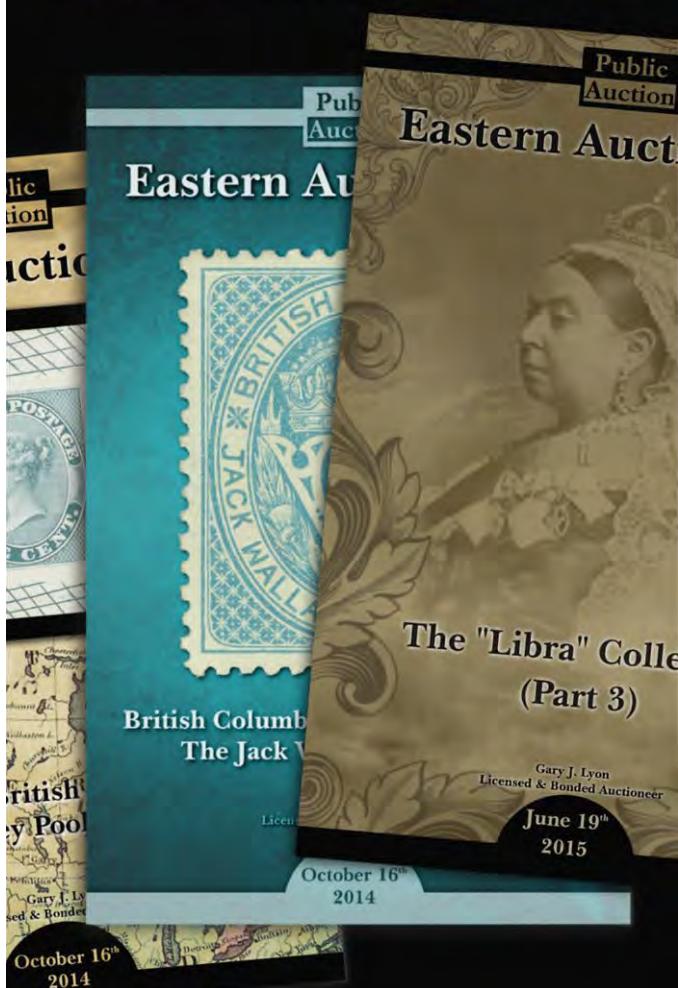
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regular (but not monthly) column about horror on stamps, called "The Haunted Stamp Album." The first installment will appear in the November issue and will be about the Haunted Canada series of stamps.

Maybe I will get some horror writers to start collecting stamps — or to include stamps in their stories.

Ron Breznay

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

## War Ration Stamps Memories

Reading the article on ration stamps in the October *The American Philatelist* brought back memories. One was the brick of substitute butter with a packet of yellow for coloring that had to be mixed.

I and my brother were in elementary grades and constantly growing. I never fully realized until now what my mother went through to keep us in food and shoes.

The following memory is forever etched. Mother was hungry for a cherry pie and would have to save enough stamps to buy the extra sugar that was needed. She saved enough and made the pie. My brother was sent to retrieve it from the kitchen. Bringing the pie airplane style into the dining room, the pie took a nosedive and landed upside down on the floor. Needless to say, we scooped it up and enjoyed it just the same.

Dawn Thomas

Uniontown, Ohio

## Contact *The American Philatelist*

Send us a Letter to the Editor by mail to The American Philatelist, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
or e-mail us at [lettertotheeditor@stamps.org](mailto:lettertotheeditor@stamps.org).

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One of five Haunted Canada stamps issued in September 2015.

## APS Election



As of November 4, 2015, 10 nominees are seeking election to the APS Board of Directors for the 2016–2019 term. Two American Philatelic Research Library board positions are to be filled by the vote of APS members for the 2016–2022 term. One APRL board position is to be filled by a vote of the founders, patrons, fellows, and Vooy Fellows for the 2016–2022 term.

All nominations and seconding endorsements must be sent to Election Monitor, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 to be received by March 31.

Personal photographs, candidate statements, and a ballot listing all qualified candidates will appear in the May issue of *The American Philatelist*.

An asterisk has been placed before the names of those candidates who have secured the seconding nominations required to be placed on the ballot. Ten seconds are required for the APS Board positions and one second is required for candidates for the APRL Board of Trustees position. Nominees for the founder, patron, fellows, and Vooy Fellows position must be made by a Committee appointed by the APRL President or five (5) founders, patrons, fellows, or Vooy Fellows within 60 days prior to any election.

Rules and other election information is available from the APS website at stamps.org or by contacting the society at 814-933-3803.

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Peter McCann, University Park, Florida

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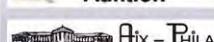
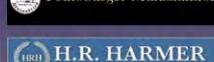
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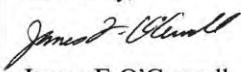
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# PHILATELIC HAPPENINGS

BY KEN MARTIN

Share your photos of your stamp show, club, or affiliate activities with us via e-mail at [aparticle@stamps.org](mailto:aparticle@stamps.org) for posting online and for possible use in print.

In the March 2015 issue of *The American Philatelist*, editor Jay Bigalke introduced a section of photos and news tidbits, which since the April issue has been titled Philatelic Happenings. We have received a lot of positive feedback and I am delighted to have been asked to assist to report on philatelic happenings each month. While I get to a number of shows and meet a lot of wonderful society members, we welcome your help in expanding our reach and welcome your reports and photos of events for possible inclusion.

## Pennsylvania Events

On September 28, I spoke on 21st century U.S. postage stamps to a group of 27 at the annual banquet for the Johnstown (Pennsylvania) Stamp Club. Following the presentation, president Charles Holtzman gave out certificates of appreciation to members John Branco, Doug McCullough, Mike Buben, Mary Ann Bell, and Don Smith. Although they live about 90 miles away,



Mary Ann Bell receives a certificate from the Johnstown Stamp Club.

Mary Ann and Don are regularly seen at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte.

For several years, Mary Ann and her late husband, Joe, journeyed here about once a month to spend a day helping our Education Department and taking materials home with them to work on until their next visit.

I've known Don, the editor of the club's *Philatelic Chatter* newsletter, since the mid-1980s. I knew him when he was president and executive director of the American Topical Association, regularly saw him at ASDA shows in New York and other events, such as Capex. He comes here three or four times a year to use the American Philatelic Research Library and attend events such as the local Scopex show.

Before I drove to Johnstown, we



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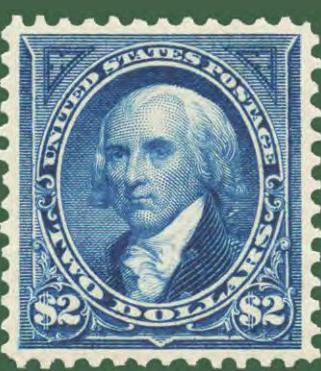
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were delighted to have a visit from a busload of the Eastern Meatpackers Association. Library reference assistant Scott Tiffney and editor Jay Bigalke gave them tours of our building.

## Indypex

Three days later, I left for Indypex, the annual show of the Indiana Stamp Club, in a new location northeast of downtown Indianapolis. I can't recall any other national that has a formal rose garden at the entrance. The APS booth was next to a superb U.S. Postal Service table that offered nearly everything that could be purchased through the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services center in Kansas City, Missouri, including the A Charlie Brown Christmas stamps issued the day before, and many other issues.

Indypex has long been known for its focus on youth. It is the home show for two



Library reference assistant Scott Tiffney gives a tour of the American Philatelic Center to the Eastern Meatpackers Association.

of our past Young Philatelic Leadership Fellowship fellows, Cassi Stahl and Sabrina McGill. Cassi's brother, Spencer, and Sabrina's sister, Kelsey, both won exhibit awards and helped staff the Indiana Stamp Club sales area. And Cassi and Spencer's mom and dad, Michelle and Brad, staffed the youth area. Congratulations to William Averbeck, who won the grand award for his exhibit "Canadian Postal Rates, Regulation, and Usages in the Small Queen Era: 1870–1897;" Tim Bartshe, who won the single frame grand for "Orange Free State 1-Shilling Brown of 1896;" and Spencer Stahl, who won the youth grand for "My Prehistoric Zoo."



Kelsey and Spencer Stahl (left) showing their exhibit awards received at Indypex, and the USPS table at the show (above).

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## Sescal

While I was at Indypex, Scott Tiffney was staffing Sescal in Los Angeles, thanks to the generosity of Fred Gregory, whose generous donation helped cover our costs. The show hosted national conventions for the China Stamp Society and the International Society of Japanese Philately, but the major exhibit winners were in two other areas of Asian philately. Behruz Nassre-Esfahani won the show grand for his exhibit, "Persia, Nasser-eddin Shah Qajar Postal Stationery, Issued: 1876-1893," and K. Joe Youssefi won the single frame grand for "India Postal Agencies in Persia (1865-1923)."

## APC Happenings

Less than 24 hours after arriving back from Indypex, our librarian, Tara Murray, and I were giving tours to the Pennsylvania Library Association, whose annual meeting was held at Penn State. It was nearly 10 p.m. before they departed from their visit to our tenant Big Spring Spirits and a tour of our current and future library space. They also hope to visit again when our new library is complete. The following evening, our youth stamp club was relegated to our library as the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County Board met in our second floor meeting facilities during the day and used Sundman Hall in the evening for an economic development meeting for local government officials, which included several APS members such as AccuWeather senior



Bellefonte mayor Tom Wilson received an award during a meeting held at the APC.

vice president Elliot Abrams.

Later in the week, the APS hosted the bimonthly meeting of philatelic librarians via GoToMeeting.com. More than a dozen philatelic libraries from the United States, Canada, and Britain regularly participate in the calls. These include the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History. Located in Weston, Massachusetts (a Boston suburb), the Spellman has used the David Straight Memorial Philatelic Union Catalog, hosted by the APRL, to create more than 1,000 electronic records for titles in its collection, previously listed only on cards at the Spellman. The Spellman also hosted a Halloween Family Day for National Stamp Collecting Month.



Jockey Hollow Stamp Club visitors.

We welcome members to Bellefonte nearly every day but had a particularly impressive group of visitors for several days beginning October 14. First to arrive was a small group from the Jockey Hollow Stamp Club in New Jersey. They usually make at least a



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couple visits annually so had no problem finding circuit sales, the library, our stamp and cover donation sales area, and the Headsville post office for new U.S issues.



Charles Posner.

Also arriving the same day for an eight-day visit was writer Charles Posner from England. Charles was present to do research for his ongoing series of articles on U.S. stamps from the 1950s through the early 1980s. The following day, Charles was joined

by Ross Towle from San Francisco who used the American Banknote archives in our library. Past board member Ada Prill from Rochester, New York, arrived the same day and also spent eight days here. With all our visitors, I missed the Mount Nittany Philatelic Society meeting held in our building that night to catch up on work.

On October 16, I deserted our visitors, rented a cargo van, and drove to the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum to pick up its "Alphabetilately" exhibit, which we hope to display in a part of the space that will be vacated when the new library is complete.



Soon thereafter, I was pleased to welcome Lamar and Jean Stout, who arrived in State College after driving from Jackson, Mississippi. Jean had previously visited as part of the ATA busload that came following the

2012 National Topical Stamp Show that was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but this was Lamar's first visit to our Bellefonte location. They used the library, circuit sales, reference collection and visited with staff for the next four days before driving home via Subway Stamp Shop in nearby Altoona.

Joining Charles and Ada and the Stouts was Dennis Sadowski, who works in Washington, D.C., but still lives in Cleveland, where he served as local publicity chair for StampShow 1999. Dennis writes a twice monthly stamp collecting column for a local newspaper in Ohio and, in addition to getting a tour, interviewed APS executive director Scott English, librarian Tara Murray, and education director Cathy Brachbill for future columns. Long-distance visitors that stopped by were Ronald M. Lee, of Australia, and his wife.

We also had two other repeat visitors who are both in the



Ronald M. Lee of Australia speaks with Fred Baumann of the library.

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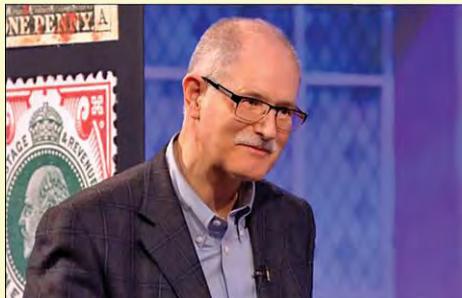
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process of relocating to Centre County to be closer to the American Philatelic Center. Keith Stupell from New York City has purchased a home in State College, which he is currently renovating while he prepares his Manhattan residence for sale. Gerry and Karen Robbins were here to sign the contract for a new home they are having built to allow them to relocate from the Washington, D.C., area.

### Stamp Club Auction for Charity

While we were keeping busy in Bellefonte other good activities were going on elsewhere. On October 20, the Tuscora Stamp Club in New Philadelphia, Ohio, staged its annual auction for the benefit of the Tuscarawas Community Hospice. More than 140 lots were donated by members and friends of the club netting \$1,200 for Hospice. Great job and great work getting some nice publicity for the hobby.



Members of the Tuscora Stamp Club present a check to a local hospice organization after a successful benefit auction by the stamp club.  
Photo courtesy of Jim Davis.

### New York City

Later in the week, executive director Scott English and editor Jay Bigalke left for the American Stamp Dealers Association fall National Postage Stamp Show in New York City. On the first day of that event, one of our Young Philatelic Leadership Fellowship fellows, Evan Schlosser, participated in the first-day-of-issue ceremony for the new Geometric Snowflake stamps.

It was an exciting National Stamp Collecting Month for us at the APS.



Evan Schlosser (left) receives a framed piece of the Geometric Snowflakes stamps for his participation in the first-day-of-issue event.

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# WORLD STAMP SHOW-NY 2016

BY TOM FORTUNATO marketing and public relations chairman

## New Exhibit Frames

### WSS-NY 2016 to Use New, Lighter Exhibit Frames

Attendees to StampShow in Grand Rapids in August were among the first collectors to see the prototype of the exhibit frames to debut at World Stamp Show-NY 2016. Approximately 2,000 double-sided frames are being produced for the exhibition and will be available for sale afterwards.

Vince King, a gold-medal winning exhibitor, president of the Texas Postal History Society, and member of the National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists, accepted the challenge by WSS-NY 2016 president Wade Saadi to design and manufacture them. King is an engineer by profession and the owner of Entech Design Inc., with operations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The typical exhibit frames found at U.S. shows were designed around 1985 for use first at Chicago's Ameripex international show in 1986. They are called "A-frames" based on their shape looking at them from the side, composed of a double-sided 4-foot high by 3-foot wide top-hinged panel on legs. These differ from international style frames used elsewhere that have basically the same sized panel back-to-back on legs that angle 90 degrees to one another in a zig-zag pattern.

Starting from scratch, King and his design team investigated several different designs, but eventually found that the A-frame was still the best solution. Design then focused on materials making up the frames themselves.

The major disadvantage of frames used now is their overall weight. Each double-sided unit weighs around 45 pounds. Reducing this was a top priority, while maintaining their structural sturdiness and ensuring the security of their valuable contents.

Current A-frames are constructed of an aluminum frame with an inside backer of Masonite faced with cardboard and white poster board with clear plastic strips to hold the pages. The frame's viewing window consists of clear  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch acrylic. The legs also are aluminum. Other concerns mentioned by users include their difficulty of assembly and lack of portability.

An alternative base material needed to be found — and was — by using polystyrene, a polymer plastic. A dye could be added to make it any desired color, in this case a silver gray to mimic aluminum. When heated to more than 212 degrees F (100 degrees C), the clear, glass-like material liquefies and can easily be fabricated into almost any shape. It turns rigid when cooled and is very strong but lightweight. Parts can easily be bonded permanently using an acrylic super glue. A flexible plastic hinge allows the two sides to join at the top.

As for the inner part, a white polystyrene panel replaces the heavy Masonite. Clear acrylic is again used as the face sheets, but at half the thickness as before. Specially designed security screws on the face of each panel allow for easy access to the inside panel to load and unload exhibit pages. Anodized aluminum poles would again be used as legs.

The resulting A-frame unit weighs around 24 pounds, about half of their current counterparts. That's a savings of an estimated 40,000 pounds (20 tons) for the entire 2,000 currently under production. They are being stored, palletized, and shipped at two frame units per box with the legs boxed separately.

Interested in one or maybe a couple hundred? WSS-NY 2016 executive assistant Christine Jimenez welcomes inquiries of any quantity by e-mail at christine.jimenez@ny2016.org or by phone toll-free 844-WSS-2016 (844-977-2016) extension 3.

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One of the prototype exhibit frames to debut at World Stamp Show-NY 2016 that was on display in August at the APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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# Sometimes Poor Ideas Create Good Philately

## Saga of the 25-cent Snowflake Stamped Envelope

The United States 25-cent Snowflake stamped envelope of 1988 (Scott U613) was a poor idea to begin with. Period. And for several reasons. In a failed attempt to promote the United States Stamped Envelope Agency and its return-address printing capabilities, as well as its desire to begin working with greeting card producers (an idea that has resurfaced several times over the years), the U.S. Postal Service dreamed up the idea of releasing its first non-standard-sized stamped envelope in more than a quarter of a



Figure 3. A commercial use of the Snowflake envelope from the early 1988 holiday season.



Figure 1. A pictorial first-day cancel in Snowflake, Arizona, was used for the 25-cent Snowflake stamped envelope.

century for the holiday season of 1988. Previous non-standard envelopes were generally either smaller or longer than a No. 6½ or No. 10 envelope. Although there was no first-day ceremony when the envelope was issued September

8, 1988, there was a pictorial first-day cancel in Snowflake, Arizona [Figure 1]. Another cover [Figure 2] shows an apparent 1986 cancel (almost two years before the envelope was issued), but it was caused by an inverted numeral in the cancellation device.

As a bit of subtext, the USPS has long been trying to find ways to work with Hallmark and other greeting card producers, feeling there were various revenue-generating synergies to be had in conjunction with stamps, stamped envelopes, and other products. In this case, the Snowflake envelope (7½ by 5 inches), did not conform to any industry standard for letter envelopes, because its length was between that of a No. 6½ and No. 10 envelope, and it was a full inch taller than both. The original press release stated the Snowflake envelope should be compatible with many sizes of holiday cards. This is all well and fine, but the vast majority of greeting cards are sold with exact-size envelopes, and U.S. stamped envelopes at the time were being sold at a 5-cent



Figure 2. The cancellation on this cover appears to be December 23, 1986, almost two years before the envelope was issued. The date has an incorrect inverted numeral.



**Figure 4. Printed return addresses produced by the U.S. Stamped Envelope Agency are uncommon. Red return-addressed envelopes (above) are much scarcer.**

premium over face value. There was little incentive to purchase and use a non-standard-sized envelope for greeting cards when they came free with most purchases and little reason to purchase them for other uses (particularly if they did not fit perfectly), unless one was a collector. Thus, the obvious shortage of proper uses almost 30 years later.

Still, the Postal Service promoted the fact that the U.S. Stamped Envelope Agency (for about an additional half-cent each) would print your personalized return address in black on the envelopes for quantities as small as 50, a service that was a bargain (and the service became even cheaper with larger quantities). Thus, for a cost of about 30.4 cents each, one could have personalized holiday stamped envelopes with postage already affixed (printed) to use for holiday mailings. What the USPS didn't count on was the fact this information generated little news beyond

the philatelic press. Therefore, relatively few people took advantage of the address-printing service.

The bottom line is that relatively few Snowflake envelopes, such as the example shown [Figure 3], were purchased and used during the holiday season of 1988. According to information provided by postal stationery specialist Bill Geijsbeek, the Snowflake envelopes were pulled from sale by the USPS shortly after the beginning of 1989 (right after the holiday season). They were once again placed on sale for the holiday season of 1989, but with a small twist: This time, the return addresses were printed in red, rather than black ink. This brings up another

interesting aspect of the production of these envelopes. The letterpress-applied return addresses on stamped envelopes at the time were provided by computer-driven linotype machines. When one ordered envelopes over the phone, the order-taker typed the information into a computer, after which the information was sent to an integrated 1930s-era linotype machine. The linotype found and arranged the type and created a lead plate. This plate was then applied to a small press, which applied the addresses to the envelope and was immediately melted down to create new type. And so on. An example of two types of preprinted addresses are shown [Figure 4]. All are scarce, but the red addresses

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Holiday Greetings!

Holiday Greetings!

**Figure 5.** Wear of the rubber or polymer flexographic plates created what appear to be thin- and thick-letter types. All are normal varieties.

are far more so.

The printing of the envelopes themselves was done by two-color flexography (a form of letterpress, or raised, printing) on the U.S. Stamped Envelope Agency's VH machine (named for inventor Vincent Heywood), which begins with blank rolls of paper on one end and delivers finished stamped envelopes at the other. At various times the Stamped Envelope Agency used both

rubber and polymer plates, the impressions from rubber being superior, but the plates wore out more quickly. Determining which type was used on an individual envelope is far more difficult. Either way, as the plates wear, the appearance of the printed image becomes more swollen and distorted, as shown in the comparison images nearby [Figure 5]. Despite the stark difference of appearance of these envelopes (from opposite

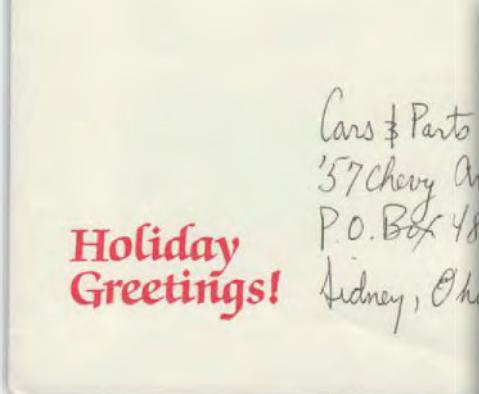
ends of the plate-wear spectrum), both are considered to be within the normal realm of production and are not listed in the Scott catalog as varieties. Occasionally, one of the plates was replaced before the other, creating "hybrids" that is: envelopes with worn denomination but fresh snowflake or the reverse. These, too, are considered "normal," but they are highly collectible varieties.

Another interesting aspect of the Snowflake envelope is the design and typography (lettering). The stylized snowflake design was created by Randall McDougall, who also designed the 1974 ZIP Code and 1984 Crime Prevention stamps. But the typography was custom-created by well-known typographer Bradbury Thompson, who has numerous type styles (both philatelic and non-philatelic) to his credit. As part of a USPS design, all elements of a stamped envelope are, in theory, covered by USPS copyright.

Imagine my surprise when, in 1992, I found the envelope postmarked January 28 [Figure 6] in a large batch of incoming company mail. The "Holiday Greetings!" inscription at lower left is a dead ringer for that found on the 25-cent Snowflake stamped envelope.



**Figure 6.** This cover exhibits what may be a copyright violation of a private envelope producer using the "Holiday Greetings!" typography (lower-left) created specifically for the Snowflake envelope.



**Figure 7.** A 1991 use of the Snowflake stamped envelope that may be the last of what could be contemporaneous, because a 4-cent Make-up Rate stamp was added to meet the new 29-cent first-class rate.

The difference is that there is no image and no denomination on this cover; a 29-cent Flag Over Mount Rushmore stamp was applied. This is not a color-omitted error, it is a privately produced envelope. The envelope also has a self-adhesive flap, but is otherwise identical in terms of size and the flexographic-printed inscription. I have been unable to determine when the envelope was printed, but I would be willing to bet the "who" was Westvaco (which operated the Stamped Envelope Agency and also produced commercial envelopes). This particular depiction of a typographic representation should have been fully protected under the Postal Service's copyright. Thompson's work was created specifically for the Snowflake stamped envelope.

For those interested in collecting the 25-cent Snowflake stamped envelope, thankfully there are no major errors known. However, finding a properly used example — within a contemporaneous time frame of roughly 1988 to 1991 (while they were available and

being used) — will set you back \$35 to \$50, if you can find one. They are very elusive despite the Scott catalog valuation of \$50. Even a used cut square is listed at \$20, but would have to display some visual, verifiable evidence of dating. Mint and first-day-canceled examples are common and inexpensive. In addition to the previously shown examples here are a few more.

The cover shown

in Figure 7 is likely the last of what could be considered a contemporaneous use of the Snowflake envelope. Postmarked October 7, 1991 (that year's holiday season), the cover bears a 4-cent Make-up Rate stamp (Scott 2521) to cover the rate hike to 29 cents effective February 3, 1991.



**Figure 8. A reduction in size of the Snowflake envelope made it susceptible to the non-machinable surcharge of 10 cents.**

Special uses of the Snowflake envelope are particularly scarce and I have found only a few. One of the more unusual of these is shown [Figure 8], in which the sender reduced the envelope at left to fit an odd-sized item. By doing so, the sender created a square envelope that is non-machinable. When

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Figure 9. The only certified mail use of the Snowflake stamped envelope so far located by the author.



Figure 10. Although this is a late and philatelic use of the Snowflake envelope, it is the first registered mail use found by the author.

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the cover was mailed May 2, 1989, the non-machinable surcharge was 10 cents, paid in this case with a 10-cent Red Cloud stamp of the Great Americans definitive series.

The cover mailed October 31, 1990 [Figure 9], is the only certified use I have seen of the Snowflake envelope. The \$1.30 franking reflects a two-ounce piece with the 85-cent certified rate at the time.

Finally, although the cover is technically out of period, the last item [Figure 10] represents the only registered use I have seen of the Snowflake envelope. Mailed July 22, 1994, the philatelic item bears a total of \$5.60; likely \$5.30 for material insured up to \$4,000, with 29-cent first-class postage. This cover was overpaid by one cent.

Similar to any form of elusive postal history, there are very specific reasons for the scarcity of properly used 25-cent Snowflake stamped envelopes. It is an impractical item that received little use during its period of relevance, even by collectors, and is now (after almost 30 years) becoming the object of philatelic treasure hunts.

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Christmas Stamps and Postal History

BY RICHARD D. MARTORELLI

**T**here is always a piece of a little child inside of me (and many others, I suspect), that wakes up every morning, and wonders, "Is it Christmas yet?" For us as stamp collectors the delivery of the daily mail can also seem like Christmas. But how many collectors know some of the fascinating pieces of history, and a type of postal history, associated with Christmas stamps, particularly those from the United States?

To start, though, let's take a trip not too far away to Canada, the origin of what many consider the world's first Christ-

mas stamp, although, as you will see, a salute to the holiday more by accident than design.

At a conference on postage rates held in July 1898 in London, England, Canadian Postmaster General Sir William Mulock proposed an Imperial one-penny letter rate, and a resolution

was approved to allow Empire countries to opt into this rate scheme. The proposal was adopted by Great Britain, Canada, and a couple dozen others, including Newfoundland, Cape Colony, and Natal. A handful, such as Australia and New Zealand, initially rejected the system.

Canada moved for the rate to be effective on Christmas Day, December 25, 1898, and the Canada post office planned a 2-cent commemorative stamp for that date, effectively lowering the rate to participating United Kingdom countries by 3 cents.

The stamp includes the phrase, "XMAS 1898" [Figure 1]. Whole articles can be written on this stamp, so we'll hold back any further discussion here.

Over the next 60 years, various countries occasionally issued stamps that showed a Christmas symbol or scene, but were not exclusively or specifically issued for Christmas. In 1904, Denmark sold the first Christmas seals, which were not valid for postage. The Netherlands issued a set of four semipostals depicting

flowers of the four seasons, including one showing a child and a Christmas rose. Some say two stamps issued in 1937 by Austria are Christmas stamps, but the stamps include no direct reference to the holiday. Three stamps from Hungary in 1943 (Scott 617–619) featuring the Nativity are the first to actually depict a Christmas theme.

In December 1951, Cuba printed two postal tax stamps that depicted a poinsettia and the word "Navidades" Spanish for "Christmas season." In 1957 the first regularly issued annual Christmas stamps were issued by Liechtenstein, Korea, and Australia. Other countries followed suit.

## 1962 — Politics and Religion

In November 1962, the United States issued its first Christmas stamp, with the intention that the stamp would be an annual issue.

Anticipating a huge demand, the U.S. Post Office Department had 350 million printed, the largest number produced for a special stamp until that time. The red-and-green 4-cent stamp features a wreath, two candles, and the words "Christmas 1962" [Figure 2]. The initial supply sold out quickly and by the end of 1962, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed a total of 862 million stamps.

The decision to print a Christmas stamp generated some controversy from groups concerned about maintaining the



Figure 1. The 1898 Canada 2-cent Imperial "Xmas" stamp.



Figure 2. The first U.S. Christmas stamp (Scott 1205) used on a postcard for a chess match by mail.

separation of church and state. There was debate also about a federal office printing religious stamps — particularly since they only created stamps for Christmas and not for any other religion's holidays.

Some people may have held the opinion that Catholics were required to do anything the pope or Catholic hierarchy told them to do and saw a Christmas stamp as one concrete example of religious interference from the administration of President John F. Kennedy, a Catholic. This was notwithstanding the fact that 92 percent of Americans in 1960 identified themselves as participating in a religion that celebrated Christmas. Others may have been trying to apply the June 1962 Supreme Court decision of *Engel v. Vitale*, in which the Court made coercive public recitation of a prayer in public schools unlawful. Nonetheless, legal actions taken to bar the stamps were not successful.

On a side note, 1962 was also the only year that President Kennedy lit the National Christmas Tree. He did not light the tree in December 1961, because his father, Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., had suffered a major stroke, so Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson lit the tree.

### 1963 — Mr. ZIP and Tagging

The last commemorative/special stamp issued under Kennedy was the Christmas stamp depicting the National Christmas Tree (November 1 for regular and November 2 for the luminescent tagged version). This was the first purposely issued stamp with both the non-tagged version and the tagged version.

The first day of issue for the regular stamp took place in Santa Claus, Indiana [Figure 3].

The following details on the issuance of the tagged 1963 Christmas stamps (Scott 1240a) came from the March–April 1981 edition of *First Days*, the journal of the American First Day Cover Society, and the 1986 edition of Alfred Boerger's *First Day of Issue* catalog.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing had but five working days to create 5 million of the tagged stamps, with 4 million ordered for Dayton, Ohio, and the rest designated for Washington, D.C. Dayton was chosen as the primary first day because that was where experimental equipment — new facer readers — was installed.

There was trouble in Dayton. The first day had been well publicized, but the stamps were not there yet. Also, it was a Saturday, so post office hours were only until noon. The post-



Figure 3. First-day cover from Santa Claus, Indiana, for the 1963 Christmas stamp (Scott 1240). The regular stamp was issued November 1, 1963.



Figure 4. A phosphor-tagged type 1963 Christmas stamp (Scott 1240a) cover postmarked November 4 in Dayton, Ohio. The stamps arrived at the post office after the issue date.

master apologized and explained to disappointed collectors and cover dealers that the stamps would not be issued until Monday, November 4. He offered to accept orders, payments and instructions for unserviced covers, and promised to have them franked, postmarked, and mailed back under separate registered mail, apparently at the U.S. Post Office Department's expense.

Some of those gathered agreed to this; others returned Monday, when all covers were cordially serviced at the main Dayton post office, as well as smaller post offices in Dayton [Figure 4]. Because this was a limited release and handled locally, the familiar "First Day of Issue" postmark was not used. The standard November 4 postmark, however, was made available for the next 30 days.

Meanwhile, in the nation's capital, the stamps had indeed arrived on time at the Sales Agency in the main Washington, D.C., post office. There, on November 2, the public could buy the stamps and have them serviced. But because all attention had been focused on Dayton, there was no ceremony and few customers. Boerger had a servicer on hand. At one point, au-



Figure 5. A phosphor-tagged type 1963 Christmas stamp (Scott 1240a). This cover was postmarked November 2 in Washington, D.C. Note no text within the bars of the cancel.

thorities thought as many as 4,000 covers were serviced that day. Later, the estimate was reduced to "about 500." Again, the cancellation was a simple local postmark [Figure 5].

### How Did Tagging Come About?

One major postal mechanization was the development of an automatic facer-canceler machine. This would face the letters before canceling, meaning that letters could be put into the machine in any direction and all the mail coming out of the machine would be facing the same direction. This eliminated the need to have letters stacked and ordered by hand before being canceled. Letters could enter the machine and be canceled at rates of up to 500 a minute. This machine increased efficiency by allowing cancellation of approximately 75 letters per minute, compared to 25 letters per minute with manual facing.

The initial facer-cancelers used light sensors to detect where the stamp was in order to orient the stamp to be canceled correctly. Optical sensors located the position of stamps by detecting any kind of color contrast that would be present between the color of the envelope and the color of stamps. This process had a drawback in that approximately 16 percent of the time, the sensor could not find a sufficient color contrast and would reject the envelope.

The next development in the facer-canceler machine was to change the sensing device from being able to distinguish color contrasts to being able to detect stamps that were coated, or tagged, with luminescent substances.

The first stamp issued where all were tagged with a phosphorescent code was the 5-cent City Mail Delivery stamp of October 1963. Experiments had initially been conducted in Dayton with the 8-cent Jet Over Capitol tagged airmail stamp. The tagged stamp, when lit by the ultraviolet light from the facer-canceler machine, would glow green, which the machine sensed.

This version of the machine did not process the letter mail much faster than its predecessor, but the rejection rate was between 1 percent and 2 percent, resulting in a 30 percent

increase in letters canceled.

The only facer-canceler machines capable of reading the tagging were installed in Dayton, and underwent a two-year testing program. At the beginning of 1966, Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien said that the Dayton tests were successful, and that about 30 million tagged regular and airmail stamps passed through the specially equipped machines between the initial tagged 1963 carmine Jet Over Capitol and 1966. He ordered the production of all U.S. postage stamps and postal cards with a special luminescent ink and announced plans for installing phosphor-sensing devices on all high-speed facing and canceling machines throughout the nation, by May 1967.

Between 1963 and 1965, approximately 15 definitive stamps were issued in tagged varieties, and the 1964 and 1965 Christmas stamps also had tagged versions. The reason for the dual issues was economics.

Only a small percentage of any issued stamp would be processed through Dayton in the two-year test period. Second, as reported by the postmaster general, tagging cost approximately 8 cents per 1,000 stamps. With an average printing of 1.28 billion stamps, the cost of putting the luminescent tagging on all of the Christmas stamps would have been \$100,000 per issue. With the average salary in 1966 of \$7,000, that would have been a colossal waste of money. For the 1963 stamp, it is recorded that approximately 11 million, or 1 percent of the total, were tagged.

The tree-lighting ceremony that year was scheduled for December 18. After President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, Lyndon Johnson declared an official 30-day period of national mourning, which delayed lighting of the National Christmas Tree until December 22. The official 30-day period of national mourning also delayed issuance of two scheduled commemorative stamps: the John James Audubon stamp was delayed from November 29 to December 7, 1963, and the Sam Houston stamp was delayed from December 13, 1963, to January 10, 1964.

