

TOPICAL TIME

\$5.00

November-December 2013 Vol. 64, No. 6 Whole Number 382

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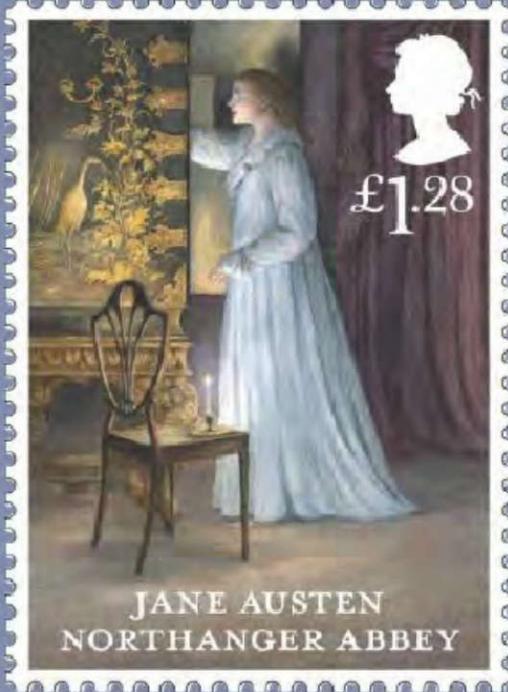
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*Jane Austen
(Page 27)*

*Important Dues
Information
(Page 14)*

*and MUCH
more!*



*A Spotter's Guide
to Truss Bridges (Page 38)*



Journal of Thematic Philately

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Boldly to the Future continues for ATA! See Page 10.

TOPICAL

TIME

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(Prices honored only until Jan. 31, 2014;
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C.G.



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TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

The solution wasn't obvious, but with your help (Collectors) – would it work?

Managing Director Andrew McGavin of Universal Philatelic Auctions explains:

Twenty years ago, and I suspect the same is true today, the typical stamp dealer's biggest problem was not what sold, but what would not sell. In those days mail-bid postal auctions would parcel up their unsold lots (unsolds) and sell them on to other auctions which hopefully had different collectors in their database to whom such material would be new.

In this way they would "release" funds in order to be able to purchase new stamp collections. Other auctions not participating in this exercise would spend a significant proportion of their describing time in re-describing "unsolds" in order to re-present them as "new."

The significance of re-cycling/re-presenting material should not be underestimated – too high a proportion of unsold material stymied dealers from purchasing new stock – a problem many collectors may recognize today when re-visiting suppliers who never seem to have something new to offer: ultimately collectors stop going back to dealers who offer only stale stock.

In essence a dealer selling the best stamps out of any collection he or she has purchased may cover costs, but the profit in any typical collection lies in slower moving stock which is more difficult and takes longer to sell.

Try as they might, there didn't seem to be a satisfactory solution, although today many dealers use eBay to clear unsold stock even at a loss.

Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA) puzzled long over the problem, seeking to turn a "negative" into a "positive." The breakthrough came when its Director took the view that if it was not selling it must be too expensive. This soon led to the conclusion "why don't we reduce the estimate (and reserve) until sold or given away" – after all – everything must be worth something, and if not it should be given away to make way for new stock ... and so ... twelve years ago ...

The Universal Unique Reducing Estimate lot system was born

In 1999 a 6,500-lot UPA auction was created. The director agonized – "would it work?" No dealer or auction, to his knowledge, had ever done this before. Would collectors hold off from bidding and wait until the next auction when the estimate was lower? – or, worse still, the following auction – when the estimate was reduced even lower? Would collectors pass up the first opportunity at new stock and wait – and, if so, for how long?

It was a tense few months, but in the end the director need not have worried. There were 650 different collectors who bid in that first auction, spending £65,000 (US \$100,000+). Collectors who saw something they really wanted would bid first time. But, what of the unsold stock – did it sell? Universal had done something never seen in stamps before, or since – it actually told collectors in subsequent auctions how many times a lot had been unsold – so that collectors could work out how much it had been reduced by from the original estimate ...

... and did the unsolds sell? Collectors bid on the unsolds in following auctions – so that sometimes an unsold lot reoffered actually sold for more than available before.

And now, some 12 years later, we come to today. UPA runs quarterly auctions with approximately 17,000 lots in each auction and over £700,000 (US \$1,000,000+) of stamps from all over the world offered – including Thematics, British, US, and most countries of the world. Today UPA holds the United Kingdom record for the most stamp collectors bidding in a single auction – 1,491 different collectors – collectors who live in all corners of the world ... and yet, surprisingly, 9 out of 10 bidders are successful due to the auctions' significant 17,000+ lots size. Could you be one of them?

