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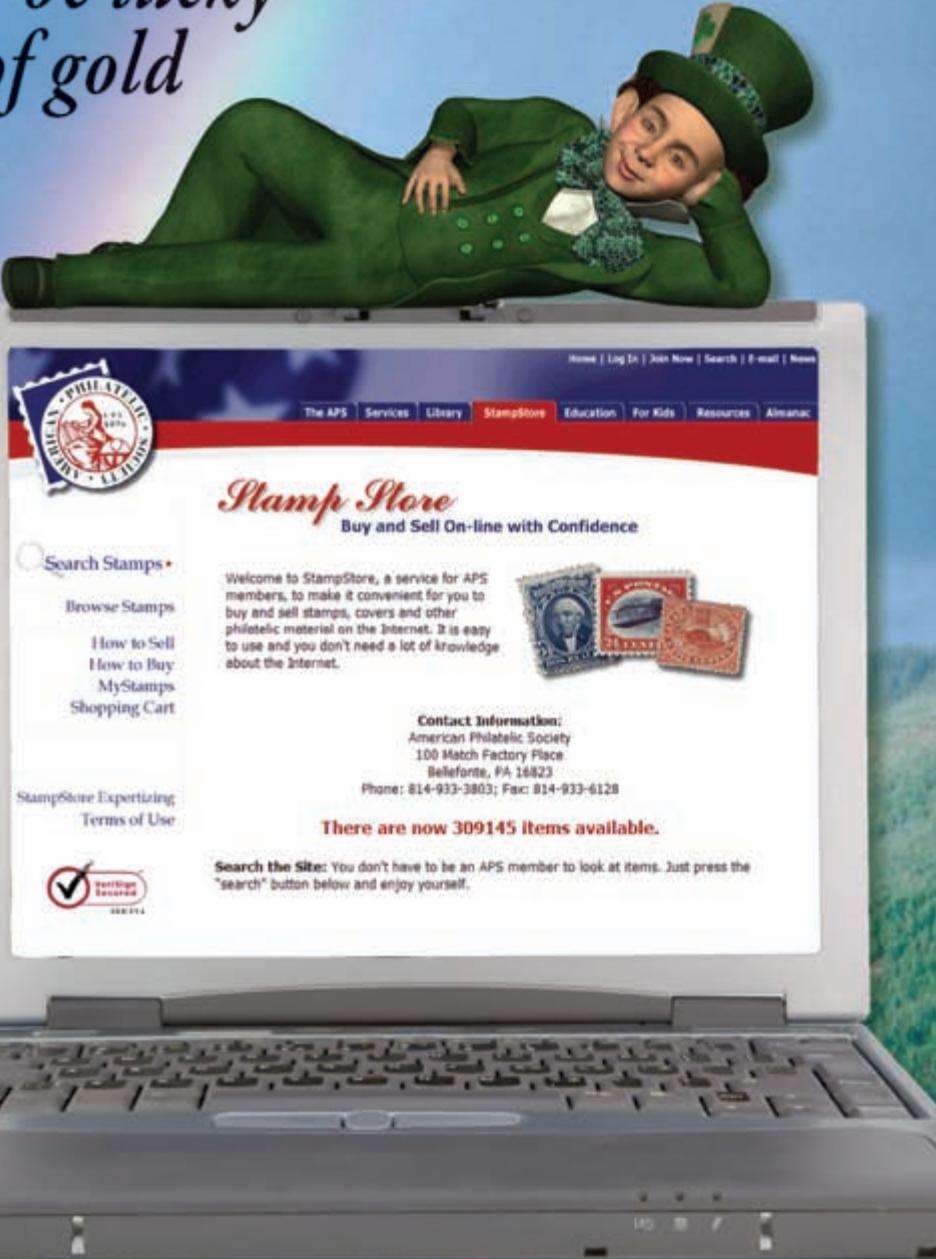


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The image shows a leprechaun character lying on top of a silver laptop keyboard. The laptop screen displays the homepage of the StampStore website. The website features a red header with the American Philatelic Society logo and the text "Stamp Store Buy and Sell On-line with Confidence". Below the header, there are links for "Search Stamps", "Browse Stamps", "How to Sell", "How to Buy", "MyStamps", and "Shopping Cart". A welcome message for APS members is displayed, along with a small image of three postage stamps. To the right, contact information for the American Philatelic Society is provided, including their address at 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823, and phone/fax numbers. A note states there are now 309145 items available. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Search the Site" button with a checkmark icon.



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The Culture of Complaint in Stamp Collecting

Upon arriving home from a holiday visit to England, I found the December 29 *Linn's* waiting for me. The "Letters to the Editor" section started me thinking about something I've noticed more and more over the past several years in stamp collecting. I think of it as the "Culture of Complaint." Three of these letters typified the type of whining and complaining that seems all too frequent from collectors. Two letter writers were appalled by the upcoming U.S. stamps featuring the Simpsons cartoon series. In fact, one writer wanted the entire Stamp Advisory Committee replaced for supporting these stamps. He wrote that he was "cynical and disgusted." The other wondered, "What does it say to the world when we issue stamps honoring the Simpsons?" And he went on, "What happened to the notion that stamps were issued to celebrate our history, events that built the country, and important achievements in exploration, science and medicine, and literature?" Finally, the third writer complained about military heroes being under-represented on stamps.

In response to their comments, I would suggest that the issuance of stamps for the Simpsons says to the world that the United States is a country with a sense of humor and a realization that a stamp program should not just celebrate the past.

From the tone of the letters, I can only assume that these writers are the sort of cranky people who sit around looking for things to complain about. We all know the type. Unfortunately, it seems to me that this type of individual is over-represented in stamp collecting. The pages of *Linn's*, and other publications are filled with letters whining at great length about trivial inconveniences. This is not to criticize *Linn's*. They publish what they get. And they regularly publish letters, including my own from time to time, taking the opposite point of view.

The complaints are far from limited to the topic of U.S.

I would suggest that the issuance of stamps for the Simpsons says to the world that the United States is a country with a sense of humor and a realization that a stamp program should not just celebrate the past.



stamp design. When the USPS started using pressure-sensitive gum that did not allow stamps to be soaked off, you'd have thought the world had ended from reading the commentary in the philatelic press. The very idea that they might have to change their collecting habits just a little bit and cut stamps off envelopes now rather than soak them sent some people through the roof. Several letter writers averred that they would give up collecting, because they could no longer soak stamps off. Even before the "no soak" stamps, numerous letter writers were complaining about self-adhesive stamps per se. Totally ignoring the fact that the public overwhelmingly prefers the self-stick stamps, these selfish individuals were demanding that the USPS go back to lick-and-stick stamps simply to make their collecting of little bits of colored paper easier. How does this make stamp collectors look to the general public? Like people who are sharing a fascinating hobby that might be worth exploring? What do you think?

And there are complaints about the how much it costs to collect U.S. stamps. Without calculating exact figures, I'd bet it costs less than \$100 a year to collect one of each type of U.S. stamp issued

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each year. Frankly, that's pretty damn cheap. Of course, if you want to collect blocks, first day covers, etc., the cost will be greater. But what leisure activity doesn't have expenses associated with it? I can't think of a single hobby activity that couldn't eat up \$100 in a flash. For example, in golf, fishing, bowling or skiing, \$100 is nothing. Showing just how far out of touch with reality they are, some letter writers complain that this \$100 a year cost is driving teenagers away from stamp collecting — teenagers who have no qualms about spending \$100 or more for a pair of jeans!

Another popular gripe is the number of varieties, especially of new definitives, that are appearing and the fact that not every single one of them can be obtained by just going down to your local post office. The same letter in *Linn's* that moaned about the under-representation of war heroes also complained about the many "unnecessary varieties of modern stamps" that, the writer claimed, are driving collectors away from the hobby. From the way some letters read, their authors think that these varieties are simply a plot to get more money from collectors — as if selling a few hundred thousand extra 42-cent stamps would make the slightest difference to the budget of the USPS. I get the feeling that these complainers would like a complete set of U.S. stamps delivered to their door (ideally for free) at the end of every year. No muss, no fuss. And none of the fun of looking for rare varieties that is the real spice of collecting.

I sense a theme running through the numerous complaints, whines, gripes, and general bad temper. This is an attitude of *entitlement*. These complaining collectors act as if they are *entitled* to have everything exactly as they want it, with little or no regard to the fact that stamp collectors make up only the tiniest minority of users of the postal services; that income from the sale of stamps to collectors is trivial for the USPS; and that the public at large often wants stamps on topics and in formats that are decried by the complainers. No wonder many people buy into the stereotype of stamp collectors as a bunch of fusty old coots, anti-social in disposition, and nasty to be around.

Although the whiners represent only a small minority of the collecting community, they do, however, give the whole community a bad image. Whenever one of these complainers give vent to their general ill temper publicly, at a stamp club meeting, in a letter to the editor, or elsewhere, we should speak up and let them know that there are other opinions within the philatelic community besides their selfish ones.

The Author

Terence Hines is a neuroscientist who collects an odd variety of things — New England state revenues, U.S. special delivery stamps (from E12) on cover, Old Home Week seals, the postal history of his home town, Hanover, NH, revenues of Indonesia, and a few others.

U. S. POSTAL HISTORY



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letters to the editor

Kids at the Spellman

I enjoyed Barry Krause's "Stamp Dealing with Kids" in the January *AP* (page 4). At the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History in Weston, Massachusetts, one of our main goals is to educate youngsters about the great enjoyment they can experience from collecting stamps. All year long we run programs for elementary students, homeschoolers, and Boy and Girl Scout troops of all ages to introduce them to philately. We also hold regular Family Days to allow both parents and their children to become involved with starting or expanding a collection. Everyone likes to search through our two-cent boxes.

For your New England area readers with children or grandchildren and who have not yet visited our Museum for one of our programs or just to see our exhib-

I started collecting as a kid with a Minkus world album and obtained my stamps from my father, who brought home packets of all sizes. After years of this, I had a pretty sizeable collection.

.....
its, we welcome them. We are committed to fostering the next generation of collectors by exposing them to the joys of collecting.

Henry Lukas
*Education Director, Spellman
Museum of Stamps & Postal History
Weston, Massachusetts*

Kids & Dealers

Barry Krause's article ("In My Opinion: Stamp Dealing with Kids") in the January *AP* struck a responsive chord with me. I started collecting as a kid with a Minkus world album and obtained my

stamps from my father, who brought home packets of all sizes. After years of this, I had a pretty sizeable collection.

Sometime in my early teens, in about 1961, I decided to specialize in the British Commonwealth. I thought I'd try selling the balance of my collection to a dealer and build up my bank balance. I traveled into Boston, Mas-

sachusetts, one day and visited several dealers who had no interest in my collection. Then I went to the office of one dealer who, like the rest, didn't seem at all that interested but did agree to take it off my hands in exchange for a few mint sets from the 1935 Commonwealth Silver Jubilee issue. I think I registered satisfaction with what he offered, but then he gave me a few more sets anyway — then he gave me the rest of the sets. I walked out of there with the complete issue in mint condition without having to haggle (which I wouldn't have attempted anyway). I wish I could recall who that dealer was, if only to acknowledge his generosity publicly for the first time. The point is that I returned home encouraged and am still collecting today.

Bob Bouvier
Herndon, Virginia

'Old Faithful'

I got my first look at the new Express Mail \$17.50 "Old Faithful" stamp yesterday on a used Express Mail cover that came into the local University's Department of Independent Study. They are kind enough to let me come and pull out



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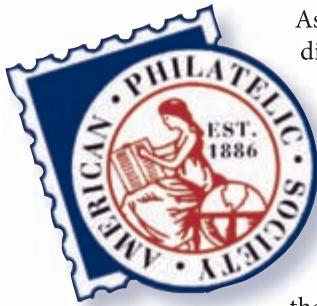
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APS Election



As of February 9, 2009, fourteen candidates are seeking election to the APS Board of Directors for the 2009-2011 term. One individual has announced for the one American Philatelic Research Library board position to be filled by the vote of APS members. The APRL-designated Board of Trustees position is for the term 2009-2015.

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

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

An asterisk has been placed before the names of those candidates who have secured the seconding nominations required to be placed on the ballot. Ten seconds are required for the APS Board positions and one second is required for candidates for the APRL Board of Trustees position.

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

any covers/stamps that I want from their incoming mail. As you can see, the stamp was ripped through the middle when the envelope was opened. My heart sinks every time I see one of these. I have tried asking them to carefully open their Express and Priority Mail envelopes to preserve the stamps for me, but they have so many different people opening the mail, and they change so often, that it's almost a lost cause.

The underlying problem is the design of the Express and Priority Mail

envelopes themselves. The Postal Service has designed the envelopes with the "Express/Priority Mail Postage Required" label right over the fold-down flap that gets ripped through when pulling the tab to open the envelope.

I can imagine that the Postal Service may have designed the envelope this way to prevent reuse of postage stamps — what better way to prevent their reuse than by causing them to be destroyed when opening the envelope?

Anyway, I'm wondering if the APS might know who I would direct a complaint/suggestion to at the Postal Service that they consider moving the location of the "Express/Priority Mail Postage Required" label to down below the fold-down flap, so that stamps placed on the label (and most patrons do seem to place them there) would not be ripped through when opening



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* Peter Martin, Connecticut

the envelope with the convenient pull tab?

I don't imagine my complaint would be enough to cause a redesign of the envelope on its own, but when the envelope is going to be redesigned anyway (which they seem to do every couple years or so), couldn't they please include moving the label to prevent rip-through of the beautiful postage stamps?

Matt Todd

Highland, Utah

Editor's Reply: For this and other suggestion/complaints/comments/concerns about U.S. Postal Service matters, readers are encouraged to write directly to David Failor, Executive Director, Stamp Services, United States Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn St. Suite 5018, Arlington, VA 22209-6432; or e-mail him at david.e.failor@usps.gov.

More Buffalo Bill

In addition to the stamps mentioned in Frederick Brofos' article "Buffalo Bill; A Link with the Past," that appeared in

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Dr. Bob Friedman

Dear Dr. Bob:

Just a few lines to say how much I enjoyed your coming to my house to view my stamp collection. Needless to say, we reached a deal which I feel was fair and I was very impressed with your knowledge and good nature. I look forward to doing business with you in the future.

Paul Whalen
Bonita Springs, Fla.

Take a moment now and call Dr. Bob.

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the January AP (page 44), here are a few more attractive international stamps honoring the Wild West showman.

Dominica Scott 2219, issued June 2000, souvenir sheet commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Film Festival; features the 1976 film *Buñalo Bill and the Indians*, starring Paul Newman.

Georgia Scott 406, issued January 2007, souvenir sheet featuring Georgian Trick Riders who appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows.

Liberia (not yet listed by Scott), issued November 1999, souvenir sheet honoring the History of the American West.

Monaco Scott 1402, issued November 1983, stamp issue honoring the National Museum: Automans and Dolls of Yesteryear; includes a Buffalo Bill figure from the Madeleine de Galea toy collection.

St. Kitts Scott 560–561, issued July 2003; souvenir sheet commemorating the centennial of the teddy bear; includes a "Buffalo Bill Bear."

Gunter Pilz
Miami, Florida

Can't Say Enough

In a recent issue of *The Westfield Philatelist*, David Steidly discussed that he had attended the Stamp Technology class at last summer's APS Summer Seminar. Dave, of course, is himself a world class collector. If he found benefit in that course, it certainly speaks highly for the job the instructor, Wayne Youngblood, did. I, too, attended Summer Seminar and Wayne's course. However, I'm coming at this from the opposite end of the experience scale from Dave. While I started collecting in the early 1950s, I put aside the hobby after graduating high school and didn't resume it until way-too-many decades later.

I have several observations about my new-rejoined hobby. Joining the APS was one of the smarter moves of my rapprochement with philately. The quality of its monthly journal, *The American Philatelist*, is just amazing. Great writing, interesting and diverse topics, worthwhile advertising, and how they manage that with a full-time staff of five is beyond me. (*Editor's note:* In fact, only three staff members are directly concerned with producing the AP.) Just a

Wayne Youngblood opened my eyes to the wonders of my hobby. Yes, I learned about the means and methods of stamp production.

priceless resource. Indeed, *The American Philatelist* alone is worth the price of APS membership.

But, I can't say enough about Summer Seminar. Wayne Youngblood opened my eyes to the wonders of my hobby. Yes, I learned about the means and methods of stamp production. I gained an understanding for the making of all those coveted rarities and EFOs. But Wayne supplemented that with a nuanced approach to the broader hobby of stamp collecting. His use of published articles as source materials was a valuable contribution to my philatelic library. His references to the broader philatelic literature caused me to rush to the APS Library after class. (And, what a joy that was!) I came away from the course with a greater sense of the *possibilities* inherent in collecting stamps. My enjoyment of the hobby has absolutely blossomed as a consequence of Wayne's approach.

I attended as many of the elective courses as I could. I learned why I never want to become a stamp dealer! I learned how to improve upon my specialized collecting interests (the Gambia and KGV Silver Jubilee) and how to broaden the scope of my collecting without diluting it. There were presentations on areas of collecting I had never considered; some

I came away from the course with a greater sense of the *possibilities* inherent in collecting stamps. My enjoyment of the hobby has absolutely blossomed as a consequence of Wayne's approach.



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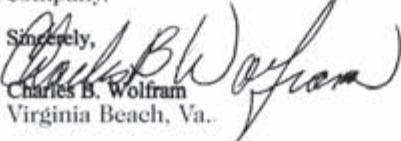
Edward D. Younger Co.
Pound Ridge,
NY 10576

Jan. 30, 2007

Dear Mr. Younger:

A quick note to say that, after receiving your flyer indicating your company's January 2007 buying trip, I contacted you to schedule a meeting. I met with Mr. George Bailey this past Sunday and can report to you that Mr. Bailey was punctual, professional and fair in his dealings with me. He is a professional whose knowledge of stamps is truly impressive.

I feel that, overall, my experience was most pleasant and, in the future, if I have any stamps to sell, I will certainly contact your company.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Wolfram
Virginia Beach, Va.

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January 12, 2007

Dear Mr. Younger:

I want to thank you for sending Mr. George Bailey of your company to visit me in my home and purchase the major portion of my stamp collection. He was forthright, honest, very trusting of me and a gentleman. Although individuals always want as much as possible for a heartfelt personal collection, the offer was fair for both parties.

Please convey my thanks to George for his promptness, kindness and professionalism. I will recommend your company and George as a good organization with which to conduct business.

Sincerely,



James Hawker
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I hadn't even heard about. One speaker especially stands out in my mind. Larry Hunt's presentation on the Three-Cent Orange Browns was a masterful demonstration of philatelic scholarship and respect for his audience. His handout was many pages of color copies, thoughtfully bound, and holds a place in my developing library. Larry's effort illustrated for me the difference between merely collecting stamps and true philately.

In early January I received the invitation to the 2009 Summer Seminar, and I'm already making plans to attend. The point of this letter is to urge any members who have not yet attended Summer Seminar to consider attending in 2009. If collectors as diverse as Dave and I can benefit, I believe more of us should be there this summer.

Gary Wayne Loew
Pine Brook, New Jersey

'Enemy Aliens'

I read with interest Mr. Sheaff's article on "Detention of 'Enemy Aliens'" in the December issue of the *AP* (page

1138). My mother and father immigrated to America in 1930 and both shortly thereafter became citizens of the United States. I was born in Endicott in 1935.

I can strongly relate to the impact of Mr. Sheaff's article. First, even though my parents were citizens, we could not have a short wave radio in the house during World War II since we were "Italians."

Second, my parents had an Italian man living in an upstairs apartment who was not a citizen. I was eight years old in 1943. I remember clearly one night that three plainclothes men and three uniformed police came to our house around 11:00 p.m., searched our tenant's apartment, and found that he had a Brownie camera. He was arrested on the spot, carted off, and his whereabouts were unknown for two months. Of course, his wife was frantic. They finally released him with no charges ever being brought. He spent the time in a detention center in upstate New York, but was kept incommunicado. This was the United States of America!

I recall the images of that night vividly, even though it was sixty-five years

ago. Of course, what they did to the Japanese families was far worse.

Bruno Colapietro
Binghamton, New York



No Time

Please find attached an envelope (shown above) I just received in the mail from the Washington Press. Someone had the time to "Sharpie" through all of the stamps, but not to postmark the envelope! I assume this happens quite frequently, but not to me. All of us stamp collectors want to find another neatly canceled Inverted Jenny!

William Harris
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Mistaken Identity

I am a member of APS and I receive *The American Philatelist*. The February issue came a week ago and this weekend I had a chance to look at it. The last page in the issue, an article by Bob Lamb "Worldwide in a Nutshell" has the heading "BOTSWANA." The article however contains information concerning the archipelago to which Madeira belongs, a very different part of the world! Botswana is NOT an autonomous region of Portugal and is NOT located in the Atlantic ocean. Madeira is! Botswana is a landlocked country just north of South Africa!

Who made such a mistake????

Margriet Hecht
Portland, Oregon

Editor's Reply: The computer did it. Seriously, though, many readers have called/e-mailed/written to us about this oversight. It was a cut-and-paste error from January, a result of Bob's column appearing monthly in the *AP*. Clearly our readers have sharper eyes than our proofers! A corrected version is available online at www.stamps.org in the *AP* section.

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Is It a Proof? Is It an Essay?

With the advent of computer-generated art, what now constitutes a philatelic essay or a proof? It was relatively obvious when the terms were created for engraving. Webster's *Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary* refers to an essay as a "trying or testing endeavor," from the Old French word "essai" with the same meaning. There is no other definition of the term in that resource book.

An "artist proof" for an engraver is defined as "one of the first impressions of an engraving," later adding "or a lithograph," taken before the plate is worn. In printing it is called "a printed trial sheet or impression, taken for comparison with the original manuscript to find or correct errors." The actual definition under "proof" is "pertaining to or used in proving, testing or correcting — as a proof sheet." Also, it is defined as "any effort, process or operation that attempts to establish truth or fact."

Today, in philately, stamps are often designed on a computer. There is no "original copy" as the original is on a hard drive and each sheet is an original on a digital copier or press — per the folks at Xerox who created the first digital copier.

Are those first sheets that are created really "essays"? Are the first sheets that utilize the "essay" to create an initial sheet for use by a proof reader really "proofs"? I don't know that these question have been broached before.

The reason for the above questions is that when the ATA decided to hold their 2009 National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS 09) in Dayton, Ohio, June 12–14, I recognized that this year was the 100th anniversary of the first sale of a Wright Brothers' aircraft to the U.S. Army. Having just located nine of the ten men with whom I shared a barrack's bay in the U.S. Air Force for most of three years, and finding that one of them, Lonnie Pickett, was now an aircraft artist with works on display at many air-related facilities, I decided to see if we could get some of his art on a sheet of stamps to be issued at NTSS 09.

On my computer I re-sized nine of his various works, which he had mailed to me, and created a sheet showing these, with text referring to the anniversary and with additional line drawings of my own for the selvedge area. To this I added the NTSS 09 show logo and then submitted the sheet to Aviva Darab at the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) via e-mail. IGPC has worked with the ATA in the past, and I had hope that my design would be accepted.