The stamp debut of the Mr. ZIP cartoon printed on the selvage occurred with the issuance of the Sam Houston stamp in January 1964. The only earlier direct-stamp related usage of the image was on a \$1 stamp booklet issued in October 1963 with Mr. ZIP on the cover. The U.S. Post Office Department introduced ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) code to America on July 1, 1963, as a way to speed mail delivery. By 1979, ZIP code was used on 97 percent of the mail. Mr. ZIP's image last appeared in the margins of the two 1985 Christmas stamps.

With the implementation of the ZIP code system, the Post Office Department began looking for other ways to become more efficient in the processing of the mail, and decided to invest in mechanization. Processing within the post offices

received the most mechanization effort. It consists of culling (separating of letters from other mail), facing (turning addresses right side up), canceling (the stamp), sorting (dividing mail into destination piles), sacking, and dispatching. This was a lot of manual labor. During the late 1950s through the early 1960s, research was intensified in automation and mechanization of highly repetitive and routine mail-handling tasks.

Phase 2 of the tagging program began in March 1966 and had its hub in the Cincinnati postal region, which included the surrounding areas of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The Post Office Department reasoned that since approximately 12 percent of mail volume passed through this area, 12 percent of new stamps should have the phosphor tagging. Starting in August 1966, the remaining nine commemorative stamp issues for the year (including the Christmas stamp) were issued in both tagged and untagged versions. Total tagged stamps delivered by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in this period was approximately 153 million, with an average per-issue production of 17 million stamps, at an additional cost of \$1,360 per issue. As of the first issue of 1967, the National Grange stamp, all stamps were issued tagged at an average increased cost of \$10,000 per issue.

## 1964 — First Se-tenant

The 1964 U.S. Christmas stamp continued the series with a design of symbols associated with the secular festival. Consistent with the wreath in 1962 and the Christmas tree in 1963, the design was four plants associated with the holiday season: holly, poinsettia, mistletoe, and an evergreen bough.

This stamp made history in a different way. It is the first U.S. se-tenant commemorative stamp [Figure 6].

Yes, souvenir sheets were issued in 1936, 1947, and 1956



Figure 6. A first-day cover for the 1964 Christmas stamps (Scott 1257b) postmarked in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the first U.S. se-tenant stamp issue.



Figure 7. A first-day cover for the first U.S. religious-themed Christmas stamp (Scott 1275a) issued in 1965. The cover shows the untagged and tagged versions.

with multiple stamps pictured in honor of the decennial stamp exhibition, but these sheets all contained reprints of stamps that had been previously issued, and were imperforate between the stamps. They more fit the definition of a miniature sheet, which is a small sheet containing a stamp or stamps valid for postal use at time of issue sold at post offices as an individual entity. Se-tenant stamps are slightly different, being generally defined as attached stamps or stamps printed together on the same sheet that are different from one another in design, color, denomination, or overprint. Se-tenants could appear in a miniature sheet, and a miniature sheet may contain se-tenant stamps. Being more specific about the description, the 1964 Christmas issue was the first U.S. "free-standing" se-tenant issue.

## 1965 — Religion Appears

The 1965 Christmas stamp finally addressed the elephant in the room. How could you issue a stamp to commemorate Christmas without addressing the central theme of religion?

This year's design featured a folk art image based on a watercolor painting of an 1840 church weather vane in the shape of the angel Gabriel blowing a trumpet [Figure 7]. The stamp was designed to appease detractors because Gabriel is mentioned in the holy texts of several religions.

There was controversy over the issuance of a stamp commemorating a religious holiday among stamp collectors and the general public alike. Some took the position opposing the lack of explicitly religious content in the Christmas stamp and viewing it as too commercial.

This year was the debut year on television for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, in which Lucy tells Charlie Brown, "Look, Charlie, let's face it. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket. It's

run by a big eastern syndicate, you know."

Others rejected the idea of a government agency associating itself with a particular religion. Referring again to *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (the subject of some 2015 U.S. Christmas stamps) Charlie Brown asks if anybody knows what Christmas is really all about, and Linus recites the story of the Nativity from the Gospel of Luke.

The concern over state and religion carried forward to the next year, when the Post Office Department sought an opinion from legal counsel as to whether a stamp based on a painting of the Madonna and Child would violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. The obvious answer, because the stamps were issued, was no, and likely contained advice to refer to the stamp design as being based on a work of art, not a religious item.

## 1969 — Return to Secular, Precancels

After three years of secular-themed Christmas stamps and four years of religious-themed ones, the Post Office Department went back to a secular theme. The 1969 stamp, "Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine" [Figure 8], was chosen for an experiment in improving the speed of mail handling. What if mail could be processed without canceling the stamp, while at the same time protecting the revenue? This idea had been in regular use since the early 1900s for bulk mailings of advertising circulars and catalogs. Mailers save the postal system time and effort by prearranging to use precancel stamps showing the city and state of origin. The stamped mail is

delivered to the post office either ready for sorting or already sorted by destination. The use of precancel stamps had been authorized on first-class matter un-



Figure 8. The 1969 6-cent Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine stamp (Scott 1384).

der special conditions since 1924.

In the 1969 test, 30 million stamps were overprinted with the names of one of four cities (New Haven, Connecticut; Baltimore, Maryland; Memphis, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Georgia) between bars in green or black [Figures 9]. There was no limitation on sales to the public in those cities or use of the stamps for any class of mail, either in 1969 or later. The test was to avoid having envelopes with these stamps go through the canceling process, and so move more quickly.

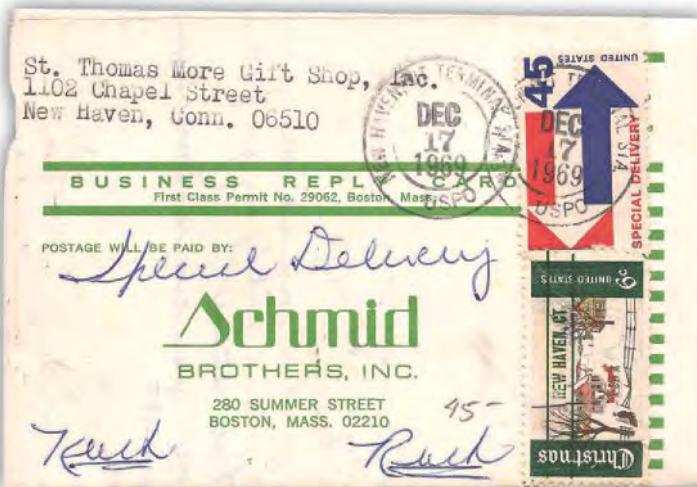
Specific instructions were provided to post offices that they did not have to cancel or deface these experimental pre-canceled stamps before delivery of envelopes to the recipients. From information in the *Postal Bulletin*, approximately 90 percent of the stamps sold at these four cities were the precanceled version. The test program must have at least met expectations as a larger test was implemented in the 1970 Christmas season.

## 1970 — More Precancels, Two Printings

After an equal number of secular-themed and religious-themed Christmas stamps, the Post Office Department made a decision. Starting in 1970, both religious and secular stamps would be issued annually for use on Christmas season mail.

This practice occurred each year through 2014, except for three. The first instance was in 2000, when no Christmas stamps were issued at all, citing existing supplies on hand. The second was in 2005, when only secular-themed stamps were issued. The third is this year, 2015, again with no new religion-themed stamps being issued. The U.S. Postal Service stated there are plenty of religious-themed stamps in stock from previous years to meet demands.

Based on the preliminary positive acceptance of the pre-canceled stamps in 1969, the Post Office Department issued both plain and precanceled versions of both the secular (four antique toys) [Figure 10] and religious (Nativity) stamps [Figure 11]. The number of test cities was expanded, although it is hard to say the exact number. While the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* reports 68 cit-



Figures 9. Two examples of the 1969 precanceled stamps (Scott 1384), which were used in Baltimore, Maryland, and New Haven, Connecticut. Note that the postmark on the special delivery cover (right) appropriately did not strike the precanceled stamp.



Figures 10. Covers showing a regular 1970 Mechanical Toy Tricycle stamp (Scott 1417) at top and the same stamp as a precancel, bottom, mailed from Washington, D.C.

ies, the *Postal Bulletin* states that precanceled stamps were sent to all post offices in Region 1 (New England) and 68 major cities in other regions.

The 1970 religious stamp also is noted for having two separate printings that are distinguishable to the eye, and both printings were issued plain and precanceled. The original order for this stamp was 1.7 billion impressions, and was printed (Type I) on a pre-gummed gravure paper with a smooth finish and no gum breakers. The resulting stamps had a blurry impression and a mottled "snowflake" sky at the top

of the scene. An additional order of 200 million stamps was needed to meet demand, but supplies of the original paper ran out.

The reprint (Type II) used an ungummed paper with a "creamy" shiny surface, and it was released near the end of November. The change in paper resulted in a better impression showing sharper, more defined images.

An *Associated Press* article in March 1971 reports that the

Post Office Department considered the trial to be a success. An unnamed spokesman said that the stamps saved \$750,000 in reduced staffing (due to no canceling), and may have generated more stamp sales to collectors who had to purchase two of each of the five stamps in both the plain and precanceled version. As an additional twist, the Post Office Department declared that the 1970 precanceled stamps would not be valid for postage after January 31, 1971. While there was



Figure 11. A first-day cover for the 1970 Nativity stamp (Scott 1414). The cover carries both a Type I (left) and Type II version of the stamp. This cover was created for the first day of issue for the Type II version of the stamp.

initial speculation and hope that this type of program would be repeated and expanded, this was the last time that the department used precanceled commemorative stamps for first-class mail.

## 1974 — First Self-Adhesive

In both the 1969 and 1970 tests, however, no effort was made for revenue protection and the avoidance of reuse of the uncanceled stamps. Estimates of lost revenue due to reuse are not easy to find, but reported U.S. Postal Service estimates are \$35 million in 1988 and \$100 million in the mid-2000s.

In current times, different from second-, third-, and fourth-class mail, users of precancels on first-class mail are required to add dated cancellations to prevent reuse.



Figures 12. The 1974 self-adhesive and cut precancel of the Weather Vane Christmas stamp (Scott 1552).

Possibly with revenue protection in mind, the USPS (having converted from the U.S. Post Office Department in 1971) again chose a Christmas stamp with which to make a test. In addition to the now standard religious- and secular-themed stamps, an additional stamp was issued showing a weather vane in the shape of a dove, but it was different from all other stamps in two ways.

This stamp was the first U.S. pressure

sensitive (a.k.a. "self-adhesive") one, a forerunner for the stamps of today. The adhesive used, however, was not a successful first effort. Over time, it discolors the stamp, as there is no barrier between the gum and the stamp design. Also, the stamp [Figure 12] was issued with die cuts in a sideways T-shape in the image of the dove. This was done so that the

## 1968: The Gift of Plate Block Madness BY JEFF STAGE APS staff



**I**t was the Christmas gift that some U.S. collectors wished had fallen off Santa's sleigh. It's all about the small numbers that appear in the selvage, the surrounding waste paper, of a sheet or pane of stamps. Most people remove and toss away the selvage — that part containing the number of the printing plate — has always been collecting gold.

For many years, the plate block numbers were stuck in a corner of the selvage. Specialist collectors of U.S. stamps would save the selvage with the plate number and four stamps near the number, thus creating a "plate block."

In the late 1960s, though, and for about the next 15 years, the number of stamps needed to collect a proper plate block increased from four to as many as 20. And the number of blocks needed to collect a complete set for a single stamp went from a handful to the thousands.

The collecting specialty went into turmoil. Many frustrated and angry plate block collectors just gave up the pursuit, experts say. Dealers also stopped stocking these large modern plate blocks, called "biggies," by some.

How did this happen? As it had many times before and after, the U.S. Post Office Department chose an annual Christmas stamp for new technology.

In 1968, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing rolled out a new nine-color press produced by the Huck Co. of Paramus, New Jersey. The gigantic press only needed to roll stamp paper once via a continuous web. Basically, it created larger and more colorful stamps, and at a lightening pace of 1.7 million stamps per hour.

The first stamp created on the press was the 6-cent Christmas issue issued November 1, 1968 in Washington, D.C. The stamp (Scott 1363) shows the angel Gabriel from the 15th-century

painting "The Annunciation" by Jan van Eyck.

The stamp, printed in six colors, was wider and deeper than previous vertical stamps. It was issued in both plain and tagged with a new method of phosphorous tagging. The BEP produced about 2.856 billion of the Angel Gabriel stamps, of which half were distributed to post offices.

We could not possibly in this space offer more than a glimpse into the stamp's legacy. Just browsing through the folders that document the stamp's history held at the American Philatelic Research Library gives you an idea that the stamp was troublesome. Most U.S. stamps of the era have its own folder about a half-inch thick of material.

There are two Angel Gabriel folders, each about 2 inches thick stuffed with newspaper articles, letters, hand-written charts of plate numbers, postal documents, and black-and-white images of the stamp neatly dia-



stamp would separate if an attempt was made to remove it from an envelope and reuse it. In addition, if the stamp was soaked to try to remove it from an envelope, the stamp would separate into two or three layers of paper.

As in prior tests, distribution was limited to a subset of post offices, and customers were asked to bundle mail with the precanceled (the word is actually printed on the stamp above the denomination) stamps separate from other mail. And, as in prior tests, most people ignored this request. This, of course, would negate the potential savings to the Postal Service, making the special stamps useless.

Some uses of the Weather Vanes stamp were still postmarked during mail processing [Figure 13].

**Figures 13.** The Christmas Weather Vane stamp used on a red envelope that was machine canceled when it didn't have to be.

The stamp was originally scheduled to be issued with the other two Christmas stamps, but

grammed with arrows and thick lines.

Details on the stamp and all of its challenges have been well documented from the beginning.

In July 1968, the Post Office Department issued a news release stating: "Panes of 50 will contain either seven or eight plate numbers, to the mathematical potential of 27,000 different combinations from original plates. Each replacement plate will add another 900 combinations."

Philatelic journalist Belmont Faries checked out the press and forewarned of its challenges several months before the stamp was released. "Obviously, completeness will be an impossible goal for plate number collectors," he wrote.

Why so many combinations? When the press was fully plated, there were 90 shallow plates, each with its own number. Plates were 20 subjects wide and two deep; 30 plates were needed to complete a cylinder. The

standard pane of 50 stamps was created with 2½ plates, an oddity that resulted in seven plate numbers printed alongside some five-stamp sequences; eight on others.

On a typical pane of 100 Gabriel stamps there are seven or eight numbers in different colors spread out along the selvage adjacent to five stamps on one side of the pane. Each number represents a specific plate that was used.

Luckily for collectors, the number of yellow plates was low and in sequence. But there were more than 300 plates altogether, and they often moved into different positions thus creating thousands of seven- and eight-number sequences in the selvage. In the end, there were about 6,300 known combinations of plate numbers and there could be as many as 7,000 if they could all be found, according to an article published in 1973 in *Linn's Stamp News*. Even collecting a block (or strip) of 10 showing each plate num-

ber would require as many as 150 strips, *Linn's* stated.

On top of that, the "completist" collector might want matching panes from both the right and left side of the plate, so you can double those combinations if you wanted to try for a complete collection.

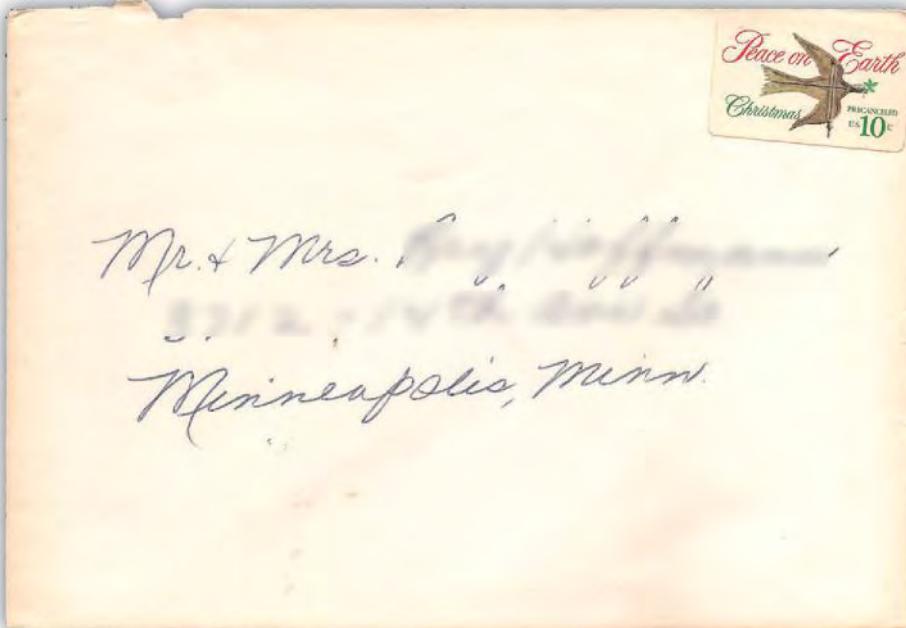
The 1968 cost of 14,000 blocks of 10 Angel Gabriel stamps: \$8,400. The Angel Gabriel was the first stamp to get the full treatment of this plate-numbering system. It wasn't long before plate-block collectors threw up their arms and stopped investing in these gigantic blocks.

In the early 1980s a new system of plate numbering was introduced that once again lowered the number of stamps in a proper block.

Oh, and did we mention the multitude of Angel Gabriel stamp blips and bumps involving misplaced tagging, perforations, and color application that created many other errors and oddities?

Let's just say Santa's workshop had a bad year.





Figures 14. Proper use of the 1974 self-adhesive and cut precancel Weather Vane Christmas stamp (Scott 1552). The stamp was correctly not postmarked during mail processing.

the die-cutting process caused a production delay, resulting in the issuance of the stamp three weeks afterward.

A proper usage of the Weather Vanes stamp is shown [Figure 14].

Overall, this third test seems to have produced the same type of results from the prior two tests. It appears that the use of precanceled stamps on first-class mail did not provide enough savings to the Postal Service to offset the cost and make it worth pursuing.

### 1975 — Nondenominated

Postage stamps usually take several months from design to printing, and in 1974, the issue date for the Christmas stamps was advanced up to late October, and planned for that same time period in 1975. Early in 1974, the first-class letter rate had increased from 8 cents to 10 cents, and by mid-1975 there was talk of another postage rate increase. As the end of 1975 approached, there was uncertainty as to whether a rate change would occur in 1975 or later.

The Postal Service wanted to avoid reprinting millions of stamps should the rate increase go into effect prior to the holiday. These two Christmas stamps became the first U.S.-issued nondenominated stamps [Figure 15], and sold at a face value of 10 cents. Unlike earlier U.S. holiday issues, because of the Universal Postal Union agreement at that time that stamps used internationally must bear denominations, these stamps could be used only on mail to U.S. addresses. The expected rate increase did occur December 31,

1975, and 13-cent stamps were issued in November 1974. It was not until the next rate change, in May 1978, that the "alphabet" non-denominated stamps were first placed into use.

Because of the current commonality of Christmas stamps, both from the U.S. and around the world, and the self-proclaimed single purpose of them, it is easy to make an assumption that such stamps are "fluff." Sure, they have pretty pictures, really "just topicals" and might not be considered "serious philately" to some. But when we look at today's U.S. stamps, we see se-tenant, self-adhesive, non-denominated issues that are not easily soaked off paper and reused, with embedded indicators that allow high-speed processing of the mail. All of these changes were first tried with Christmas stamps, giving them their own, if unrecognized, place in postal history, and the history of stamps.

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Figure 15. The 1975 nondenominated Christmas stamps (right). Cacheted, addressed, cover for the first nondenominated U.S. stamp.





## —CATALOGING U.S. STAMPS—

BY CHARLES M. POSNER

# Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation (Scott 1009)



United States 3-cent Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation commemorative stamp.

### The Making of the Stamp

**O**n January 3, 1952, the U.S. Post Office Department announced its intention to issue a postage stamp to honor 50 years of federal government cooperation in the development of the sources of the rivers and streams that are part of the mountain ranges between the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean.

The final phase of the largest such project in the world would be completed on May 29, 1952, when the waters of Lake Roosevelt, the enormous reservoir created by the Grand Coulee Dam, the largest man-made structure ever constructed, were to be released to reclaim more than 1.2 million acres of arid land. The Grand Coulee Dam had already made cheap hydroelectric power available to the entire Pacific Northwest. Now it would also create rich farmland for more than 40,000 families in the greatest irrigation project ever to take place in the United States. The authorities in charge of the Columbia River basin and the local cities and towns were to celebrate those events from May 22 to June 1, and the Post Office Department thought it right and proper to join in the celebrations.

Twice before, artificial waterways and dams

had appeared on American postage stamps. The first (Scott 681) was the 1929 commemorative to mark the long overdue completion of the canalization of the Ohio River. It featured Lock 5 on the Monongahela River. The second (Scott 774) was issued in 1935 to celebrate the dedication of Boulder, or Hoover, Dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River.

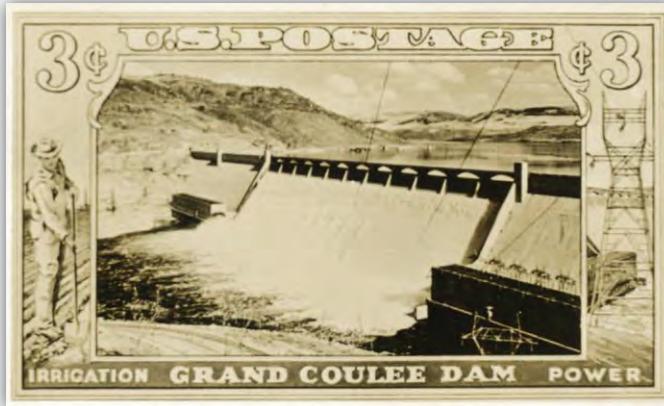
Because of its size and contribution to the welfare of a large section of the population and the contribution it had made to the war effort, the Grand Coulee Dam was the natural choice for the subject of the postage stamp. In February, Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington was able to confirm that the stamp would bear a picture of the dam, accompanied by the image of a farmer at work and of the transmission towers. At the time it was said that the color would be purple, pink, brown, or green.

As was customary, the Post Office Department asked the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to come up with a suitable design. Working from an original wash drawing he had prepared, Charles Chickering obliged with two very similar models.

The only difference between them is a change in the title of the stamp. On the rejected design the wording "Grand Coulee Dam" is

### 3-CENT GRAND COULEE DAM/RECLAMATION COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

**Date of Issue:** May 15, 1952  
**First-day site:** Grand Coulee, Washington  
**First-day covers serviced:** 341,680  
**Scott catalog number:** 1009  
**Designer:** Charles Chickering  
**Vignette engraver:** Herbert F. Fichter  
**Frame engraver:** Charles Smith  
**Letter engraver:** Charles Smith  
**Color:** Blue-green (Scott catalog); green (U.S. Post Office Department)  
**Format:** Electric eye plates of 200 divided into 4 post office panes of 50 by horizontal gutters — arranged 5 horizontally by 10 vertically  
**Perforation:** Gauge 11 x 10.5  
**Size:** 1.44 x 0.84 inches (36.58 x 21.3mm)  
**Printing:** Bureau of Engraving and Printing on Stickney rotary press  
**Quantity:** 114,540,000  
**Varieties:** Horizontal and vertical misperforated panes



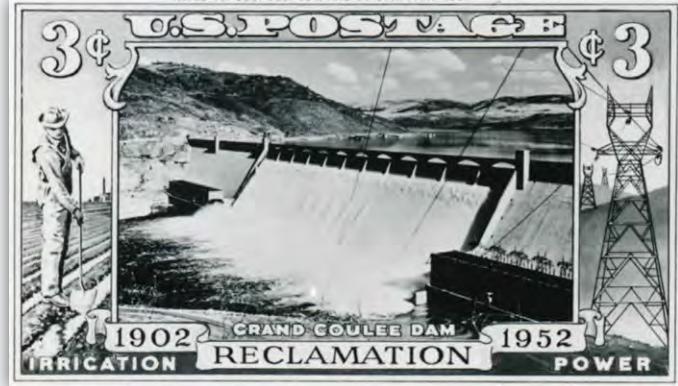
Two photoessays for the Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation stamp. *Images courtesy the American Philatelic Research Library.*

prominent. On the accepted design the name still appears but in much smaller letters, with the word "Reclamation" in larger type in order to remind the public of the purpose behind the issue of the new stamp.

The Post Office Department insisted on the change because the subject of the stamp was the entire reclamation project and not just the Grand Coulee Dam, as iconic as it had become.

### The Design

Water gushing over the spillway of the Grand Coulee Dam occupies the entire center of the stamp. Its name appears in white-faced Gothic within the lower portion of the vignette itself. The rushing waters of the dam are set within a frame that is wide enough on the left to depict a farmer till-

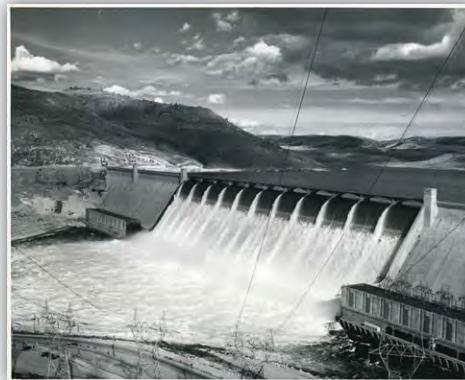


ing a field, and on the right, a power transmission line and towers.

These two motifs represent the twin purposes of the dam: to provide irrigation and power.

A ribbon extends across the bottom portion of the central vignette within the right and left frames. Upon it is written: "1902 Reclamation 1952" in dark modified Roman type. The words "irrigation" and "power" appear respectively just under the farmer and the transmission lines. They both are in white-faced Gothic type.

Chickering created his wash from three non-contemporary photographs of the Grand Coulee Dam, the Moses Lake development farm, and a photograph of the Columbia Basin project. The Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior provided all three. Nine days after submission, the



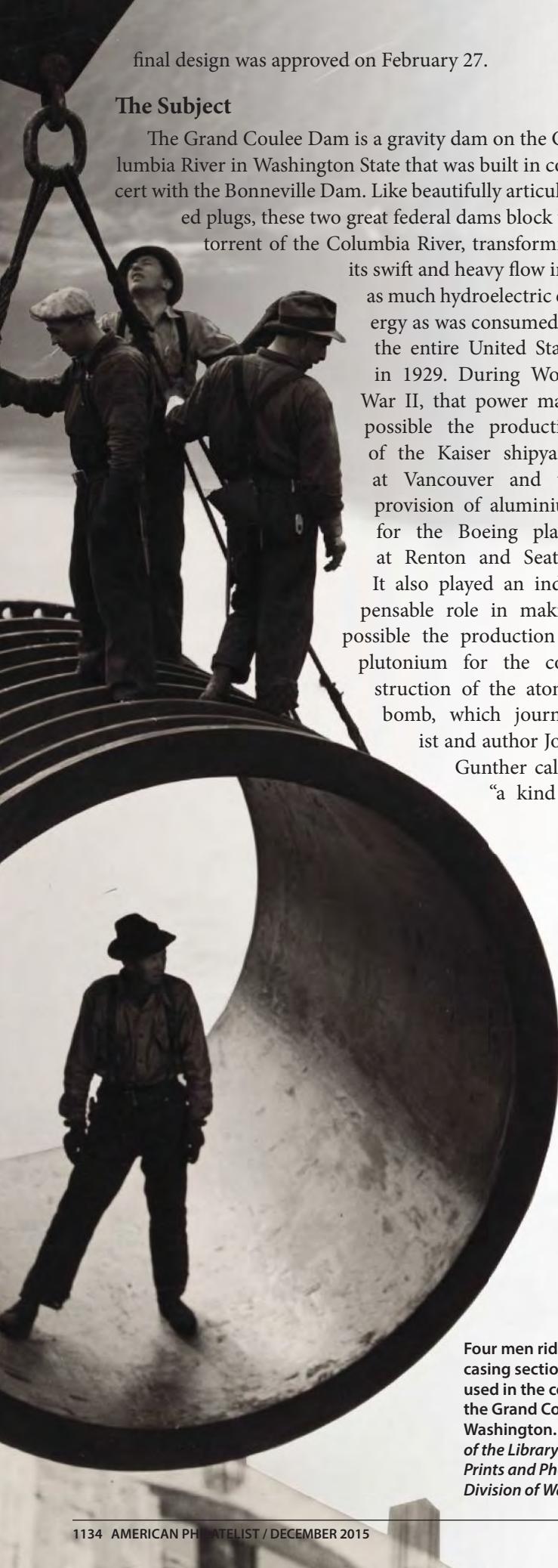
Three contemporary photographs used in the creation of the Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation stamp. *Images courtesy the American Philatelic Research Library.*

### PLATE NUMBER REPORT

Plate. No.	Impressions	Printed
24647	105,550	April 17, 1952
24648	96,755	April 21, 1952
24649	100,396	April 15, 1952
24650	100,397	April 15, 1952
24651	105,550	April 17, 1952
24652	96,756	April 21, 1952

Misperforated  
Grand Coulee Dam/  
Reclamation stamp.





final design was approved on February 27.

## The Subject

The Grand Coulee Dam is a gravity dam on the Columbia River in Washington State that was built in concert with the Bonneville Dam. Like beautifully articulated plugs, these two great federal dams block the torrent of the Columbia River, transforming its swift and heavy flow into as much hydroelectric energy as was consumed by the entire United States in 1929. During World War II, that power made possible the production of the Kaiser shipyards at Vancouver and the provision of aluminium for the Boeing plants at Renton and Seattle. It also played an indispensable role in making possible the production of plutonium for the construction of the atomic bomb, which journalist and author John Gunther called "a kind of

apocalyptic, demonic child of the river." The Grand Coulee Dam was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior between September 9, 1933, and 1942 at river mile 596.6 in central Washington, about 90 miles northwest of Spokane. In 1942, the dam part of the project was complete enough to be put into operation.

The original project was for a smaller dam, but after a visit, Franklin Roosevelt became convinced that a larger dam was required because it could also provide sufficient irrigation for new farms and provide work for some of the more than 20 percent registered unemployed.

There was a cost in terms of human life. Of the tens of thousands of construction and ancillary workers, 93 lost their lives in the first 19 years of construction. By 1942, the dam was substantially finished enough for President Roosevelt to write to the head of the project, Frank Arthur Banks, "A fine job well done."

Its extensions and the work on providing for irrigation were postponed by the war and not restarted until 1946. But even in 1942 it could generate more hydroelectricity than the 241 water-powered plants in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

To describe the Grand Coulee Dam is an exercise in superlatives. It is 4,300 feet long at its crest; the height above bedrock is 550 feet; and the drop of water about 330 feet, which is twice that of Niagara Falls. It cost about \$200 million and required more than 10 million cubic yards of concrete and 20 million cubic yards of excavation. This amount of concrete would build a highway completely encircling the United States. The structure weighs 23 million tons, three times as much as the pyramid of Cheops. The irrigation pumps could suck up the entire flow of any American river with the exception of the Mississippi. The poured concrete could put a floor under three states as big as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Behind the dam is an artificial lake known as Roosevelt Lake, which is 151 miles long and holds 436 billion cubic feet of water. Its drainage area is almost the size of Nebraska. The concrete at the center of the structure will still not be entirely cooled down until 2017. By 1946, each of its pumps could provide the entire water supply for New York City. Grand Coulee had the capacity to generate about 42 percent of the hydroelectric energy of the entire Pacific Northwest.

Aside from the generation of power, the other purpose of Grand Coulee was to provide the irrigation required to reclaim about 1.2 million acres of land and provide a livelihood for about 40,000 families, sited on 12,000 to 14,000 farm units. All the holdings were to be small, between 10 and 160

acres, to encourage newcomers, who would have 40 years to pay off their share of the construction costs without interest, as well as having to pay a maintenance fee. Veterans of World War II and the Korean War were given priority. Successful applicants were to put up collateral of \$4,500 in assets or its equivalent in equipment.

One thing that could not be done was to de-

Four men riding on a large casing section of pipe used in the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division of Washington, D.C.

vise a fish stairway, such as had been put in operation at its sister dam, the Bonneville Dam. The climb was too high. Under the Fish and Wildlife Service an artificial insemination service was established, so that the salmon that might spawn above Coulee were sent to a fertilization station and propagated artificially. Since that time, the fingerlings, when they grow up and return upriver to spawn, do this in the substitute hatcheries and do not attempt to cross the Coulee barrier.

Another negative aspect of the project was its effect on the local Native American groups whose lives depended on the Chinook salmon. It also flooded more than 21,000 acres of their prime hunting and agricultural lands. In 1993, they requested that the government come to a "fair and honorable arrangement" with them. Starting in 1994, they were awarded compensation for past damages, and an annual payment is to be paid in perpetuity of \$15.25 million to be adjusted annually.

A formal commissioning dam dedication service of the entire Columbia Basin Project had already been held on May 11, 1950, with President Truman lambasting the private power groups who "do not want the energy of our rivers put to use as power and sold to the people at cost." The project was then about 60 percent completed.

On May 29, 1952, all was set for the Reclamation Bureau to let loose the waters of the Grand Coulee Dam reservoir into a semi-arid landscape and turn more than 1 million acres into farmland. According to a very enthusiastic *New York Times*, a great sagebrush desert was about to receive its first irrigation water and turn the area into a veritable Garden of Eden.

A cultural spin-off of the project was that in 1941 Woody Guthrie, the composer of America's unofficial national anthem "This Land is your Land," was commissioned by the Bonneville Power Administration to write a series of songs for a documentary about the Grand Coulee Dam. Guthrie complied, writing 26 songs in less than a month, including a song whose chorus is:

*Well, the world has seven wonders that the trav'lers always tell,*

*Some gardens and some towers, I guess you know them well,*

*But now the greatest wonder is in Uncle Sam's fair land,*

*It's the king Columbia River and the big Grand Coulee Dam.*

However, according to Paul Pitzer, a retired teacher and scholar of the Columbia River Basin, writing in the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* (1997), the reclamation part of the project never lived up to its potential. It never achieved its goal of providing more than 1 million acres of farmland, largely because changes in the nature of farming itself made the family farm upon which the project was premised archaic and unprofitable. In the end, no more than 2,000 farmers could achieve anything like a livelihood. Moreover, continued concerns about the future of the salmon hindered the development of the land. While true, we must remind ourselves that more than 80 percent of the project was predicated on the

supply of power and, in some ways, the irrigation side of the project could be viewed as an added extra.