**If you would like to see Universal Philatelic Auction's next World Auction catalogue FREE OF CHARGE,
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Jack's Journal

Creating your own Checklist

Note: Eric. S. Borsting wrote an article, "Developing A Topical Checklist" in the November-December 2009 *Topical Time*, pages 32-35. He offered excellent advice, noting various sources for making checklists, such as stamp and auction catalogs, dealers and philatelic libraries and publications. If you'd like a copy of Eric's article, mail a stamped, addressed envelope to the ATA Office, or email american topical@msn.com for a scanned copy.

You may or may not have checklists for your topics. This column presents one way to start a basic checklist. Or you can use this method to expand a checklist that you already have. When you have finished, you can use Eric's suggestions to expand it further!

You say your topic is not among the 603 for which our ATA has checklists? So, create your own!

How, you ask? Here is one way (tip – it is much easier than this may at first seem):

First

1. Go online to www.ebay.com - you don't need to join to use the site – only to buy or sell.
2. In the "Shop by category" box, type your topic. In the "All Categories" box, scroll down to "Stamps." Click "Search."
3. To maximize your search, scroll down till the gray column on the left offers choices for "Item Location." Click "Worldwide."
4. Go back to the top/right of the page and click "Include description." Click "Search" again. You will have a list of all stamp items on your topic offered for sale from people all over the world. If the list is very short or very long, you can experiment by limiting or expanding the word/s of your topic. Tip – when you do so, be sure "Worldwide" and "Include description" are still checked.

5. Scroll down the list of items until you come to one you do not know about. Click on the blue title. If you decide to put that item on your checklist, copy the info on a piece of paper – perhaps the date of issue or catalog number. Tip – listings sometimes include catalog numbers other than Scott. If the item is illustrated, write a brief one-to-four-word description. Repeat as appropriate.

6. When you have finished this, your list won't be complete, but hopefully it will be longer than it was before.

Second

1. Creating an Excel spreadsheet will enable you to automatically rearrange items alphabetically. To make the spreadsheet, click "Start" and then click "Excel."
2. On line 1, type the name of your checklist.

3. Skip to the third line and type these headings in the first four columns (A-D).

Country	Date	Cat #	Description
----------------	-------------	--------------	--------------------

4. To fit the information into cells, you need to make the columns wider.

On the top line of the graph-like page that appears (above line 1), put your cursor on the line between columns "A" and "B." Left click and, maintaining the click, drag that AB line to the right until you have the appropriate width. Widen other columns that same way.

5. Now, enter the information you obtained from the eBay lists. Your list will look something like:

United States June 25, 2011 4545 Mark Twain, Riverboat

6. Tip – be on the lookout for first-day covers. If they have postmarks related to your topic, you can include them in a postmark section of your list. Simply insert the name of the city in the "Cat #" column.

Yes, this takes time and work – but it is a lot easier than needing an eagle eye to watch while you turn every page of every volume of the Scott Catalog! Happy checklist!

Please send your list to the ATA Office so we **will** have that topic among our now 604 lists to help other members of ATA! We'll also include the information on your list in our forthcoming checklist database, expected to be available early next year. ☐



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About ATA

For information about contacting ATA Office or leaders – please see page 4.

New on our Website: www.americantopicalassn.org

- Topical Tidbits, Nov.-Dec. issue: “Gingerbread.”
- Press Release: ATA Issues Fifth Plants Handbook
- Press Release: ATA Offers Electronic Memberships

www.TopicalsOnLine.com

Our new internet sales site is growing - adding 1,000 listings/month. You can be a part of this new ATA benefit.

- List your items – including singles, partial sets, postmarks, stationery, meters.
- Dispose of your duplicates, help other collectors, get some cash.
- Search your topics – every purchase helps the ATA. Members receive 10% off.

Appointments: Two-year terms Thank you for volunteering

- **Director of Study Units** – Jeffrey Hayward
- **Facebook Page Administrator** - Amanda Morgenstern
- **Director of Digital and Social Media (formerly Multi-Media)** – Chris Steenerson

Chris' first priority is to coordinate the final stages of our *Topical Time* digital edition project, in consultation with our webmaster, *TT* editor and executive director.

