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Journal of the American Philatelic Society

AMERICAN PHILATELIST

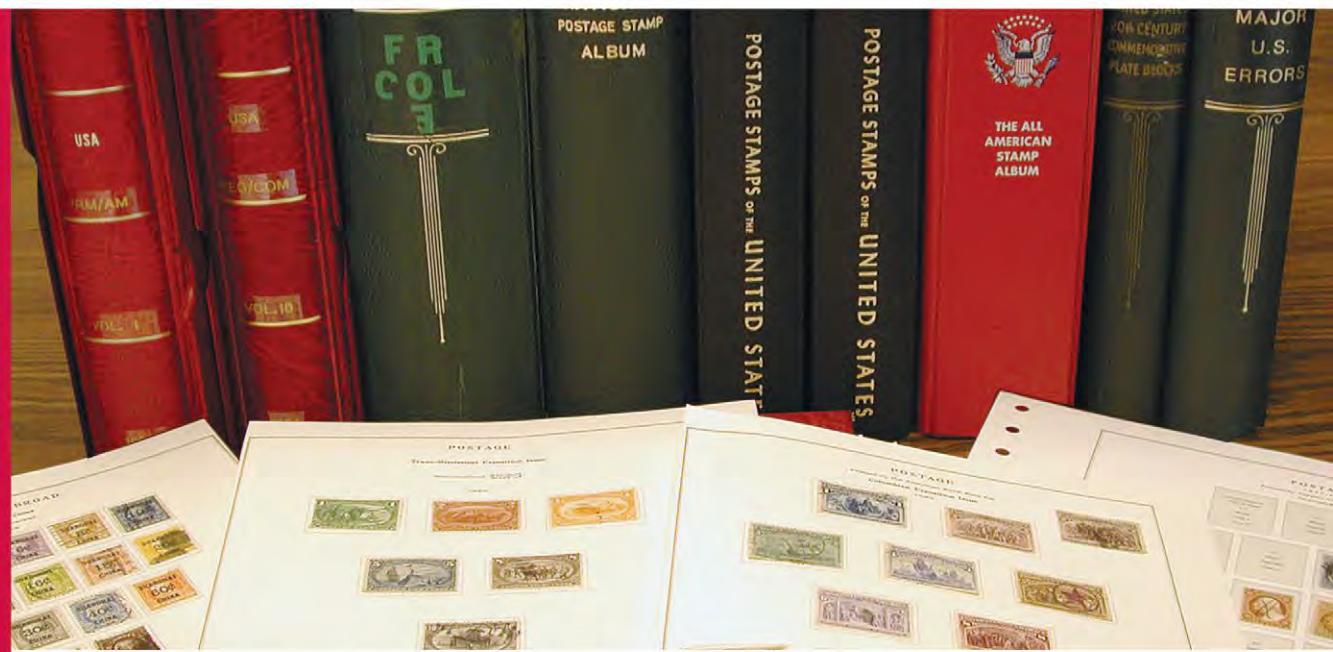
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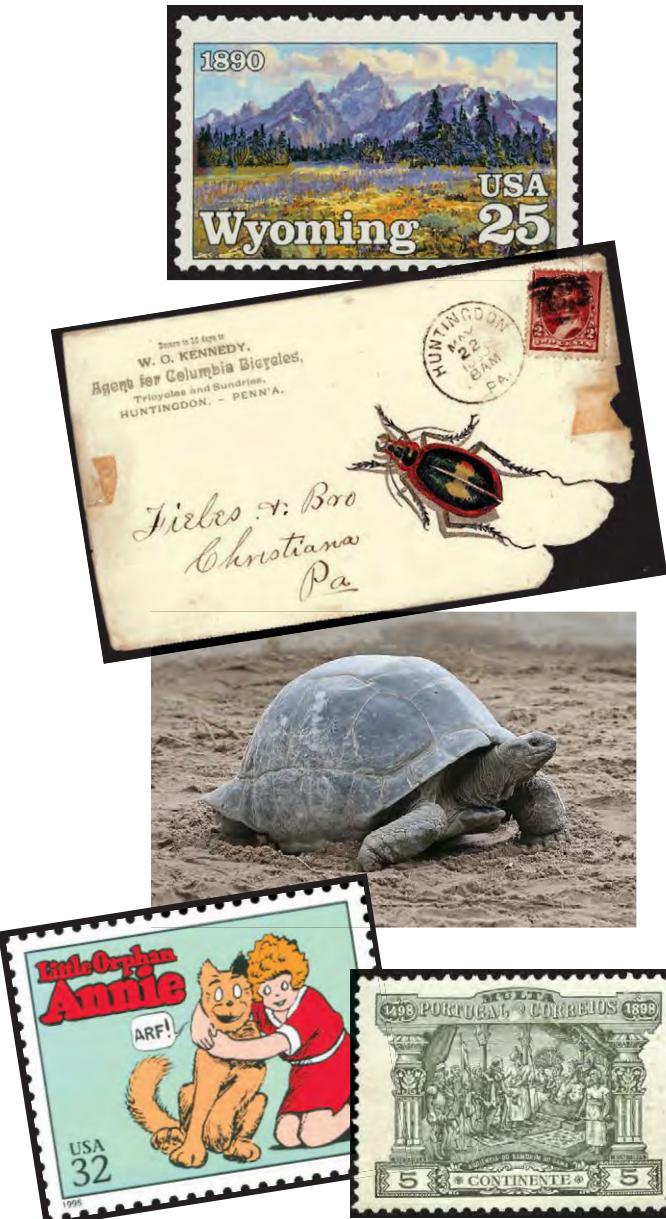
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BARBARA BOAL • Editor

[babaoal@stamps.org](mailto:baboal@stamps.org)

lettertotheeditor@stamps.org

aparticle@stamps.org

BONNY FARMER • Associate Editor

bfarmer@stamps.org

DORIS WILSON

Public Relations

Associate Graphics Designer

doris@stamps.org

HELEN BRUNO • Advertising Manager

hlbruno@stamps.org

adsales@stamps.org

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Mountains and Mountaineering on Stamps

by Barry N. Floyd With mountains covering 24% of the world's landscape they are both a challenge and a treasure to collect.

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What's Eating Your Mail

by Dr. Steven J. Berlin Snails and beetles and mice, oh my! And would you believe cows? How do you save your collection from hungry predators?

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Kingdom of the Tortoises; The Story of Aldabra

by Steve Pendleton This isolated atoll has generated little mail and, in fact, today has no mail service, but a number of countries have issued stamps featuring its wildlife.

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Philately & the Sunday Funnies

by Charles A. Fricke Early comic strips were publicized by including free comic postcards in the Sunday supplement for readers to mail.

Featured Column

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Worldwide in a Nutshell — Bob Lamb

Portugal The western-most country in Europe, Portugal's first international postal agreement was made in 1705 with Great Britain.

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Executive Director

Ken Martin, ext. 218
kpmartin@stamps.org

Director of Internal Operations

Rick Banks, ext. 216
rbanks@stamps.org

Director of Information Services/ Librarian

Tara Murray, ext. 246
tmurray@stamps.org

Manager of Membership Administration

Judy Johnson, ext. 210
judy@stamps.org

Address Changes:

requests@stamps.org

Director of Education

Gretchen Moody, ext. 239
gretchen@stamps.org

Young Stamp Collectors of America —

Janet Houser, ext. 238
jehouser@stamps.org

Director of Expertizing

Mercer Bristow, ext. 205
mercер@stamps.org

Director of the Sales Division

Thomas W. Horn, ext. 227
twhorn@stamps.org

Director of Internet Sales

Renee Gardner, ext. 270
StampStore@stamps.org

Director of Shows and Exhibitions

Dana Guyer, ext. 207
dana@stamps.org
Barb Johnson, ext. 217
barbj@stamps.org
Show Time Listings
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Barbara Boal, ext. 221
babooal@stamps.org
Bonny Farmer, ext 222
bfarmer@stamps.org
Articles
aparticle@stamps.org
Letters to the Editor
lettertotheeditor@stamps.org
Advertising Information:
Helen Bruno, ext. 224
adsales@stamps.org
Editorial Production Manager,
Doris Wilson, ext. 223
doris@stamps.org

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President of All Our Members



First, I would like to thank all members who voted for me for the confidence that you have shown in my ability to lead this wonderful organization over the next three years. If you voted for someone else, or didn't vote at all, I want to assure you that I will be the president of all of our members. It is time for us all to pull together, forget the events of the recent past, and move ahead to secure the future for America's Stamp Club.

You are probably thinking "why would anyone want to take on this job at this time, considering the cost in time and dollars?" The officers and board members of the APS and APRL receive no remuneration. Indeed, there is a growing cost in traveling to and from meetings and shows. Time away from family is difficult to quantify, but it is significant. So, why?

The answer, to me, is "Love." On this page you will see images of United States "Love" stamps. There are all types of love. Love of God, love of family, love of country, love of job, love of pets, etc., etc. But there is also another type of love, i.e., love of your hobby, which in my case has been stamp collecting.

I began collecting stamps when I was eight years old. I can fondly remember standing in line at my local post office to be one of the first to obtain a plate block of a new 3-cent commemorative. Or, waiting for my local stamp store (and, yes, there were street-level stamp stores in almost every community) to receive the latest White Ace Supplement. As I got a bit older (early teens) how exciting it was to get on the subway (you see, I grew up in Queens, New York City) with a few friends and venture to Gimbels' wonderful stamp department, run by Jacques Minkus. And then there was FIPEX in 1957 at the then-new New York Coliseum. My mother and I had a magnificent day at the show. As I grew older I worked for a while at that same Stamp Department at Gimbels, with such visionaries as Ben Blumenthal, Eddie Friedman and, of course, Jacques Minkus.

Only those of us with the love of stamp collecting in our hearts can make sure that our wonderful hobby thrives in the future.

.....



So, what am I getting at? I was truly in love with stamps through all of those years, and, more than ever, still am. I know that there are many like me out there. Times are difficult for hobbies such as stamp collecting. The world seems to have passed us by. Postal administrations seem to have little interest in furthering our hobby. Dealers can no longer afford the expense of street-level stores. And young

people have so many different activities to choose from at their finger tips. Only those of us with the love of stamp collecting in our hearts can make sure that our wonderful hobby thrives in the future.

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President

Stephen Reinhard
P.O. Box 110
Mineola, NY 11501
sreinhard1@optonline.net

Board of Vice Presidents

Alexander Haiman
Bretalex1@aol.com
Yamil Kouri
yhkouri@massmed.org
Mick Zais
mzaiss@newberry.edu
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Secretary

Ken Grant
E11960 Kessler Road
Baraboo, WI 53913
kenneth.grant@uwc.edu

Treasurer

Kenneth R. Nilsestuen
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
330-869-0002
nilsestuen@sbcglobal.net

Directors-at-Large

Nicholas A. Lombardi
P.O. Box 1005
Mountainside, NJ 07092
8605@comcast.net

Kristin Patterson
851 Ironwood Dr.
San Jose, CA 95125
408-267-6643
kristin_email@yahoo.com

W. Danforth Walker
P.O. Box 99
Lisbon, MD 21765
danforthwalker@comcast.net

Steven Zwillinger
804 Lamberton Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
stevez@stamps.org

Immediate Past President

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Stamp Theft Committee

Nicholas A. Lombardi
P.O. Box 1005
Mountainside, NJ 07092
stamptheft@stamps.org



I need your help if I am going to be successful in keeping APS alive and well. Our Society is volunteer driven. While we have a small group of dedicated employees at our headquarters in Bellefonte, there are hundreds of our members who routinely volunteer their time and talents to help make this the best hobby organization in the country. If you are not already a member, let me know what you think that you can do for the society and I'll try to put you to work. But there is more than time and talent. There is also "treasure."

Many of you have the ability to help us financially. We still have mortgages amounting to about six million dollars on the headquarters/library property. The sooner that we pay these down the sooner we can increase our services to you, our members. Additionally, it will take about 1.5 million dollars to complete the new library space. Wouldn't it be great to walk into a completed, up-to-date library?

So, what is love of hobby? Yes, it is the joy that you get out of our hobby, day after day. But it is also offering your time, talent, and treasure to the Society that helps make this possible, your society, America's Stamp Club, the American Philatelic Society. Working together we can make our hobby greater than ever.



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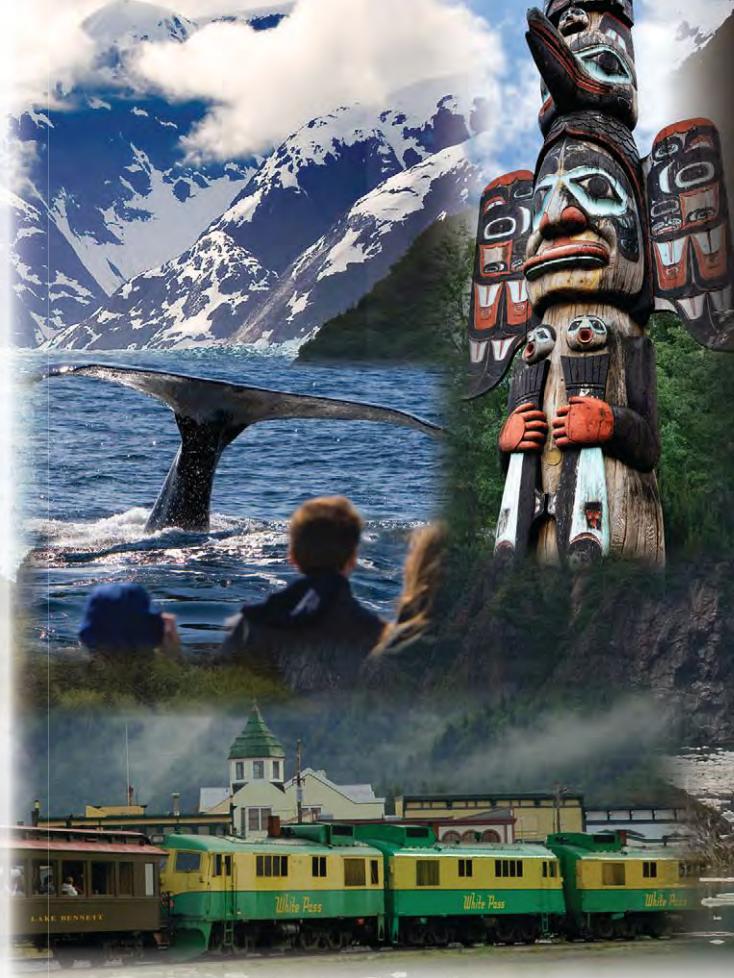
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Al Boerger's Sheets

After reading Wayne Youngblood's great column on "Precanceled Bicentennial Souvenir Sheets" (July AP, page 626), I've had some questions answered, but now have more.

Wayne quoted my father, Al Boerger, and mentioned his endeavors with this issue. I recall this to be one of dad's all-time favorites. He frequently was in the right spot at the right time, and knew enough to take advantage of it.

I just started posting dad's sheets on my website (www.abccachets.com), along with these souvenirs, so am quite interested in clarifying my information.

If there are five different Precancels, how do I know which ones I have? The main ones in dad's collection have the two precancels in Philadelphia, but are not hand-stamped and tied in Philadelphia. Dad had these tied later at Yorktown, (with the FDC of Scott 1937) making them a Combo. He has them marked as "Rare" — so are they Rare because of the particular Precancel or because of the Combo created?

I always enjoy Wayne's articles; they are so informative and enlightening.

Thanks for giving me a better understand of these souvenir sheets.

Carolyn Stritter
St Johns, Florida



Wayne Youngblood's Reply: Of the five precancels on the 1976 souvenir sheets, there can be no mistaking them. Four are May 29, 1976 precancels on each of the four different souvenir sheets. The fifth is found only on the 18-cent sheet and is the July 4, 1976 cancel. Thus, each is different.

I am aware of Al's 1981 Yorktown covers, which are indeed scarce, as he likely is the only one who created that particular combination. Unfortunately, rarity and price don't always correlate. The demand for combination first-day covers is fairly limited. While they are of value as FDCs, the sheets might have been worth more now as mint than as added to the 1981 FDCs.

Bicentennial Nostalgia

Wayne Youngblood's article on "Precanceled Bicentennial Souvenir Sheets" in the July AP stirred some nostalgia in me. I, too, was a bicentennial addict back then and attended the Philadelphia ceremonies.

I forgot about the precancels but checked, and found I have examples of all five including the rare one. However, I can go one step further as my set of colored-border USPS-prepared first days (with two precancels each) has the blue border "Washington Crossing the Delaware" with a bonus. Or, perhaps I should say "without" as it came without

Bicentennial Souvenir Sheet

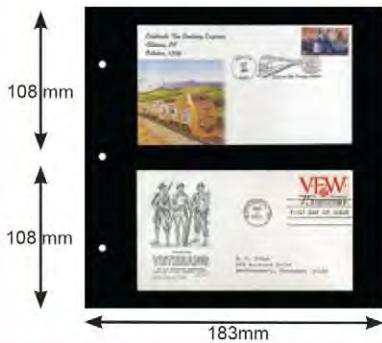




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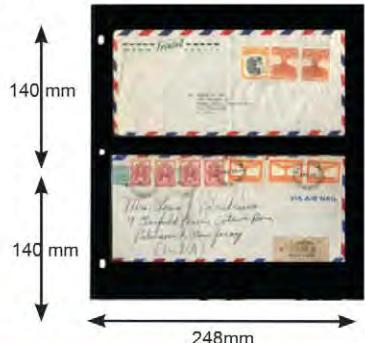
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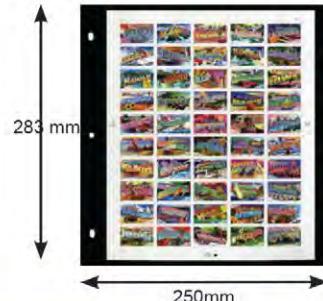
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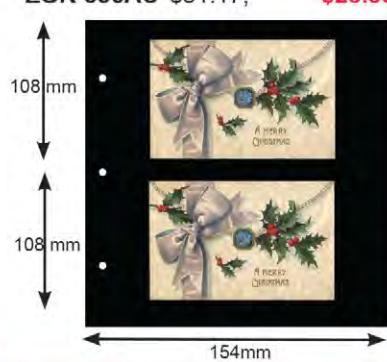
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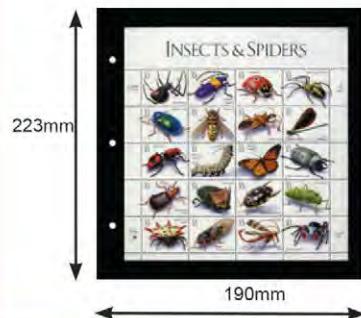
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Letters to the Editor —

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the hand cancel and the other three with.

I enclose a picture of my variety.

Douglas Lehmann
Falls Church, Virginia

Precancel or CTO

Wayne Youngblood's July *AP* article about precanceled U.S. Bicentennial souvenir sheets left me less than convinced. At first glance, I would call them CTO (Canceled to Order), which in fact, they

were. What we customarily consider to be CTO stamps tend to be remainders with government-applied, postal-like cancels. So, does the *a priori* nature of the 1976 cancels applied by the BEP automatically make them precancels? Or, is there a potential fine-line between the two cancellation types?

Tom Broadhead

Knoxville, Tennessee

Wayne Youngblood's Reply: There

is a significant difference between CTOs and precancels, both in terms of purpose and, generally, value.

In the case of CTOs, you are correct: They usually are added to remainder stamp stock so that they can be sold or given to the philatelic trade.

In the case of the May 29 precancels specifically (all four souvenir sheets), the precancels were added to facilitate the processing of first-day covers. They were precanceled for a purpose and were never intended as a separate philatelic collectible. Unlike other precancels of the time (except the 1970 experimentals), no permit was necessary to purchase or use them. Nonetheless, these stamps were precanceled on-press by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing. As such, they are a separate, distinct and collectible type that is easily distinguished on either mint or used single stamps, on or off cover. They would typically meet Scott listing criteria for several different reasons.

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Midway Mail

As a new member of APS I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article by Mr. Sherman and Maj. Bahry titled “Not So Fast! Japanese Mail Forwarded to Midway 1942” in the June issue of *The American Philatelist* (page 552). I was most interested in the detailed information surrounding the Midway Postal Service Covers because my sister gave me a stack of letters she found in a dumpster in Michigan. The letters (15 in all) were from a young man who was drafted into the Marines, assigned to boot camp in June 1942, followed by three years of service in the South Pacific. Several of the covers contained hand cancels, free postage markings, and U.S. Navy censorship stamps. One of the most interesting covers depicted a picture of the Devil Dogs Division as well as Marine Corps symbols and slogans. The cover was issued June 16, 1942 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the foiled enemy attack at Midway Island; however, the young Marine in Boot Camp near San Diego was fully aware of the dangers that faced him in the coming months.

In the enclosed letter he stated: “We had a little excitement here last night. I guess they thought the [Japanese] were pretty close cause we were blacked out for a long time, and we had to stand by with our rifle and cartridge belts on for about four hours. We thought they [Drill Instructors] were first trying to see how we would react, but it was the real thing. Gosh, it really gives a guy a funny feeling to hear the planes roaring around and all the boys lined up ready to go anytime. I was really disappointed when nothing happened. I was all set for a good fight.”

He went on to explain that their training has been very tough and realistic to prepare them for what they might have to face in the near future. Thankfully, I can report after reading all his letters that the young Marine arrived home safely after three years of South Pacific service.

Eric Armstrong, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Camp Zama, Japan

1. The “precancels” were created by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on a postage stamp press at the time the stamps were produced. This would be exactly the same as the 1970 Christmas Toys and Nativity experimentals (both of which also are tagged like their normal counterparts).
2. This mode of production creates a separate and distinct major type that cannot be mistaken for anything else. My understanding is that the black “cancel” was a separate offset plate on the printing press (like for the 1970 issues), not a letterpress overprint added later.
3. The type (as opposed to variety) is easily distinguishable on any mint or used single and is absolutely consistent.

4. It was not created to be marketed to collectors; it served a very real production and processing need.
5. They are avidly collected by U.S. specialists.

There might be more reasons if I really work on it, but I think these stamps are very worthy of consideration.

The fifth precancel, the July 4, 1976, item, is a little different. Although it was created by the USPS, its purpose was to be included in a special product. In this sense it is not a true precancel (as the others are), but isn’t a CTO, either. Its status is a little less clear, although it remains the most elusive of all regularly produced Bicentennial souvenir sheet items. Despite its desirability, I suspect it would not be listable by Scott, other than as a footnote.

Ken Martin Irreplaceable

The Friday morning breakfast that capped this year’s Summer Seminar week at the American Philatelic Center June 21st included many great ideas from attendees on the best ways to promote the hobby we enjoy. It also included what might most charitably be called “a spirited exchange of views” on the consequences for the Society’s bylaws of the recent APS Election.

As succinctly noted on the APS website, “The proposed bylaw changes were defeated. 2,995 votes were cast against with 1,568 votes in favor.” That’s 66% of APS voters who opposed the changes. For purposes of comparison, the “decisive landslide” election of 1980 saw Ronald Reagan get just 50.8% of the popular vote.

Had they been approved, the APS bylaw changes would have vested a great deal of authority in a yet-to-be-hired Chief Executive Officer whose principal function was to be fund-raising, with the published goal of nearly doubling it to \$1 million per year by 2014. Much of this authority (and that of a shadowy, undefined entity called the “National Headquarters”) would come at the expense of the APS Executive Director, currently Ken Martin.

An irreplaceable vessel of institutional history and wisdom with a peer-

less work ethic, the ever-modest Mr. Martin was recently described by one gruff, opinionated veteran stamp dealer — a man not given to hyperbole — as “the society’s #1 asset. The members love him. Don’t forget that.”

Those who voted didn’t.

The post-Summer Seminar squabble was prompted by a simple question, seeking clarity about the bylaw vote: “By a show of hands, how many people would be opposed to hire a CEO?” The breakfast crowd answered with a forest of uplifted limbs.

“How many would be in favor?” saw just three arms go up.

“There’s only one problem,” outgoing APS President Wade Saadi replied from the podium. And he did himself no favors when he added, “The only three who voted … are people who count … to hire a CEO” — that is, members of the now-departed APS board.

“It’s not a membership issue,” Saadi added. “I don’t know if you know that or not.”

Well, actually, if the majority of voting members decide it is an issue, then it becomes a membership issue. Moreover, as stated in APS Article 13.2: “The Bylaws of the Society may be amended, when appropriate, by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the membership...” [italics mine]

Two-thirds *against* is far from “the approval of the membership.”

What gives me any right to comment on all this? Well, as many members will recall, less than a decade ago the APS hired a highly regarded fund-raiser to

bring in more money for the APS, which would then be spent on filling the ranks with more new members. He, in turn, hired a Public Relations Director: me.

Peter Mastrangelo had been very successful at raising money for the United Way in Texas, and has returned to still more success in that role and state. But he never came close to the stratospheric goals that were expected of him at APS. Nothing in the published description of the yet-to-be-recruited APS CEO gives me any confidence that he or she will fare any better.

After three years, it was decided by a coalition of concerned members, Wade Saadi among them, that the APS had best trim its sails. Budgets were cut, Mr. Mastrangelo was let go and, in the course of paring \$200,000 from the budget, I was, too. I wrote the press release announcing my own departure May 9, 2009.

I’ll conclude now as I concluded then: “The Society is in good hands, with dedicated staff that serve the hobby with great skill, talent, and care. They deserve your support, and they have mine.”

Finally, Wade Saadi is our good friend. So are the APS members who voted against the bylaw changes, those who voted for them, and, yes, those who didn’t vote at all. Let’s not forget that, please.

Frederick Baumann

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Imperforate Press Sheets

I have noted that the United States Postal Service is now issuing imperforate press sheets on many of the 2013 issues.

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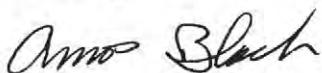
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Do you know if they intend to continue this practice? It appears like they are adding another level of cost to collectors!

Rick Fenner, AIA

New Orleans, Louisiana

Ken Martin, APS Executive Director, replies: My understanding is that at present the USPS does intend to continue issuing imperforate press sheets for most new commemorative issues.

USPS Tracking Labels

With regard to the new bar coded tracking labels, I obtained some from the local post office but haven't needed them. I use the USPS "Click and Ship" software to generate and print mailing labels. These are very professional looking, nice computer-printed labels that include a tracking number and bar code. You can print with or without a postage indicia; I print without postage in order to apply postage stamps for mailing. I have had no trouble tracking my shipments of sales circuits. I assume this soft-

ware is acceptable to the APS although I have not seen it mentioned.

Peter A. Bookman

Tucson, Arizona

Tom Horn, APS Sales Director, replies: The USPS computer printed labels are acceptable, as long as the sender has a tracking number he/she can produce if needed.

Banned eBay/ PayPal Stamps

As usual, I opened my July copy of *The American Philatelist* with the expectation of finding something useful. That something useful I found almost immediately as a Letter to the Editor from member William Battles ("eBay Listings Blocked," page 610). In his letter he called our attention to a recent action by eBay and PayPal in which they reviewed stamps printed in several countries with which the U.S. Government prohibits commerce. He spoke of it from a seller's standpoint. Let me tell you of my experience from a buyer's point.

I was successful in late April on a bidStart seller lot on a stamp printed in 1880 by Iran (actually Persia in those days). Final bidStart price was \$2.25 and was to be paid through PayPal. I received a notice from PayPal dated May 3, 2013 that this particular item was prohibited by Federal law and my account was placed in a restricted category. Further payments through PayPal could not be transacted. To correct the issue, I was instructed to agree to a "User Agreement" in which I would pledge to not deal in stamps from four nations: Cuba, North Korea, Iran, and the Sudan (Syria was not mentioned in my notice). I purchase many of my world wide stamps in "lots" which frequently contain stamps from Cuba and Iran. I could not in good faith agree to any such blanket prohibition.

Meaningful communication through the Internet was impossible. The Compliance Department could not be contacted in that manner so I attempted the telephone. My first communication with the Resolutions Office was met with com-

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plete indifference. My second attempt a week later provided someone who could not help me but promised to call my situation to a supervisor's attention. She promised a call back within two days. It has been nearly a month now and no call back. (Why am I surprised that you did not receive a response?)

I have been a bidStart client for over two years now and had just begun some dabbling on eBay.

As a result of the above I have discontinued bidding on eBay. Also, (surprise) the sellers I have been dealing with on bidStart are now accepting my checks. One even mails without adding mailing costs since he saves the PayPal seller charges.

Some bureaucrat in the PayPal legal office should be fired and action taken to fix the goodwill lost by their actions. Perhaps the firings should extend into the ranks of the Resolutions Office.

Dan L. Hicks

Bremerton, Washington

eBay Listings Blocked

As William Battles noted in his Letter to the Editor in the July AP, eBay engages in the silly notion of placing an embargo on stamps from countries our government refuses to do business with. This is counterproductive to both philately in general, and to the government's own goals.

First, let us remind ourselves that stamps are historical documents. They trace the values, the politics, the history of a nation. Should we then embargo history books that do the same thing? Historians record the history of the nations; stamps do, too. A free people is best served when its people have a thorough and accurate understanding of history.

For a very long time eBay has also banned postcards with the image of Hitler. Such real photo cards are yet another record of the terrible times faced by the world's citizens during the Third Reich. When we do not allow the sale and distribution of these historical items we are

no better than the Nazis who burned books in the street to enforce ignorance among their people. What's worse, eBay allows pictures of many of the world's other butchers of humanity. Their policy is absurd.

Our APS once had a relationship with eBay that was considerably more cooperative than it apparently is today. eBay does a poor job of understanding what our hobby is all about, and this ignorance works to its own detriment, as well as ours. It is this ignorance that gives rise to eBay's competitors. As a steady customer of eBay for the past fifteen years, I am now seriously looking at the alternatives.

Robert J. Grosch
Palo Cedro, California

eBay Policy on Cuba

I am interested in finding out if there has been any more dialog with eBay regarding the recent decision to not allow the listing or sale of Cuban stamps.