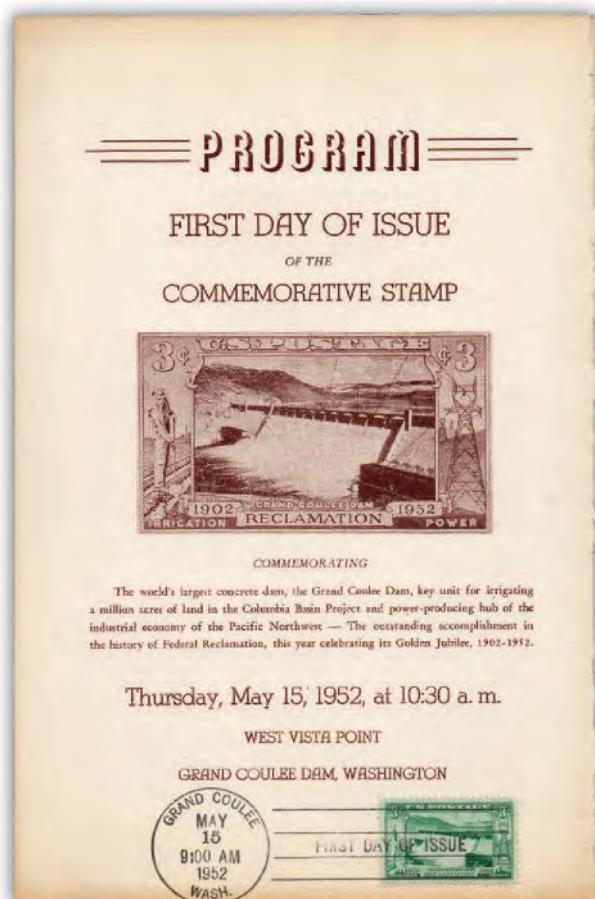
## First-Day Ceremony

The first-day ceremony launching the postage stamp was held one week before the start of the festival on May 22 and two weeks before the official dedication ceremony itself.

The spot chosen by the dedication committee of the Grand Coulee Chamber of Commerce was West Vista House, the United States government west observation point at a safe distance from the spillway. Officials had been inclined to hold the ceremony on the top of the dam itself, but as water was already cascading over the spillway, it was judged not to be safe. A speaker's platform was erected a safe distance away, with the spillway serving as a stunning backdrop to the proceedings, the view almost identical to the view on the stamp.

On the day of the first-day-of-issue ceremony, the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* reported that the area around West Vista House was bursting with activity. School buses shuttled back and forth, pouring out streams of school children. The combined bands of the Coulee and Grand Coulee high schools were practicing, and people were beginning to congregate near the speakers' stand to open the ceremonies.

The chief justice of Washington, Edgar Ward Schwellenbach, presided. The ceremony opened with a concert by the combined bands. This was followed by a proces-



The front cover of the Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation stamp program from May 15, 1952. Image courtesy of Michael Litvak, American Ceremony Program Society chapter representative.

sion of colors by the American Legion Grand Coulee Dam Post No. 94. An invocation was given by the Reverend E.H. Nussman of Quincy, Washington, and the mayor of Grand Coulee welcomed the assembled guests. The guests included the governor of Washington, Arthur Langlie; Hubert H. Walter, executive secretary of the Columbia Basin Commission; the commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Michael Wolf Straus; and the engineer responsible for the construction of the dam, Frank Banks. Also present was Donald Dunn, a veteran who had won the farm-in-a-day contest, and 98 mayors and postmasters.

Osborne A. Pearson, the assistant postmaster general, de-

livered the main address, in which he said that it was fitting to pause and pay tribute to the men who with such skill, ability, foresight, and courage brought to fruition this undertaking, "for this mighty reservoir water will flow onto thousands of thirsty, desolate acres, transforming sagebrush-covered areas into fertile farmland and flourishing communities."

He presented the usual souvenir albums containing an autographed sheet of the stamps to the principal guests.

A commercial firm of first-day dealers from New York City processed more than 100,000 covers that day at a specially built kiosk. Thereafter, the stamps were distributed from Spokane.



The Grand Coulee Dam/Reclamation article is the fifth in a series by Charles M. Posner on the nearly 120 United States stamps issued from the 1950s to the mid-1980s. Because of the large number of annual stamp issues, and the detailed information provided, the articles on the stamps below are found online as bonus content on *The American Philatelist* webpage.

Nato (Scott 1008)



This "surprise" stamp in 1952, on the third anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and in the midst of the Cold War, made a statement about the country's commitment to military defense and an alliance with its European allies.

Mount Rushmore (Scott 1011)



Ardent supporters helped secure a stamp for the iconic man-made sculpture of four U.S. presidents. Artist Gutzon Borglum worked on the project 14 years, but died in 1941 before the finishing touches were completed.

Lafayette (Scott 1010)



Marquis de Lafayette was just 19 when he sailed to America and became a chief aide to George Washington. It took more than 20 years, and perhaps a political nod to sought-after NATO ally France, for proponents to secure a stamp for the French hero.

American Society of Civil Engineers (Scott 1012)



The subjects of this stamp offered many different ideas for the commemorative, but just about everyone agreed it should include an image of the iconic George Washington Bridge in New York City.

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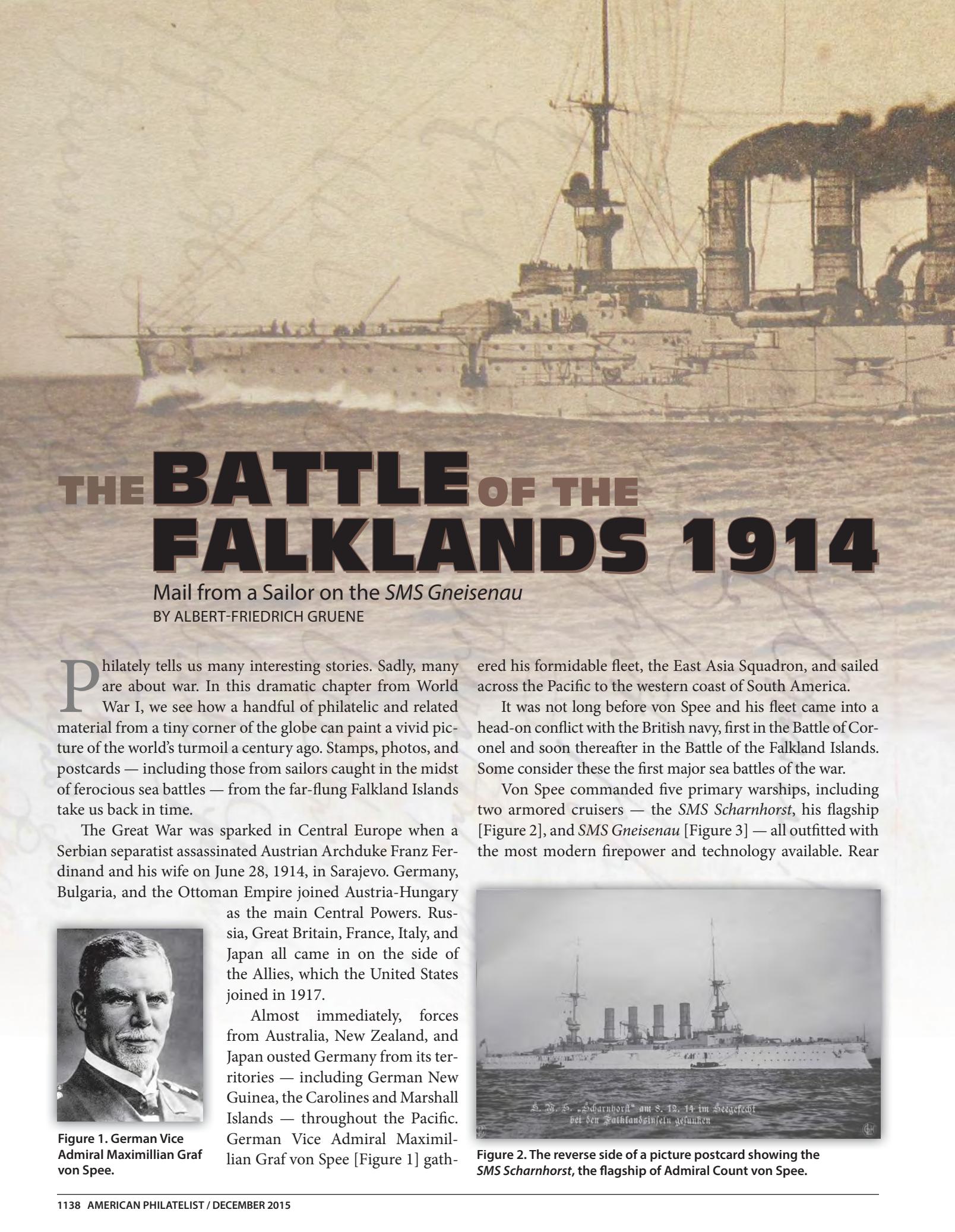


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# THE BATTLE OF THE FALKLANDS 1914

Mail from a Sailor on the *SMS Gneisenau*

BY ALBERT-FRIEDRICH GRUENE

Philately tells us many interesting stories. Sadly, many are about war. In this dramatic chapter from World War I, we see how a handful of philatelic and related material from a tiny corner of the globe can paint a vivid picture of the world's turmoil a century ago. Stamps, photos, and postcards — including those from sailors caught in the midst of ferocious sea battles — from the far-flung Falkland Islands take us back in time.

The Great War was sparked in Central Europe when a Serbian separatist assassinated Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo. Germany, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire joined Austria-Hungary

as the main Central Powers. Russia, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan all came in on the side of the Allies, which the United States joined in 1917.

Almost immediately, forces from Australia, New Zealand, and Japan ousted Germany from its territories — including German New Guinea, the Carolines and Marshall Islands — throughout the Pacific. German Vice Admiral Maximilian Graf von Spee [Figure 1] gathered



Figure 1. German Vice Admiral Maximilian Graf von Spee.

his formidable fleet, the East Asia Squadron, and sailed across the Pacific to the western coast of South America.

It was not long before von Spee and his fleet came into a head-on conflict with the British navy, first in the Battle of Coronel and soon thereafter in the Battle of the Falkland Islands. Some consider these the first major sea battles of the war.

Von Spee commanded five primary warships, including two armored cruisers — the *SMS Scharnhorst*, his flagship [Figure 2], and *SMS Gneisenau* [Figure 3] — all outfitted with the most modern firepower and technology available. Rear



Figure 2. The reverse side of a picture postcard showing the *SMS Scharnhorst*, the flagship of Admiral Count von Spee.

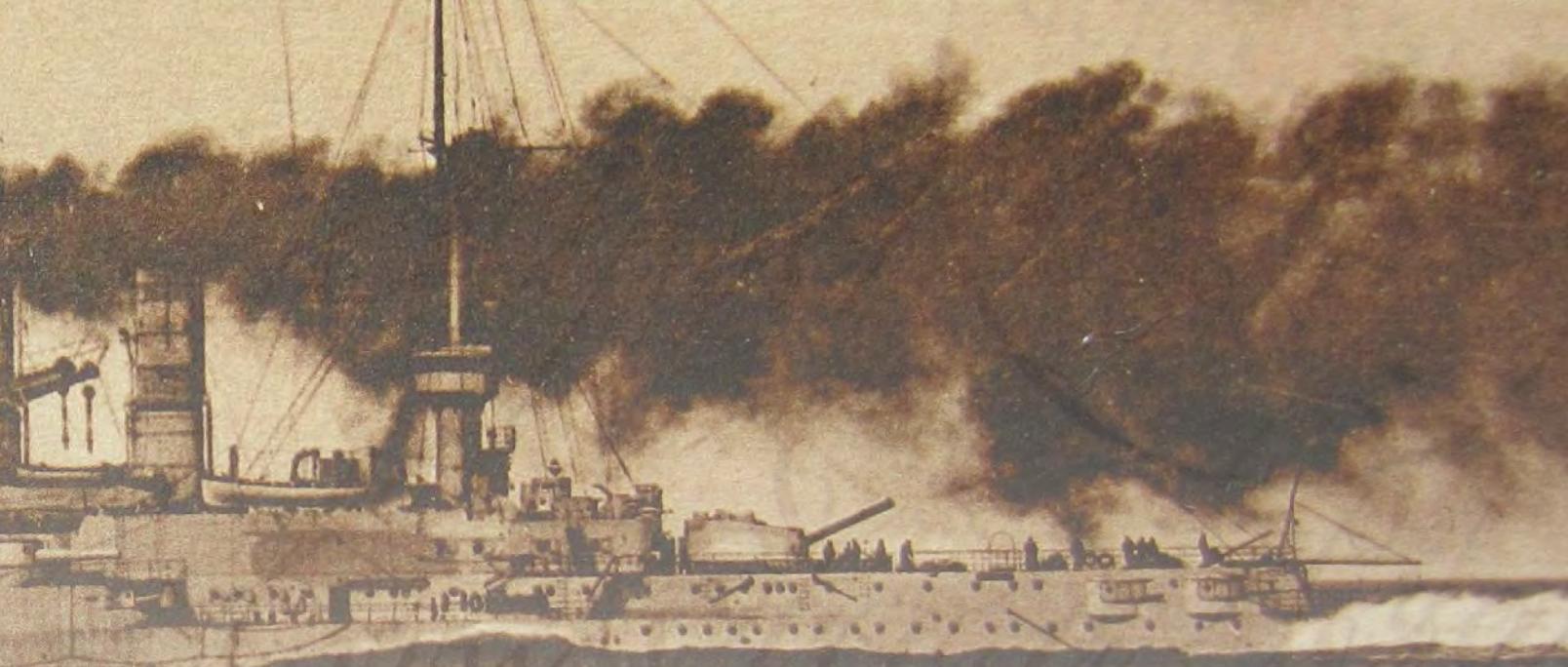


Figure 3. Detail from the reverse side of a picture postcard showing the *SMS Gneisenau* under full steam.



Figure 4. The reverse side and address side of a postcard from Theo Peters, a sailor on the *SMS Gneisenau*. The reverse of the card shows both the new and old ship of the same name. The card was mailed November 4, 1914 and was canceled November 26.

Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock led the British. His fleet included armored cruisers *HMS Good Hope*, the flagship, and *HMS Monmouth*, the light cruiser *HMS Glasgow*, and a converted liner, *HMS Otranto*. Cradock's weaponry was weak and his sailors green.

It was no contest when the powers collided on November 1, 1914, in a misty haze off the Chilean coast. Aside from its superior munitions, the German ships also were closer to the coastline. As the sun set, sighters could easily spot the British ships' silhouettes and set the range for the big German guns.

Commander H. Spencer-Cooper, drawing from the reports from participants who were there, included the following descriptions in his book, *The Battle of the Falkland Islands, Before and After* (Cassell and Co. Ltd., 1919; digitized in 2008 by Internet Archive with funding from Microsoft):

"The Germans soon found the range, their fire proving very accurate. ... In the first 10 minutes, a shell struck the fore turret of the *Good Hope*, putting that (gun) out of action. The *Monmouth* was apparently hit several times in rapid suc-

sion ... her forecastle was seen to be burning furiously."

"At 7:50 p.m. a sight of the most appalling splendor arrested everyone," wrote Spencer-Cooper. "An enormous sheet of flame suddenly burst from the *Good Hope*, lighting up the whole heavens for miles around. This was accompanied by a terrific explosion, which hurled up wreckage and sparks at least a couple of hundred feet in the air from her after funnels. A shot had penetrated one of her magazines."

In the end, the whole action lasted just 45 minutes. The British lost the *Good Hope* and *Monmouth*, Cradock, and 1,570 men. The German navy sustained some minor ship damage and three sailors were wounded. Needless to say, it was a crushing defeat for the British, the first for the British navy since the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The bolstered German ships proceeded with their next tasks: to arrest the British governor at the Falkland Islands, destroy the wireless communications and raid the coal stores at Port Stanley.

Some time ago, I had the chance to buy an attractive picture postcard [Figure 4] at an auction showing both the old and

the new *Gneisenau*. The postcard was dated "Walpareiso 4/11" (Valparaiso, Chile), three days after the Battle of Coronel.

I had a lot of questions. Who wrote the card? Was he a survivor of the Battle of the Falklands that occurred a month later? Would it be possible to get more information about him and his family after almost 100 years? Why was the card canceled on November 26, 1914 when the postcard was written on November 4?

The postmark showed that the card was canceled on board the *Gneisenau* (Marine Ships Mail canceler 22, which was used on *Gneisenau* from November 10, 1910 until November 26, 1914), so it was likely that it was written by a sailor onboard the ship. The writer of the card was obviously not aware of the correct spelling of Valparaiso and used, for example, a "W" instead of the "V" for the first letter.

The postcard was sent by Fieldpost and was addressed to Herrn Friedr. Peters, Idafehn, Post Potshausen, East Frisia, Germany. Idafehn was a small village in East Frisia, not too far from the North Sea and home of many sailors, and had no local post office. Therefore, the mail was directed via the post office in Potshausen, the next biggest community with a post office [Figure 5].



Figure 5. A pre-WWI scene in front of Potshausen post office.



Figure 6. Image from a picture postcard of a view on board the *SMS Gneisenau*, November 3, 1914, while in the port of Valparaiso. Theo Peters may well be in this group picture.

The text on the postcard reads (in English): "Walpareiso 4/11, Dear Parents, in best health I'll write this card to you, nothing has changed so far. Hopefully we get peace soon. Thousands of best regards sends your son Theo."

Because the writer says that he is the son, his name would be Theo Peters, and Friedr. (an abbreviation for Friedrich) Peters would be his father, a good starting point for research.

When Theo Peters writes to his parents, "Hopefully we get peace soon," this seems to reflect (in my opinion) his impression of the first sea battle he was involved in. No doubt, despite all war propaganda on both sides, he and his comrades felt with their fellow sailors whose lives were lost on the *Good Hope* and *Monmouth* and now fully understood the reality of war at sea.

The text is typical for Fieldpost, which was always carefully censored so that no relevant military information would be transmitted by the mail of the soldiers or, in this case, sailors. The writer follows the military rules with one exception, the location Valparaiso is mentioned, a piece of information that was clearly not allowed, but also was not detected by the censors.

Soon it became clear why the card was written by Theo Peters on November 4.

Following the Battle of Coronel, the five ships of von

## WWI CENTENNIAL STAMPS BY AP STAFF

Many countries are in the midst of issuing stamps to commemorate the centennial of World War I, which began in 1914 and ended in 1918 and resulted in the deaths of about 10 million soldiers and 7 million civilians on three continents.

The U.S. Postal Service and the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) has yet to comment on a possible WWI memorial issue, though at least one prominent voice has requested such a stamp.

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, D-Missouri, in June 2015, sent a letter to CSAC calling for WWI commemora-

tive stamps in 2017 through 2019. The U.S. entered the war April 6, 1917, battlefield hostilities ended November 11, 1918 with Armistice Day, and the Treaty of Versailles formally ended the war on June 28, 1919.

Countries such as Great Britain and other Commonwealth nations started issuing stamps in 2014 and will issue a WWI series through 2018. Others, such as the Falkland Islands, might only issue stamps for a specific event from the war.

We don't have a comprehensive list of the 100th anniversary issues, released or planned, but

here is a brief synopsis of some that have already been issued:

### AUSTRALIA

A souvenir sheet of five stamps, issued April 14, 2015, honors the centennial of the brutal Gallipoli campaign (more than 113,000 total killed), which





Figure 7. German cruisers leaving Valparaiso on November 4, 1914, the day Theo Peters wrote the postcard to his parents. The SMS *Gneisenau* is the middle ship in the top row.

Spee's squadron (*Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, *Dresden*, *Nürnberg*, and *Leipzig*) arrived on November 3 in Valparaiso to replenish their stocks of coal, food, water, etc. Chile was a neutral nation and, under the Hague Convention, the ships were only allowed to remain in port for 24 hours [Figure 6]. This meant that only the officers had the chance for a short visit on shore [Figure 7].

Because, like the other common seamen, he had to remain on board, Theo Peters probably never had seen a sign with the name Valparaiso. Instead, he had to rely on how he heard it pronounced and so wrote down the name of the city phonetically: "Walpareiso." Nevertheless, since the ship was in port, Theo must have hoped that his mail could reach his parents quickly from Valparaiso and he brought his postcard to the marine post office on board the *Gneisenau*. By then, however, the cruisers were already running out of time to remain in port and his mail was not canceled on the day it was written. (Under the circumstances, processing sailors' mail certainly had low priority.)

After various stops off the coast of Chile, the German East Asia Squadron reached the hidden Bay of St. Quentin (Gulf of Penas, south of Puerto Montt) on November 21, mainly

to replenish coal supplies. The squadron left the bay on November 26, the date when Peters' postcard from November 4 was canceled. This is actually the last known mail date from the *Gneisenau*. The mail was carried, probably on one of the auxiliary ships, to a Chilean port where it entered the international mail system. It is likely that it would have taken four weeks or more before it reached Theo's family in Germany.

The squadron was now heading for the Falkland Islands around Cape Horn. During the first week of December, it became known in the German community in Punta Arenas (Sandy Point) that a powerful assembly of British battle cruisers had started to concentrate in the vicinity of the Falklands. But how to warn the German squadron? Because there was no other means of communication available, a German boat pilot from Punta Arenas, Albert Pagels, took on the job to warn the squadron by light signals from his motorboat. In heavy seas he managed to get within a half mile to signal the warships. Due to stormy weather, however, they did not notice either his boat or his signal lights. He returned to Punta Arenas, exhausted and soaked after 48 hours in heavy seas. (Later, after the squadron's encounter with British ships on December 8, he would play the main role in leading the *Dresden* into hiding in basically uncharted waters along the coast of Patagonia, even managing to supply the ship with 1,600 tons of coal.)

The German squadron steamed toward Port Stanley. But the Germans were met on the morning of December 8 at the harbor by more than a half-dozen British ships — including battlecruisers *HMS Invincible* and *HMS Inflexible*, which had been dispatched after the Battle of Coronel. The British, now commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee, had been in the midst of resupplying their stores, but quickly stepped up for battle.

The *HMS Canopus*, which had been grounded behind a

matched the Ottoman Empire against the Allies on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. The stamps include a military photo of Albert Jacka, Australia's first recipient of the Victoria Cross. Jacka valiantly fought Turkish soldiers in hand-to-hand trench combat, survived the 10-month campaign and went on to serve on the Western Front. He survived the war. This is the first of a five-year series.

## AUSTRIA

A souvenir sheet commemorating Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, was issued on June 28, 2014, the 100th anniversary of their as-



sassinations in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

## CANADA

Canada Post issued a stamp May 3, 2015 marking the 100th anniversary

of the publication of what is likely the most famous writing of the era, the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian Army combat surgeon John McCrae. The striking souvenir sheet includes six stamps and shows poppies, soldier's graves and presents the moving poem. McCrae wrote the poem after he was



hill as a guard ship, fired on the approaching *Gneisenau*. The surprised von Spee turned his ships around and the British were soon in hot pursuit. Von Spee had a 15-mile head start, but it wasn't long before the speedier British caught up. By early afternoon, the battle divided into two areas. Von Spee's *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau* turned to face the British and were met by the heavily armored battlecruisers as the German light cruisers ran. The *Cornwall*, *Kent*, and *Glasgow* gave chase.

Most of the battle took place with the opposing ships 7 to 9 miles apart. The ships maneuvered and fired, maneuvered and fired. The British ships' armor and speed held up; the German warships faltered.

"Things now became fast and furious," described one British petty officer, according to Spencer-Cooper's book. "Shot and bursting shell were everywhere in the air. It was like hell let loose."

After about three hours, *Invincible* was head-to-head with *Gneisenau* as the *Inflexible* lashed at the flailing *Scharnhorst*, which was aflame, wrecked and listing.

"The *Scharnhorst* was clearly in a very bad way, and looked, as she was, a perfect wreck," wrote Spencer-Cooper. "Masses of steel twisted and torn as if growing in all directions like roots of a tree, clouds of steam were going up sky high, and she was blazing fore and aft."

Soon, thereafter, the ship sank with 860 men, including von Spee. Three British ships then turned their attention to the *Gneisenau*.

"The carnage and destruction wrought by our three ships was terrible, and it was astonishing what a deal of hammering she was to bear," wrote Spencer-Cooper. British salvos tore up the decks and blew holes in the German ship's hull. Just after 6 p.m., the ship foundered, stood on its beam and slipped below the surface.

A diary by George H.J. Hanks, a sick berth attendant on

grief-stricken upon the death of a friend and colleague during the Second Battle of Ypres. The poem was first published in December, 1915 in England's *Punch* magazine.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

A souvenir sheet of two stamps (Soldier with Rifle; People Falling into Pit) with three labels, issued June 11, 2014.

#### FRANCE

Several World War I stamps have been issued. A set of five stamps issued



Figure 8. Stamps from the German Democratic Republic (DDR) (Scott 518-519) issued in 1960 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Count August Neidhardt von Gneisenau, Prussian field marshal.

the *Carnarvon*, wrote about the rescue efforts: "The weather was very cold, 45 degrees, and miserable and a choppy sea was running. The water was covered with bobbing heads and dead bodies. Boats were lowered as soon as possible from the three ships. ... Bodies were passing the ship, some nude, while others had on their uniforms. We rescued 40, but eight failed to show signs of animation and during the night were passed overboard. ... What pitiable sights we witnessed whilst the survivors were being taken aboard."

The *Leipzig* went down in the chase. The *Nürnberg* was successfully pursued and sunk by the *Kent* that evening. The *Dresden* escaped and survived another four months before being trapped by a British squadron in Cumberland Bay at the Chilean island of Más a Tierra<sup>2</sup> on March 14, 1915. The captain surrendered and, once his crew was safely transferred, scuttled the ship to prevent her capture.

The Battle of the Falkland Islands was a complete reversal from the Battle of Coronel one month earlier. The Germans lost four warships and more than 1,800 sailors, including its respected commander, von Spee, and two of his sons. Another 187 German sailors were plucked from the water and



in 2014 depicts trenches, soldiers, and poppies. Another pair of stamps issued in 2014 commemorates the centennial of the Battle of the Marne and a single stamp honors "mobilization." In 2015, France issued a Croix de Guerre

stamp, two stamps honoring the Belgium government at Ste. Adresse and a single depicting the WWI Monument at Hartmannswillerkopf in Alsace.

#### GREAT BRITAIN

Royal Mail began a five-year series of six stamps per year in 2014. Each year, the set will explore the war through a depiction of poppies (the



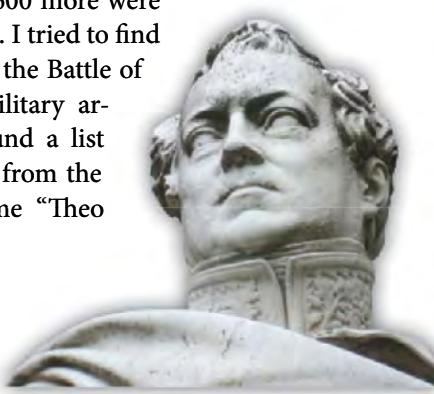
taken prisoner. Just 10 British sailors were killed; another 19 injured.

I think that Count Neidhardt von Gneisenau (1760–1831), Royal Prussian Field Marshal [Figures 8], would have been outraged to hear that a cruiser carrying his name had been sunk by British cruisers. During the Napoleonic wars, Gneisenau was chief of staff to Field Marshal Gebhard von Blücher, commander of the Prussian army. Gneisenau was a master military strategist and was largely responsible for transforming the Prussian army into a modern military force. Although he had little trust for the British he had less for the French, and when Blücher fell ill during the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Gneisenau was responsible for bringing both soldiers and cavalry at a forced march to Wellington's aid. Wellington famously said: "Either night or the Prussians will come." Gneisenau and the Prussian troops arrived in force, breaking the French line and pursuing them from the field, and the battle passed into the history books [Figure 9].

What had happened to Theo Peters? Was he singing patriotic songs as was reported in a letter in the *New York Times* [Figure 10]? Was he among the rescued sailors?

According to the first officer of the *Gneisenau*, although 187 sailors were rescued by the *Inflexible* and other ships, almost 600 more were drowned [Figure 11]. I tried to find a list of survivors of the Battle of the Falklands in military archives, but only found a list of surviving officers from the *Gneisenau*. The name "Theo

Figure 9. Statue of Neidhardt von Gneisenau.



iconic flower associated with the war's fallen soldiers), poetry, war art, memorials and artifacts. Stamps over two years have featured paintings of poppies, portraits of soldiers and a British soccer ball that was booted across No Man's Land. The 2014 stamps won Royal Mail's annual most popular poll.

## IRELAND

An Post issued a pair of stamps in 2014 based on WWI recruiting posters. One was voted Ireland's favorite stamp of the year. The

2015 stamp honors the centennial of the Gallipoli campaign. Another pair of 2015 Irish stamps mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania*. A German submarine struck

the Cunard liner 12 miles off the Irish coast. Of 1,959 people aboard, 1,198 lost their lives.

## ISRAEL

A single stamp in sheets of 15 issued June 16, 2015 depicts a Turkish military train station at Beer Sheva and Moshe Shertock (later Moshe Sharett) in a Turkish military uniform. When Jews living in the area known as Eretz Israel, the area between Turkey



Figure 10. Reverse of a picture postcard of "The Last Man," shown defiantly waving a German war flag.



Figure 11. Survivors of the *SMS Gneisenau* in 39-degree South Atlantic water on December 8, 1914. Picture taken from the rescue ship *HMS Invincible* (*HMS Inflexible* is in the background).

Peters" was not on that list.

After several calls to municipalities in East Frisia, I was able to get in contact with the chairman of the local history society in Idafehn, Theo Peters' home village. The first weeks

of research were disappointing — nobody seemed to know the name. The church registry books were under restoration and therefore not available. I asked the chairman whether he could check the war memorial at Idafehn. He reported that he found the name Peters on it, but it was Chr. Peters and not Theo Peters. Meanwhile, the church books became available and it became obvious that Chr. (abbreviation for Christian) was his second name. I had found him.

Later, a Plaque of Honor turned up showing photos of all soldiers and sailors from the small village of Idafehn who had lost their lives in World War I [Figure 12]. Among them was Theo Peters with December 8, 1914 as his day of death. Theo was born in 1892, the second child of Friedrich Peters and his wife, Hinrika (née Lüt-



Figure 12. The Plaque of Honor in Idafehn, Germany. Theo Peters is fifth from the right in the top row. The enlargement shows Peters as a very youthful sailor above a cross and his death date, December 8, 1914.

and Egypt along the Mediterranean and Red seas, were displaced by the war, they were recruited on the side of the Ottoman Empire, serving as both laborers and in the military. Another stamp pays homage to the Zion Mule Corps.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

A five-year commemoration series began in 2014 with a “For King and Empire” 10-stamp set. The 2015 stamps, a pane of 10, are called “The Spirit of

Anzac," which memorializes the Gallipoli campaign.

RUSSIA

Russia released a 100th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War I



booklet on December 14, 2014.  
Four stamps show maps of Russia's major military activities combined with black-and-white photographs of soldiers. A second set was issued in 2015.

SERBIA

Four stamps in 2014 noted the cen-



**Figure 13.** A postcard that was written by Theo Peters in 1914.

tmann) and lived together with eight brothers and sisters. He was 24 when he died in the Battle of the Falklands, but looked younger in the photograph on the memorial plaque, which was probably taken when he joined the German Impe-

rial navy. There must have been a long period of uncertainty before his family was officially informed by the German Admiralty that their son had not survived. Perhaps they still had some hope that he lived when his postcard from Valparaiso arrived?

In March 2013, I spotted another postcard [Figure 13] from Theo Peters at an auction in Berlin, and the story became even more interesting. The picture postcard shows a bridge scene, probably in the Caroline Islands, which were a German



**Figure 14.** Two postal labels were attached to the front of the card that explained the delay in delivery. The card was buried with other mail on the grounds of the German Missionary Church in the Caroline Islands and not unearthed until after the war. It was mailed to the Peters family in September 1923.

colony at that time. The German East Asia squadron was anchored near Phonpei in the Carolines when they received the news of the outbreak of World War I. The card was canceled in August 1914 with the SMS *Gneisenau* canceler 22 and had

two brownish labels affixed on the reverse side [Figure 14]. The smaller label contained the following message, "Mail from the cruiser squadron from August 1914." The larger label beneath it read: "Received on September 9, 1923 from the Foreign Office. No postage due was necessary because sufficient postage was already paid in 1914 when handed over to the post office, Marine Post Bureau Berlin L 2."

It must have been quite a shock for Theo Peter's family when they received mail from their son almost 10 years after he was declared dead by the Admiralty. What had happened?

In 1914, a mail bag was left with a monk in the Caroline Islands when the German East Asia Squadron departed for the war. Most of the mail contained the last will of sailors, but there was also normal mail. When the Japanese occupied the islands in 1914, the monk buried the mail bag in a metal box below the altar of the German Missionary Church. Years after the war, the mail bag was unearthed and delivered to the German Foreign Office; from there, it traveled via the Marine Post Bureau and then through the German postal system. In the Internet world we sometimes complain about "snail mail," but this was a rather unusual case.

## Collecting Battle of the Falklands

The Battle of the Falklands has always fascinated the public, especially many collectors. Authentic mail, like the cards from Theo Peters, are unique pieces of history, very scarce and difficult to obtain.

I think a good starting point for a Battle of the Falklands collection are picture postcards showing the British and German cruisers involved in the engagements. From time to time single postcards of all cruisers become available on eBay or auctions and it is fairly easy to build up an attractive "battle fleet collection."

I built my own starter collection within four weeks and I upgrade it from time to time when attractive new items be-



tennial of the beginning of WWI. Motifs include the Serbian army, which met several defeats as it retreated to Albania and Greece; and "A Dying Man's Farewell," an ink on paper.

### SLOVAKIA

Memorial to victims of the war. The stamp shows a stark memorial honor-

ing the 70,000 soldiers from Slovakia who were killed in the war, issued February 6, 2014.

### SLOVENIA

A single stamp depicts the memorial statue known as Carniolan Janez, the symbolic unknown soldier. The war claimed the lives of about 40,000 Slo-

vene soldiers. This stamp was issued on November 28, 2014.

### OTHERS

Stamps also have been issued over the past two years from the following countries: Faroe Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Grenada, Grenadines, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Luxembourg, Malta, Pitcairn Islands, St. Vincent, Samoa, South Africa, and Tristan da Cunha.