Limited Opportunity For U.S. Members

Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners age 70½ or older must make required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their accounts. They may choose to gift some or all of that amount, up to \$100,000, to a 501(c)(3) non-profit, such as the ATA. Called a charitable IRA rollover, this is a temporary opportunity that expires Dec. 31. Congress may or may not elect to extend it to next year. The money must be transferred directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a permissible organization. The amount of such gifts is excluded from gross income, often resulting in significant tax benefits. ATA members are encouraged to help both themselves and the ATA in this way. Interested members should discuss this with their tax advisors.

ATA member Dave Kent writes: “*This is an ideal situation for the retired collector who would like to support the hobby. Often retirees hesitate to make charitable donations because it's difficult to exceed the Minimum Standard Deduction to which everyone is entitled. The advantage of the IRA rollover is that you don't count it as either income or a donation, avoiding those complications and decisions. As a long-time insider, I can assure you that your officers and staff are pinching every penny to make the most of donations.*

Please join me in this ideal, yet painless, way to support our favorite topical collecting organization!"

Recent Shows and New Members

• Sept. 20-22: Greater Houston Stamp Show - Humble, Texas, four new members. **Ambassador: Jean Stout.**

Sept. 27-29: National Postage Stamp Show - Toronto, Ontario, Canada, two new members. **Ambassador: Larry Davidson.**

Oct. 5-6: Cupex - Urbana, Ill., one new member. **Ambassador: Sue Jones.**

Oct. 10-13: ASDA National Postage Stamp Show - New York City, 4 new members. **Ambassadors: Allan Fisk, Mike Lubrano, Caroline Scannell, Fred Skvara.**

Oct. 13: Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show - Renton, Wash., **Ambassadors: Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm.**

Nov. 1-3: Seapex - Tukwila, Wash., 2 new members. **Ambassadors: Jack Congrove, Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm, Eric Knapp, Orlie Trier.**

Nov. 2-3: AAPEX - Ann Arbor, Mich., 7 new members.

Nov. 22-24: Chicagopex - Itasca, Ill., 8 new members. **Ambassadors: Susan Jones, Sue Bruce, Ann Byerly and Jim Byrne.**

Dec. 6-8: Florex - Orlando, Fla., 6 new members. Ambassadors: Dawn Hamman, John Hamman.

ATA tables at upcoming stamp shows

Members may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (handbooks, membership directories, checklists, DVDs or others) be brought to these shows for them.

Ambassadors will represent the ATA at these shows:

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Southeastern Stamp Expo, Norcross (Atlanta), Ga.

Feb. 7-9: Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, Fla.

Feb. 14-16: AmeriStamp Expo, Little Rock, Ark.

If you would like to be an Ambassador-in-Training – learning how to help staff ATA tables at stamp shows and events, promoting ATA and recruiting new members – contact Vera Felts at the ATA Office.

Gateway to Topicals 65th Annual ATA National Topical Stamp Show



Please plan now to join us for the 65th annual ATA National Topical Stamp Show, which will be held June 27-29, 2014, at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd, Saint Louis MO 63134

Stay tuned for details as they become finalized.

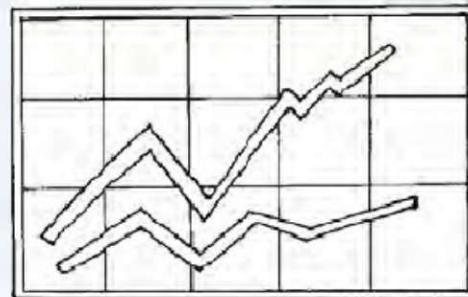
Plan to Meet us in St. Louis!

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

We in the ATA have much to look forward to in the future. How's this for starters?

- **Digital archive of all 64 years of *Topical Time*.** You'll be able to search for any topic you wish.
- **Electronic edition of *Topical Time*.** You'll have your choice of this new version only or a combination of print and electronic editions with your membership.
- **Expansion of [www.TopicalsOnLine](http://www.TopicalsOnLine.com)** – our new ATA Internet Sales System.
- Hundreds of new checklists from the database project recently completed by Karen Cartier.
- Significant advances to our website.
- A much wider social media presence.



Be on the lookout for information about these enhanced member services during the coming months!



You help make these things happen. Your gifts to our "Boldly To The Future" campaign allow us to grow in these and other ways.

THANK YOU!

2013 GOALS:	\$25,000	
Additional 2013 Boost Goal	\$15,000	
Total 2013 Goal	\$40,000	540 Donors
Total Pledged or Received as of Nov. 30	\$26,020	227
Numbers Needed to Reach Goals	\$13,980	313

If you have already contributed, thank you!