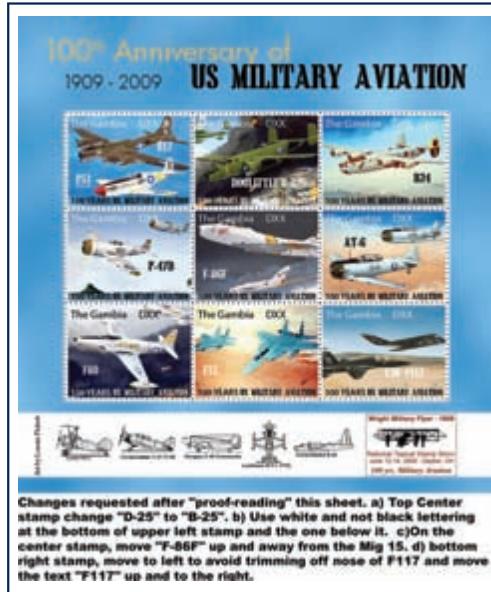
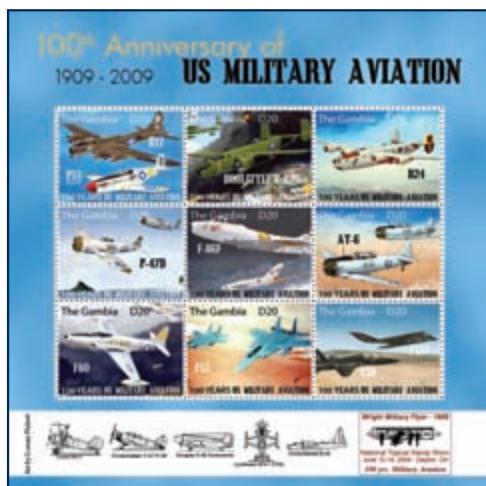
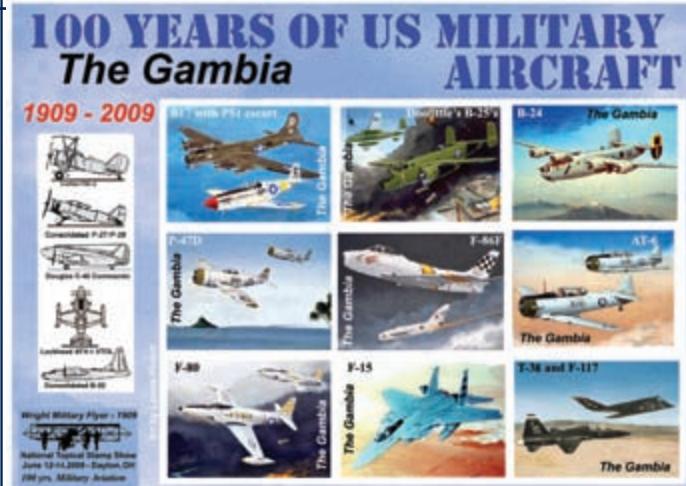
In January of this year Aviva mailed a copy of the sheet, which had been revised on an IGPC computer, and asked me to look it over or proofread it. I printed out a copy, made note of one typo, and made five other requests for modifications. A week later, a final design was e-mailed to me and I printed it out. The sheet was perfect and will soon become the sheet of stamps to be issued at the NTSS 09 unveiling on Friday, June 12.

This gets me back to the questions at the beginning of my letter. Would the first sheet that I designed and printed before e-mailing it to IGPC be called an "essay," since it was my "testing endeavor"? Would the sheet that was created on an IGPC computer, then e-mailed to me, printed by me, and used in proofreading be called a "proof," since it was "an effort or process that attempts to establish truth or fact"? (The factual change was that a B-25 was inadvertently identified as a D-25 aircraft.)

If not, is there a term that can be used for the computer-generated images that now perform the same tasks of the philatelic proofs and essays of old?

These would be interesting items to show in a Display Class exhibit, but would they hold up in another exhibit class? Since I am not a judge, I really don't know, but wanted to share these questions and this situation with my fellow APS members, with whom the answers surely can be found.

Ray E. Cartier
Arlington, Texas





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Provenance: ex Ferrari collection (1923)
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Bull's-Eye Cancel Collecting

There are few collecting areas in our hobby that can cover such broad or diverse areas as bull's-eye or socked-on-the-nose stamp collecting. Yet the number of specialists in this area worldwide is relatively small, numbering perhaps a few hundred. Bull's-eye or SOTN (usually used interchangeably) generally refers to used stamps with the circular-dated (plus town name) portion of a handstamp or machine cancel nearly perfectly centered on the design area. These attractive stamps are prized by specialists, but also are actively acquired by collectors seeking to obtain the best-looking used stamps for their collections. But bull's-eyes offer much more. They are a form of postal history unto themselves. The circular-dated portion of a cancel usually contains a date, location and, sometimes, even time of day, pinpointing exactly when a stamp was used — even if soaked off cover. Fancy cancels, auxiliary markings and other interesting markings also can appear as SOTN markings. Unfortunately, at least in the United States, the creation of future SOTN items through normal mail handling is threatened by recent technological changes.

In philately, technology begets process change, change alters postal practice, and postal practice drives the direction of stamp collecting. If the system works the way it's supposed to, postal needs come before collecting, which allows us

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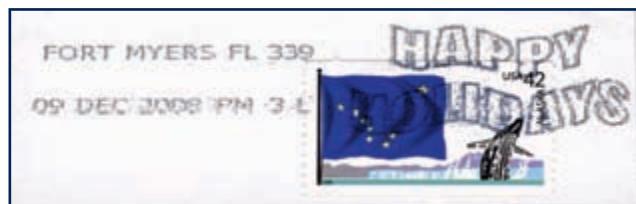
to collect and reconstruct the postal process through artifacts used for specific purposes — and we probably shouldn't want it any other way. Otherwise, we'd be little better than so-called postal administrations that issue stamps that are rarely used for the purpose they were intended. Those items exist primarily to be marketed to collectors. But I digress.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of technology affecting a large number of collectors is the relatively recent move by the United States Postal Service to discontinue the use of a water-soluble release liner on self-adhesive stamps, making conventional stamp soaking (in water) a thing of the past.

Unsoakable stamps aren't the only recent technology change that has forced collectors to re-examine their collecting habits. A relatively innocent-seeming USPS experimental development during the late 1980s (inkjet sprayed-on postmarks) essentially eventually ushered in the death knell for forward movement of bull's-eye cancel collecting — an area that, according to early postal regulations, should never have existed. Fortunately, collectors have more than 150 years-worth of bull's eyes to pursue!

When inkjet sprayed-on postmarks first began appearing to the general public (around 1991), they were being used

primarily to detect and document stale-dated meters (essentially backdated), and, occasionally, served as auxiliary markings. The USPS even stated at the time it had no intention of using inkjet markings as standard cancellations. Yet, in just two decades they have virtually replaced all machine cancellations in this country — to the great loss of bull's-eye cancel collectors. With the exception of hand-stamped cancels and those used for first-day cancellations, the vast majority of cancellation devices have been completely replaced by inkjet sprayers, which leave little that resembles a true SOTN cancel.

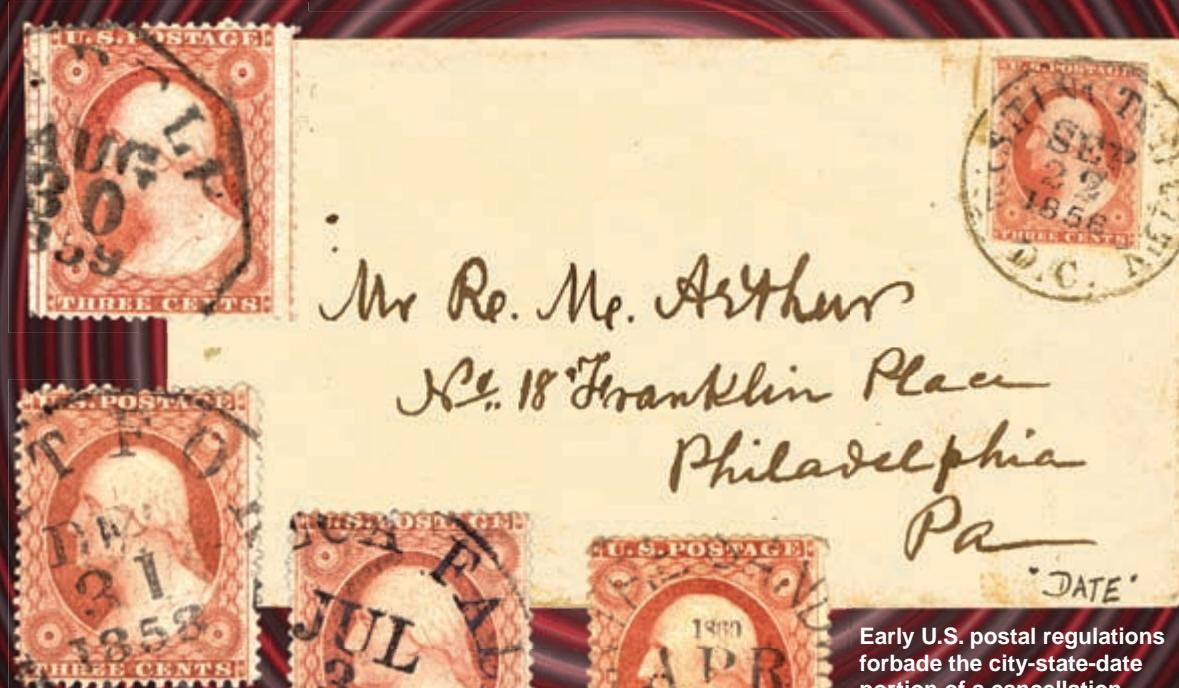


Inkjet-sprayed postmarks such as this one have all but replaced standard machine cancels in the United States, and have had a negative effect on the creation of bull's-eye cancels.

Before getting into bull's-eyes, the ways they are collected, and their potential future, let's look at their background and how they are created, with the focus on those of the United States.

For all practical purposes, there are two primary types of bull's-eye cancels: intentional and non-intentional. For collecting we don't need to determine whether the cancel was applied intentionally or by accident, although many

SOTN cancellations may be applied by metal die-hub cancelers (the preferred format), hand-stamped devices, manuscript markings, inkjet spray-ons (rarely), and may even be printed on a stamp, such as the on-cover example shows.



Early U.S. postal regulations forbade the city-state-date portion of a cancellation device from touching stamps. Thus, the earliest bull's-eyes frequently sell for premiums over normally canceled stamps.



By the 1860s, SOTN cancels were a little more common and can be found with full dates without too much trouble. Some of these dates have historic significance. The April 27, 1865, date illustrated (left) was the day that the *Sultana* paddlewheeler exploded and sank in the Mississippi River, becoming the largest maritime disaster in U.S. history.



Almost without exception, even the most common of mid-nineteenth-century stamps with a full town name and year date command significant premiums over their more standard canceled counterparts.



The large Bank Note era of the United States saw bull's-eye cancels becoming more common, but clear, well-centered examples are challenging to find.



During the 1890s metal die-hub machine cancels became common in larger cities, such as New York, Philadelphia and Boston, but perfect bull's-eye examples are scarce.

Early precanceled stamps, as well as some revenue precancels, feature SOTN designs.



Maladjusted canceling machines are the cause of some types of bull's-eye cancels, as are examples where several letters traveled through a machine at one time.





The main cause of bull's-eye-canceled stamps is the placement position of stamps on an envelope. This is sometimes a necessary placement or results from having several stamps make up a specific postal rate.



Some particular types of stamps, including high-denomination definitives, special delivery, and parcel post stamps are scarce with bull's-eye cancels. Some types of cancels themselves, such as the purple machine cancels in use for a short time during the late 1970s and early 80s, are as difficult to find as bull's-eyes.

of the intentional SOTN cancels are the nicest appearing. The cancels themselves may be applied either officially (by the U.S. Postal Service) or privately (as in the case of most revenues) by means of hand-stamp devices, metal die-hub machines, inkjet sprayers, manuscript (by hand), or even printed on a stamp. Most collectors avoid manuscript bull's-eyes and prefer metal die-hub machine cancels, as they are both attractive and elusive. As long as the cancel is well-centered on the stamp and conveys information desirable to the collector it can be considered a bull's-eye, or SOTN cancel.

As I briefly mentioned, according to early postal regulations the existence of bull's-eye cancels should never have occurred. These regulations specified that

the dated portion of a city-state cancellation device should never come in contact with the postage stamp; thus the need for so-called "killers," those portions of the cancellation that early on included targets, hand-carved designs, or anything used to obliterate the stamp. Later, wavy lines on machine cancels appeared and are still used.

Despite these early regulations, many bull's-eye cancels occurred, either through necessity for canceling or by carelessness. Almost without exception, even the most common of mid-nineteenth-century stamps with a full town name and year date command significant premiums over their more standard canceled counterparts. The Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*

Bulls-Eye Cancel Collectors Club

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

Visit them online at:
www.jeffhayward.com/bccc/



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Rotation angle of a metal die-hub cancellation also can make a difference. Although all three of these stamps are nice examples of SOTN cancels, the center one is the most desirable.

more than one envelope travels through a canceling machine at once, leaving parts of cancels on more than one cover and allowing the circular date stamp portion to hit the stamp squarely. But by far the most common cause is when there are a number of stamps on the same envelope. This can happen when several stamps are used to make up a specific rate.

Some of our relatively recent larger-format stamps, such as those released to pay Priority Mail and Express Mail rates, are particularly well-suited to receive SOTN cancels. These markings are usually four-bar handstamps or circular registry cancels rather than metal die-hub markings, but they are in proportion to the stamp size and make attractive examples.

There are, however, some types of

stamps and cancels that are more difficult than normal to find with SOTN cancels. These include high-denomination definitive stamps (which seldom are used on envelopes passing through cancellation machines), Special Delivery and Parcel Post issues (again, because they didn't frequently pass through cancellation machines), and the purple machine cancels of the late 1970s and early 1980s (which were in use for only a brief period of time).

The quality of a bull's-eye cancel is determined by several things, including intensity, centering and angle of strike. Although collectors prefer a SOTN cancel to be clear, dark and nearly perfectly centered, that just doesn't happen often. Most are visibly off center in one or more direction and may be canted at different

angles. It's up to each collector to determine what constitutes a collectible bull's-eye cancel.

Those collectors who may be attempting to create a bull's-eye calendar define a bull's eye as any stamp that shows fully the date and year of cancellation. Depending on centering and intensity it can occasionally take some real effort to determine a date. But this is sometimes necessary for locating examples of holidays, Sundays, leap year, or specific historical dates that are difficult to find under any circumstance. A poorly centered or lightly struck cancel can always be replaced later if a better one turns up.

Next month we'll take a look at a number of the various ways that bulls'-eye cancels can be collected.

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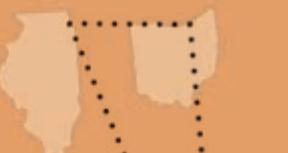
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Yes, There ARE Some Rules

If you have read any of my previous columns, you probably have caught on that I'm not all that fond of the arbitrary rules various people have invented to keep other people from enjoying their stamps:

- **Don't mix mint stamps and used stamps on the same page.** Why in the world not?
- **Don't collect mass-market First Day Covers.** If you admire their beauty, why wouldn't you want to collect them?
- **Never buy hinged stamps or stamps with even the most minor faults, even if the flaws are not readily visible.** Well, such stamps are a lot cheaper than stamps that have never been hinged and are perfect in every respect. What someone else sees as a flaw shouldn't stop *you* from thoroughly enjoying the stamps you can afford.

Now, let me say that actually there ARE rules! And that I think these rules are important. Not rules about what you collect or how you organize your holdings, but about *how you handle and store your stamps and covers*. It is a truism that we are not really the owners of our philatelic material, but merely possess it for a time before it passes on to another generation of collectors. You are not the first owner of any nineteenth-century item. You were able to add it to your collection and derive pleasure from it because the previous owners took care of it when it was theirs. You should be a responsible collector!

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Not rules about what you collect or how you organize your holdings, but about *how you handle and store your stamps and covers*.

sible custodian so future collectors will be able to enjoy those same stamps and covers.

A few years ago one of the owners of the famous "inverted Jenny" stamp had a terrible mishap. He didn't notice that he had dropped the legendary stamp on the floor, and the maid vacuumed it up when she cleaned the room. Fortunately, the owner missed the stamp before the vacuum cleaner bag was emptied, but the damage to the stamp was quite severe. Accidents happen to all of us. But I was disturbed to read an account that quoted the owner as saying that at least it was something he could replace. There were originally only 100 copies of this stamp, and the whereabouts of several of them are unknown. It is a stamp most of us would love to have a chance to own.

To shrug off the damage to one of these rare artifacts as merely a matter of money seems callous to me. Perhaps the owner was quoted out of context and really meant that at least there was no loss of life or something like that, but, as reported, it sounded like he was dismissing the loss as trivial since he personally could afford another sound copy of this scarce — now even scarcer! — stamp.

Few of us have Jenny inverts, but we all have a responsibility to care for our philatelic treasures — and the scarcer the item, the greater the responsibility. Some stamps are available in such abundance that there will always be enough of them for anyone who wants to own them. But collectors have to compete fiercely to own others, with most of what we collect being somewhere in the middle. It



Don't write. Writing the Scott number of the stamp in ink on this lovely (digitally cropped) naval cover has seriously decreased its appeal.

is a good habit to care properly for every stamp or cover in your collection. The "shalt nots" that follow (in no particular order) are not exhaustive, but they will give you some notion of what sorts of hazards to avoid.

1. Don't write on your stamps. Not even in pencil. Not even on the back. No exceptions! Many older stamps have Scott numbers (not always accurate) and prices scrawled on the back. Such writing can and often does damage the stamp. Just don't. Don't write on the fronts of covers, either. Light pencil marks on the backs of covers are usually benign, but avoid ink. I recently came across a piece of postal stationery in a dealer's box with a notation in ink on the front, right under the embossed indicia, saying that it was a valuable variety. Ugh. Very few collectors would consider buying an item, scarce or not, with such disfiguration.

2. Be careful when soaking stamps. Don't clip the corners of the envelope so closely that you cut off some of the perforations on the stamps. Don't soak stamps on colored paper with other stamps, or the whole batch may turn out pink or yellow from the color that bleeds from the envelope paper. And don't cut stamps off envelopes before checking carefully to make sure that the cover is

not worth preserving as a cover. If it's old or has any kind of marking on the back, you should probably leave the stamp on the original card or envelope.

3. Don't smoke around your stamps and covers. Not only does it make them smell bad, but the paper will accumulate a yellowish-brown residue from the smoke that makes the stamp look dull and dirty. Not to mention the fact that hot ashes can burn small holes in your collectibles. Most older collections have at least a few stamps that have lost their fresh appearance because their previous owners smoked.

4. Keep your stamps very clean. No coffee or other beverages on the same table, please. Don't eat a greaseburger and then pick up your album without first washing your hands. And, wait, even if you've washed your hands very well, please don't touch your stamps with your bare hands! Use stamp tongs. Even clean hands have enough oils to leave fingerprints on a glass for your favorite TV detective to use to convict a criminal, and "clean" hands also can leave fingerprints on stamps. No excuses — just use the tongs. One exception: some people even use tongs to handle wet stamps after soaking. But wet paper tears easily, and, since oil and water don't mix, I usually find it safer to retrieve stamps from my soaking bowl with my fingers. Once they are dry, however, USE TONGS.

5. Never cut the backs off covers. Some unwise collectors try to save storage space by saving only the fronts of covers. Very, very bad idea. The covers thus mutilated become highly vulnerable to further damage, and any markings on the back are lost forever. A cover can easily lose 90 percent or more of its value by being butchered in this way. Oh, by the way, please don't fold or cut collectible #10 (business size) envelopes so they fit in your #6 cover albums. Shudder.

6. Keep philatelic collections out of un-air-conditioned attics and humid cellars. Heat causes paper to become brittle and discolored. And mold and mildew can easily turn your beloved stamps into a stinking mess. Some critters such as silverfish like to munch on paper. And after a family of roaches has dined on the gum on your mint stamps, what is left may be



Don't smoke. The difference in color in these stamps is probably due to tobacco.



Don't eat or drink. A long-ago cup of coffee is the likely cause of the stain on this otherwise pleasant small cover.

fit only for hamster bedding.

7. There should be a total ban on Scotch Tape or any of its generic cousins from your stamp area. If it sits there readily at hand, you'll be tempted to use it. So keep it in another room. Many beginning collectors have used little balls of tape as a substitute for stamp hinges. The ugly brown stains that develop as the chemicals in the tape leach into the stamp are not removable. The album itself also will be badly damaged. Tempted to "fix" a small tear on a cover with tape?

Don't do it! The tape eventually will fall off, but the damage from the adhesive is forever. Using tape is another way to transform a wonderful collection into hamster bedding. Posterity does not want stamps with permanent dark brown oily stains.

8. What about peelable tape? That's a faintly gray area. Yes, this sort of tape (the Scotch variety comes on a blue card) has a few, very limited, uses in philately. But only short-term use, as the longer you leave it in place, the more harm it is going to do! You can use peelable tape to hold self-stick stamps and selvage together while you peel them off their backing to transfer a plate number stamp to an envelope, for example. But remove the tape immediately.

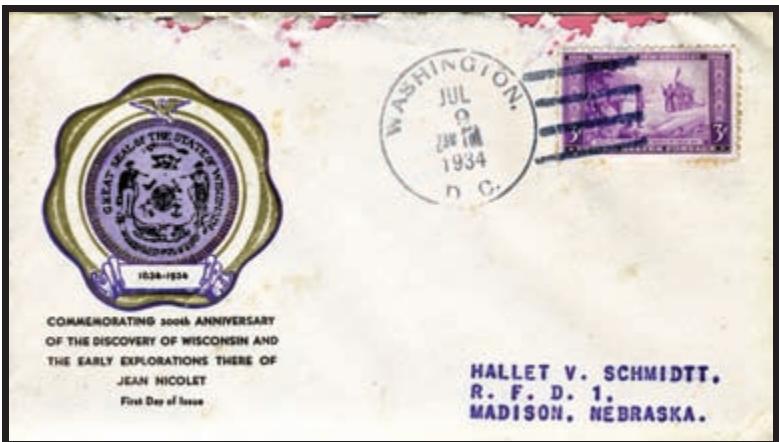
Another acceptable use is for attaching an address to a First Day Cover or other philatelic cover being sent for



Never use tape. Someone loved a poor torn stamp enough to try to patch it with tape. The results were sub-optimal.



Use tongs. It's actually easier to pick up stamps with tongs than with bare fingers. It just takes a little — very little — practice.



Store safely. This F.R. Rice First Day Cover would sell for about ten dollars if intact. A silverfish or other hungry pest changed it into a twenty-five cent item at best.

a special cancel. As long as the cover will not go unprotected through the mailstream after being canceled (that is, it will be returned inside another envelope or sleeve), fine — just remove the tape at the first possible moment. But please do not use this tape on a cover that will be handled as ordinary mail. One reason is that the mail mangling machines may remove the taped-on address before the envelope reaches its recipient.

Even if all goes well, the person who gets the cover is left with a choice. Either leave the taped-on address in place and have the cover ruined in a few years, or else peel it off. The problem with the latter choice is that you are left with a cover which has obviously gone through the mail — to nobody!