Additional locations may also have commemorated the WWI anniversary with other issues not noted here.

come available. Recently, I have added a postcard showing the two sons of Admiral Count von Spee [Figure 15]. Neither father nor sons survived the Battle of the Falklands. The admiral's flagship, the *Scharnhorst*, went down with all hands.



Figure 15. A postcard showing the two sons of Admiral Count von Spee. Otto (left) died when the *Nürnberg* was sunk and Heinrich perished with the *Gneisenau*.

Lt. Otto von Spee (1890–1914) perished when the *Nürnberg* sank, and Lt. Heinrich von Spee (1893–1914) died aboard the *Gneisenau* along with Theo Peters.

I also have another letter from the *Gneisenau* [Figure 16]. This one was sent from Joachim Schaper to his father, Hugo Schaper, goldsmith to his Majesty Kaiser Wilhelm II and living in Berlin. With his letter Joachim included a photograph of the old *Gneisenau*, now being used as a training ship, with his let-

ter. Sadly, he, too, perished when the *Gneisenau* went down.

## Falkland Islands Stamp Issues

There also are some stamps to be found. Falkland Islands, in particular has issued a number of anniversary stamps, the most recent a year ago.

The earliest is part of the Centennial issue of 1933, a 2sh6p stamp [Figure 17] that features the Battle Memorial in Port Stanley, dedicated 1927.

The memorial is topped with an old-style sailing ship, while a statue of Victory is seated above the inscription on the base, which begins: "In Commemoration of the Battle of the Falkland Islands Fought on the 8th Day of December 1914" [Figure 18].

On the 50th anniversary of the battle, Falkland Islands released a four-stamp set: three of the stamps depict British ships that took part in the battle — *Glasgow*, *Kent*, and *In-*



Figure 17. The Falkland Islands' World War I Battle Memorial is shown on a 1933 Centennial issue (Scott 73).



Figure 18. A photo of the base of the battle memorial in Port Stanley.

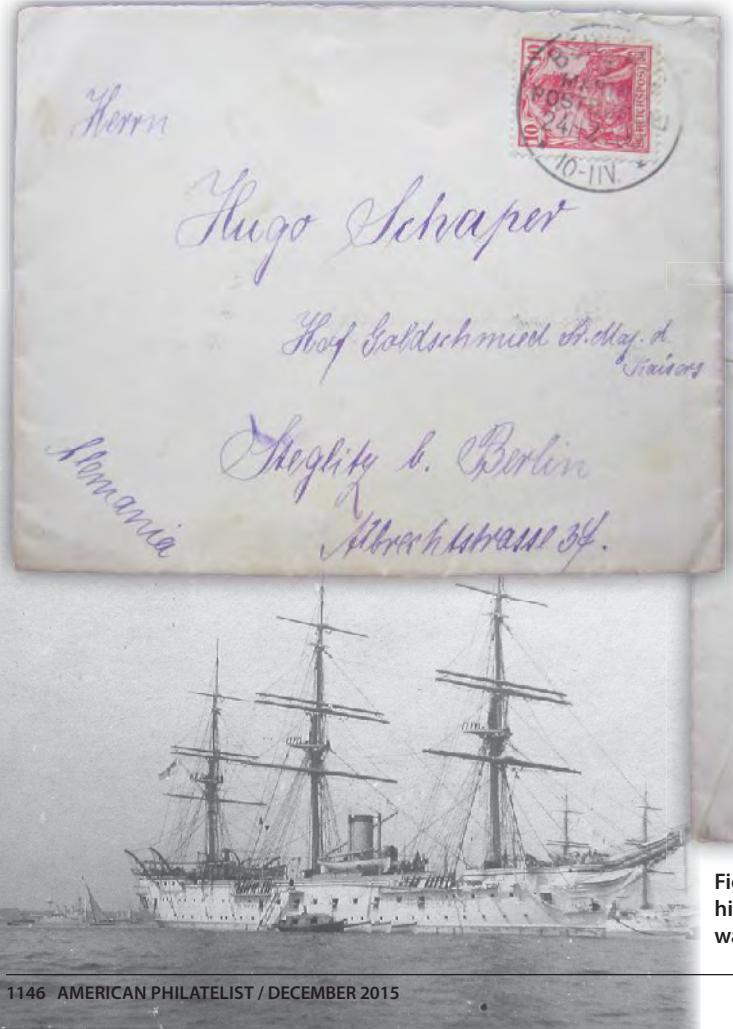


Figure 16. Front and back of cover addressed to Hugo Schaper from his son, Joachim, who was lost when the *Gneisenau* sank. Enclosed was a photograph of the old *Gneisenau* (left).



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Your comments on my specific interests and the philatelic market in general were quite educational. In addition, I appreciated the respect you showed for some of the odd and more esoteric directions my collecting had gone in. I would not hesitate to recommend Apfelbaum to anyone looking to sell their stamps.

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Figures 19. The Falkland Islands' 50th anniversary issue of the battle from 1964 (Scott 150–153). The stamps depict three British ships and the battle memorial.



Figure 20. One stamp in a 1983 set marking the 150th anniversary of British occupation of the Falklands remembered the 1914 Battle of the Falkland Islands (Scott 1983).



Figure 21. Battle of the Falklands 75th anniversary issue, 1989 (Scott 511–512); Vice-Admiral Sturdee and the *HMS Invincible*; Vice-Admiral von Spee and the *SMS Scharnhorst*.

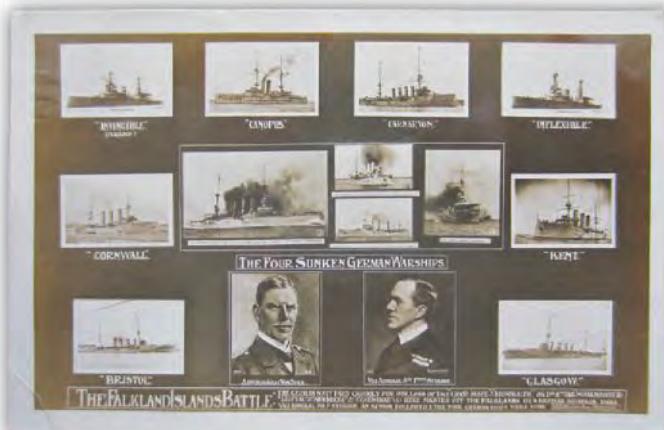


Figure 22. This British postcard was issued shortly after the Falkland Islands battle. It shows "The Four Sunken German Warships" surrounded by the eight British warships involved in the conflict. At the bottom are portraits of the opposing admirals.

*vincible* — while the fourth stamp shows the Battle Memorial [Figure 19]. One of the stamps in the 1983 issue marking the 150th anniversary of British administration, the 20-pence value, honors the 1914 Battle of the Falkland Islands with a depiction of a British warship underway [Figure 20].

On the 75th anniversary of the battle, Falklands Islands issued two stamps honoring the opposing admirals and their flagships: Vice Admiral Sturdee (1859–1925), *Invincible*, and Vice Admiral Reichsgraf von Spee (1861–1914), *Scharnhorst* [Figure 21].

A British propaganda postcard issued shortly after the Falkland Islands Battle shows "The Four Sunken German Warships" surrounded by images of eight British ships. Its caption began: "The German Navy paid quickly for our loss of the "Good Hope" & "Monmouth." At the bottom are portraits of the two admirals, von Spee and Sturdee [Figure 22].

In 2004, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the battle, Falkland Islands issued two strips of three stamps each. One strip shows six British warships, a British Navy

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Figure 23. Two strips of three stamps marking the 90th anniversary of the Falkland Islands Battle issued in 2004. The top strip of three stamps is British oriented (Scott 873) and the other is a German-oriented strip (Scott 874).



Figure 24. For the first time in more than 100 years, the German and British flags flew side by side during a memorial in December 2014 in Port Stanley. Wreaths were placed on the memorial, where plaques now commemorate the British and German naval commanders.



Figure 25. A Falkland Islands first-day cover from 2014 franked with the four centennial commemorative stamps.

flag, and two medals. The second shows the five German warships, a German imperial war ensign, and medals [Figure 23].

Last year, marked the centennial of the battle and there was an appropriate memorial service and new stamps at Port Stanley. For the first time in more than 100 years, a German flag was flying again in the Falkland Islands [Figure 24].

The Falkland Islands issued a set of four stamps [Figure 25] on the centennial of the sea battles. One stamp shows the *Invincible*, another the *Scharnhorst*, a third the German and British flags with a grouping of poppies between, and the fourth a sailor resting on arms at the battle's war memorial in Port Stanley.

#### Endnote

1. Más a Tierra (one of the Juan Fernández Islands) was renamed Isla Robinson Crusoe in 1966 in honor of Alexander Selkirk who was marooned there from 1704–1709 and whose adventures are supposed to have been the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's 1719 novel *Robinson Crusoe*.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Images of some stamps accompanying this article are from the American Philatelic Society's reference collection, which can be seen in-person at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Also, more than 75 United States and international collections are available to view online for free at [www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour](http://www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour).*

#### The Author

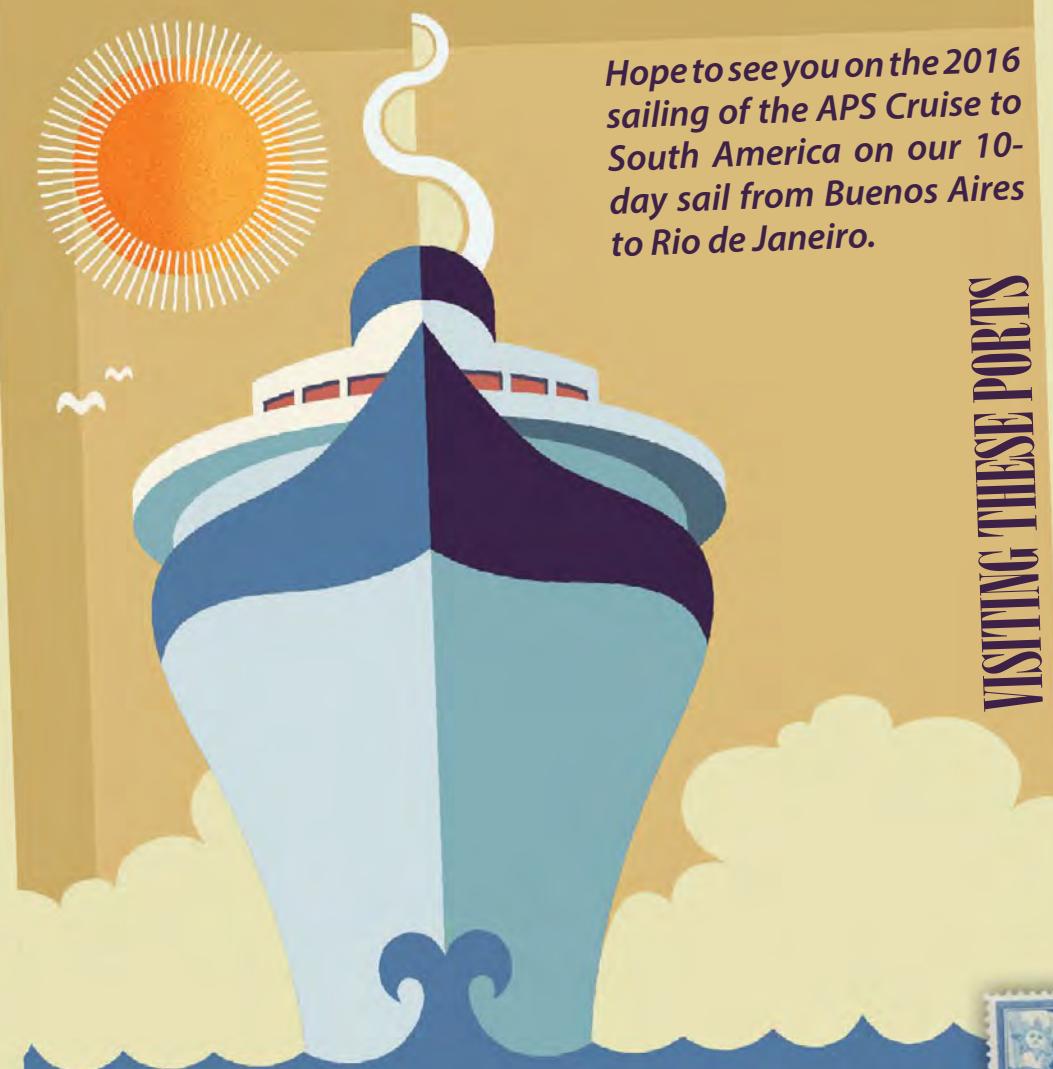
Albert-Friedrich Gruene has been collecting Falkland Island stamps since he was 15. He works in the energy sector in Germany, has traveled extensively, is very interested in history, postal and social philately, and is an active member of the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group. His other collecting interests include Germany, New Zealand, and Antarctica. He contributes regular research articles to philatelic and other magazines, mainly in Europe.

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# VISITING THE BRITISH EMPIRE

BY NOEL DAVENHILL

## Cyprus

Island Nation in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea

This island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, now a republic, was administered by Great Britain after an agreement with Turkey in 1878. Several post offices used contemporary British stamps readily identified by distinctive oval cancellations. In 1880, British ½-, 1-, 2½-, 4-, 6-pence, and 1-shilling denominations were overprinted "Cyprus" by De La Rue for use in key post offices [Figure 1]. There also was a 5-shilling stamp available only from the main post office in Larnaca.

In 1881, a shortage required the 1-pence stamp to be additionally overprinted "Half-Penny" [Figure 2] by the government printing office in Nicosia. Three different font sizes were used, including one applied as a hand-cancel (Scott 6). Problems with the exchange rate led to the 1-pence stamp being additionally surcharged 30 paras [Figure 3] when the currency was changed to Turkish paras and piastres: (40 pa = 1 piastre, 180 piastres = £1). Note most Great Britain stamps used in Cyprus exist with different corner letters.

Following the provision of new ½-, 1-, 2-, 4- and 6-piastre "key types" with Crown CC watermarks in 1881, large stocks of surplus overprinted Great Britain stamps were sold at discount prices to Stanley Gibbons Ltd. These stamps with J.A.B. (initials of the postmaster), or overprinted "Postal Surcharge" were used for accounting purposes between the chief post office in Larnaca and smaller sub-offices.

Collectors have questioned the need in 1882 for ½-piastre stamps (Scott 16 and 18) to be surcharged with the same value "½ ½" [Figure 4]. The fugitive ink used was liable to cause the green ½-pi-



Figure 1. British stamps were overprinted "Cyprus" when formal postal service began on the Mediterranean island in 1880, Scott 3.



Figure 5. New printings of several stamps took place from 1882 to 1894, including a new 30-paras denomination (Scott 20) added, along with a 12-piastre stamp (Scott 25a).

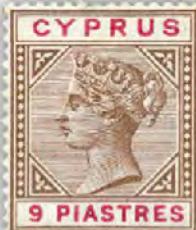


Figure 6. New denominations and bicolors, including a 9-piastre, Scott 34, were placed on sale from 1894 to 1896.

stamp to acquire a bluish tinge, leading to confusion with the blue 2-pi denomination. Despite the use of more stable ink for subsequent printings, surcharging continued until 1886 with many collectable font variations on stamps with both CC and CA watermarks. A 30 paras on 1-pi surcharge was issued in 1882.

From 1882 to 1894 new printings of ½-, 1-, 2-, 4-, and 6-piastre stamps plus additional 30-paras and 12-piastre denominations were issued with Crown CA watermark [Figure 5]. The current stamps with additional 9-, 18- and 45-piastre denominations, were placed on sale from 1894 to 1896 with duty plates printed separately in different colors [Figure 6].

From 1902 to 1903, the design was adapted to a portrait of King Edward VII [Figure 7]. The stamps were reprinted with Multiple Crown CA watermark from 1904 to 1906. A need



Figure 7. King Edward VII first appeared on definitives, including the 1-piastre carmine rose and ultra, Scott 40, issued from 1902 to 1903.



Figure 8. A different watermark is found in the 1904–1907 King Edward VII series of 12, including the low value 10-paras orange and green, Scott 49.



Figure 9. During the next era, 1921–23, changes in postal rates added new denominations, like the 1½ piastres, Scott 78.



Figure 2. A shortage required the 1-pence stamp to be additionally overprinted "Half-Penny," by the government printing office in Nicosia in 1881, Scott 8.



Figure 3. Problems with the exchange rate led to the 1-pence stamp being additionally surcharged 30 paras, when the currency was changed to Turkish paras and piastres, Scott 7.

for low denominations required the addition of 5- and 10-pi stamp in 1907 [Figure 8].

The key plates were again used to print King George V stamps in 1912. Apart from excluding the no longer-needed very low 5-pi stamp, denominations and colors remained unaltered. Multiple Script CA watermarks were introduced for new printings of 10-pi, 30-pi and 1-, 2-, 4-, 6-, 9-, 18- and 45-pi piastre denominations from 1921 to 1923. A ½-pi black was printed but not issued. During the period, postal rate changes required the addition of 1½- and 2¾-pi denominations [Figure 9] and color changes for 10-pi, 30-pi, 1 and 2-pi stamps. New 10-shilling and £1 stamps (Scott 87, 88), reverted back to the Multiple Crown CA watermark.

Cyprus was one of very few colonies not to issue overprinted “war tax” stamps during World War I (1914–18).

In 1924, chalk surfaced paper was used for modified designs showing the king’s portrait framed in a shield with panels inscribed “postage & revenue.” This format unique to Cyprus, was continued with additional ¼-, ¾- and 4½-piastre denominations [Figure 10] plus 90-pi to reverse the brief currency switch undertaken in 1923 (Scott 87).

Color changes in 1925 for ½-, ¾-, 1½-, 2-pi, and a new 2½-pi denomination reflected postal rate adjustments. The fraction bar on these new printings was horizontal whereas on previous 1½- and 2½-pi stamps it was diagonal [Figure 11]. The Multiple Crown CA watermark was retained for the £1 denomination. A black and yellow £5 stamp was added in 1928, primarily for fiscal purposes with little evidence of postal usage.

Cyprus marked 50 years as a British colony in 1928 with 10 superbly engraved pictorials printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. [Figure 12]. Antique lettering ensured uniformity in the designs, which effectively combined examples of Cypriot architecture and history. A medieval map features on the 1½-pi denomination. The colony’s badge on the 6-pi stamp shows two lions from the shield of Richard Coeur de Lion.



Figure 10. Chalk surfaced paper was used for modified designs showing the king’s portrait framed in a shield with panels inscribed “Postage & Revenue.” Some denominations, such as the green ¾-piastre Scott 92, were new. There were color changes in 1925, Scott 93.



Figure 11. These stamps illustrate changes from the 1924 to the 1925 printings of the King George V definitives. The orange-and-black 1½ piastres, Scott 95, is the older stamp. In 1925, the fraction bar moved from being diagonal to horizontal and the color on the 1½ piastres changed to carmine, Scott 96.

Figure 12. Cyprus marked 50 years as a British colony in 1928 with its first engraved pictorials, Scott 114 to 121, plus 122 and 123 (not shown). Antique lettering ensured uniformity in the designs, which effectively combined examples of Cypriot architecture and history.



Figure 13. The 1934 definitives had a king's portrait on just five of the 11 stamps, including the ¾-piastre, Scott 127. The 6-piastre, Scott 132, shows the Bairakdar Mosque.

de Lion (Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart), who conquered Cyprus in 1191; his London-based statue can be seen on the 18-pi stamp. The 1- and 2½-pi denominations respectively portray the Greek philosopher Zeno of Kition and the discovery of the body of St. Barnabas (patron saint of Cyprus) from an 18th-century fresco in Nicosia's Orthodox Cathedral. Although the stamps commemorated British rule, the king's portrait was shown only once, on the striking £1 denomination.

The outstanding success of the 1928 issue clearly influenced the 1934 definitives, which were surprisingly printed by Waterlow & Sons [Figure 13]. Only five of the 11 stamps included an inset portrait of the king. The designs were again dominated by iconic ruins and local architecture. The highest value was just 45 piastres, so the 1924 90-piastre and 1-pound denominations remained in use until 1938. The ¼-, ½-, ¾-, and 1-pi are known imperforated between vertical pairs with Gibbons values reaching £19,000 to £55,000 each.



Figure 14. Cyprus participated in 1935 and 1937 omnibus issues for the Silver Jubilee and King George VI's Coronation, including Scott 137 and 142, respectively.



Figure 15. The 1938 pictorial designed stamps were mostly adapted from the 1934 series, which included a view of Soli Theatre, Scott 146. The medieval map from the 1928 series was slightly amended for the 4½-piastre stamp, Scott 149.

Cyprus participated in 1935 and 1937 omnibus issues for the Silver Jubilee and King George VI's Coronation [Figure 14]. Others were the Victory stamps in 1946 followed by the Royal Silver Wedding and UPU anniversary commemoratives.

The 1938 pictorials [Figure 15] were mostly adapted from the 1934 series. An inset portrait of King George VI was added to ¼-, 6-, 18- and 45-pi denominations with a new design, the Citadel (Othello's Tower), on the 9-pi stamp. The medieval map from the 1928 1½-pi denomination was slightly amended for the 4½-pi stamp. Perhaps the finest portrait of King George VI on any British Colonial stamp was selected for the 90-pi and £1 denominations [Figure 16]. In 1942, revised postal rates required new 2- and 3-pi denominations, followed in 1943 by a 1½-pi color change from carmine to violet.

One year later, the 1- and 2-pi stamps were issued with changed perforations; the 2-pi perforation gauge 12½ by 13½ (Scott 147Bc) is quite easy to find whereas the entire printing of the 1-pi perforation gauge 13½ by 12½ (Scott 146a) somehow bypassed the Crown Agents, and was sent to the colony where almost all were sold for local postage or stamp duty purposes before the new perforation was noticed. One enterprising philatelist is recorded as having located only a few examples after visiting every

rural postal agency, so mint examples are understandably highly priced. Used examples are also quite scarce and missing from most collections. This was one of a handful of similar George VI perforation changes to be placed on sale only in the colony; examples include the British Guiana \$1 stamp (Scott 239a) and Grenada 2½-pence stamp (Scott 136a).

In 1951, a new 4-pi denomination featuring Kolossi Castle, built by the Knights of St. John in the 15th century, was issued in the same color as previous 2½- and 3-pi stamps. Colors of ½- and 1½-pi stamps were also switched.

King George VI definitives were not replaced until August 1955. It is perhaps interesting to note that 12 identifiable shades of the olive green and black 18-pi design (Scott 152) showing the 16th century inn Buyuk Khan have been recorded.

The Queen Elizabeth 1½-pi 1953 Coronation stamp [Figure 17] preceded the long-awaited introduction in 1955 of new currency (1000 milliemes = 1 pounds) definitives [Figure 18] printed again by Bradbury, Wilkin-



Figure 16. One of the finest portraits of King George VI on any British Colonial stamp can be found on the 1938 90-piastre and 1-pound (Scott 155) denominations.



Figure 17. The 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth is commemorated, Scott 167.



Figure 18. Cyprus switched to new currency in 1955, which brought a new series featuring the queen. The stamps, denominated in millieme and pounds, show export crops, industrial accomplishments, natural sites, settlements, and ancient architecture. Shown are Scott 169, 171, 175, 178, and 179.

son. The major export crops of carobs, grapes, and oranges were featured on small format 2-, 3-, and 5-millieme denominations. Other designs included a view of Troodos Forest, Kyrenia, and Famagusta harbors. Also shown was the beach at Paphos where the legendary goddess Aphrodite rose from the sea. Aphrodite also appeared on the map featured in 1934 and 1938. Ancient architecture was the theme of 50-, 100-, and 250-millieme denominations. The 1-pound stamp [Figure 19] showed heraldic devices of the principal dynasties (Byzantine, Lusignan, Venetian, Ottoman) to rule Cyprus from the division of the Roman Empire in 395 AD to British occupation.

To mark independence in August 1960, these stamps were overprinted [Figure 20] to proclaim Cyprus as a republic in Greek and Turkish languages. Double overprints have been recorded on used 20- and 30-millieme stamps; they are currently valued by Stanley Gibbons at £12,000 and £45,000, respectively. Only one 30-millieme stamp is known. Independence also was marked with 10-, 30- and 100-millieme stamps showing a simple outline map of Cyprus.

My personal collection closed at this point.

The many Rural Postal Service cancellations reflect the unique network providing postal services to villages, monasteries, railway stations, military camps etc. The diversity of cancellations makes the postal history of Cyprus quite unique. During Queen Victoria's reign, ½-piastre stamps paid the in-



Figure 19. The 1-pound stamp showed heraldic devices of the principal dynasties (Byzantine, Lusignan, Venetian, Ottoman) to rule Cyprus from the division of the Roman Empire in 395 AD to British occupation, Scott 182.



Figure 20. To mark independence in August 1960, definitives of 1955 were overprinted to proclaim Cyprus as a republic in Greek and Turkish languages, Scott 185.

land postal rate and are probably the most common source for these fascinating cancellations.

My grateful thanks to Rob Wheeler (Cyprus Study Group) for providing help and advice.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The images accompanying the British Empire collection are from the American Philatelic Society's reference collection, which can be seen in-person or for free online at [www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour](http://www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour).*

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*Readers may contact the author via e-mail at chambon@xtra.co.nz.*

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# A Most Mundane Cover to a Most Interesting Addressee

A Dealer's Bargain Box Find

BY VINCENT CENTONZE

I recently came across an interesting cover in a dealer's bargain box. At first glance, there is nothing unusual about it; in fact, it is rather mundane.

The cover is franked with a Type III 3-cent George Washington definitive stamp (Scott 529) printed by offset lithography paying the domestic first class war rate of 3 cents per ounce, which was in effect from November 2, 1917 to July 1, 1919, during and just after the United States involvement in World War I. The domestic rate was valid for letters and postcards between the U.S. and military post offices of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, where this letter was sent. The stamp is tied by an ovate bar duplex handcancel from Flat Rock, North Carolina. The time and date (midnight

ily's military tradition, the younger Johnson Hagood graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1896 and became a distinguished military officer in his own right. His many duty assignments included the Spanish American War and WWI. During WWI, Hagood created the "Services of Supply," and served as its chief of staff until he sailed back to the United States on May 16, 1919. Hence, the cover is addressed to him at "Headquarters SOS."

Hagood was a highly decorated officer who was tireless and energetic. During the course of his military career, he even patented several inventions, including the Hagood tripod mount, in 1903, while serving as a captain. This device improved gun sightings for coastal artillery. He invented a mortar deflection board, which was a device for improving the accuracy of mortars, and had other inventions connected with coastal defense, of which he was in charge during one point in his career. By the time of his retirement on May 1, 1936, he had reached the rank of major general. At the time the cover was written by his wife, he was a brigadier general.

Unfortunately, like so many outspoken military leaders, his career came to a rather inglorious end when he criticized President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. After his comments became public, on February 10, 1936, he was relieved from command. Owing in part to his family's deep roots in the Democratic Party, Hagood had friends well-placed in the U.S. Congress who convinced Roosevelt to reconsider and give him a new command. Roosevelt relented and he was given command of the Fifth Corps Area, headquartered in Chicago. However, he was granted immediate retirement one day after assuming command on May 1, 1936. He officially left the U.S. Army on May 31, 1936. Hagood died on December 22, 1948.

It's amazing what you can research and discover from a simple cover in the bargain box. It just goes to show that you can't judge a cover by its cover.

## Resources

The World's Military History website. "Johnson Hagood." [http://theworldsmilitaryhistory.wikia.com/wiki/Johnson\\_Hagood](http://theworldsmilitaryhistory.wikia.com/wiki/Johnson_Hagood).

Wikipedia, "Johnson Hagood (General)." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson\\_Hagood\\_\(general\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson_Hagood_(general)).



Major General Johnson Hagood.



Cover to (Brigadier) General Johnson Hagood at the headquarters of the "Services of Supply," which he established.

on the 14th) and year (1919) are legible, but the month is not.

What makes this cover interesting is the addressee, "General Johnson Hagood, Headquarters SOS, Military Post Office 717, France." The return address on the back is from "Mrs. Hagood, 62 Tradd St, Charleston, SC." Tradd Street is located in the old historic part of Charleston. Why the cover was mailed from Flat Rock, North Carolina, is not known. Flat Rock is near Asheville, North Carolina, 259 miles from Charleston. One can only speculate that perhaps Mrs. Hagood was visiting the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains in early spring, 1919, as she waited for her husband to return from the war in Europe. It must have been early spring because Hagood was home from Europe by late May 1919.

Johnson Hagood was born June 16, 1873 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Hagood came from a military family. His father and two uncles both served in the Confederate States Army. His uncle, also named Johnson Hagood, was a famous Confederate brigadier general during the Civil War and later became governor of South Carolina. Following in his fam-

## The Author

Vincent Centonze is a veterinarian who has been collecting stamps for more than forty years. His main interests include the United States, Italy, Egypt, and more.

## Mark Schwartz for APS Director-at-Large

To make the APS better for all members

### Who I am

I have been a stamp and postal history collector for over 45 years. I collect and exhibit both classic and modern material. After 37 years in science, marketing and strategic planning, I retired to become more active in philately. I was VP of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club and remain an active member. I serve on the boards of the Philatelic Foundation, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and am a member of the NPM Council of Philatelists. Finally, I have written several philatelic articles and given presentations at local and national shows.



### What I believe

- I believe the job of the Board is to oversee the reputation and activities of the APS, to set objectives and help the Executive Director and his staff develop short and long-term strategies. The board tracks how well the Executive Director has put those strategies into effect and achieved those objectives, and stays away from day-to-day operations.
- The APRL is a critical repository for all philatelic literature and information. We must finish its construction and ensure that it is there for generations to come.
- We must make sure we are providing the services that our current members want. We still have too many members leaving the APS each year.
- We must attract new members, recognizing that many may be younger and non-traditional, and that there are many who collected in their youth and can be re-attracted to the hobby.
- We must recognize that we live and enjoy our hobby in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and must adapt our methods and communications to this changing age.
- We must elect and support officers that consider the needs of all members, from those of limited means who gain great enjoyment from collecting the modern stamps of a single country to those who can afford to collect and exhibit the classic issues of the United States.

**I ask for your support as APS Director-at-Large for 2016-2019.**



# Digitization Project Adds to Archive

## Capturing Images of Important Collection

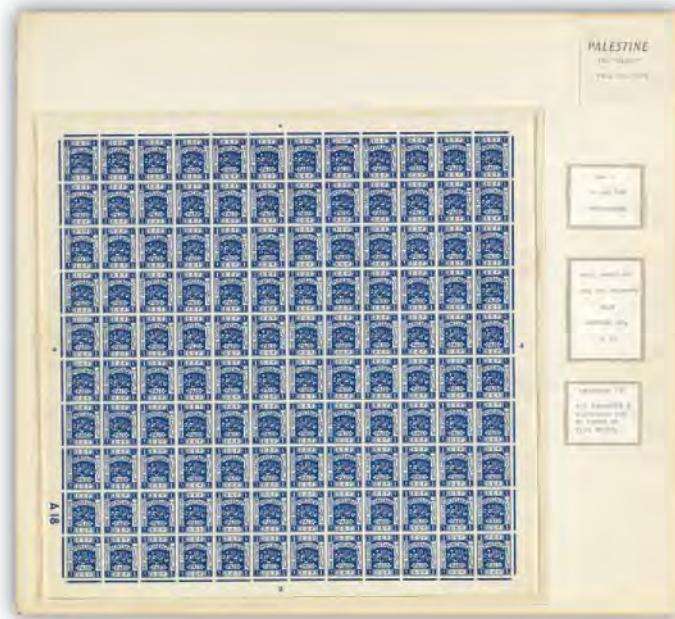
The Smithsonian Institution, through its Digitization Program Office, is devoting a number of resources to mass digitization projects in the museums.

As you might know, the postal museum jumped on the digitization wagon several years ago, most notably with our online Arago (<http://arago.si.edu>) project that gives close-up views of thousands of items in the museum's collections.

In September, the museum took part in one of the Smithsonian's Rapid Capture digitization projects. Our staff organized this massive undertaking and in only five days, working with Smithsonian staff and contractors, imaged 3,550 album pages, for a total of 22,286 items.

Rapid Capture not only refers to the speed in which items are digitized, but also the speed in which those images are made available to the public. The team's motto is: "from shelf to the public in less than 24 hours." Speed does not mean a sacrifice of quality or care of the objects. The team employs industrial scale quality control that ensures every item — stamp, cover, or sheet, is safely and securely photographed at its best.

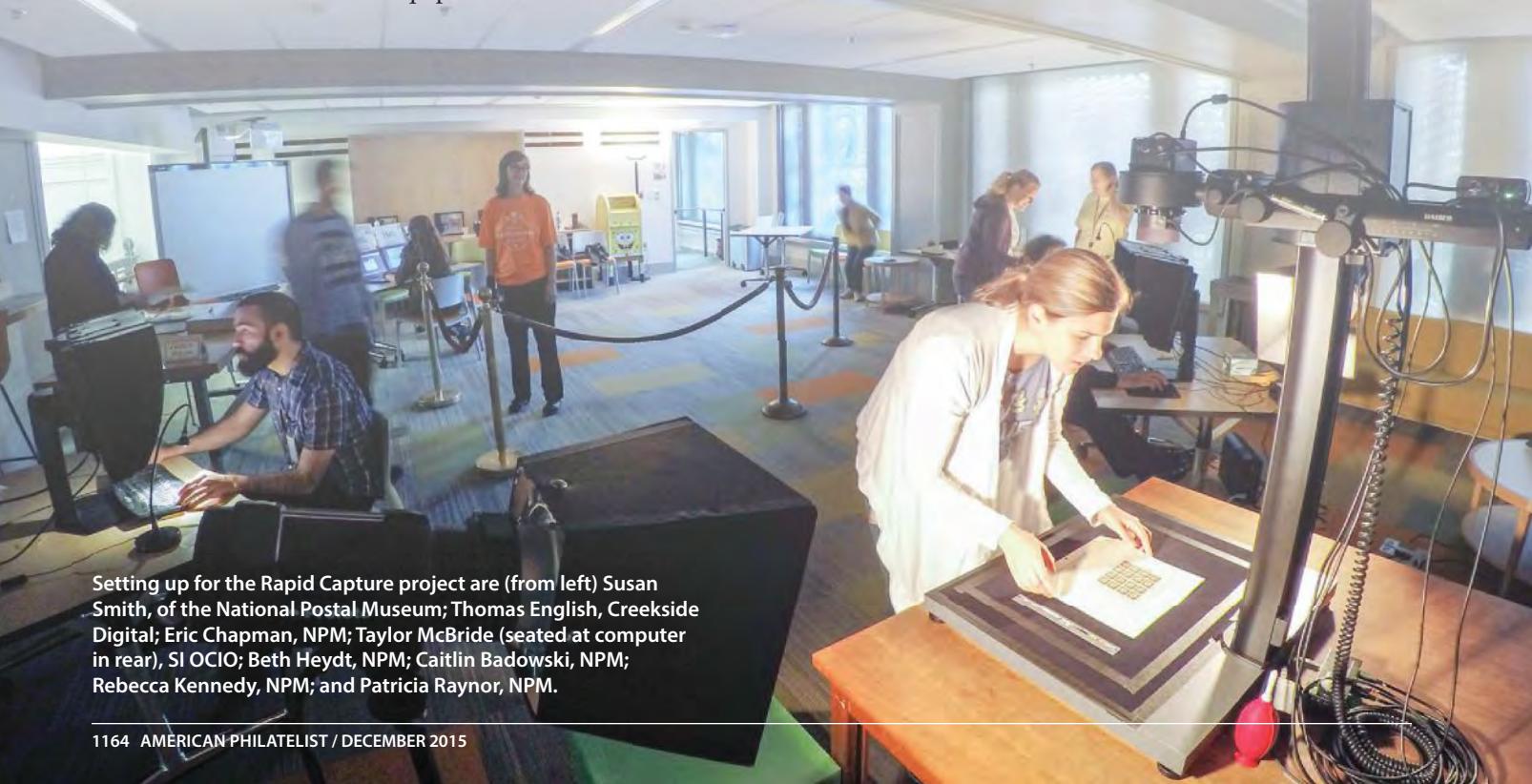
The museum's entry into the Institution's Rapid Capture project is Sidney N. Shure's specialized philatelic collection of Israel and Palestine. Shure, an amateur-radio hobbyist in the early 1920s, created a company that became known as Shure Brothers Inc., internationally renowned for its microphones and other audio-electronic equipment. Shure's massive col-



A full pane of 1-piastre Palestine Mandate stamps.

lection, on 4,000 pages in nearly 100 albums, is staggering in scope. It includes an incredible assemblage of sheets and partial sheets that are fabulous for overprint study from the Palestine Mandate and a complete collection of the first Israel issues.