If you have not yet contributed this year, please consider doing so – you will help the ATA continue to be a beacon in the philatelic world.

These are the ways you can send your **BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE** gift for 2013:

- Check drawn on U.S. bank in U.S. funds - *preferable since it saves us fees* – payable to "American Topical Association," P.O. Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA
- PayPal: to americantopical@msn.com
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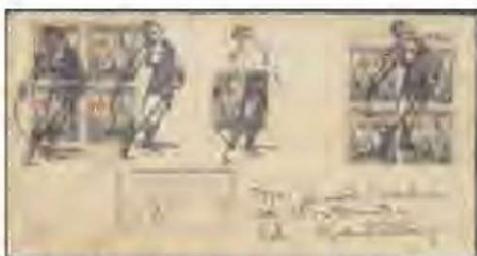
Vera's Views

ATA membership news. Elsewhere in this issue of *Topical Time*, you'll see all the details about the new electronic *Topical Time* issues scheduled to begin in January. This is wonderful news for our international members, as your ATA membership cost will actually be reduced by 37% if you choose electronic membership only.

ATA has held the line on membership cost increases for several years now (thanks to your generous donations), but the time has come when one is necessary. The increase will begin Jan. 1 (see page 14 for details). For all members who would like to continue receiving the print issue of our journal, there is also good news! If you pay for additional ATA membership years by Jan. 31, you can prepay your ATA dues up to 2018 at the current rates – and have full access to the digital version as well.

You can find your current expiration date on the first line of your *Topical Time* address label (or call or email the ATA Office if you've already recycled the wrapper). Let's say your membership is now paid to 2015. If you pay for three additional years by Jan. 31, you will pay just \$65 to extend your membership to 2018; if you renew later, you will pay \$80. So you will save \$5 a year by prepaying your dues. If you would like help in calculating the amount to maximize your savings, just call the ATA Office at 618-985-5100 or email american topical@msn.com.

BGT and NPS. If you're like me, you occasionally find acronyms annoying—and sometimes intriguing. For this column, these two acronyms describe my interesting Columbus Day weekend. On Sunday afternoon, at a



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Panera café in Bowling Green, Ky., I met with the Bowling Green Topicalists (BGT). ATA members David Erbach, Jan Erbach and Amy Wieting, and occasionally one or two other collectors, meet monthly to share their stamps in a topical fashion. Themes are chosen several months in advance; the theme for October was Explorers, in keeping with the timing of Columbus Day weekend. Each collector had chosen stamps from their collection to share with others present. It was neat to see how each collector presented the stamps differently. Thanks to David and Jan for their hospitality. I hope that other ATA members will consider the possibilities for sharing their stamps in unusual ways.

The second acronym is for the Nashville Philatelic Society (Tennessee), whose leadership invited me to make a presentation about ATA at its meeting on Mon., Oct. 14. Several ATA members were present and it was nice to make connections with them and with other members of the society. The NPS is now considering the possibility of becoming an affiliated chapter of ATA, so we may have an additional chapter soon. Thanks to all Nashville Philatelic Society members for your warm reception.

ATA Office. We are busy working with the new checklists, as Karen Cartier has supplied us to date with more than 400 lists that are part of the new ATA checklist database planned for release shortly after the beginning of the year. And there are preparations going on for new handbooks and an ATA application with a fresh design. Be sure to email or call the ATA Office if you would like any ATA publications or have any questions we might be able to answer. Vera, Jane and Angela all wish you a happy and joyous holiday season! ☐



Bowling Green Topicalists (from left) Jan Erbach, David Erbach and Amy Wieting.

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Changes in ATA Membership Rates and *Topical Time* Electronic Delivery

ATA plans to offer delivery of *Topical Time* electronically to all of its members at the beginning of 2014. You will continue to receive your print copy of this journal *and* you can access it electronically if you have supplied (or submit) your email address to the ATA Office. This is a good reason to keep your updated email address on file with ATA.

Members will continue to have access to both the print and electronic editions of *Topical Time* until their current membership expiration date (yours is shown in the first line of your address label). When your membership is up for renewal, you may choose to receive the electronic edition only—and save a few dollars. Or, you may elect to continue to receive the print edition in the mail and simultaneously have access to the searchable electronic edition as well.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the cost of ATA membership rates will rise. This is the first increase in six years. During that time, USPS postage rates have risen four times—and they are due to rise again in January. We have been able to avoid increases for this long only because ATA continues to be very frugal with office and personnel costs and because extra donations have been received from hundreds of members.