Unaddressed philatelic covers are fine, but normal covers with no address look strangely incomplete. Worse, often



Use the correct mount.
A too-small mount can cause a lot of damage.

the barcode is partly on and partly off the tape, so peeling off the tape leaves a odd-looking partially-printed code. If I receive a cover with a taped-on address, I carefully remove the tape and reattach the address with a glue stick. But if the barcode is partly on the tape, I simply don't keep the cover. (Okay, okay. You're not me. If you actually LIKE modern postal history with interrupted barcodes and no address, go ahead and

collect it that way. This is the only "rule" in this article that you can break with my permission. I have allowed my personal prejudice to invade these rules momentarily because tape was under discussion, and someone always asks about peelable tape. End of rant. Just don't leave ANY tape, even peelable, in place on a stamp or cover for a moment longer than necessary. That's a real rule.)

9. Be wary of hinging mint stamps. Many collectors prefer to have stamps with undisturbed gum on the back, and hinged stamps typically sell for much less than those with no hinge marks. So if you think you might ever resell a valuable mint stamp — or want your heirs to get the best price after you're gone — use mounts for stamps that still have pristine gum. If you want to hinge extremely common ("penny box") stamps, however, go ahead, as there is an ample supply of never hinged modern common stamps available for future generations, and the resale value, being almost nothing, is not a consideration.

10. Use the right size mount or sleeve. It is sad to see stamps that are permanently wrinkled and have crushed perfs because someone was too impatient to find a mount of the proper size. If you use hinges, don't try to peel the hinge off while it is even a little bit damp. If you hinge a stamp on the wrong page, just wait until the next day to move it.

11. Don't expose philatelic items to direct sunlight. Sun makes paper brittle and fades ink. If you want to frame a favorite item, hang it where window light doesn't fall directly on the display.

I have lectured you enough for one column. Be good! I welcome your comments at ada@stamps.org, but please put "APS" in the subject line, otherwise your note may be discarded as spam. Or write to 130 Trafalgar St. Rochester, NY 14619. Postal mail usually takes 2–3 weeks to get to me this way, so please be patient. And thanks to the two readers who caught my silly error in this column in November — the rest of you need to go back and look for my goof!

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OREGON



Oregon State Sesquicentennial.



Crater Lake, National Parks issue.

by Dr. Timothy M. Bergquist

On February 14, 2009, the state of Oregon celebrated its 150th anniversary as the thirty-third state in the United States. A month earlier, on January 14, the United States Postal Service recognized the event by issuing the 42-cent Oregon State Sesquicentennial stamp. However, this is not the first time the state has been honored with a U.S. stamp. Oregon or Oregon-related things, places, and persons have been commemorated on numerous U.S. stamps over the years, starting with the National Parks issue showing Crater Lake in 1934 (Scott 745). Although many of these are detailed in the Oregon Blue Book (www.sos.state.or.us/bbook/default.htm), this article provides the stamp connection to that resource.

Geology and Geography

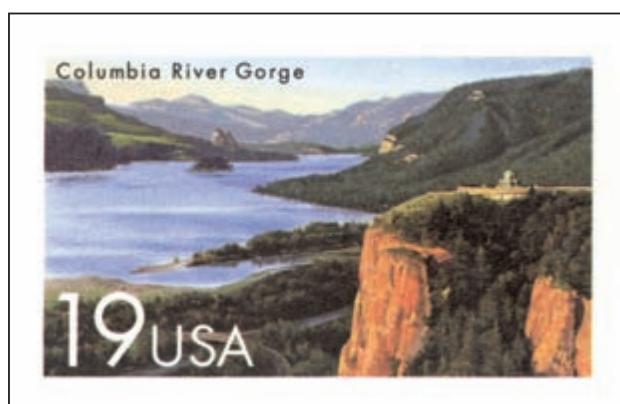
Oregon is situated on the west coast of the United States, bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the state of Washington to the north, Idaho to the east, and California and Nevada to the south. Along with Washington and Idaho, it forms the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. The state is bisected by two major mountain ranges: the Oregon Coast Range and the Cascades mountain range, part of the chain of mountains that extends from the Canada to Mexico through Washington and Oregon; the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (*Scott 4043*) follows this mountain chain. The boundary between Washington and Oregon is primarily set by the Columbia River, which runs through the Columbia River Gorge (*Scott UX164*) and has long been a resource for Native Americans.

Oregon has much natural beauty, ranging from rugged or sandy seashores to majestic mountains to high desert. Oregon's geology is largely volcanic in nature, and there are numerous volcanoes and fault lines are to be found in the state. The Oregon Statehood Sesquicentennial stamp (mentioned previously) depicts a scene from the beautiful Oregon coast with mountains in the background. Oregon boasts the deepest lake — Crater Lake in southern Oregon (*Scott 4040*) — and the deepest gorge in the United States: Hell's Canyon on the border between Oregon and Idaho.

This is a fruitful land, and many of the official "state designated" items — such as the state animal, bird, flower, fish, insect, fruit, and tree — have been depicted on U.S. stamps and postal cards. One example is the Western Meadowlark (*Scott 1989*), which is the state bird not only of Oregon but also of five other states: Kansas (*Scott 1968*), Montana (*Scott 1978*), Nebraska (*Scott 1979*), North Dakota (*Scott 1986*), and Wyoming (*Scott 2002*). Thus it was prominently displayed in the 50-stamp State Bird and Flowers sheet issued in



Pacific Crest Trail (Longest Hiking Trail).



Columbia River Gorge.



Crater Lake (Deepest Lake).

1982. The Oregon Grape, the state flower, also is depicted on the stamp. The Swallowtail butterfly (*Scott 1712*) is a beautiful insect that populates many of the inland valleys.

For many years timber has been the state's predominant industry, but agriculture, too, has been very important as has commercial fishing. The Douglas Fir (*Scott 1376*) grows all over western Oregon and has been the primary tree of choice for the housing industry. The pear (*Scott 2488*) is grown in many orchards throughout the state. The Chinook Salmon (*Scott 1079*) has supported major commercial and Native American fishing for many years.

A Bit of History

Oregon has been settled for at least 12,000 years, most of that time by Native

Americans. The oldest shoes in the United States are a pair of 10,000-year-old fiber moccasins found in 1938 at Fort Rock Cave in eastern Oregon. Numerous Native American tribes lived in the Oregon region, including the Clatsop, Coquille, Grand Ronde, Kalapuya, Klamath, Nez Perce, Paiute, Siletz, Umpqua, and Warm Springs. They fished, hunted, and traded with many other tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Kalapuya inhabited the Willamette Valley, through which the Willamette River flows. This lush valley attracted many white settlers to the region and is still the main farming area of the state.

One of the first whites to visit Oregon was Captain James Cook in 1778 (*Scott 1732*), who sailed up the Oregon coast and named Cape Foulweather. Of course, the Spanish (from California) and the Russians (from Alaska) also were interested in this land. In 1792, on his second voyage to the area, Captain Robert Gray of Boston entered the Columbia River and named it after his ship.

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson acquired from France a vast territory in the middle of the North American con-



American Beaver (state animal).



American Beaver (Largest Rodent).



Oregon State Bird and Flower: Western Meadowlark and Oregon Grape.



King (Chinook) Salmon (state fish).



Douglas Fir (state tree).



Swallowtail Butterfly (state insect).



Pear (state fruit).

tinent as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The following year the President dispatched Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore this new addition to the United States all the way to the Pacific Ocean. They reached the coast and spent the winter of 1805–1806 near present-day Astoria in Fort Clatsop, which is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park. Their expedition has been recognized on several stamps, including the 1954 Lewis and Clark Expedition sesquicentennial stamp (Scott 1063) and more recently in 2004 on the Bicentennial set of three stamps (Scott 3854–3856). Their reports of the new lands fired the imagination of many people and led to the white emigration into California and the Pacific Northwest, and to the route west that would become known as the Oregon Trail.

John Jacob Astor established the first permanent white settlement in Oregon at Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1811. This settlement was planned to take advantage of the fur trade in the region. Fur was the primary industry and the American beaver (Scott 2316 and Scott 4064), from which the state's nickname is derived, was a much sought-after animal that, in the end, was hunted almost to extinction.

Governing the area became a matter of increasing concern to the various interested parties. In the Convention of 1818 the United States and Great Britain reached an agreement to share spheres of influence in the Columbia basin between 42° North and 54°40' North, the latter marking Russia's southern boundary in Alaska at the 54th parallel. When the two countries later decided to divide the territory, rather than continue to share it, that northern boundary was used in the famous political slogan "Fifty-four/Forty or Fight!" Ultimately, a compromise boundary from the Rocky Mountains to the coast was negotiated at the 49th (not the 54th) parallel in the 1846 Treaty of Oregon. The 49th parallel remains the boundary with Canada today.

The area officially was recognized by Congress as the Oregon Territory of the United States in 1848 (Scott 964). The new territory included present-day Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and parts of western Montana and Wyoming. Oregon achieved statehood in 1859 (Scott 1124). The current Oregon state flag was adopted in 1925. It appears on the 1976 50-stamp sheet State Flags issue (Scott 1665), and will appear again in 2010 in one of the sets of five of the Flags of our Nation series.

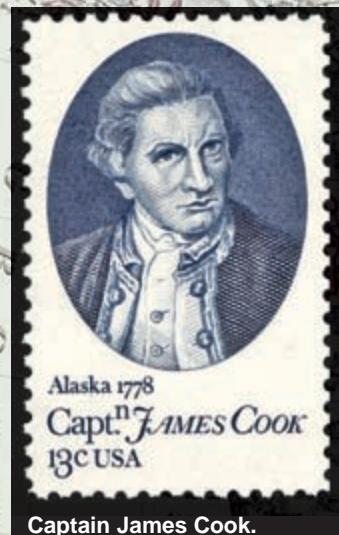
Of course, no mention of Oregon is complete without discussing the Oregon Trail. A U.S. stamp issued in 1936 (Scott 783), the Oregon Territory issue, is described by Scott as the "Centenary of Oregon Trail opening." It marked the hundredth anniversary of the first covered wagon train carrying men and women to follow the Oregon Trail (which is shown on the map depicted on the stamp). It is generally accepted that the start date for the trail as a major route into the Oregon Territory was in 1843 when the first large-scale wagon trains began to roll west. This was commemorated



Oregon Territory.



Oregon Territory Centennial (John McLoughlin/Jason Lee).



Captain James Cook.



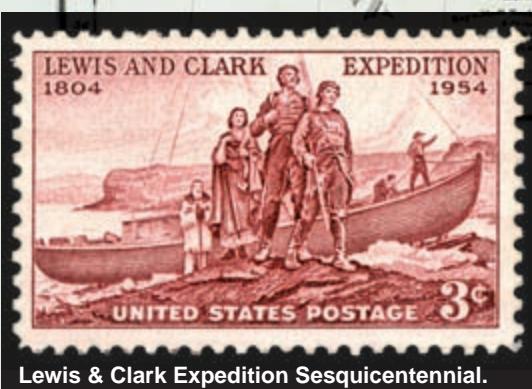
Oregon State Centennial.



Oregon State Flag.



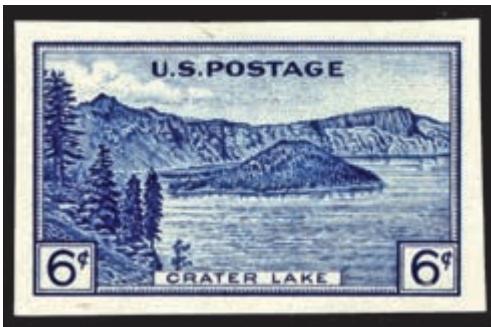
Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial.



Lewis & Clark Expedition Sesquicentennial.



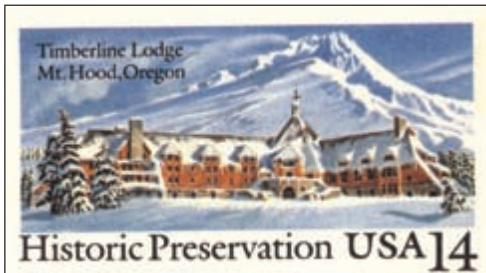
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.



Crater Lake, imperf.



Greetings from Oregon.



Timberline Lodge.

on the 29-cent Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial stamp (*Scott 2747*) in 1993. However, the general route had been known from the early 1800s, first by fur trappers and traders, who were followed by missionaries and even government-sponsored explorers. The National Park Service maintains the Oregon National Historic Trail with sites in Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wyoming. In fact, there are five interpretive centers in Oregon alone: (from east to west) Ontario, Baker City, Pendleton, The Dalles, and the End of the Oregon Trail Center in Oregon City. The Oregon Trail officially begins in Independence, Missouri and ends in Oregon City, Oregon.

Places

Numerous places in Oregon have been shown on U.S. stamps. Crater Lake and the Columbia River Gorge have been mentioned already. Actually, Crater Lake has shown up on *three* stamps; the third being the imperforate version of the National Parks issue (*Scott 761*). Crater Lake National Park was established in 1902, and the lake itself lies in the crater of Mt. Mazama, which exploded about 8,000 years ago. The two Greetings from Oregon stamps (*Scott 3597* and *Scott 3732*) show Mt. Hood, the highest point in the state, along with windsurfers on the Columbia River. The area between Hood River and The Dalles on the river is a favorite of windsurfers because of the narrow gorge here and the high winds.

Timberline Lodge is located at the 6,000-foot elevation level on Mt. Hood and was built by the Works Progress Administration in 1936 (*Scott UX119*). This popular ski resort



Waller Hall, Willamette University.



Umpqua River Lighthouse.

is located about fifty miles east of Portland and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

There are nine lighthouses along the Oregon coast along with one lightship. One of these, the Umpqua River Lighthouse was commemorated on a 2007 U.S. stamp in the Pacific Lighthouses set of five (*Scott 4149*). Built in 1857, it was the first lighthouse constructed in Oregon. The original structure collapsed in 1864 following a period of heavy flooding. The current lighthouse was built in 1894.

Two buildings on university campuses in Oregon have been depicted in the Historic Preservation series

of postal cards. The first is Waller Hall at Willamette University in Salem, the state capitol (*Scott UX162*) in 1991. It was built in 1867 and is the oldest building on the campus. The second is Waldschmidt Hall on the University of Portland campus in Portland (*Scott UX364*), issued in 2001 on the centennial of the founding of the University. The building sits on a bluff overlooking downtown Portland.

People

Many individuals associated with Oregon have been depicted on U.S. stamps. Of course, most people are familiar with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their 1802–1804 Voyage of Discovery (mentioned earlier).

However, the first person directly related to Oregon to be commemorated on a U.S. stamp was Dr. John McLaughlin, the “Father of Oregon.” He appears on the 1948 issue commemorating the centennial of the establishment of the Oregon Territory (*Scott 964*, mentioned earlier). Dr. McLaughlin was the principal factor or superintendent of the Hudson Bay Company, headquartered at Fort Vancouver in present-day Vancouver, Washington, on the Columbia River from 1825 to 1845. He was instrumental in helping travelers who followed the Oregon Trail get settled in Oregon, principally in the Willamette Valley.

The second person was Rev. Jason Lee, a Methodist minister who arrived in Oregon in 1833. He is depicted on the same stamp as Dr. John McLaughlin. Lee established a mission near present-day Salem (the state capital) to educate the

local Indian population and later founded what would become Willamette University.

Herbert Hoover, the thirty-first President of the United States (1928–1932) (*Scott* 1269) spent most of his childhood with his aunt and uncle in Newberg, Oregon, a farming community about twenty miles southwest of Portland.

Other people associated with Oregon who have been commemorated on stamps include Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce (*Scott* 2869f) and John C. Fremont (*Scott* 2869i and 2870), both of whom were included in the 1994 Legends of the West sheet. The Nez Perce included the Wallowa mountains of northeastern Oregon in their tribal lands. John Fremont's travels in Oregon and the subsequent publication of his journeys in 1845 helped to encourage people to migrate to Oregon.

The most recent person recognized on a U.S. stamp is Linus Pauling, who was born in Portland, Oregon, and is a graduate of Oregon State University. He is the only person to receive two unshared Nobel Prizes: Chemistry in 1954 and Peace in 1962. He died in 1994 and is commemorated on the 2008 American Scientists set of four (*Scott* 4225).

Summary

I could have included people such as Sacagawea and Thomas Jefferson in my list of stamps, as well as any stamp connected to the Oregon Trail or even the other Western Meadowlark stamps, but chose not to. One of the great things about philately is that you can collect what you want, in any way you want, so others may collect Oregon in many other ways. I welcome additions to this list.

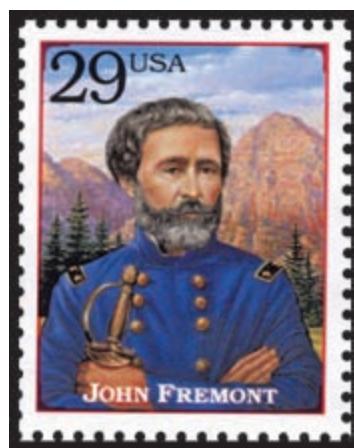
[Editor's note: An extended version of this article with numerous Internet links appears on our website at www.stamps.org, just click on the picture of the *American Philatelist*.



William Clark.



Meriwether Lewis.



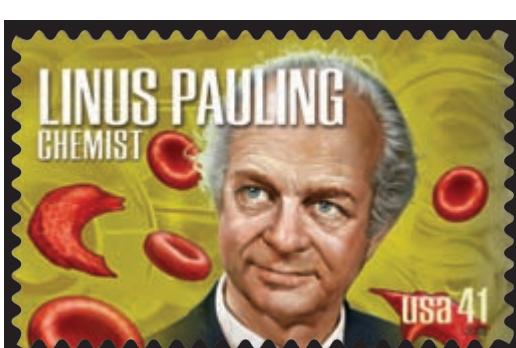
John C. Fremont.



Chief Joseph.



Herbert Hoover Memorial.



Linus Pauling.

The Author

Tim Bergquist holds a Ph.D. in Decision Sciences and is Professor of Quantitative Methods at Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon. He is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Portland, who moved back to Oregon with his family after 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. He collects U.S. and U.N. mint stamps as well as Oregon, flag (U.S.), space, lighthouse, and train topicals. He has been an APS member for more than 25 years.

My Parents' Wedding

& Rabbi Joachim Prinz

by Ralph Harpuder

S hortly before the Weimar Republic ended in 1933 with the ascension of Adolph Hitler as Germany's chancellor, my parents were wed at the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in Berlin, which was located in the formerly affluent district of Charlottenburg. The synagogue served the liberal Jewish community of the western districts of Berlin, with Rabbi Leo Baeck (1873–1956), leader of the progressive Judaism movement, officiating at the synagogue. His portrait is shown on Germany Scott 777. Rabbi Joachim Prinz officiated at their marriage.

As my parents were standing under the *chuppa* (canopy) with Rabbi Prinz that day in 1931, exchanging the wedding vows: "Ich nehme dich um mein zu sein, von diesem Tag, für besseres oder feur schlechtere...." ("I take you to be mine, on this day, for better or for worse...."), little did they imagine what the rise to power of the Nazis two years later would portend on the world stage, or that the following decade would see the Holocaust and the mass murder of six million European Jews and thousands of non-Jews.

Beginning his eleven-year rabbinate in Berlin at the age of twenty-four, Rabbi Prinz was a gifted orator who became Berlin's most sought-after preacher at the Friedenstempel, eventually serving the entire Jewish community and later preaching in its largest synagogue, "The New Synagogue" on Oranienburgerstrasse. Recently ren-

vated, its main sanctuary now houses a museum of Jewish history, illustrated on East Germany Scott 2846.

Rabbi Prinz officiated at a multitude of weddings, including my parents', at the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue's ceremonial marriage hall. The hall was officially presented to the Jewish community by Kaiser Wilhelm in 1912. At the time

of my parents' wedding, Rabbi Prinz was twenty-nine and already beginning to speak out about the dangers of National Socialism.

Since Jews held a highly visible social position within German society, the National Socialists had a ready-made target to blame for the country's economic woes, and they preached that Jews were making money from the sufferings of the Germany people. A good example is an anti-Semitic paper currency issued in August 1923. On the back of the 100 million mark is a verse that translates as "The Jew took our Gold, the Silver, and the Bacon, and left us with this Garbage" ("Das Gold, das Silber und den Speck / nahm uns der Jud / und liess uns diesen Dreck").

Five years after my parents' wedding, in 1936, intensified Nazi persecutions led to the closure of the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue. Two years later, on November 9, 1938, the building was burned during the state-sponsored night of terror against the Jews known as *Kristallnacht*. The grounds of the former synagogue were chosen in the 1950s as the site of a new Jewish Com-



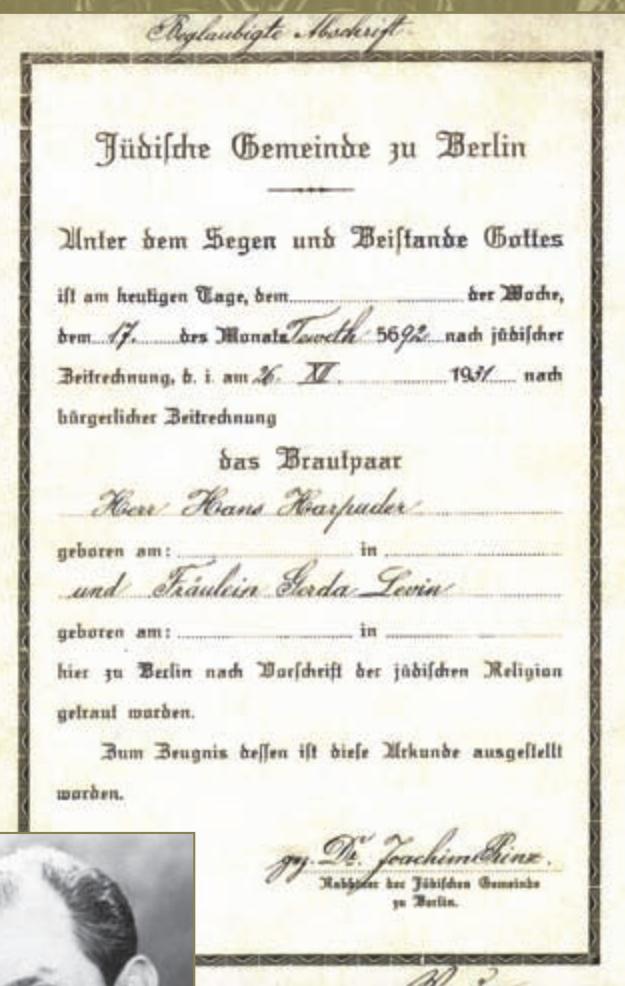
Charity seal showing Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in Berlin.



Rabbi Leo Baeck, leader of the progressive Judaism movement.



Wedding portrait of Hans Harpuder and Gerda Levin.



Wedding certificate signed by
Rabbi Prinz.

Rabbi Joachim Prinz.



Charity seal showing Friedenstempel
Synagogue in Berlin.



Charity seal showing
"The New Synagogue" on
Oranienburgstrasse, the largest
pre-war synagogue in Berlin.