There is extensive Holy Land material while the area was under Turkish control and volumes of related material from



Setting up for the Rapid Capture project are (from left) Susan Smith, of the National Postal Museum; Thomas English, Creekside Digital; Eric Chapman, NPM; Taylor McBride (seated at computer in rear), SI OCIO; Beth Heydt, NPM; Caitlin Badowski, NPM; Rebecca Kennedy, NPM; and Patricia Raynor, NPM.



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Jamaica 1919 1½d War Contingent Embarking imperforate colour trial in deep blue with 'SPECIMEN' overprint. Stunning. SG80var; SC77var



Malaysia Federal Territory  
1986 15c Rubber imperforate  
plate 8A block. Rare major  
error. SGK19a; SC5var

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Great Britain 1965 4d Deep Blue imperforate to top margin. Scarce. SG576avar; SGS85c; SC359var

Thomas English, of Creekside Digital, edits images for public display. Before going online, all images undergo stringent quality control tests to ensure the public image is exactly what you would see if examining it in person.



Chris Becker, of Creekside Digital, works with Beth Heydt, of the National Postal Museum, who holds a page with a cover mailed from Damascus, Syria to Alexandria, Egypt in 1919, that contains censor and government seals.



A postcard (close-up) addressed to a Jewish resident in Palestine on the eve of World War II warns of "dark days ahead," and includes numerous interesting auxiliary markings and a "postage due" stamp.

An album page featuring a cover mailed from Aleppo, Syria to Cairo, Egypt. The cover is shown close-up below.



geographical neighbors and covering conflicts that took place in the region. Highlights include numerous covers from both world wars with censor and seal markings and a full pane of 1-piastre Palestine Mandate No. 1. Shure tried to obtain extensive postal markings from every town in the region. Now, all you need to see these magnificent pieces is the Internet.

I invite you to wander through this digitized collection on the Smithsonian collections Search Center (<http://collections.si.edu/search/>). We are always working to bring philately and the history of the postal service to life for our visitors

— in person and online.

We realize that not everyone can visit the museum and welcome projects such as this as an opportunity to share our treasures with the world. Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. The Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except December 25. Admission is free. More information on the museum can be found at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu>.*

## Mick Zais Declares Candidacy for APS President

Dear APS Members,

I'm announcing my candidacy for President of the American Philatelic Society in the coming 2016 election. I'm running because I believe the APS, while facing challenges, has significant opportunities to grow membership and expand member services. To this task, I'll bring 45 years of diverse leadership and financial management experience.

For the past four years, I served as South Carolina's State Superintendent of Education, overseeing policy for 1,250 schools, 51,000 teachers, and 720,000 students, while managing a budget of \$4.0 billion.

For ten years, I served as President of Newberry College in South Carolina, a liberal arts, residential, undergraduate institution founded in 1856, with an annual budget in excess of \$20 million. During my tenure the College almost doubled enrollment, constructed new facilities, and more than doubled its endowment. During the last three years of my tenure, the College was nationally recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Colleges."

For 31 years, I led organizations of increasing size and complexity in the U.S. Army, culminating in promotion to Brigadier General. My assignments included Commanding General of all U.S. and Allied Forces in Kuwait and as Commanding General of Operation Provide Refuge which brought 4,000 Kosovo refugees out of Macedonia for settlement in the U.S. I was also the Pentagon's Chief of War Plans.

My entire professional life has been dedicated to leadership through service to others.

Since the age of eight, I have collected stamps from around the world. Over the past 15 years, my focus has been on stamps and postal history related to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as well as the U.S. Army stamps of 1936-37. Next year will mark forty years of continuous APS membership. In 2013, I was elected to the APS Board of Directors as a Vice President. Most recently, I served as Chairman of the search committee that found and hired the APS's new Executive Director.

As your President, I will be a force for change. This means I will work to reverse declining membership by building new outlets for growing our membership and reaching out to more diverse groups. I'll work to strengthen the partnership between the APS and the 30 World Series of Philately regional shows, our 195 specialty societies, and the hundreds of local chapters across the U.S. I'll also work to enhance relations with philatelic organizations in other countries and to grow the number of international members.

Most importantly, I'll work with our new Executive Director, the dedicated staff, the APS and APRL Boards, and the leaderships of many other philatelic organizations, large and small, to build a stronger hobby. Working together, I'm confident we can improve the business operations of the APS while enhancing services to our members: including our StampStore, sales circuits, expertizing, education programs and fundraising to complete the world's premiere philatelic library.

The success of the APS depends upon the health of our hobby; and the health of our hobby depends upon dealers who find and provide material to collectors. As President, I will dedicate myself to strengthening the partnership between the APS and the professional philatelic community.

In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting more of you, learning about your experiences, and hearing your ideas about how we can work together to build an APS that will last for generations. To this end, I would welcome your ideas for the future of the Society at the addresses below.

It would be an enormous honor for me to serve as your President. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Mick Zais  
1642 Tanglewood Road  
Columbia, SC 29204-3308



**mickzais@gmail.com**



# Library Open During Construction

## Navigating Library Resources Throughout the Project

**A**s I write this, we are a few weeks into the final phase of construction for the new American Philatelic Research Library. It is an exciting time for us as we look forward to the library's new space. It will provide much needed room as we grow our collections, create secure and appropriate storage for rare and unique materials, provide an accessible and welcoming space for visitors, and make an efficient work space for our staff and volunteers.

However, construction in an occupied building — we're currently just down the hall from the new construction — is always a challenge. We have limited access to a portion of the new library completed in 2014, which includes the compact shelving area, the Al and Dottie Kugel Map Room, and the George Turner Rare Book Room. Staff and volunteers have to work around the noise and dust that come with construction. We take extra time to navigate an alternate route to portions of our collection and to monitor conditions to ensure that our collections are protected throughout the construction period. We also are spending time planning for our move.

We are still able to access all library materials, though, and continue to offer our full range of services to members, including reference, scanning, photocopying, and book lending. We may need a little extra time to respond to requests, particularly for material in the



American Philatelic Research Library construction photos from October.

completed portion of the new library. This includes auction catalogs, price lists, duplicate copies of journals for sale, maps and other large documents, rare books, and archival collections. If you are in a hurry for something, just let us know, and we will try our best to accommodate you.

Construction should be completed in the spring, and then it will be time to move the collections. We anticipate using professional library movers to move most of the collections. Because we will reuse existing shelving, and because it is important to keep our collections in order, moving the library will be a complex project that professionals are equipped to handle. We plan to take advantage of the opportunity to integrate some collections — for example, bringing together the bound and unbound journals, which will allow staff to retrieve materials for member requests more efficiently and will make it easier for visitors to find the title they are looking for.

Members have helped us move library materials in the past, and already I have started to receive offers of assistance in moving us into the new space. While

professionals will handle the bulk of the materials, there are sure to be many other tasks associated with the move. As opportunities arise, I will share information about volunteer projects.

### Does the APRL Keep Everything We Scan?

Five years ago, the APRL filled most member requests for articles or short sections of books by making black and white photocopies and putting them in the mail. Though we still offer a photocopying service, it has its limitations. We can't make color photocopies. Members have to wait for the mail to get their information. And mailing copies to other countries is sometimes prohibitively expensive or slow.

These days, most requests are filled by scanning rather than photocopying. Scanning on our large format book scanners allows us to provide full-color high-resolution scans, quickly and to anywhere in the world, for a reasonable cost.

I often get asked if the library keeps and archives all the articles we scan for members so that we can reuse them or post them online. We don't, for two main reasons:

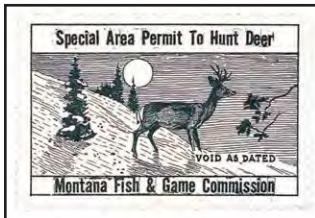
1. Copyright law prohibits us from keeping copies of publications that are protected by copyright. The copies we make for individual members are made

## Need Help Using the Library?

Whenever you have research questions, do contact library staff for assistance. You can reach us by phone at 814-933-3803 (press 3 for the Library), by e-mail at [aprl@stamps.org](mailto:aprl@stamps.org), or by mail at APRL, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.



# David R. Torre



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2. Archiving scans of articles would require good indexing so that they could easily be retrieved again, as well as significant server space to store the files. Because requests are rarely for the same article, saving these scans is not a

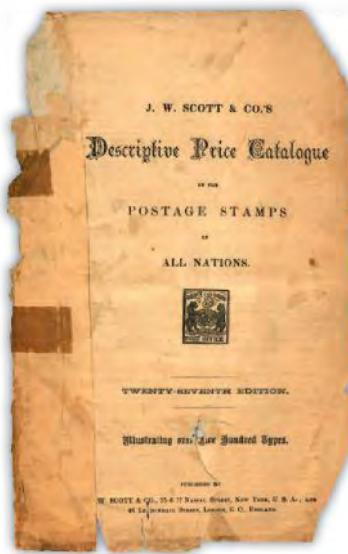
good use of our limited resources.

There are exceptions, however. When we scan a public domain work in its entirety, we can and do save and archive the scans, and later make them available online through our library catalog. There are currently more than 250 records in the David Straight Memorial Philatelic Union Catalog with the location "Online," which means the record either has a digital file attached or contains a link to full text available from another source.

One example is the 27th edition of the Scott catalog (published in 1873), which we have scanned and made available online.

For more examples, select "Online" from the drop-down box when you search the catalog or look for records with "Online" in the location.

In addition to saving scans of public domain works, our digitization strategy also includes proactively digitizing works in the public domain (such as pre-1923 publications and government



The 1873 Scott catalog available online via the Philatelic Union Catalog website.

documents) and works that we can secure the rights to (such as publications produced by and copyrighted by the American Philatelic Society or works the copyright holder has given us permission to digitize, such as our collection of online exhibits).

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

Catalog Search

Any Word(s) (search help)

Record Type (about\_record\_types)

AND -

All Libraries and Indexes

APL

APL

OCC

CONY

Grenna

NMPL

PNPL

RHF

RMPPL

RPSL

SGC

SL-NPM

Spelman

WPS

WPRL

All Libraries and Indexes

Catalog Search

Switch to advanced search

Type words in \* to find words beginning with \*, such as "comics" (surround phrases with quotation marks)

Library codes:

APL = American Philatelic Research Library

CONY = Connecticut CSD (NY)

CCC = Central City Club of Chicago

Grenna = Grenna Foundation

NMPL = Northeast Philatelic Library

PHF = Postal History Foundation

RMPPL = Rick's Philatelic Museum Collection

RPSL = Royal Philatelic Society London

SL-NPM = Schindler-Niemietz Collection

Screen capture of the main search page for the Philatelic Union Catalog for online resources (<http://catalog.stamplibrary.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx>).

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#1. 5¢ Brown with Double Transfer Type A. Four Clear Margins, Deep Shade, Choice Impression, Neat Red Grid Cancel, with 2015 PSE Certificate.

Our Ad Price \$695



#39. 90¢ Blue, Large Part Original Gum, Beautifully Centered with Rich Color. "We believe that this stamp has full original gum, however the cert declares it to be only part original gum." Just Beautiful!, 100% Sound, with 2008 Philatelic Foundation Certificate.

List Price \$1850  
Special Ad Price \$1675



#13. 10¢ Green Type I Used, Large Even Margins All Around, Intense Shade and Impression, Neat Strike of a Town Cancel Leaves The Type Characteristics Clearly Visible, 100% Sound Extremely Fine GEM with Philatelic Foundation Certificate.

List Price \$1550  
Special Ad Price \$1400



#9X1. New York N.Y. Postmaster's Provisional, 5¢ Black. Almost Perfectly Balanced Margins, Strong Impression, Canceled Solely by Red Square Grid, Extremely Fine with 2015 PSE Certificate. "A True Gem!"

Our List Price is \$675  
Special Ad Price \$625



#R79a. \$1.60 Foreign Exchange, Imperforate. Large Margins All Around, Top Margin Copy, Intense Shade and Proof-like Impression, Neatly Struck Hand Stamp Cancel, Superb GEM. A Beautiful Example of the \$1.60 Foreign Exchange with a 2015 PSE Graded 98 Certificate (Superb 98; Revenues are unlisted in SMQ). "Perfection On paper!"

Our Ad Price \$5000



#69. 12¢ Black. "Beautiful Centering with Ample Margins All Around, Crisp Impression Showing Every Detail," Subtle Blue and Red Cancels, "Appears To Be Totally Face Free Of A Cancel." With PSE Graded 85 Certificate, "Looks like a 90 to us."

SMQ \$225 Our Price \$195



#73. 2¢ Black, Original gum, Previously Hinged, Deep Black Shade on Crisp Bright Paper, Balanced Margins, Extremely Fine, "A Difficult Stamp to Find with Original Gum and Such Choice Centering." With 2006 Philatelic Foundation Certificate.

Our List Price \$1750  
Special Ad Price \$1625



#449. 2¢ Red Type I Coil Joint Line Pair, Bright Color, Very Nice Centering For This Difficult Rotary Coil Issue, Top Stamp is Lightly Hinged, Bottom Stamp is NH. Very Scarce in Any Condition. With 2001 & 2008 Philatelic Foundation Certificates.

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407

# Fakes, Forgeries, Counterfeits?

## Occasional Issues With Circuit Sales Stamps

Through the years, we have encountered the occasional problem with stamps submitted for sales through Circuit Sales. Certain stamps are regularly misidentified and others are counterfeited, forged, faked, or altered to make them appear to be the more valuable items. A listing was compiled showing the problems that can exist with these stamps. The list is online via stamps.org/How-to-Sell. Click on "Problem Areas" under "Helpful Information" on the right side of that web page. For Belgium, the online listing indicates that forgeries and fake overprints are problems in relation to these Scott catalog numbers: 1-75, 222-224, B1-B47, O1-O25, P1-P40.

Don't have Internet access? We can also send the list by regular mail upon request. Please note the disclaimer accompanying the list, saying that it is not intended to be complete, nor are the problems applicable to all stamps within the catalog range.

There are resources for studying problem stamps at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). Some of the titles you might want to check are shown here. Again, this list of resources is not complete. Some include information about many countries and others focus on one country or on a narrower focus within a country. Internet searches will provide you with more resources than we can include here and most resources are available for borrowing from the American Philatelic Research Library ([stamplibrary.org](http://stamplibrary.org)).

You might also check the following website for the APRL's "Index of Literature in the English Language that Describes Postal Stamp Forgeries, Fakes, Reprints, Fraudulent Postal Markings and Other Obliterations and Bibliography" ([stamps.org/userfiles/file/library/TedescoIndex.pdf](http://stamps.org/userfiles/file/library/TedescoIndex.pdf)). You will want to bookmark the site rather than print the index, because it is quite lengthy. Visit the online card catalog for the APRL to search for and obtain copies of needed information.

### Mounting Expensive Stamps

It is economical to use hinges for mounting stamps in the sales books, but we all know the associated problems when trying to re-

Straits Settlements stamp (Scott 199d) that was checked to authenticate its overprint. The stamp received an APEX certificate stating it is "unused, original gum, hinge remnant, genuine."

### Stamp Research Resources for Fakes, Forgeries, and Counterfeits

Frank Aretz. *Know Your Stamps. Volumes I, II, III and IV*. Toronto 1941

E. D. Bacon. *Reprints of 19th Century Postal Adhesive Stamps*. United Kingdom 1899

John Barefoot. *Forgery & Reprint Guide*. York (UK) 1983-87, 20 volumes, each specialized to a single country

Billig's grosses *Handbuch der Fälschungen*. 44 volumes, Otto E. Stiedl (text) & Fritz Billig, Vienna 1933-38

Alan Blunt. *Poland? Forgery? Alnis Guide 11 (Glass Slipper)*, York (UK) 1990

Dr. Werner M. Bohne, ed. *Reference Manual of Forgeries*, The Germany Philatelic Society, Arnold, MD 1975-2000

H. Bynof-Smith. *Forged Postage Stamps. Volumes I - V*, Sydney (AUS) 1990-1993

R. J. Ceresa. *The Postage Stamps of Russia. Volume I - V*, England 1977-2002

R. J. Ceresa. *Russian Postage Stamps 1917-1923 Forgery Guide*. Beginning in 2004

J. Dorn. *The Forged Stamps of All Countries*. London c. 1935. Reprinted in the 1950's.

R. B. Earée. *Album Weeds. How to Detect Forged Stamps*. 3rd edition, United Kingdom 1906.

Rienk M. Feenstra. *Greece. A Collection of Forgeries*. Ridderkerk 1993 and supplement 1997

H. G. Leslie Fletcher. *Postal Forgeries of the World*. Batley United Kingdom 1977

International Society for Japanese Philately, Japan. *The CD Forgeries of the Dragon, Cherry Blossom and Koban Postage Stamps of Japan*, 2nd edition, Haddonfield NJ 2002 (1st edition 1997)

Alden Johnson. *Forgeries Old and New, I and II*. Toronto 1941 and 1945

G. Kock. *World Forgery Catalogue*. Helsinki 1998

Larry Lyons. *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States. I, II, III*. Vermont 1998

Micarelli: *Micarelli Identification Guide to U.S. Regular Issues 1847-1934*, Scott Publishing Co., Sidney, OH 1979-2001

Kenneth W. Pugh. *Reference Manual of BNA Fakes Forgeries & Counterfeits*. Canada. 1977-81

Fernand Serrane. *The Serrane Guide. Stamp Forgeries of the World to 1926*. APS 1998

Varro E. Tyler. *Focus on Forgeries: A Guide to Forgeries of Common Stamps*. Publ. Linn's, 1993 and 2000

Varro E. Tyler. *Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works*. Publ. Linn's 1991

The Yucatan Affair: *The Work of Raoul Ch. de Thuin, Philatelic Counterfeiter*. APS 1974 and reprinted 1980



# PUBLIC AUCTION #34 ~ DECEMBER 5, 2015

## SALE TO BE HELD AT THE COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK



Our 34th Public Auction will feature pre-1800 Br. America stampless covers, major holdings of KGVI mint and used including errors, varieties, booklets, sheets, blocks, and Japanese Occupation from the collections of Ralph G. Baranow of Alaska and Keith H. Bayley of Barbados. Also included is a group of early Br. Guiana, Mauritius Express errors, a specialized Malta collection, individual rarities including the Cayman Islands KEVII 1d on 5/ double overprint *used* and the scarce War Tax stamp in mint and used blocks of 4 and on cover, the St. Vincent KGVI 10/ wmk inverted used, COIUMBUS errors, a nice holding of KGV and KGVI Bermuda blocks of four, some with varieties and much, much more.



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move them from the stamps after making a purchase. For this reason, we suggest using mounts for the items priced \$15 (suggested minimum) or more. However, how the mounts are attached can cause another set of problems. Recently, a very expensive stamp was found to be missing from a sales book. The stamp had been placed in one of our mounts with the open side at the top, as per one of our recommended methods for attaching them. The stamp fell out anyway.

The best method to use for attaching our mounts is to turn the mount upside-down with the opening facing the bottom of the page and apply the gummed strip to the top.

Place the stamp into the mount upside-down and with the design facing the page. Then fold the mount down so it fills the space and crease the fold at the top of the mount just above the gummed strip. This seals the stamp into the mount by closing off the open side and the crease above the gummed strip makes the mount lay flat against the page, because only one layer of the mount sheeting is at the crease point.

Please do not apply tape to the mount to hold it down to the page, as the accessibility to the stamp for inspection becomes a problem. If using the black, split-back type mounts, attach only one of the backing sections to the page, and make sure the size of the mount you use is appropriate for the size of the item. A mount that is much larger than the item will allow it to shift and fall out, while one that is too small will damage the item's perforations. Sales books containing mounts

that are open on three sides will not be accepted. They are not secure, nor are large items mounted with narrow strips or partial mounts, so that most of the item is outside the mount.

### Clearance Special for November and December

Provide us with a list of up to three categories and we will send you one clearance circuit of material from only one of the categories and there will be no 5 percent buyers fee charged. We will most likely choose the category with ample supply in our inventory. Please note that requests for U.S. single-stamp categories might not be chosen, because of supply. However, U.S. blocks and the U.S. cover categories are fair game. We need your name, mailing address, APS number, phone number, e-mail address, and the three categories. This is a one-circuit-per-member special.

### '5 For 10' Categories (Needs)

You can earn coupons for free blank books for every 10 completed books (Clearance books do not qualify) containing material from a set list of categories. As you earn coupons for free blank books, the coupons can only be redeemed if accompanied by an order for sales books and/or mounts. Categories that are in particularly short supply include:

U.S. Coils, U.S. Cut Squares, U.S. Officials, U.S. Possessions, U.S. Precancels, British Oceania, Jamaica, German States, Netherlands Colonies, Vatican City, Ethiopia, Israel, and Worldwide Airmails.

## Major 20th Century Essays & Proofs



**821 – 16c Lincoln**

Black die proof pulled on India like paper—most likely unique in this format. Outside of the set of Prexie small die proofs offered in the 1970's at auction, very few individual die proofs exist of any value in this series. Very rare Ex-Landau \$2,500.00



**704P2 1/2c Washington Bi-Centennial**

Olive-brown, small die proof pulled on India paper. Very rare \$1,500.00

**551-E1 – 1/2c Hale essay**

Carmine, untrimmed die essay pulled on India paper and die sunk on card. It is an incomplete engraving of entire design as adopted, label blank and vignette unfinished. Pencil notation at bottom right, "20e" indicates the color to be used for the 20c value in the 1922-25 regular issue series. \$2,500.00



**367P2 – 2c Lincoln**

Carmine small die proof on wove paper with PFC. A gem and quite scarce. Ex-Landau \$2,000.00

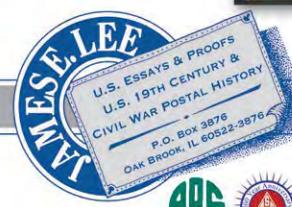


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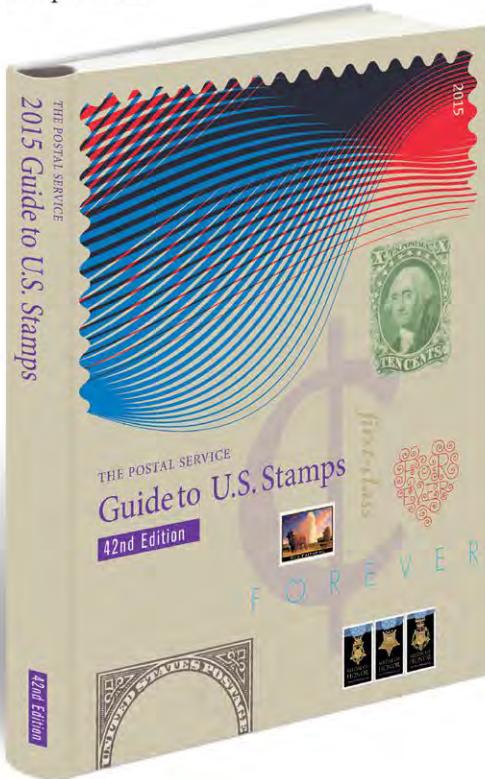
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# Sustaining the Past, Present, and Future

## Campaign for Philately Reignited



In the United States, Benjamin Franklin's legacy as a Founding Father still stands strong more than 225 years after his death. He was a writer, printer, an inventor, a diplomat, a statesman, and a postmaster. We all know that Ben Franklin was chosen as the first postmaster general by the Continental Congress, setting forth the postal system that remains today. Of course, as a tribute to his leadership, many collectors have held a stamp bearing his likeness at some point on their journey.

In all of his accomplishments, one that remains the most lasting and the least discussed was his speech to the Constitutional convention in September 1787. As the document that would give birth to our nation was dissected from different corners of the room on its flaws, Franklin, at the spry age of 81 wrote a speech, delivered by fellow Pennsylvania delegate, James Wilson, acknowledging that the document was not perfect, but, should be passed and supported by each member of the convention. Although he was not persuasive enough to get universal support, he did carry the day on getting adoption of the Constitution that has served us for 226 years.

After adoption of the Constitution, it is said that Franklin was asked what form of government we would take. His response was simply, "A republic, if you can keep it." His words concisely captured the challenge of our new nation, that a vigilant citizenry was necessary to maintain the liberty earned on the battlefield.

While not on the same scale as founding a country, the challenge we have at the APS requires the same vigilance if we are to preserve philately's role in promoting education, history, and the investments of collectors everywhere. Next September, the APS will celebrate 130 years as an organization, a reminder of the legacy passed down to us for generations and a hope we can pass it on for generations to come.

In order to meet that Sustainability Challenge, each member of the APS plays a pivotal role for our collector community.

We are the beneficiaries of various charitable contributions from volunteers working hard at stamp shows or in Bellefonte, to stamps for education programs, to literature for the world's largest philatelic library, monthly contributions to *The American Philatelist*, and direct donations from the Mighty Buck campaign to finishing the new library. Each contribution is incredibly meaningful and on behalf of the board, the staff, and our fellow APS members, thanks to each of you for what you do for philately.

In 2003, then-APS President Janet Klug started the Campaign for Philately with a very clear challenge to each of us: Raise \$10 million in 10 years for the APS and APRL. Never before in our 130-year history had anyone ever put that sort of challenge to our members. Despite the significant global economic downturn in 2008 and the years that followed, our membership met that goal in 11 years. Not bad if you think about the companies that did not survive the Great Recession.

Thanks to Janet's leadership, and the work of many great members, the APS and APRL remain positioned to serve their members, the hobby, and provide educational services for



Benjamin Franklin stamp from 1894.



The four Benjamin Franklin stamps issued in 2006.



Janet Klug.

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C14 FINE

C13 F-VF

C13 VF

C13 VF-XF

C15 XF

C14 XF-SUPERB

C15 SUPERB

	Fine	VF	VF	VF/XF
NH	<b>C13-15.....\$1,395.00</b>	<b>\$1,525.00</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$1,995.00</b>
	C13.....\$240.00	265.00	\$300.00	\$350.00
	C14.....\$480.00	\$535.00	\$625.00	\$700.00
	C15.....\$725.00	\$800.00	\$950.00	\$1,050.00

Mint Plate Number Singles often available — Please Inquire!

	C13-15.....\$995.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,250.00
LH	C13.....\$175.00	\$190.00	\$200.00	\$220.00
	C14.....\$350.00	\$380.00	\$400.00	\$440.00
	C15.....\$525.00	\$570.00	\$600.00	\$660.00
Used	<b>C13-15.....\$900.00</b>	<b>\$975.00</b>	<b>\$1,095.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>
	C13.....\$130.00	\$145.00	\$170.00	\$225.00
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C15 VF stamp on flown First Day on lightly toned cover with handwritten cachet, ¼ tear at left.....	\$600.00

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C14 Superb/LH .....	\$625.00	set.....\$1,500.00
C14 XF-Superb/LH .....	\$490.00	C13-C15 XF/LH set.....\$1,375.00
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C18 F-VF/NH Bottom, few tiny invisible flaws.....	\$325.00
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C18 Singles NH	LH	Used
F-VF	\$65.00	\$40.00
VF	\$75.00	\$45.00
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Mint & Used with Minor Faults Also Available



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C15.....\$475.00	\$550.00	\$615.00	
C18.....\$68.00	\$78.00	88.00	

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students of all ages.

So what now? Through vigilance, we survived through a tough global economic period. With vigilance, we can build a stronger organization that will not only sustain future

challenges, but can help us grow in our presence and impact. In October, the Campaign for Philately Committee, chaired by Alfredo Frohlich, met for the first time in more than a year to launch another long-term mission for the APS and APRL. That mission is broken into three categories:

**Building for the Past:** Already underway is construction of the new library, bringing together the world's largest collection of philatelic material under one roof. Unfortunately, some new requirements have added about \$600,000 to the cost of the library from the financing we have. The Campaign for Philately is working to raise money to close the gap so we can stay on track to complete the library by the spring of 2016. We are planning a grand opening in the autumn of next year and hope to see you there. To donate, please visit stamps.org/Library-Donations.

**Building for the Present:** The year 2016 will be a big year for philately. In May, the World Stamp Show-NY 2016

*Through hard work and deliberation, the APS and APRL set forth 15 years ago to build a lasting home for collectors and our research."*

will be held in New York City, inviting collectors from around the world to the United States for a once-a-decade event. In September, the APS will celebrate its 130th birthday as the world's largest association of

stamp collectors. To celebrate these occasions, we will be putting on our very best on the world stage. To donate, please visit stamps.org/donate.

**Building for the Future:** Our underlying mission is to be an advocate for collectors of the present and to grow the hobby. We will be undertaking several initiatives — growing education programs for all collectors, increasing access to the organization and philatelic resources, and attracting current and future collectors to join us. We will discuss each of these missions in upcoming columns.

### The Big Challenge

What's a fundraising campaign without a big challenge? While we are a financially sound organization today, there is one thing we can do to ensure a stable future for the APS and APRL for years to come.

So here it is: \$10 million in 10 years with the goal of being debt free and building for the future.

Through hard work and deliberation, the APS and APRL set forth 15 years ago to build a lasting home for collectors and our research. That home is the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte. The APC is not only home to the APS and APRL, but is also generating revenue to repay the debt that got us here. Today, we are on the home stretch of paying off the building with just \$5 million left to go. The remainder of the funds would allow the APS to grow, educate, and serve its membership.

Borrowing from Act III in Shakespeare's *King Henry V*, just before leading his troops in the Battle of Agincourt on St. Crispin's Day, Henry says,

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;  
Or close the wall up with our English dead.  
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man  
As modest stillness and humility:  
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,  
Then imitate the action of the tiger;"

And so, after we finally mastered so grand a campaign in 2014, once more into the breach, dear friends, and we will set the APS and APRL on the most sustainable path in our history. I look forward to celebrating it with you.



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- Collector, exhibitor, writer, researcher, editor, expertizer, and retailer
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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](http://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](http://www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar) for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

**Florida December 4-6**  
FLOREX--The Florida State Stamp Show FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Central Florida

Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, 4603 West Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Francis Ferguson, 407-493-0956-Cell  
**Email:** [show@florexstampshow.com](mailto:show@florexstampshow.com)  
**Website:** [www.florexstampshow.com](http://www.florexstampshow.com)

**California December 5-6**  
PENPEX Sequoia Stamp Club, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City.  
**Contact:** Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643  
**Email:** [penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com](mailto:penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com)  
**Website:** [www.penpex.org](http://www.penpex.org)

**Ohio December 5-6**  
Worthington Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse Worthington Stamp Club, Rhodes Center - Ohio Expo Center - Ohio State Fairgrounds, 717 East 17th Ave., Columbus.  
**Contact:** Marie Gibbs, 614-260-0952  
**Email:** [kevmar1821@gmail.com](mailto:kevmar1821@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.worthingtonstampclub.com](http://www.worthingtonstampclub.com)

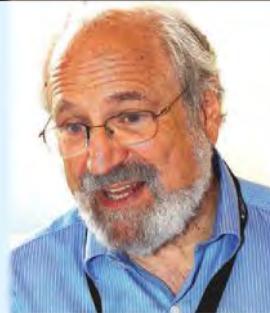
**Wisconsin December 5-6**  
MSDA Show Milwaukee Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 South 92nd Street, West Allis. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847-922-5574  
**Email:** [jfb7437@aol.com](mailto:jfb7437@aol.com)

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## In My Opinion ... by Michael Bloom

Chairman, APS Collector and Student Education Committee  
Chairman, NY2016, Entry Level and Youth Committee  
Member, APS Membership Committee

I'm a candidate for APS Director at Large. This is the first in a series of essays where I'll tell you what I think about things. I hope you'll vote for me, but, even if you don't, you'll know who I am and where I stand on various issues.



### Where Did the Joy Go?

This is me. Can you see the stamps from Hungary on the bridge table and a Scott's International album? This could have been you too. Many of us have great stories about how we started in the hobby. No matter what route you took, the one feeling that expresses our youthful sense was a feeling of joy!

Stamps still make my heart flutter, and I feel joy. Hopefully, you feel it too. Maybe joy was something contagious you caught from your dad?



This may seem a bit Pollyannaish but creating new collectors and growing APS is all about the outward expression of the joy we feel inside. If an alien checked us out, I doubt he would come to the conclusion that stamp collectors are a joyful lot. Instead the alien might see grumpy old (mostly) men talking in a secret language led by an organization that mainly serves the grumpiest of a stamp collecting elite. Ouch.

It doesn't have to be this way. My friend Kristin Patterson exudes the joy of collecting when speaking to beginning adults. It's in her smile and her eyes. Phil Kumler, founder of the Unique Stamps for Kids program, shines when he helps young folks.

Sometimes it's not easy to express our feelings in an uplifting way, but next time you talk to someone about stamp collecting let your face light up.