Members who live in the United States will see no change in their ATA membership rates if they choose electronic-only membership the next time they renew. International members will see a *decrease* in their rates if they make that choice. All members who choose to receive the print copy of *Topical Time* will have an increase in rates, as follows:

ATA Membership Dues Beginning 1/1/2014	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years
Electronic (only)	\$25	\$45	\$65	\$100
Domestic (print & electronic)	\$30	\$55	\$80	\$125
International (print & electronic)	\$40	\$75	\$110	\$175

If you would like to prepay your ATA dues at the current rate – up to five years beyond your current expiration date – you may do so before Jan. 31, 2014. This allows current ATA members a month “grace period” to advance their membership at a lower cost for even a longer term of membership. Current dues are:

Domestic—1 year, \$25; 2 years, \$45; 3 years, \$65; 5 years, \$100.

International—1 year, \$33; 2 years, \$60; 3 years, \$82; 5 years, \$125.

All membership payments received after Jan. 31, 2014, *must* be paid at the rates shown in the accompanying table. ☐

Call for Nominations: DTP 2014

The American Topical Association is now accepting nominations for our organization's highest award: Distinguished Topical Philatelist. This very special honor is bestowed upon a person who has made significant contributions to topical philately and the ATA in particular.

Individuals, study units and chapters may send nominations. The letter of nomination should detail the person's contributions to philately – in particular, topical philately.

The award will be presented at NTSS in St. Louis, Mo., June 27-29, 2014.

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome (Jerry) Husak. Since then, 115 people have received the honor. Recipients have included residents of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Italy. Find a complete list of past winners at our website. The specific url is: americantopicalassn.org/pdf/dtplist.pdf.

The selection committee consists of Donald Smith (chair), Donald Beuthel, Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Dorothy C. Smith, Dalene Thomas and Mark H. Winnegrad. Deadline for nominating letters is Dec. 31, 2013. Send nominations to: Donald W. Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907.

Last year's winner was Jean C. Stout, active ATA board member, founder of Penguins on Stamps study unit and ATA ambassador. □



Nominations for ATA Board Members

Nominations are officially sought for ATA members to serve on our Board of Directors for 2014-16. Nominations may be made in writing by any ATA Chapter or by any 10 members in good standing. All nominations, including a brief biographical sketch of the individual being nominated, must be received no later than Dec. 31, 2013, by the ATA executive director. Those interested in making nominations are asked to contact the ATA Office for a copy of the Board of Directors job description (contact information is found on page 4).

Board members to be elected are president, first and second vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and between four and nine directors. (A listing of current officers and directors also appears on page 4 of this issue.)

The two-year terms begin in June 2014.

A ballot with biographical sketches of each nominee will be published in the March-April 2014 issue of *Topical Time*. Deadline for receipt of ballots is May 31, 2014. Results will be announced and the elected officers and directors will be installed at the ATA annual meeting during our next National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) scheduled for June 27-29, 2014, in St. Louis, Mo. □



Wayne's Impressions

When is enough too much?

Leave it to a powerful wizard to create both philatelic magic and a firestorm of controversy for us Muggles to sort out.

The magic (of sorts) is the potential financial and marketing success of the new Harry Potter booklet, released Nov. 19. The controversy is far more complex, dealing with collector exploitation and even questioning the very purpose of the U.S. stamp program.

The release of the 20-stamp Harry Potter booklet has lit up traditional and social media with both positive and negative reaction and, it can be argued, that any attention given the U.S. stamp program is good attention. However,

the ultimate red herring at the center of



The Professor Snape stamp from the Harry Potter Forever booklet. The actor who portrayed the character (Alan Rickman) is still very much alive, as are most of the individuals pictured on other Potter booklet stamps.

this controversy is the argument about depicting living people on stamps. Among those characters pictured on stamps in the booklet are Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), Professor Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) and other heroes and villains from the wizarding world of the popular Harry Potter franchise. These actors and actresses are very much alive – not only that, they're not even American.