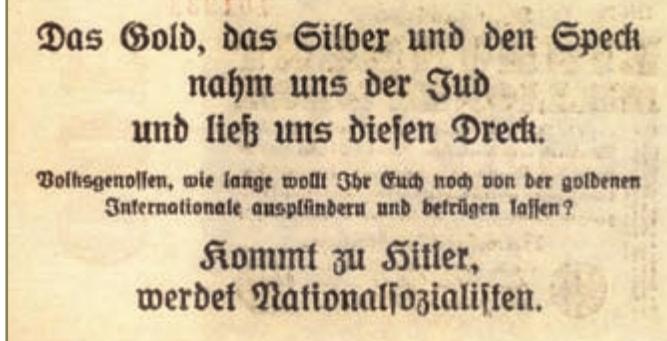
The renovated "New Synagogue"
now houses a Jewish History
museum in its main sanctuary.



Nazi propaganda postcard, Nürnberg, 1933. The text reads: "Unite the People. Strengthen the Third Reich."



Anti-Semitic paper currency issued 1923 (front and back).



munity Center for Berlin. The modern community center, shown on Germany Scott 9N22, has incorporated the old entrance to the destroyed Fasanenstrasse Synagogue, along with other artifacts, into the new building.

Early on, when he understood the Nazi threat and the menace in Adolf Hitler's rise to power, Rabbi Prinz began urging Jews to leave Germany. Thousands took his advice and left while they could. Others saw Hitler's rise through the

A new Jewish community center built on the site of the former Fasanenstrasse Synagogue features the original entrance to the destroyed building.



The burned ruins of Fasanenstrasse Synagogue following the destruction of Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938.

governmental ranks as a momentary chapter in an otherwise assimilated life in Germany and elected to wait it out. At the last minute, my parents left for Shanghai, a distant land that did not require a visa and that had become a refuge for approximately 18,000 European Jews. Although my father was still able to experience in the Shanghai Ghetto the joy of Victory Day, he passed away only a few weeks later when the city was liberated by the Allied forces.

With the help and sponsorship of the noted American rabbi, Stephen S. Wise (shown with other famous personalities on a souvenir sheet from Grenada, Scott 1351), Rabbi Prinz came to the United States in the fall of 1937 and, under the auspices of the United Palestine Appeal, began crossing the country lecturing about what was happening to Jews in Germany. In 1939 he returned to the rabbinate, accepting an invitation to become the spiritual leader of a then almost defunct temple, B'nai Abraham in New Jersey, which he soon transformed into a re-invigorated congregation with soaring membership.

Rabbi Prinz also devoted much of

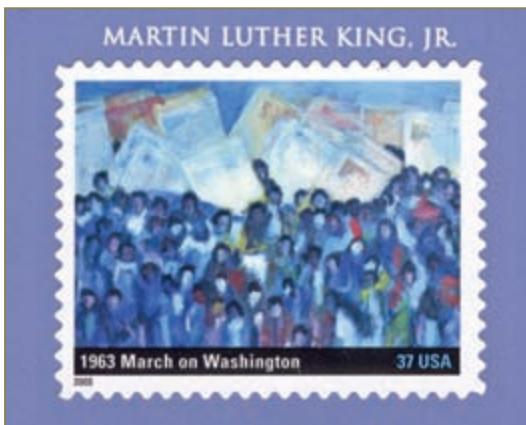


Charity seal showing Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue in Berlin.

Following the March on Washington, Rabbi Prinz (center, standing beside Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.) was among the activists who met with President John F. Kennedy to discuss enacting new policies for ensuring equal Civil Rights for all Americans.



Souvenir sheet with Rabbi Stephen S. Wise (1874–1949) shown on the far right.



Stamp commemorating the 1963 March on Washington, where Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. made his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968).



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BERMUDA 1883 1d The rare dull rose, SG 22 superb mint, well centered.	\$1,100.	
1941 Rain line perf 2/- SG 116b incl head plate flaw 49a, v.f. mint.	\$950.	
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GIBRALTAR 1912-24 1£ Purple and red SG 85 top marginal, two n.h. Fresh & superb mint.	\$650.	
JAMAICA 1863 3d Green SG 3 marginal with inscription, fresh mint, three n.h. Quite exceptional & pretty.	\$550.	
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his time in the United States to the Civil Rights movement, because he saw the plight of Black Americans in the context of his own experience under the Nazis. He was among the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington (U.S. Scott #3937h). In his speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Rabbi Prinz made the following profound comments just before Martin Luther King Jr. (U.S. Scott 1771) delivered his historic speech, "I Had a Dream":

A great people [Germany] which had created a great civilization had become a nation of silent onlookers. They remained silent in the face of hate, in the face of brutality and in the face of mass murder. America must not become a nation of onlookers. America must not remain silent.

On September 10, 1971, Rabbi Prinz returned to Berlin to attend services at the restored Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue celebrating "The 300 Year Establishment of the Jewish Community in Berlin" (sponsored by the Ecclesiastical Council, Churches and Communities, in Berlin-West). The Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue was among those burned during Kristallnacht. The Rabbi was one of several distinguished guests who were invited to speak there. It was at this festive occasion that my mother, who happened to be in Berlin at the time with my step-father, by invitation from the German Government, met Rabbi Prinz again after forty long years, recalling the day when she stood before him under the chuppa with my late beloved father.

Today, the Jewish community of Berlin, with its more than 12,000 members, is the largest Jewish community in Germany. Its diversified infrastructure offers everything necessary for a complete Jewish life in this once-again thriving city.

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Dr. Joachim Prinz home page: www.joachimprinz.com
Meyer, Michael A. (editor). *Joachim Prinz, a Rebellious Rabbi; An Autobiography — & a German and Early American Years* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007).

The Author

Ralph Harpuder is retired, following twenty-six years with the Los Angeles County Health Department as an environmentalist. He collects United States and Israel, but his specialty is Judaica.

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A Modern Forged Postmark

by M. P. Bratzel Jr.

Many companies located in the Windsor, Ontario, area post their U.S.-bound correspondence across the river in Detroit, Michigan. The cost is less and, in addition, delivery time is faster, since cross-border postal transit is eliminated. Of course, U.S. rather than Canadian postage must be used. Presently, the cost to mail a domestic letter in Detroit is 42 U.S. cents, compared to 93 Canadian cents (plus 6% tax, reduced on July 1, 2006 from 7%) to mail the same letter from Windsor.

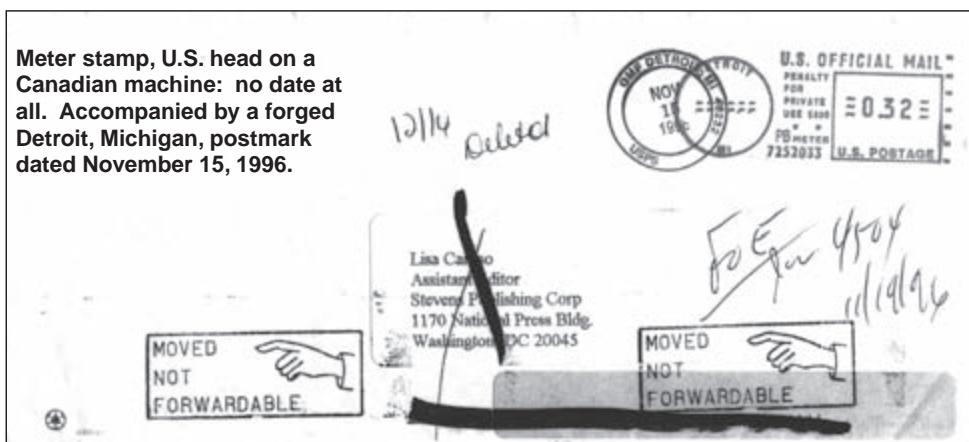
The following story took place in the mid-1990s. One Windsor business, which already had a U.S. post office box, decided to take advantage of the cost and time savings. Routinely, it franked its mail with a Canadian Pitney Bowes meter stamp machine equipped with a head that printed Canadian postage and indicated Windsor as the point of origin. The business acquired a second head that printed U.S. postage and Detroit as the point of origin. Both heads could be operated on the same machine.

But there was a gremlin!

In Canada, the date is expressed as year / month / day but, in the United States, the order is month / day / year. Because the machine was programmed for the Canadian date configuration, the U.S. head, when operated on the Canadian machine, yielded no date at all, rather, six pairs of tildes where the date should have been. However, the postage and the point of origin were correctly imprinted, so mail was franked and sent on its way.

The absence of a date posed no problem for ordinary letters, for which processing is highly automated, with minimal manual handling and visual inspection. But then the problems began. Properly franked Express Mail was returned by the U.S. Postal Service because the date was not indicated on the meter stamp. This caused some consternation, because of the time-sensitive

Meter stamp, U.S. head on a Canadian machine: no date at all. Accompanied by a forged Detroit, Michigan, postmark dated November 15, 1996.



nature of the correspondence. Therefore, the decision was made to add the date by hand with red ink. No dice! The USPS continued to return the Express Mail.

Thus the fateful decision was made to create a USPS datestamp that indicated the date. Using a genuine postmark as a guide, in all innocence, the datestamp was fabricated, date slugs procured, and a red ink pad obtained. Application of the postmark by the business, in effect, indicated that the mail had been accepted by the USPS.

The response was swift! U.S. postal inspectors appeared and, in no uncertain terms, said cease and desist immediately, and they confiscated the datestamp.

To conclude the story, in order to operate the U.S. head the business had to lease and import a U.S. Pitney Bowes machine. Until the machine was received, all U.S.-bound mail was sent through Canada Post. Today, the two machines sit side by side in the mail room.

Just how many forged postmarks survived is not known but, since all were applied to business mail, the number must be quite small. The example shown here was applied to a piece of mail that was returned and (along with a second example) given to me by an employee who knew that I was a collector.

This is what makes philately and modern postal history such fun!



Pitney Bowes meter stamps with Canadian and U.S. date formats. In these examples, the date is the same: November 21, 2003.

The Author

Marty Bratzel is the author or co-author of five books and numerous articles about the philately and postal history of Cameroun, and undertakes occasional forays into other locales.

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WILLS'S CIGARETTES

Finding a Beethoven Connection

in the United States & Canada

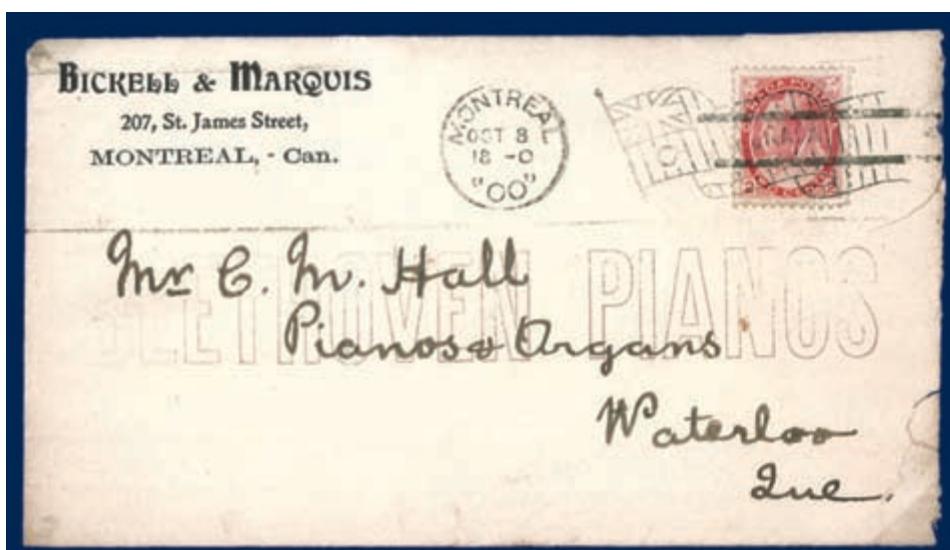
by Michael O. Nowlan

Unlike some fifty other nations, neither the United States nor Canada has issued a stamp to pay tribute to the great German composer Ludwig van Beethoven. Nonetheless, both countries have generated appropriate philatelic material for including in a topical collection.

Born in Bonn in 1770, Beethoven forged an incredibly successful path through European music circles before his death in 1827. His contributions were influential across the musical spectrum, and included piano music, chamber music with and without piano, symphonies, concertos, music for the stage, and choral music. His songs alone (more than eighty of them) are a source of in-depth study for Beethoven enthusiasts. Few conductors of classical music anywhere in the world have not spent days in getting their orchestras to perfect pieces of Beethoven's music.

I am no musical expert, but Beethoven's compositions have taken first place in my collection, once records now CDs, for more than forty years. The music, especially the symphonies, is inspirational.

BEETHOVEN.



Canadian advertising cover with BEETHOVEN PIANOS inscribed across the address path.



BEETHOVEN.

I was introduced to Beethoven on stamps by the late Dr. George W. Hardman of Virginia through an article he wrote in *Topical Time* (September–October 1994), "Beethoven's Ninth Symphony." I wrote to Dr. Hardman, and his almost two-page response set me on the road to adding a new topical interest to my collecting.

Following a suggestion made by Dr. Hardman, I obtained a copy of Jo Bleakley's ATA Checklist on Beethoven and started a collection with a few stamps from a box of odds and ends I always keep on

hand for young collectors.

Stamp show bourses, friends, auctions, and online buying all enabled me to build a very respectable Beethoven collection. I wanted, however, to add pages for the United States and Canada to my album. I knew there were no stamps issued by those countries, but surely there were collateral subjects to be found. A stamp collector's patience paid off, and I managed to obtain some truly nice items for both countries.

My first philatelic find came from my friend, collector Greg Ciesielski of North Carolina, who discovered a Canadian advertising cover from music dealers based in Montreal that has "BEETHOVEN PIANOS" inscribed across the address portion of the envelope. The printing is not perfectly clear, but it is certainly readable. I have yet to see another like it. It is a beautiful item for a Beethoven enthusiast, especially one seeking a Canadian connection.

When I was going through a box of covers at SESCAL in 1999, I came across an advertising cover for Beethoven Piano Organs. This is a very attractive cover dated 1890 and showing the Beethoven Piano Organ Company Manufactory in Washington, New Jersey. This is an exceptional cover because of the date stamp. The receiving post office cancellation for Hocking Port, Ohio, has the year backwards on both the front and back cancellations. The cover was then forwarded to Marietta, Ohio. Other back stamps include a "transit" cancellation for Torch, Ohio. Note also the "If Not Called for in 10 Days Return" in the circle around the cachet.

Another advertising cover from the same company, postmarked October 20, 1900, comes with a nice back stamp from Brownsville, Vermont, dated October 22. It packs a substantial amount of advertising information in the cachet: pianos were offered for \$175, organs for \$35 (examples are shown). Above a depiction of the factory itself a banner reads, "Largest Factory in the World," while text below boasts "Occupies 10 Acres of Land."

To have Beethoven Piano advertising covers from both Canada and the United States added significant pages to my album, but there was more to come.

Another collector brought to my attention the famous Victory slogan



Beethoven Piano Organ Co. Manufactory in Washington, New Jersey, dated 1890; note backwards year in Hocking Port cancellation.

Stamp show bourses, friends, auctions, and online buying all enabled me to build a very respectable Beethoven collection.

.....

cancellation used by Canada during World War II as a possible Beethoven item. The "V is for Victory" is symbolized by the Morse code for the letter V, which is dot, dot, dot, dash — or, to a Beethoven fan, it could be read as the famous opening four notes of his Fifth Symphony: da-da-da-dah.

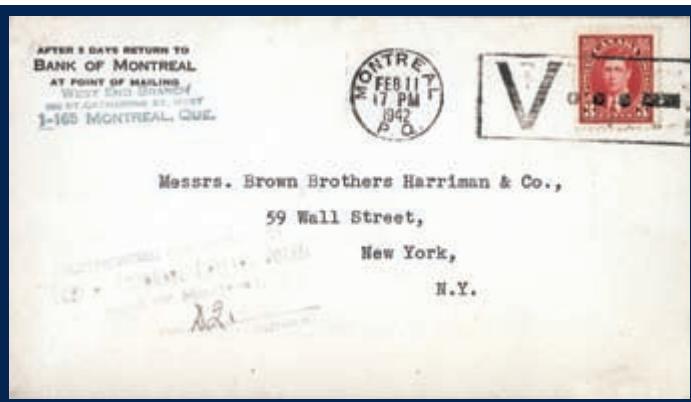
Dr. Hardman compiled *æ Philatelic Beethoven*, which he published in 1999. It is an excellent resource for collectors interested in Beethoven on stamps. He was preparing material for a second volume but, tragically, died in 2003 before completing the project. He planned to reproduce the Canadian cover with the "V is for Victory" cancellation in Part II.

Browsing through a stamp dealer's box at another show

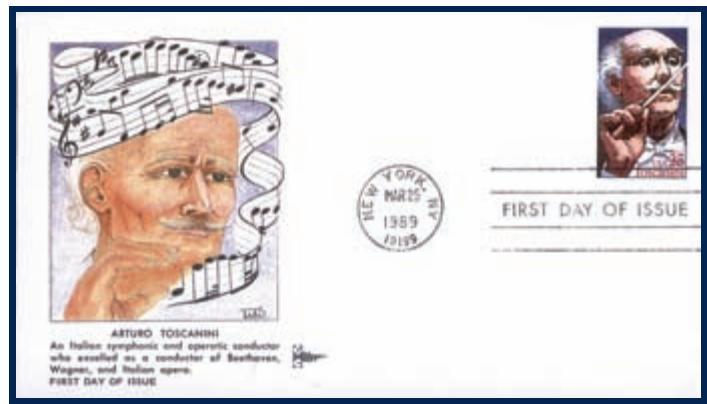


Another Beethoven Piano Organ Co. cover with advertising information.

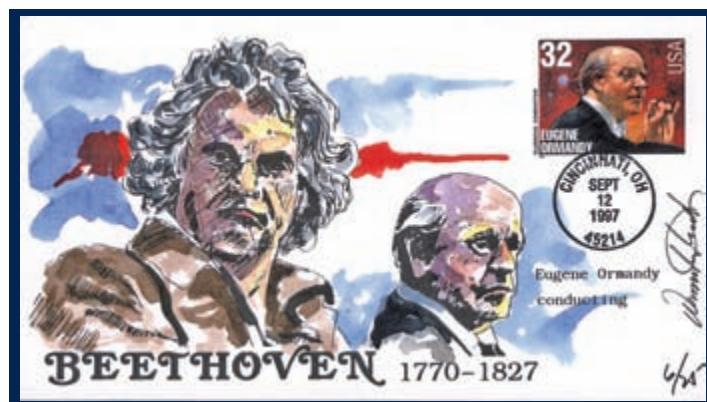
Canada's post office designed a "V is for Victory" slogan cancel during World War II whose Morse code pattern — dot, dot, dot, dash — matches the opening four notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony — da-da-dah.



The "V for Victory" symbol incorporated into a cachet.



Gillcraft first day cover for U.S. stamp commemorating Arturo Toscanini. Cachet text refers to him as a "conductor of Beethoven."



Wild Horse cachet on first day cover for U.S. stamp commemorating Eugene Ormandy that also honors the memory of Beethoven.

in Canada, I came across a first day cover on which the cachet maker reproduced the "V for Victory" symbol as part of his design, making yet another Fifth Symphony connection.

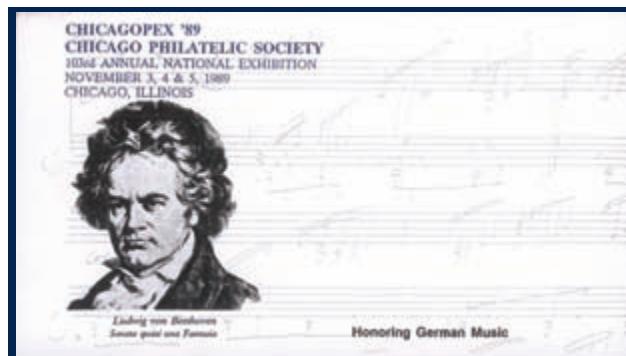
In a 1998 letter, Dr. Hardman wrote, "you might keep an eye out for two U.S. items that cite Beethoven." He was referring to cachets with Beethoven themes. Although it took a while to find both, they add color and depth to my Beethoven album pages.

The first was created for use as a first day cover for the commemorative honoring Italian symphonic and operatic conductor Arturo Toscanini (Scott 2411). The Gillcraft cover notes that Toscanini "excelled as a conductor of Beethoven...." It is a fine cachet design, with musical notes flowing around the great conductor's head.

The second is a first day cover from Wild Horse Designs created for the September 12, 1997, issuance of a stamp commemorating conductor Eugene Ormandy (Scott 3161). Along with a portrait of Ormandy, the cachet features a brash, almost wild-looking, image of a young Beethoven, along with the inscription "BEETHOVEN 1770-1827." The image is unlike most Beethoven pictures, but is very apt, nevertheless. The cover is signed by designer Warren Reed.

One more little item completes this look at Beethoven in U.S. philately. The annual cover for CHICAGOPEX 1989 honors German music and features Ludwig von (sic) Beethoven in the cachet. Appropriately stamped and cancelled CHICAGOPEX 1989 show covers are difficult to find, but I have my sleuths looking.

There are more than 200 stamps depicting Ludwig van Beethoven. Germany, East Germany, and Berlin lead the way with a combined total of seventeen stamps, but many less obvious countries have honored the great composer,



CHICAGOPEX 1989 honored German music and cited Ludwig von (sic) Beethoven in its cachet. There is often a lot of confusion between the use of "von" or "van" in Beethoven's name, but the "van" is correct. Both are acceptable terms in German names, but neither suggests a higher rank or social status.

including Mexico (three), Grenada (ten), Cuba (one) and El Salvador (one and an overprint). Colombia has a beautiful stamp with the image of Beethoven superimposed on the score for his Ninth Symphony. Even North Korea honored Beethoven with a stamp in 1994.

Lamentably, neither the United States nor Canada will probably ever issue a commemorative for Beethoven, so collectors will have to be satisfied with finding the occasional Beethoven connection. There are probably some slogan cancellations out there advertising Beethoven concerts, festivals, and the like, but so far they have eluded me. What else might be out there? My eyes will be looking!

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Matthews, Denis. *æ e Master Musicians: Beethoven* (J.M. Dent, London, 1987).
Moore, Herbert. "Beethoven by Mail," *Scott Stamp Monthly* Vol. 13, No. 8 (June 1995).

The Author

T Michael O. Nowlan, a retired public school teacher in Oromocto, New Brunswick, Canada, has written extensively on non-philatelic subjects, including twenty books, and he has contributed to several philatelic publications in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain.

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Hinged or Never Hinged

A Look at the Back Side of Stamp Collecting



Old packets of still useful stamp hinges are and sought by collectors who want peelable hinges.

by Barry Krause

“In certain circumstances a stamp’s gum is important from a philatelic standpoint,” wrote veteran stamp experts L.N. and M. Williams in their informative *Scott’s Guidebook to Stamp Collecting* (1963), but they went on to say that they questioned the logic of devout “never hinged” stamp admirers who believe that “a stamp with, say, 95 per cent full gum does not reveal every bit as much of its story as another stamp with the extra 5 per cent.”