I saw the recent letter in the July Let-

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ters to the editor and I, too, was denied the ability to list a few Cuban lots that I wished to dispose of. Any information or contact names would be helpful and appreciated.

Jim Frannea

Lake Forest, California

Ken Martin, APS Executive Director, replies: APS has been told that individuals who want to sell on eBay or use Paypal to collect money for any sales must remove any items from the restricted countries listed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Ebay/Paypal understand what they are doing is not exactly what the OFAC policy is, but they are not willing to commit the resources necessary to determine which items fall under the restrictions and which do not. Ebay/Paypal claim they are exposed to huge fines for every infraction and thus this policy is required to protect themselves.

Complaints have been forwarded to local congressmen but we are not optimistic that the OFAC restrictions will be

changed or that Congress will tell eBay how to conduct its business.

Soaking Hinged Stamps

In the July issue Heather Gantz responded to my March letter, "Value of Gum" (page 204), and took me to task for "destroying" the value of mint stamps by soaking them to remove multiple hinges ("Save the Gum," page 618). She also states, "I'm saddened to imagine all these years of stamps that will have no value."

I have issues with both statements. Here's why.

1. U.S. postal regulations allow the use of any mint stamp, i.e., not processed through the mail. Thus one can salvage, and use, any mint stamp for face value postage.
2. When I soak mint issues with ugly piles of old hinges or those that are hopelessly stuck together by their own gum, etc., I never destroy their value. Normally, if they grade out

at XF or better, I place them in my used stamp inventory, where they are selected as "preferable" by discerning collectors who collect only high grade used issues. Those that grade out at or below VF are used for postage via a glue stick.

It is my opinion that today's collectors and dealers can indeed be penny wise and dollar foolish, but that's what's nice about our hobby. We have room for all — with multiple opinions and varying amounts of time to burn.

Peter G. Ladron

Rock Falls, Wisconsin

Warren H. Crain

This is to let you know that one of your faithful members, Warren Crain of San Antonio, passed away on July 4th. He had written the attached obituary and requested that it be submitted to specific publications such as *The American Philatelist*.

I am fairly new to stamp collecting,



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but Warren talked me into it. No regrets. He had many complimentary things to say about the AP and passed each issue on to me. I will be applying for membership soon.

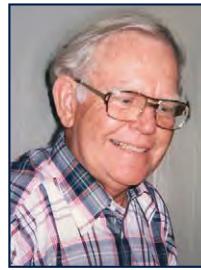
Jim Crain

San Antonio, Texas

Warren Hudspeth Crain (1921–2013) died July 4, 2013 at the age of 91 in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1939 and the University of Texas in Austin in 1948 with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. Af-

ter spending three years in the U.S. Army, he went to work at the Crain and Palmer Pharmacy in San Antonio. In later years he bought out Mr. Elmer Palmer's interest in the pharmacy so that he and his dad were co-owners. Warren was a very fine athlete in his younger days, excelling in golf, tennis, softball and basketball. He won the coveted award as the Best Intramural Athlete at U.T. his senior year.

He was a past president of the San Antonio Philatelic Association and a past vice-president of the Texas Philatelic Association. A stamp collector most of his life, he was the only nationally accredited philatelic judge of stamp exhibits at stamp shows from San Antonio. An active stamp exhibitor at stamp shows in the 1960s and 1970s, he won the Grand Award at the state convention in 1964 with a Hawaii exhibit and the Grand Award at the state convention in 1966 with a Zeppelin exhibit. He was especially proud of the Large Silver award he received at the International Show in Philadelphia in 1976 with his Hawaii exhibit. He wrote many stamp articles for Texas Philatex, the house organ of the Texas Philatelic Association. In 1980, he received the Distinguished Philatelic Texas Award, the highest honor the Texas Philatelic Association can bestow on a member.



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by Barry N. Floyd

The World's Mountains

Mountains are large land forms that rise more or less abruptly from the surrounding surface. Elevation, relief, steepness, spacing, and continuity are among the criteria considered when identifying them, but there is, in fact, no universally accepted definition for what constitutes a "mountain." As a whole, 24 percent of the world's landmass is mountainous. Within the continents, mountains cover 64 percent of Asia, 36 percent of North America, 25 percent of Europe, 22 percent of South America, and only 3 percent of Africa. The Himalayas are home to most of the world's tallest mountains, including the highest on earth: Mount Everest, which rises from sea level to 29,035 feet (8,852m).

Due to gravity, the maximum height any mountain on our planet can reach is around 82,000 feet (25,000m) from the lowest point on the earth's crust.

Types of Mountains

Folded. Mountain ranges typically are formed by the movement and interaction of lithospheric plates. As these plates collide, the earth's crust is folded and uplifted. The major mountains tend to occur along linear arcs. Examples of folded mountains are the European Alps and the Himalayas of Asia.

Volcanic. These mountains are formed due to eruptions where the extruded magma accumulates on the earth's surface, often in pyramidal form or as a shield. Some volcanoes are still active, while others are extinct. Examples of volcanic peaks are Mt. Fuji in Japan, Mt. Egmont in New Zealand, Hekla in Iceland, and Oruro in Bolivia.

Dome. Mountains created when hot magma rises but is not erupted. Instead it uplifts overlying sedimentary rocks to create a dome shape in the earth's surface. A good example of a dome mountain is a peak in the Arrowsmith Peninsula in British Antarctic Territory.



Mountain ranges across the world:
From Top: Mt. Perdido is the third highest peak in the Pyrenees, 2000 (Spain Scott 3056).
Glacier National Park, 1984 (Canada Scott 934).

Stamp from Pakistan's Mountaineering issue featuring Mt. Nanga Parbat in the Western Himalayas, 1985 (Pakistan Scott 648).
Right: Mt. Fitz Roy in Patagonia is one of the most technically difficult mountaineering challenges in the world, 1954 (Argentina Scott 641).



Himalayas — Top Row: Strip of three stamps featuring the Himalayas issued for the 50th Anniversary of International Union of Alpinists Association, 1982: (L to R) Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse, Mt. Nuptse (Nepal Scott 404). India Mountaineering Foundation 25th anniversary issue shows Mt. Nanda Devi in the distance; its two peaks form the second largest mountain in India, 1983 (India Scott 1026).

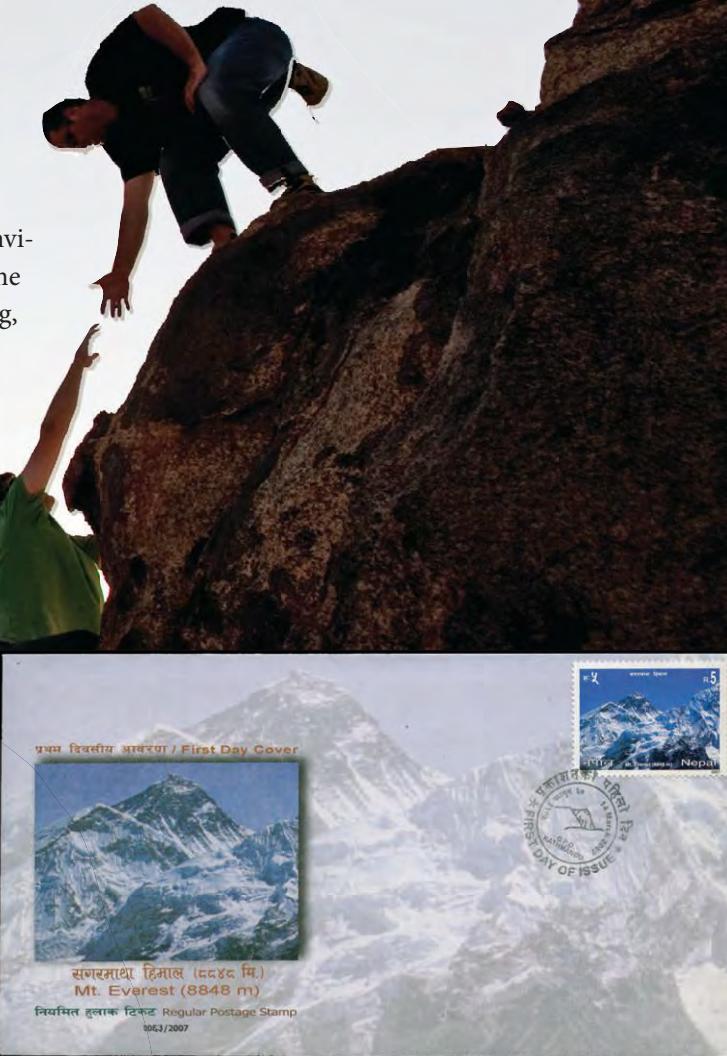
Bottom Row: Two stamps from a 1981 Pakistani issue featuring mountains in the Karakoram Range — (L to R) Malubiting West (Pakistan Scott 549–550) and Mt. Maramosh (Scott 551–552).

Mountains and Human Settlement

Mountains provide homes for at least 10 percent of the world's population. Thousands of different ethnic groups dwell in mountainous regions around the world and have learned to live in these often harsh environments. Their economy historically is based on some combination of hunting, foraging, small-scale farming, nomadism, logging and/or mining, and in some instances tourism — although invariably they remain poor. By contrast, their mountain habitats are increasingly being invaded by outsiders from more prosperous countries intent on scaling the challenging peaks to be found in the indigenous homelands.

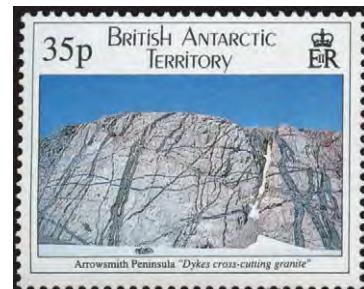
Fortunately, the often controversial cultural contacts between natives and foreigners are limited by the fact that relatively few mountains are popular for climbing. Many are very remote, at high elevations, and with poor weather conditions most of the time. This means that climbers have to spend more time hiking, camping, and battling the elements than actually ascending the sought-after summits.

Mount Everest first day cover, postmarked March 14, 2007 (Nepal Scott 787).





Volcanic mountains — Above L-R: Mt. Fuji and Korean Airlines jet, 1985 (Korea Scott 1448). Mt. Egmont in Egmont National Park, 1971 (New Zealand Scott 453). Mt. Sajama is the highest peak in Bolivia, revered as a sacred mountain since ancient times International Year of Mountains, 2002. (Bolivia Scott 1178). Right: Mt. Hekla is one of the world's most active volcanoes, shown in a 1947 eruption (Iceland Scott 249–250).



Fault-lock mountain — National Parks Centennial: Mt. McKinley, Alaska, 1972 (United States Scott 1454).

The importance of protecting mountains from resource exploitation is apparent when their ecosystems are reviewed. While rainfall varies greatly across rugged highlands, ranging from very wet to very dry, about 80 percent of our planet's fresh water originates in mountainous regions and, in a time of increasing water scarcity, it is correspondingly important to safeguard these sources of precious H₂O.

Due to changes in elevation that induce zones or belts of differing climates, soils, and vegetation, montane ecosystems display a wide range of biodiverse organisms: plants and animals that deserve conservation. Many highland plant species have great potential for human use. Consider, for example, the Himalayan Yew, found throughout Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Myanmar (Burma), which may yield a drug to help cure cancer, although 10 kilograms of the tree's bark, leaves, and needles are



Highland animals: — Mountain Sheep, 1999 (Nepal Scott 653).

Save Mountain Habitats: Grizzly Bear, 1981 (United States Scott 1923). Yak, 1973 (Nepal Scott 277).



Construction within the Swiss Alps, 1949 (Switzerland Scott 328–339): (L to R) Viaducts (Scott 329), Mountain Railway (Scott 330), Grimsel Reservoir (Scott 332), Dam & Power Station (Scott 334), Suspension Railway (Scott 337).



Rock climbing and skiing — Mountain Climbing, 1956 (France Scott 804). Slalom Racing, 1962 (France Scott 1020). Mountain Climbing, 1959 (Russia Scott 2200). Ski Jumper, 1961 (Argentina Scott 704). Olympic Skier & Mountains, 1964 (Hungary Scott 1555).

required to produce a single gram of the drug.

The penetration of transportation links, hydroelectric power projects, and mining operations can cause serious damage in mountainous regions if the fragility of their ecosystems is ignored. Exploitation of finite resources — if unchecked — will mean diminishing raw materials for future generations. In sum, if the world's highest mountains are able to inspire generations of climbers to accomplish great scaling feats, then no less a commitment should be made to preserve their delicate ecosystems and the endangered cultures that lie within them.

Mountaineering

The sport or hobby or profession of climbing mountains is referred to as mountaineering, a popular pastime around the world. While mountaineering began in attempts to reach the summits of large mountains, it is now diversified into various other activities such as rock-craft, snowcraft, and skiing.

These sports require experience, technical knowledge and athleticism, and all involve some risk. Sadly, loss of life is not uncommon due to avalanches, rock falls, adverse weather, or personal hazards such as equipment failure or fatigue. Avalanches are a particular hazard; there is a one-in-five chance of dying if caught in a major snowfall and only a 50/50 chance of being found alive if buried for more than a few minutes.

A world governing body in mountaineering, the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinism (UIAA), exists to regulate such issues as access, safety equipment, medical assistance, and the preservation of montane environments. It was founded in Chamoix, France in 1932 and today represents some eight-eight member organizations from seventy-six different countries, comprising several million climbers and mountaineers.

There are two main types of mountaineering: alpine climbing and expedition climbing.

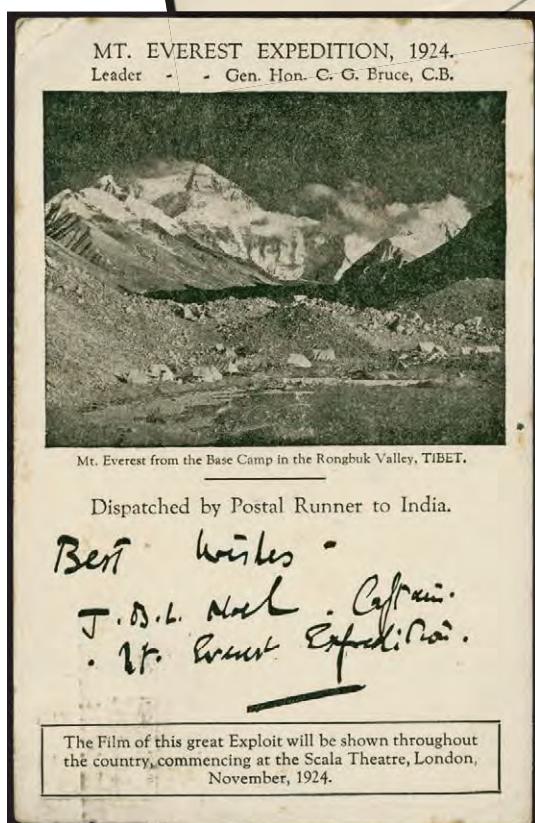


Cover and stamp celebrating 75 years of hiking and mountaineering in Austria, 1970 (Austria Scott 881). Stamp honoring the centennial of Austrian Mountain Rescue Service, 1996 (Austria Scott 1709).





Set celebrating China's mountaineering achievements, 1965 (People's Republic of China Scott 828-832). Climbers on Mt. Minya Konka, Muztagh Ata, Mt. Jolmo Lungma (Mt. Everest), Kongur Tiubie Tagh, and Shisha Pangma.



Alpine. Alpine climbers usually tackle medium-sized mountains such as those found in the European Alps and North American Rockies. Being at lower altitudes these peaks are more easily accessed than larger and higher ranges and may be climbed on a fairly short time scale. Alpinists are involved in negotiating rocks and traveling across snow surfaces, ice, and glaciers. They usually carry their own loads between bases or bivouacs (makeshift resting or sleeping arrangements) and invariably climb routes to the summits in a single push. "Light and Fast" is the mantra of the Alpine mountaineer.

Expedition. By contrast, Expedition climbers, while employing the same skills as Alpinists, must also have additional abilities to deal with rugged mountains at higher altitudes: longer routes, possible greater risks of rock falls or avalanches, more severe weather, and an expanded time scale. Progress is slower, with climbers using multiple porters or pack animals to transport gear and food between camps. Fixed lines are commonly used to minimize the danger involved in constantly moving between bases, and supplemental oxygen is made available. Thus, much planning and higher capital expenditures are involved in mounting expeditions to the world's highest ranges.

Asian Mountains

Of concern today is the mounting and adverse impact of increased numbers of climbers tackling ascents in some of the more popular locations. Their presence at some sites has led, in the words of a perceptive observer, to the creation of "a gigantic theme park in the sky, complete

Mt. Everest Front: Postcard from 1924 Mount Everest Expedition; postmarked October 30, 1924 in Calcutta, India.
Back: Photograph of base camp in Rongbuk Valley, Tibet.



Mt. Everest — First day cover celebrating the 1953 "Conquest of Everest," postmarked October 2, 1953 (India Scott 244–245). Souvenir sheet celebrating the golden jubilee of the ascent of Mt. Everest, 2003 (India Scott 2008a).

British Mt. Everest expedition of 1953, 2003 (Great Britain Scott 2119).

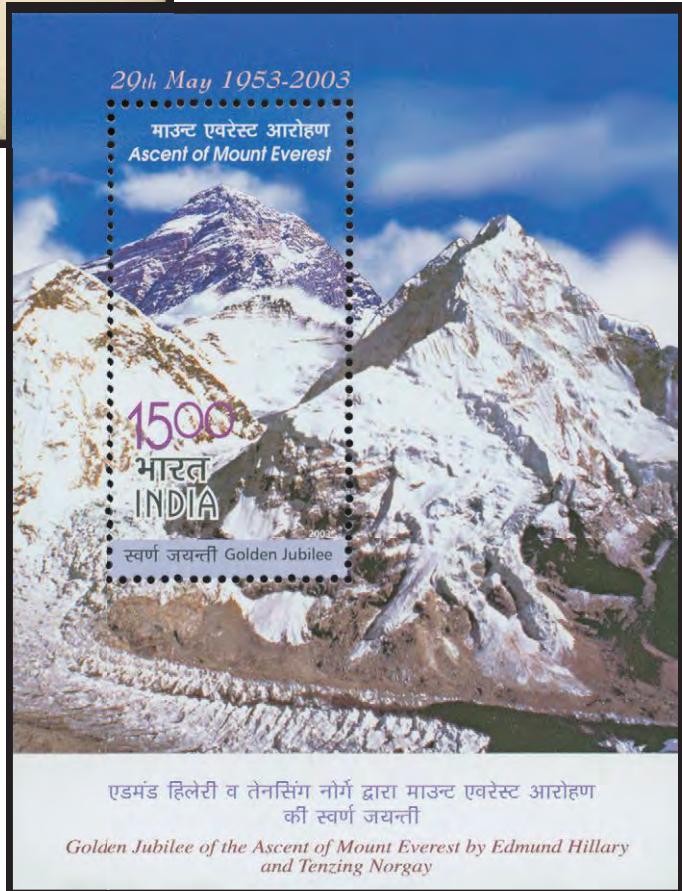


with queues, litter, idiotic punters, and fatal accidents."¹

Mount Everest is a case in point. Named after Sir George Everest, first Surveyor General of India, it is known as *Chomolungma* (goddess mother of the universe) by Tibetans and as *Sagarmatha* (goddess of the sky) by the Nepalese. A British expedition in 1924 resulted in a tragedy when George Mallory and companion Andrew "Sandy" Irvine disappeared from sight a few hundred meters short of the summit, while still climbing. Mallory's body was only discovered seventy-five years later in 1999. Irvine's body still has not been found. It is not known whether they were successful in scaling Everest. A 1924 postcard from India bears a specially designed sticker tied with a "Mt. Everest Expedition 1924" handstamp, while the reverse features a photograph of the peak from the base camp in the Rongbuk Valley, Tibet. It is signed by Capt. John B.L. Noel who contributed substantially to the expedition in return for the rights as official expedition photographer.

Everest famously was first climbed by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary in 1953; they reached the summit with the aid of a team of 400 porters and Sherpas. There are many philatelic reminders of the event. Of special interest is the fiftieth anniversary set of stamps from New Zealand and the golden jubilee miniature sheet issued by India that same year.

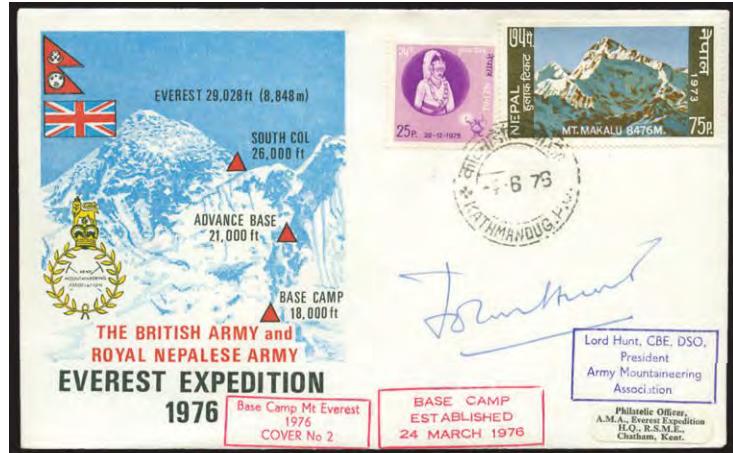
In the years following 1953 numerous expeditions mounted to achieve the same goal: some successful, others regrettably fatal. In 1965 an Indian expedition reached the summit, and a combined British and Royal Nepalese Army



expedition completed an ascent in 1976. The Nepalese first day cover illustrated bears the signature of Lord John Hunt, president of the British Army Mountaineering Association.

In the spring of 2012 there were around 500 would-be summiteers at the Everest base camp at one time, all awaiting a chance to ascend the peak. Today, the famed mountain is less like a goddess of the sky and "more like the coldest, windiest, cruellest, most expensive, over-populated, corpse-strewn death trap on the planet."²

Avalanches, falls of deadly ice-rocks, altitude sickness, hypothermia, and relentless high winds are among the obstacles facing Himalayan climbers. Poor hygiene and disease also may come into play during lengthy waits in camps. Then there is the spiraling expense of contemporary expeditions. Just a license to climb Mt. Everest costs \$10,000. Guides, gear, and supplies add considerably to the charges. Sensible mountaineers will go as members of a large group, but places



Mt. Everest — a) Indian Everest Expedition first day cover, postmarked August 8, 1965 (India Scott 404). British Army and Royal Nepalese Army Everest Expedition cover, postmarked April 6, 1976; franked with 1973 stamp showing the fifth highest mountain in the world, Mt. Makalu, near Mt. Everest (Nepal Scott 271).



Examples from Pakistani issue featuring mountains in the Karakoram Range, 1981: (L to R) K-6 (Pakistan Scott 553–554) and K-2 (Pakistan Scott 555–556). First day cover from Pakistan celebrating the 1954 ascent of K-2 (Mt. Godwin Austen), postmarked December 25, 1954 the world's second highest peak (Pakistan Scott 65).



"First Ascent of Manaslu," 1956 (Japan Scott 631).
Mt. Manaslu and King Mahendra (1920–1972), 1960 (Nepal Scott 128).

on these still can cost \$30,000 or more.

There are numerous other Himalayan peaks to challenge expedition climbers. K-2 (unofficially Mt. Godwin Austen) — the second highest peak in the world at 28,251 feet (8,611m) — was finally conquered by an Italian expedition in 1954, a year after the Everest triumph. Its name comes from the 1856 Survey of India, and indicates that the peak is found in the Karakoram range of the Himalayas and was the second peak to be measured by the Survey.

A Nepalese set issued in 1996 revealed the impressive alignment of summits to be found within the Annapurna Mountain Range. In fact, Nepal is home to *eight* of the ten highest mountains in the world. One of these, Mt. Manaslu, is the eighth highest mountain in the world.

Its summit was first reached by Japanese climbers Toshio Imanishi and Gyalzen Norbu on May 9, 1956. Tragically, in the summer of 2012, at least eleven climbers were killed on Manaslu when their tent camp at close to 22,960 feet (7,000m) was swept away by a massive avalanche. The casualties included French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Nepalese citizens, a reflection of the international nature of modern mountaineering.

Kazakhstan in central Asia marked the International





European montane features that appeal to climbers — Khan Tengri, 1964 (Russia Scott 2982), Mt. Titano, 1962 (San Marino Scott 528), and Tre Cime di Lavaredo, 2008 (Italy Scott 2887). Mountains in Tatra National Park, 1969 (Czechoslovakia Scott 1642).

Year of Mountains with a souvenir sheet featuring the beautiful Altai Range in the far eastern part of that country.

European Mountains

Turning attention to mountain ranges in Europe, there is a wide selection of stamps issued by states with highlands within their borders or in adjacent states. The earliest ascent commemorated on a stamp is the first successful climbing of Mont Blanc in the Alps on August 8, 1786 after a number of failed attempts. The bicentenary of that achievement was marked by a French stamp. Successful expeditions such as the one undertaken by Jacques Balmat and Dr. Michel Paccard, however, were infrequent. By 1825 only seventeen parties had reached the mountain's summit.

Rising 15,774 feet (4,808m) on the border between France and Italy, Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Western Europe and is popular today for hiking, mountaineering, skiing, and snowboarding. Every year some 17,000 mountaineers attempt to reach the summit; in summer as many as 300 climbers spend the night at a high refuge hut before making an early start on the final ascent. They tend to follow a well-marked route, the Couloir du Gouter, but it is not without its hazards, among them falling rocks and the fragile crust of a glacier. In the past twenty years, seventy-seven fatalities have been recorded.



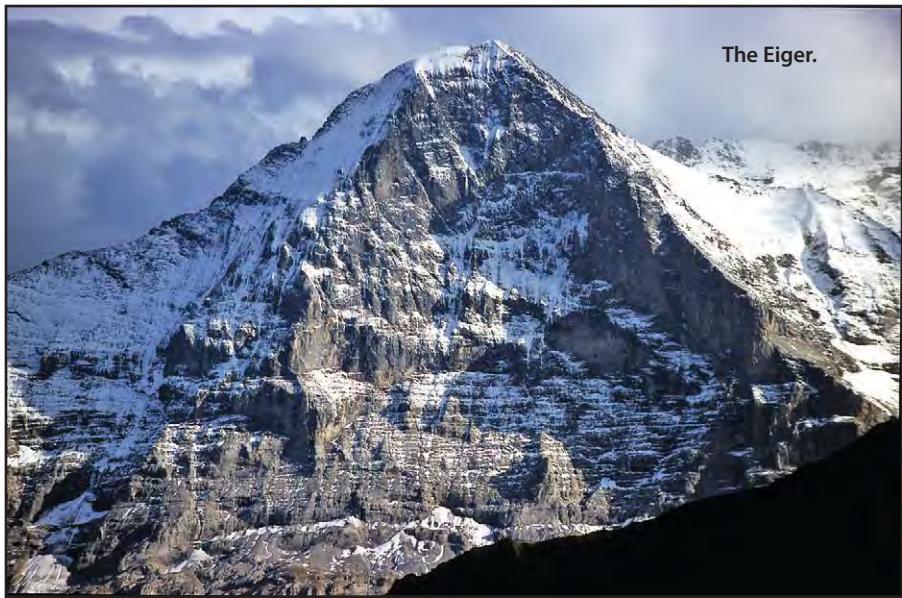
Matterhorn, 1965 (Switzerland Scott 467).



Mont Blanc — Opening of road & tunnel through Mt. Blanc, 1965 (France Scott 1124). Bicentenary of the first ascent of Mt. Blanc on August 8, 1786 (France Scott 2015).

It wasn't until the nineteenth century that mountaineering really developed as a sport in Europe. And it was mainly gentlemen from the British Alpine Club — the world's first mountaineering organization — who successfully scaled many of the Alpine peaks, clad resplendently in knickers and tweeds and with hobnails in their boots. Only the Matterhorn or Monte Cervino, the 14,688-foot (4,478-meter) pyramid of granite on the Swiss/Italian border, resisted their attacks for some years.

Its precipitous north-facing wall was believed inaccessible. Climbers were bombarded by a cannonade of boulders and stones: the celebrated "artillery" of the Matterhorn. The northeast ridge was finally ascended in 1865 by four Englishmen and three guides (two Swiss and one French).



The Eiger.

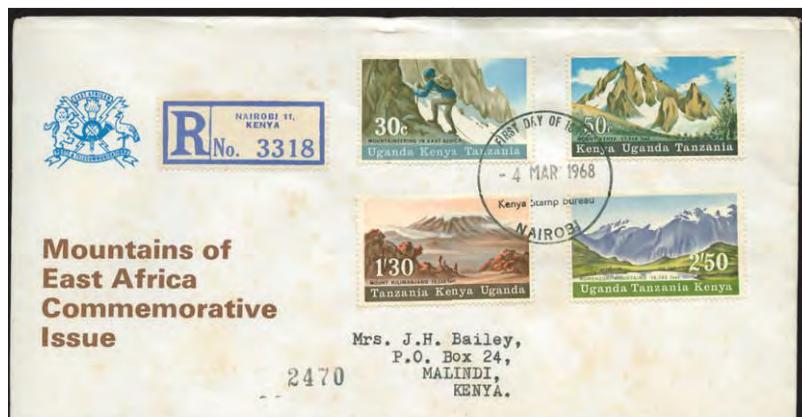
Disastrously, the mountain was to take its revenge scarcely an hour later. At a dangerous rock passage one of the group slipped, pulling down others. The hemp security rope broke under the shock and four members of the party plunged some 4,000 feet to their deaths.

The tragedy led to condemnation of the ill-omened sport, yet over the years many more expeditions set out to conquer the mountain via different routes, some successful, others fatal. Since 1865 more than 500 alpinists have died on

the slopes of Monte Cervino, making it one of the deadliest peaks in the Alps. The north face was finally knocked off in 1931 by two German brothers, Franz and Toni Schmid.

Another example of a severely challenging climb is the north face of the Eiger, an imposing mountain in the Swiss Bernese Alps rising to 13,025 feet (3,970m) above sea level. It is one of three peaks along a prominent ridge commonly referred to as the Maiden or the Virgin (*Jungfrau*), the Monk (*Mönch*), and the Ogre (*Eiger*). A beautiful horizontal strip of three stamps issued by Switzerland in 2006 (Scott 1240a-c) shows the entire ridge: Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau.