Let's all try to bring back the joy.

**Website:** [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Illinois December 12-13**  
MSDA Holiday Show West Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Lindner Conference Center, 610 E. Butterfield Rd., Lombard. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847-922-5574  
**Email:** [jfb7437@aol.com](mailto:jfb7437@aol.com)  
**Website:** [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Illinois December 20**  
Cicero-Berwyn Coin & Stamp Bourse Sokol-Tabol Hall, 6630 West 16th St., Berwyn. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Bob Szczepawski, 708-873-9158

**Connecticut December 27**  
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874  
**Email:** [hukeda@comcast.net](mailto:hukeda@comcast.net)  
**Website:** [www.NHPS1914.org/](http://www.NHPS1914.org/)

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**Michigan January 2-3, 2016**  
BIRPEX 2016 Birmingham Stamp Club, Birmingham Masonic Temple, 37357

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Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Chuck Daliege, 810-287-0087  
**Email:** birpexshow@outlook.com

**New Jersey**      **January 7-9, 2016**  
**Garden State Stamp and Cover Show**    New  
Jersey Stamp Dealers Association, The  
Bethwood, 38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Tom Jacks, 908-232-0539  
**Email:** [tiacks@verizon.net](mailto:tiacks@verizon.net)

**California**                    **January 8-10, 2016**  
**ORCOEXPO** The Hotel Fullerton, 1500  
Raymond Drive, Fullerton. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Stephen Pattillo, 888-995-0548  
**Email:** qualitystampshows@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.stampshowsteve.com

**Louisiana**      **January 8-9, 2016**  
**New Orleans Winter Stamp Fest**      Crescent  
City Stamp Club, La Quinta Inn, 2610 Williams  
Blvd., Kenner. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Eric White, 504-715-9538  
**Email:** ericwhitegypsymoth@yahoo.com  
**Website:** [www.ccsno.org](http://www.ccsno.org)

**Indiana** **January 9-10, 2016**  
**MSDA Indianapolis Winter Show Midwest**  
Stamp Dealers Association, Lawrence Parks  
District Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin  
Rd., Lawrence. \*B\*

**Illinois**      **January 16-17, 2016**  
**MSDA Winter Stamp Show North** Midwest  
Stamp Dealers Association, Country Inn and  
Suites, 600 N. Milwaukee Ave., Prospect Hgts. **\*B\***  
**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847 634-2676  
**Email:** jfb7437@aol.com  
**Website:** [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**South Carolina      January 16-17, 2016**  
**Winter Stamp and Postcard Show** Columbia  
Philatelic Society, Spring Valley High School,  
120 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Mark Postmus, 803-309-2534  
**Email:** mapostmus@yahoo.com

**Pennsylvania**      **January 22-23, 2016**  
**York County Stamp Show** White Rose  
Philatelic Society of York, York Expo Center,  
334 Carlisle Ave., York.  
**Contact:** John Hufnagel, 717-235-1528  
**Email:** glenrockotts@comcast.net

**California SANDICAL** San Diego County Philatelic Council, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego. \*WSP\*  
**Contact:** Linda Mabin, 619-582-9311  
**Email:** mabin7@cox.net  
**Website:** [www.sandical.org/](http://www.sandical.org/)

**Texas** **January 23**  
**5th Greater Rio Grande Valley Stamp and Coin Show** McAllen Stamp Club, Cultural Arts Center, 576 76 Drive, Harlingen. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Steven Kirpes  
**Email:** skirpes@hililine.net  
**Website:** [stamps.org/McAllen-Stamp-Club-Calendar](http://stamps.org/McAllen-Stamp-Club-Calendar)

**Wisconsin**      **January 23-24, 2016**  
**MSDA Winter Show - Milwaukee**    Midwest  
Stamp Dealers Association, Crowne Plaza  
- Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th Street,  
Milwaukee, WI

**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676  
**Email:** jfb7437@aol.com  
**Website:** [www.msdastamp.com](http://www.msdastamp.com)

**Georgia** **January 29-31, 2016**  
**APS AmeriStamp/Southeastern Stamp**  
**Expo 2016** American Philatelic Society/  
Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs,  
Hilton Atlanta, 255 Courtland Street, NE.,  
Atlanta. **\*WSP\***

**Florida**                    **February 5-7, 2016**  
**Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition** Sarasota  
Philatelic Club, Sarasota Municipal  
Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
**\*WSP\***  
**Contact:** Liz Hisey, 941-444-0777  
**Email:** lizhisey@comcast.net  
**Website:** [www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasostampexhibition.htm](http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/sarasostampexhibition.htm)

**South Carolina      February 6-7, 2016**  
**Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show** Myrtle  
Beach Stamp Club, Clarion Hotel &  
Conference Center, 101 Fantasy Harbour  
Blvd., Myrtle Beach. **\*B\***  
**Contact:** Donn M. Ebert, 843-347-0087  
**Email:** [lilfort@sccoast.net](mailto:lilfort@sccoast.net)  
**Website:** [http://sites.google.com/site/  
myrtlebeachstampclub/](http://sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/)

**Florida**      **February 12-14, 2016**  
**ASDA Winter Show** American Stamp Dealers  
Association, War Memorial Auditorium, 800  
NE 8th St, Fort Lauderdale. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207  
**Email:** dana@americanstampdealer.com  
**Website:** www.americanstampdealer.com

**Michigan**      **February 13-14, 2016**  
**Dearborn Stamp Club Stamp Show** Dearborn  
Stamp Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 WEst Warren,  
Dearborn Heights. \*B\*

**Arizona**      **February 19-21, 2016**  
**ARIPEX** Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa  
Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., Building  
"C", Mesa. \***WSP\***  
**Contact:** Kevin Lesk, 480-240-0388  
**Email:** aripex2016arizona@gmail.com  
**Website:** [www.aripex.org](http://www.aripex.org)

**Florida**                    **February 20, 2016**  
**Annual Stamp Show** West Volusia Stamp Club,  
Sons of Italy, 1270 Doyle Rd., Deltona. **\*B\***  
**Contact:** Mike Daley, 407-417-7818  
**Email:** miked129e@gmail.com  
**Website:** <http://floridacsp.com/wvstamp/>

**Kansas**      **February 20-21, 2016**  
**The Cessna Show** The Cessna Stamp & Coin  
Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George  
Washington Blvd., Wichita. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Ralph E. Lott, 316-683-6593

**Ohio** **February 20-21, 2016**  
**MSDA Southwestern Ohio Show** Midwest  
Stamp Dealers Association, Four Points by  
Sheraton Cincinnati North, 7500 Tylers Place  
Blvd., West Chester. \*B\*  
**Contact:** Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676

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**Texas February 26-28, 2016**

TEXPEX 2016 Texas Philatelic Association, Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 HWY 26 E, Grapevine. \*WSP\*

Contact: Vince King

Email: entech.design@verizon.net

Website: www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.htm

**Florida February 27-28, 2016**

FSDA BAYPEX Stamp & Coin Show Florida Stampdealers Assoc. & Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo. \*B\*

Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897

Email: h.rogg@verizon.net

Website: www.floridastampshows.com / www.floridastampdealers.org

**Nebraska February 27-28, 2016**

LINPEX 2016 Lincoln Stamp Club, Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N. 27th St., Lincoln.

Contact: Kenneth Pruess, 402-464-6939

Email: kpruess2@unl.edu

Website: www.lincolnstampclub.org

**Ohio February 27-28, 2016**

Toledo Stamp Expo 2016 Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland.

Contact: Clifford Campbell, 419-874-6241

Website: www.toledostampclub.org

**Virginia February 27-28, 2016**

SPRINGPEX 2016 Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield.

Contact: Gerry Frazier

Email: frazierg@cox.net

Website: www.springfieldstampclub.org

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## Index of Advertisers

Antonio M. Torres	1186	Daniel F. Kelleher	H.R. Harmer GPN, Inc.	1093	Rasdale Stamp Co.	1109
APRL Finish the Job Campaign	1121	Auctions	Ideal Stamp Company, Inc.	1093	Regency-Superior Auctions	1089
APS:		David Olson – Number Ones of the World	Sam Malamud	1119	Richard Friedberg Stamps	1120
AmeriStamp Expo and Southeastern Stamp Expo		Davidson's Stamp Service	interasia auctions limited	1187	Rising Sun Stamps	1200
2016 Pre-Registration	C7	David Torre Co.	Jack Nalbandian, Inc.	1170	RUBBER STAMPS	1187
Campaign for Philately	C8	Delcampe International	James E. Lee, LLC	1174	Rupp Brothers	1107
Dues Reminder for 2016		Denali Stamp Co.	James T. McCusker, Inc.	1187	Sam Houston	
APS Membership	1199	Don S. Cal	Jordan's Stamp Auction	1170	Philatelics-Duck Co.	1187
Estate Advice – Including		Downeast Stamps	Kay & Company	1117	Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Inc.	1137
APS in Your Will	1187	Dr. Robert Friedman & Sons Stamps	Laurence L Winum	1186	Scott A. Shaulis	1187
Holiday Schedule for		Dutch Country Auctions	Lawrence J Mozian	1182	Sismondo Experts/	
APS & APRL	1201	The Stamp Center	Mark Schwartz, APS Director-at-Large Candidate	1163	The Classic Collector	1151
Insurance Plan	1185	Earl P.L. Apfelbaum, Inc.	Michael Bloom, APS Director-at-Large Candidate	1180	Space Cover Store	1187
Internet Sales Unit	1095	Eastern Auctions, Ltd.	Michael Eastick & Associates Pty. Ltd.	1187	Stampsinc	1187
Missing Jenny Reward Offer	1203	Edward D. Younger Co.	Mick Zais, APS President Candidate	1167	Stamp Vault	1186
Stamp Cruise 2016	1153	Eric Jackson	Miller's Stamp Company	1182	Stephen T. Taylor	1100
Argyll Etkin Limited	1188	E.S.J. van Dam Ltd.	Mountainside Stamps, Coins and Currency	1157	Steve Cripe	1187
Barwis, Haimann & Kouri, APS Board of Vice Presidents Candidates	1205	FLOREX 2015 The Florida State Stamp Show	Mowbray Collectables Ltd.	1187	Subway Stamp Shop, Inc.	1097
Bejico of Florida, Inc.	1106	Frank Bachenheimer	Mystic Stamp Company	C4, 1131	The Washington Press	1108
Bernie Hopp	1108	Gary Posner, Inc.	New England Stamp	1187	Tropical Stamps, Inc.	1190
Century Stamps	1184	Gene Stewart Stamp Company	OrcoExpo™ Stampshow	C2	United States Postal Service	1175
CK Stamps	1187	Gordon Eubanks, APS Director-at-Large Candidate	Palo Albums Inc.	1106	Universal Philatelic Auctions	1111
Colonial Stamp Company	1186	Gregg Nelson Stamps	Patricia A. Kaufmann	1179	Vance Auctions Ltd.	1193
Columbia Press Co.	1201	Guernsey Post Ltd.	Penny Black Stamp Company	1188	Varisell	1183
Columbian Stamp Company	1115	Have Tongs Will Travel	Philasearch	1101	Victoria Stamp Company	1173
Cover Collector Store	1187	HB Philatelics	Potomac Supplies	1187	Westminster Stamp Gallery, Ltd.	1186
Croatian Post	1112	Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc.	Quality Stamps	1120	WIP Inc. International	1113
					Wydly	1101
					Zeboose Ltd.	1165

**Florida** **March 4-5, 2016**  
**NAPLEX 2016** Collier County Stamp Club,  
Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 295, 5850  
Tamiami Trail North (Rte 41), Naples.  
**Contact:** Robert Hausin, 239-732-8000  
**Email:** newengstmp@aol.com

**New Jersey**      **March 5, 2016**  
**Westfield StampShow** Westfield Stamp Club,  
Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad  
Street, Westfield.  
**Contact:** Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318  
**Email:** edjgj@alum.mit.edu  
**Website:** [www.westfieldstampclub.org](http://www.westfieldstampclub.org)

**California**      **March 5-6, 2016**

**Senior Citizens Hall**, 2290 Benton Drive,  
Redding.  
**Contact:** Bob Grosch, 530-549-4872  
**Email:** bobgrosch@frontiernet.net  
**Website:** [www.reddingstampclub.com](http://www.reddingstampclub.com)

**New York**      **March 5-6, 2016**  
**BUFPEX 2016** The Buffalo Stamp Club,  
VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue,  
Cheektowaga.  
**Contact:** George Gates, 716-633-8358  
**Email:** gghg53@aol.com

**Ohio**                   **March 10-12, 2016**  
**Garfield-Perry March Party**   Garfield-Perry  
Stamp Club, La Villa Conference and Banquet  
Center, 115000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland.

**\*WSP\***  
**Contact:** Roger Rhoads  
**Email:** rrrhoads@aol.com  
**Website:** www.qarfieldperry.org

**California**      **March 12-13, 2016**  
**Frespex 2016** Fresno Philatelic Society,  
Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes  
Ave., Clovis.  
**Contact:** Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013  
**Email:** starstamps@thegrid.net

**Illinois**      **March 12-13, 2016**  
**Rockford Stamp and Cover Show**  
2016 Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills  
Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd. (Hwy 173), Love  
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call 1-508-384-6157 • snail mail P.O. Box 456, Foxboro, MA 02035.

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Contact: Tim Wait, 815-670-5869

Email: [t.wait@comcast.net](mailto:t.wait@comcast.net)

Website: [www.rockfordstampclub.org](http://www.rockfordstampclub.org)

### New Mexico

**March 12-13, 2016**

Mesilla Valley Stamp Show Mesilla Valley Stamp Club, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 East University Ave., Las Cruces.

Contact: Richard Hiss, 575-202-1937

Email: [RHHiss@comcast.net](mailto:RHHiss@comcast.net)

Website: [www.meetinlascruses.com](http://www.meetinlascruses.com)

### Ohio

**March 12-13, 2016**

Fipex 2015 Fort Findlay Stamp and Post Card Club, "The Lighthouse" Building, 10055 St. Rte. 224 West, Findlay. \*B\*

Contact: Scott Little, 419-296-5565

Email: [moeberg2@roadrunner.com](mailto:moeberg2@roadrunner.com)

### Illinois

**March 18-20, 2016**

ASDA March Show American Stamp Dealers Association, Linder Conference Center, 610 E Butterfield Rd, Lombard. \*B\*

Contact: Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207

Email: [dana@americanstampdealer.com](mailto:dana@americanstampdealer.com)

Website: [www.americanstampdealer.com](http://www.americanstampdealer.com)

### Ohio

**March 19-20, 2016**

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

Email: [lincolnway@sssn.net](mailto:lincolnway@sssn.net)

Website: <http://mksc.webs.com>

### Tennessee

**March 19-20, 2016**

Nashville Stamp Show 2015 Nashville Philatelic Society, Fifty Forward, 301 Madison Street, Madison.

Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161

Email: [show@nashvillephilatelic.org](mailto:show@nashvillephilatelic.org)

Website: [www.nashvillephilatelic.org](http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org)

### Missouri

**April 1-3, 2016**

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

Contact: David Kols, 800-782-0066

Email: [expo@regencystamps.com](mailto:expo@regencystamps.com)

Website: [www.stlstampexpo.org](http://www.stlstampexpo.org)

### Alberta

**April 2-3, 2016**

Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Stamp Show Edmonton Stamp Club, Edmonton Central Lions Centre, 111 Ave & 113 Street, Edmonton. \*WSP\*

Contact: Ed Dykstra, 780-420-7243

Email: [eddykstra@shaw.ca](mailto:eddykstra@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.edmontonstampclub.com](http://www.edmontonstampclub.com)

### Indiana

**April 9-10, 2016**

Spring Stamp Fair Indiana Stamp Club, Lawrence Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin, Lawrence. \*B\*

Contact: Toni Chastang, 317-913-9319

Email: [tchas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tchas@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.indianastampclub.org](http://www.indianastampclub.org)

### Wisconsin

**April 10, 2016**

DANEPEX'16 Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison.

Contact: Bob Voss, 608-838-1933

Email: [lestamps@charter.net](mailto:lestamps@charter.net)

Website: [www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger](http://www.wfscstamps.org/Clubs/Badger)

### Michigan

**April 16-17, 2016**

Plymouth Show West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road,

Westland. \*WSP\*  
Contact: Tim Strzalkowski, 313-533-7737  
Email: mywssc@msn.com  
Website: www.plymouthshow.com

**Delaware** April 23, 2016  
DELPEX 2016 Brandywine Valley Stamp Club,  
Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy

(US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle.  
Contact: Bill Clark, 302-322-2719  
Email: kmc4076@aol.com  
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# APS Membership History

## Examining Why Membership Matters

The American Philatelic Society historically has not been a large organization. With a membership comprised of leading collectors, and with what was generally considered a somewhat elitist attitude, at the end of 1929 the membership of the APS stood at just less than 4,300 members after more than 40 years of organizational existence.

The Depression years proved a boom time for philately — including a philatelist president in the White House, brick-and-mortar stamp shops in most cities, stamp columns in most newspapers, and widespread collecting among children. But these changes to the hobby did not have much impact on APS membership, which stood at 4,666 at the end of 1940 after a record one-year drop of 9.27 percent.

The election of Judge Donald Lybarger as APS president in 1944 and the establishment of a permanent society office in State College, Pennsylvania, brought a more populist atmosphere to APS and led to rapid growth. Membership nearly doubled, reaching 11,000 by the end of 1949. The early Cold War years led to slow but mostly steady growth; membership stood at 14,573 at the end of 1965.



What followed was nothing less than extraordinary: between 1965 and 1982, membership more than tripled, reaching 54,220 in 1982, without a pause for the difficult stagflation economic times and oil crises of the early and late 1970s.

A few more years of see-saw ups and downs led the society to its all-time membership high at the end of 1988 of 57,815.

After a few more years of mostly neutral status, membership numbers began to steadily decline. In fact, membership has declined every year since 1998.

A graph of yearly membership numbers shows a sharp and sustained increase in membership starting in the mid-1960s and an almost identical corresponding decline in the late 1990s and 2000s.

Who were these new members who joined during the 1960s? Where did they go in the 2000s? What relationship, if any, does APS membership have to the state of the economy? These questions and more will be addressed next month.

Until then, please do your society a huge favor and invite someone to join. Share your membership with another collector who is missing out on all we do.

**American Philatelic Society  
Membership Graph (1929–2015)**

Graph plotting membership numbers from 1929, at 4,300, to a peak of nearly 58,000 in 1988 to approximately 31,000 in 2015.

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## NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during October 2015. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to December 31, 2015 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the February 2016 issue.

Addiego, Michael R. (225231) **San Carlos, CA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, DUCK/HUNTING/ FISHING STAMPS; 58; Self Employed

Alger, Arthur S. (225152) **Cape Coral, FL** US; 74; Retired

Anderson, Robert N. (225146) **Davie, FL** US; 77; Retired

Anderson, William T. (225195) **Mount Pleasant, WI** US- VATICAN CITY-CANADA-SAN MARINO-UNITED NATIONS-US USED WORLDWIDE; Retired

Baird, Kirk (225181) **Janesville, WI** US BACK OF THE BOOK; 59; Artist

Bankhead, Bob (225205) **Lake Oswego, OR** US PLATE BLOCKS, COMMEMORATIVES, MINT SINGLES

Bartlett, Bruce (225204) **Crestview, FL** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, COMMEMORATIVE PANELS, DUCK/HUNTING/ FISHING STAMPS; 58

Bestor, Frank H. (225175) **Kent, WA** FRENCH OCEANIA/POLYNESIA- ICELAND-PHILIPPINES-HONG KONG-FRENCH COLONIES- CLASSIC; Retired

Bleyer, Bill (225137) **Bayville, NY** US CIVIL WAR COVERS, CONFEDERATE STATES, FDC, PATRIOTIC COVERS; 63

Blom, John A. (225223) **Hudsonville, MI** US-DUCK-UN; 74; Retired

Boling, Joseph E. (225236) **Indianapolis, IN**; Retired

Borberg, James R. (225208) **Virginia Beach, VA** US; 85

Bowlds, Larry S. (225150) **Taylors, SC** BRITISH AFRICA; 68; Editor

Brehm, Paul (225206) **Tustin, CA**

Brewer, Michael (225136) **Arroyo Grande, CA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, BLOCKS/ GUIDELINE BLOCKS

Brock, Jan C. (225200) **Sheboygan Falls, WI** WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired

Brown, Doug (225162) **San Diego, CA** US-EUROPE-WORLD WARS; 54; Retired

Bryan, W. Wheeler (225153) **Atlanta, GA** MINT US COMMEMORATIVES; 76; Retired

Bryant, Michael (225219) **Chesapeake, VA** US, SINGLES, PLATE BLOCKS, SHEETS; 75; Professor

Buza, Wayne F. (225191) **Glenburn, ME** US BOOKLETS/ PANES, POSTAL STATIONERY, COMMEMORATIVES, PLATE BLOCKS-CANADA-ISRAEL TABS; 71; Retired

Calliham, Phares W. (225147) **Columbia, SC** US-POSTCARDS-FDC; 74; Retired

Carter, George (225172) **Brooklyn, NY** US WASHINGTON FRANKLINS

Chaimson, Steve (225182) **Goodyear, AZ** US-WORLDWIDE-CZECHOSLOVAKIA; 76; Retired

Chow, Peter (225139) **Chesterfield, VA** PRC-US COMMEMORATIVES-HONG KONG-CHINA-JAPAN; 64

Clark, Lisa (225209) **Anchorage, AK** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 52

Collins, Grace (225210) **Raleigh, NC** CHRISTMAS-BIRDS- COMPOSERS-CONSERVATION STAMPS (DUCK/FISH/WWF)- FAMOUS PEOPLE-FLOWERS/ PLANTS; 49

Cunningham, Craig T. (225224) **Aurora, CO** US-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN, COMMONWEALTH- PLATE BLOCKS-FDC; 68; Retired

Dalton, Michael (225176) **Merritt Island, FL** US-GREAT BRITAIN-CANADA; 60; Retired

Daniels, Wayne P. (225163) **Bonney Lake, WA** MINT US; 50

Davignon, Marc B. (225160) **Avon, CT** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, AIRMAILS, SPECIAL DELIVERIES, DUCK/HUNTING/ FISHING STAMPS; 70

DeArmond, David M. (225161) **Meridian, ID** US, CHRISTMAS SEALS; 64; Retired

Dedloff, Kattie M. (225143) **Knox, IN** US, COMMEMORATIVES, PLATE BLOCKS; 84; Retired

Dill, Mary S. (225177) **Alma, MI** BOY SCOUTS; 75; Retired

Dorgeloh, William P. (225187) **Fredericksburg, VA**; 70

Ebbeng, Albert (225186) **Brummen, Netherlands** USED WORLDWIDE; 57

Egan, Ross (225220) **Church Hill, TN** PRE-1940 US-CANADA- WORLDWIDE; 49; Self Employed

Endelicato, Timothy J. (225173)

**Plattsburgh, NE** US COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, CONFEDERATE STATES, CUT SQUARES; 57; Clerk

Erno, Jeanie (225201) **Lynnwood, WA** FLOWERS-BIRDS-AIRMAILS; 62

Evans, Dawn (225154) **Chicago, IL**; 57; Realtor

Flaherty, Jim (225233) **Ukiah, CA**

Galford, Hugh S. (225212) **Elmhurst, NY** US-SCANDINAVIA-SLAVIA; 47; Exhibits Manager

## NEW MEMBERS

Applications 224740, 224841 through 224938, and 224940 through 224964, and 224966 through 224996 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

## SUMMARY

Total Membership, Sept. 30, 2015	30,941
New Members ....	155
Reinstated .....	271
	1,212
Deceased .....	31
Resignations.....	41
Total Membership, Oct. 31, 2015	31,171
(Total Membership, October 31, 2014 was 31,938 a difference of -767)	

Galluzzi, Vincent N. (225232) **Carlsbad, CA** US BLOCKS/ GUIDELINE BLOCKS, AIRMAILS, BOOKLETS/PANES, COMMEMORATIVES, COILS, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING STAMPS; 76; Retired

Gaudino, Leonard J. (225213) **Campbell Hall, NY** HAWAIIAN- WASHINGTON FRANKLINS; 59; Retired

George, Jerry (225229) **Scottsdale, AZ** GREECE; 72

Gordon, Stephen (225192) **Chattanooga, TN** US; 66; Real Estate

Gruber, John (225174) **Edmonton, AB** UKRAINE-AUSTRIA-GERMANY

Haine, Matthew D. (225214) **Stamford, CT** US 1920S & 1930S-SOUTHEAST ASIA- INDONESIA-VIETNAM; 51; Civil Servant

Hall, Thomas E. (225168) **South Gate, CA** STAINED GLASS; 73

Hartley, Christopher L. (225138) **Suffolk, VA** CANADA-FRENCH COLONIES-FRANCE-SWITZERLAND-NORTH AMERICA; 54; Computer Systems Engineer

Henry, David S. (225178) **Playa Del Rey, CA** US-CANADA-UNITED KINGDOM; 28; Librarian

Hurst, Russell (225225) **Florence, SC** US; 42; Pulp Mill Assistant

Iles, William F. (225221) **Muncie, IN** US, COMMEMORATIVES, AIRMAILS; 78; Retired

Jackson, Michael J. (225148) **Fallbrook, CA** US, PLATE BLOCKS, SINGLES, SMALL PANES, MINT; 72; Retired

Johns, William S. (225155) **Milton, PA** US SINGLES; 68; Retired

Jones, Jackie L. (225228) **Greenville, SC** US, AIRMAILS, POSSESSIONS- BACK OF THE BOOK-JAPAN-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH; 73

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- Kadish, Mitchel (225141) **Venice**,  
**CA** US LOCALS & CARRIERS,  
 REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL),  
 POSTAL HISTORY, ESSAYS &  
 PROOFS, MATCH & MEDICINE; 66;  
 Retired
- Kass, Ilana (225183) **Exton, PA**; 71;  
 Retired
- Kidd, Lawerence (225202) **Andover**,  
**MA** GERMANY-US-HUNGARY; 66;  
 Physician
- Kochersperger, Stephen (225207)  
**Boalsburg, PA** US LOCALS &  
 CARRIERS; 57; Postal Historian
- Kosters, Kevin M. (225234) **The  
 Woodlands, TX** WAR COVERS/  
 STAMPS-USED WORLDWIDE-  
 PROPAGANDA STAMPS/COVERS-  
 CINDERELLAS-FOREIGN POSTAL  
 HISTORY-DEAD COUNTRIES; 26;  
 Systems Specialist
- Kyle, Elaine A. (225140) **Old Lyme**,  
**CT**; 76
- La Mar, Kenneth B. (225179) **San  
 Diego, CA** MINT US; 62; Retired
- Lande, Steve L. (225184) **Ocala, FL**  
 VENEZUELA-ISRAEL-CANADA-  
 US-DISNEY; 64
- Lane, Frederick R. (225197)  
**Indianapolis, IN** US 19TH  
 CENTURY, CLASSICS, COVERS,  
 FDC; 57; Physician
- Lawless, Dan (225226) **Lakeside, CA**  
 SPORTS-MUSIC-CARS-TRAINS-  
 PLANES-FAMOUS PEOPLE-  
 PLACES-US-WORLDWIDE; 61;  
 Retired
- Lebegern, William C. (225193)  
**Annandale, VA** US; 59; Civil  
 Engineer
- Maestas, Al (225169) **Santa Fe  
 Springs, CA** US REVENUES,  
 POSSESSIONS; 71
- Marlow, C. J. (225156) **Fountain, FL**  
 POST CARDS-FDC; 72; Retired
- Mavroudis, Gustas (225145)  
**Hicksville, NY** US 19TH & 20TH  
 CENTURY, NY POSTAL HISTORY-  
 FRANCE-GREAT BRITAIN-  
 FOREIGN 19TH CENTURY; 63;  
 Accountant
- McCoy, Jeff (225227) **Fort Scott, KS**  
 US, POSSESSIONS; 68; Retired
- McDonald, John (225185)  
**Aberdeen, WA** WORLDWIDE; 75;  
 Retired
- Munyon, Dennis (225180)  
**Fallbrook, CA** US-CIVIL WAR-  
 1860S COVERS WITH LETTERS;  
 73; Retired
- Palumbo, Michael I.  
 (225151) **Kenosha, WI** US  
 COMMEMORATIVES, 20TH  
 CENTURY, COVERS; 52
- Phillips, Jimmy C. (225142)  
**Homosassa, FL** US  
 FD PROGRAMS, FDC,  
 COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH &  
 20TH CENTURY-ALLIED MILITARY  
 GOVERNMENTS; 65; Retired
- Plank, Darrell (225144) **Sequim**,  
**WA**; 59
- Poor, William E. (225164)  
**Columbus, IN** US; 69; Retired
- Predzial, Dennis P. (225165)  
**Wilmington, DE** VATICAN CITY;  
 75; Hobbyist
- Puttagunta, Naga (225171) **South  
 Lyon, MI** INDIA-FRENCH  
 COLONIES-INDIAN STATES-US
- Rader, Susanne (225211)  
**Lakewood, CA**; 52
- Ray, Dean (225157) **Fort Myers**,  
**FL** MINT US; 53; Route Sales  
 Representative
- Rhodes, Michael W. (225218)  
**Decatur, AL** US 19TH CENTURY,  
 CONFEDERATE STATES, AL  
 POSTAL HISTORY-RUSSIA/USSR/  
 INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-  
 FORMER/DEAD COUNTRIES; 42
- Riethle, Bill (225159) **Marlborough**,  
**MA** US; 66
- Riggle, Clyde C. (225149) **Hamilton**,  
**MT** GERMANY; 64; Retired
- Rodgers, Robert (225235)  
**Springfield, PA** US, PLATE  
 BLOCKS, PLATE SINGLES, COILS,  
 SHEETS/SMALL PANES; 34
- Roos, Julia (225190) **Denver, CO**
- Rosa, James W. (225237)  
**Noblesville, IN** US; 58; Logistics  
 Supervisor
- Ruth, Barry J. (225196) **Cainta**,  
**Rizal, Philippines** PHILIPPINES;  
 71; Retired
- Saltz, Stanley (225194) **Delray  
 Beach, FL**
- Schanfield, Arnold H. (225215)  
**Fort Lee, NJ** WORLDWIDE; Risk  
 Management Consultant
- Schnorr, Richard M. (225216) **Hollis  
 Hills, NY** US; 66
- Shrestha, Shankar (225199)  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**  
 BUTTERFLIES/INSECTS-FISH/  
 MARINE LIFE; Self Employed
- Shuey, George (225166) **Annville**,  
**PA** US; 75; Retired
- Sossi, Richard  
 (225198)  
**Stevensville, MD**  
 US 19TH CENTURY-  
 CHINA-JAPAN; 72
- Stephens, George H.  
 (225189) **Coronado**,  
**CA** EUROPE-JAPAN;  
 77; Retired
- Streetman, Kibbee D. (225158) **Oak  
 Ridge, TN** US-UN-STAMPS ON  
 STAMPS; 78; Retired
- Tiffney, Scott D. (225170)  
**Bellefonte, PA** CANADA-US  
 SPECIAL DELIVERY-HOCKEY-  
 TESLA; 54; Reference Librarian
- Toutant, David P. (225238) **Orwell**,  
**OH** FRANCE-GERMANY-US-  
 CANADA; 63
- Ulloa, Anne (225167) **La Jolla**,  
**CA** US SPACE COVERS,  
 INAUGURATION COVERS,  
 PATRIOTIC COVERS, TERRITORIAL  
 COVERS, POSTAL HISTORY,  
 WESTERN COVERS; Financial  
 Advisor
- Updike, Randall (225188)  
**Lakewood, CO** US 20TH  
 CENTURY, FDC-FRANCE-FRENCH  
 COLONIES-GERMANY; 71
- Wallace, Shirley M. (225230) **Visalia**,  
**CA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY,  
 AIRMAILS, COVERS, PHILATELIC/  
 NUMISMATIC COVERS, CLASSICS;  
 64; Retired
- Washington, William J. (225217)  
**Morristown, NJ**; 77
- White, Debra (225203) **Crown  
 Point, IN** US; 60
- Wilkison, Sharon L. (225222) **Brazil**,  
**IN** US-WORLDWIDE; 63; Retired

## CHANGE IN NAME

Zaret, Ann R. (224023), Potomac,  
 MD, has changed her name to  
 Ann Reilly, Bethesda, MD

## DECEASED

- Anderson, Nyal W. (6053-043691),  
 Salt Lake City, UT
- Applegate, Wayne H. (221984),  
 Brick, NJ
- Barnett, B. L., Jr. (5560-037596),  
 Kennesaw, GA
- Bauer, Roger A. (11318-054353),  
 Harrisburg, PA
- Bilyeu, William Wallace (10001-  
 069416), San Francisco, CA
- Bolton, H. Ross (4975-039099), Tulsa,  
 OK
- Byne, Richard H. (7371-051183), San  
 Antonio, TX
- Chalfin, Joseph (5258-028773),  
 Monroe Township, NJ
- Chittick, Roger D. (6281-044879),  
 Fresno, CA
- Cranston, Beatrice V. (4288-032807),  
 Woodland, CA
- Daley, Eugene F. (9438-063708),  
 Sanford, ME
- Dressler, Robert J. (119347),  
 Portland, OR
- Dunham, R. Sheldon, Jr. (9213-  
 065422), Mechanicsville, VA
- Faris, John L. (194016), North Myrtle  
 Beach, SC
- Gaddy, A. E. (6938-048267), Dallas,  
 TX
- Becker, Dave (David Becker 170170-  
 P), P. O. Box 6978, Portland, OR  
 97228, (360) 606-4173. **NEW  
 ISSUES.**
- Lawrenz, Steve (Steve P. Lawrenz  
 224983-D), 5303 N. High St.,  
 Columbus, OH 43214, (614) 436-  
 2042. **US-WORLDWIDE-POSTAL  
 HISTORY-ESTATES.**
- Sterling Kingbrook Auctions  
 (Bob Gustin 181414-D & Mark  
 Vervaeke 152944-D), 455 E.  
 Grand River, Suite 103, Brighton,  
 MI 48116, (810) 220-6000.  
**US-WORLDWIDE-POSTAL  
 HISTORY-COLLECTIONS/LOTS/  
 ACCUMULATIONS.**
- SralStamps.com (Kenneth B.  
 Sral 7269-145891-D), P.O.  
 Box 516, North Olmsted, OH  
 44070-0516, (440) 979-9275.  
**US CLASSICS-COLLECTIONS/  
 LOTS/ACCUMULATIONS-  
 ERRORS, FREAKS & ODDITIES-  
 Ephemera.**

Hazelton, Bruce W. (2204-045658),  
 Cumberland Center, ME

Held, Claude (9884-066799), Buffalo,  
 NY

Kass, Howard (212831), Exton, PA

Kiddle, Francis E. (3492-091933),  
 Fleet, Hants, Great Britain

Kirk, Gary D. (11391-051282),  
 Fountain Valley, CA

Lawrence, Frederick C. (185660),  
 League City, TX

Laxton, Samuel A. (132572), Sandy  
 Spring, MD

Luder, Jack (1333-052546), Zurich,  
 Switzerland

Nelson, Donald D. (7639-051324),  
 Bingham Farms, MI

Prusaitis, Donald (221203),  
 Brockton, MA

Rorke, Joseph F. (10110-057450),  
 Scottsdale, AZ

Rubin, Joseph L. (7302-052081),  
 Bronx, NY

Santacroce, Dominic (172645),  
 Wautoma, WI

Stavrides, William C. (5207-138900),  
 Audubon, PA

Untersee, Philip A. (8147-038316),  
 Natick, MA

Woodward, Austin R., Jr. (106160),  
 Feeding Hills, MA

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The following have been  
 approved for classification as full-  
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 dealers according to qualifications  
 established by the Board of Vice  
 Presidents.