The demand for *original gum* (O.G. or OG) on stamps has led to a half century epidemic of regumming by clever “stamp doctors” who apply fraudulent gum to old stamps to make them appear to have *never hinged* (N.H. or NH) original gum, which brings top prices in the philatelic market. Long-time stamp dealer, the late Herman Herst Jr. often pointed out that stamp gum is the most valuable substance on earth by weight — worth much more than refined uranium or flawless diamonds.

Many issues of older stamps bring such lofty prices in OG NH condition because almost all stamp collectors of sixty or more years ago used stamp hinges to mount their unused gummed stamps, and few examples of those stamps have managed to survive today with pristine, undisturbed OG.

Mint or Unused?

Although the words *mint* and *unused* are frequently used interchangeably by many stamp dealers and collectors, especially when they’re just chatting with each other, a technical difference exists between the terms in more formal philatelic usage, such as when buying and selling stamps.

A *mint* stamp is essentially in the same condition as it was when sold by the postal authorities at time of issue. If the stamp was issued with gum, it still has its gum complete and undisturbed. “Mint” and “OG NH” mean the same thing for any stamps issued with gum. A common abbreviation symbol for “mint” in stamp auction catalogues and dealer price lists is a double asterisk: **.

An *unused* stamp (abbreviated with a single asterisk: *) has never been postally used, hence has no cancels, but usually has gum that has been damaged since the stamp was issued. Such gum disturbance can be described as one of the following:

Disturbed gum (D.G. or DG) — a general term for any

perceptible gum damage, but very important because it classifies a stamp as unused rather than mint, and thus less valuable than mint. Some dealers may give a more narrow definition of DG with the stamps they sell.

Hinged or hinge (H) — a general term, meaning gum that has been hinged.

Lightly hinged or light hinge (L.H. or LH) — stamp gum that has been slightly disturbed by a hinge that has left its impression on a small portion of the gum.

Very lightly hinged or very light hinge (V.L.H. or VLH) — gum that shows the barest trace of a hinge that once touched it. This term is used by dealers to describe a stamp whose original gum is “almost mint”; that is, in the very highest level of gum preservation on “unused” stamps.

Heavily hinged or heavy hinge (H.H. or HH) — gum severely disturbed by one or more hinges that may or may not still be attached.

Hinge remnant (H.R. or HR) — a hinge still attached to a stamp’s back. Of course, a completely ungummed stamp, such as an unused stamp that has lost its gum or a cancelled stamp, also can have one or more hinges still attached and can be described as having “HR.”

And some dealers get carried away with their honest descriptions of their stamps for sale and may mention a stamp as having a **heavy hinge remnant** (H.H.R. or HHR), meaning that one or more hinges are stacked up on the stamp’s back! Besides warning you, as a prospective buyer, that this stamp has badly damaged gum, for example, an HHR designation alerts you to the possibility that the attached hinge may be hiding a defect in that stamp’s paper, such as a back paper thin.

Many dealers don’t like to take off hinges from stamps because they don’t want to risk damage-

ing those stamps by thinning or tearing them during hinge removal. Even a **tiny thin** (TTH) can ruin most of a stamp’s market price. Also, a hinge remnant may be intentionally or accidentally hiding a thin in the stamp, which is why some dealers sell hinged stamps “as is” — non-refundable for any reason if they bear hinge remnants.

Indeed, because no currently manufactured stamp hinges have the true peelability of some of the obsolete hinge brands, such as the famous Dennison’s, there is great risk in trying to remove any recently made hinge from a stamp if the hinge won’t soak off easily in plain water, without damaging the stamp.

Partial gum (P.G., PG, or other abbreviation) — having only part of the original gum.

Glazed gum — gum that has been somewhat liquified and resolidified so that it is still present, but not in its original texture. And we get subcategories of this, such as “partly glazed gum,” etc.

Gum skips — incompletely gummed areas, usually made during the gumming process of stamp production, and therefore not necessarily gum damaged *after* the stamp left the post office. While “factory made” gum skips are not caused by the stamp-owning public, they do reduce a stamp’s value from that of flawless gum specimens in otherwise identical condition, and should be mentioned when selling them.

No gum (N.G. or NG) — lacking all gum, either because the stamp was issued without gum or later lost it. “NG” stamps are prime philatelic patients for unscrupulous regumming operations.

Regumming

Regummed (RG) — gum that has been all or partly replaced by private “stamp doctors” seeking quick profits in the usually larcenous misrepresentation of saying that a stamp has OG, when the seller knows it to be RG.

It is not against the law to regum stamps, or to sell, buy, or own them. Many great bargains are to be found in regummed unused stamps offered for sale *as such*. However, it is both unethical and fraudulent to sell RG stamps as supposedly OG if the seller knows those stamps to be RG. But proving in court that the seller intended fraud isn’t always easy.

Some things to look for if you suspect regumming on a stamp:

- It may appear too perfect or too “new” for the stamp’s age.
- It has dripped over onto the front of the stamp (impossible on most original gummed stamps).
- Its perforation “teeth” are too stiff, indicating that recently added gum has soaked into the edge of the stamp’s paper fibers.
- It may show gum in the perforation holes.



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ALBUM PAGE.
4. HINGE WILL PEEL EASILY
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- It may look wavy or inexplicably thick in places.

In addition, a regummed stamp will sometimes feel abnormally rigid, lacking the flexibility, natural softness, and "snap" of a genuine OG mint copy. Ultraviolet light examination often will make faked gum glow in a different shade or intensity compared with the original gum on those particular stamp issues.

Old gum tends to crack, become brittle, and turn yellow on many stamps. Try to compare doubtful gum with gum thought to be OG on another stamp of that issue. And always get an expertizing certificate when buying expensive stamps with purported OG. Ironically, DG sometimes helps prove the gum to be OG!

The Price of Gum Perfection

It is a fact of the stamp market that huge premiums are demanded and paid for the best gum quality on certain stamps. For example, some Western European stamps will cost you 300–400 percent more if you buy genuine OG NH copies, instead of LH stamps in otherwise the same condition.

So you should try to protect and preserve the gum on the expensive NH stamps that you buy. However, the cost of plastic mounts or "hingeless album pages" for very cheap stamps may not be worth buying, especially if the mounts cost as much as the stamps! That said, mounts do make cheap stamps look nice.

"When current commemorative issues must be embalmed to preserve face value, the game isn't worth the effort," said Richard Cabeen (weekly stamp columnist for the *Chicago Sunday Tribune* for more than thirty years) in his *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting* (1957).

As a beginning or low-budget collector, you have to ask yourself if you would rather have fewer NH stamps or more LH stamps for the same cost. As a rough rule, NH stamps tend to go up in price faster than LH stamps of the same issues, but there are many exceptions, and there are some fantastic bargains in LH stamps for sale at all times, so you can make or lose money upon reselling either NH or LH after a period of years.

I compromise by buying NH stamps whose "NH premiums" are a small percentage greater than the usual LH prices for those stamps. I buy LH stamps if they're much cheaper than their NH cousins, figuring that I'm getting slightly imperfect stamps at wonderfully cheap prices. This strategy allows me to own a growing collection of good looking stamps, with some hope of moderate resale values for all of them.

And I buy used (cancelled) stamps when I don't want to worry about their gum at all!

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The Author

T Barry Krause, an old-fashioned collector, collects stamps and covers of the world.

Package of
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Commemorating Ellen Fairclough

by Wulf Graunitz

On June 21, 2005, Canada issued a stamp to commemorate the 100th birthday of politician Ellen Fairclough (Scott 2112), who had died just one year earlier at the age of 99.

Her distinction is to have been for a time the only female member of the then 260-seat Canadian Parliament and the very first female member of cabinet in any Canadian Government up to then, which at that time was formed by the Conservatives under John G. Diefenbaker (Scott 859). Diefenbaker is remembered nowadays mainly for cancelling the Canadian CF-105 fighter plane project, aka *Avro Arrow*, the most advanced fighter plane in the world at the time. He only added insult to injury by ordering the destruction of those airplanes that had been test-flown already as well as all technical data and plans.

Many view this decision as the end of a meaningful Canadian aerospace industry when thousands of skilled designers and technicians lost their jobs and migrated to the United States and England. It may be argued that Canadian officialdom does not even want to be reminded of this episode, for despite having issued some sixteen stamps between 1979 and 1982 featuring civilian and military planes, the *Avro Arrow* was not among them.

Fairclough served in the cabinet from 1957 until 1963 in various positions, including Secretary of State, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Post-



Emily Fairclough.



Certificate of Canadian Citizenship with Fairclough commemorative stamp.

master General. It is her tenure as Immigration Minister that I want to focus on.

Having come to this country in 1956, I was eligible for Canadian Citizenship after a five-year residency. While unaware of Mrs. Fairclough's career, I had always remembered that my naturalization certificate bore her (facsimile) signature. When it was announced that a stamp was to be issued in her honor, I was struck with the idea to affix one of these stamps to my citizenship certificate and have it tied by a neat postal cancellation.

On the first day of issue, I happened to be out of the country on vacation, but another significant day would not be that far off, specifically the date my certificate bore as being issued, July 18, which in 2005 fell on a Monday. On that day I drove the eight miles to the post office at a neighboring village where I take all my philatelic mail, as they happen to be one of the very few outlets in Canada still to use the coveted circular steel canceller. This is not used for daily postal duties but only for collectors'



John George Diefenbaker (1895–1979);
Canada's Prime Minister 1956–63.

requests and, indeed, the postal clerk, to be current, had to adjust the date by one week, exactly the time since I had been there last.

For a short while I pondered where to place the stamp on the obverse, next to Fairclough's signature, or on the reverse, adjacent to the date. I could not reasonably apply two stamps, one for each position, as that would make the certificate look cluttered. The front with the signature won out, and the stamp was cancelled exactly forty-four years to the day after my naturalization.

Now I wonder what will happen when I apply for a passport renewal in four years. Will some bureaucrat take offense and accuse me of tampering with an official document — and would Ellen Fairclough as Postmaster General have objected?

The Author

TWULF GRAUNITZ, an APS member of 28 years, started worldwide collecting more than fifty years ago with a recent attraction to unusual items of postal history.

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President's Challenge

At the close of my column in last month's *American Philatelist*, I discussed using YouTube (www.youtube.com) as an outreach method for creating new collectors. I had made a video about "trains on stamps" and uploaded it — pretty easy actually. Janet Klug also made a video; hers is about "cats on stamps." Links to these videos can be found at www.stamps.org/videos.

If you want to catch fish, you go where the fish hang out...

We all agree that involving youth is integral to the success of the hobby. The major venue for today's youth is the Internet. It is the host of their social networks and entertainment, and this is where we must appear if we hope to capture their attention. While using the Internet is the norm for today's youth, it also has captured the interest of adults. A Reuter's survey found:

The survey, which polled 2,062 adults in July and October, found that 79 percent of adults — about 178 million — go online, spending an average 11 hours a week on the Internet.

This is astounding, even if with an error factor of two. Apparently, countless hours are spent "surfing the web" and exploring the world of the Internet by adults as well.

Once you get to where the fish hang out, use the correct lure...

It makes no sense to get into the game with the wrong equipment. What will attract potential collectors? I think the keys are: *simplistic, short, and sweet*. Colorful stamps, catering to a specific interest, seem a good start. The theme can be objects (e.g., pottery, paintings, maps, autos, or flags), history (e.g., military, objects, country, or county), people (e.g., government, scientists, religious, or sports), and so on. If you are passionate about a topic, it will show in your video.

A video of a couple of minutes would be the perfect length. I love studying the platting characteristics of the early United States stamps, but making a video of that topic would put almost anyone but a specialist to sleep. It would be akin to watching paint dry — not the right tactic to get non-collectors to watch. You could prepare instructional videos (e.g., how to mount stamps, how to display them, etc.) or exciting items about stamps (e.g., the big stamp swap of the "Z" Grill and the plate block of the Inverted Jenny, etc.). Think about it.



President's Challenge: Win \$250 Worth of APS Products or Services

So, here is the deal. Make a video and upload it to YouTube by June 30, 2009. Then e-mail your entry to: video-contest@stamps.org.

A panel of three APS accredited judges will choose the video that best promotes stamp collecting, and the winner will receive a gift certificate for \$250 worth of APS products or services and be featured in a future *American Philatelist*. The award will be announced at the APS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh on August 8, 2009. You get to help the hobby and receive a \$250 bonus as well! I will donate the \$250 to the APS for this award.

Making my video was fun. It gave me a chance to play with stamps and be Steven Spielberg for a day (or Ed Wood, as the case may be!). It really is simple:

1. Organize your thoughts and what you want to say.
2. Prepare your images and/or video.
3. Upload to YouTube.
4. Watch your video.
5. Share with friends and spread the joys of stamp collecting.

Never been fishing before?

You say you don't know how to make a video and or upload it to YouTube? If you go to www.stamps.org/videos you will find lots of help. There are links for "How To" videos, for both PC and Mac. Janet Klug has prepared a set of step-by-step instructions on how to covert a PowerPoint presentation into a video and how to post it to YouTube. Many thanks to Janet for all of her help and ideas.

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Can't go fishing?

I recently forwarded my video to the editor of a toy train collecting magazine, with a short e-mail message. He responded saying he had some stamps with trains on them and liked the video. He left the door open for me to write an article for the magazine using the images from the video and some text I would create. You, too, can write a short article about your topic, chock full of colorful stamps or covers, and send it to magazines that cater to that subject.

We're all in this together

The hobby needs all of us to do something pro-active to help it grow. Can you spare a few hours to do your part? I bet you can!

Staff Spotlight

Ruth Ann Mayes, Sales Division Membership Coordinator



"In my thirty-three years ... I have worked with many good people. We have always worked well together and take great pride in the programs we offer our members."

"I was hired in 1973 by Colonel Jim DeVoss to be the secretary for the new APS Sales Division Director at that time, Gordon Wrenn. In addition to my secretarial tasks, I recorded and microfilmed new books coming into this division of the APS. After ten months, I left the workforce to have my first child, and be a stay-at-home mom.

"In October, 1976, I was rehired as Sales Membership Coordinator, and to this day I continue to hold this position.

I keep records for people buying stamps from the books which are sent in by our members are circulated through the sales circuits of the APS Sales Division, and maintain member information in the sales program. This includes address changes and bypass notices for members taking leave of receiving circuits.

"The APS staff always works well together and takes great pride in the programs we offer our members. Our APS team feels more like a family than co-workers.

"I thank our APS members for the chance to see the Society grow and change with the times."

from the executive director
by peter mastrangelo



A handwritten signature of Peter Mastrangelo in black ink.

As I write this column (early February), Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil has made his appearance on "groundhog day" promising six more weeks of winter. As you read this, March may really be coming in like a "lion," so I can't wait for April's promise of sunny spring days. As I write this column we are also busy getting ready for APS AMERISTAMP EXPO in Arlington, Texas, but as you read it, our winter show and exhibition is history. For this column I can only provide you a taste of what this show is or was about.

Prior to the show, the APS Board met to hear reports and consider such items as membership retention and promotion, our year-end finances, an update on website development, long range planning, and by-law revisions. Other items included reports and recommendations from the Committee on Accreditation of National exhibitions and Judges, a

Spring Is Really Coming!

proposal on APS patron and supporting memberships, and future show locations. At each winter and summer meeting I provide a report to the Board that discusses our experience for the past year. Here are a few highlights:

At year's end the APS and APRL are presented with both a positive and challenging picture for the coming year and beyond, since the national economy has impacted our budget. The recently appointed joint APS/APRL Long Range Planning committee is a testament to the resolve that both the staff and our Boards have in addressing these challenges. In 2008 we revised the APS operating budget, making very difficult decisions to eliminate some staff positions. We ended the year with a net gain of \$27,000 on a budget of about \$4 million. The APRL posted an operating loss of more than \$160,000 on a budget of just over \$400,000. The challenge ahead for 2009 is to watch our expenses and revenues, rely-



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See "Sales Talk" page 258 for more information.

Offer expires April 30, 2009. Visit our website at www.stamps.org/Services/ser_CircuitRequest.htm to sign up.

Plan to Visit the APC



Summer Saturdays at the APC

The American Philatelic Research Library, APS Circuit Sales, and the APS Administration Department will be open from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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ing on the use of unrestricted donated funds to help balance our budget. We perceive this as stopgap, short-term measure as the long range planning committee commences its work how we can address these issues in the future.

We ended the year with 40,064 members, a decline of 2,801 members from the year before. The Campaign for Philately raised \$541,000 in cash contributions in 2008. We also obtained multi-year pledges totaling \$166,570 from twenty-three individuals.

APS educational opportunities were a hot commodity in 2008. More than eighty students attended a sold-out Summer Seminar and this year's will be better than ever. Classes are filled on a first-come first-served basis, so register today. Forty members took advantage of a new opportunity in philatelic learning — APS "On the Road" Courses. These mini-seminars were held prior to several WSP shows around the country. See page ??? for this year's schedule and locations. Stamp Saturday, our adult beginner course, continues to be a popular attraction at both our winter and summer shows.

Another new perk of membership introduced in 2008 was the *APS Special E-Delivery Newsletter*. More than 8,000 members view the e-newsletter each month. One of our most popular initiatives has been the creation of downloadable album pages. In 2008 we covered topics from states to flags to baseball — a total of eight albums. Our website re-development is progressing, and are looking at a launch this

summer. Advertising revenue in *the American Philatelist* reached a six-year high. The Young Philatelic Leaders fellowship has sufficient funds thus far to sponsor two Fellows to participate in one year of the program.

More than 5,500 items were expertized by APEX in 2008. Quick ID reviews increased significantly over the prior year. The APRL (Library) saw an increase in usage over the prior year. About 4,000 members receive sales circuits, purchasing stamps from about 675 sellers. While StampStore sales declined over the previous year due to the economy, it was still our second best year ever, posting \$1.36 million in gross sales compared to \$1.5 million the previous year. StampStore presently lists about 300,000 items, adding 3,000–5,000 items per week.

Last, but not least, our APS AMERISTAMP EXPO in Arlington, Texas shows promise to be one of our best winter shows yet. We'll comment on that next month.

APS StampCruise

For the past twenty-five years the Society has sponsored an annual stamp cruise for APS members that combines fun at sea and stopping at various ports-of-call with various philatelic activities. This past January, I had the opportunity to participate in my first cruise. While enjoying the eastern Caribbean, we visited the Philatelic Bureau of the Turks and Caicos Islands, attended a stamp seminar, and held an on-board stamp auction. More than seventy stamp collectors, spouses, and other family members made up the largest contingent yet to sail with APS. The majority were first-time participants, many of whom we do not see at stamp shows nor in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. It was great to meet a group of enthusiastic members whom we would not normally have direct contact with.

Plan on joining us for the next cruise, January 17–23, 2010. We will be visiting the Caribbean — where the sky is sunny, the sea is blue, the gentle trade winds blow — and several stamp-issuing ports-of-call. Watch the April *AP* for more information.

Reminder for All Collectors

As you may or may not be aware, the APS accepts your, or your loved one's, collections as "in-kind" donations that can be used as tax deductions within IRS regulations.

All donations are carefully inspected and eventually re-offered at special rates to APS members, provided free of charge to youth stamp groups and schools across America, and added to the APS reference collection.

Hours upon hours of effort go into collecting and this is a wonderful way to pass on the energy placed in your collections to others, young and old.

For further information, please contact volunteer Richard Nakles, APS in-kind donations, at rnakles@stamps.org.

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Member Special for March & April

In January, we offered a special mini-circuit that could be sent directly to any APS member who has not used the circuits since December 2004 and who is interested in signing up for the circuits either for the first time or as a returning user. The mini-circuit contains three or four books in one or two of the requested categories, and is sent as an introduction to the circuit approval system, before the member begins receiving the regular ten-book circuits.

This offer was to expire at the end of March 2009, but we are extending the offer through April. Visit our website at www.stamps.org/Services/ser_CircuitRequest.htm to sign up. Just note on the online form that you understand that you will receive a mini-circuit soon after the form is submitted. Or you may mail or fax a circuit request form to us with mention of the offer. Our fax number is 814-933-6128.

First-time requests must be made by e-mail, by the online form, or sending the paper form by mail or fax. If you do not have Internet service, contact us to obtain a form by mail.

New Topical Circuit

A few months ago, we discussed sales books focused on specific Topicals. Those Topicals are Animals, Arts, Birds, Europa, Flowers, Ships, Space, Sports, and Stamps on Stamps. To this list, we now have added Transportation — which includes Trains, Railroads, Cars, and Planes, with Trucks, Ships, Bridges,



and Waterways thrown in as well. If you do not see it listed on a circuit request form you already have, just note on one of the numbered lines that you would like to receive it.

We also are **soliciting sales books** containing material for this circuit. When mounting items in sales books, organize them first by mode of transportation and then by country within each mode.

Philatelic Ramblings, or Is It Rumblings?

Without speaking in **tongs**, but rather, **tong-in-cheek**, here are some terms that are **used** in the sales books and in the correspondence we receive each day. **NG** doesn't mean "no good," although some buyers might think it does. It stands for "**no gum**" and probably could be used in dentistry world also, as could "**teeth**" for the early Finland stamps. You also could say that the stamp became "**unglued**," which sometimes describes human personalities. **NH** might mean

"not here," but it doesn't. It is "**never hinged**." If you see two asterisks (**), it means mint, never hinged, while one asterisk (*) usually means mint, hinged. **OG** doesn't mean "old guys" with "old gums," but rather, "**original gum**." **RG** means "**regummed**," not "real good."

Any guesses on **HR**? Possibly "hinge regummed"? No, it usually means "**hinge remnant**." Then there is the symbol of a circle with a dot in the middle ☀. It does not mean that the stamp should be a target at the local shooting range where one might have **recoil** from firing the gun. It means the stamp is in **used** condition. (If you see two of these symbols together, you can probably figure the used stamp should be taken out and shot.)

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album. It is a coil line pair. Also, if you see "Free" in the description of a cover, check to see if the sender was a member of Congress or a former President. Don't automatically assume that the seller is giving it to you for nothing.

Then there are the colors of nineteenth-century **cancels:** **Green** (cover isn't ripe yet?); **Red** (the letter within has been viewed?); and **Blue** (sad letter within?). **Orange** you glad I couldn't think of anything for **Magenta**, **Purple** and **Brown**? [Editor's note: About now we paused to get a cold cloth for our foreheads. Suggest readers do the same.]

Don't **gauge** philatelic humor using this section of the Sales Talk column, just as the focus of your collection should not **hinge** on your use of these philatelic notations.

Reminder on StampStore Posting Fees Change

On July 1, 2009, the posting fees for items submitted to StampStore will be uniformly 10¢ per item. When we originally established the StampStore site, we offered to post items at 25¢ per item up to forty items, or a \$10 maximum. Members could send us forty-one items or 1,000 items and the posting fee would remain \$10. Thousands of items were submitted to get the site up and running.

The posting fee structure has not changed since the site went live in August 2000. And rather than have fees change in a convoluted manner, we are simplifying them to 10¢ per item, regardless of the item's value or the number of the items submitted in one mailing. Other online selling services have step increases based on the item's value and many have a higher base-posting fee.

There are no plans to change the posting fees for items that a member chooses to leave on the site for a third year. The present charge for these items is 10¢ per item.