The first successful ascent of the Eiger was made via the west flank by an Irish climber assisted by two Swiss guides in 1858. After numerous abortive attempts, the far more difficult north face was climbed by an Austrian-German expedition in 1938, eighty years after the first ascent of the mountain. The expedition was constantly threatened by snow avalanches, and the men climbed as quickly as possible between falls. They also faced storms and intense cold. After reaching the summit in late afternoon on



Kapsiki Peak, a volcanic plug near Rhunsiki in the Mandara Mountains, 1962 (Cameroun Scott C44).



First day cover for the Mountains of East Africa commemorative stamps, March 4, 1968 (Kenya, Uganda, & Tanzania Scott 181-184). Clockwise: Mountain Climber, Mount Kenya, Ruwenzori Mountains, Mount Kilimanjaro. First day cover, November 13, 1978 (South Africa Scott 511-514). Clockwise: Golden Gate Highlands National Park; Blyde River Canyon, Transvaal; Cango Caves, Cape Province; Amphitheater, Natal National Park.



the third day they were exhausted and only just had the strength to descend via the west route through a raging blizzard.

Over the years, accidents on Eiger have taken the lives of many aspiring summiteers. Since 1935, in fact, more than sixty climbers have died attempting the north face, earning it the name of *Mordwand* (murder wall), a pun on its official title of *Nordwand* (north wall).³

The Eiger is a huge limestone buttress with a spectacular sheer face rising to 5,900 feet (1,800m) above ground level along its northern wall. While an ascent from this approach may not represent the highest level of technical difficulty in modern Alpinism, its ferocious reputation stems from the frequency of rock falls, avalanches, and its treacherous ice fields. Cloud cover also impedes progress. In summer the face is invariably unclimbable due to falling rocks; winter ascents are preferable, when the crumbling face is strengthened by ice. One notorious section is known as the “White Spider”; its snow-filled cracks radiating from an ice field on the upper face resemble the legs of a spider. Another infamous spot is “Death Bivouac” where in 1935 two climbers were found frozen to death not far from the summit.

African Mountains

While the African continent may not have as many challenging mountains as the Eurasian land mass, there are nevertheless some impressive peaks extending from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria via the Cameroon massif in West Africa (rising from the Gulf of Guinea in a series of volcanic peaks) to the highlands of East Africa and the Drakesbergen in the Republic of South Africa.

One of the most spectacular mountains in Africa, however, is Mt. Kilamanjaro in Tanzania, a snow-covered volcano that actually consists of three peaks, two of which — Mawenzi (16,896 ft) and Shira (13,000 ft) — are extinct. The third, and highest, is Kibo (19,340 ft), which is considered dormant but active. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Its slopes contain an example of virtually every ecosystem on earth: glacier, snowfields, deserts, alpine moorland, savannah, and tropical jungle.

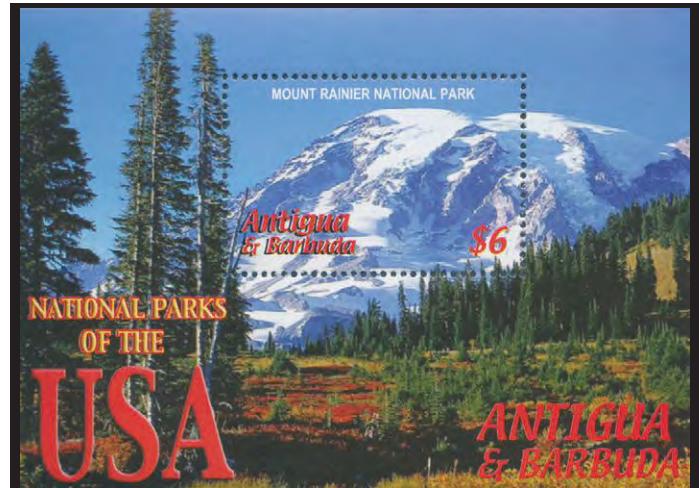
Another magnificent summit is Mt. Kenya (*Kirinyaga*), at 17,053 feet (5,199m) the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa. It, too, is an ancient, extinct volcano.

North American Mountains

From the Alaskan Ranges (which include Mt. McKinley, Mt. Olympus, Mt. Rainier, Yosemite, the Tetons, and the Big Horn) to Mt. Washington in the Appalachians, there are numerous challenging and really tough climbs in Canada and the United States. These initially attracted sportsmen from



National Parks Year: Mt. Rainier & Mirror Lake, 1934 (U.S. Scott 742). Mt. McKinley, 2001 (U.S. Scott C137).



National Parks issue of the USA: Mount Rainier National Park, 2006 (Antigua & Barbuda Scott 2869). Washington Statehood: Mt. Rainier, 1989 (U.S. Scott 2404).

Europe, and for many years their styles of mountaineering predominated. But Americans themselves also were active. In the 1930s new skills were introduced from Europe, enabling climbers to tackle more difficult ascents. In the post-war years, revolutionary techniques and equipment were tested in the Yosemite Valley. Vertical rock walls and overhangs, once considered impossible to scale, were now conquerable.

At 20,320 feet (6,194m), Mt. McKinley in Alaska — also known as *Denali* (“The High One”) — is the tallest mountain in North America and a worthy goal for many high altitude climbers. It was first ascended in 1910 by a group of miners carrying improvised equipment; however, their attempt on the lower North Peak was not officially recognized. A documented climb led by Archdeacon Hudson Stuck and with better equipment reached the South Summit in 1913. What has now become the standard route of ascent — the West Buttress — was only achieved by Bradford Washburn in 1951. Although the sustained ascent of 16–17 days via several camps is not particularly hazardous, the weather can be unpredictable and at times ferocious. Climbers need to be



Rocky Mountains — Wyoming
Statehood: High Mountain Meadows, by Conrad Schwiering, 1990 (U.S. Scott 2444). Colorado Statehood: Columbine & Rocky Mountains, 1977 (U.S. Scott 1711)



National Parks Year: El Capitan, Yosemite, 1934 (U.S. Scott 740). Yosemite National Park, 2006 (U.S. Scott C141)



Devil's Tower National Monument, Wyoming, 1956 (U.S. Scott 1084). Grand Canyon, 1990 (U.S. Scott 2512). Grand Canyon Sunrise, 2000 (U.S. Scott C135). Great White Throne, Zion National Park, Utah, 1934 (U.S. Scott 747).

experienced in traveling on steep snow- and ice-covered slopes and

exposed traverses. Sadly, there is an unusually high casualty list due to inexperienced and exhausted mountaineers slipping on the deceptively easy inclines. Some climbers use Denali as a training ground for subsequent Himalayan expeditions. As a national park it also attracts many thousands of visitors.

Moving from Alaska to the contiguous United States, the most topographically prominent peak is Mt. Rainier in Washington State. This massive, dormant volcano rises to 14,411 feet (4,393m). An attractive souvenir sheet from Antigua & Barbuda offers a fine view of Mt. Rainier from the north, while an American stamp shows a canoeist on Reflection Lake in the foreground. The first European to view the peak was Captain George Vancouver in 1792, and it was he who named the mountain in honor of his superior officer, Rear Admiral Peter Rainier.

Although it is about 1,100 years since its last major erup-

tion, Mt. Rainier is considered one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world, in part due to its proximity to human population centers. The mountain experiences about twenty small earthquakes a year. The summit comprises several craters, while its flanks are covered with numerous glaciers, snowfields, and rocky debris that offer a major challenge to climbers. Teams need to be experienced in traveling over wilderness and glaciers. As many as 13,000 people attempt the climb each year, most of them starting from Camp Muir on the southeast flank; however, fatigue and poor weather mean that only about half of the attempts are successful.

The worst mountaineering accident on Mt. Rainier occurred in 1981 when eleven climbers lost their lives in an ice fall on a glacier. Regrettably, the volcano claims an average of two deaths a year due to rock and ice falls, avalanches, and hypothermia associated with severe weather conditions. Nevertheless, the national park continues to be popular for winter sports such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The Rocky Mountains form the major upland region in western North America. They run for more than 3,000 miles (4,830 km) from British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in the United States. They comprise a series of striking ranges with dramatic peaks, cirques,⁴ and glaciated valleys.

The eastern edge of the Rockies rises rapidly above the Great Plains and features mountains such as the Wind River Range and Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming and the Front Range of Colorado. The highest peak is Mt. Elbert in Colorado, which rises to 14,440 feet (4,401m). The Continental Divide is located with the Rockies; this is the line at which waters flow either west to the Pacific Ocean or east to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The western edge of the Rockies includes the Wasatch Mountains near Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Bitterroot Mountains along the Idaho-Montana border.

The first crossing of the Rockies by European explorers was undertaken by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in 1793. A decade or so later, the Lewis and Clark expedition carried out a scientific survey, confirming a route for other explorers and traders later to roam the mountains in search of minerals and furs. Beginning in the 1840s, thousands of migrants

struggled along the Oregon Trail to reach the Pacific.

Today the Rockies offer a variety of challenging outdoor activities the year round. The American Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado covers an area of 415 square miles and attracts millions of visitors. They can engage in driving, hiking, camping, skiing, snowboarding, biking, and motor biking along numerous paved roads and trails such as Trail Ridge Road, which reaches more than 12,000 feet (3,656m). More serious mountaineering is also an option, although only skilled technical climbers with extensive training and proper equipment are encouraged to register with the Park authorities.

Groups of up to twenty climbers are allowed to attempt the ascent of Longs Peak (14,259 ft), one of fifty-four mountains with summits over 14,000 feet (4,268m) in Colorado. The sixteen-mile round trip can take up to twelve hours, with bivouacs provided en route. Climbers are warned of hazards in the form of violent weather — rainstorms, lightning, strong winds, snowfalls, and avalanches — that may cause injuries and even deaths. As elsewhere in the mountainous regions around the world, climbers' deaths are a regrettable annual occurrence in the North American Rockies.

Yosemite National Park is located on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Range in northern California. It comprises a mile wide, seven mile long canyon, walled by striking granite cliffs, glacially carved domes, and soaring pinnacles. El Capitan is the largest granite monolith in the world and has a 3,300-foot face. Up to four million visitors are attracted to Yosemite annually, and climbing is a popular activity — offering in places a grueling test of endurance. Tackling Half Dome peak involves an ascent of 4,800 feet (1,461) out of the valley, with the last 900 feet (274m) being up the vertical face of this striking feature. Well-placed steel cables assist climbers to the summit, which offers spectacular views of the valley below.

There are numerous other locations in the western United States where climbers and mountaineers can face exciting challenges. A few such sites appear on the stamps featuring the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Devil's Tower National Monument, Wyoming, and the Great White Throne in Zion National Park, Utah.

Moving finally to the eastern United States, a chain of impressive uplands extends all the way from Maine in New England to Georgia in the South. Most prominent are the Appalachian and Blue Ridge Mountains, with numerous trails for adventurous ascents. The Adironack Mountains in New York State represent an eroded dome with forty-six peaks, the highest of which is Mt. Marcy at 5,344 feet (1,129m). Climbers who successfully ascend all the peaks are entitled

to join the Adirondack Forty-Sixers club.

The White Mountains of New Hampshire are the most rugged in New England, with Mt. Washington rising to 6,288 feet (1,197m). It is a fairly easy ascent — there is even a cog railway for the less energetic — but bad weather and some of the strongest winds in the northern hemisphere can prove a major challenge.

Within the White Mountain range is Cannon Mountain, known for its technical rock and ice climbing challenges. Until recently, however, it was most famous for a rock formation that resembled the profile of an old man. After several hundred years as a popular tourist attraction, sadly, the Old Man of the Mountain collapsed on May 3, 2003, although its profile lingers on a U.S. stamp.

Conclusion

I hope that this broad overview of mountains and mountaineering on stamps will encourage other collectors to pursue the topic or, in the case of those already committed to the theme, to delve deeper into the spectacles so admirably portrayed philatelically.

It may be too much to anticipate that, through our stamps, we might be encouraged to participate in actual mountain climbing, beyond the virtual participation to be found in a magazine article. Nevertheless, perhaps vicariously we may begin to sense the challenges and thrills of the sport and, in the words of a devoted American climber, acquire "a lasting affection for the wrinkles, bulges, eruptions and fractures of the earth's crust which we call mountains."⁵

Acknowledgment

Many of the stamps illustrated in this article are drawn from the collection of a friend and former mountain climber, Frank Palmer, who also kindly agreed to check the text for any obvious errors of fact or interpretation. Other stamps are reproduced from the American Philatelic Society's Reference Collection.

Endnotes

1. *The Oldie Magazine* (Summer 2012): 35.

2. *Ibid.*

3. "Eiger," Wikipedia, August 2012.

4. According to *Webster's Dictionary*, a cirque is "a steep, hollow excavation high on a mountainside, made by glacial erosion" that forms a natural amphitheater.

5. Frank Russell, *The Mountains of America*; Introduction by Edward Abbey (New York: Harry N. Abrams Inc., 1976), page 6.

The Author

Barry Floyd has been a lifelong devotee of stamp collecting, accumulating countrywide items as a child but developing thematic material later in life. He has published books featuring the commemorative stamps issued for *Captain James Cook* and *Charles Darwin*, and is a regular contributor of articles to British and American journals.



Old Man of the Mountains, New Hampshire, 1955 (U.S. Scott 1068).

What's Eating Your Mail?



Two covers with an unusual design of a beetle eating its way across the envelope.



by Dr. Steven J. Berlin

Stamp collecting may be one of the most popular hobbies in the world. There is an amazing feeling of joy and satisfaction when a collector finds that one special stamp to add to his collection of stamps and/or postal history. Contrariwise, if a stamp is damaged due to an accident, it certainly becomes an unhappy situation. But consider how fragile stamps and covers are. They are subject to external factors such as weather, earthquakes, fire, and even robbery, but collectors don't always stop to think about small critters, whether they be bugs such as termites, silverfish, and booklice or other crawly things such as snails, beetles, cockroaches and ants. And there are larger animals that might also decide to take advantage of a free philatelic meal — such as mice, rats, and even German cows!

The point that I am making is these little pieces of art and history need to be properly stored and protected from *all* the various elements that can cause damage or even complete destruction of our philatelic treasures. We all have read about handling your collection with care — from using tongs to hinges to plastic protective devices. But even eating food around your stamps and covers may open the door to possible damage as this may attract a



variety of critters looking for a meal.

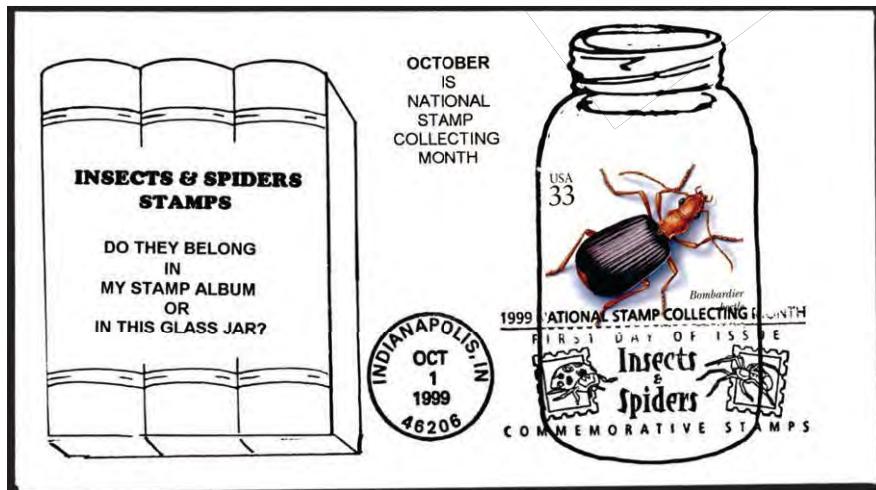
Finding covers of interrupted mail that are identified as fitting into the category of "What's Eating Your Mail" has been very difficult but, at the same time, very rewarding. It's rare to find official postal markings on covers identifying what bug or crawly thing may have delayed the mail; mostly they are identified simply as "Damaged." My hope is that what follows will open collectors' eyes to some of the unusual dangers that might be lurking around their philatelic items.

Mold and Mildew

In *Linn's Stamp News* for June 11, 2012 Janet Klug writes about "Weeding your collection of problems from mold to stacked stamps."¹ She urges readers to remove stamps and covers from their collection that show discoloration and to check for insects or mold just as a gardener checks his garden. Mildew may appear as rusty colored or black powdery spots that are often a fungus. Mold and mildew can spread if left unchecked. Unfortunately, too often collectors are so busy working on different areas of their hobby that they neglect the security and safety of their collections housed in albums or boxes and seldom check on them. For example, the fact that some homes may not have air conditioning could increase the potential of humidity affecting philatelic material. It is important to remove stamps and covers that show evidence of these sorts of deterioration and try to disinfect them.

Insect Pests

Insect damage is of universal concern to stamp collectors. Two advertising covers, perhaps issued in subtle warning to postal patrons, each show the unusual design of a beetle eating its way across the front of the envelope. The

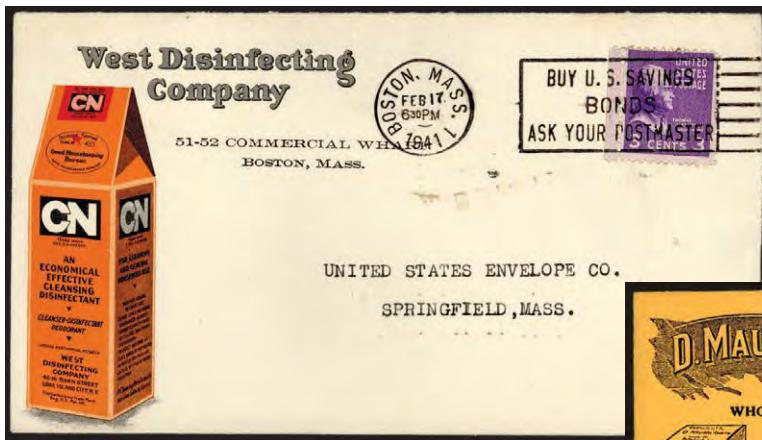


Two clever first day covers for the October 1, 1999 issue of Insects & Spiders stamps (U.S. Scott 3351a-t).

first is from W.O. Kennedy, "Agent for Columbia Bicycles, Tricycles and Sundries," in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and is postmarked May 22, 1890. The second, dated January 1893 and mailed from Bartlett to Buffalo, New York, advertises "Sweet Home Soap."

Two more recent FDCs celebrate the Insects & Spiders issue released by the USPS in October 1999, but their cachets carry very different messages. One asks the question: "Insects & Spider Stamps — Do They Belong in My Stamp Album or in This Glass Jar?" The other recommends that the stamp collector "Kill Bugs / Get Them Before They Get You." Both designs feature beetles, which are among some of the larger and more common insects that might make a meal out of your stamp collection. And both represent clever ways to celebrate insect stamps for National Stamp Collecting Month.

Pests have been around longer than there have been humans to swat at them. Two advertising covers promote disinfectant products. One shows a package of "CN — An Economical Effective Cleansing Disinfectant" sold by West



Two advertising covers for pest disinfectants, one manufactured by West Disinfecting Company of Boston and the other by D. Maurer & Son Co. of Philadelphia.

Disinfecting Company of Boston and postmarked February 17, 1941. The second cover, from D. Maurer & Son Co. of Philadelphia and postmarked January 11, 1944, shows both a box of "Maurer's Rat-Roach Paste" and a box of "Maurer's Insect Powder."

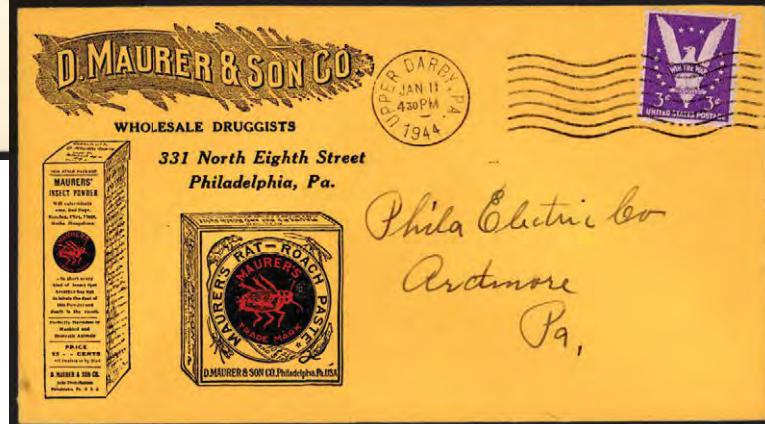
A cover from Salem, Oregon postmarked December 31, 1964, advertised "Guaranteed Pest Control Service" and offered a five-year guarantee against termites. The corner card also featured a member logo of the National Pest Control Association.

Insect damage can be easily noted as it results in holes and possibly trails of insect debris. Klug's article also warned that bugs may leave eggs to hatch at a later time and that when using an insecticide the collector needs to know what he or she is attempting to treat, as some kill eggs and others only kill larvae and adult insects. She reiterates the advice about not eating around your collection, as food left laying around can entice ants, silverfish, roaches, termites, and



Above: Cover advertising a five-year guarantee against termites.

Right: A 1948 cover from Romania to Brazil with two ends of the envelope eaten away by ants.

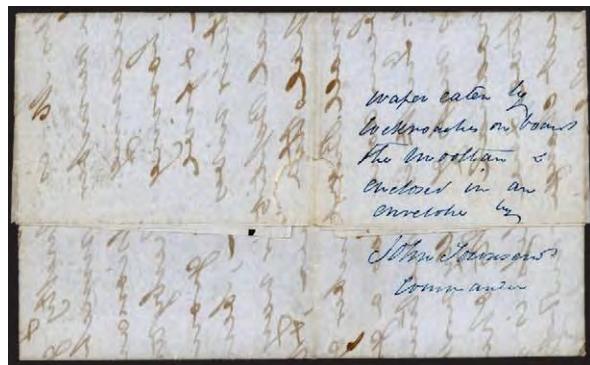
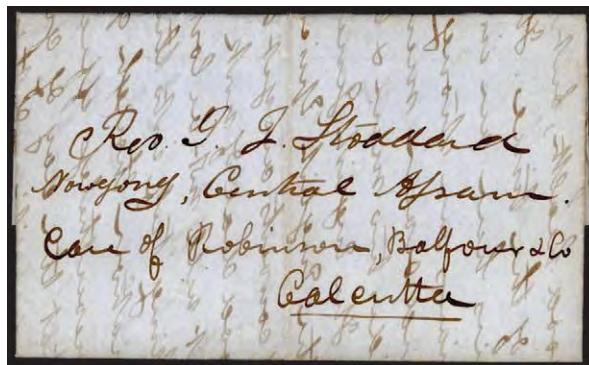


even mice and rats. After they eat the crumbs left over from your meal, they may want a stamp or two for dessert!

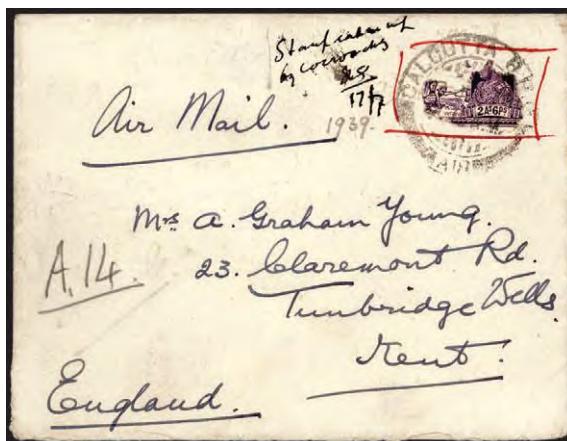
A 1948 cover from Romania to Brazil with two ends of the envelope eaten away by ants is illustrated. This is part of a collection of mail from the Huven Family correspondence, which was stored unprotected in their home basement. All of the covers purchased from this collection had been attacked by ants, mice, and/or rats.

An early example of insect destruction can be seen on an 1850 missionary folded letter carried by the ship *Mooltan* from Ningpo, China to Calcutta, India. In his letter to the Rev. G. J. Stoddard, the writer tells his brother missionary about the loss of his wife and son to fever. While onboard the ship, however, the wax seal (wafer) was eaten by cockroaches. A blue manuscript notation on the back reads, "Wafer eaten by cockroaches on board the Mooltan. Enclosed in an envelope by John Townsend, Commander."

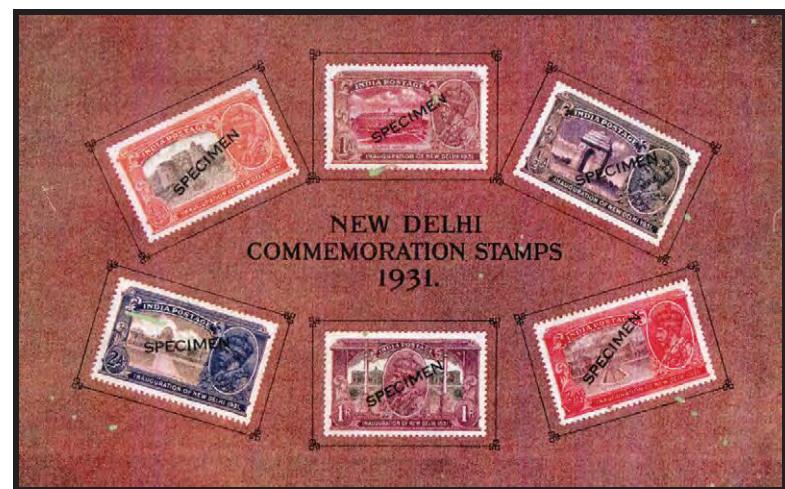




Front and back of an 1850 folded letter whose sealing wafer had been eaten by cockroaches while on board ship.



According to the manuscript note, the actual stamp was eaten by cockroaches sometime before it was able to be canceled.



The holes made by termites on this publicity leaflet for 1931 Indian stamps are shown in light green. (Image courtesy of Gavin Fryer.)

Nearly a hundred years later cockroaches still remained a problem. A cover with date obscured was mailed from Calcutta, India to Kent, England. According to a manuscript note at the top, the stamp was eaten by cockroaches sometime before it was able to be canceled. The remains of the stamp were outlined in ink and a Calcutta cancellation of July 17, 1939 was applied over top of the appropriate space.

Commemorative stamps for the Inauguration of New Delhi in 1931 are depicted on a publicity leaflet announc-

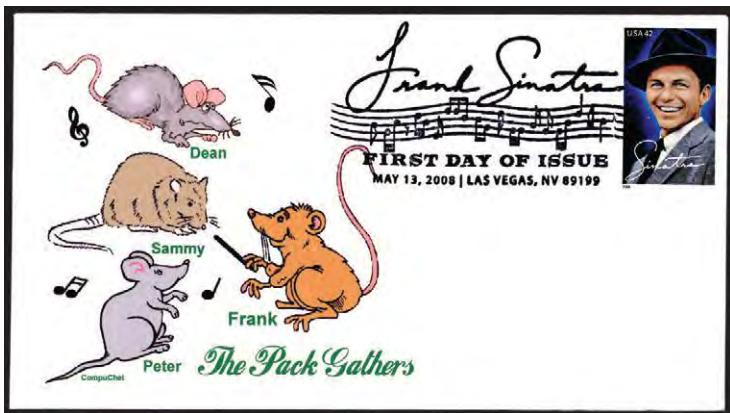
ing their forthcoming release. Unfortunately, the leaflet fell victim to termites. The holes made by the insects are shown in light green.

Mice and Rats

Mice are often the culprits when tooth marks are found on mail. A French postal card to Holland dated March 31, 1905 has an embossed image that depicts two rather elegant tiny mice gnawing their way through a stamp from the Aus-



Two postcards from the early 1900s showing the same two mice nibbling on a stamp. The stamps are different for each card.



Two humorous first day covers featuring rats.



trian Office in the Turkish Empire (Scott 32, issued 1900). A postal card from Germany to the United Kingdom shows the same two mice, this time eating an embossed stamp from Sudan — the 3-milliemes value from the famous Camel Post issue (Scott 11, issued 1898; reprinted as Scott 19 in 1903).

Rats seem to be a favorite villain on first day covers, whether they are found singing along with Frank Sinatra as members of his "rat pack" (the rats are identified as "Dean" [Martin], "Sammy" [Davis Jr.] and "Peter" [Lawford]) or on a Chinese New Year's FDC for the Year of the Rat where one rat is saying to another, "This year they're going to lick us and not stick us."

Two interesting examples of rodent damage can be found in the Huven collection of covers, which were stored unprotected in a basement for many years. The mice and rats had a very good time chewing away the edges of many of the covers. The two covers shown were mailed from Romania to Belo Horizonte in the mining state of Minas Gerais, Brazil in 1948.

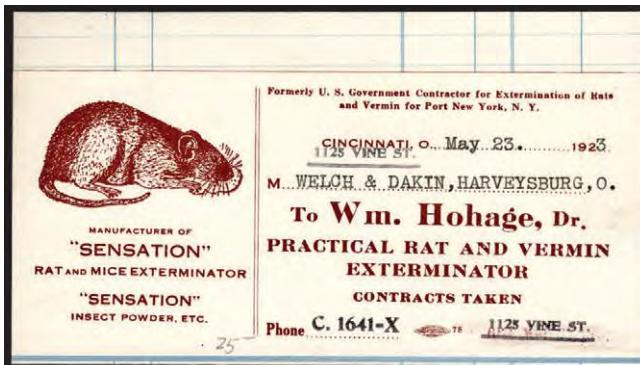
A more rare example is a cover sent from the United Kingdom to Australia by ship on October 4, 1906. This one actually was chewed through the middle by rats. A unique red ink manuscript auxiliary notation reads: "Damaged by rats on mail steamer." This is the only recorded cover from this event. Another damaged cover in my collection, this one sent from Australia to the United Kingdom in 1945, bears the manuscript notation: "It is regretted that this item has been damaged in transit, by rodents."