Becker, Dave (David Becker 170170-  
 P), P. O. Box 6978, Portland, OR  
 97228, (360) 606-4173. **NEW  
 ISSUES.**

Lawrenz, Steve (Steve P. Lawrenz  
 224983-D), 5303 N. High St.,  
 Columbus, OH 43214, (614) 436-  
 2042. **US-WORLDWIDE-POSTAL  
 HISTORY-ESTATES.**

Sterling Kingbrook Auctions  
 (Bob Gustin 181414-D & Mark  
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 Grand River, Suite 103, Brighton,  
 MI 48116, (810) 220-6000.  
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# "The American Philatelist" Index

January 2015–December 2015 • Vol. 129 • Whole Numbers 1,368–1,379



**AUTHOR INDEX:** Authors and columnists are listed alphabetically by last name. Relevant Letters to the Editor are listed chronologically after each article or column. Letters to the Editor appearing in 2015 that refer to articles published in 2014 also are annotated. Please note that this is the only place in the Indexes where Letters to the Editor are listed.

**GEOGRAPHIC INDEX:** Articles and columns are grouped by country or by larger geographical area, as appropriate, and listed alphabetically by the author's last name. Some entries are cross-referenced.

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## Author Index

Ackerman, Adolph. *'Thar She Blows! The Saga of a Whaler's Letter* (Nov. 2014: 1046)

— Sperling, Marvin.

Letter to the Editor: "Whaling Port"

Jan 18

— Borden, Robert S. Letter to the Editor: "Whale Oil"

Jan 18

— Riera, Juan L. Letter to the Editor: "Mystic Seaport"

Feb 114

Aiello, William. *How I Became a Stamp Collector*

Oct 902

Anderson, John. *The Minneapolis Corner*

Jan 56

Auleytner, Julian. *Polish-Russian Postal Relations*

Jun 555

Bahnsen, Steve. *Quad-City Stamp Club*

Aug 716

*Raised \$6,400 in Stamp Out Cancer Auction*

Bahnsen, Steve. *Stamp Out Cancer Auction*

(November 2014: Page 994)

— Pettigrew, George. Letter to the Editor:

"Stamps for Cancer"

Jan 10

Bahry, Ted. *Uncommon Valor Revisited: Iwo Jima and the Stamp*

Feb 144

— Weiner, Warren. Letter to the Editor:

"Combat Photographers"

Apr 301

Ball, David S. *How I Became a Stamp Collector*

Mar 198

Barker, Dewey J. Letter to the Editor:

Online Sales & Youth Collecting (November, 1012)

— Shadroff, Lee J. Letter to the Editor:

"Boy Scout Badge"

Feb 106

Bates, Edmond E. Letter to the Editor:

Two Comments on Letters (December, 1093)

— Caswell, Lyman R. Letter to the Editor:

"Experience Not Happy"

Feb 109

Beech, David R. *Mauritius Rediscovered*

May 436

Bergen, Edward. *Errors and Freaks of the Walt Disney Stamp*

Jul 634

— Anderson, R.I. Letter to the Editor:

"Was a Guideline Violated?"

Sep 812

Bigalke, Jay *Inside Philately*

Monthly Mar-Dec

Bigalke, Jay *New Stamps*

Monthly Mar-Dec

— Stamp Artists: Greg Harlin (March), Michael Dyer (March), Kam Mak, (April) Jennifer Miller (August), Michael Doret (September), Cathie Bleck (September), William S. Phillips (October).

— Stamp Art Directors: Antonio Alcalá (March, May, October), Derry Noyes (April), Ethel Kessler (June, July), Phil Jordan (July)

— Stamp Designers: Jeanne Greco (April), Leslie Badani (December)

— Stamp Illustrators: Nancy Stahl (April, August), Michael Osborne (June), Tyler Lang (August),

— Stamp Photographers: Cindy Dyer (May)

Oct 958

Bratzel Jr., M.P. *Cameroun's Poste Auto Rurale*

Nov 998

Breznay, Ron. *How I Became a Stamp Collector*

Jan 28

Bristow, Mercer. *APS Stamp Cruise 2014*

Brown, Jim. Letter to the Editor:

"Remembering Dealers"

Jun 524

Cahoon, Ed. *How I Became a Stamp Collector*

Jun 510

Cartier, Ray E. *The Sputnik I Covers*

Jul 642

— Sutter, Ralph. Letter to the Editor:

"Flood of Memories"

Sep 810

Centonze, Vincent. *Mundane Cover from Military General*

Dec 1162

Chavez, Rene. <i>Spanish Blue Division</i>	<b>Nov</b> 1038	— <i>Freedom Just Around the Corner</i>	<b>Mar</b> 252
Coale, Bob. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>May</b> 414	— <i>World's Rarest Stamp on Display</i>	<b>Jun</b> 568
Cusick, Allison. <i>Alphonse and Gaston on a Private Lettercard from 1906</i>	<b>Jan</b> 58	— <i>Mail Call Exhibit Features Military Mail</i>	<b>Sep</b> 868
— Jack J. Reber. Letter to the Editor: "Alphonse & Gaston"	<b>Mar</b> 205	— <i>Digitization Captures Exhibit</i>	<b>Dec</b> 1164
"Bill's Place, Pennsylvania, Population 5"	<b>Sep</b> 856	Kantor, Bob. Letter to the Editor: <i>More on Scott 3a</i>	<b>Jan</b> 22
— Riesa, Juan L. Letter to the Editor: "Love of Lincoln"	<b>Nov</b> 1005	Katz, Lawrence M. Letter to the Editor: "NPM Improvements"	<b>Apr</b> 304
Darby, Joe. Letter to the Editor: "Philatelic Persecution"	<b>Jan</b> 18	Knapp, Stephen. <i>Abraham DePue Hazen</i>	<b>May</b> 450
Davenhill, Noel. "Visiting the British Empire" (quarterly column):		Koepsel, Robert J. <i>My Favorite Year — 1934</i>	<b>Nov</b> 1048
Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika	<b>Mar</b> 242	Kramer, Valerie Jean. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Apr</b> 294
North Borneo	<b>Jun</b> 560	Kucera, Herbert. <i>Protecting Stamps</i> (Dec. 2014: 1092)	
St. Lucia	<b>Sep</b> 850	— Harvey Robbins. Letter to the Editor: "Canada Post Labels"	<b>Feb</b> 106
Cyprus	<b>Dec</b> 1154	Lamb, Bob. "Worldwide in a Nutshell" (monthly column):	
Del Toro Jr., Ubaldo and Sellers, Burton. <i>The Stamps of Haiti</i>	<b>Apr</b> 324	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Jan</b> 96
Dempsey, Terry. <i>Membership Report</i>	<b>Oct</b> 980	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Feb</b> 192
DesRochers, Joseph L. Letter to the Editor: "Dennison Hinges"	<b>Oct</b> 908	<b>Falkland Islands</b>	<b>Mar</b> 288
Doherty, Michael. <i>Ties That Bind: Ireland and the Americas</i> (Dec. 2014: 1148)		<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>Apr</b> 408
— Scarry, John. Letter to the Editor – "Ties That Bind"	<b>Feb</b> 109	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>May</b> 504
Elias, Peter. <i>APC Kiosk Conversion</i>	<b>Apr</b> 344	<b>Haiti</b>	<b>Jun</b> 600
English, Scott. <i>Our Story</i>	Monthly, <b>Sep-Dec</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>Jul</b> 696
Epting, Charles. <i>A New Deal for the American People</i>	<b>Apr</b> 320	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>Aug</b> 800
— Rudnick, Elliott. Letter to the Editor: "Paris, Missouri, P.O."	<b>Jun</b> 514	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Sep</b> 896
— Folsom, Chuck. Letter to the Editor: "Cornerstone Laying Cover"	<b>Jun</b> 522	— Centonze, Vincent. Letter to the Editor: "Egyptian Stamp"	<b>Nov</b> 1004
Floyd, Barry N. <i>Dinosaurs: Majestic Prehistoric Creatures</i> (Dec. 2014: 1126)		<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>Oct</b> 992
— Arghir, George. Letter to the Editor: "Dinosaurs"	<b>Mar</b> 206	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Nov</b> 1088
— Epting, Charles. Letter to the Editor: "Paleontology Buff"	<b>Mar</b> 207	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Dec</b> 1208
Fricke, Charles A. <i>'Heine GabublersBoose Shop Jokes'</i>	<b>Jan</b> 62	Land, George. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Feb</b> 103
— 1936 International Samples Fair Stamp & Postcard	<b>May</b> 474	Lawrence, Ken. <i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 1</i>	<b>Jan</b> 34
Friedman, Rob. Letter to the Editor: "U.S. Scott 3 Revisited"	<b>Jan</b> 21	— <i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 2</i>	<b>Feb</b> 152
Green, Aron. Letter to the Editor: "In Memoriam: Richard Pyznar"	<b>Apr</b> 306	Lazaroff, Chris. <i>Collecting Michigan: The Tiger Stadium Stamp</i>	<b>Aug</b> 730
Green, Michelle. Letter to the Editor: "Remembering Ronald Rose"	<b>Feb</b> 114	Lehmann, Douglas K. <i>WWII Ration Stamps</i>	<b>Oct</b> 950
Gruene, Albert-Friedrich. <i>Covers from the Battle of the Falkland Islands</i>	<b>Dec</b> 1138	Lovett, James. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Aug</b> 702
Hagan, Ron. Letter to the Editor: "Seek, and Ye Shall Find (Capt. Tim)"	<b>Oct</b> 908	Madsen, Eduardo. <i>Bolivian Mute Cancels</i>	<b>May</b> 472
Haimann, Alex. <i>Collecting Michigan: Oakland County Centennial Cover</i>	<b>Aug</b> 731	Mahler, Michael. <i>Philatelic Stunners: Documenting the Legendary Persian Rug \$200 and \$500 Revenue Stamps</i>	<b>Sep</b> 834
Horn, Tom. Letter to the Editor: "A Close Scouting Connection"	<b>Jul</b> 610	— Howes, Ray J. Letter to the Editor: "Story Needed 1 More Element"	<b>Oct</b> 914
Horn, Tom. <i>Sales Talk</i>	Monthly column	Malan, Paul. <i>Mount Rainier Revisited</i> (Nov. 2014: 1032)	
Houde, Michael. Letter to the Editor: "Now You See It ..."	<b>Apr</b> 303	— Waller, David B. Letter to the Editor: "Rainier Photo"	<b>Jan</b> 12
— Quine, Douglas B. Letter to the Editor: "Internet Archive"	<b>May</b> 421	Mammana, Richard. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Jul</b> 606
Jimenez, Christine. <i>WSS-NY 2016: International Stamp Show Details Revealed</i>	<b>Aug</b> 722	— Kapochunas, Andrew. Letter to the Editor: "Estonia Fake Stamp"	<b>Aug</b> 706
Johnson, Cary E. <i>Collecting Michigan: Territory Stampless Cover</i>	<b>Aug</b> 729	Martin, Gary. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Sep</b> 806
Johnson, Rachel D. <i>How I Became a Stamp Collector</i>	<b>Dec</b> 1094	Martin, Ken. <i>The Pulse</i> (Monthly, January through August)	
Juell, Rodney. <i>WSS-NY 2016: Societies and Affiliates</i>	<b>Jul</b> 628	Martoretli, Richard D. <i>Experimenting with U.S. Christmas Stamps</i>	<b>Dec</b> 1122
Kane, Allen. "Inside the NPM" (occasional column)		McCullough, Amy. <i>Stamps in Old Albums</i> (September 2014: Page 805)	
		— Tom Hirschinger. Letter to the Editor: "Cleaning Stamps"	<b>Jan</b> 22
		Miley, Mike. <i>Collecting Michigan: Early University Advertising Covers</i>	<b>Aug</b> 730
		Milgram, James W. <i>War of 1812 Correspondence</i>	<b>Mar</b> 230
		Miller, Rick. Letter to the Editor: "C1 Used on Mail"	<b>Apr</b> 303
		Morse, G.R. Letter to the Editor: "Where Did Microprinting Go"	<b>Dec</b> 1098

Moss, Robert A. <i>What's in a Name? Israel's Postal Service in 1948</i> (Nov. 2014: 1,040)		— Chang, Wilson. Letter to the Editor: Postcard Signature	Apr	300
— George Skadron. Letter to the Editor: "Fine Article"	Jan 10	Stage, Jeff "Books and Catalogs" (bimonthly column, from July):	Jul	660
Moss, Robert A. <i>Beginnings of the Faroese Post</i>	Jun 544	Author Douglas S. Weiscz	Sep	870
Murray, Tara. "APRL Notes" (occasional column)		Author Cheryl Ganz	Nov	1058
— <i>Looking Beyond the Scott Postage Stamp Catalogs</i>	Mar 258	Book: <i>Freedom Just Around the Corner:</i>	Dec	1128
— <i>The United States Stamp Files</i>	Jun 566	— <i>Plate Block Madness: 1968 Christmas Stamp</i>	Oct	964
— <i>Stamp Catalogs</i>	Sep 862	— <i>Three New Youth Fellows for 2016</i>		
Newhouse, Richard A. Letter to the Editor: "New Stamps Tweak Early Collecting Memory"	Jul 618	Telep, Daniel. <i>North Vietnam Postal History Artifacts from the Other Side of the Vietnam War: 1960-1975</i>	Oct	928
Osman, Jay M. <i>The Incomparable Vermeer</i>	May 460	Thompson, Richard C. Letter to the Editor: "Seebeck Query"	Jan	20
Gilbert, Othan. Letter to the Editor: "Selling on eBay"	Apr 305	Thompson, Richard C. Letter to the Editor: "Earmarking Donations" (December, 1093)		
Page, Gale. Letter to the Editor: "Do We Need Modern Imperf Varieties?"	Jul 612	— Kean, Tom. Letter to the Editor: "Donations Comment"	Feb	106
Paton, James. Letter to the Editor: "Christmas Wreath Stamp"	Feb 108	Voss, Bob. Letter to the Editor: "Stamp Hinges"	Aug	706
Pendleton, Steve. <i>Desperate Journey</i> (Nov. 2014: 1022)		Wadsworth, Frank H. Letter to the Editor: <i>Collecting Geography</i>	Mar	202
— Sherman, Lawrence. Letter to the Editor: "Beautifully Captured"	Jan 10	Wood, Dr. Charles L. <i>World War II Submarine Covers; A Survey of Franks &amp; Cancels</i>	Jan	50
— Bauer, Walter. Letter to the Editor: "Shackleton Dates"	Jan 13	Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast" (regular column):		
Pendleton, Steve. <i>Japan Visits Antarctica</i>	Nov 1024	Some Prisons Have Serious Stamp Collectors, Exhibitors	Jan	24
Pendleton, Steve. <i>Marshall Islands</i>	May 466	— Miller, Harlan L. Letter to the Editor: "Prison Mail"	Apr	304
Petrosky, Paul. <i>Collecting Michigan: An 1850s Keweenaw County Cover</i>	Aug 732	Prison Covers: Variety of Markings & Intent	Feb	116
Piazza, Daniel A. Letter to the Editor: "National Postal Museum"	May 421	Cancellation Forensics	Mar	218
Pica, Gene. Letter to the Editor: "Upright Jenny Should Be Listed in Scott Catalog"	Jul 613	Tiny Town Post Office	Apr	315
Posner, Charles M. "Cataloguing U.S. Commemoratives" (regular column)	Jan 33	— Lukas, Henry. Letter to the Editor: "Post Office Board Games"	May	421
<i>Stamps of the 1950s-1980s</i>	Feb 124	An Interesting Diversion	May	430
<i>An Overview of Philately in the 1950s</i>	Apr 328	Chile Peppers on Stamps	Jun	530
<i>1950s: Railroad Engineers</i>	Jun 536	Solved and Unsolved Philatelic Mysteries	Jul	630
<i>1950s: Boy Scouts of America</i>	Aug 758	Philately and Fire	Aug	724
<i>1950s: Landing of Cadillac</i>	Oct 906	'Real' First-Day Covers Aren't Pristine	Sep	828
— Litvak, Michael. Letter to the Editor: "Birthday Ceremony Program"	Oct 906	Essays, Proofs, Specimens, and More	Oct	924
— Collarini, Robert. Letter to the Editor: "Series Filled with Interesting Tidbits"	Oct 940	'Tipsey' Ben Franklin on Postal Cards	Nov	1020
<i>1950s: 4-H</i>	Dec 1132	The Snowflake Envelope of 1988: A Poor Idea	Dec	1116
<i>1950s: Grand Coulee Dam and Reclamation</i>				
Price, Christina. Letter to the Editor: "AmeriStamp Expo 2015"	Apr 298	<b>Geographic Index</b>		
Reinhard, Stephen. <i>President's Column</i>	Monthly			
Rizzo, Richard. Letter to the Editor: "Wonderful Experience to See Rare Stamp Gem at Museum."	Sep 810	<b>Arctic/Antarctica</b>		
Ronin, Ilya. <i>From Ukraine With Love</i>	Jul 664	Pendleton, Steve. <i>Japan Sails South</i>	Nov	1024
Rufe, Robert G. <i>Special Handling</i>	Nov 1052	<b>Brazil</b>		
Sandler, Stanley. <i>Danzig Cover</i>	Apr 334	Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."	Nov	1088
Sandler, Stanley. <i>Forgery of Scott 634</i> (Dec. 2014: 1082)		<b>British Guiana</b>		
— Sandler, Stanley. Letter to the Editor: "More on the Forgery"	Aug 708	APS staff. <i>Stuart Weitzman Revealed as Owner of the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta Stamp</i>	Aug	714
Sellers, Burton and Del Toro Jr., Ubaldo. <i>The Stamps of Haiti</i>	Apr 324	<b>Cameroun</b>		
Sharkey, John B. <i>Science and Technology on Irish Stamps</i>	Jul 666	Bratzel Jr., M.P. <i>Cameroun: The Auto Poste Rurale</i>	Oct	958
Siddiqui, Jafar H. <i>Indian Postal Stationery Overprinted for Use in Pakistan</i>	Jul 652	<b>Chile</b>		
Soper, Michael. <i>The Legacy of Zhu Zhixin</i>	Mar 224	Madsen, Eduardo. <i>Bolivian Mute Cancels</i>	May	472
— Winter, William P. Letter to the Editor: <i>China Stamp Society Lives</i>	Apr 298	<b>China</b>		
		Soper, Michael. <i>The Legacy of Zhu Zhixin</i>	Mar	224
		Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."	Aug	800
		<b>Cyprus</b>		
		Davenhill, Noel. Visiting the British Empire.	Dec	1154
		<b>Danzig</b>		
		Sandler, Stanley. <i>Danzig Cover</i>	Apr	334

<b>Dominican Republic</b>		Bergen, Edward. <i>Errors and Freaks of the Walt Disney Stamp</i>	<b>Jul</b>	634
Lamb, Bob. "Worldwide in a Nutshell."	<b>May</b>	504		
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Sep</b>	896	<b>Jul</b>	642
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Falkland Islands</b>	<b>Dec</b>	1138	<b>Jan</b>	58
Gruene, Albert-Friedrich. <i>Battle of the Falklands</i>	<b>Mar</b>	288	<b>Sep</b>	856
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Faroe Islands</b>	<b>Jun</b>	544	<b>Apr</b>	320
Moss, Robert A. <i>Beginnings of the Faroese Post</i>	<b>Dec</b>	1138	<b>Jan</b>	62
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Dec</b>	1138	<b>May</b>	474
Gruene, Albert-Friedrich. <i>Battle of the Falklands</i>	<b>Mar</b>	230		
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>Apr</b>	324	<b>Aug</b>	731
Gruene, Albert-Friedrich. <i>Battle of the Falklands</i>	<b>Jun</b>	600		
Milgram, James W. <i>War of 1812 Correspondence</i>			<b>Aug</b>	729
<b>Haiti</b>	<b>Jul</b>	652		
Del Toro Jr., Ubaldo and Sellers, Burton. <i>The Stamps of Haiti</i>			<b>Mar</b>	252
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>India</b>				
Siddiqui, Jafar H. <i>Indian Postal Stationery Overprinted for Use in Pakistan</i>			<b>Sep</b>	868
<b>Ireland</b>				
Sharkey, John B. <i>Science and Technology on Irish Stamps</i>	<b>Jul</b>	666	<b>May</b>	450
<b>Japan</b>				
Pendleton, Steve. <i>Japan Sails South</i>	<b>Nov</b>	1024	<b>Aug</b>	730
<b>Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika</b>				
Davenhill, Noel. Visiting the British Empire.	<b>Mar</b>	242	<b>Oct</b>	950
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>Oct</b>	992		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Feb</b>	192		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>May</b>	466		
Pendleton, Steve. <i>Marshall Islands</i>				
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>May</b>	436		
Beech, David R. <i>Mauritius Rediscovered</i>				
<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>Apr</b>	408		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>North Borneo</b>	<b>Jun</b>	560		
Davenhill, Noel. Visiting the British Empire.				
<b>Poland</b>	<b>Jun</b>	555		
Auleytner, Julian. <i>Polish-Russian Postal Relations</i>				
<b>Russia</b>	<b>Jun</b>	555		
Auleytner, Julian. <i>Polish-Russian Postal Relations</i>				
<b>St. Lucia</b>	<b>Sep</b>	850		
Davenhill, Noel. Visiting the British Empire.				
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Jan</b>	96		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Spain</b>				
Chavez, Rene. <i>Volunteers from the Spanish Blue Division</i>	<b>Nov</b>	1038		
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>Jul</b>	696		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Dec</b>	1208		
Lamb, Bob, "Worldwide in a Nutshell."				
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>Jul</b>	664		
Ronin, Ilya. <i>From Ukraine With Love</i>				
<b>United States</b>	<b>Jan</b>	56		
Anderson, John. <i>The Minneapolis Corner</i>				
APS staff. <i>Chenango Bridge, New York, Precancel</i>	<b>Apr</b>	308		
Bahry, Ted. <i>Uncommon Valor Revisited: Two Jima and the Stamp</i>	<b>Feb</b>	144		

<i>Founding Father Looks Tipsy on Early Postal Cards</i>	<b>Nov</b>	1020	New Worldwide Stamps (monthly, March to December)
<i>A Bad Idea: Snowflake Envelope of 1988</i>	<b>Dec</b>	1116	Reinhard, Stephen. APS president (monthly)
<b>Vietnam</b>			Show Time (monthly; upcoming stamp shows listing)
Telep, Daniel M. <i>North Vietnam Postal History</i>	<b>Oct</b>	928	Stage, Jeff. <i>Books and Catalogs</i> , (July, September, November)
<b>Worldwide</b>			U.S. New Issues (monthly, new issues from the U.S. Postal Service)
AP staff, <i>United Nations End Violence Against Children Stamps</i>	<b>Aug</b>	743	<b>Remembrances</b>
AP staff, Modern WWI centennial commemoratives.	<b>Dec</b>	1140	Green, Aron. Letter to the Editor: <i>In Memoriam: Richard Pyznar</i>
Lawrence, Ken. <i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 1</i>	<b>Jan</b>	34	Green, Michelle. Letter to the Editor: <i>Remembering Ronald Rose</i>
<i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 2</i>	<b>Feb</b>	152	<b>Youth</b>
Kane, Allen. Inside the NPM: <i>World's Rarest Stamp on Display</i>	<b>Jun</b>	568	Introducing 2015 Young Philatelic Youth Leaders
Osman, Jay M. <i>The Incomparable Vermeer</i>	<b>May</b>	460	Youth Champion of Champions
Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast" (regular column):			<b>Arctic/Antarctic</b>
<i>Chile Peppers on Stamps</i>	<b>Jun</b>	530	Pendleton, Steve. <i>Japan Sails South</i>
			<b>Back of the Book</b>
			Lehmann, Douglas K. <i>World War II Ration Stamps</i>
			<b>Cancellations</b>
			Madsen, Eduardo. <i>Bolivian Mute Cancels</i>

## Subject Index

### Aerophilately/Airmail

Lawrence, Ken. <i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 1</i>	<b>Jan</b>	34
<i>Fresh Perspectives on FAM 22 Inaugural Flight Covers; Part 2</i>	<b>Feb</b>	152
<b>American Philatelic Research Library (APRL)</b>		
Murray, Tara, Head Librarian. "APRL Notes" (occasional column)		
<i>Looking Beyond the Scott Postage Stamp Catalogs</i>	<b>Mar</b>	258
<i>The United States Stamp Files</i>	<b>Jun</b>	566
<i>Stamp Catalogs</i>	<b>Sep</b>	862
<i>Library Open During Construction</i>	<b>Dec</b>	1120

### American Philatelic Society

#### AmeriStamp Expo 2015

Schedule of Events	
Schedule of Exhibits	
Price, Christina. Letter to the Editor	

#### Annual Reports

APS/APRL Development Report to Membership

#### APS Awards and Honors

Carter Volunteer Awards

Champion of Champions

Hall of Fame Inductees

Luff Awards

Philatelic Writing Awards

#### APS News

Bristow, Mercer. *APS Stamp Cruise 2014*

Dempsey, Terry. *Membership Report*

#### Columns

Advertisers Online (monthly)

Bigalke, Jay *Inside Philately* (monthly, March through December)

Bigalke, Jay *New Stamps* (monthly, March through December)

Classifieds (monthly)

English, Scott, APS Chief Executive Officer, *Our Story* (monthly, September through December)

Farmer, Bonny. *Books and Catalogs*, (April)

Horn, Tom, APS Sales Department director. *Sales Talk* (monthly)

Index of Advertisers (monthly)

Martin, Ken, APS Chief Operating Officer, *The Pulse* (monthly, January through August)

Membership Report (monthly; new clubs and memberships; deceased/expelled members)

### Collecting

Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast"

(regular column):

<i>Some Prisons Have Serious Stamp Collectors, Exhibitors</i>	<b>Jan</b>	24
<i>Solved and Unsolved Philatelic Mysteries</i>	<b>Jul</b>	630
<i>'Real' First-Day Covers Aren't Pristine</i>	<b>Sep</b>	828

#### How I Became a Stamp Collector

Aiello, William.	<b>Oct</b>	902
Ball, David S.	<b>Mar</b>	198
Breznay, Ron.	<b>Nov</b>	998
Cahoon, Ed.	<b>Jun</b>	510
Coale, Bob.	<b>May</b>	414
Johnson, Rachel D.	<b>Dec</b>	1094
Kramer, Valerie Jean.	<b>Apr</b>	294
Land, George.	<b>Feb</b>	102
Lovett, James.	<b>Aug</b>	702
Mammana, Richard.	<b>Jul</b>	606

#### Commemoratives

Lazaroff, Chris. *Collecting Michigan: The Tiger Stadium Stamp*

**Aug** 730

Posner, Charles M. "Cataloging U.S. Commemoratives" (regular column)

*Commemoratives of the 1950s-1980s*

**Jan** 33

*An Overview of Philately in the 1950s*

**Feb** 124

*1950s: Railroad Engineers*

**Apr** 328

*1950s: Boy Scouts of America*

**Jun** 536

*1950s: Landing of Cadillac*

**Aug** 758

— Letter to the Editor: Michael Litvak, *Ceremony Program*

**Oct** 906

— Letter to the Editor: Robert Collarini, *Interesting Tidbits*

**Oct** 906

*1950s: 4-H*

**Oct** 940

*1950s: Grand Coulee Dam*

**Dec** 1132

#### Covers

APS staff. *Chenango Bridge, New York, Precancel*

**Apr** 308

Cartier, Ray E. *The Sputnik I Covers*

**Jul** 642

Friedman, Rob. Letter to the Editor,

— U.S. Scott 3 Revisited

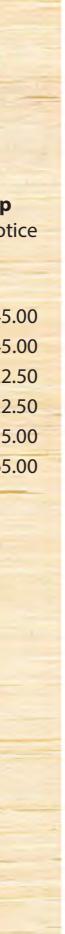
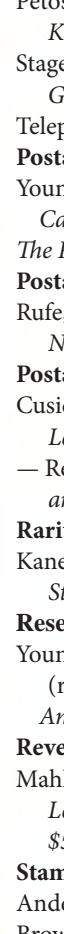
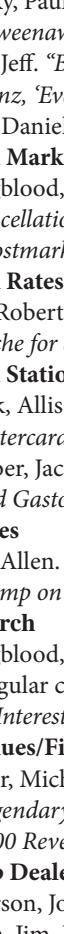
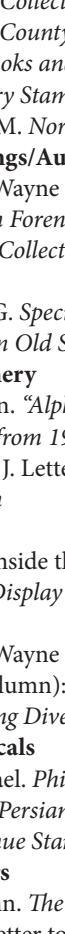
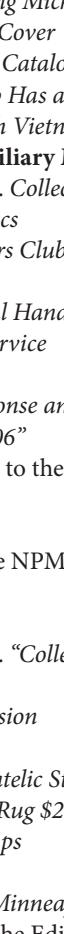
**Jan** 21

Miley, Mike. *Collecting Michigan: Early University Advertising Covers*

**Aug** 730

Sandler, Stanley. *Danzig Cover*

**Apr** 334

Stage, Jeff. "Books and Catalogs — Author Douglas S. Weisz, 'Dorothy Knapp'"	<b>Jul</b>	660	Paton, James. Letter to the Editor: <i>Christmas Wreath Stamp Marketplace</i>	<b>Feb</b>	108
Youngblood, Wayne L. <i>Collecting Coast to Coast: Prison Covers: Variety of Markings &amp; Intents</i>	<b>Feb</b>	116	Gilbert, Othan. Letter to the Editor: <i>Selling on eBay Military Postal History/Soldier's Mail/POW Mail</i>	<b>Apr</b>	305
<b>Design and Preproduction</b>			Kane, Allen. "Inside the NPM" column. <i>Mail Call Exhibit Features Military Mail</i>	<b>Sep</b>	868
Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast" (regular column): <i>Essays, Proofs, Specimens, Clarence Brazer, and More</i>	<b>Oct</b>	924	Milgram, James W. <i>War of 1812 Correspondence Overprints/Surcharges</i>	<b>Mar</b>	230
<b>Errors, Freaks &amp; Oddities</b>			Siddiqui, Jafar H. <i>Indian Postal Stationery Overprinted for Use in Pakistan</i>	<b>Jul</b>	652
Bergen, Edward. <i>Errors and Freaks of the Walt Disney Stamp Exhibits</i>	<b>Jul</b>	634	<b>Philatelic Ephemera</b>		
Kane, Allen. Inside the NPM: <i>Freedom Just Around the Corner</i>	<b>Mar</b>	252	Fricke, Charles A. <i>Heine GabublersBoose Shop Jokes' — 1936 International Samples Fair Stamp &amp; Postcard</i>	<b>Jan</b>	62
<b>Fakes and Forgeries</b>			Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast" (regular column): <i>Tiny Town Post Office</i>	<b>Jan</b>	474
Sandler, Stanley. <i>Forgery of Scott 634</i> (Dec. 2014: 1082)	<b>Aug</b>	215	— Lukas, Henry. Letter to the Editor: <i>Post Office Board Games</i>	<b>Apr</b>	315
— Sandler, Stanley. Letter to the Editor: <i>More on the Forgery</i>			<b>Post Offices/Postmasters</b>		
<b>Famous People/Personalities</b>			Skadron, George, <i>Fine Article</i> . Letter to the Editor re: <i>What's in a Name? Israel's Postal Service in 1948</i> (Nov. 2014) by Robert Moss.	<b>May</b>	421
APS staff. <i>Stuart Weitzman Revealed as Owner of the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta Stamp</i>	<b>Aug</b>	715	<b>Postal History</b>		
Knapp, Stephen. <i>Abraham DePue Hazen Government/Politics/Diplomacy</i>	<b>May</b>	450	Auleytner, Julian. <i>Polish-Russian Postal Relations</i>	<b>Jun</b>	555
Darby, Joe. Letter to the Editor: <i>Philatelic Persecution</i>	<b>Jan</b>	18	Beech, David R. <i>Mauritius Rediscovered</i>	<b>May</b>	436
Epting, Charles. <i>A New Deal for the American People</i>	<b>Apr</b>	320	Cusick, Allison. "Bill's Place, Pennsylvania, Population 5"	<b>Sep</b>	856
— Rudnick, Elliott. Letter to the Editor: <i>Paris, Missouri, P.O.</i>	<b>Jun</b>	514	Haimann, Alex. <i>Collecting Michigan: Oakland County Centennial Cover</i>	<b>Aug</b>	731
— Folsom, Chuck. Letter to the Editor: <i>Cornerstone Laying Cover.</i>	<b>Jun</b>	522	Moss, Robert A. <i>Beginnings of the Faroese Post Petosky, Paul. Collecting Michigan: An 1850s Keweenaw County Cover</i>	<b>Jun</b>	544
<b>IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2015 APS DUES</b>			Stage, Jeff. "Books and Catalogs — Author Chery Ganz, 'Every Stamp Has a Story'"	<b>Aug</b>	732
<b>Watch the mail for your 2015 APS membership renewal notice.</b> If you do not receive your notice by November 30, please contact us.			Telep, Daniel M. <i>North Vietnam Postal History</i>	<b>Sep</b>	871
Regular APS Membership		\$45.00	<b>Postal Markings/Auxiliary Markings</b>		
Junior Membership (J prefix)		\$45.00	Youngblood, Wayne L. <i>Collecting Coast to Coast: Cancellation Forensics</i>	<b>Oct</b>	928
Youth Membership (Y prefix)		\$22.50	The Postmark Collectors Club	<b>Mar</b>	218
Spouse Membership (S prefix)		\$22.50	<b>Postal Rates</b>		
Canadian Regular & Junior Membership*		\$55.00	Rufe, Robert G. <i>Special Handling: Fragile New Niche for an Old Service</i>	<b>Mar</b>	220
Foreign Regular & Junior Membership*		\$65.00	<b>Postal Stationery</b>		
*Canadian and Foreign Membership is \$45.00 with the online American Philatelist only.			Cusick, Allison. "Alphonse and Gaston on a Private Lettercard from 1906"	<b>Nov</b>	1052
<b>STAMPS.ORG/RENEW-NOW</b>			— Reber, Jack J. Letter to the Editor — <i>Alphonse and Gaston</i>	<b>Jan</b>	58
<b>American Philatelic Society</b> 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 Phone: 814-933-3803 • Fax: 814-933-6128 E-mail: requests@stamps.org			<b>Rarities</b>		
			Kane, Allen. Inside the NPM: <i>World's Rarest Stamp on Display</i>	<b>Mar</b>	205
			<b>Research</b>		
			Youngblood, Wayne L. "Collecting Coast to Coast" (regular column): <i>An Interesting Diversion</i>	<b>Jun</b>	568
			<b>Revenues/Fiscals</b>		
			Mahler, Michael. <i>Philatelic Stunners: Documenting the Legendary Persian Rug \$200 and \$500 Revenue Stamps</i>	<b>May</b>	430
			<b>Stamp Dealers</b>		
			Anderson, John. <i>The Minneapolis Corner</i>	<b>Sep</b>	834
			Brown, Jim. Letter to the Editor: <i>Remembering Dealers</i>	<b>Jan</b>	524