'5 For 10' Categories (Needs)

We need U.S. items, **except** U.S. First Day Covers, U.S. Mint post-1950, U.S.

Used post-1950 and U.S. Plate Blocks post-1950. You can earn coupons for free blank books and mounts for every ten completed books containing material from a set list of categories. (*Each group of ten or more qualifying books must be received at the same time and the books must have at least \$50 per book. & e coupons are issued when the qualifying books are reviewed soon after arriving.*)

Each book must be designed to fit one of the categories, exclusively. Details are sent with blank sales book orders, or you may visit www.stamps.org/Services/ser_Sales5for10.htm. [NOTE: Single-country books usually have better sales.] Below are categories that are in very short supply at this time:

- U.S. Fancy Cancels
- U.S. Cut Squares
- U.S. Plate Number Singles
- U.S. Precancels
- British Africa
- British Empire Victorian Era
- British Southern Africa
- French Africa
- French Colonies
- Yugoslavia
- Global Air Mails
- Transportation

Collectible Postage

It is important that circuit members use collectible postage when forwarding circuits. The member receiving a circuit likes to have some used postage to add to his/her collection as some payback, however minimal, for the cost of forwarding each circuit. Continue to ask the postal clerk for a meter stamp, even if it is for \$0, to indicate that the package was mailed through a clerk, giving it quicker passage through the postal system. Postage stamps and meter stamps are officially recognized as indicators that postage on a package has been pre-paid. The proper mailing method must be used to forward circuits. Our main concern is for the circuit content.

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2009 APS Education Courses

Our popular and successful 2008 effort to bring quality APS courses to members living in various parts of the United States has encouraged the APS Education Department to plan a new set of courses for 2009, to be held in conjunction with several major stamp shows. The list of classes is given below. Registration for each course can be found online at www.stamps.org/Education/edu_courses.htm. Look for early registration discounts.

Prior to WESTPEX, April 22–23

Pressing Issues: How Stamps Are Printed — Wayne Youngblood

This class will cover the four printing types (intaglio, photogravure, letterpress, and offset) in detail and show collectors how to distinguish between them. The course also will discuss plate varieties and enable collectors to diagnose the causes of most errors, freaks and oddities. Although appropriate for new collectors, the course offers enough information to challenge the more advanced collector as well. There are no prerequisites.

Expertizing CSI — Mercer Bristow, Director APS Expertizing

Students attending this class will discover that there's more than meets the

eye when it comes to looking at a stamp. They will follow the process of formal certification through experiencing the day-to-day operations of the oldest expertizing service in the United States, including the tools used by examiners and the most useful reference works. Highlighted will be the importance of developing a good hands-on reference collection containing both genuine and forged philatelic material. Attendees are invited to bring their own problematic stamps.

Prior to ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW, May 13–14

Exhibiting for the Prize — Rich Drews

This class by a noted philatelic exhibitor and judge will explore how judging takes place in all the various collecting divisions. Students will learn what considerations — including treatment, succinctness of conveying knowledge and research results, and difficulty of acquisition — will affect an award level and gain insights into what is in the mind of judges as they make their final decisions. Students also will learn what separates Silver and Vermeil from Gold, and what it takes to reach the sought-after Grand Award level. Exhibitors are encouraged to bring their exhibits.

Following APS STAMPSHOW, August 10–11

Fakes and Forgeries — Bill Dixon, APS Circuit Sales

The course will provide students with the basic knowledge to help them identify questionable philatelic material. The first session will cover the history of low-priced forgeries, the rudimentary tools of the trade for spotting fakes and forgeries, a short list of helpful reference works, how to use the library to build your reference clippings file, and techniques for examining an item to determine its authenticity. Day two will be a hands-on experience with the chance to examine several hundred of the more common fakes and forgeries that may be found in lots for sale.

Collecting the Expos — Ken Lawrence

The class will cover some of the most popular and attractive U.S. postage stamps that have been issued to promote and commemorate world's fairs. These include stamped envelopes for the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition; stamps and envelopes of the 1893 World Columbian Exposition; stamps for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition; and twentieth- and twenty-first-century fairs since the 1901 Pan-American Expo. Attendees

APS Summer Seminar on Philately

Summer Seminar is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2009 with more courses than ever. A 2008 participant sums up the Summer Seminar experience:

When I received the notice about the next Summer Seminar I signed up immediately. I did not want to miss the opportunity to participate. I find that I learn best when in a group with like-minded people. Spending a week in stampdom's Mecca is most enjoyable: reading a bit in the library, meeting wonderful fellow collectors, and being exposed to all sorts of philatelic information is very pleasant.

Priit Rebane, member from Florida

We look forward to the enthusiasm and excitement of Summer Seminar. Spaces are filling quickly, so visit www.stamps.org/Education.edu_SummerSeminar.htm to register today!



Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois prepare for a class in postal history.

will learn how specialists gather expo material into great collections that can be treasured and displayed with pride.

Prior to SESCAL, October 7–8

Exhibiting for the Prize — Rich Drews

(Repeat of May 13–14, 2009.)

Other News

APS Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship (YPLF)

Young Philatelic Leaders Fellows, ages 13–25, will build friendships with other youth stamp collectors, experience the world of stamp collecting from the inside, visit important sites that all stamp collectors want to see, produce articles and presentations based on their interests and research, and gain experiences to make them better students and leaders.

The YPLF is accepting applications for Fellows until March 30, 2009. Applications for Mentors who want to help a youth succeed in his or her goal and who have experience dealing, exhibiting, or writing also are available. Visit www.stampfellowship.org for more information.

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Picture Perfect

In February 2008 the National Postal Museum received a major Smithsonian Institution grant to digitize its certified plate proof collection. As readers know, each of these plate proofs is "a one of a kind" object that can be critical to scholarly research and study. Certified plate proofs are the last printed proof of the plate before printing the stamps. Each plate proof is unique, with the approval signatures and date. For postal scholars these plates provide important production information in the plate margin inscriptions, including guidelines, plate numbers, and initials of the siderographer, or person who created the plate from a transfer roll. I think of these proofs as "master copies" of the stamps that followed, since each proof was produced with new plates and fresh ink.

The museum's certified plate proof collection covers 1894 to 1970 and numbers more than 30,000 sheets. Rarities in the collection include the 1918 Jenny air mail stamp plate proofs, as well as press sheets signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Thanks to this grant, the museum will be able to make

some of these treasures more accessible to the general public. Once 1,500 to 2,000 sheets from this collection have been carefully photographed, the resulting high-quality digital images will be made available to the public through the museum's website, Arago (<http://arago.si.edu>).

Of course, digitizing the proofs and making them available to the widest audience possible is only part of the picture for these great American treasures. A separate project is underway to rehouse the proof sheets, funded through the Collections Care and Preservation Fund. Monies from this fund come from the museum's sale of duplicate U.S. revenue stamps. The sheets are being moved from olive green mid-twentieth-century metal cabinets into state-of-the-art watertight museum quality cabinets that will make them far more accessible, while offering greater long-range stability and safety.

A number of factors make this a

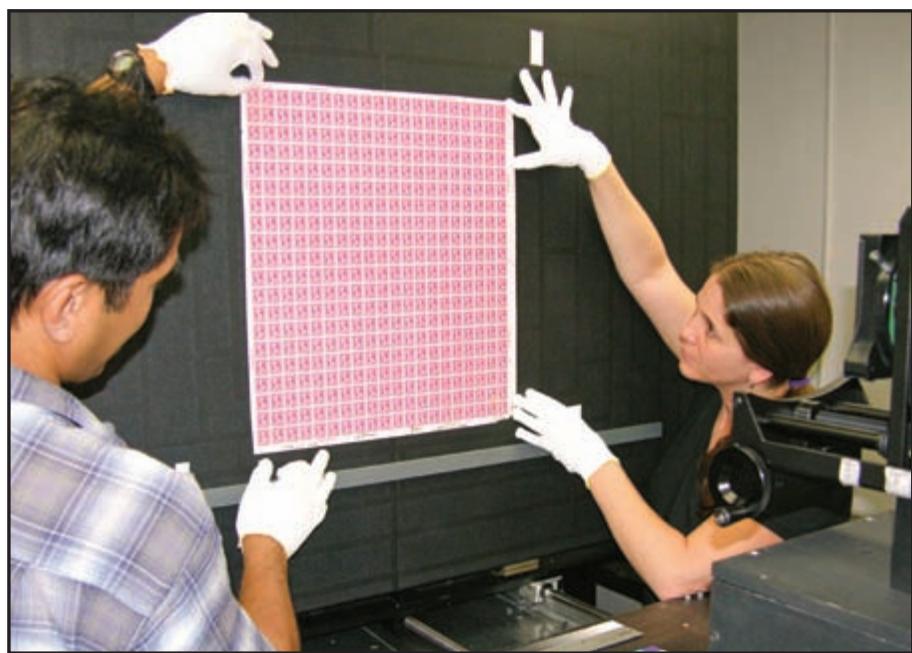


Contract Registrar Emily Smith, seated in front of the BEP cabinets, records information about each plate proof before it leaves for scanning and upon its return.

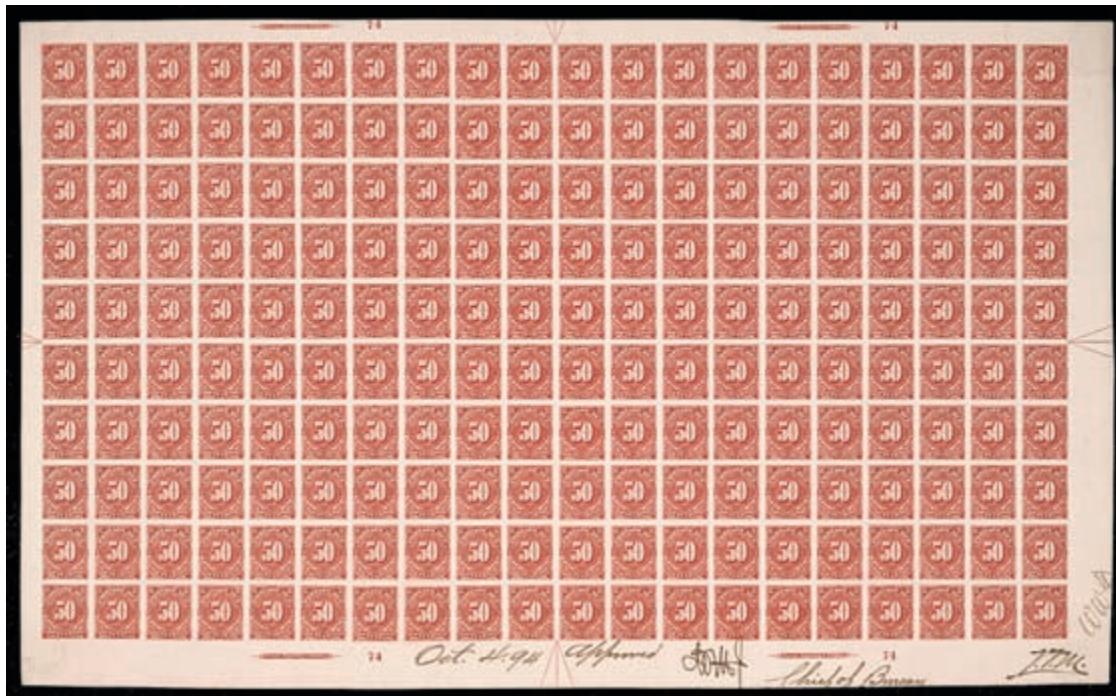
fairly complicated process. Recognizing the unique nature of each proof, the museum staff is taking great precautions for the sheets' safety and security. First and foremost is the object photography itself. As you know, these sheets are larger than most scanners, including those used to digitize other items in the collection. Not only did the museum not have a scanner large enough for this project, but neither did any other unit or museum in the Institution. After much research, Collections Database Administrator Kate Diggle, who wrote the original grant, arranged for the proofs to be scanned at the DC headquarters of the National Geographic Society. There, the plate proofs are treated with great care and respect. The proofs are scanned by the Society's Better Light Super 10K scanner, creating 350 MB images free of lens distortion. An extra benefit to the Society's scanning room are the special lights used in the imaging facility that do not generate heat, ensuring the proof sheet paper stays at a more constant temperature during the scanning process.

Because of the large size of the returned images, they are placed on hard drives for the museum. Our staff uploads the images to our database, matching each photograph with the detailed descriptive information placed into the computer before the proofs left the museum. The journey for each plate proof sheet takes about two weeks.

I imagine the one thing you'd like to know at this point is "which plate proof sheets are among those lucky 1,500–2,000?" This call was made by philatelic



Armando Carigo and Deena Gorland of the National Geographic imaging team ready a plate proof for scanning.



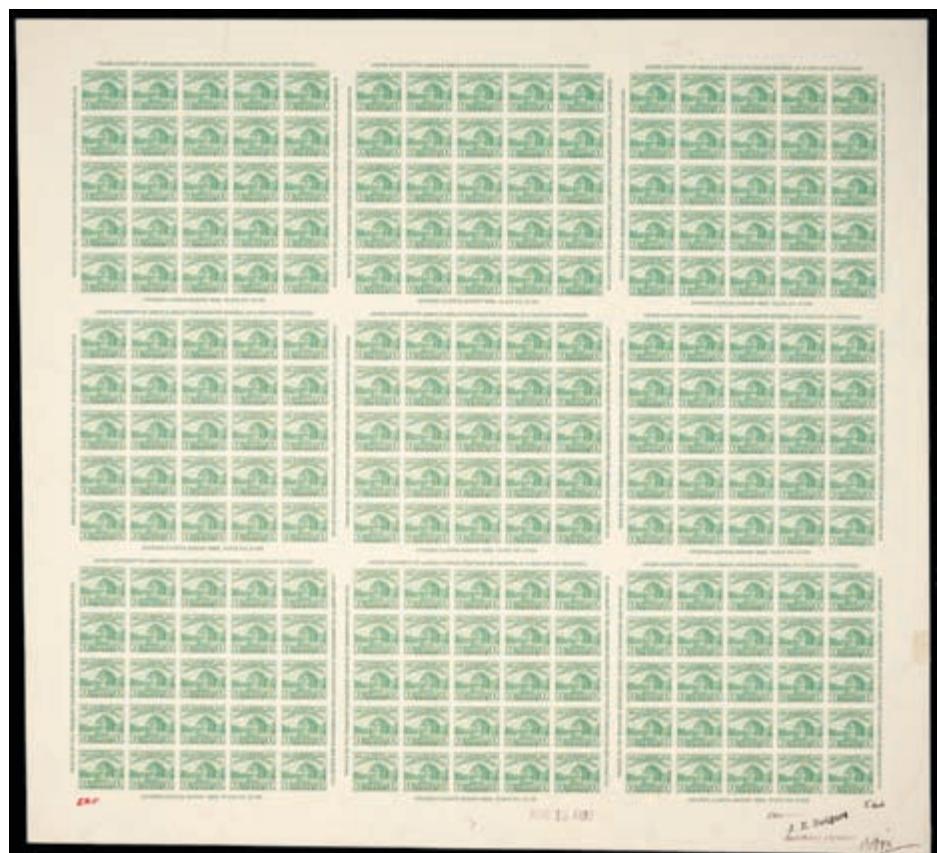
50-cent postage due
certified plate proof
#74, 1894.

experts within the museum, with input from our Council of Philatelists. Cheryl Ganz, the museum's Chief Curator of Philately, and Daniel Piazza, Assistant Curator of Philately, held final say over selection. Among those that made the list were selected items from the museum's American Bank Note and National Bank Note company holdings, Bureau of Engraving and Printing plate number 1, the sheets from the first 500 stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, selected plate proofs that resulted in printing errors, a selection of experimental plate proofs of items not found in the *Scott* or *Durland* catalogues (some of which include blocks of different issues on the same sheet), and even some uncut autographed press sheets that led to the special printing of "Farley's Follies."

Almost everyone in the museum has worked with this project in one way or another, as everyone recognizes the importance of sharing these "master copies" with collectors and researchers from across the nation and around the world. This time-consuming process is scheduled to end by this summer.

After all of the images have been placed into our database and prepped for online access the certified plate proofs will make their public debut. But don't worry; I'll let you know when you can check these images out for yourself with plenty of time to spare.

Certified plate proofs are the last printed proof of the plate before printing the stamps. Each plate proof is unique, with the approval signatures and date.



1-cent Fort Dearborn APS souvenir sheet certified plate proof #730, 1933.

Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Awards

As I write this in early January I've just spent the past few hours reviewing the nominations for the 2008 Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Awards, the first award named in Nick's memory and only the second time they have been given out. The APS Board established these awards as a way of recognizing the often unsung heroes of philately who give of their time and talents to further our great hobby.

Four committees were formed to review the nominees in each of the following categories:

- **National Promotion/Service** — maximum of five recipients each year
- **Local Promotion/Service** — maximum of ten recipients each year
- **Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist** (ages 25–40) — one award each year
- **Outstanding Young Philatelist** (ages 15–24) — one award each year

APS Board member Bob Odeweller, APS staffer Wendy Masorti, and I selected winners in the local promotion/service category from among the entries. Nominees must have shown at least five years of service and APS membership is not a requirement.

I'll be the first to tell you that this is not an easy task. The key on the nomination form is the following statement:

Nominee Accomplishments.

Please include details including years or length of service of any philatelic work and positions with local clubs, specialty organizations and shows. This should include mentoring, promotion, and leadership roles. Please cite evidence of excellence, initiative and persistence.

The responses we received ranged from a few sentences to several pages of noteworthy accomplishments. Without giving away specifics, and paraphrasing a bit, let me share a sampling with you here from among the 2008 nominees.

(Name) is over 75 years old and is still spreading the excitement of stamp collecting to youth. He has introduced stamp collecting to over 2,000 youth in the past 10 years through more than 50 workshops held each year, and also organized post office visits annually for youngsters, including Boy Scouts.

(Name) has been a prominent figure at many of the local shows held in our area for many years, ensuring that all runs smoothly. He acts as hospitality chairman, assists with setup and take-down, and does much more. His cheerful demeanor is a welcoming presence.

(Name) continues as president of our local stamp club for which he has been a driving force for many, many years. He



is also active in the (withheld) society, having staffed many recruiting tables at shows throughout our state for many years in addition to arranging for society speakers at them. He also has served as this region's federation representative and is the first to recognize others good works in our local club.

(Name) has been main person behind the success of our local club and stamp show for many years. He is a proficient exhibitor and in his retirement years become a part-time dealer. Through his efforts we typically get 35–40 members at each meeting, half of our total membership. He has kept the club going through some challenging times, performing a variety of roles including president for several terms. Through his input and guidance many successful club leaders have emerged to maintain and grow our group into a most viable philatelic organization.

You surely know of other people in your own philatelic circles like these deserving volunteers who deserve recognition. Now is the time to start thinking about nominating them for the 2009 Carter Volunteer Awards. Keep watching these pages for the announcement of when the nomination forms will be available.

The 2008 winners will be announced

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at the APS General Membership Meeting at STAMPSHOW, August 8, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Nick would be proud to know that these awards bear his name, continuing his work in spreading the joy of philately.

It's never too early to plan ahead, so it is with great pleasure that we show you this year's Stamp Collecting Month cancel to be used in October by U.S. APS Chapters for their promotional activities. This is the twelfth year that a common cancel is being made available to interested clubs. The sea urchin design relates to the USPS release continuing its "Nature of America" series, this time

depicting a kelp forest.

The postmark can be customized with your Chapter's details. Simply send me the following information by e-mail or regular mail at least ninety days before your event's date:

- Chapter name and APS Chapter number;
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- Desired date of the postmark

I'll forward to you a copy of the final design that needs to be sent to your local post office for their approval. They will then order the rubber cancellation device at their expense.

This column coincides with the



release of the latest issue of the CAC Newsletter. Make sure you and your fellow club members go online to read or download it!

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show time

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

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

California **March 7-8**
NOVAPEX, Redding Stamp Club, Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Dr., Redding. Contact Bill Willis, 530-246-8340.

New York **March 7-8**
BUFFPEX, Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga(Buffalo). Contact George Gates, gghg53@aol.com; 716-633-8358.

Ohio **March 7-8**
McKinley Stamp Show, McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton. Contact David Pool, lincolnway@sssnet.com; 330-832-5992.

Tennessee **March 7-8**
KNOXPEx, Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Select Cedar Bluff, 304 N. Cedar Bluff Rd., Knoxville. Contact Gerald Schroedl, gschroe1@utk.edu; <http://www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm>.

Wisconsin **March 7-8**
STAMPFEST 2009, Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1414 S. 92nd Street, West Allis. Contact Carol Schutta, harryncarol@hotmail.com; www.milwaukeephilatelic.org; 414-464-6994. *B*

Massachusetts **March 8**
SOPEX, Samuel Osgood Stamp Club, BPO Elks Lodge, 652 Andover St., (Exit 45 off I-93), Lawrence. Contact Roger Brand, rogandsue@comcast.net; 978-468-1773. *B*

Pennsylvania **March 8**
Spring CAPEX, Capital City Philatelic Society, Linglestown American Legion, 505 N. Mountain Road-I-81 Exit 72, Harrisburg. Contact Linn Kinney, 717-732-7813.

Maryland **March 14**
27th Annual Stamp Show, Tidewater Stamp Club, Easton Volunteer Fire Department Auditorium, 315 Aurora Park Drive, Easton. Contact Hope Messick, phalarope@dmv.com; 410-822-6471.

Michigan **March 14**
Kent Philatelic Society Winter Show, Kent Philatelic Society, American Legion Post 179, 2327 Wilson SW, Walker. Contact Ron Mrozniski, 616-891-9878, oldkenstamps@gmail.com; www.oldkenstamps.com

New Jersey **March 14**
Westfield Stamp Show, Westfield Stamp Club, Municipal Building, 425 East Broad St., Westfield. Contact Ed Grabowski, edjgg@alum.mit.edu; <http://westfieldstampclub.org/>.

California **March 14-15**
FRESPEX 2009, Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis. Contact Dick Richardson, starstamps@thegrid.net; 559-431-5013.

Illinois **March 14-15**
Rockford Stamp Club/WISCOPEX 2009, Rockford

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Stamp Club, Forest Hills Lodge, 9572 Forest Hills Rd. & Hwy. 173, Rockford. Contact Tim Wait, twait@comcast.net; 815-262-9117.

Indiana March 14-15

CALUPEX, Calumet Stamp Club, Highland Lincoln Center, 2450 Lincoln St., Highland. Contact John Koval, calumetstamps@sbc.net; www.calumetstampclub.org; 219-214-4836.

Tennessee March 14-15

Nashville Stamp Show, Nashville Philatelic Society, Music Valley Event Center, 2416 Music Valley Drive, Nashville. Contact Tom Tribke, ttribke@bellsouth.net; www.nashvillephilatelic.org; 615-833-5161.

Maryland March 21

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

Wisconsin March 21

BAYPEX '09, Green Bay Philatelic Society, Best Western Midway Hotel, 780 Armed Forces Drive (1 block east of Lambeau Field), Green Bay. Contact Ray D. Perry, fiveperrys@athenet.net.; 920-469-8925. *B*

Florida March 21-22

NAPLEX, Collier County Stamp Club, The Conservancy, 1450 Merrihue Drive (just off 14th Ave. North from Goodlette-Frank Rd.), Naples. Contact Robert Hausin, newengstmp@aol.com; 239-732-8000; 239-732-7701.