For some collectors it may be necessary to place



A cover sent from the United Kingdom to Australia by ship bears a red manuscript notation: "Damaged by rats on mail steamer."

Left: Two covers from Romania to Brazil in 1948 that were partially eaten by mice or rats.



A 1923 advertising cover for the "Sensation" Rat and Mice Exterminator as well as "Sensation" Insect Powder.

baited traps in and around one's collection or, as a last resort, to seek out the services of a professional exterminator. One company that covered several aspects of pest control was headed by Dr. William Hohage, "Formerly U.S. Government Contractor for Extermination of Rats and Vermin for Port New York, N.Y." The 1928 letterhead illustrated above boasts that his company was the manufacturer of both "Sensation Rat and Mice Exterminator" and "Sensation Insect Powder."

The Piper Company of St. Louis marketed the proverbial "better mouse trap" on a 1948 advertising postcard, in which company president B.O. Burkitt announced that he would be discussing his new product on Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not" radio program:

The dream of every inventor is to be able to tell the American people about his invention. For me, this dream will become a reality next Monday, May 17, when I will be permitted to talk to millions of radio listeners about the new LIC-LUR rat trap....the one that uses plain water for bait....

Hundreds of inquiries are already coming in as a result of magazine and newspaper publicity.... If you will send immediately, the name of one or more Jobbers from whom you buy, I will see that you are among the first to be offered



A 1948 advertising postcard announcing a new rat and mouse trap that uses water for bait. (Image courtesy of Brian Peace.)

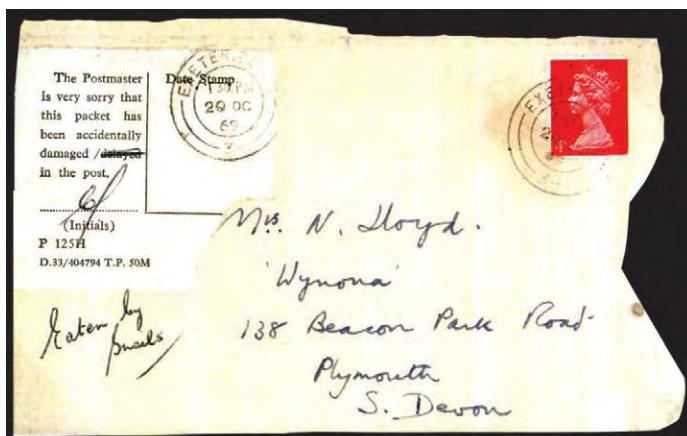
LIC-LUR rat and mouse traps ... and inquiries coming in from your area can be referred to your store....

Slugs and Snails

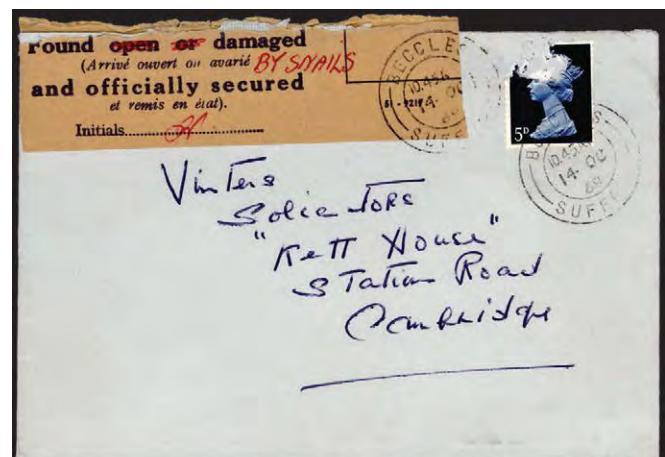
Less common but equally damaging to mail are the slugs and snails that can lurk in mail boxes. They seem to be a particular pest in various areas in the United Kingdom where the climates are persistently damp. In parts of Devon and Cornwall, the common snail, *Helix aspera*, likes to winter inside post boxes, eating gum and paper from the mail deposited in these boxes. The manuscript note below the initialed Post Office P125H label on the 1960 cover shown reads simply, "Eaten by Snails."

Snail damage has been a special problem in rural East Anglian post boxes. A cover sent from Beccles, Suffolk to Cambridge on October 14, 1968 bears an official post office "Found open or damaged and officially secured" label with the words "open or" scratched out, and "BY SNAILS" inserted in red ink after the word "damaged."

An infestation of snails at Budleigh Salterton in 1983 eventually led the post master to put snail pellets in some letter boxes. Unfortunately, it was too late for the cover illustrated,



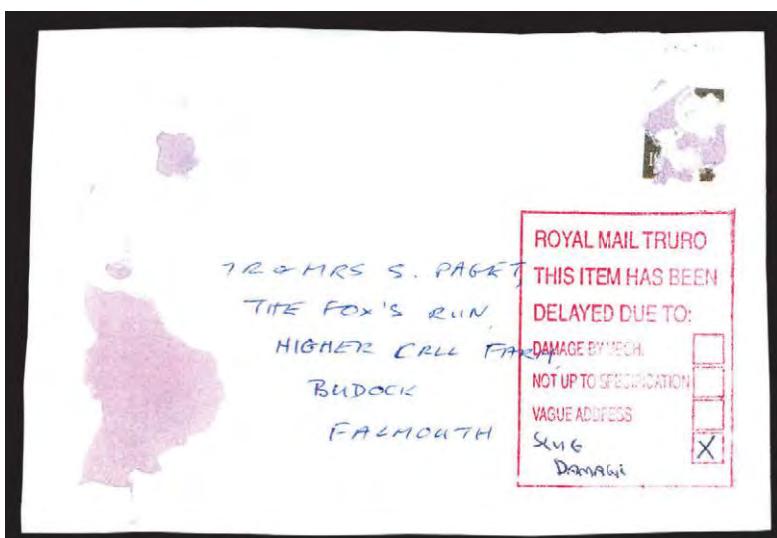
The manuscript note below the initialed Post Office P125H label on this 1960 cover reads simply, "Eaten by Snails." (Image courtesy of Gavin Fryer.)



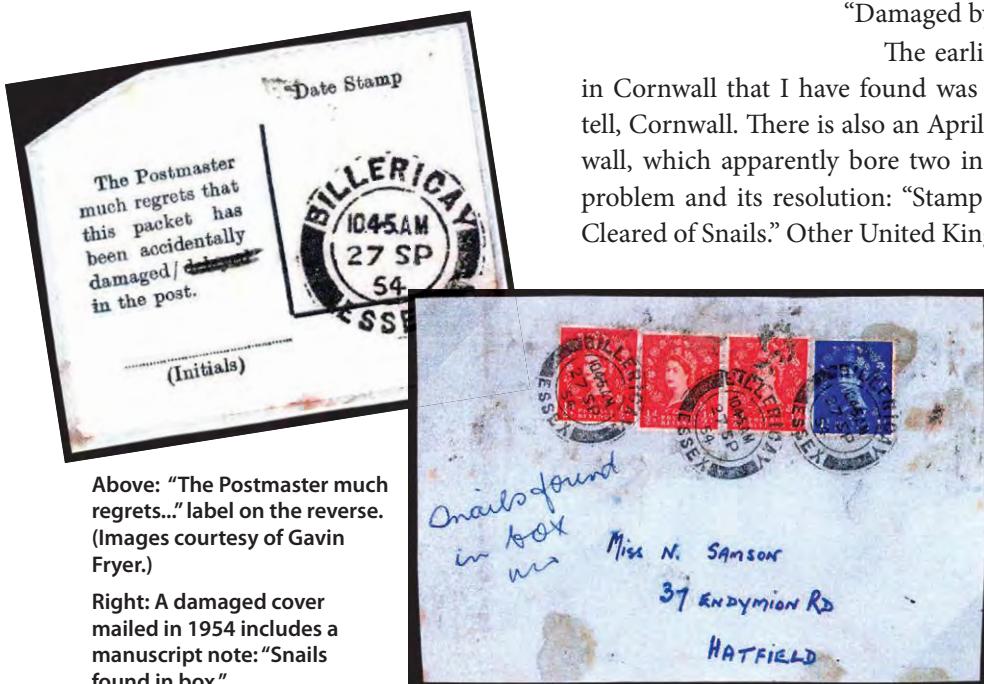
A cover sent from Beccles, Suffolk to Cambridge in 1968 includes the red manuscript notation "by snails" on the official "found open or damaged" label.



An infestation of snails at Budleigh Salterton led to a manuscript note: "Eaten by snails in post box."



A second-class letter mailed between 2000–2003 has a framed cachet with a manuscript "Slug Damage."



Above: "The Postmaster much regrets..." label on the reverse. (Images courtesy of Gavin Fryer.)

Right: A damaged cover mailed in 1954 includes a manuscript note: "Snails found in box."

which has an official label noting that "The Postmaster is very sorry that this packet has been accidentally damaged/delayed in the post." The word "delayed" is scratched out and the manuscript note appended: "Eaten by snails in post box."

A second-class letter sent to Falmouth sometime between 2000–2003 bears a framed cachet applied at Truro Post Office: "This item has been delayed due to..." with the words "Slug Damage" filled in by hand. An earlier letter, mailed September 27, 1954, has an apologetic label on the back: "The Postmaster much regrets that this packet has been accidentally damaged in the post." On the front is the initialed manuscript note: "Snails found in box."

In personal correspondence with Norman Hoggarth about the problems of snails invading rural post mail boxes in the United Kingdom,² he described two covers with distinct labels used by the post office to identify snail damage. One is believed to be from Shropshire in August 1989. It has an orange "damaged" label (measuring 68 x 35 mm) with a manuscript explanation: "Eaten by snails in letter box." The other is from Norwich, Norfolk applied to a cover that had its stamp eaten off. This apparently was a common enough problem to merit a special red handstamp that reads: "Damaged by Snails."

The earliest account of snails eating the mails in Cornwall that I have found was in a 1913 news article from St. Austell, Cornwall. There is also an April 1946 cover known from Looe, Cornwall, which apparently bore two initialed notes that addressed both the problem and its resolution: "Stamp found eaten off by Snails" and "Box Cleared of Snails." Other United Kingdom items have been described from

Calve, Trowbridge in Wiltshire, and Methyr Mawr, Glamorgan in Wales. But the problem is not unique to the British Isles; snails interfering with the mails have been reported in Australia and on the U.S. Naval Base in Guam among other places.³

Cows and Balloons

At the beginning of this article I mentioned German cows.



Special handstamp identified snail damage in Norwich.

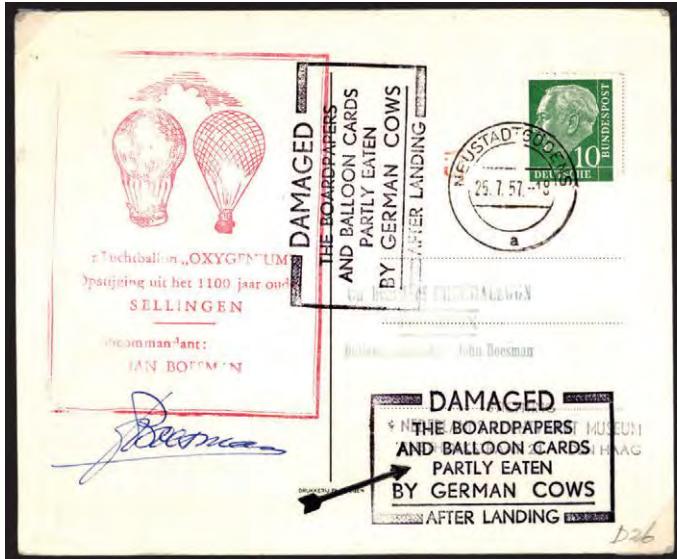
The Post Office

We regret that
this packet has
been accidentally
damaged/delayed
in the post

Initials
P125

EATEN BY
SNAILS
IN LETTER
BOX

Date stamp



A balloon mishap in 1957 resulted in a cachet advising that the mail was "partly eaten by German cows."



Pen-and-ink drawing of the 1957 ballooning event.

Certainly a strange animal to find chewing on your covers, but this actually happened in 1957. A free balloon at an "Oxygenium" event that was carrying mail postmarked July 13 landed in a field at Neustadt, Godens that was already occupied by a herd of cows. Before the balloon and its parcel of mail could be rescued, it attracted some hungry bovines. This led to the application of an interesting black boxed auxiliary marking on the surviving mail that reads: "DAMAGED/The Boardpapers and Balloon Cards Partly Eaten by German Cows After Landing."

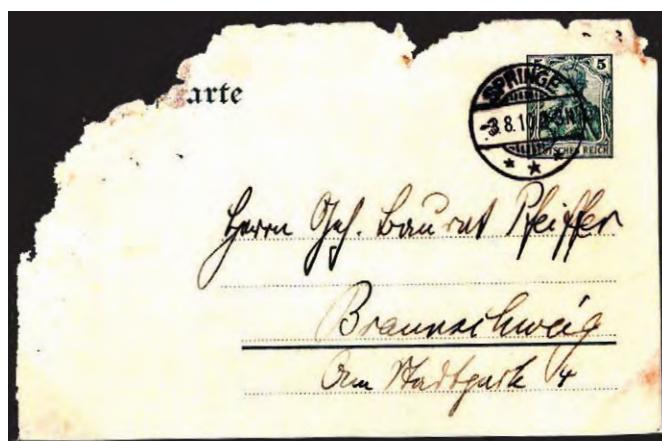
A German balloon called the *Blaunschwig* made a flight on June 5, 1910 during which a small bag of mail containing eleven stamped postcards was (presumably accidentally) thrown from the basket over Springe from a height of 1,400 meters. The bag lay undiscovered in a corn field until August 3, when it was found by a Mrs. Jochim who discovered that mice had been nibbling away at its contents. Since they were properly stamped, the local post office applied a Springe postmark and sent the somewhat damaged cards on their way.

Pest Control

Whether it is more effective to use traps or post office cats (or dogs) for optimum pest control is an ongoing debate. Yesterday's mail was subject to questionable hygiene,

particularly when the mail carried food stuffs through the post in jute sacks. This alone tempted mice and rats to munch on the mail. Traps and poison worked only up to a certain level, although those who marketed them naturally assured customers that their product was the superior choice.

An elaborate advertising cover postmarked October 12, 1901 from Weissport, Pennsylvania urged customers to "Buy



A 1910 ballooning misadventure ended with a bag of mail landing in a cornfield where it was nibbled on by mice. (Image courtesy of Gavin Fryer.)

Dear Cats

The Post Office Letters

Edited by Russell Ash



"Dear Cats": *The Post Office Letters*, edited by Russell Ash (1986).

Post Office Cats in the U.K.

A brief history of 120 years of cats in the British postal service can be found in 'Dear Cats': *The Post Office Letters*, excerpts from which are quoted below (courtesy of the British Post Office Archives):

The first post office cats, 1868:

On September 23, 1868, the Controller of the Money Order Office, London, asked The Secretary of the Post Office for authority to pay 2/- per week for the maintenance of three cats to deal with the "very serious destruction and mutilation of the paid Money Orders stowed in the Registration Lockers...."

The Secretary's reply reads:

Three cats may be allowed on probation. They must undergo a test examination and should, I think, be females. It is important that the cats be not overfed and I cannot allow more than 1/- a week for their support. They must depend on the mice for the remainder of their emoluments and if the mice be not reduced in number in six months a further portion of the allowance must be stopped.

Extension of the scheme, 1869–1873:

In April 1873, the Postmaster at Southampton, upon applying for an allowance of 1/9d per week for a cat, was told:

This seems a good deal to pay for a cat who is to do much in the "rat-killing" way. In London from 6d to 9d a week is believed to be the usual allowance for a cat's board and wages, varying according to the supply of rats or mice.

The Postmaster, in reply reported:

Mr. Wadman, the Guard, whose duty it will be to look after the cat, argues that such a sum as 6d or 9d per week would be quite insufficient. He says no nourishment whatever can be derived from rats which reside in the Post Office Store Room; that picking such rats, fed as they are upon nothing but mail bags, is no better than picking Oakum; besides, he very properly points out, that the wear and tear of shoe leather in going to and fro will cost at least one fourth of the proposed allowance, and that whatever small balance there may be left over after paying these expenses will not be more than sufficient to compensate him for the loss of dignity in carrying the cats' food through the streets in Her Majesty's uniform.

Further appointments to the payroll, 1877–1957:

On December 4, 1919 the District Manager for the Bristol Post Office submitted the following report to the Secretary:

Only a night or two ago a large rat dropped on the shoulders of one of the female cleaners as she was descending the staircase, which gave her a considerable shock. ... On another occasion, whilst one of the female night staff was resting, in feeling for her bag she put her hand on a rat. I shall be glad if ... steps can be taken ... to stop the nuisance.

The Secretary gladly sanctioned the appointment of a cat, granting an allowance of 1/- per week.

On January 25, 1939, the Head Postmaster of Warwick & Leamington Spa wrote that after numerous complaints of

damage to gift parcels of Cadbury's chocolate, a cat was introduced into the Office and the depredations ceased:

It is not known where the cat came from, and no specific authority was given to keep it in the Office. The Staff feed it at their own expense, and ... have now asked that an official allowance of its food should be authorised. They suggest 1/- a week.

In January 1952, a member of the Warwick & Leamington Spa staff asked for a raise in the cat's allowance:

Would it be possible for you to allow us a little more money to feed the office cat? At the moment we get 1/- a week, while the fish and milk he has costs us at least 1/- a day.

The allowance was increased to 3/6d per week.

Celebrity cats:

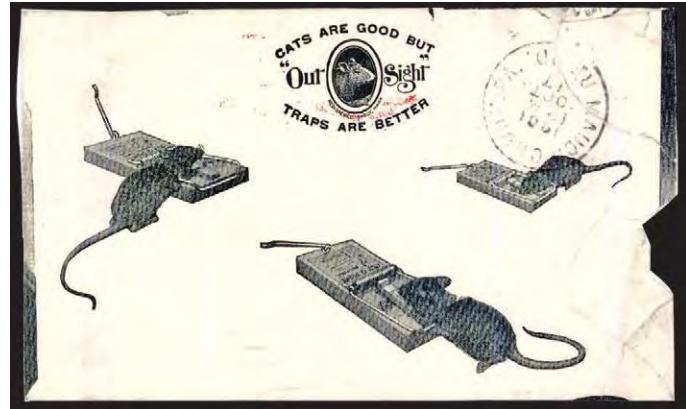
In May 1950, the Registrar reported that Minnie, the Official Post Office Headquarters cat, had died after more than twelve years service. A later report in August 1950 noted that:

The new cat ... has arrived but it has been found on enquiry that for several years a kitten of the original cat has been kept in Headquarters Building and one of the cleaners has been looking after both animals. Since the death of its mother, the "kitten" (it is now of course fully grown) has proved its worth as a rat catcher and its retention is recommended. It is proposed to dispose of the newly acquired animal (which is an experienced mouser) by transferring it to the Aldersgate Street premises....

Fluffy, the kitten mentioned in 1950, in due course gave birth to kittens of her own. One of which, nicknamed Tibs the Great, weighed in at twenty-three pounds. He was greatly loved, and even something of a public celebrity, attending a special "cats and film stars" party and having his photograph included in a book, *Cockney Cats* (1953). His death in November 1964 was written up in the January 1965 issue of *Post Office Magazine* under the heading "Tibs the Great is No More."



Front: "Buy Out O' Sight Traps"; postmarked October 17, 1901.



Back: "Cats Are Good But 'Out O' Sight' Traps Are Better."

Out O'Sight Traps." The front of the cover shows a hapless cat watching as three mice scurry for cover. The reverse of the cover (backstamped October 17) reveals all three mice caught by the company's traps below the logo "Cats Are Good But 'Out O'Sight' Traps Are Better."

In Great Britain, however, post office cats were the pest control method of choice when it came to preventing rodent depredations. According to Russell Ash, editor of "*Dear Cats: The Post Office Letters*,⁴" the British post office has found cats to be the most efficient means for combating this situation. Over the years, post office officials and even members of Parliament have engaged in debates about the usefulness of employing cats on behalf of the postal service and determining a reasonable subsidy for their care and upkeep. A postmaster whose facility was plagued by rodents had to obtain permission to have cats under his roof and was required to maintain records of any expenses required to keep the cats' attention while on the job for the post office.

We can now appreciate how important our friendly feline cats can be to the postal services of any country. (The U.S. Post Office also bought cats to act as body guards for the mail so that mice and rats would be deterred from entering the postal storage and mail area.) Cats can guard our val-

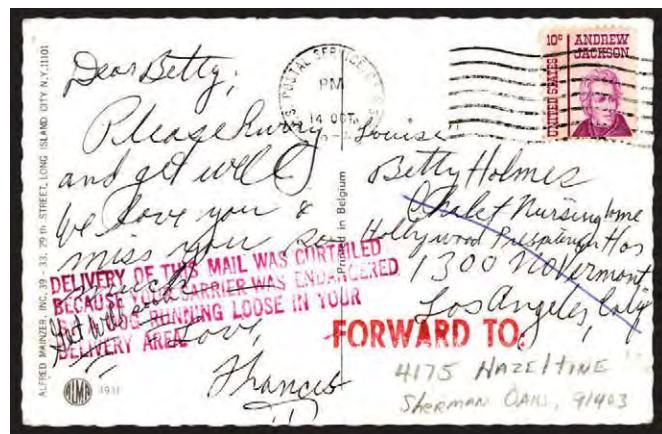
able mail for a modest basic salary of mice and rats, with the end result of keeping both the stamp collector and the postmaster happy!

A picture postcard postmarked October 14, 1974 shows a cat lying in a hospital bed surrounded by feline visitors and even a few playful mice. The only thing missing is a dog physician or the like. This lapse was inadvertently remedied during the card's delivery, as indicated by a four-line auxiliary marking in magenta on the stamped side of the card, which states: "Delivery of This Mail Was Curtained Because Your Carrier Was Endangered by a Dog Running Loose in Your Delivery Area." The card also has a red "Forward To" auxiliary marking; it appears that the patient had moved from the nursing home in Los Angeles to her home in Sherman Oaks, California.

So let's recap. Is your collection safe? Better double-check your defenses. Whether it's mice, cockroaches, snails or some other nefarious villain, there's always something out there that thinks postage stamps and the paper to which they are affixed will make a tasty snack. You have been warned!



A card showing a scene at a cat hospital has an auxiliary marking on the address side indicating that mail delivery was delayed by a dog running loose.



Acknowledgments

Special appreciation is given to Gavin Fryer for his assistance and several of the images shown, to Brian Peace and the Wreck & Crash Mail Society, and to J.F. at the British Post Office Archives.

Endnotes

1. Janet Klug, "Weeding Your Collection of Problems from Mold to Stacked Stamps," *Linn's Stamp News* (June 11, 2012), page 24.
2. Norman Hoggart, personnel communications.
3. A. E. Hopkins, *The History of Wreck Covers* (London: Robson Lowe Ltd., 1948), pp. 147–148.

4. Russell Ash (editor), "Dear Cats": *The Post Office Letters* (London: Pavilion Books Ltd., 1986).

5. Brian Peace and Wreck & Crash Mail Society, personal communication.

The Author

Dr. Steven J. Berlin is a life member of the APS and is a member of several philatelic organizations and is the treasurer of the Wreck and Crash Mail Society. He is currently the Medical Director of Ogenix Corp., which is a start-up wound care company. If any readers have covers related to this topic it would be most appreciated if you would e-mail a copy to drstevenberlin@yahoo.com.

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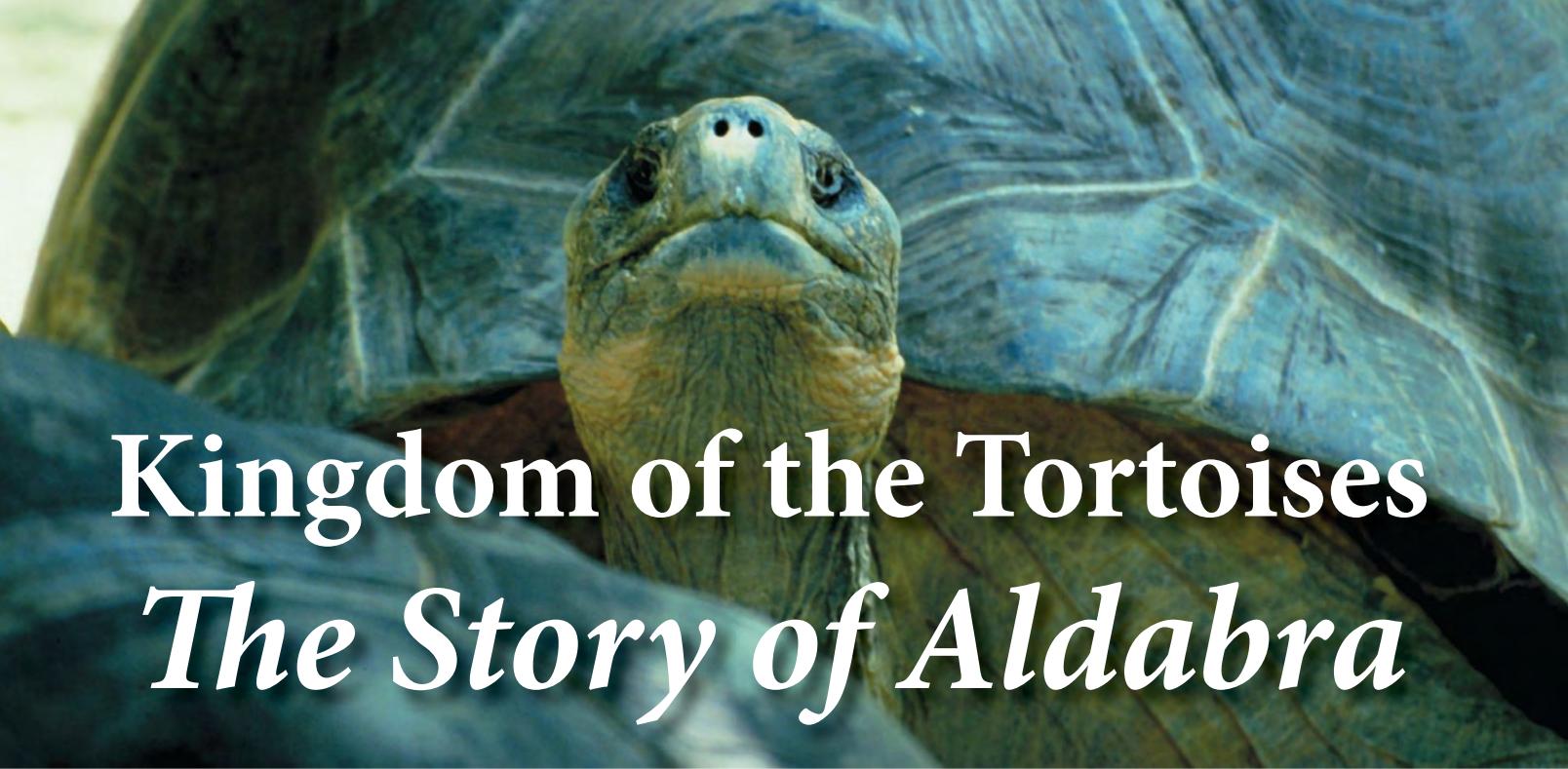
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Kingdom of the Tortoises

The Story of Aldabra

by Steve Pendleton

Hidden away in the vastness of the Indian Ocean lies an island with an almost unbelievable ecology. It's not Madagascar or Mauritius. It is an atoll — some say the largest raised limestone atoll in the world — called Aldabra.

Aldabra is one of the very few places in the world today that is dominated by reptiles. No, they aren't snakes or lizards. They are tortoises. Although Aldabra is large as atolls go, covering 155 square kilometers (60 sq. mi.), much of the land was relatively untouched by plantation operations (the fate of most such isles). Aldabra is also far from land — it is more than 600 kilometers (373 miles) from Africa and 1,066 kilometers (662 miles) from the capital of the Seychelles, the nation that currently owns it. Since the only serious preda-

tors was men hunting the great beasts for food, the tortoises have survived in large numbers.

The island itself is hot, dry, and has fairly poor soil, though the lagoon teems with fish. It is fairly young, perhaps less than 125,000 years of age. That factor has meant that no native land mammals are known. All these have combined to make it a good home for tortoises — but an undesirable one for man.

In fact, no indigenous settlers are known to have lived on Aldabra. The name probably originated with Arab sailors who roamed these seas. However, if they landed there the event is unrecorded. Even early European sightings are conjectural. Aldabra *may* have been seen as early as 1502, but this is far from certain.

A Scandinavian church group planned to settle on Aldabra in the 1870s. They got as far as South Africa. The first permanent settlers were Seychellois plantation workers, who arrived in 1899.

The island was leased to the Savy family of Seychelles; Harry Savy was the name on the lease. A small group of workers (usually numbering about fifty or so) lived on one of the smaller islands at the northwest tip of the atoll. They were ruled by a manager — usually the only literate inhabitant. Every few months they were visited by a copra schooner. Copra — the meat of the coconut — was the atoll's only product.

Outside events seldom intruded on the island's isolation. Seychelles issued a stamp for one of these — the visit of the German cruiser *Konigsberg* in 1915 (Seychelles Scott 259).

From 1938 to 1954 Seychelles issued no less than fourteen stamps showing the "giant tortoises, using basically the

Aldabra





Letter addressed to Harry Savy, lessee for Aldabra (May 12, 1937).

same design, spread over three definitive sets. I have not seen any mail from the island during this early period, but there are covers known addressed to Harry Savy.

The island's isolation continued into the 1960s. However, world events were about to bring Aldabra into the headlines. Rivalry between the USSR and the West seemed to develop everywhere in the world. Even in the Indian Ocean, the USSR wished to expand its influence, primarily by establishing ports where its navy could dock. The United States and Great Britain wished to match this move by establishing a major naval base in the same waters.

There were conditions. The base should be on land already owned by a friendly power, and there had to be space for a large airfield and supply/docking area. This severely limited the possibilities. To meet the first requirement, a number of islands, including Aldabra and the Chagos Archipelago, had been formed into the British Indian Ocean Territory in 1965. By 1967 the choice had pretty much been narrowed to Aldabra and Diego Garcia.