**Stampless Covers**Johnson, Cary E. *Collecting Michigan: Territory**Stampless Cover***StampShow 2015***2015 Open Competition**Literature Competition**Schedule of Events and Exhibits***Topical Collecting**Martorelli, Richard D. *Experimenting with Christmas Stamps*Osman, Jay M. *The Incomparable Vermeer*Stage, Jeff. *Plate Block Madness of 1968**Christmas Stamp*Youngblood, Wayne L. *Collecting Coast to Coast:**Chile Peppers on Stamps**Philately and Fire**A Bad Idea: Snowflake Envelope of 1988***U.S. Postal Service/Post Office Department**

Anderson, R.I. Letter to the Editor:

*Was a Guideline Violated?*Elias, Peter. *APC Kiosk Conversion***U.S. Stamps — General**

New Issues (monthly)

**U.S. Stamps — Design**

2015 Stamps

— Battle of New Orleans Artist: Greg Harlin

Mar 281

— Waves of Color Artist: Michael Dyer

Mar 284

— Forever Hearts Art Director: Antonio Alcalá

Mar 286

— Year of the Ram Artist: Kam Mak

Apr 401

— Robert Robinson Taylor Art Director: Derry Noyes Apr 402

## Buying Asia: Japan, Chinas, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya (state) stamps & covers

**PR China Buy Price for Mint, NH XF**

Scott #	We Pay	Scott #	We Pay
344a	\$120	1211-14	300
357a	220	1399	350
542-59	500	1433	200
566a	600	1452	200
620-7	1,000	1492	350
620i-7i	3,500	1518	1,100
628	12,000	1540	130
716-31	700	1586	1,400
782	1,100	1607a	400
798a	2,000	1617	180
967-80	2,000	1647a	120
996a	3,500	1761	120



**Buying at FLOREX · December 4–6 · Orlando, Florida  
and at the APS AmeriStamp /  
Southeastern Stamp Expo 2016 · Atlanta, Georgia**

*We buy stamps not listed. We will travel for large holdings.  
Cash payment upon request.*

## Rising Sun Stamps

3317 Kennedy Avenue · The Villages, FL 32163-6344

Phone: (Cell) 570-350-4393 · E-mail: haruyo\_baker@msn.com

— Vintage Rose and Tulip Designer: Jeanne Greco

Apr 403

— Stars and Stripes Illustrator: Nancy Stahl

Apr 405

— Water Lilies Photographer: Cindy Dyer

May 499

— Martín Ramírez Art Director: Antonio Alcalá

May 500

— Letter Writing Illustrator: Michael Osborne

Jun 593

— Maya Angelou Art Director: Ethel Kessler

Jun 594

— Civil War 1865 Art Director: Phil Jordan

Jun 596

— Missing Children Art Director: Ethel Kessler

Jul 691

— Penguins Illustrator: Nancy Stahl

Aug 792

— Coastal Birds Illustrator: Tyler Lang

Aug 794

— Ruddy Ducks Federal Duck Artist: Jennifer Miller

Aug 797

— Summer Harvest and Flowers Artist: Michael Doret

Sep 893

— Fanciful Flowers Artist: Cathie Bleck

Sep 894

— Coast Guard Artist: William S. Phillips

Oct 986

— Elvis Presley Art Director: Antonio Alcalá

Oct 987

— Paul Newman Art Director: Derry Noyes

Nov 1086

— Paul Newman Photographer: Steve Schapiro

Nov 1085

— Charlie Brown Art Director: Anontio Alcalá

Dec 1204

— Snowflakes Stamp Designer: Leslie Badani

Dec 1206

Youngblood, Wayne. *Founding Father Looks Tipsy on Early Postal Cards*

Nov 1020

**World War I**Gruene, Albert-Friedrich. *Battle of the Falklands*

Dec 1138

Modern WWI centennial commemoratives.

Dec 1140

**World War II**Bahry, Ted. *Uncommon Valor Revisited: Iwo Jima and the Stamp*

Feb 144

Letter to the Editor: Warren Weiner:

Apr 301

Chavez, Rene. *Volunteers from the Spanish Blue Division*

Nov 1038

Wood, Charles L. *World War II Submarine Covers; A Survey of Franks and Cancels*

Jan 50

**World Stamp Show-NY 2016**

Monthly, July to December

**Worldwide**Bratzel Jr., M.P. *Cameroun: The Auto Poste Rurale*

Oct 958

Davenhill, Noel.

Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika

Mar 242

North Borneo

Jun 560

St. Lucia

Sep 850

Cyprus

Dec 1154

Del Toro Jr., Ubaldo and Sellers, Burton. *The Stamps of Haiti*

Apr 324

Lamb, Bob. "Worldwide in a Nutshell"

Singapore

Jan 96

Lithuania

Feb 192

Falkland Islands

Mar 288

Montenegro

Apr 408

Dominican Republic

May 504

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- 15d(4). 0:0 15e. 12:12 15f. 29,563:29,832 15g. 926:478 15h. 30,489:30,310
- 15i. 99.9%:98.4% 16. December 2015 17. Jay Bigalke, Editor

Haiti  
Switzerland  
Cuba  
Egypt  
Liechtenstein  
Brazil  
Turkey  
Pendleton, Steve. *Marshall Islands*  
Ronin, Ilya. *From Ukraine With Love*  
Sellers, Burton and Del Toro Jr., Ubaldo.

*The Stamps of Haiti*

Sharkey, John B. *Science and Technology on Irish Stamps*  
Soper, Michael. *The Legacy of Zhu Zhixin*  
Letter to the Editor: William P. Winter, *China Stamp Society Lives*

Jun 600  
Jul 696  
Aug 800  
Sep 896  
Oct 992  
Nov 1088  
Dec 1208  
May 466  
Jul 664

Apr 324  
Jul 666  
Mar 224  
Apr 298

Letter to the Editor: Wilson Chan, *Postcard Signature* Apr 300  
*United Nations End Violence Against Children Stamps* Aug 743



APS & APRL  
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

When you are planning your travels, please note that the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, will be closed:

• Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25

• Friday, January 1

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



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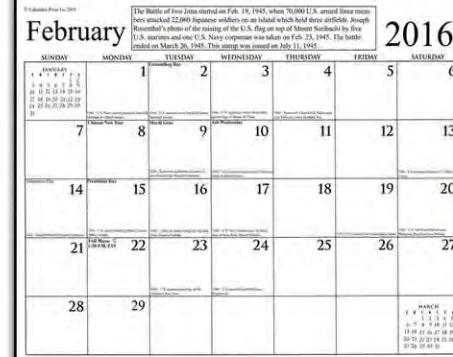
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February

2016

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JANUARY	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					
MARCH	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

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# Index for 2015 U.S. New Issues

This index includes only the stamps that have been reported on in *The American Philatelist* in 2015. It is not intended to be a complete listing of all stamps and postal stationery issued in 2015 by the U.S. Postal Service. Scott Catalog numbers are provided as available at the time of publication; “\*” indicates no number.

Issue Date	Description	Scott No.	AP Page No.
January 8	Battle of New Orleans commemorative forever stamp	4952	280
January 12	\$5.75 Glade Creek Grist Mill Priority Mail stamped envelope	U689	282
January 12	Bank Swallow forever stamped envelope with new envelope logo	no new number	282
January 12	Folk Art Eagle forever stamped envelope with new envelope logo	no new number	282
January 12	\$1 Patriotic Waves definitive stamp	4953	283
January 22	Forever Hearts special forever stamps	4955–4956	285
January 30	\$2 Patriotic Waves definitive stamp	4954	283
February 7	Year of the Ram commemorative forever stamp	4957	400
February 12	Robert Robinson Taylor commemorative forever stamp	4958	401
February 14	Vintage Rose special forever stamp	4959	402
February 14	70-cent Vintage Tulip special stamp	4960	402
February 21	1-cent Bobcat definitive coil stamp	4672a	404
February 27	(10-cent) Stars and Stripes definitive coil stamps	4961–4963	404
February	1-cent Tiffany Lamp definitive stamp variety	no new number	694
March 20	Water Lilies definitive stamps	4964–4967	498
March 26	Martín Ramírez	4968–4972	500
March 27	Ferns coil stamps	4973a, 4974a, 4975a, 4976a, 4977a, 4973–4977	501
April 1	From Me To You commemorative forever stamp	4978	592
April 7	Maya Angelou	4979	593
April 9	Civil War 1865 commemorative forever stamps	4980–4981	595
April 10	Gifts of Friendship commemorative forever stamps	4982–4985	597
April 17	Water Lilies forever stamped envelopes	U690–U691	598
May 9	Special Olympics World Games commemorative forever stamp	4986	690
May 18	Missing Children commemorative forever stamp	4987	691
May 18	Missing Children forever stamped envelope	U692	691
May 25	Medal of Honor: Vietnam War commemorative forever stamps	4822b, 4823b, 4988	692
June 1	(22-cent) Penguins additional ounce definitive stamps	4989–4990	792
June 1	(35-cent) Coastal Birds postcard definitive stamps	4991–4998	793
June 1	(71-cent) Eastern Tiger Swallowtail non-machineable surcharge definitive stamp	4999	794
June 1	(71-cent) Wedding Cake two-ounce special stamp	5000	795
June 1	(71-cent) Yes I Do two-ounce special stamp	5001	796
June 1	(71-cent) Vintage Tulip two-ounce special stamp	5002	795
June 5	(93-cent) Flannery O'Connor three-ounce special stamp	5003	796
June 26	\$25 Ruddy Ducks federal duck stamp	RW82, RW82A	797
July 11	Summer Harvest definitive stamps	5004–5007	892
July 31	Fanciful Flowers forever postal card and reply card	UX646, UY53	894
August 4	Coast Guard commemorative forever stamp	5008	986
August 12	Elvis Presley commemorative forever stamp	5009	987
August 20	World Stamp Show-NY 2016 commemorative forever stamps	5010–5011	990
August 20	Ingrid Bergman commemorative forever stamp	5012	988
September 2	(25-cent) Spectrum Eagle definitive coil stamps	5013–5018	1084
September 9	Neon Celebrate special forever stamp	5019	1084
September 18	Paul Newman commemorative forever stamp	5020	1085
October 1	A Charlie Brown Christmas special forever stamps	5021–5030	1204
October 23	Geometric Snowflakes special forever stamps	*	1206



# \$100,000 Reward

for the recovery of these two Inverted Jennies  
**Scott C3a, positions 66 and 76, missing since their theft in 1955.**



Owned by Ethel McCoy, the block was being shown with her collection of the 1918 24-cent airmail stamp at the American Philatelic Society convention in Norfolk, Virginia, when the exhibit frame was pried open and it was stolen.

Over the years, the two examples on the left of the block above, positions 65 and 75, were recovered and returned to the American Philatelic Research Library, to which Mrs. McCoy deeded the stamps in 1979.

Acting on a story by Ken Lawrence about the hobby's most famous cold case that appeared in the September 2014 issue of *The American Philatelist*, Don Sundman of the Mystic Stamp Co. announced the reward offer for the benefit of the APRL. It is believed the stamps are in collections most likely formed by individuals who did not know that they were stolen property.

A sum of \$50,000 is offered for the successful recovery of each stamp in undamaged condition, certified as genuine. The reward will be paid to the person(s) who transfer possession of a genuine McCoy Inverted Jenny to the research library. The APRL is also offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the successful recovery of the missing McCoy stamps.

Information and inquiries should be made to the APRL by e-mail to [jenny@stamps.org](mailto:jenny@stamps.org), or by phone at 800-782-9580, Extension 246.



## 2015 NEW STAMPS

BY JAY BIGALKE

# Charlie Brown and Snowflakes

## Recap of the United States Stamps Issued in October

In October, the United States Postal Service issued no commemorative stamps and 14 special stamps. Each issue is outlined in the following sections. Expanded versions for each stamp are available in *The American Philatelist* Bonus Content section at stamps.org/AP-Album. These are the final 2015 stamps for the year and an index is provided on page 1202 of this issue.

### A Charlie Brown Christmas

The 10 A Charlie Brown Christmas special forever stamps debuted October 1 in Santa Rosa, California, and were distributed nationwide. The stamps were issued in a double-sided pane of 20 and printed by Banknote Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products using the offset printing process. There is microprinting on the stamps.

**Q&A**

### *Antonio Alcalá art director*

Were movie stills considered from the start?

Yes, it was decided to create a set to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *A Charlie Brown Christmas* special — an American classic — and use images from the original special.

How did you settle in on the number of stamps for this issue?

Our goal was to produce a set of stamps highlighting the winter-themed portions of the show and not every element of the holiday special. This, in part, was to make sure the consumer can use the stamps beyond the holiday card season. With that goal, I watched the program multiple times looking for appropriate scenes I thought would make a good stamp. Finally, we have some production guidelines directing the number of unique designs we should include in a booklet.

What was the monumental task like in choosing the moments shown on the stamps?

It was certainly a pleasurable task! I grew up on Peanuts, so watching the special was no chore.

Is there anything else that our readers might find interesting about this project?

One thing I was surprised about was how Snoopy looks in the special. I had a pre-conceived idea of how I thought he should/would look. But this is a slightly earlier version and it was a bit of a challenge to find a frame that worked as a stamp and showed Snoopy as people would expect.



The 10 A Charlie Brown Christmas special forever stamps.

## Subject

The stamps celebrate the 50th anniversary of the animated television program that debuted December 9, 1965, and broadcast on CBS. It was the first animated program to feature characters from the Peanuts comic strip that debuted in seven newspapers on October 2, 1950.

## Design

The stamps feature movie stills from Charles Schulz's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. USPS art director Antonio Alcalá created the stamps and started work on the project in 2013.

The 10 different stamps show the following scenes:

Charlie Brown holding the sapling that eventually becomes his Christmas tree, Charlie Brown and Pigpen with a snowman, Snoopy and children ice skating, the cast of the

program gathering around the Christmas tree, Linus kneeling by the sparsely decorated Christmas tree, Charlie Brown checking his mailbox for a Christmas card, Charlie Brown and Linus leaning on a snowy brick wall, Charlie Brown and Linus standing by the tree, a frustrated Charlie Brown standing in front of Snoopy's doghouse, and Charlie Brown decorating the tree in front of the prize-winning lights display on Snoopy's doghouse.

## First-Day Ceremony

The first-day ceremony took place at a packed house at the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Schulz's widow Jean, were in attendance at the event, along with *A Charlie Brown Christmas* executive producer Lee Mendelson, and others.

## A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOREVER STAMPS

**USPS Item Number:** 680204

**Format:** Double-sided pane of 20, 160 stamps per revolution

**Issue Date and City:** October 1, 2015, Santa Rosa, California

**Designer and Art Director:** Antonio Alcalá, Alexandria, Virginia

**Modeler:** Donald Woo

**Manufacturing Process:** Offset with microprinting

**Printer and Processor:** Banknote

Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products, Browns Summit, North Carolina

**Press Type:** Alprinta 74

**Print Quantity:** 500 million stamps

**Press Sheet Quantities:** 500 with die cuts, 1,500 without die cuts

**Paper Type:** Phosphor tagged paper, block tagging

**Adhesive Type:** Pressure-sensitive adhesive

**Ink Colors:** Cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Stamp Sizes:** 1.05 inches by 0.77 inches, 26.67 millimeters by 19.56mm (image); 1.19 inches by 0.91 inches, 30.23mm by 23.11mm (overall); 5.74 inches by 2.38 inches, 145.88mm by 60.33mm (sheet); 11.49 inches by 9.5 inches, 291.74mm by 241.3mm (press sheet)

**Plate Numbers:** "S" followed by four single digits

**Marginal Markings:** Plate numbers (front); "©2015 USPS," USPS in peel strip area

— Paid Advertisement —

## Barwis, Haimann & Kouri Declare For APS Board of Vice Presidents

Dear Fellow APS Members,

We want to officially announce our candidacy for the APS Board of Vice Presidents. Two of us, Alex Haimann and Yamil Kouri are running for re-election to that office. John Barwis is joining the slate for election to the 2016-2019 board term. As APS Vice Presidents, we will bring our diverse organizational leadership experiences in and outside of the hobby to advance and improve APS initiatives and membership services that support stamp clubs, local and regional shows, education, new collector outreach, and research through the American Philatelic Research Library.

Each of us developed our passion for stamp collecting in childhood. The thrill of adding a new item to our collection, learning about different areas of the hobby and meeting other collectors continues to drive our commitment to philately in all its forms. American philately is blessed to have the APS, an organization with a rich 129-year history representing the organizational backbone of our hobby. As three lifelong stamp collectors with over 85-years of cumulative APS membership between us, we would be honored to serve the society and its members as APS Vice Presidents.

We know that nothing in organized philately can be accomplished in a vacuum. Any significant effort worth undertaking requires input and work from many people and organizations. As the APS tackles current challenges and prepares for ones that lie ahead, we're excited to roll-up our sleeves and get to work. We are equally excited to work with fellow APS Board Members, Affiliate and Chapter leaders, and other dedicated APS members interested in pushing the boundaries of what is possible to make our Society and hobby better for us today and the generations that follow.

Thank You,  
John Barwis, Alex Haimann & Yamil Kouri  
vote.aps.vp@gmail.com

Learn more about our BVP Team at  
[www.vote-aps-vp.org](http://www.vote-aps-vp.org)



## Geometric Snowflakes

The four Geometric Snowflakes special forever stamps debuted October 23 in New York, New York, and were distributed nationwide.

The stamps were issued in a double-sided pane of 20 and printed by Banknote Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products using the offset printing process. There is microprinting on the stamps.

### Design

The stamps depict four similarly styled snowflakes in hues of purple, blue, green, and pink. USPS art director Antonio Alcalá worked with Leslie Badani in designing the stamps. An interview with Badani on the design process is featured nearby.

### First-Day Ceremony

The first-day ceremony took place at the New York Hilton Midtown during the American Stamp Dealers Association Fall National Postage Stamp Show.

Participants in the ceremony included remarks by American Philatelic Society Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship Junior Fellow Evan Schlosser and the official dedication by USPS Northeast Area vice president Richard P. Uluski.

Musical performances were provided by the Special Music School at the Kaufman Music Center.

Badani also was at the event and signed first-day ceremony programs afterwards.



**The four Geometric Snowflakes special forever stamps issued October 23.**

**Q&A**

### *Leslie Badani stamp designer*

**When did you start work on the Snowflakes stamp issue?**

We began researching potential subject matter for winter-themed stamps in June 2014. Our focus quickly narrowed to snowflakes and the first designs were complete in only a few days.

**Snowflakes have been depicted on a number of U.S. stamps in the past. How did you set out to make these stand out from the rest?**

Many U.S. stamps feature realistic snowflake illustrations, so the simplicity of these make them distinctive. Snowflakes are interesting because they're so intricate and yet are completely symmetrical. After seeing so much complexity in actual snowflakes during our research, it felt natural to pare them down to simple structures.

**What went into the color selection for the snowflakes used?**

A cool-toned color palette is always appropriate for a winter theme, but we didn't want to use predictable shades of blue or holiday reds and golds. Instead, the pinks and purples are vibrant, festive, and unexpected.

**Were any other holiday objects considered or was this project initially all about the snowflake?**

We're always thinking about possible holiday subjects. But for this direction, it was always about the snowflakes alone.

**Is there anything else that our readers might find interesting about this project?**

It's typical to go through multiple rounds of changes or corrections before a stamp design is approved for production. These snowflakes made it through the approval process with very minor changes. In fact, the green and purple snowflakes are exactly the same as they were the day we sent a first draft out for review.

### GEOMETRIC SNOWFLAKES SPECIAL FOREVER STAMPS

**USPS Item Number:** 680404

**Format:** Double-sided pane of 20, 240 stamps per revolution

**Issue Date and City:** October 23, 2015, New York, New York

**Designers:** Leslie Badani and Antonio Alcalá, Alexandria, Virginia

**Art Director and Typographer:** Antonio Alcalá, Alexandria, Virginia

**Modeler:** Donald Woo

**Manufacturing Process:** Offset with microprinting

**Printer and Processor:** Banknote

Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products, Browns Summit, North Carolina

**Press Type:** Alprinta 74

**Print Quantity:** 300 million stamps

**Press Sheet Quantities:** 250 with die cuts, 1,000 without die cuts

**Paper Type:** Phosphor tagged paper, overall tagging

**Adhesive Type:** Pressure-sensitive adhesive

**Ink Colors:** Cyan, magenta, yellow, black, cool gray

**Stamp Sizes:** 0.73 inches by 0.84 inches, 18.54 millimeters by 21.34mm (image); 0.87 inches by 0.98 inches, 22.09mm by 24.89mm (overall); 5.52 inches by 1.96 inches, 140.21mm by 49.78mm (sheet); 11.04 inches by 11.76 inches, 280.42mm by 298.70mm (press sheet)

**Plate Numbers:** "S" followed by five single digits

**Marginal Markings:** Plate numbers (front); "©2015 USPS," USPS in peel strip area



### NEW ZEALAND LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH

New Zealand, on October 7, issued a set of seven stamps to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's achievement of becoming the longest reigning monarch. The stamps show different photographs from different decades of her reign.



### CANADA GREAT CANADIAN GOALIES

On October 2, Canada issued 12 stamps honoring NHL Goalies. Six stamps are permanent and six are \$2.50 large stamps. Johnny Bower, Martin Brodeur, Ken Dryden, Gump Worsley, Tony Esposito, and Bernie Parent.



### GREAT BRITAIN

STAR WARS  
Great Britain issued 18 Star Wars stamps on October 20. Six stamps in a souvenir sheet and 12 stamps including Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Yoda, along with new characters from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."



### JAPAN

AIRMAIL MAKE-UP  
On October 29, Japan issued two 18-yen stamps to be used in conjunction with 52y stamps to cover the 70y rate for sending international airmail postcards. The two stamps show traditional Japanese dishes of Sukiyaki and ramen noodles.



### NORWAY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Norway, on October 3, issued a single commemorative stamp to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. The orchestra is currently based at the Grieg Hall, in Bergen, since 1978.

## NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at stamps issued in October from 10 different countries around the world.



### AUSTRALIA HONORED BY AUSTRALIA

Australia's postal service issued three commemorative stamps, in multiple formats, on October 5. The stamps honor three international humanitarians: Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and Raoul Wallenberg.



### DENMARK CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

On October 17, Denmark issued three stamps showing cookies with design flourishes showing evergreen boughs and hearts.

The stamps, with two different denominations, were issued in a souvenir sheet and two different stamp sheets.



### CZECH REPUBLIC

FLAG OF THE  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
Czech Republic, on October 14, issued a cut-to-shape waving flag design to celebrate the designed of the nation's state symbol that has been in use since 1993. The stamps were offset printed in panes of 40.



### ÅLAND CHRISTMAS

Åland issued two Christmas-themed stamps on October 9 showing different winter scenes. One of the stamps shows a bird holding a string and label and the other a sleigh with holiday packages being pulled by three flying reindeer.



### UNITED NATIONS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 23, the United Nations issued multiple stamps to celebrate its 70th anniversary. The stamps depict different photographs that focus specifically on elements from U.N. buildings taken by Marta McAdams and Esther Nisanova.



# WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

## Turkey

**Status:** Republic in Southwestern Asia

**Area:** 302,535 sq mi

**Population:** 79,414,269 (2015 est.)

**Currency:** Turkish Lira (U.S. \$1 = 3.03 Turkish Lira) (2015)



Scott 6d, one of four varieties of the yellow, 20-piaster stamp, 1863.



1-piaster bicolor, Old General Post Office, Constantinople, Scott 348, 1916.



1-piaster overprint on stamp of 1905, Scott 380, 1916.



20-piaster rose military stamp, Scott M2, 1898.

The Republic of Turkey sits astride two continents, its western border is in Europe, its eastern in Asia. Slightly larger than Texas, Turkey has three times Texas' population. History first notes the Turks early in the 13th century, when several small tribes fleeing before Mongol invaders settled in Anatolia along the borders of the decaying Byzantine Empire.

Within a century the Ottoman Turks dominated Anatolia and by 1354 had a foothold in Europe. After years of intermittent sieges, they conquered Constantinople on May 29, 1453 — the final day of the Roman Empire. By the 17th century, Ottoman power extended from the Persian Gulf to the Balkans and through a network of dependent states across northern Africa, the Caucasus, Crimea, and into the heart of Europe. Their defeat at the gates of Vienna in 1683 marked the end of this expansion and the beginning of a 200-year decline.

After its defeat in World War I, Turkey was presented with a harsh peace treaty that placed most of its territory under foreign control. Rejecting it, a respected Turkish general, who became known as Kemal Atatürk, set up a rival government in Ankara. By determined military action and tough diplomacy, Atatürk drove out the foreign armies, abolished the Sultanate and modernized the Turkish state.

The Ottoman mail service developed late. Prior to 1840 only one route existed — from Constantinople to Adrianople — and that was only for official use. In 1840, the government extended the postal service and opened it up to private mail. The service grew slowly. The first stamps were issued in 1863 at which time there were 58 post offices in the entire empire. In practice, the mails were used almost exclusively for internal communications. Merchants preferred the reliability of the concessionary services operated by foreign governments.

These concessionary rights, called capitulations, had initially been granted voluntarily by the sultans. Later, they were seen as a grievous compromise of the empire's sovereignty. After Turkey joined the Universal Postal Union in 1875, the sultan tried unsuccessfully to have foreign post offices closed. In 1912, there were 103 foreign post offices in Turkey and six nations were overprinting special stamps for use in the Turkish Empire: Austria (since 1867), Germany (1884), France and Great Britain (1885), Russia (1899) and Italy (1908). When Turkey entered World War I in September 1914, the sultan closed the post offices.

Turkey issued its first stamps January 13, 1863 — four denominations printed by the Imperial Mint in Constantinople. In November 1920, the Government of the Grand Assembly, known commonly as the Nationalist Government, based in Ankara, placed its own stamps on sale in the area it controlled during the Turkish War of Independence (1919–1923). The stamps are listed in Scott as "Turkey in Asia." The nationalist overprints were applied at a local newspaper printing plant, first on the limited available stocks of Ottoman stamps. These supplies were rapidly exhausted and the Ankara government resorted to Ottoman stamps. As these stocks were insufficient, Ankara turned to overprinting various revenues and even publicity labels from the Ottoman Navy League. The Sultan's government in Constantinople continued to issue stamps until the sultanate was abolished on November 1, 1922. After that, the nationalist government issued stamps for the entire republic.



1920 3 piaster on 2 para red lilac is Turkey in Asia, Scott 1.



300,000-lira Mediterranean monk seal, Scott 2755, 1999.

## Gordon Eubanks Candidate for Director At Large



I am a life-long collector and have been exhibiting for ten years. My collecting interests range from classic United States to Prexies and World War II postal history.

I am running for office to improve transparency and services for all collectors. I serve as a board member of the U.S. Classics Society and a *Chronicle* section editor, a member of the Campaign for Philately, as well as over a dozen philatelic organizations.

My professional background includes serving as a submarine officer during the Cold War and as CEO of a public technology company for 18 years. I spend time now working with startups and serving on boards.

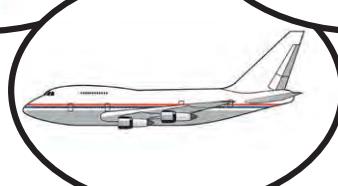
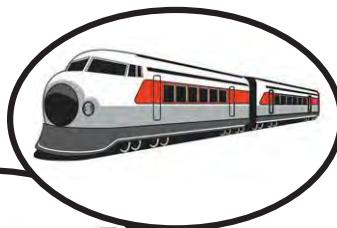
### My campaign is based on the following principles

- ✓ The first and most important role of the board is to provide oversight of the APS on behalf of members. This critical role is the cornerstone of good governance and the primary role of the board. Day to day execution is the responsibility of the Executive Director not the board of directors.
- ✓ Transparency and open communications are critical. There is no room for backroom maneuvering and secrecy. This starts with a respect for the staff and the membership and a commitment to openness.
- ✓ Listen first to our members. Outreach is not a campaign slogan but a strategy to best achieve a strong future for the APS.
- ✓ Work with the Executive Director to set overall strategy and objectives for the APS and publish them. Report clearly on the performance relative to the objectives. Strategy is dynamic and must be reviewed frequently.
- ✓ Fully fund and finish the American Philatelic Research Library. The APRL is a treasure we must continue to invest in.
- ✓ Reduce the debt load. This will give the APS significant flexibility going forward. The transformation of the Match Factory has been wonderful but left us with debt that we need to pay off.

**I would appreciate your support for APS Director At Large 2016 - 2019. Please let me know what is important to you.**

[gordoneubanks@gmail.com](mailto:gordoneubanks@gmail.com)

• By Car • By Plane • By Bus • • By Train • By Boat •



We Want  
To Buy!!

We Want  
To Visit!!

# HAVE TONGS, WILL TRAVEL!!

**"SELLING A STAMP COLLECTION SHOULD BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE."** The "BEST SALE" is when the buyer will personally visit your city and view your collection. The dealers listed will travel to "any city" to view appropriate holdings.

**UNFORTUNATELY** many collections in the \$2,000 to \$20,000 range do not economically justify the time and expense for a professional buyer to travel long distances to personally view your collection.

**WE OFFER A SOLUTION:** Each dealer listed has designated a state, and region, he will make every effort to personally visit. Contact that dealer direct and discuss your collection and options. If your state is not listed, contact the closest dealer, or a dealer of your choice.

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Orders: 800-999-5964  
Fax: 515-331-2527



# AMERISTAMP/SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO PRE-REGISTRATION

**January 29–31, 2016**

Downtown Hilton Atlanta, 255 Courtland Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303

Register online by December 30 at [stamps.org/ASE-preregister](http://stamps.org/ASE-preregister).



Name \_\_\_\_\_ APS No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of other adults attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All attendees should complete a pre-registration form, even if not ordering tickets. Name badges and tickets are prepared in advance, and should be picked up at the pre-registration desk.*

Quantity	Amount
_____	<b>Seminars &amp; Meetings</b> — Attend dozens for free! <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information about Atlanta.
_____	<b>Volunteer</b> — Help at the show on these days: <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. Jan. 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. Jan. 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. Jan. 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Jan. 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Sun. Jan. 31 <i>Volunteers who work 8 hrs. or more receive a free awards banquet ticket.</i>
_____	<b>Awards Banquet</b> — Saturday, January 30, 6:15 p.m. cash bar; 7 p.m. dinner <i>Choice of Entrée*</i> : Each includes: Arugula greens salad and Southern pecan pie. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Roasted French Breast of Chicken</b> — Aromatic lentils, diced carrots, squash, sweet potatoes, pimento and basil, zinfandel wine sauce <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> — Portabella mushroom stuffed with mozzarella and herbs, demi-glace sauce, herb risotto and seasonal vegetables <small>*Please attach a note indicating any special dietary needs.</small>
_____	<b>Stamp Collecting 101 (Adult Beginners Course)</b> — Sunday, January 31 Noon–2 p.m. Learn about soaking, identification, catalogs and tools. Tongs, magnifier, and stamps are provided.
_____	<b>Boy Scout Merit Badge</b> — Saturday, January 30 10 a.m.–4 p.m. A 6-hour session for Boy Scouts interested in completing the requirements for the stamp collecting merit badge.
_____	<b>Sponsor a Boy Scout</b> I would like to make a donation to sponsor a Boy Scout to attend the Merit Badge Workshop.
_____	<b>StampBuddy Service</b> — Friday–Sunday, January 29–31 Personalized introduction to stamp collecting and guided show tour (30 minutes). Choose your tour Day: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Noon 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Noon 1 p.m. 2 p.m.
_____	<b>Sponsor the Youth Area</b> I would like to make a donation to support a school field trip to Ameristamp Expo.
<i>Tickets and name badges are prepared in advance, and should be picked up at the pre-registration desk at the show.</i>	
<i>Advance prices valid until December 30, 2015.</i>	
<b>Total</b> \$ _____	

Method of Payment:

Check (Payable to APS)  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

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# CAMPAIGN FOR PHILATELY RETURNS! Building for our PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

We will soon welcome in 2016, a very important year for the American Philatelic Society. With your help, we can build on the 130-year legacy that has made the APS the flagship of the philatelic community.

A great way to start this exciting journey is to make a donation today. Even better, with the holidays around the corner, make a donation on behalf of a friend, a loved one, or someone you admire. You can also include a message to share your love of the hobby.

Your generous tax-deductible contribution will keep us building for our past, our present, and our future.

## Building for the Past

We will be completing construction of our new library, bringing together the largest collection of philatelic research under one roof. To donate, visit [stamps.org/Library-Donations](http://stamps.org/Library-Donations).



## Building for the Present

APS will join the world collecting community in New York City for World Stamp Show-NY 2016. What better way to celebrate our birthday but to remind the world why the APS has been a leader for 130 years. To donate, visit [stamps.org/donate](http://stamps.org/donate).



## Building for the Future

The Campaign for Philately begins a new effort to keep the APS a force for the hobby well into the future by growing our education programs for all collectors, increasing access to our philatelic resources in an ever-shrinking world, and attracting current and future collectors to join us in the mission.



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