Indiana March 21-22

Spring Stamp Fair, Indiana Stamp Club, Sterrett Center @ Former Ft. Harrison, 8950 Otis Ave., Lawrence. Contact Tom Chastang, tchast5@sbcglobal.net; www.indianastampclub.org; 317-913-9319.

New Mexico March 21-22

Mesilla Valley Stamp Show, Mesilla Valley Stamp Club, Belton Bridge Center, 1214 E. Madrid Ave., Las Cruces. Contact Richard Hiss, RHHiss@comcast.net; www.zianet.com/mvsc; 575-2021937.

Virginia March 21-22

SPRINGPEX 09, Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield. Contact James Dobbs, jdobbs@cox.net; www.springfieldstampclub.org; 703-759-0119.

Connecticut March 22

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

Michigan March 22

Pontiac Stamp Club Spring Stamp Show, Pontiac Stamp Club and Waterford Rec. Dept., Waterford Rec. Dept. (former Police Dept.), 2303 Crescent Lk. Rd. (1 mile N. of M-59), Pontiac. Contact Mike Miley, mileystamps@hotmail.com; 248-623-2171.

Ohio March 27-29

Garfield-Perry March Party, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Masonic Auditorium, 36th & Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Contact Roger Rhoads, rrrohads@aol.com; www.garfieldperry.org; 440-209-8800. *WSP*

Maine March 28

Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collectors Club Show, Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collectors Club, Elk's Club, Civic Center Dr., Rte 27, Augusta. Contact Rich Howard, richhoward@gwi.net; 207-621-0882.

Rhode Island March 28

Rhode Island Philatelic Society Stamp Show, Rhode Island Philatelic Society, Kelley and Gazzaro Post, 1418 Plainfield St., Johnston. Contact Shawn Pease, riphilatelic@comcast.net; http://mywebpages.comcast.net/riphilatelic/.



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Scott # Description Price

3052d	33c Rose DC 11½ x 11¼ (20)	\$12.50
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3089a	32c Iowa (20)	\$15.00
3112a	32c Madonna (20)*	\$12.00
3116a	32c Family (20)	\$17.00
3117a	32c Skaters (18)	\$11.00
3122a	32c Liberty Torch DC 11 (20)	\$16.50
3122E	32c Liberty Torch (20)	\$32.50
3123a	32c Love & Swans (20)	\$12.00
3124a	55c Love & Swans (20)	\$24.00
3127a	32c Merian Botanicals (20)	\$12.00
3176a	32c Madonna (20)	\$12.00
3177a	32c Holly (20)	\$12.00
3244a	32c Madonna (20)	\$12.50
3252c	32c Wreaths DC 11.4 x 11.5 (20)	\$35.00
3252e	32c Wreaths DC 11.7 x 11.6 (20)	\$60.00
3268a	{33c} Hat DC 11½ (10)	\$8.00
3268c	{33c} Hat DC 11 (10)	\$11.00
3269a	{33c} Hat DC 8 (18)	\$11.00
3274a	33c Victorian Love (20)	\$13.00
3278d	33c Flag/City DC 11 (10)	\$7.50
3278e	33c Flag/City DC 11 (20)	\$13.00
3278j	33c Flag/City DC 11 1/4 (10)	\$18.00
3278Fg	33c Flag/City Reprint (20)	\$29.50
3283a	33c Flag over Chalkboard (18)	\$12.00
3297b	33c Fruit berries 1999 (20)	\$24.50
3297d	33c Fruit berries 2000 (20)	\$29.50

Abbreviations

DC = Die-Cut

SA = Self-adhesive

ATM = Automated Teller Machine

DS = Double Sided

{#-c} = non-denominated

(#) = number of stamps per pane

* = some panes have plate #'s that are a premium. Want lists by plate # are welcome for quotes

3313v	33c Tropical Flowers (20)	\$13.00
3355a	33c Madonna (20)	\$13.00
3363a	33c Deer (20)	\$34.00
3436c	23c Wilma Rudolph (10)	\$7.50
3450a	33c Flag over Farm (18)	\$16.50
3451a	{34c} Statue of Liberty (20)	\$16.00
3457e	{34c} Flowers DC 10½ x 10½ (20)	\$22.50
29200e	32c Flag/porch (10)	\$10.00
2949a	{32c} Love/cherub (20)	\$15.00
2960a	55c Love/cherub (20)	\$20.00
3011a	32c Santa & Children (20)*	\$15.00
3012a	32c Midnight Angel (20)	\$11.50
3013a	32c Children sledding (20)	\$12.00
3030a	32c Love/Cherub (20)	\$12.00
3048a	20c Blue Jay (10)	\$5.00
3049a	32c Yellow Rose (20)	\$11.50
3050a	20c Pheasant DC 11½ x 11½ (10)	\$7.50
3050c	20c Pheasant DC 11 (10)	\$40.00
3490e	34c Flowers (20)	\$20.00
3492b	34c Apples & Oranges (20)	\$17.50
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West Pasco Stamp Roundup, New Port Richey Area Stamp Club, Inc., Regency Park Civic Center, 10240 Regency Park Blvd., Port Richey. Contact Sheldon Rogg, h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampshows.com; 727-364-7787.

Michigan

March 28-29
KAZOO PEX, Kalamazoo Stamp Club, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact Mike Dennany, irishdennany@yahoo.com; 269-623-5836.

Washington

March 28-29
Apple Blossom 2009, Inland Empire Philatelic Society, Red Lion at the Park, 303 W. North River Drive, Spokane. Contact J. Wilson Palmer, ickenburg@comcast.net; www.spokanestampcollectors.org; 509-443-8147. *B*

Delaware

April 4
DeLPEx Stamp Show and Bourse, Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy (US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle. Contact John Graper, jograper@comcast.net; www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com; 302-994-5222.

New Hampshire

April 4
Great Bay Stamp, Coin, Post Card and Ephemera Show, Great Bay Stamp Club, K of C Hall, Columbus Ave., Rochester. Contact Edmund H. Vallery, ehvallery@aol.com; 603-868-5523.

Illinois

April 4-5
PARFOR EXHIBITION, Park Forest Stamp Club, St. Irenaeus Church Gymnasium, South Orchard and Indianwood, Park Forest. Contact Ed Waterous, ewwaterous@hotmail.com; 219-769-2840.

Oregon

April 4-5
Southern Oregon Philatelic exhibition, Southern

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Oregon Philatelic Society, Padgham Pavilion, Jackson County EXPO Park, 1 Peninger Rd., Central Point. Contact Nick Follansbee, 541-772-3871.

Alabama April 11

MONTAPEX, Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Dorster Community Center, 424 S outh Northington St., Prattville. Contact Dwayne Selix, stamper98@mindspring.com; 334-365-2992. *B*

New York April 16-19

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

Pennsylvania April 18

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

Virginia April 18

ROAPEX, Big Lick Stamp Club, First Presbyterian Church/Fellowship Hall, 2101 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke. Contact Ali Nazemi, nazemi@roanoke.edu; <http://Biglickstampclub.home.att.net>; 540-375-2217. *B*

Pennsylvania April 18-19

WILKPEX, Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Garden City Hall, Inc., 600 Garden City Drive, Monroeville. Contact Tom Donohue, wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com; 412-373-8697.

Wisconsin April 19

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

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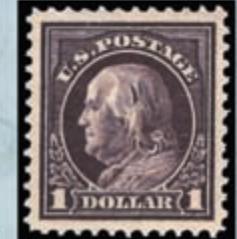


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California

WESTPEX Stamp Show, Western Phil. Exhibitions, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. Contact Edward Jarvis, ejarvis@westpex.com; www.westpex.com; 415-387-1016. *WSP*

Georgia

Central Savannah River Area 1 2009 Spring Stamp Bourse, Greater Augusta Stamp Club, Americas Best Value Inn, 3023 Washington Road (at I-20 Exit), Augusta. Contact Peter Igel, igelsp@bellsouth.net; 706-868-6769.

Indiana

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

Michigan

Plymouth Show, West Suburban Stamp Club, Central Middle School, 650 Church Street, Plymouth. Contact Sandra Strzalkowski, mywssc@msn.com; www.plymouthshow.com; 313-533-7737. *WSP*

New Jersey

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

Pennsylvania

LANCOPEX, Lancaster County Phil. Soc., Farm & Home Ctr., 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster. Contact J.

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Boyles, jboyles@dejazzd.com; 717-394-5118.

Connecticut

April 26

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

Ohio

April 25

Tu Scopex , Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, 161 Tuscora Avenue, NW, New Philadelphia. Contact James Shamel, jmhelenshamel@hotmail.com; 740-922-4610. *B*

Massachusetts

May 1-3

Philatelic Show, Northeastern Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn, Boxboro. Contact Jeff Shapiro, dirtyoldcovers@aol.com. *WSP*

Pennsylvania

May 2

HAVEx , Havertown Stamp Club, u nion Methodist Church, Allston Rd. & Brookline Blvd., Havertown. Contact ernie Anderson, drexelhillernie@comcast.net; 610-259-1045.

Canada

May 2-3

o RAPEx 2009, RA Stamp Club, o ttawa Philatelic Society, Curling Rink at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, o ttawa, o nt. Contact Robert Pinet, pinet.robert@gmail.com; 613-745-2788.

Washington

May 2-3

GeSSPEx , Greater eastside Stamp Society, VFW Hall, 4330 148th Ave., Ne, Redmond. Contact Dana S. Nielsen, g-e-s-s@comcast.net; http://g-e-s-s.home.comcast.net; 722-284-6167.

Ohio

May 3

Hudson Stamp Bourse, Lincolnway Stamps, Hudson Holiday Inn, 240 Hines Hill Rd. (Just north of Rt. 8 and I-80), Hudson. Contact David G. Pool,

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Pennsylvania

May 8-9

BUTLERPEX, Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Ave., Lyndora. Contact Tom Sivak, tomstmps2133@earthlink.net; 724-287-1931.

Utah

May 8-9

Utah Spring Stamp Fest, Utah Philatelic Society, Utah State Fair Park, Bonneville Building, 155 North 1000 West, Salt Lake City. Contact Dave Blackhurst, dblackhu@wcfgroup.com; 801-580-9534.

Louisiana

May 9

Baton Rouge Stamp Show, Baton Rouge Stamp Club, Cortana Mall, Entrance 5 (next to Sears), Corner Florida Blvd. And Airline Highway, Baton Rouge. Contact Zbigniew S. Cypel, mrbretired@aol.com; 225-802-7919.

Ohio

May 9

TRUMPEX 2009, The Warren Area Stamp Club, J V Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Road, Leavittsburg. Contact Howard Lutz, howrex2@aol.com; 330-924-5124.

Colorado

May 15-17

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX), Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc., Holiday Inn - Denver International Airport, John Q. Hammonds Trade Center, Chambers Rd & I-70, Denver. Contact Ronald Hill, rmss@rockymountainstampshow.com; www.rockymountainstampshow.com; 303-241-5409. *WSP*

New York

May 15-17

ROPEX, Rochester Phil. Assoc., ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd., Rochester. Contact Dave Robinson, stamptmf@frontiernet.net; http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.

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Ohio

May 16-17

FALLSPEX 46, Cuyahoga Falls Stamp Club, Lions Park Lodge, 6th Street and Silver Lake Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls. Contact Hugh Kleasen, blixtenAR@aol.com; 330-923-5856.

Illinois

May 22-24

COMPLEX 2009, Combined Philatelic Exhibitions of Chicagoland, Inc., Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert, Arlington Heights. Contact Charles Berg, stampkingchicago@hotmail.com; 773-775-2100.

New Jersey

May 22-24

NOJEX, North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc., Crown Plaza, Meadowlands, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus. Contact Robert G. Rose, rrose@phks.com; www.nojex.org; 973-966-8070. *WSP*

Oregon

May 22-24

PIPEX, Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs/Oregon Stamp Society, Double Tree Hotel, Lloyd Center Exhibition Hall, Portland. Contact Ron Sumner, rsumner1@juno.com; www.oreonstampssociety.org; 503-774-2344. *WSP*

Connecticut

May 24

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

Virginia

June 5-7

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

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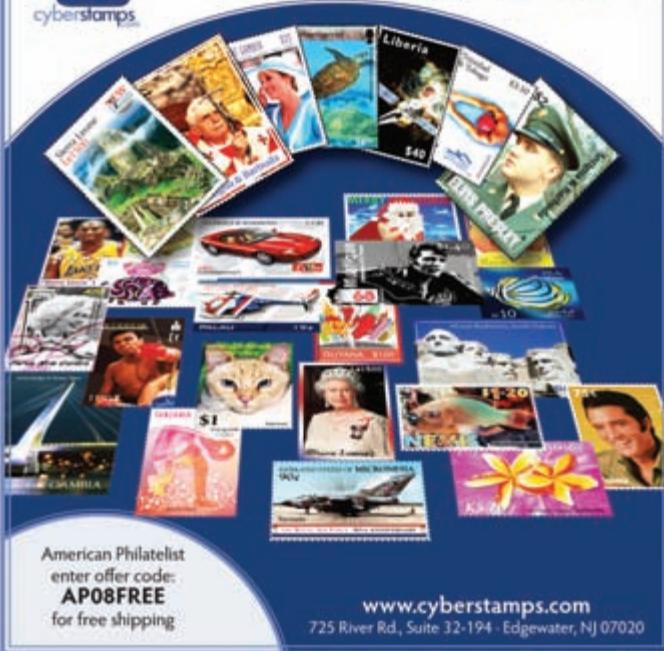


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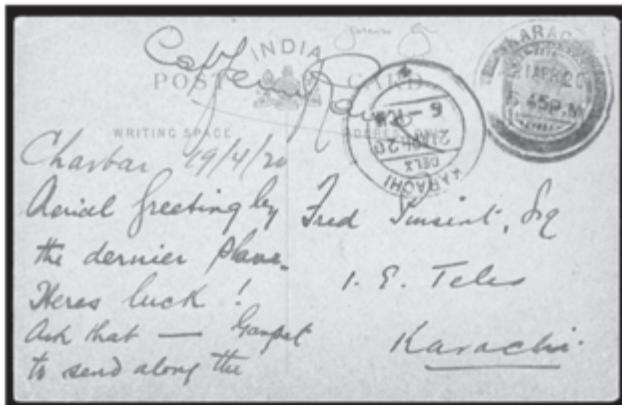
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New Jersey

June 6

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

Alabama

June 6-7

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

Canada

June 12-14

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

Ohio

June 12-14

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

Connecticut

June 28

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

Minnesota

July 17-19

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

Nevada

July 25-26

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

Connecticut

July 26

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

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Massachusetts

July 31-August 1-2
 AMERICOVER, American First Day Cover Society, Holiday Inn, Boxboro.
 Contact Norm Elrod, showinfo@afcds.org; www.afcds.org; 931-473-6164.
 WSP

Michigan

August 1-2
 COLPEX, Collectors Club of Michigan, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W.
 Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. Contact Charles Wood, jarnick@wowway.com;
 248-546-1282. *B*

Ohio

August 1-2
 CINPEX 09, Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society, Hugh Watson (Greenhills)
 American Legion Hall, 11100 Winton Road, Cincinnati. Contact Jim
 Siekermann/Ron Maifeld, jims150320@aol.com; www.freewebs.com/gcps;
 513-825-4379/714-759-5580 Cell. *B*

Pennsylvania

August 6-9
APS STAMPSHOW, American Philatelic Society, David L. Lawrence
 Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh. Contact Dana
 Guyer, stampshow@stamps.org; www.stamps.org; 814-933-3803 ext 217;
 Fax 814-933-6128. *WSP*

Connecticut

August 23
 NHPS 4th Sunday Show, New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554
 Woodward Ave., New Haven. Contact Brian McGrath, soggy3@aol.com;
 www.NHPS1914.org/; 203-389-2863. *B*

Maryland

September 4-6
 BALPEX, Baltimore Phil. Soc., Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83
 Exit 20 E., Hunt Valley. Contact Robert E. Gibson, Sr., balpex@verizon.net;
 www.balpex.org; 410-332-4741. *WSP*

Canada

September 11-13
 BNAPEX 2009 SEAWAYPEX, British North America Philatelic Society,
 Ambassador Conference Resort, 1550 Princess Street, Kingston, Ont. Contact
 Jerome C. Jarnick, jarnick@wowway.com; www.bnaps.org; 248-689-1966.

Arkansas

September 12-13
 32st Annual Stamp & Postcard, Mountain Home Area Stamp Club, Ramada
 Inn Convention Center, Hwy. 62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home.
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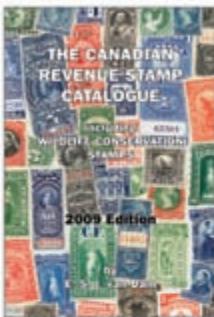
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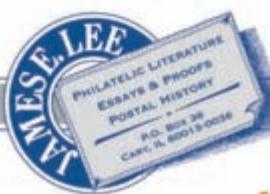
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Nebraska

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

New York

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

Wisconsin

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

Illinois

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

Connecticut

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

California

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

New Jersey

Clifton 2009 Fall Stamp, Cover, and Post Card Show, Clifton Stamp Society, Inc., Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @

September 12-13

Washington Ave., Clifton. Contact Thomas Stidl, stidl@verizon.net; www.cliftonnj.org/stamp; 973-471-7872. *B*

Ohio

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

Pennsylvania

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

Indiana

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

Oklahoma

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

Connecticut

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

Pennsylvania

October 30-November 1
Classics 2009, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Pl., Bellefonte. Contact Wade Saadi, wade@pencom.com; http://www.uspcs.org/2009APS_NPM_USPCS_Meeting.html.

October 3-4

Rocky River. Contact Ray Simko, ranrsimko@msn.com.

October 11

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

October 16-18

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

October 23-24

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

October 25

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

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NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during January 2009. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to March 31, 2009, these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the June 2009 issue.

Ackert, Shannon (215316) Walnut Creek, CA VENEZUELA; 47	Fischer, James H. (215326) Lemont, IL US; 54; Professor	Holmes, Kevin T. (215286) Bryan, TX US-UN; 41; Retail	
Adema, Michael J. (215327) Grand Blanc, MI US PLATE BLKS; 65	Flinchbaugh, Robert E. (215324) Downington, PA US; 43	Hughes, Francis M. (215349) Palm Harbor, FL US; 73; Retired	
Adler, Mary J. (215271) Boulder, CO 63	Foster, Donald (215332) Davis, CA US; 64; Retired	Humphries, Robert H. (215288) White River Junction, VT BRIT; 70; Retired	
Alsop, Roger (215337) San Leandro, CA US- CANADA-HONG KONG; 51; Scientist Biotech	Friedrich, Robert J. (215389) Willoughby, OH US; Retired	Hutcheson, Lewis B. (215297) Destin, FL US, CONFEDERATE, CIVIL WAR PERIOD; 73; Retired	
Anctil, Albert O. (215386) Coventry, RI 83; Retired	Fuller, Vicki (215268) Townsend, GA 49	Hutchins, Suzanne L. (215362) Edmonds, WA 68; Retired	
Andrews, Jonathan (215275) Cedar Park, TX US- UN; 43	Gangloff, William J. (215348) Millsboro, DE US; 40	Hylton, James A. (215289) Collinsville, VA US- GER; 48	
Andrews, Suzanne (215276) Mendham, NJ POLAND-CZECH; 42	Garrett, Bill W. (215390) Lake Forest, CA CANAL ZONE; Engineer	Israelson, Hilton (215266) Rickmansworth, Herts., England HAWAII; 60; Pharmacist	
Angwin, Richard (215347) Acton, MA 46	Gennen, Karl-Heinz (215385) Wuerselen, Germany US-CANADA; 47	Jarvis, Kevin (215298) Rockledge, FL 54	
Bakash, Jerry (215387) Sedona, AZ 55	Germenis, Spiridon (215280) Blatna, Czech Republic ETHIOPIA; 69; Civil Engineer	Johansson, Jan E. (215318) Hinesburg, VT MINT US; 69; Retired	
Bayless, Jonathan W. (215325) El Portal, CA ROTARY INTERNATIONAL; 57; Museum	Gieser, Stephen C. (215396) West Chicago, IL 48	Jones, Jo C. (215299) Nashville, TN US, FI, PERFINS, DUCKS, TN FF; 51; Customs House Broker	
Becker, Kirk E. (215290) Green Bay, WI NZ-QEII DEFINITIVES; 56; Retired	Giles, Gerald F. (215330) Houston, TX PHILIPPINES; 32; Valve Technician	Jones, Robert L. (215300) Springfield, MO CHILE- GER; 83; Retired	
Belejack, Bill (215361) South Meriden, CT FDC-SPACE-MILITARY-LIGHTHOUSES- AMERICANA; 62; Inside Salesman	Gilman, Alfred L. (215317) Onancock, VA RUSSIA; 78; Retired	Kamil, Howard (215367) Portland, OR 51	
Bennett, Bruce E. (215353) Crossville, TN US; 74; Retired	Goebel Senior Center Stamp Club (1573-215346) Thousand Oaks, CA	Kaminski, John Z. (215311) Surrey, BC CANADA- UN-US-POLAND-RUSSIA-VAT; 61; Research	
Bixler, David (215291) Safford, AZ US-UN- CANADA; 65; Retired	Goulding, George C. (215375) Huntersville, NC PRE 1950; 64; Insurance Manager	Kase, Elizabeth (215301) Mohnton, PA 43	
Briener, Charlie (215292) Claryville, NY US-GER; 67; Retired	Haddad, Hany (215265) Middletown, NJ 48	Kaster, Mary E. (215302) Homeworth, OH 57; Senior Business Analyst	
Bruce, Joy (215293) Grand Rapids, MI Retired	Hallman, Paul R. (215405) Millbrook, AL 19TH C CLASSIC, BOB; 62; Flooring Products	Keane, James P. (215351) Prospect Heights, IL US; 49; Engineer	
Buller, Delbert (215294) Galva, KS 62; Retired	Hauf, Melvin F. (215384) Glen Burnie, MD US; 56	Kershaw, Blair E. (215303) Erie, PA 74; Retired	
Burgagni, Alfred G. (215359) Forked River, NJ US- SAN MARINO; 53	Hearns, Patricia (215377) Gilbertville, MA 69; Retired	Kitchens, Richard (215338) Woodbridge, CT US; 68; Supervisor	
Cahill, Philip (215321) Belle Mead, NJ EUR; 28	Hinman, Rob (215281) Salem, IL CHURCHILL- POE-REAGAN-TWAIN/CLEMENS-WWII- VIETNAM WAR; 29; Writer	Kumnick, Keith (215304) South Windsor, CT 50; Commercial Real Estate	
Circle, Ruth Ann (215360) Kennesaw, GA US; 68	Hoagland, Richard G. (215374) Santa Fe, NM US; 68	Kurzet, Stanley M. (215314) Newport Beach, CA 77; Retired	
Clark, Thomas D. (215370) Alexandria, VA SESAME STREET-MUPPETS; 38	Holmes, Justin (215282) Secane, PA 28; Educator	LaBelle, David P. (215363) Poulsbo, WA 69; Retired	
Consiglio, Alfred (215388) Qormi, Malta 64; Retired	NEW MEMBERS	Leonard, Elizabeth M. (215371) Columbus, OH COMMEM-WORLDWIDE; 42; Administrative Assistant	
Covill, Randall J. (215284) Atkinson, NH 60	Applications 214890, 215059 through 215087, and 215089 through 215147, and 215149 through 215184 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.	Lomholdt, Danny S. (215402) Vacaville, CA 59	
Crowe, Michael F. (215401) Chicago, IL 46		Luedke, Kenneth D. (215352) Albuquerque, NM US 1847-1900 USED; 76; Retired	
Cumberbatch, James S. (215373) Ocala, FL 80		Luna, Renato O. (215315) Long Beach, CA 55; Driver	
Demottier, Robert D. (215357) Bryan, TX US; 69; Retired		Mammana, Richard J. (215329) Stamford, CT 29	
Denkmann, Arthur F. (215335) Ballwin, MO 47; Engineer		McHale, Linfeng Sheu (215328) Wichita, KS ART- HISTORY; 37; Graphic Designer	
Derendorf, Hartmut (215323) Gainesville, FL 55		Morrison, B. Elisabeth (215305) Palo Cedro, CA SWISS-GER-AUSTRIA-US; 66; Retired	
DeSiena, Carl (215355) La Mesa, CA 29		Moureaux, Brenda (215372) Montrose, CO US; 41; Accountant	
di Costanzo, Jean-Marc (215322) Beau Bassin, Mauritius WORLDWIDE; 57		Nickerson, Steve (215407) Kingston, NS WORLDWIDE; 44; Stamp Dealer	
Dimond, June M. (215295) Newbury, OH US; 47; Retired		Nosworthy, Donald G. (215369) Bellevue, NE US; 67; Retired	
Dorman, James R. (215379) Spring Lake, NC GER; 34		Oliver, Germaine (215277) Waipahu, HI MAPS- INVENTORS; 39	
Drabandt, Dale E. (215296) Oshkosh, WI MINT US; 62; CPA		Opp, James C. (215340) Stillwater, MN OLDER US-BRIT-CHANNEL IS; 65; Business Owner	
Dubb, Myron P. (215279) New York, NY SPORTS- FILM; 49; Project Manager			
Duva, Robert (215313) Cranston, RI US; 68; Distributor			
Edington, Ouida (215398) Youngsville, NY US- ANTARCTICA-CHINA-JAPAN-CANADA; 67; Retired			
SUMMARY			
Total Membership, Dec. 31, 2008 40,064			
New Members 125			
Reinstated 52 177			
Disbanded Chapters..... 1			
Deceased 39			
Resignations..... 122 162			
Total Membership, Jan. 31, 2009 40,079			