In late 1967 the United Kingdom sent the survey ship HMS *Vidal* to Diego Garcia to survey the lagoon there. While conducting that task, the vessel visited Aldabra, carrying a group of scientists from the Royal Society in London. Covers from this visit may well be the first items of postal history identifiably from the island.

The scientific reports of the pristine nature of Aldabra raised a furor with the scientific community. The military eventually backed down, because it was evident that Diego Garcia would be a more acceptable choice. Or, at least, it was acceptable to the plantation company that owned the island. The workers were simply ferried off.

While this was going on, the U.K. — through its new colony — was reinforcing its claims to the islands in a time-tested way: stamps were issued and post offices opened. Aldabra was the last such BIOT office, the first day being December 1, 1968. Commercial use



BIOT 1971 Aldabra map stamp on island FDC

would have been very small. However, there were bound to be some demands from adventurous-type philatelists.

A postmark device design similar to those in the other "offices" was used. It was a single ring datestamp with the lettering "Aldabra Island B.I.O.T." along the rim. Registration was not available. If that service was desired, the letter was taken to Victoria, Seychelles and registration markings applied there.

The opening of a post office marked a major change in world (or at least stamp collector) knowledge of the island. However, events of the next few years brought far more changes than Aldabra had heretofore seen.

True, the military had shelved its plan to militarize the island. The Royal Society expedition of 1967 had reported back enough scientific information to warrant the establishment of a research station sponsored by that organization. The plantation was wound up, the workers repatriated, and in 1970–71 permanent buildings began to be erected on Ile Picard. (The station was expanded in the 1990s.) When Aldabra became part of Seychelles in 1976 the station was given to the Seychelles Islands Foundation. Eventually, it em-



Hanseatic visits in 2005.



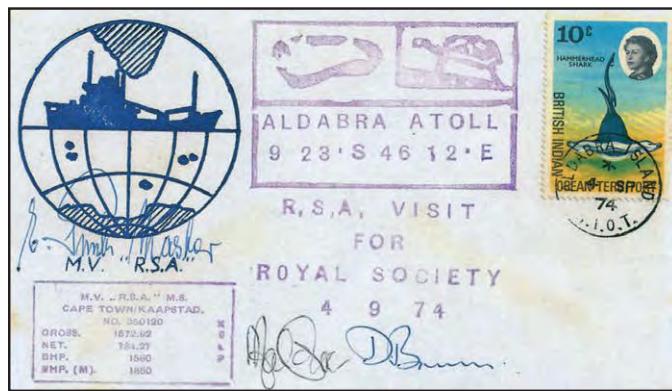
HMS *Vidal* sails from Diego Garcia. Cachet notes Aldabra visit by the Royal Society Expedition (1967).

ployed a staff of eight to twelve, including a warden, rangers, and assorted help. It was expanded in the 1990s and a guest house for visiting scientists was constructed. This is now the only permanent habitation.

In late 1968 the famous adventure tour expert, Lars Eric Lindblad, led a reconnaissance of several persons to the atoll. This voyage was made to determine if Aldabra would be a suitable destination for travelers aboard the *Lindblad Explorer*.

Lindblad used a tiny inter-island vessel to travel to Aldabra. That voyage was about as exciting as a real exploration. They landed on one paradisiacal isle just after a murder. When they reached Aldabra they had to bring a Zodiac life raft into the lagoon — which was shadowed by a 10-foot long shark. Despite the presence of "Jaws," Aldabra proved to be a fascinating spot, and in April 1970 the *Lindblad Explorer* made its inaugural visit, as it traveled to various isles in the Indian Ocean.

The research station used the Aldabra BIOT postmark until at least late 1974 and there may be some later mail from the BIOT Traveling Post Office, M.V. *Nordvaer*. Very occasionally scientists mailed material; some of these letters bear



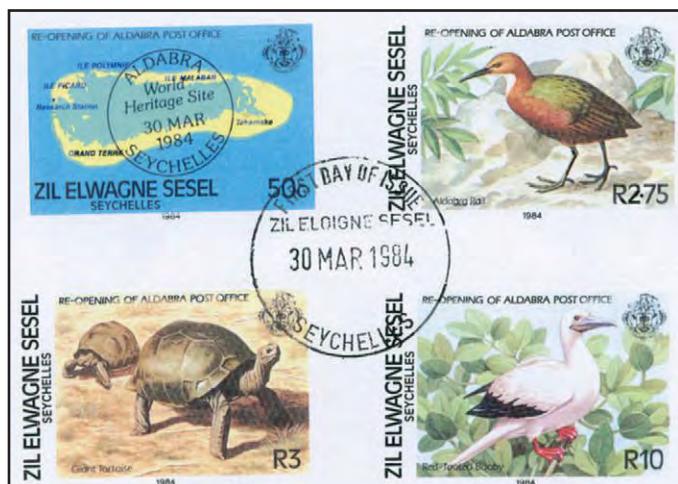
South African research vessel *R.S.A.* has a special cachet from Aldabra (1974).

a "Royal Society Station" cachet. Both the Lindblad reconnaissance and first visit are philatelically noted by special cachets; there are even a few examples of tourist mail — letters and postcards — from the trip.

Aldabra was given to Seychelles in 1976, and the postal service was ended. In 1980, however, Seychelles decided to begin issuing stamps for ZES (the initials of the Creole words *Zil Elwannyen Sesel* for "Seychelles Outer Islands"). In addition to Aldabra, these included its neighboring islands, Farquhar, Desroches, and the Amirante group. None of these had postal service after 1976. The plan was to use the M.V. *Cinq Juin* as a supply ship on a more or less regular schedule. (The *Nordvaer* usually called every three weeks.) The *Cinq Juin* had a TPO cancel; mail from the outer islands supposedly would get this mark. In practice, this is not what happened. The supply ship was often sent on money-making charter voyages, and the outer islands were left with long periods of isolation.

Aldabra received more foreign visits than the other islands. Because scientists and tourists were there more often, the demand for postal service was more obvious. In 1982 ZES issued a three-stamp set showing Aldabra (Scott 40–42, SG 42–44). A few FDC cachets with these stamps were prepared on the French vessel *Admiral Charner*, which visited the island. It is not clear whether these were applied at Aldabra. On March 30, 1984 a four-stamp set (Scott 76–79, SG 79–82) was released to mark the reopening of the Aldabra post office.

The post office was supplied with its own postmark — although it is quite a bit different from the one illustrated on Scott 76. A duplicate cancel was kept at the main Post Office in the Seychelles (the *Cinq Juin* marking ended up there as well). What this means is that the authenticity of any mail from either source is very difficult to prove. Most collector mail probably was canceled in Seychelles and never made it to Aldabra. Conversely, letters or postcards from Aldabra could have received the island cancel, but this would be hard to prove. I do not know when this agency was closed — probably in the late 1980s. I have only



ZES stamp honors reopening of Aldabra (1984). Note: Cancel on the 50-cent design does not exist.



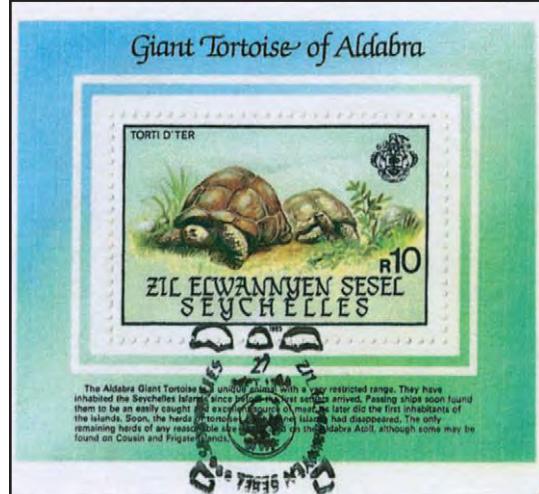
ZES stamp and cancel marking Aldabra's recognition as a World Heritage Site (1982).

seen Aldabra cancels on letters dating from the mid-1980s, and I believe none of the mail had actually been there.

Since the cessation of ZES stamps in 1992 there has been no official postal service to Aldabra. I have seen a tourist cover with a "Seychelles Island Foundation" cachet. I also have an uncanceled but stamped envelope from a worker on Aldabra to the director of the Foundation. This probably was carried "outside the mail" by an Islands Development Corporation plane or vessel, the most common way for such letters to be conveyed.

At present, the status of Aldabra *re* the post is similar to its pre-1968 days. Will it change in the future? That's hard to say, although the Seychelles Post Office has made comments in the past in this regard. Should tourist traffic or scientific investigation increase, it is a possibility that Aldabra could once again appear on a cancellation.

Stamp issues featuring the island, however, still seem to be going strong. In the past, Seychelles, BIOT, and ZES all released a number of stamps featuring Aldabra. Fairly detailed maps can be seen on BIOT 34, 82, 82a and on ZES 41, 76.



ZES souvenir sheet shows giant tortoises of Aldabra

As you might expect, giant tortoises dominate the stamp issues just as they do the island terrain. They appear on stamps in three definitives sets from Seychelles: Scott 126, 127, 132, 133, 138, 142, 143, 147 (George VI, issued 1938–41); Scott 158, 163, 169 (George VI, issued 1952); and Scott 174, 180, 188 (Elizabeth II, issued 1954–56). Tortoises also feature on Seychelles Scott 394 and 752. BIOT shows the big reptiles only on Scott 39; however, ZES makes up for that by showing a number of them: Scott 42, 78, 106–109, s/s 110, and a redrawn set Scott 131–134. In 2008 India issued two unusually designed stamps, Scott 2249–2250.

Aldabra's bird life also has gotten a lot of attention. Unusual species such as blue pigeons, drongos, red-headed fody, and sunbirds are seen on Seychelles Scott 786, 788, 790, 792, 868–869, 875–878, and s/s 879. BIOT shows the drongo on Scott 63 and egrets on Scott 42. ZES has issued a number of bird stamps: Scott 40, 50, 52, 54–57, 59–64, 77, 189, and 190.

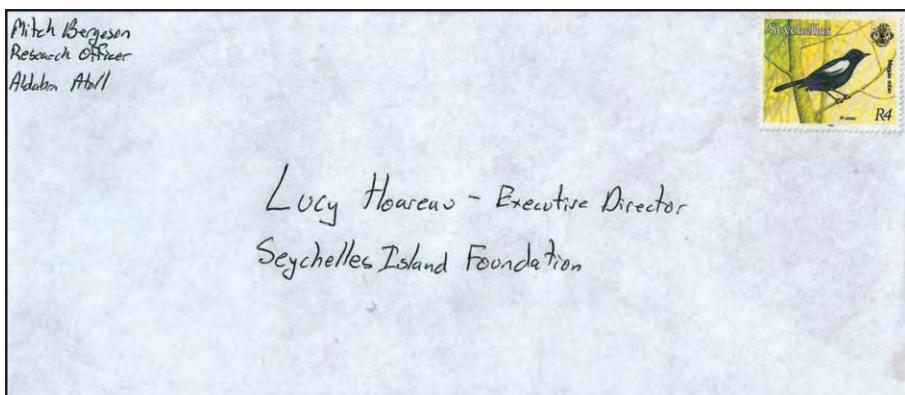
The island also has a large population of crabs, one of which is shown on ZES 190. The plants of Aldabra are shown



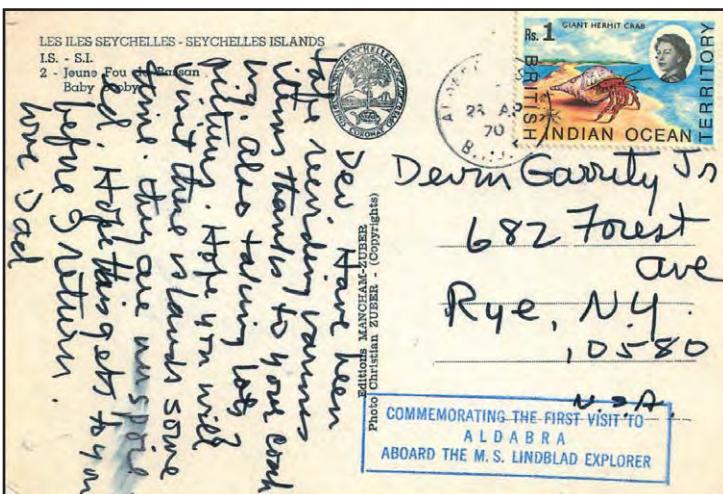
Cinq Juin and Aldabra cancels probably never left Victoria, Seychelles.



BIOT issued a four-value stamp set showing Aldabra plants in 1973.

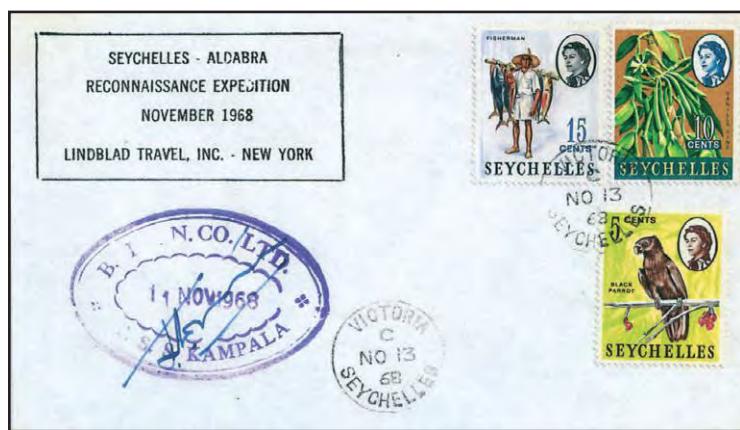


Commercial mail from Aldabra's Seychelles Islands Foundation Station (year unknown).



Commercial mail from the first tourist ship (*Lindblad Explorer*) to visit Aldabra (1970).

Lars Eric Lindblad personally led a reconnaissance expedition to Aldabra in 1968.



on BIOT Scott 40 and 41, as well as a whole set Scott 78–81. ZES has depicted some of these plants on Scott 77 and 79.

As for human history on Aldabra, however, only two stamps immediately come to mind. In 1971 BIOT issued Scott 43 to mark the opening of the Royal Society Research Station on Aldabra with a stamp that featured the Society's coat of arms. The other is Seychelles Scott 259, issued in 1969 as part of a set celebrating the history of Seychelles and featuring the visit to Aldabra made by the *Königsberg*.

Most collectors will never get to this unique reptile reserve in person. It's certainly worth a philatelic visit, however.

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The Author

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



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Philately & the Sunday Funnies

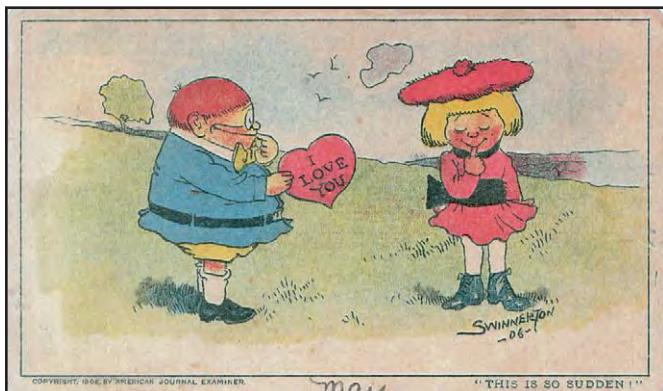
by Charles A. Fricke

From a philatelic point of view, the Sunday funnies go all the way back to the comic strip postcards of the early 1900s — a time when newspaper publishers were going all out to get the best comic strip artists to work for them. Comic strips, as opposed to political cartoons, usually appeared in a newspaper's expanded Sunday edition. One of the ways newspapers publicized their comic strips was by including a special "supplement" in the Sunday edition: a block of four comic strip character postcards for readers to mail to their friends.

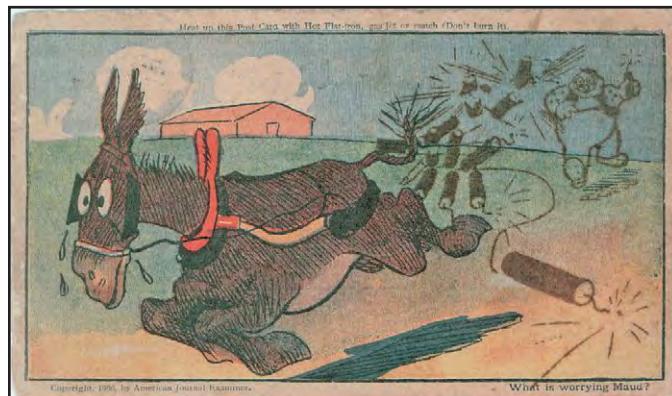
The first example of such a postcard comic shows a young girl in a big red hat being presented with a large heart that says "I Love You." The caption reads: "This is so sudden." The artist was James (Jimmy) Guilford Swinnerton (1875–1974), who had worked for the Hearst newspaper empire since he was a teenager and was one of Hearst's favorite artists. The rotund little boy in the illustration was an early variation of Swinnerton's popular 1904 creation, "Little Jimmy" (part of his name can be seen on his bow tie). Little Jimmy was an early prototype of "Dennis the Menace" — a little boy who is constantly, and innocently, tumbling into trouble.

The card was mailed with a 1-cent stamp (Scott 300) postmarked Albion, New York, July 26, 1908 and addressed to Medina, New York. Along the left edge of the address side is the imprint "Compliments of N.Y. Sunday American & Journal." On the picture side at the bottom left is the legend "Copyright 1906, by American Journal Examiner." The date "-06—" can be seen under Swinnerton's signature as well.

The second postcard shows another familiar cartoon character of the time, Maud the Mule, whose comic strip title was "And Her Name Was Maud." Maud belonged to farmer Si Slocum and his wife Mirandy, and was as contrary as any mule could be. Artist Frederick Burr Opper (1857–1937) was another of the fine comic strip artists who worked for the Hearst publications, including the *New York Journal* at



"I Love You" postcard copyrighted 1906 features an early version of the Little Jimmy cartoon character



Comic postcard from 1906 shows Maud the Mule running with a string of exploding firecrackers tied to her tail.

the same time as Swinnerton.

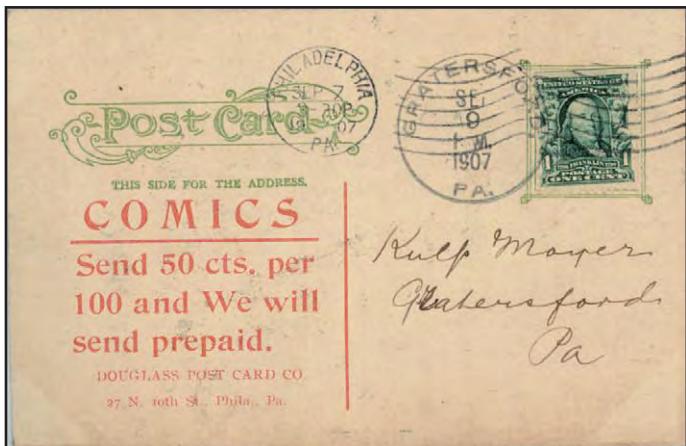
The comic postcard shows Maud running with a string of exploding firecrackers tied to her tail. Captioned "What is worrying Maud?", instructions at the top of the card tell the reader to "Heat up this Post Card with Hot Flat-iron, gas jet or match (Don't burn it)." Definitely the sort of instruction that would worry modern postal carriers. The 1906 copyright notice again is for the American Journal Examiner.

The postcard was mailed with a 1-cent stamp (Scott 300) postmarked Los Angeles, California, September 11, 1906, and is addressed to Spring Mount, Pennsylvania. The Springmount receiving postmark is a Doane Type 3/2 and is an earlier date than the listing in the *Doane Handbook*.

The use of popular comic strip characters also was used to promote the sale of comic postcards in general. The Douglass Post Card Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, offered "Comics" for sale ("Send 50 cts. per 100 and We will send prepaid") on a postcard illustrated by a mediocre version of Richard Felton Outcault's Buster Brown and his dog Tige. The image is accompanied by a treacly verse:

When I Go Out A Walking
I Look So Nice, They Say
I Always Take A Dog Along
To Keep The Girls Away.

Outcault (1863–1928) introduced Buster Brown in 1902 in the *New York Herald*. The cartoon character was the child of wealthy parents who got into trouble in a well-bred way. Always neatly dressed in a suit, and sporting his iconic yellow pageboy, Buster Brown was more genteel version of Outcault's earlier comic creation, the New York City slum-dwelling "Yellow Kid." When the artist switched his allegiance to Hearst in 1906 (joining Swinnerton and Opper at the *New York Journal*), he was allowed to keep the cartoon image but not the Buster Brown name as a title. The *Herald* continued to feature the popular strip under the drawings of different artists of varying ability. Outcault was able to retain the prof-



Comics for Sale as recommended by Buster Brown in 1907.

its from his connection with Buster Brown Shoes (first introduced at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis).

The postcard was mailed with a 1-cent stamp (Scott 300) postmarked Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1907, and is addressed to Gratersford, Pennsylvania, with a Gratersford receiving mark.

Cartoon characters appeared *en masse* on a late 1920s postal card produced for the *Buffalo Courier-Express*. Children belonging to the "Jolly Junior Sunshine Club" could expect to receive a birthday card from the newspaper featuring characters from the most popular comic strips of the day. The text on the example shown reads:

A Jolly Birthday
to a Jolly Junior Sunbeam
from Uncle Bill, Aunt Betsy
and your other friends on
The Buffalo Courier-Express.

Portraits of "Uncle Bill" and "Aunt Betsy" appear in the upper corners of the card. The tiny signature "J. Neff" identifies the artist who recreated the various cartoon characters for the postal card. The birthday card used a 1-cent postal card (Scott UX37) postmarked Buffalo, New York, April 4, 1930, and is addressed to Ferdinand Thomas, also of Buffalo.

The *Buffalo Courier-Express* was created in 1926 when William James Corners ("Uncle Bill"), owner of the *Buffalo Daily Courier*, organized a merger with the *Buffalo Morning Express* (once briefly edited and partly owned by Samuel Clemens!). Between them the two papers had roots in the Buffalo area that, through various mergers, went back to 1828. The *Express* ceased publication in 1982.

The use of popular cartoon characters in the world of philately has continued to this day. In 1995 the U.S. Postal Service issued a pane of twenty stamps featuring "Comic Strip Classics" (Scott 3000a-t). These included many of the cartoon characters shown on the *Buffalo Courier-Express* postal card but none from the earlier postcards, although Outcault's "The Yellow Kid" is featured on the very first stamp



"Jolly Junior Sunshine Club" postal card from the 1920s featured characters from popular comic strips.

in the pane. Modern comic strip characters are featured in the 2010 release, "Sunday Funnies," which featured five long-running comic story lines: Beetle Bailey, Calvin and Hobbes, Archie, Garfield, and Dennis the Menace (Scott 4467–4471).

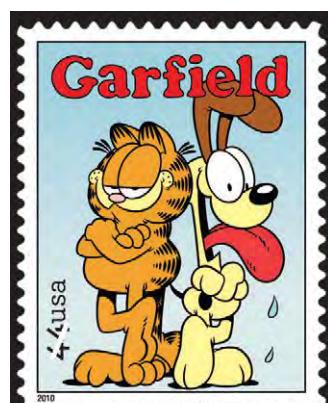
Life goes on. And so do the Sunday Funnies.

The Author

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



Little Orphan Annie featured in Comic Strip Classics (Scott 3000j).
Garfield from the Sunday Funnies (Scott 4470).



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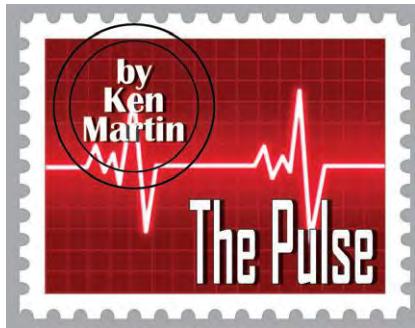
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Our Volunteers Are Great

Thank you to the many volunteers who made our third annual Volunteer Work Week a great success. Nearly forty individuals traveled to Bellefonte at their own expense for all or part of the fourth week of July. They were joined by about ten others who live locally here in central Pennsylvania. Only about half of our volunteers were APS members, but they were ably assisted by family members, friends of APS members and employees, as well as former APS/APRL employees and interns.

Some focused on helping with a single project while others split their time between multiple projects. The largest project was the start of the move of materials from our *Library Annex* onto the newly installed compact shelving. About a dozen volunteers vacuumed and moved 412 shelves totaling 1,579 linear feet of archival material and auction catalogues — about a quarter of the materials that needed to be moved. If instead we had used paid temporary help the cost would have been several thousand dollars. One volunteer claimed that the annex contained five distinct flavors of dust, which the volunteers did their best to leave in the annex and not move to the new Library space! Another volunteer reported walking seven miles while moving materials and discovered muscles he did not previously realize he had!

Two volunteers helped organize the collection of Fakes and Forgeries in our *Reference Collection*, a tool for researchers and an aid to our Expertizing Service. One of these volunteers took a box of materials home with him to continue the work. Others helped organize *Circuit Sales* material that was recovered after being “lost” in the mail so that it could be mounted in sales books and sold to reimburse the Insurance Fund. *Internet Sales* utilized volunteers to scan items members have submitted to post to our online StampStore.



2013 Volunteer Work Week Participants



The largest project was the start of the move of materials from our *Library Annex* onto the newly installed compact shelving. About a dozen volunteers vacuumed and moved 412 shelves totaling 1,579 linear feet of archival material and auction catalogues — about a quarter of the materials that needed to be moved.

Above: Susan Butler and Richard Colberg check out the plans for materials on the new compact shelving.

From left: Joan Stockton cleans off the dust and cobwebs.

Center: Richard Judge puts his muscles to good use moving materials from the Library Annex.

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Dennis Gilson hard at work on the APS Reference Collection.

Volunteers also spent time applying “discount postage” that has been donated to us. We now have 2,500 envelopes available for use, most of which have seven commemoratives adding up to the 46-cent first class rate. Other than the moving of Library materials, *Education* probably used the most volunteers. More than three million stamps were divided among forty-two priority mail boxes, each weighing ten pounds, for distribution to clubs and shows. Others sorted and trimmed stamps to use with the lesson plans we distribute to teachers participating in our Stamps Teach program. Another volunteer created a display for preschoolers.

With APS STAMPSHOW in Milwaukee only two weeks away we had help printing cacheted envelopes; folding first day ceremony programs, food function programs, and Stamp Buddy brochures; and preparing name badges for attendees.

Our Library had plenty of tasks for those who could not move materials because of the dust or physical limitations.



Dick Romig working in the Sales Division.

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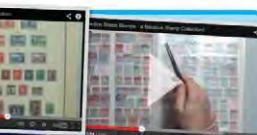
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One volunteer spent the week working on cataloguing the Polonus Library recently given to the APRL. Another scanned/digitized the United States Stamp Society Luminescent Study Group archives and reported that by the end of the week he could scan 250 to 300 pages per hour. Another task was creating a finding aid for last year's donation of United States stamp design materials from Richard Sheaff. Great strides also were made in both applying bar codes and cataloguing our vertical files and government documents. In addition, various donations of first day ceremony programs were identified and sorted by Scott Catalogue number.

One volunteer claimed that he has been told many times in the past that he had no skills, but that this has not deterred the APS staff from putting him to work. And several volunteers worked well past the normal APS/APRL closing times in an attempt to complete tasks.

Each night we kept open one department/program until 8 p.m. for interested volunteers who had the stamina to remain that long. As one participant wrote: "This is always a satisfying week working with and meeting new people. A great way to give back to the hobby." Another highlight this year was dinner and a Trivia Contest at the historic Gamble Mill restaurant on Wednesday evening, hosted by Librarian Tara Murray.

On the Feedback Forms we asked volunteers to complete several volunteers indicated that they look forward to coming back next year. We look forward to having them here July 21–25, 2014, too! One other participant mentioned "Mental Capital and Wellbeing," a 2008 report issued by Foresight, a British think tank that cites "giving to neighbors and communities" as one of the five critical elements of well-being and mental illness prevention.

Thank you Volunteer Work Week participants: John Baillis, Ruth Barndt, Charlie Belair, Paula Belair, Joe Bell, Mary Ann Bell, Laurie Bieniosek, Tom Bieniosek, Peter Butler, Susan Butler, Brian Christian, Debbie Cleton, Dick Colberg, Julie Coons, David Eeles, Gloria Eichenseher, John Eichenseher, Elizabeth Eisenhower, Jeremy Gamble, Robin Gates-Elliott, Dennis Gilson, Reinhard Graetzer, (Library Trustee) Don Heller, Richard Judge, Jim Koncz, Bernard Lodge, Abbey Masorti, Bill Melver, Richard Nakles, Dick Osman, Wendy Pacheco, Lynn Pagnano, Merle Peters, Jo Roesner, Dick Romig, Bill Salisbury, Georgeann Salisbury,



Peter Butler sorts through a donation.

Pamela Salisbury, Donna Shawley, Nancy Shawley, Rusty Smith, Richard Sprankle, Ben Stauss, Janet Stauss, Cliff Stockman, Joan Stockman, and Jeff Thompson.

While we currently only have Volunteer Work Week once a year, we welcome volunteers at the American Philatelic Center any time of the year. However, advance notice is required so we can be prepared with appropriate tasks. We're also interested in hearing from potential volunteers who cannot travel to Bellefonte but who would be interested in helping out from their homes. Our thanks go to Sharon Burkstahler, Tony Croce, Mike Fisher, Jerry Gill, Ron Houser, Richard Judge, Joan Kulikowski, Dick Osman, and Colleen Spencer who routinely do volunteer

work from their homes.

Remember that there are many APS chapters and affiliates who would be happy for volunteer help also. Strong chapters and affiliates make for a stronger APS!

In early July we were delighted to receive the 326 boxes containing the postal history research archive of philatelic scholar Tom Alexander. The gift was facilitated by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Inc., of which Mr. Alexander was president in 1981–1984. The USPCS provided a grant to cover shipping the 326 bankers' boxes to Bellefonte and the hiring of a library intern to process the collection and create a finding aid.