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 Pan, Liang (215331) **Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan** 37
 Peters, Stephen M. (215382) **San Diego, CA**
 US; 49
 Pigott, Jeffrey R. (215364) **Lenoir City, TN** US;
 COMMEM; 45; Internal Auditor
 Porsteinsson, Hallur (215320) **Reykjavik, Iceland**
 CHRISTIAN IX WITH NUMERAL CANCELS; 46
 Rice, Beverly S. (215368) **Marietta, GA** FRANCE;
 60; Teacher
 Riordan, Michael W. (215403) **Revere, MA** MINT
 US; 66
 Roark, Earl M. (215354) **Royal Palm Beach, FL**
 US; 48
 Robbie, William A. (215404) **Braselton, GA** 57
 Robillard, Greg (215356) **Owatonna, MN** 44
 Roemig, Dennis (11882-215339) **Amana, IA** MINT
 US SINGLES; 56; Restaurant Chef/Owner
 Sage, Keith L. (215358) **Las Vegas, NV** US-GER
 COL; 46
 Salamone, Robert L. (215269) **Ontario, NY** PRE
 1940 US; 51; Production Manager
 Salber, Peter J. (215380) **Brooklyn, NY** US-
 CANADA; 60; Librarian
 Sanfilippo, Peter A. (215306) **Modesto, CA**
 CLASSIC US-CANADA-NFLD-ITALY; 36;
 Registered Nurse
 Schaefer, Walter J. (215350) **Dunedin, FL** US; 71;
 Retired
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 PLATE BLKS, 1934/35 NATIONAL PARKS-
 SCAND; 46; RF Technician
 Schmitz, Bobby R. (215391) **Wichita Falls, TX** US-
 GER-DEAD COUNTRIES; 67; Retired
 Schuller, Stephen (215365) **Jacksonville, FL**
 OLDER UNCIRCULATED US; 43; Investment
 Advisor
 Siegel, Barry L. (215378) **Fountain Hill, AZ** 62
 Simpson, Gary L. (215307) **Upper Lake, CA** US;
 63; Retired
 Slaughter, Steve (215408) **Peoria, IL** MINT NH
 SHEETS; 59; Retired
 Slocum, Wayne J. (215319) **Voula, Athens,**
Greece 61
 Small, Montelle L. (215334) **Portland, ME**
 CANADA; 82; Retired
 Smith, J. Larry (215267) **Denver, CO** WORLDWIDE;
 65; Engineer
 Sotirakos, James D. (215285) **Oak Brook, IL**
 GREECE; 76; Retired
 Stephens, Edward J. (215308) **Trevose, PA** US,
 AIR MAIL, PLATE BLKS; 42; Project Manager
 Swanstrom, Clive R. (215273) **Livingston, TX** 63;
 Retired
 Szakacs, Edward (215392) **Hamilton Square, NJ**
 65; Retired
 Szenrey, Michael (215366) **San Juan, PR** 66;
 Consultant
 Tapia, William (215278) **Golden Valley, AZ** US; 84;
 Retired
 Teklinski, Steven C. (215309) **San Diego, CA** 55;
 USPS Clerk
 Thompson, Linda A. (215400) **Orinda, CA** US; 61;
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Timmons, Duane H. (215341) **Palo Cedro, CA**
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 Tipton, Terrence M. (215383) **Bel Air, MD** US, FDC,
 CANCELLATIONS-WORLDWIDE; 56; Retired
 Tsavoussis, Theodore T. (215270) **Nassau,**
Bahamas US-RUSSIA-BRIT COMM; 47;
 Businessman
 van Zeyst, Keri A. (215287) **Marfa, TX** 19TH C
 MOURNING COVERS; 36; Artist
 VanDyke, Robert (215342) **Kelowna, BC** 70; Limo
 Driver
 Vassilopoulos, Spiro G. (215312) **Albuquerque, NM**
 US; 56; Geologist
 Vics, Andrew (215381) **Wilmington, NC** US; 70;
 Retired
 Villa, Dennis K. (215397) **Brighton, MA** US-VAT-
 EUR-CANADA-WORLDWIDE; 62; Retired
 Walker, Joseph H. (215274) **Houston, TX** US; 60;
 Engineer
 Walker, Timothy J. (215343) **Springfield Center,**
NY US SINGLES-OTSEGO COUNTY POSTAL
 HISTORY-US AIR MAIL; 48; Retired
 Walldorf, Suzanne (215395) **New Rochelle, NY**
 MINT US, SINGLES; 67; Retired
 Watts, John (215336) **Needham, MA** MINT US; 59;
 Software Engineer
 Weda, Paul (215310) **Rotterdam, Netherlands**
 LATIN AM-COPAPHIL; 92; Manager
 Environment
 Weego, Alex (215344) **Hewitt, MN** 68
 Werner, Eric (215393) **Hackensack, NJ** 46;
 Executive
 Williges, Hidemi I. (215283) **San Francisco, CA**
 US-CANADA; 53
 Yagiello, Anthony S. (215333) **Barnegat, NJ**
 WORLDWIDE; 68; Retired
 Yeager, Alfred H. (215394) **Maylene, AL** CLASSIC
 US, PNC-CLASSIC BRIT COMM; 59; Retired
 Zikking, Daniel J. (215272) **Wolfeboro Falls, NH**
 WORLDWIDE; 55; Retired
 Zimmerman, Stanley M. (215345) **Bloomington,**
IL AIR MAIL-POSTAL HISTORY-EARLY
 PLATE BLKS-EARLY FDC-PPC; 66; Electrical
 Contractor
 Zoccolini, Hugo A. (215376) **Brooklyn, NY** 42

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University City Stamp Club (0795-064419),
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 Sapp, 712 NW 95th Terr., Gainesville, FL 32607

DECEASED

Abel, Peter M. (135997), Orlando, FL
 Arnold, Charles J. (128462), Hilliard, OH
 Blorstad, Trygve P. (183754), Silver Spring, MD
 Buxton, Robert W. (191442), Bend, OR
 Byrd, Ellis C., Jr., (10750-055620), Charleston, SC
 Cline, Michael R. (081973), Charleston, WV

Craig, Donald F. (8549-091838), Fall River, MA
 Fields, John H. (114148), Lancaster, CA
 Fisher, Harold Hal (2846-022090), Miami Beach, FL
 Foster, Clarence E. (4456-035108),
 Rio Rancho, NM
 Frudden, Carl R. (7096-049684), Orinda, CA
 Gagnon, Leo W. (191825), Metairie, LA
 Gleason, Geoffrey I. (4864-039829), Oak Ridge, TN
 Harmon, Clayton C. (8258-057029), Asheville, NC
 Hill, Albert K. (2700-078110), Buffalo, NY
 Hogan, Edward F. (090862), Chagrin Falls, OH
 Hutchins, Harry N. (204624), Edmonds, WA
 Iacobelli, James (173722), Eatontown, NJ
 Jaycox, Larry B. (136220), East Hampton, NY
 Jensen, Roger N. (104961), Waverly, OH
 Kemp, Patrick W. (174433), Annapolis, MD
 Lanman, Harold R. (5918-043398),
 Gaithersburg, MD
 Lawing, Morris (137058), Charlotte, NC
 Lupton, Robert H. (6787-066261), Kingwood, TX
 MacBride, R. J. (201236), Cumberland Center, ME
 McLeod, Colin (087502), Lancaster, PA
 Meyer, Paul H. (167865), Bloomfield, CT
 Moroz, Chester A. (179324), Philadelphia, PA
 Mortara, Ben, Jr. (5527-039173), Brentwood, CA
 Oppenheim, Peter K. (10861-075234), San
 Francisco, CA
 Seeley, John B. (107546), Buena Park, CA
 Snyder, Clair A. (191923), Reading, PA
 Stevens, Jack R. (102831), Port Saint Lucie, FL
 Trumbo, Ruth (125821), Des Moines, IA
 Van Lear, Charles H. (183342), Ocala, FL
 Volkman, Bernard E. (140143), Westlake
 Village, CA
 Vyverberg, Henry S. (10473-074410), Marion, IL
 Whetstone, Geroge W. (213894), Kennebunk, ME
 Young, Charles S. (103915), State College, PA

REPRIMAND

Weinstock, Lawrence M. (064869), P. O. Box
 92033, Portland, OR 97292-2033 has been
 reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a
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Patriotic Banner Issued

On February 24, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a non-denominated, presorted standard rate (10-cent value), Patriotic Banner stamp in one design in a water-activated gum coil of 500 stamps. This stamp was previously issued in the following formats:

- July 4, 2007, Pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) coil of 3,000 stamps
- July 4, 2007, PSA coil of 10,000 stamps

Denomination: Presorted Standard Nondenominated Definitive (10-cent value)

Format: Coil of 500 (1 design)

Artist/Designer/Typography: Michael Osborne, Berkeley, CA

Art Director: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Modeler: Donald Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset

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

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Water-activated

Colors: Red, Blue, Gold

Stamp Orientation: Vertical

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

22.10 x 24.89 mm (overall)

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by 3 single digits (every 31 stamps)

Marginal Markings: Plate numbers every 31st stamp on coil

Official Mail

On February 24, 2009, in Washington, DC, the Postal Service issued a 1-cent Official Mail definitive stamp in one design in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20 stamps. The stamp was designed by the late Bradbury Thompson.

Denomination: 1-cent Official Mail

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Art Director: Joe Brockert, USPS

Typographer: Bradbury Thompson

Modeler: Donald H. Woo

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint "USPS"

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

Press Type: Alprinta, 74

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Self-adhesive

Colors: Blue, Red, Black

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 18.29 x 21.34 mm (image);

22.10 x 24.38 mm (overall); 135.89 x 125.22 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: N/A

Marginal Markings: ©1983 USPS logo; Barcode 574400 in 4 corners

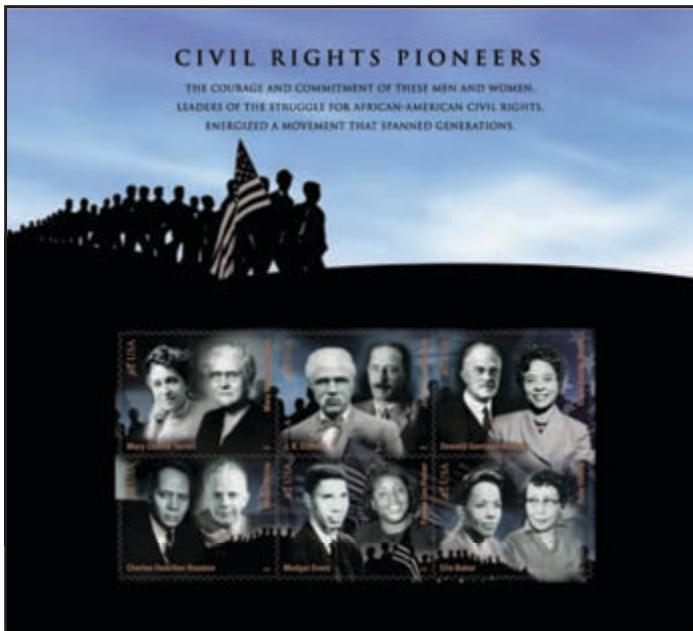
Civil Rights Pioneers

On February 21, 2009, in New York City, the Postal Service issued a 42-cent Civil Rights Pioneers commemorative stamp in six designs in a pressure-sensitive (PSA) souvenir sheet of six stamps. With these stamps, the USPS honors twelve leaders of the struggle for African-American civil rights. These visionary men and women energized a movement that spanned generations. Art director Ethel Kessler and stamp designer Greg Berger, both of Bethesda, Maryland, chose to approach this project through photographic montage. Paring two pioneers on each stamp was a way of intensifying the montage effect.

Denomination: 42-cent Commemorative

Format: Souvenir Sheet of 6 (6 designs), \$2.52

Designer: Greg Berger, Bethesda, MD



Art Director/Typographyher: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD

Engraver: Keating

Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD

Manufacturing Process: Gravure

Printer: Avery Dennison (AVR), Clinton, SC

Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)

Paper Type: Non-phosphored, Type III

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Yellow, Magenta, Cyan, Black, Gold

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

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

39.62 x 31.12 mm (overall); 184.15 x

158.75 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: N/A

Marginal Markings: Front: Header:

"CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS";

Paragraph: "The courage.....spanned generations."

Back: ©2008 USPS; USPS logo; Price: ".42 x 6 = \$2.52";

Header: "CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS";

Paragraph: "With these.....civil rights.;"

Twelve names and short bio on each person who appears on stamp; Barcode 573900 in lower right-hand corner.

Miami University Stamped Card

On February 17, 2009, in Oxford, Ohio, the Postal Service issued a 27-cent, Miami University stamped card. The stamped card, part of the Historic Preservation series, commemorates Miami University's bicentennial. The stamped image on the card is a computer-generated illustration of MacCracken Hall, created by artist Tom Engeman of Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Denomination: 27-cent Stamped Card



Format: Stamped Card

Series: Historic Preservation

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Howard E. Paine, Delaplane, VA

Artist: Tom Engeman, Bethany Beach, DE

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer: Ashton Potter, Williamsville, NY

Finishers: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.

(APU), Williamsville, NY

Press Type: Stevens, Vari-Size

Security Press

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III,

Block

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Card Orientation: Horizontal

Sizes (w x h): 53.98 x 31.75 mm (image);

139.70 x 88.90 mm (overall)

Plate Numbers: N/A

Marginal Markings: ©2008 USPS;

Recycled logo; recycled

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

On February 9, 2009, in Springfield, Illinois, the Postal Service issued a 42-cent, Abraham Lincoln commemorative stamp in four designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of 20 stamps.

With these four stamps, the Postal

Service recognizes the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), who rose from humble, frontier origins to become a prominent lawyer, politician, and ultimately president of the United States.

The stamp art was created by Mark Summers of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, who is noted for his scratchboard technique, a style distinguished by a dense network of lines etched with exquisite precision. Each stamp features a different aspect of Lincoln's life: as rail-splitter, lawyer, politician, and president.

Denomination: 42-cent Commemorative

Format: Pane of 20 (4 designs)

Designer/Art Director/Typographyher:

Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ

Artist: Mark Summers, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.,

Williamsville, NY

Press Type: Mueller Martini, A76

Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III, Block Tagged

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Orientation: Horizontal

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

39.62 x 24.89 mm (overall); 183.90 x

151.13 mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by

4 single digits

Marginal Markings: Front: ©2008 USPS;

Plate position diagram; Price; Plate

numbers in 4 corners. Back: USPS

logo; Barcode (464700) in 2 positions;

Descriptive text on back of each stamp.

The British Virgin Islands

Status: Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom

Population: 24,041 (est. 2008)

Area: 59 sq mi.

Currency: U.S. Dollar (since 1959)

A group of about three dozen, mostly volcanic, islands in the northern Leewards east of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands were discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. He gave them the cumbersome name *Santa Ursula y las once mil virgenes*, (after the legend of St. Ursula), which usage shortened to "the Virgin Islands." Although the Spanish claimed the islands, they did not attempt to colonize them, and it was the Dutch who first established a small settlement on Tortola. The British took control of Tortola in 1672 and Virgin Gorda and Anegada in 1680, and has retained them ever since.

In 1871 the Virgin Islands became a presidency in the Leeward Islands Colony and, as a presidency, the islands retained considerable local autonomy. The Leeward Islands Colony became a territory in 1956, and was incorporated into the West Indian Federation in 1958; however, the Federation was dissolved in 1962 when the larger islands began moving toward independence.

One of the most prosperous countries in the Caribbean, the British Virgin Islands is closely tied to the U.S. economy. Almost half of the government revenue comes from licensing fees for offshore companies. The second most important industry is tourism. An estimated 820,000 tourists visited the islands in 2005.

In 1951 the decimal West Indies Dollar was introduced in the BVI. The Beewee, as it was called, was very unpopular because of conversion problems. Finally, in 1959, the BVI adopted the U.S. dollar as its official currency, although it was not until 1962 that its stamps were denominated in dollars.

The first post office was established on Tortola in 1787. British stamps were used on the island until 1860, when the Colonial Office assumed responsibility for the overseas mails from the British GPO. The first stamps for the islands were released in late December 1866 or early 1867. From 1899 until 1956 Leeward Islands stamps were used concurrently with Virgin Islands stamps. Leeward Island stamps were not withdrawn and invalidated until July 1, 1956, when the Federation was dissolved.

Since 1917, the islands have been widely referred to as the *British* Virgin Islands to differentiate them from the *American* Virgin Islands. Despite this, the islands' stamps, with rare exceptions, were inscribed simply "Virgin Islands." In 1968 a British Foreign Office memo authorized the word *British* to be used on the islands' postage stamps. In addition to the main post office in Road Town, there are nine other post offices in the islands. The BVI became the 119th country to introduce UPU-sanctioned postal codes in 2006.



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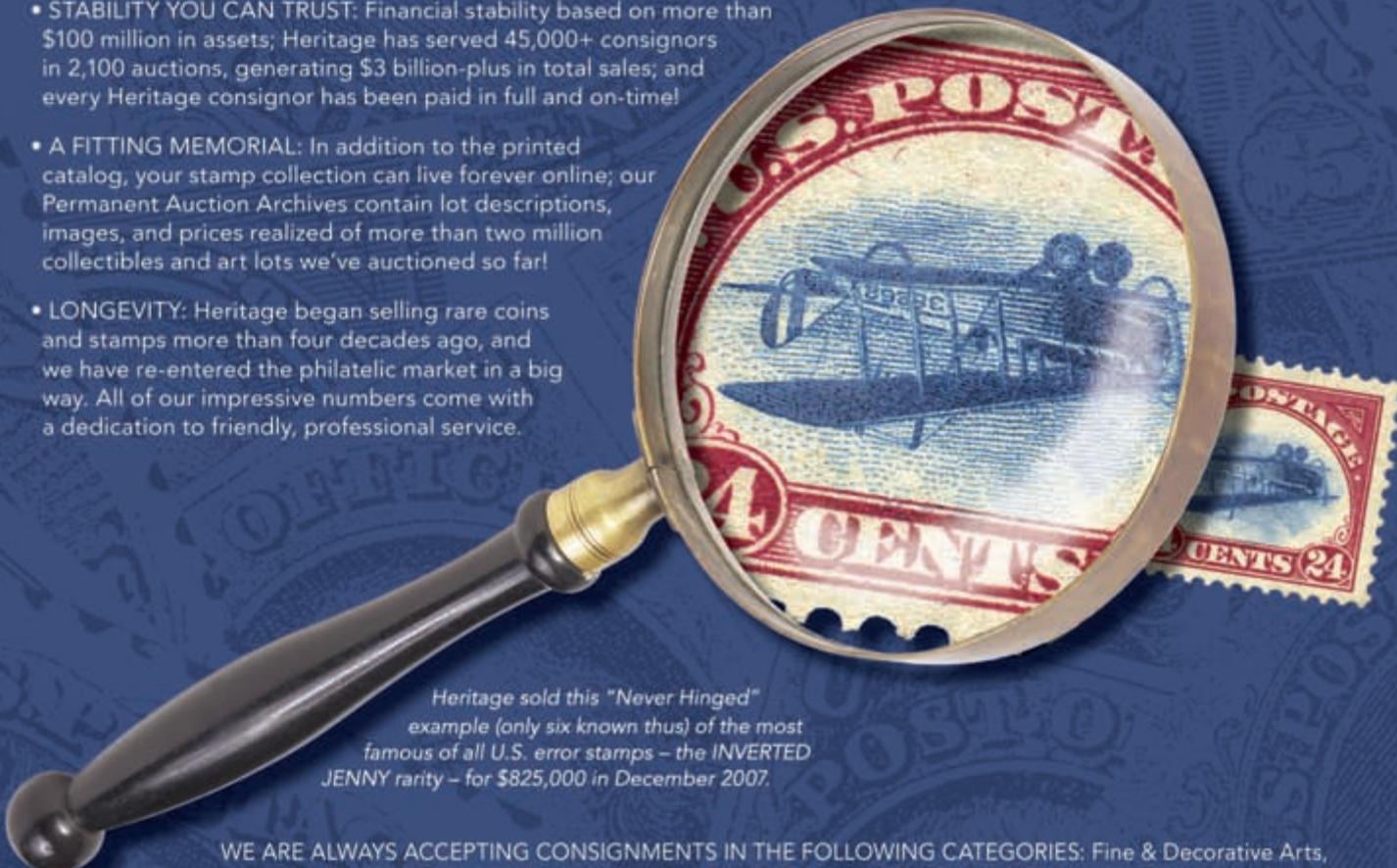
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