Finally, the APS/APRL now has a subscription to GoToMeeting. The subscription was begun to help enable offering a Summer Seminar course with instructors spread around the country. However, this also gives us the ability to better assist members who are having difficulty with our website or searching the StampStore. With a member's cooperation we can use GoToMeeting to enable us to see exactly what you are doing on your computer and thus more easily resolve your problems.

Summer activities sometimes reduce the level of philatelic activity, and September is often viewed as the start of the philatelic year with increased show and auction activity. I hope that you are able to take advantage of as many of these as possible. At the same time, now would be a good time to think about how you might personally promote the hobby and the APS during National Stamp Collecting Month in October.

Mark Your Calendar — Volunteer Work Week — July 21–25, 2014

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Kramer, Groten & Nakles 2013 Luff Honorees

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

George J. Kramer, Dr. Arthur H. Groten, and Richard S. Nakles have been chosen to receive the 2013 John N. Luff Awards. The recipients were honored at the 2013 STAMPSHOW Awards Banquet on Saturday, August 10, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

George Jay Kramer (Clifton, New Jersey) has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Luff Award for *Exceptional Contributions to Philately*.

George is exceptional in that he is both effective in what he does but is also laid back in doing it. He became a Trustee for the Philatelic Foundation in 1988. From 2003–2011, he served as Chairman of the Philatelic Foundation and is still on its board as Chairman Emeritus. He served as a U.S. Commissioner for four overseas exhibitions as well as WASHINGTON 2006. He has been an APS accredited judge for twenty-seven years and has served on many other committees including the APS Finance Committee, but does not seek the limelight for any of these accomplishments.

He has also been a generous donor to the American Philatelic Society, National Postal Museum, and the Philatelic Foundation. His \$100,000 gift to name the George & Carole Kramer Gallery at the American Philatelic Center is one of the largest gifts to the APS by a living member.

George believes in sharing his

knowledge through publishing and through the creation of educational and entertaining exhibits. He authored *United States Telegraph Stamps and Franks* (1992) and co-authored *The Pony Express: A Postal History* (2005). He also has been published in *Opinions VI*, the USPCS *Chronicle*, and *The American Philatelist*.

He has competed in the APS Champion of Champions competition nine different years with six different exhibits, and is the only individual to have won it three times (and in three different decades). He received the Grand Prix National at PACIFIC 97 and was nominated for the Grand Prix International at two other FIP exhibitions.

George signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2005 and was recognized with the Distinguished Philatelist Award of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society in 1999 and the Mortimer L. Neinken Medal of the Philatelic Foundation in 2007. In addition, he won the One-Frame Grand in 1995, the Grand Prix in Australia in 2005, the Marcus White Grand for

his "Wells Fargo" exhibit, and a host of other honors.

Dr. Arthur H. Groten (Poughkeepsie, New York) has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Luff Award for *Distinguished Philatelic Research*.

Art exemplifies the best kind of researcher in any field. He is indefatigable and thorough in his search for knowledge. Further, he is uncommonly generous in sharing his findings, welcoming new information, and collaborating with other researchers. Art is intrigued by an unanswered question or by a type of artifact. He then collects avidly and broadly until he feels he has a center of mass. He searches everywhere for information that could bear on the project, then he narrows the scope until there is a conclusion in sight. He refines his research towards broadcasting the finding: in a major exhibit, an article or series of articles, a handbook or monograph.

Art has been especially attracted to the "borders" of philately and postal history — areas that move collecting into pioneer territory. He was intrigued by poster stamps, and so helped start a new collectors' group, organizing it as an APS affiliate. He became active in the Ephemera Society, is its immediate past-president, and steered it to become an APS affiliate.

However, he also has done a tremendous amount of original research within the more traditional boundaries of the hobby, especially in the area of Palestine and Israel. He published the first monograph on the postmarks of Mandate Tel Aviv and the first study

of the internal and external rates of Mandate Palestine. Using primary source material, his study of routes to, from, and through Palestine resulted in the first non-classical Palestine exhibit to win a Grand award in national competition. He brought to light new information about the workings of taxi mail in the Holy Land, expanded the information on the trans-desert mail route from Baghdad to Haifa, and authored the first monograph about the Levant Fairs held during the Palestine Mandate.

Other original research by Art includes the plating of the 1859 issue of Canada; the first study of St. Helena postage rates, and first analysis of censorship of Napoleon's mail on St. Helena; and the first in-depth study of the U.S. permit imprint system.

Art has had research pamphlets and books published by the Society of Israel Philatelists, the British North American Philatelic Society, and Postilion Publications. He also served as general editor for four Postilion Publications written by others.

His articles have been published in at least a dozen publications. He has had three articles published in *The American Philatelist* and the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. He is a columnist or regular writer for *American Stamp Dealer and Collector* (since its beginning), *Journal of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club* (from founding in 2006), *The Philatelic Exhibitor* (columnist for ten years), *Postal Label Collectors Club Bulletin* (from founding in 2008), and *Topical Time* (for fifteen years). Some of his earliest writing was for a five-year series on the plating of the 5-cent Beaver and 10-cent Consort in the British North America Philatelic Society *Topics* from 1975–1980. He also has been published in the *Air Post Journal*, receiving the Gatchell Award for best article; the *Collectors Club*

Philatelist; the *Ephemera Journal and Ephemera News*.

For his multi-frame exhibits Art has received three Large Vermeils at the international level and three Grand awards and four Reserve Grand awards at the national level. His single-frame exhibits have reached the Reserve Grand and Platinum level.

He has served as president of three APS affiliates: the Ephemera Society of America, the Poster Stamp Collectors Club, and the Postal Label Study Group. He is a life member of the APS and the Society of Israel Philatelists and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Art believes passionately in the salutary effects of involvement in our hobby; philately is fortunate that he chose it.

Richard S. Nakles (State College, Pennsylvania) has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Luff Award for *Outstanding Service to the APS*.

Richard has been a volunteer for the APS since April 2005, assisting the Education Department, the Library, and donation processing. It is not unusual for him to provide sixty or more hours of volunteer time per week.

He did the bulk of work of labeling and rearranging the Library book collection from an author-based organization to a modified Library of Congress geographic-based organization. Beginning in 2007 he has processed approximately 500 in-kind donations of philatelic material per year. He logs donations in then sorts through them — directing appropriate material to Education/Youth, the Reference Collection, the Library, and organizing the balance for sale. The stamp and cover sales area he created has generated \$350,000 for the Society during this time.

He studies the donated material

meticulously, leading to at least two discovery copies of items. He also has developed a cadre of volunteers whom he manages.

He has invested personal funds in purchasing equipment and furnishings for the donations sales area and personally pays for ads in *The American Philatelist* encouraging members to donate material to the Society and extending an invitation to visit and shop at the APC.

As a nearly "full time" in-house volunteer, he often fills the roll of "ambassador" for the APS when staff are not available to assist visiting members. He will help visitors find just what they are looking for within the little shop that sells in-kind donations. He will cheerfully point visitors in the direction of a good restaurant, a nearby shop, a meeting room, or the sales division.

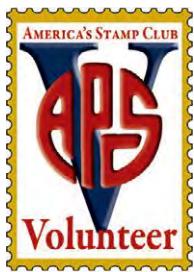
Richard provides the highest quality of member service and an immense amount of behind-the-scenes hard work that benefits every member of the APS.

A list of previous honorees is available on the APS website at www.stamps.org/Awards.

Nominations for deserving candidates may be made to the Luff Awards Committee, which submits its recommendations to the Society's Board of Directors during the APS Spring Meeting. Awards are conferred each summer at STAMPSHOW, the Society's annual convention and exhibition.

All nominations must be submitted to the Luff Award Committee in writing using an official nomination form. Nominations are active for five years. Nomination forms are available online at www.stamps.org/Awards in downloadable pdf format. You also may obtain a form by writing to: Luff Award Committee, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

2013 Carter Volunteer Awards



In a salute to the backbone of organized philately, the Volunteer, the American Philatelic Society takes great pleasure in recognizing the hard-working individuals who have contributed their time, talents, and energies to benefit both the hobby of stamp collecting and the APS. According to Dictionary.com, "a volunteer is a person who willingly offers himself or herself for a service of undertaking and without pay." Our volunteers are the main ingredient in the recipe for a healthy future for the hobby.

The Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Awards were named to honor APS President Nick Carter (1936–2008) whose dedication to the hobby and enthusiasm for all its facets were legendary. The APS is proud to announce the Sixth Annual Volunteer Recognition Award recipients:



Outstanding Young Philatelist (Age 15–24)

David McKinney

David McKinney was the YPLF 2011–2012 Charles Shreve Fellow. Subsequently he served as an intern at the National Postal Museum and has written for their blog — see <http://postalmuseumblog.si.edu/2012/04/the-heat-of-battle-german-soldiers-mail-in-world-war-ii.html>. He also has assisted his mother with the Tabb High School History and Stamp Club.

Outstanding Young Philatelist (Age 25–49)

Michael Mules

Michael has collected stamps since age 11. He collects U.S. Plate Number Coils and Wisconsin Postal History, as well as items related to early stamp vending equipment. He has been a member of APS since 1995; and is also a member of the Wisconsin Postal History Society and the Mobile Post Office Society. He has served as treasurer and is currently a Member-at-Large for the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC3). He is also the moderator for the PNC3 message board on Delphi Forums. Michael has been instrumental on the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs StampShow committee as they plan on ways to showcase to visit-

ing philatelists the depth of our hobby interests and the collectors that have called Wisconsin their home.

Local Promotion/Service (maximum of 10 awardees)

Jacquelyn S. Alton

Jackie has served Chicagoland philately so well that she won the Newbury Award for service in 1984. In the following years she has only worked harder. She was president of the Chicago Philatelic Society for four years in the mid 1980s, and continues to serve on the committees for both COMPEX and CHICAGOPLEX. She worked tirelessly for AMERIPEX 86 and was on the Board of Directors for World Columbian Stamp Exposition. She has recently become secretary for the Collectors Club of Chicago. She served as a judge for several years and frequently assisted Bud Hennig as his chauffeur and assistant.

Alan R. Barasch

Alan specializes in nineteenth-century Falkland Island stamps, which he has collected and exhibited since 1969. A software engineer by profession, he is putting together a database for the Missouri Postal History Society and serves as the webmaster for the Indiana Postal History Society. He is incredibly active in the St. Louis area and plays a major role in local clubs and with the St. Louis Stamp Expo. According to an article in

the *St. Louis Despatch* he also is known for bringing food to stamp club events.

Ellengail Beuthel

Nearly since the founding of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in 1993, Ellengail has been the chief librarian, volunteering several days each week organizing and cataloguing nearly all of the vast holdings of what is probably the second largest philatelic library in the United States.

Lucy Eyster

Lucy has been a member of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster for more than twenty years and during this time she has served as president and about all other executive functions available. In 2007 PSLC's meeting place increased the monthly rent significantly. Lucy did the searching and found an even better venue at no cost to us at her retirement facility. Since 2008 she has been at the door for each meeting with the room ready to go including name badges, sign-in sheet, raffle tickets, club newsletters and give-away philatelic literature. She is the first person that visitors meet when they come in, and she's the last to leave after clean-up.

As membership chair Lucy compiles and updates a membership interest inventory to facilitate trading and solicits and collects dues. For LANCOPEX she sends press releases and works with snacks-drinks, registration, lobby man-

agement, cachet sales and door prizes. She also serves as the club's Christmas Party coordinator. Lucy serves as the club's ATA representative and during the last few years she has also staffed an ATA table at LANCOPEX and BALPEX. She scored a major coup in convincing the ATA to hold its annual show in Lancaster in 2012 and served as local coordinator for the event. She also coordinated the ATA bus trip to the American Philatelic Center following the show.

Calvin R. (Dick) Osman

Dick Osman has been an APS volunteer for the last five years. He visits the APS Headquarters several times a year (including Volunteer Week each July) and works extensively on the Reference Collection of Fakes and Forgeries. Through his efforts we now have more than fifty volumes of indexed philatelic counterfeits, altered stamps, and bogus items. Recorded and housed in country order, this collection is an invaluable resource to APS members. Dick also has

organized a listing of individuals willing to speak to stamp clubs in Pennsylvania and Maryland and sets a fine example himself, traveling to local stamp clubs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to give programs.

Robert G. Rufe

Perhaps best known as "Mr. Special Handling," Bob Rufe is very active with local clubs and events. He currently serves as president of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and is a major force behind their annual DELPEX show which features 25+ dealers, a bid board, a USPS substation, and exhibits. Bob also volunteers to speak to other chapters and is a director of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition.

Kathy Schaeffer

Kathy is excited about stamp collecting. She has worked in her community in Mercer County, Pennsylvania helping Girl Scouts earn their Stamp Collecting Badge. She has enlisted the

APS Education Department's help with presentations to the Girl Scouts every other year since 2006. Last year she expanded her efforts to Cub Scouts. Two of her Girl Scouts wanted to earn their leadership badge and she encouraged them to host a stamp collecting workshop in the community room of the local library. This took place in the summer of 2012 with more than ten boys and girls. When the Girl Scout stamp was issued in June 2012, she took two full tour buses of girls and leaders to the "Rock the Mall" event. She also encouraged her two children to apply as Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship Fellows and has brought them to the American Philatelic Center on summer breaks along with family friends. This coming summer they hope to come to the APC to volunteer.

Jack Seaman

For more than twenty years Jack Seaman has edited the Sarasota Philatelic Society's monthly newsletter. He also has

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served for many years as treasurer of the Sarasota Philatelic Society and has been a mainstay with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, handling the exhibit entries for more than ten years.

David Stanbury

A West Suburban Stamp Club member since 1997, David procures auction material and raffle prizes, and organizes the auction material for maximum revenue generation. David also procures guest speakers and makes presentations to the club himself.

May Day Taylor

For many years May Day Taylor has been the force behind the Mr. Beasley Stamp Club, a Washington, DC area chapter. An active volunteer for the annual NAPEX show, May Day also creates and distributes philatelic souvenirs to customers and clients of her business, helping to expose non-collectors to the joys of philately.

National Promotion/Service

(maximum of 5 awardees)

Mark Anderson

Mark Anderson has been a volunteer for the APS Translation Committee since 1974. In the last three years alone he has translated more than thirty items from German and French into English. Some of the handwritten materials from the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are very difficult to read, yet Mark has been able to decipher them to the delight of APS members. Mark is an unsung hero of the Translation Committee and a role model for all linguists.

Elizabeth M. Hisey

Liz Hisey has been involved in philately for the past ten years. She is probably best known for her active involvement in the Women Exhibitors, of which she is a co-founder and for which she currency series as treasurer, and for the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, which she currently serves as secretary. She is an APS accredited Judge and a member of the Committee for the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges.

Irving R. Miller

Irv Miller has attended the APS Summer Seminar for eighteen consecutive years. For many of these years he has served as a volunteer instructor and for more than ten years has been the Summer Seminar auctioneer. He also has served an unofficial social coordinator and is responsible for a number of anticipated features such as the Talent Night. Irv also served as the first dealer representative to the APS Board from 2000 to 2003.

Paul A. Nelson

Paul is currently vice chairman of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, Arizona where he volunteers much of his time helping the staff and promoting the organization's many programs. He frequently staffs the Foundation's booth at the APS summer and winter stamp shows. With his keen interest in philatelic literature he helps the Foundation's library in acquiring new material for its collections and represents the library at meetings of philatelic librarians. He also helps with and promotes the Foundation's exhibits and its Youth

Education program.

Paul is a past president of the Scandinavian Collectors Club and currently serves on its board of directors and chairs the Scandinavian Revenues Study Group. He has written articles for *The American Revenuer*, *Postal Stationery*, and *The Posthorn*, and edited *The Revenue Stamps of Norway and Related Non-Fiscal Issues* by Bjorn Kristian Wang. He also has edited books on Danish and Finnish revenues. He previously published the first two volumes in the series *Catalog of Scandinavian Revenue Stamps* and is currently U.S. representative for the Samlarforeningen Baltespannarna, a worldwide cinderella and back-of-the-book specialty society based in Sweden.

For twenty-five years he headed the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California and edited and published its journal *Luren*. Paul also served as commissioner for several stamp exhibitions held in Scandinavian countries. He planted the seeds that eventually grew into the NORDIA 2001 exhibition held in Tucson.

William R. Schultz

Bill has served as president of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society, the Brookhaven (PA) Stamp Club, and the Phoenixville (PA) Stamp Club. He has served as a consultant to the Board of the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition and NEW YORK 2016. Additionally, he helped establish the Philadelphia chapter of the United States Philatelic Classics Society.

Bill has offered several courses on stamp collecting at a local college and

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has worked closely with historical societies to include postal history in their public exhibits. A philatelic exhibitor for more than fifty years, Bill is an accredited judge and served on the APS Committee for Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges from 2007 until 2011.

Nominations Sought

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- Five or more years of service (three years for the Outstanding Young Philatelist).
- APS and APRL board members and staff are not eligible.

Congratulations to all!

- Luff Award winners are not eligible.
- National Promotion/Service Award winners may not subsequently win the Local Promotion/Service Award.
- Each award may be won only once.
- APS membership is not required.

When nominating a volunteer, please include years of service to philately, position(s) or office(s) held with local clubs or specialty organizations, mentoring services, and work with stamp shows. To make your nominee stand out, please cite evidence of excellence, initiative, and creativity.

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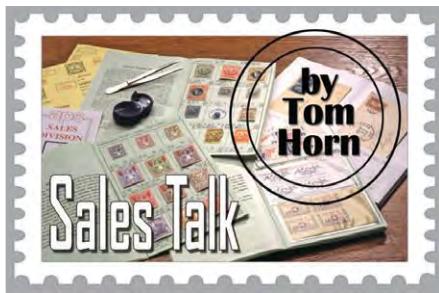
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Buyer Stories from the Past

The July rendition of this column contained Seller Stories and we were happy to receive a lot of good comments. SO, we present some of our recollections of *buyers* from the past and present. We'll start with the member who, at his peak, was listed on circuit lists in seventy-two separate categories! A conservative estimate on the number of circuits he would have received in one year is about 270. He was an executive vice-president of a large company in Michigan. You are wondering how he could handle and process that many circuits in a year? His secretary did the paperwork and mailing for him. We know this because there were only a few occasions when we had to call him about a problem. His secretary would ask what the problem was and then she would answer our questions. At one point, she noted that we could call and talk to her, because she would know the situation better than he would. His purchases probably averaged in the \$30-\$50 range per circuit. My recollection is that he passed away not long after he retired and while we were still using the card system noted in last month's column. About eighty index cards were removed from active duty when we dropped him from the circuits.

Another member was receiving the French area circuits. One time there was a problem with the delivery of a circuit to him. After doing some research into his activity on the circuits, we noticed that he had not purchased anything from the circuits he had received. So when we called him about the delivery problem, we also asked him if he wanted to continue receiving circuits, since he had not purchased anything during the past couple of years. He said that he would probably not be purchasing anything in the future, but wanted to receive the circuits anyway. What was his reason for continuing with them? Where he lived, there was no chance that he would see the material he saw in the circuits. So, he was happy to pay the forwarding postage just to be able to see the stamps.

Another member visited our office in the early 1990s and asked to browse through the French Colonies. He was looking for the low-value stamp of a set, one that had eluded him for the previous fifteen years or so. He had seen it offered, but only as part of the set and he did not want to pay \$50 when he only needed the 50-cent stamp to complete his set. He did not find it in our French Colonies area, so he retired to the Library to do some research. After he left

our office, we thought we would check our France & Colonies category of sales books. On checking the first book in the tray, we found the stamp, by itself, on page 1. When we took it over to the Library he almost had tears in his eyes. He quickly produced the 50 cents (plus 3 cents Pennsylvania sales tax) and the stamp was his.

A member in the Nevada desert who was receiving circuits informed us that one of his circuits had not arrived. We filed a claim with the USPS (circuits were sent by Insured Mail in those days) and they produced a delivery signature. When we questioned the member about this, he explained that his procedure for taking delivery of the circuits was as follows: He would get a notice in his roadside mailbox, which happened to be thirty miles from his ranch (meaning that his driveway was thirty miles long), telling him that he had a package that needed to have his signature in order to be delivered. He would sign the delivery notice and place it back in the mailbox. The carrier would then place the circuit into the box and the member would pick it up the next time he checked the box. However, because of the distance involved, he only visited his mailbox once a week, and this particular circuit never

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made it to him. But, because he signed the delivery notice sight unseen, he had to pay for its loss.

Back in the early 1980s, when we were still sending circuits to Canada, a member in Nova Scotia was receiving direct circuits of British North America with emphasis on the square-circle cancels of Canada. His purchases would amount to several hundred dollars from each circuit. This went on for a while, and then he sent us a letter with one of the returns saying that he wanted to use the Sales Division as his major source of stamps for his stamp business. He apparently thought we could order and obtain his requested stamps any time. We regretfully had to inform him that we only had his wanted items by chance since we relied then, as we do now, on what seller-members sent to us. He continued to receive direct circuits until about 1988 when Canada established its now infamous goods and service tax (GST).

Speaking of Canada, we have had several Canadian members visit us since the GST was put in place. One of them would make an annual 4–5 day visit to the Sales Division and browse through almost every category we offered, although he was particularly interested in the British areas. Another member was in the import-export business, and we discussed how to get through the red tape of the GST to resume the Canada circuits. Unfortunately, we were never able to come to a resolution that would be acceptable to Canada Revenue. A third member would drive south every year or so and purchase a lot of cancellations in a couple of categories. There was a period of about four years when we did not see him and wondered if he may have discontinued collecting. He came in earlier this year and updated us on how his twins' activities have taken up his spare time. Two of us on the Sales Division staff have twins, so we understood.

We have seen some odd situations that resulted in favorable results for either buyers or sellers. Some of our abbreviations for categories get us in trouble, because they are similar to other categories that are unrelated. Depending how it

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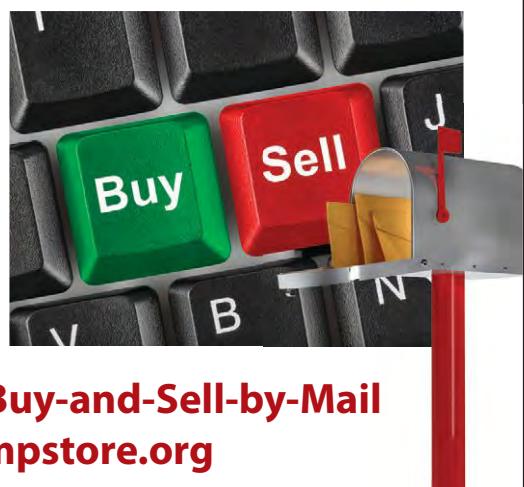
is written on a sales book, the code could be misread. Or, a sales book is marked by the seller as one category on the cover, but it actually contains another category of stamps. Such similarities include, Ireland (IRE) and Iceland (ICE), U.S. Blocks (BLX) and The Balkans (BLK), Lebanon (LEB) and Liberia (LIB), Poland (PO) and U.S. Possessions (POS), among others, all easily sorted or pulled for use in the wrong circuits. An Eastern Europe sales book was placed on an Egypt, because the second 'E' had a curl on the bottom that appeared to be "EG". Of the \$72 worth of material in the book, Egypt circuit members bought only \$13.80. We checked the buyers who bought from it and found that their requested catego-

ries had no relation to the Eastern European countries mounted in the book. Our motto for these cases is, "Send them what they want, not what they asked for."

Then, there are the comments from buyers referring to circuit delays or changes to circuit status. In 1998 a member wrote, "I'm sorry this is so late. I've been very ill. On 9-8-98 I died. Thanks to a good doctor I was brought back and am now stable." Another said, "My name is on 2 circuits. Please stop both of them. Cost is too much for what I buy. I will be 104 on March 2, '87. I should slow down." A member in Georgia noted, "Not having a phone is an inconvenience at times, but it's definitely worth the peace and quiet. I live so far back in

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What other hobby offers something to so many different types of people with so many different interests? The sales books are great for finding that “something” for everyone.

the country that folks here believe collecting stamps refers to food stamps. Retired in the country is Great!! And, this compliment from a member in 1987 (before our computer program for circuits): “Less than two weeks ago I submitted a change of address. Today I received one of my circuits with my new address! I work for the government and therefore I can recognize remarkable efficiency when I see it. I had expected to miss a few months of the circuits while our APS bureaucracy processed my change of address through many levels of paperwork. Please thank the persons who did such an outstanding job. To me it is no small thing.” Then he added below his signature: “Thank you APS, last year I couldn’t spell Phalatelatelist and now I are one.”

As with the sellers, the buyers in our system come from all walks of life. One is the brother of a famous author of children’s books. Airline pilots and an astronaut have received the circuits, as have teachers, professors, ironworkers, military personnel, former intelligence operatives from World War II, medical

professionals, stamp dealers and exhibitors, lawyers, clergy, USPS employees, road and building construction workers, a Nobel Prize winner and his son, bankers, restaurant workers, wine experts, chefs, an ambassador, writers, activists and many other vocations too numerous to mention.

What other hobby offers something to so many different types of people with so many different interests? The sales books are great for finding that “something” for everyone.

Chapter Circuit Schedules & Requests

Later this month, we will be sending the schedule letters and forms to APS Chapters who receive our sales circuits for their meetings. We must have the completed schedules returned by December 2, 2013 in order to schedule the January mailings. In addition, the Chapter want list must be entered on the back of the form, as we need to have an update on what the Chapter members want to receive in the coming year. Simply writing “same as last year” does not help us serve your needs.

We send circuits to APS Chapters who request them. The frequency of the mailings can be one per month, quarterly, semi-annually, on demand, or any schedule your chapter chooses. However, we cannot send more than one circuit per month. Contact us for more information or visit our website at <http://stamps.org/How-to-Buy>, to view the box on the right for “Local Club Circuits.”

USPS Tracking Notes

Note 1: One item we did not cover in our previous descriptions of this mailing method is the need to have a package weighing *more than 13 ounces* stamped with the green security stamping device that postal clerks use to indicate that the package was mailed through a clerk. Check with your local post office about this.

Note 2. Because these packages can be delivered without obtaining a signature, please let us know when you will be unavailable to receive circuits for seven days or more.

‘5 for 10’ Categories (Needs)

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

- U.S. Coils
- U.S. Officials
- U.S. Possessions
- Baltic States
- British Atlantic Islands
- British Empire Victorian Era
- German Colonies
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- Israel
- Ryukyu Islands
- Spain
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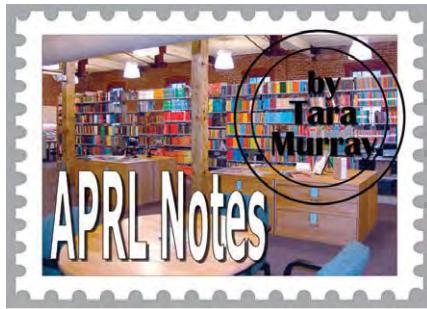
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What's New in the Philatelic Union Catalog

I last wrote about the Philatelic Union Catalog at the beginning of 2012 ("A Philatelic Library at Your Fingertips," February 2012 AP, page 168). Since then additional philatelic libraries have contributed their holdings to the catalog, the APRL collection has continued to grow, and we've added more digital content. Here are a few of the highlights:

In early 2012, the Philatelic Union Catalog (<http://catalog.stamplibary.org>) contained the holdings of six libraries:

- American Philatelic Research Library
- Collectors Club (New York)
- Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Greene Foundation
- Slusser Memorial Library at the Postal History Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library
- Western Philatelic Library

In the past year, we have added records from four more libraries:

- Collectors Club of Chicago

- Northwest Philatelic Library
- Royal Philatelic Society London
- Scandinavian Collectors Club

The Scandinavian Collectors Club library holdings are not yet complete. We are adding one country collection at a time. So far, we have added Denmark, Danish West Indies, and Greenland. We are working with Paul Albright at the SCC library to include non-English characters (such as Ø) in these records. The method we are using also creates a "shadow" field replacing these special characters with standard English characters (e.g., O for Ø), so that you don't need to know how to type these characters to search our catalog. For example, if you wanted to find 30-Øres Provisorierne in the catalog, you could search for either "30-Øres Provisorierne" or "30-Ores Provisorierne."

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum Library and the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History also have joined the Philatelic Union Catalog and we are working with them to import their records.

The Collection Continues To Grow

Nearly every day, we add new items to the APRL collection. As soon as we add an item, whether it is a book, journal, or CD-ROM, it appears in the online catalog and you can request loans, photocopies, or scans.

Lists of new items are published quarterly by subject in the *Philatelic Literature Review*, available by subscription, and monthly on our blog, which is available to anyone at <http://blog.stamplibary.org>.

Digital Content

Increasingly, additions to our collection are digital or have digital versions available. In my last column, I wrote about the APRL's efforts to digitize content and to make existing digital content available. Some digital materials are on CD- or DVD-ROM and may be borrowed like books. Others available online — anytime, anywhere. Whenever possible, we make digital content available via our website, as is the case with our growing collection of online exhibits at <http://stamps.org/Online-Exhibits>.

To browse content available online, go to the catalog search page (<http://catalog.stamplibary.org>) and click on "Find records with digital content" on the right side. As this collection grows, we'll add the ability to search online content.

Microfilm Scanner

The APS recently received a \$50,000 grant from the David T. Beals III Trust, Bank of America trustee, for digitization projects. The first purchase using this grant was a microfilm scanner.

Our existing microfilm viewer/printers did not produce legible prints, limiting



Microfilm scanner.

access to those researchers who are able to visit the library in Bellefonte — and even then the quality of images on the screen was poor. The new scanner allows for scanning with OCR to make searchable text, image editing, and printing. It can read a variety of formats, including 16mm and 35mm microfilm, microfiche, and even microprint. We also can automate digitizing rolls of microfilm, such as archived APS membership records.

Our microfilm holdings, including difficult-to-find government documents, *Linn's*, and *Western Stamp Collector*, will once again be available for use by library visitors as well as by staff filling member requests. The year ranges of newspapers we hold on microfilm (roughly from the 1930s to the early 1980s) are among the most fragile and brittle in our print collection, and still are used quite frequently. Microfilm and microfiche holdings in the APRL are identified with [microform] at the end of the title. To search for these holdings, include "microform" in the title field when you search.

Other digital projects will include purchasing a second book scanner (which will allow more volunteers at the APC to take on scanning projects),

acquiring server space for storage and backup of digital library materials, have items from our collection professionally scanned, and cover costs to ship materials to and from volunteers for indexing and/or scanning.

USPS Tracking

Previously, when you borrowed books by mail from the APRL, you received a green Delivery Confirmation label. Now, you will receive a black-and-white USPS Tracking label to use.

Unless otherwise requested, please return books to us by Media Mail with USPS Tracking (\$.90 at a post office or \$.20 online). You may use the label we provide, or your post office may prefer to use its own label. Either way, please save the customer receipt attached to the bottom of the label, as you may need this to track the shipment.

We will continue to send books to you at the Library Rate with Signature Confirmation, unless you request and pay additional postage for Priority or First Class shipping.

Whenever you have research questions, contact the library staff for assistance. You usually will work with me or our reference assistant, Scott Tiffney.

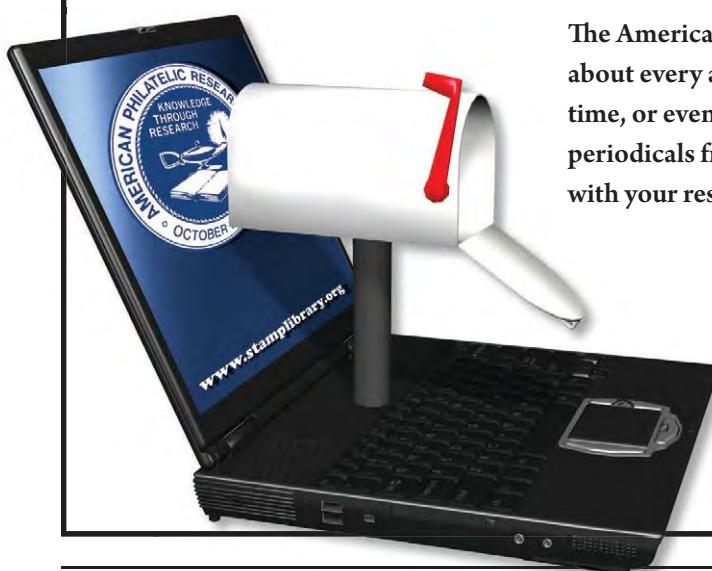


Sample microfilm scan.

You can each us by phone at 814-933-3803 (press 3 for the Library), by e-mail at aprl@stamps.org, or by mail at APRL, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

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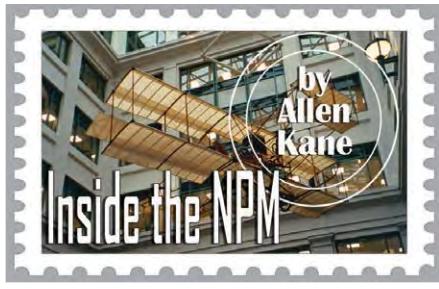


The American Philatelic Research Library has resources on just about every aspect of stamp collecting — a subject, a place, a time, or even a person. With more than 20,000 books and 5,000 periodicals from around the world, the APRL staff can assist you with your research needs.

www.stamplibrary.org

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Learn how to use the Library to increase your enjoyment of the hobby. Search our online catalogue for books, journals, article references, & name sales. For a more personal touch, call our friendly staff 814-933-3803, selection 3



William H. Gross Stamp Gallery

The day is finally (almost) upon us: September 22, 2013 is the opening date for the museum's latest and greatest addition, the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery. I know you have been waiting patiently (well, as patiently as can be expected) for this day, and the museum staff and I are excited to share it with you.

Opening day visitors will be able to experience this new series of philatelic exhibits in all its glory, of course, but that is just the beginning. In conjunction with the opening of the new spaces, the museum will be offering a number of "must attend" activities during the day. Regardless of what interests you, I'm betting there will be something this day to entice everyone to visit. Do you enjoy printing techniques? Or look for opportunities to celebrate the work of our men



Block of four of the original Inverted Jenny stamps that will be on permanent display in the museum, courtesy of William H. Gross.

and women in the armed forces? Are you a first day cover collector or an air mail specialist? Do your kids or grandkids enjoy stamp collecting and designing activities? Or do you simply want to be part of the biggest philatelic event of your lifetime? Whatever your interest, the National Postal Museum is the place for you to be on September 22.

Join Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe as he releases a new \$2 stamp that features the most famous U.S. stamp error, the 1918 "Inverted Jenny." Fans of this stamp will enjoy not only the stamp ceremony of the latest version of this well-known stamp image but also the opportunity to get a look at a block of four of the original stamps that will be on permanent display in the museum, courtesy of William H. Gross.

General Raymond T. Odierno will be the keynote speaker at a ceremony recognizing the life of **David Mcnerney**, a Medal of Honor winner and philatelist. Mcnerney's medal will be displayed in the new William H. Gross Gallery



The spider press got a brief workout in the museum's atrium. Individuals present (l-r): Sandra Lane President, Sennett Security Products; Tim Finn, General Manager, Banknote Corporation of America; Bob Lane (and Steve Thacker, pressman, in background).

along with a selection of his stamps from Korea and Vietnam.

If stamp printing is your thing, a working spider press will be showcasing the fine art of printing all day long. The press will then be placed on permanent



Medal of Honor awarded to First Sergeant David H. Mcnerney for his bravery and accomplishments during the Vietnam War.

display. Museum volunteers will be operating the press on a regular schedule.

FDC and cancellation fans will want to be on hand on Sunday, when two different one-day-only cancellations will be available. One cancel will honor the opening of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, the other the first day of issue handstamp. And of course the museum's pictorial cancel will be available, as it is every day at the museum.

The day's activities also will include stamp collecting and stamp design activities. We will have a poll on our Facebook page to pick the winner of the stamp design contest. The first place prize will be made into real postage stamps via Zazzle stamps.

Finally, special papers and designs will be part of seven 45-minute workshops: "Correspondence Corner," inspiring visitors to create their own creative correspondence to share through the mail. The workshops will be hosted in the Byrne Education Loft and attendance will be limited, so check the NPM website for registration information.

For the latest updates on all of Sunday's events, check out a special webpage (www.npm.si.edu/StampGallery/sunday.html), which is devoted to this special and exciting day.

So remember to mark your calendars for September 22. We look forward to seeing all of you here!



2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.

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www.postalmuseum.si.edu/

Museum Hours

The Museum is open seven days a week

from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

except December 25.

Admission is free.

Free public wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) is available throughout the National Postal Museum galleries.

Online Classes Are in Session This Fall!

Brush Up on the Basics with *Basic Stamp Collecting*, beginning October 22, 2013

Basic Stamp Collecting is the perfect introduction to the hobby. Instructors Ada Prill and Don Chenevert presents four sessions covering the how-to's of collecting: Where to get stamps, how to value them, how to store them, and more. Students will receive a beginner's kit with all the tools and materials to get started in the hobby.

For those who already have a working knowledge of the hobby, this course offers an excellent opportunity to brush up on skills and pick up some new ideas, learn a few tips to help you avoid some costly mistakes.

Students will be able to meet with Ada and Don live on the Internet each week to discuss topics related to the assignments. The meeting will be held each Tuesday evening at 9 p.m. EST.

Even though I have collected stamps for many years, off and on, I wish I had taken this course earlier. I learned so much, such as where to look for information. — Ladora Gregory

The cost is \$55 for APS members, \$75 for nonmembers, which includes the *Basic Stamp Collecting* workbook.

Unlock the Door to Exhibiting with *Keys to Exhibiting*, beginning October 28, 2013

The ever-popular *Keys to Exhibiting* online course will return this fall. APS Instructor and Judge Janet Klug offers this six-lesson course over a period of ten weeks. The lessons cover everything you've always wanted to know about exhibiting — from the nuts and bolts of building a successful exhibit to where to show to understanding the intriguing new classes of exhibits. Students will receive individual guidance in putting an exhibit together. Since this is a project-based course, students should expect to spend several hours per week completing their assignments, resulting in a completed exhibit. Beginning exhibitors are welcome.

The online Keys to Exhibiting course was a turning point in my philatelic development. I knew I had some interesting philatelic material but needed a boost to get it out of the file box and onto exhibit pages. The online course did all that and more. Each of us received individualized attention and guidance, and by the end of the course I felt as though I had been participating in a master class. This was great value for the money, and I came away both motivated and well prepared to complete my exhibit. — Stephen Rose, graduate and APS member.

The cost is \$75 for APS members, \$105 for non members, which includes the *Keys to Exhibiting* workbook.

Course registration is available online at www.stamps.org/Seminars-and-Courses or by calling 814-933-3803

Class Size Is Limited • Register Today!



Show Time

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

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

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

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

New Jersey **August 30-31**
MERPEX Merchantville Stamp Club, St. Cecilia School, 4851 Camden Avenue, Pennsauken. Contact: Macario Sarreal, 856-424-2389 E-mail: macsar530@aol.com Website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>

Canada **August 30-September 1**
BNAPEX 2013 British North America Philatelic Society, Rodd Royalty Hotel, 4 Capital Drive, Charlottetown.

Contact: Earle Covert, 403-752-4548
E-mail: ecovert@telusplanet.net
Website: www.bnaps.org

Maryland **August 30-September 1**
BALPEX Baltimore Phil. Soc., Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt Valley. *WSP*
Contact: Robert E. Gibson Sr., 410-465-5712
E-mail: balpex@verizon.net
Website: www.balpex.org

Alabama **September 7**
MONTAPEX 2013 Stamp & Coin Show Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Camelia Baptist Church, 201 Woodvale Rd., Prattville. *B*
Contact: Dwayne Selix, 334-365-2992
E-mail: stamper98@mindspring.com

New Hampshire **September 7**
Carroll County Stamp Show White Mountain Stamp Club, The Moulton Borough Lions Club, 139 Old Route 109 off Governor Wentworth Highway, Moultonborough. *B*
Contact: Barbara Savary, 603-447-5461
E-mail: bmsavary@gmail.com

Arkansas **September 7-8**
36th Annual Stamp, Postcard & Sport Card Show Mountain Home Area Stamp Club, Ramada Inn, Hwy. 62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home. *B*
Contact: Craig Grothaus, 870-424-2957
E-mail: grot@centurytel.net

Florida **September 7-8**
Ocala Stamp & Coin Show Florida Stamp Dealers Association & Ocala Stamp Club, Circle Square Culture Center, 8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.org, www.floridastampshows.com, www.ocalagfmstampclub.com

Nebraska **September 7-8**
Omaha Stamp Show Omaha Philatelic Society, Metro Community College-South Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Omaha. *WSP*

Contact: Herb Eveland, 402-397-9937
E-mail: tuvaeenterprises@hotmail.com
Website: www.omahaphilatelicsociety.com

Virginia **September 7-8**
Fairfax StampFest Elk's Club, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Rt. 50 (3/4 mile west of I-495), Fairfax. *B*
Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
E-mail: jackott@comcast.net
Website: www.jackottstamps.com

Michigan **September 8**
Pontiac Stamp Club Fall Kickoff Stamp Show Pontiac Stamp Club, Waterford Recreation Bldg. (new location), 5640 Willimas Lake Dr., Waterford. *B*
Contact: Mike Miley, 248-396-3979
E-mail: info@mileystamps.com

Michigan **September 14**
Allen Park Stamp Show Allen Park Stamp Club, Allen Park VFW Hall, 16736 Ecorse Road, Allen Park.
Contact: Debbie Detloff, 313-231-2001
E-mail: damd524@aol.com

British Columbia **September 20-21**
VANPEX 2013 British Columbia Philatelic Society, West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby.
Contact: Trevor N. Larden
E-mail: verdraco@uniserve.com
Website: www.bcpphilatelic.org

Texas **September 20-22**
Greater Houston Stamp Show Houston Philatelic Society, Humble Civic Ctr., 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy., Humble.
Contact: John Germann
E-mail: jghist@comcast.net

USA at SESCAL

Los Angeles, CA • October 4-6

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Florida **September 28-29**
Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Holiday Inn Express, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.com

New Jersey **September 28-29**
Clifton 2013 Fall Stamp, Coin, Cover, and Postcard Show Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Clifton Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Ave., Clifton. *B*
Contact: Thomas Stidl, 973-471-7872
E-mail: stidl@verizon.net
Website: www.cliftonstampociety.org

Tennessee **September 28-29**
MEMPHEX 2013 Stamp Show & Postcard Show Memphis Stamp Collector's Society, Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis.
Contact: Dick Scott, 901-684-1929/ cell 901-484-3863
E-mail: dickscott007@yahoo.com
Website: www.memphisstamps.blogspot.com

Washington **September 28-29**
2013 Apple Harvest Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Hilton Garden Inn, 9015 West Highway 2, Spokane. *B*
Contact: J. Wilson Palmer, 509-443-8147
E-mail: ickyburg@comcast.net
Website: http://http://ieps-stamps.org/

California **October 2-3**
The Visible Postal System: A Postal History Course On the Road Course, Prior to SESCAL, Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, Los Angeles. *APS*
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: http://stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

California **October 4-6**
SESCAL Federated Phil. Clubs of Southern California, Hilton Los Angeles Airport, 5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles. *WSP*
Contact: Carl Shaff, II, 213-383-7111
E-mail: c2shaff@aol.com
Website: www.sescal.org

Missouri **October 5**
Joplin Stamp Club Show Joplin Stamp Club, Memorial Hall, 407 S. Garrison Ave., Carthage. *B*
Contact: Marlin Willoughby, 417-358-3593
E-mail: willoughbym@msn.com

New York **October 5**
Stamp Coin & Ephemera Sale Leatherstocking Stamp Club & Tri County, Holiday Inn, 5206 State Highway 23, Oneonta. *B*
Contact: Ellen Tillapaugh, 607-547-5646
E-mail: kuchtill@gmail.com

New York **October 5**
OLEPEX 2013 Olean Stamp Club, B.P.O. Elks Club No. 491, 209 West State Street, Olean. *B*

Contact: Ronald J. Yeager, 814-362-4471
E-mail: cry@atlanticbb.net

Illinois **October 5-6**
CUPEX 2013 Champaign-Urbana Stamp Club, Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street, Urbana.
Contact: Louise B. Toft, 217-359-9115
E-mail: ndx4031r@att.net
Website: http://custampclub.org/

Oklahoma **October 5-6**
Lawton/Fort Sill Annual Stamp Show Lawton/Fort Sill Stamp Club, Center for Creative Living, 3501 SW Dr. Elsie Hamm Dr., Lawton. *B*
Contact: Bernard S. Pawloski, Jr., 940-692-0266
E-mail: obiks46@yahoo.com

Oregon **October 5-6**
STAMPFEST amd Coin Show 7 Feathers Convention Center and Casino Resort, 146 Chief Miwaleta Lane, Canyonville. *B*
Contact: Doug Holloway, 541-673-4949
E-mail: dough@riousa.com

Pennsylvania **October 6**
Fall 2013 CAPEX Capital City Philatelic Society, Susquehanna Township High School, 7500 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. *B*
Contact: Linn Kinney, 717-732-7813

New York **October 10-13**
The National Postage Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Ave., New York. *B*

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Knights of Columbus Hall, 2500 Chester,
Richland. *B*

Contact: Lawrence Clay, 509-735-3731

E-mail: lclay3731@charter.net

Minnesota

October 18-19

METROPEX 2013 Maplewood Stamp Club,
Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center
Drive, St. Paul. *B*

Contact: Tom Eckers, 763-533-1860

E-mail: tome56@earthlink.net

New York

October 18-19

STEPEX 2013 Elmira Stamp Club, American
Legion Post, 45 S. Olcott Rd. (I-86, Exit 49),
Big Flats.

Contact: Alan Parsons, 607-732-0181

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Delaware October 19

62nd Annual Dover Stamp and Postcard Show Dover Stamp Club, Camden-Wyoming Fire Hall, 200 E. Camden-Wyoming Avenue, Camden.

Contact: Melvin Nace, 302-674-0837
E-mail: doverstampclub@aol.com

Florida October 19

Jacksonville Stamp Collector's Fall Show Jacksonville Stamp Club, North East Florida Safety Council Building B, 1725 Art Museum Drive, Jacksonville. *B*
Contact: Charles Winney, 904-389-2725
E-mail: cfw@jamesandharris.com

Wisconsin October 19

CENWISPEX 13 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point.

Contact: J. D. Manville, 715-341-5555
E-mail: jadeco@charter.net

Michigan October 19-20

MOTOPEX-13 Motor City Stamp & Cover Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights.

Contact: Robert Quintero, 248-546-0038
E-mail: qover@comcast.net

Website: www.motorcitystampandcover.com

Virginia October 19-20

Fairfax StampFest Elk's Club, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Rt. 50 (3/4 mile west of I-495), Fairfax. *B*

Contact: Jack Ott, 888-297-3536
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Website: www.jackottstamps.com

Connecticut October 20

THAMESPEX 2013 Thames Stamp Club, Clark Lane Middle School, 105 Clark Lane, Waterford.

Contact: Bill McMurray, 860-535-3668
E-mail: mcmurray@nc3.att.net

Internet October 22-November 19

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Oklahoma October 25-26

OKPEX Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Express Events Center, 8512 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City. *WSP*

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Pennsylvania

October 26

Fall Stamp Expo Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society, Eugene C. Clark, Jr. Community Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg. *B*

Arkansas

October 26-27

PINPEX 2013 Pinnacle Stamp Club of Arkansas, Jacksonville Community Center, #5 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville. *B*
Contact: Ann Austen, 501-868-4553
E-mail: anniephant@aol.com

California

October 26-27

East Bay Collectors Club 68th Annual Show East Bay Collectors Club, Civic Center, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek.
Contact: Randy Tuuri, 510-653-3471
E-mail: tuurifam@comcat.net

Florida

October 26-27

FSDA Fall Sarasota Stamp Show Florida Stampdealers Assoc. & Venice & Sarasota Stamp Clubs, Sahib Shriners Ball Room, 600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota. *B*
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net

Ohio

October 26-27

CUY-LORPEX 2013 Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, Rocky River Civic Center: Memorial Hall, 21016 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River.
Contact: Stan Fairchild, 440-333-2536
E-mail: cuylorstampclub@hotmail.com
Website: www.virtualstampclub.com/
apschap_cuylor.html
Contact: Quinn Witherspoon, 717-264-1252
E-mail: rspran@pa.net

Wisconsin

October 26-27

TOSAPEX 2013 Wauwatosa Philatelic Society, Inc., Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd Street, West Allis. *B*
Contact: Carol Schutta, 262-388-1453
E-mail: harryncarolschutta@gmail.com

Connecticut

October 27

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

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Washington

November 1-3

SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition, Tukwila Convention Center, 12424 42nd Ave. S., Tukwila.
Contact: Eric Bustad
E-mail: seapex@comcast.net
Website: <http://http://seapexshow.org/>

Pennsylvania

November 2

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

California

November 2-3

SACAPEX Stamp Show Sacramento Philatelic Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H. Street,

Sacramento.

Contact: Joanne Berkowitz, 916-455-3659

E-mail: joannebe@pacbell.net

Website: www.sacramentophilatelicsociety.org

Indiana

November 2-3

AWPEX 2013 Anthony Wayne Stamp Society, Concordia Lutheran High School, 1601 Saint Joe River Road, Fort Wayne. *B*
Contact: Jim Mowrer, 260-422-1716

E-mail: stamp4@frontier.com

Michigan

November 2-3

AAPEX Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Washtenaw Comm. College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.
Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859
E-mail: harwin@umich.edu
Website: www.annarborstampclub.org

New Mexico

November 2-3

NEWMEXPEX 2013 Stamp Show Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho.
Contact: Paul L. Morton, 505-867-9664
E-mail: p.morton@att.net
Website: <http://madjac.com/stamps.htm>

Pennsylvania

November 2-3

PITTPEX 13 Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville.
Contact: Ron Carr, 412-561-6562
E-mail: rgc211215@aol.com
Website: www.presidentdrive.com

California

November 8-10

Filatelic Fiesta 2013 San Jose Stamp Club, Gateway Hall, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose. *WSP*

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Contact: Stephen Schumann, 510-785-4794
E-mail: sdsch@earthlink.net
Website: <http://filatelicfiesta.org>

Iowa **November 9**
Tri-State Stamp Expo Tri-State Stamp Club, Hills & Dales Community Center, 3505 Stoneman Road, Dubuque. ***B***
Contact: Sally Maier, 563-451-3196
E-mail: maips.mai@gmail.com

Pennsylvania **November 9**
Johnstown Stamp Show Johnstown Stamp Club, Johnstown Senior Activities Center (Main Hall), 550 Main Street, Johnstown. Contact: Charles D. Holtzman, Jr., 814-532-0199
E-mail: chazhjr@msn.com

New York **November 9-10**
SYRAPEX 2013 Syracuse Stamp Club, Best Western Plus Hotel, 6555 Old Colamer Road South, East Syracuse.
Contact: Richard Nuhn, 315-689-9925
E-mail: president@syracusestampclub.org
Website: www.syracusestampclub.org

Texas **November 9-10**
26th Annual Mid-Cities Stamp Expo 2013 Mid-Cities Stamp Club, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine.
Contact: Stanley Christmas, 817-656-2925
E-mail: elvira6@swbell.net
Website: www.mid-citiesstampclub.com

New York **November 16**
Autumn Stamp Festival Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. ***B***
Contact: George H. Gates, 716-633-8358
E-mail: gghg53@aol.com

Ontario **November 16**
MIDDPEX 2013 Middlesex Stamp Club, Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Rd., London.
Contact: Patrick Delmore, 519-471-7139
E-mail: pj.d@sympatico.ca
Website: www.middlesexstampclub.com

Florida **November 16-17**
Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo Tampa Collectors Club, Holiday Inn Express, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. ***B***
Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897
E-mail: h.rogg@verizon.net
Website: www.floridastampdealers.com

Brazil **November 19-25**
BRASILIANA 2013 General World Philatelic

Exhibition, Rio de Janeiro.
Contact: Yamil H. Kouri, Jr.
Contact address: 405 Waltham St., Suite 347, Lexington, MA 02421
E-mail: yhkouri@massmed.org
Website: www.brasiliana-2013.blogspot.com

Illinois **November 22-24**
CHICAGOPEX Chicago Philatelic Society, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca. ***WSP***
Contact: Robert Glass
E-mail: boblglass@mac.com
Website: www.chicagopex.com

Georgia **November 23-24**
Holiday SDAG Stamp Show Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, Mansour Center, 995 Roswell Street, Marietta. ***B***
Contact: Kim Conti, Executive Director, 770-630-7918

Connecticut **November 24**
Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA Hall, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
E-mail: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.NHPS1914.org/

Florida **December 4-5**
U.S. Bank Note Company Issues: 1870 to 1890 On the Road Course, Prior to FLOREX, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Maitland. ***APS***
Contact: Gretchen Moody, 814-933-3803
E-mail: gretchen@stamps.org
Website: <http://stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses>

Florida **December 6-8**
FLOREX — The Florida State Stamp Show FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Central Florida Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, 4603 West Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando. ***WSP***
Contact: Francis Ferguson, 407-493-0956-Cell
E-mail: show@florexstampshow.com
Website: www.florexstampshow.com

California **December 7-8**
PENPEX Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City.
Contact: Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643
E-mail: penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com
Website: www.penpex.org

Connecticut **December 22**
Fourth Sunday Stamp Show New Haven

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

2014

California **January 24-26**
SANDICAL San Diego County Philatelic Council, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego. ***WSP***
Contact: Linda Mabin, 619-582-9311
E-mail: mabin7@cox.net
Website: www.sandical.org/

Pennsylvania **January 24-25**
York County Stamp Show White Rose Philatelic Society of York, York Expo Center - Horticulture Hall, 334 Carlisle Ave., York.
Contact: John Hufnagel, 717-235-1528
E-mail: glenrockotts@comcast.net

Georgia **January 31-February 2**
Southeastern Stamp Expo Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross. ***WSP***
Contact: Scott Mark
E-mail: jenandscott@windstream.net
Website: www.stampclubs.com

Florida **February 7-9**
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition Sarasota Philatelic Club, Inc., Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, (US 41) 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. ***WSP***
Contact: Jack Seaman, 941-922-7191
E-mail: jakcman@verizon.net
Website: www.sarasotastampclub.com

Arkansas **February 14-16**
APS AmeriStamp Expo 2014 Statehouse Convention Center, 1 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock. ***WSP***
Contact: Barb Johnson, 814-933-3803 ext 217
E-mail: stampshow@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org

Arizona **February 21-23**
ARIPEX Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa. ***WSP***
Contact: Kevin Lesk, 480-240-0388
E-mail: kwkual@aol.com
Website: www.aripepx.org



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Membership Report

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during July 2013. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to September 30, 2013, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the November 2013 issue.

- Ableman, Vaughn H. (221915) **Mount Horeb, WI** US COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAILED, PLATE BLOCKS; 70; Retired
 Alhmada, Youssef (221994) **Jackson, MS** SYRIA-GREAT BRITAIN; 33
 Allen, William T. (222013) **San Pedro, CA** ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENTS-US, POSSESSIONS-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMANY-IRELAND; 66; Retired
 Andreas, Mark J. (221919) **Brockway, PA**; 66; Retired
 Applegate, Wayne H. (221984) **Brick, NJ** US; 79; Retired
 Bartlett, Ray (221980) **Casselberry, FL** US CONFEDERATE STATES
 Baugh, James (222028) **Livingston, TX** WHALES-DISNEY-MOUNTAINS-POLAND-LIGHTHOUSES- TRAINS; 43
 Bellido, Elisa (221993) **Port Jefferson Station, NY** US 10TH C; 56
 Benevonte, Joseph (221995) **Saint Petersburg, FL**; 91; Retired
 Brittan, Harry G. (221934) **Milford, NJ** CONFEDERATE STATES-US 19TH C-FORENSIC STUDIES OF STAMP INKS & PAPERS; 63; Scientific Consultant
 Brown, Donald L. (221969) **Amityville, NY** US; 66; Sourcing Director
 Bruce, Alexander (221964) **New Haven, CT** US CANCELS, 19TH C. COVERS; 30
 Bruse, Herbert W. (222000) **Niceville, FL** US, PARCEL POST, SPECIAL DELIVERIES, OFFICIALS/OFFICIAL MAIL, POSTAGE DUE-GERMANY; 66
 Bryant, David (221916) **Summersville, MO** US 19TH & 20TH C, SOUVENIR SHEETS, POSTAGE DUES, AIR MAILED, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES; 54
 Budd, Alden (222017) **Rochester, NY** US-WORLDWIDE; 53
 Burns, Mitchell (221999) **East Hartford, CT** US 20TH C, COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, PLATE BLOCKS, FDC; 58; Management
 Cadle, Herbert (222032) **Buffalo, NY** US DEFINITIVES; 63
 Campbell, James (221951) **Covington, LA** MINT US, PLATE BLOCKS, FDC; 73; Retired
 Campos, Manuel (221935) **Spencer, WV** US-GERMANY; 62; Retired
 Card, Timothy W. (222002) **Los Alamitos, CA** AUSTRALIA-US; Scientific
 Cartwright, Alexander J. (221907) **Lake Tapps, WA** US, HI POSTAL HISTORY, SHEETS/SMALL PANES, SOUVENIR SHEETS-BASEBALL-BUTTERFLIES/INSECTS-NASCAR; 58; CPA
 Chambers, Keith (221952) **Anaheim, CA**

- Clark, James D. (221910) **Wylie, TX** US, FDC-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMAN THIRD REICH/OCCUPATIONS-RAILROADS; 68; Retired
 Clarke, Tammy (221985) **Kalona, IA** WORLDWIDE; 45; Housewife
 Clayton, Michael C. (222009) **Louisville, OH** PRE 1920 US & WORLDWIDE; 45; Customer Relations
 Cook, Christopher (221917) **Silver Spring, MD** AUTHORS/LITERATURE/LIBRARIES; 31
 Costello, Dennis D. (222010) **Williams Bay, WI** US; 72; Retired
 Craven, Lawrence S. (221966) **Northvale, NJ** POLAND-UN; Volunteer
 Dabkowski, Robert G. (221941) **New Fairfield, CT** MINT US; 72
 Day, Susan (221911) **Newport, NC** US, COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, BOOKLETS/PANES; 43
 Donnelly, Paul C. (221920) **Hawthorne, NY**; 49; IT Analyst
 Dragone, Phillip (221979) **Watertown, MA** US PLATE BLOCKS; 68; Retired
 Duncan, Gwyneth A. (221912) **Santa Fe, NM** US, 19TH & 20TH C, FDC, POSTAL COVERS-PHILATELIC HISTORY/MEMORABILIA-FOREIGN 20TH C; 54
 Dyess, Dean (221968) **Burleson, TX** US 19TH C, AIR MAILED, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL); 50
 Egeth, Harry R. (222011) **Gaithersburg, MD** FDC; 57; Member Service Representative
 Einhorn, Dom (222018) **Jackson, WY** US 20TH C, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, BOOKLETS/PANES-FRANCE-EUROPE-GERMANY; 43
 Ellis, John S. (221942) **Spring, TX** MINT US COMMEMORATIVES, AIR MAIL, SINGLES, PLATE BLOCKS; 66; Retired
 English, James B. (221996) **Mission, KS** US-GREAT BRITAIN-CANADA-GERMANY; 70; Retired
 Freeman, Donna (222035) **Gilmer, TX** TOPICAL-US BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, FDC, PLATE BLOCKS; 61
 Friel, Diane (221988) **Lake Villa, IL** AUTHORS/LITERATURE/LIBRARIES-FINE ARTS-CHILDREN/ICY-TOPICAL-PERFORMING ARTS-ICE HOCKEY-SKATING-GYMNASTICS; 65
 Garofano, John M. (222014) **Melrose, MA** US CLASSICS, 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED-CANADA-JAPAN; 50
 Gelder, Jay (221953) **Destin, FL** US FDC; 55; CEO/President Property Management Co.
 Gilliland, Gary (221997) **King Of Prussia, PA** US & WORLDWIDE AIR MAIL; 64; Research Director
 Glaffelter, Grover (221921) **Paris, TX** CONFEDERATE-PRE 1920 GERMANY & RUSSIA-PRE 1940 WORLDWIDE-EARLY CANADA; 51; Jeweler
 Goldstein, Alan (221936) **Freehold, NJ** MINT US; 63; Retired
 Golinger, Harvey (221970) **Boynton Beach, FL** WORLDWIDE-US ROUND ROBIN PLATE BLOCKS, SINGLES; Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 221606, 221749 through 221839 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, June 30, 2013	31,759
New Members92
Reinstated	152
	31,911
Chapters Disbanded.....	2
Deceased17
Resignations.....	2
Expelled	2
Total Membership, July 31, 2013	31,888

- Gomez, Darryl A. (221913) **Chesapeake Beach, MD** US, COVERS, BOOKLETS/PANES, PHILATELIC/NUMISMATIC COVERS, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES; 55; Engineer
 Gotkin, Howard (221954) **Southbury, CT** PRE 1955 MINT US; 59; Executive Recruiter
 Grant, Lisa (222003) **Raymond, NH** US-GERMANY-ITALY-WORLDWIDE
 Gray, Steven M. (221943) **Staten Island, NY** MINT US; 74; Sales Manager
 Hamilton, Thomas (221937) **Paris, TN**; 81; Retired
 Hasselhan, Carl A. (221905) **Pottstown, PA** US PLATE BLOCKS, PLATE VARIETIES, COMMEMORATIVES, BOOKLETS/PANES, AIR MAILED, POSTAGE DUES; 68; Retired
 Hatcher, Mary (222034) **Morgantown, KY** US POSTAL HISTORY
 Hatfield, Mel (221971) **Columbus, OH** US; 53
 Heck, Barbara (221949) **Albany, NY**
 Hefferton, Arthur J. (221972) **Parry Sound, ON**; 64; Retired
 Heilmann, Tom (222033) **Houston, TX** US 19TH & 20TH C, CONFEDERATE STATES; 69; Teacher
 Holmes, Charles E. (221922) **Chicago, IL** USMC CANCELS ON COVER PRE WWII & WWI; 69; Product Consultant
 Jimenez, Felix A. (221923) **Kalispell, MT** DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-COLOMBIA-AUSTRALIA-CANADA-US-WORLDWIDE; 63; Retired
 Johnson, Patrick A. (222030) **Cordova, TN** AVIATION-WAR COVERS/STAMPS-ASTRONOMY; 31; Air Traffic Controller
 Karl, Jeffrey J. (221986) **Jacksonville, FL** US, HAWAII, DUCK-ICELAND; 64; Human Resources Specialist
 Kenna, Thomas R. (222021) **Hauppauge, NY** US-ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA-FRANCE; 53; Civil Servant

- Kiefner, Thomas L. (221950) **Minneapolis, MN** US COMMEMORATIVES, COVERS-BASEBALL-MUSIC/MUSICIANS/INSTRUMENTS-HOLLYWOOD; 65; Music Critic
- King, Richard (221955) **Falls City, NE**; 56
- Kloter, Jack E. (221924) **Rochester, NY**; 51
- Knitter, David (221956) **Vacaville, CA** FANCY CANCELS; Attorney
- Kobotis, Evangelos (221981) **Skokie, IL** GREECE-US, CLASSICS, FDC; 43
- Kroll, Robert G. (221982) **Safety Harbor, FL** US-CANADA-AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINES-UN; 61; Photographer
- Kupferman, Robyn (221918) **Los Angeles, CA** FOREIGN CLASSICS, SOUVENIR SHEETS-US 19TH C, SOUVENIR SHEETS, CANCELS, AIR MAILED; 32
- Laurien, Jerry T. (221973) **Warsaw, IN** US; 71; Retired
- Lemonakis, Steve (222020) **Canonsburg, PA**
- Lewis, James (221948) **Zephyrhills, FL**; Management
- Lippincott, Samuel E. (222029) **Moorestown, NJ** US 19TH & 20TH C, COMMEMORATIVES; 72; Retired
- Mackor, Henri J. (221974) **West Warwick, RI** NETHERLANDS, POSSESSIONS-US, POSSESSIONS; 64
- Manoskey, Joseph (221989) **Elizabethtown, PA** LITHUANIA-US 19TH C, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-GERMANY; 66; Retired
- Martinez Fernandez, Jose Maria (222016) **Melilla, Spain**; 53
- McCabe, Francis (222015) **Kissimmee, FL** US; 59
- McLaughlin, Joseph C. (222025) **Chaska, MN** GERMAN COLONIES; 36; CPA
- Meyer, Dolores J. (221925) **Riverside, CA**; 83; Painter/Artist
- Meyer, Geoffrey (222027) **Lakeville, MN** US 19TH & 20TH C-CANADA-GREAT BRITAIN-GERMANY; 59
- Midlam, Stephen (221957) **El Cajon, CA** US 20TH C USED; 65; Analyst
- Miller, Edith (221904) **Washington, NC** UK
- Miller, Robert L. (222022) **Sacramento, CA**; 66; Retired
- Monego, Warren (221958) **Duncan, OK** US-WORLDWIDE; 62
- Moreira, Pedro (221909) **Lagoa-Parchal, Portugal** PORTUGAL-PORTUGUESE COLONIES; 35
- Moyer, Ralph W. (221926) **Vineland, NJ** US COVERS; 81; Retired
- Nabeta, Ned (222004) **Portland, OR** US-CANADA-UN; 61; Construction Manager
- Nelson, Ed (221906) **Long Beach, CA** US 20TH C-SWEDEN-BRITISH EMPIRE-FALKLAND ISLANDS-BRITISH COLONIES-POLAND; 62; Retired
- Nestor, Gregory J. (221927) **Middlefield, OH** US COMMEMORATIVES; 66; Retired
- Nguyen, Trang (221944) **Sacramento, CA** US CANCELLATIONS AND KILLERS; 32; Caregiver
- Nickerson, Arnold A. (221928) **Sanford, ME**; 78; Retired
- Nielsen, Bent (221945) **Solroed Strand, Denmark**; 69; Retired
- Noble, William (221959) **Boiling Springs, SC** WORLDWIDE-SOCCER; 83; Retired
- Norloff, Deborah (221965) **State College, PA** US, CLASSICS, FDC-IRELAND; 40
- O'Connor, Kevin M. (221960) **Gilbert, AZ** MINT US-US POD-USPS HISTORICAL ISSUES; 55; Quality Engineer
- Pang, Yutong (221903) **Stony Brook, NY** US 20TH C-CHINA;
- Popp, James (221990) **Washington, DC**; 22
- Primes, James H. (221929) **Irvine, CA**; Retired
- Pritchard, Randy J. (221991) **Oldsmar, FL** US 19TH & 20TH C, AIR MAILED, BOOKLETS/PANES-WESTERN EUROPE-WESTERN HEMISPHERE-WORLDWIDE; 57
- Putnam, Greg G. (222026) **Minneapolis, MN** SPACE-BIRDS; Financial Services
- Putz, Neil L. (221908) **Saint Louis, MO** SPAIN-SPANISH COLONIES-WAR COVERS/STAMPS-SPANISH CIVIL WAR; 60
- Raeburn, John (221914) **Iowa City, IA** DENMARK-FRANCE-BELGIUM-SWEDEN-IRELAND-ITALY-EUROPE; 72; Retired
- Roles, Jimmy (222012) **Franklin, NC** US 20TH C, AIR MAILED; 68; Manager
- Ross, Russell R. (221975) **Falls Church, VA** USED FOREIGN COVERS; 77; Retired
- Rowe, Beverly S. (222031) **Albuquerque, NM** GREAT BRITAIN-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH-ISLANDS
- Salinas, Agustin M. (222001) **Los Angeles, CA** GREAT DEPRESSION; 28
- Saylor, Brett D. (221930) **State College, PA** WORLDWIDE; 53; Engineer
- Seidel, Charles G. (221931) **Collingswood, NJ** US BANKNOTES & COVERS-1893 COLUMBIANS; 65; Retired
- Sendy, Wayne (222005) **Rice, MN** JAPAN-US 19TH & 20TH C-POLAND-AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND; 56
- Sheehey, David (221938) **Fort Myers, FL** PRE 1940 WORLDWIDE AIR MAIL-US CLASSICS; 71; Retired
- Showman, Larry (221939) **Saxton, PA** US; 62; Retired
- Skerker, Alan (222008) **Gainesville, VA** US AIR MAILED, COVERS, POSTAL HISTORY, TELEGRAPHS; 70; Retired
- Skollingsberg, Kjell (221947) **North Las Vegas, NV** MINT US; 69; Bookkeeper
- Smith, Daniel J. (221987) **Ramona, CA** US-ICELAND-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND-ESTONIA-REUNION-FSAT; 49; Software Engineer
- Smith, Fred D. (222023) **Colorado Springs, CO** US-GREECE-BRIDGES; 78; Retired
- Soper, Gilbert (222019) **Novato, CA** US, CONFEDERATE STATES, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING-CHRISTMAS SEALS; Retired
- Stahl, Cassandra M. (J-221932) **New Castle, IN** PANDAS; 17; Student
- Stallings, Michael R. (221976) **Elizabethtown, NC** PRE 1960 US-OLYMPICS; 60; Retired
- Steinkamp, Lanny R. (221933) **Belle, MO**; 70; Retired
- Sy, Manuel (222024) **New York, NY**; 71; Physician
- Tichenor, Richard N. (221998) **Lakewood Ranch, FL** US
- Toffel, Samuel (221940) **Yonkers, NY** US CUT SQUARES, BOOKLETS, PANES-CANADA BOOKLETS; Retired
- Unni, Sunil (222007) **Framingham, MA** INDIA
- Verburg, Harry J. (221961) **Truth Or Consequences, NM** US, MINT SINGLES, PLATE BLOCKS, BOOKLETS, PNC, COVERS; 68; Retired
- Versey, Tony P. (221977) **Ashland, KY**; 72
- Walker, Jennifer R. (222006) **Fort Worth, TX** EUROPE-IRELAND-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-TOGO BANANA SHAPED STAMP; 47
- Wheatley, Ronald L. (221983) **Murfreesboro, TN** US, IMPERFORATES, AIR MAILED, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL), POSTAGE DUE; 43; HVAC Technician
- Wilson, John W. (221992) **Olympia, WA** BRITISH COMMONWEALTH-US 19TH & 20TH C; 72
- Winialski, David L. (221946) **Tallahassee, FL** US ASTROPHILATELY-PRE 1970 RUSSIA, CHINA, POLAND; 52; Legislative Assistant
- Winston, Edward (221978) **Englewood, NJ**; 75
- Wooders, Richard J. C. (221967) **Waltakere, Auckland, New Zealand** NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AIR MAIL & POSTAL HISTORY-STAMP DESIGN ERRORS-MILITARY MAIL-PICTURE POSTCARDS; 49; Stamp Dealer
- Wright, James (221963) **Land O Lakes, FL** US COMMEMORATIVES; 79; Retired
- Young, Larry G. (221962) **Lakeside, CA**; 62; Retired

CHAPTERS DISBANDED

Kingwood Stamp Club (155845), Kingwood, TX
Ringneck Stamp Club (3279-069739), Aberdeen, SD

INACTIVE AFFILIATE

Gay/Lesbian History on Stamps Club (AF0205)

CHANGE IN NAME

Daily, Sharon (220456), Rochester Hills, MI changed her name to Sharon Mead.

DECEASED

Bilden, William O. (4034-028108), Edina, MN
Bren, Bernard A. (10452-073802), West Palm Beach, FL
Brown, Stefan K. (082388), Bradenton, FL
Elliott, Dale T. (10975-075479), Columbus, OH
Geiss, James L. (104392), Evansville, IN
Grover, J. Craig (9533-065859), Harlingen, TX
Hammerschlag, Robert W. (8194-056128), Santa Rosa, CA
Kunstmann, E. G. (121955), Sedona, AZ
Leveille, Daniel D. (200146), Ridgecrest, CA
Lord, Stanley B. (190273), Media, PA
Lotz, Lloyd R., Jr. (158013), Louisville, KY
Netzband, Richard A. (107446), Syracuse, NY
Norris, John R. (9075-083797), North Kingstown, RI
Scriabine, Alexander (198983), Guilford, CT
Spatz, Susanne F. (5621-061439), Newton Centre, MA
Spry, Alfred E. (7337-044382), Colorado Springs, CO
Zaloom, Albert J. (8480-058294), Fort Lauderdale, FL

EXPELLED

Douglas, Brian (218062), 1 Lewis Park Dr, N., East Walpole, MA, for conduct unbecoming a member for failure to pay fully or return an approval selection (violation of Code of Ethics #8), and for failure to respond to official Society correspondence.

Rhodes, Matt (219138), 24118 Woodway Road, Cleveland, OH, for conduct unbecoming a member for failure to return or pay for requested approvals with a combined total of \$28,189.07 (violation of Code of Ethics #8).



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A Flag for All Seasons



On August 16, in Independence, Ohio, at the AMERICOVER Stamp Show, the Postal Service issued *A Flag for All Seasons* (Forever® priced at 46 cents) First-Class mail stamps in four designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of ten stamps.

In May 2013 the USPS issued *A Flag for All Seasons* — featuring four different stamp designs — in PSA booklets of 20 (Sennett & Ashton Potter) and coils of 100, and on August 8, in a PSA booklet of 20 (Avery Dennison). Each stamp shows an American flag, viewed from below, flying from a pole at full staff against a background of trees that evoke one of the four seasons of the year. Artist Laura Stutzman worked with art director and stamp designer Phil Jordan on this stamp art.

Denomination: First-Class Mail
Forever

Format: Booklet of 10 (4 designs)

Series: N/A

Art Director/Designer/Typographyher:

Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA

Artist: Laura Stutzman, Mountain Lake Park, MD

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint
"USPS"

Engraver: N/A

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

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Print Quantity: 100 million stamps

Paper Type: Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.33 mm
(image); 22.10x 24.89 mm (overall);
134.87 x 44.20 mm (booklet)

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four single digits

Marginal Markings: Cover side:

Header: "A Flag for All Seasons" Ten First-Class Forever® Stamps; Barcode (01564568803); USPS logo; Promotional text. **Stamp side:** ©2013 USPS in peel strip area; Plate block number in peel strip area.

Bobcat Definitive

On August 9, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW, the Postal Service issued a one-cent *Bobcat* definitive stamp in one design in a water-activated gum (WAG) coil of 10,000 stamps.

In 2012 the USPS issued the one-cent Bobcat stamp in pressure-sensitive adhesive coils of 3,000. Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are members of the feline family found across America. The stamp art is a highly stylized, digital image of a bobcat with golden eyes, a pink nose, and fur in shades of brown. Nancy Stahl illustrated the stamp, under the direction of Carl T. Herrman.

Denomination: 1-cent Definitive, Non-Profit Organization

Format: Coil of 10,000 (1 design)

Series: N/A

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher: Carl T. Herrman, North Las Vegas, NV

Artist: Nancy Stahl, New York, NY

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint
"USPS"



Engraver: N/A

Printer: Banknote Corporation of America,
Browns Summit, NC

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Print Quantity: 100 million stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Water-Activated Gum

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.29 x 20.57 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.38 mm (overall)

Colors: Tan, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black,
Brown

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by six
single digits

Marginal Markings: ©2012; Coil plate
number frequency every 31st stamp

Folk Art Eagle

On August 9, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW, the Postal Service issued a *Folk Art Eagle* stamped envelope (Forever® priced at 46 cents).

With the Folk Art Eagle Stamped Envelope, the USPS continues a proud tradition of depicting eagles on postage that began in the late nineteenth century. The stamp art is a photograph of a carved American eagle wall plaque, made of pinewood, by an unknown carver. The eagle carries two United States flags and a shield. Richard Sheaff designed the stamp.

Denomination: First-Class Stamped
Envelope Forever

a) Format: #10 Regular Envelope

Art Director/Designer/Typographyher:
Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset/
Microprint "USPS"

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

Press Type: Mueller, A76

Folding Machine: W&D #527

Print Quantity: Fulfillment



Paper Type: 61# Postal Envelope, Block,
Type III

Adhesive Type: Water-activated

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow,
Green

Envelope Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 241.30 x 104.76 mm
(envelope); 35.56 x 31.37 mm (image)

Marginal Markings: ©USPS 2013;
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Logo;
"THIS ENVELOPE IS RECYCLABLE
AND MADE WITH 30% POST-
CONSUMER CONTENT"; Recycling
Logo

b) Format: #10 Window Envelope

c) Format: #9 Regular Envelope

Press Type: Halm Jet EM4000

Sizes (w x h): 225.43 x 98.43 mm
(envelope); 35.56 x 31.37 mm (image)

d) Format: #9 Window Envelope

e) Format: #6½ Regular Envelope

Sizes: 165.10 x 92.08 mm (envelope); 35.56
x 31.37 mm (image)

f) Format: #6½ Window Envelope

Flag for All Seasons, Booklet of 20

On August 8, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the American Philatelic Society StampShow, the Postal Service issued *A Flag for All Seasons* (Forever® priced at 46 cents) First-Class mail stamps in four designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) booklet of twenty stamps.

Each stamp shows an American flag, viewed from below, flying from a pole at full staff against a background of trees that evoke one of the four seasons of the year. Artist Laura Stutzman worked with art director and stamp designer Phil Jordan on this stamp art. In May 2013, the USPS issued *A Flag for All Seasons* — featuring four different stamp designs — in a PSA booklet of 20 (Sennett and Ashton Potter) and coils of 100.

Denomination: First-Class Mail Forever

Format: Booklet of 20 (4 designs)

Series: N/A

Art Director/Designer/Typographyher:
Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA

Artist: Laura Stutzman, Mountain Lake
Park, MD

Engraver: WRE

Modeler: Avery Dennison, Designed &
Engineered Solutions

Manufacturing Process: Gravure,
Micropoint (USPS)

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Print Quantity: 500 million stamps

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 18.54 x 21.34 mm (image);
22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall); 139.7 x
49.78 mm (booklet).

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by four
single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front Cover: Header:*
"A Flag for All Seasons" Twenty First-
Class Forever® Stamps; ©2013 USPS;
Plate block numbers in peel strip area;
UPC Code (015645688407).

Building a Nation Stamps

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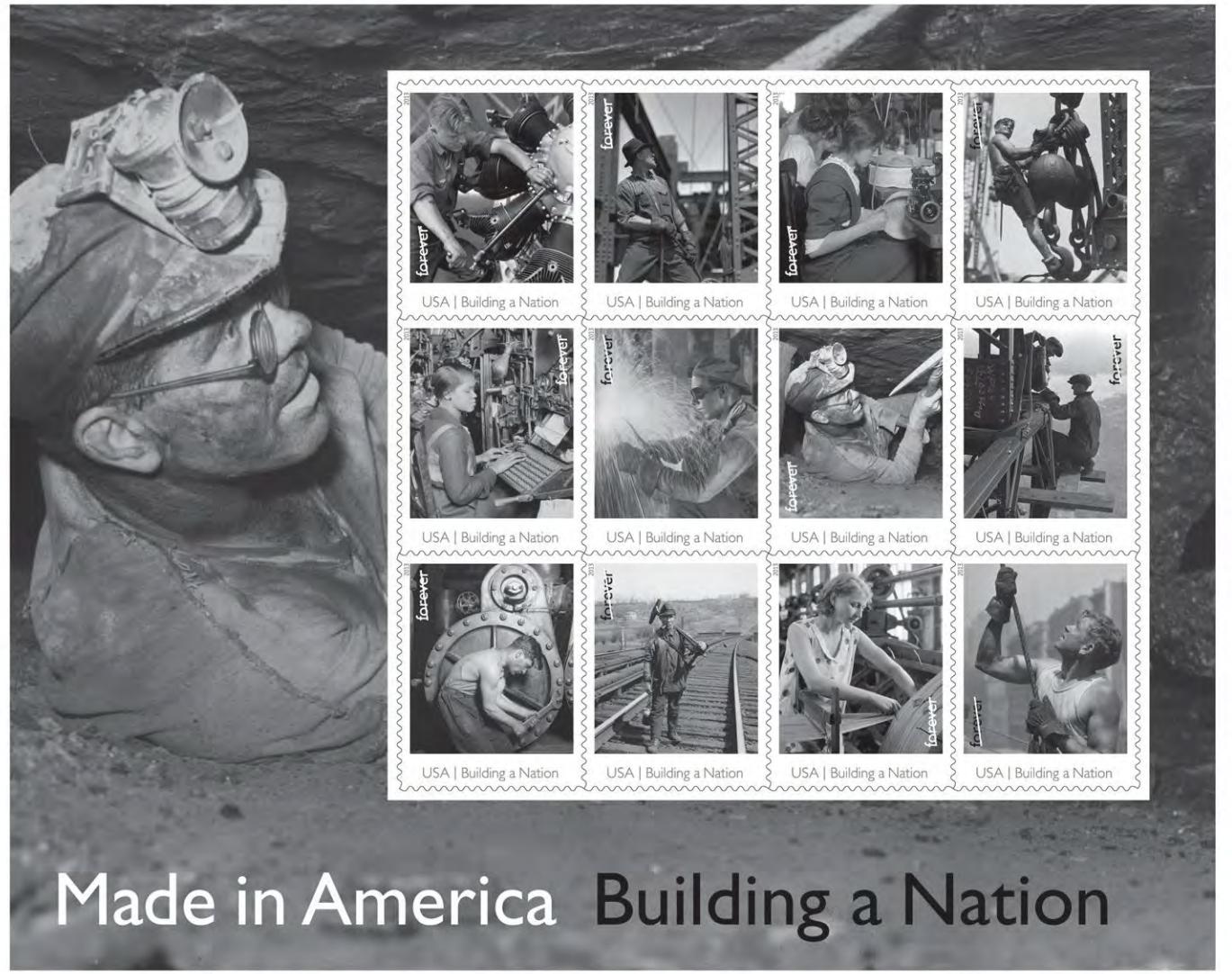
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Made in America Building a Nation

at 46 cents) First-Class mail commemorative stamps in twelve designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twelve stamps. The pane of stamps (\$5.52) may not be split and sold individually.

The Made in America — Building a Nation issuance honors the workers who were essential to the growth of the modern United States. There are five different panes. Each one contains the same twelve stamps, but is anchored by a different selvage photograph. In the top row are an airplane maker, a derrick man on the Empire State Building, a millinery apprentice, and a man on a hoisting ball on the Empire State Building. In the middle row are a linotype in a publishing house, a welder on the Empire State Building, a coal miner, and riveters on the Empire State Building. In the bottom row are a powerhouse mechanic,

a railroad track walker, a textile worker, and a man guiding a beam on the Empire State Building. Eleven of the twelve stamp images were taken by photographer Lewis Hine, a chronicler of early twentieth-century industry. The coal miner image is from the Kansas State Historical Society. Three of the selvage photos were taken by Hine. They include two Empire State Building iron workers and a General Electric worker measuring the bearings in a casting. The fourth selvage photograph is the same image of the coal miner that appears in the stamp pane. The final selvage photograph, taken by Margaret Bourke-White, depicts a female welder. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp panes.

Denomination: First-Class Forever Commemorative

Format: Pane of 12 (12 designs)

Series: N/A

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:
Derry Noyes, Washington, DC

Engraver: Trident

Modeler: Avery Dennison, Designed & Engineered Solutions

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR),
Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Print Quantity: 30 million stamps

Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Gray, Cool Gray, Black

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes Area (w x h): 27.56 x 36.07 mm
(image), 31.12 x 39.62 mm (overall);
203.2 x 165.1 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "V" followed by five single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front: Header:*
"Made in America — Building a
Nation"; *Plate numbers in bottom right*
corner of pane. Back: Header: "Made in
America — Building a Nation"; *Verso*

text; ©2013 USPS; USPS logo; Plate position diagram; Barcode (471500) in lower left corner of pane; Promotional text.

Eid Stamp

On August 8, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the American Philatelic Society STAMPSHOW (no ceremony), the Postal Service issued the *Eid* (Forever® priced at 46 cents) First-Class Mail stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of twenty stamps.

Featuring calligraphy from the 2011 Eid Stamp with a new green background, this issuance commemorates the two most important festivals — or eids — in the Islamic calendar: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. On these days, Muslims wish each other *Eid Mubarak*, the phrase shown in calligraphy on the stamp. Eid Mubarak translates literally as “blessed festival” and can be paraphrased “May



your religious holiday be blessed.” Artist and calligrapher Mohamed Zakariya worked with art director Phil Jordan to create this design.

Denomination: First-Class Forever

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Series: Holiday Celebrations

Designer/Typography/Calligrapher:

Mohamed Zakariya, Arlington, VA

Art Director: Phil Jordan, Falls Church, VA

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset/
Microprint “USPS”

Engraver: N/A

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

Press Type: Mueller, A76

Print Quantity: 5,500,000 stamps

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

Sizes (w x h): 19.56 x 26.7 mm (image);
23.11 x 30.27 mm (overall); 140.97 x
146.30 mm (pane)

Colors: Dark Green, Light Green, Gold

Plate Numbers: “P” followed by three
single digits

Marginal Markings: *Front:* Plate numbers
in four corners of pane. *Back:* ©2013
USPS; USPS logo; Plate position
diagram; Barcode (584000) in two
positions; Promotional text.

www.stamps.org/US-New-Issues



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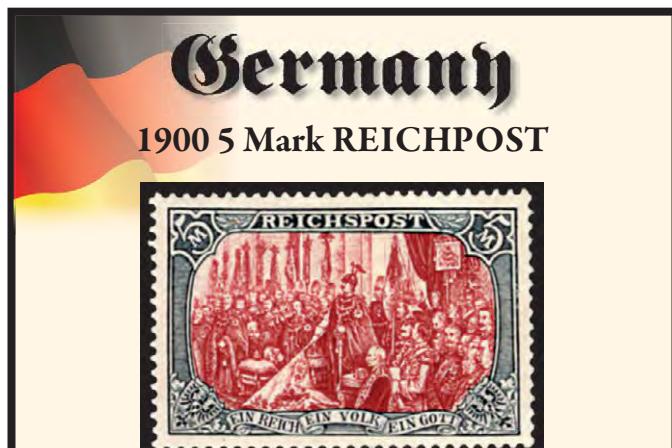
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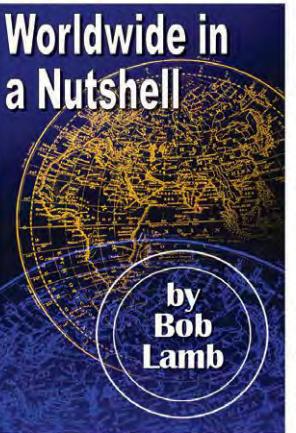
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Portugal

Status: Republic on the western Iberian Peninsula

Area: 35,556 square miles

Population: 10,799,270 (2013 est.)

Currency: 1 Euro = 100 cents. 1€ = US\$1.31



The Portuguese Republic is the western-most country of the European mainland. The name is derived from Portus Cale, the name the Romans gave the seaport city they founded on the Douro River ca. 136 B.C. — built on a earlier site occupied since the eighth century B.C. The modern-day city of Porto is the country's second largest city.

In the fifteenth century Portugal launched the Age of Discovery and established a great globe-spanning empire with colonies in Africa, Asia, and the New World. Napoleon's conquest led to the loss of its wealthy Brazilian colony in 1822 — a major blow to the Portuguese economy. Economic instability and political bickering ended the monarchy in 1910. Free elections were held in 1978 and full democracy was restored in 1982. Today Portugal is an active participant in the European Community.

Portugal has had a well-developed postal system for centuries. In 1705 its first international postal agreement was worked out with the British to facilitate an exchange of correspondence, but the Portuguese postal services were badly in need of help when the Postal Reform Act of 1852 authorized the issuance of postage stamps. Equipment was ordered from England and an engraver went to London to study stamp production. The first embossed stamps appeared in July 1853.

The need for a discounted "newspaper" stamp in 1876 led to the search for lower production costs. French equipment was purchased to produce stamps without embossing, which became the rule. In 1893 the city of Porto requested permission to issue special postage stamps to finance a monument to Prince Henry the Navigator, who was born in that city. The request was denied but the government issued a set of thirteen stamps for the occasion — resulting in Portugal's first commemorative issue. Stamp sales were below expectations, but their issuance opened the door to a variety of commemorative stamps for Portugal and its colonies, including a set of commemorative postage dues in 1898.

In 1980, its colonial empire gone, Portugal began issuing stamps inscribed "Azores" and "Madeira" for its island territories. These stamps are sold in post offices throughout Portugal as well as on the islands and can be used interchangeably with Portuguese stamps anywhere in the country. On January 1, 2002 the Euro replaced the Escudo, which had denominated stamps since 1912. Information about Portuguese stamps can be found at www.WOPA-stamps.com



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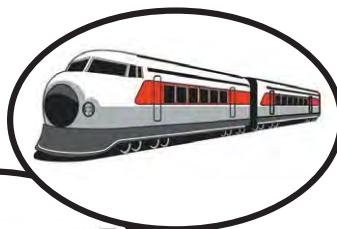
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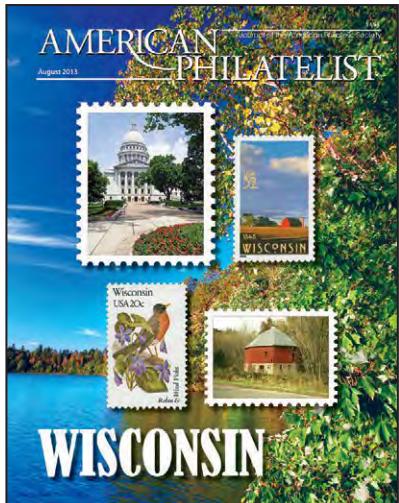


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