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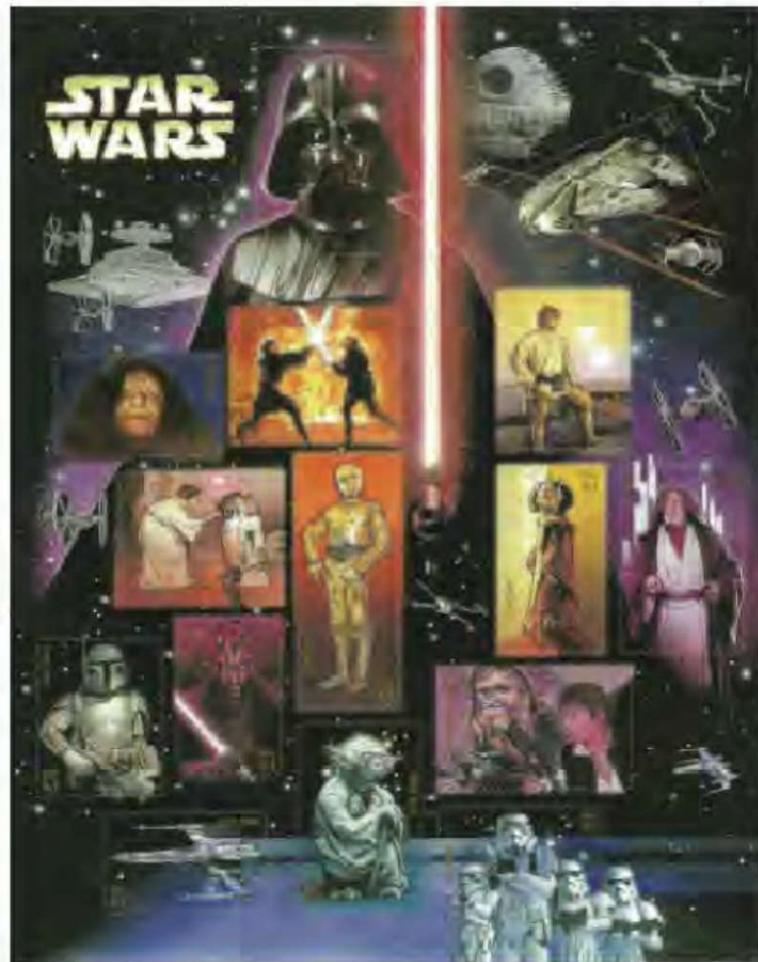
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As John Hotchner, former president of the APS and 12-year member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee put it, "Harry Potter is not American. It's foreign, and it's so blatantly commercial it's off the charts."

Further, it's not even the first time living people from Pop Culture have been featured on stamps. That honor belongs to the 2007 *Star Wars* sheetlet pictured nearby. What's amazing to me is that the various formats (imperf and die-cut press sheets and special "collectibles") have not really been questioned.

Either way, will a few million dollars really help the cash-strapped USPS that much? □



Topical Postline

Letters to the editor

Translations abroad

I was interested to read the informative Soccer Matches "Canceled" article ("Topics on Postmarks" column) in the July-Aug *Topical Time*.

I know that words quite often change their meaning once they "cross the pond."

For instance, "Football" becomes "Soccer" in the United States.

But I did not know that also applied to football teams.

In the article you mention Wolverhampton Wolverines – Back here in the U.K. they are Wolverhampton Wander-

ers, or "Wolves" for short.

Also mentioned is Wigam Athletic – Back in the U.K. they are known as Wigan Athletic.

In reality, I am sure they were just typographical errors! – But a great article.

— Gary Goodman
Liverpool, U.K.

Gary, I suspect you are quite correct, as these things can happen, either through author error or an overzealous editor.

Either way, thank you for welcoming George on board. It is a great column!

— Wayne



Gateway to Topicals: NTSS 2014

Gary Hendren

Are you looking for something fun to do and somewhere to go near the end of June next year? How about a trip to St. Louis, Mo.? Yes, the American

Topical Association is bringing NTSS '14 to the Renaissance Hotel June 27-29, 2014. The hotel is located within a mile of the St. Louis Lambert International Airport and provides a shuttle for those arriving by air and easy access to the Metrolink light rail system, by which you can explore many areas of St. Louis.

The show itself will feature approximately 170 frames of exhibits has attracted about 40 dealers, who will feature not only topical material but a wide range of



The Missouri Botanical Gardens of St. Louis are considered to be among the most beautiful in the country.

other stamps, covers and other philatelic material. There will also be lots of meetings, activities and special touring events put together for your pleasure! More on those later...

If you plan on attending the three-day show, you may want to plan some additional days, either before or after the show, to see some of the many attractions in and around St. Louis. There's always the Arch and wonderful historical exhibits underground, along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River. The Missouri Botanical Gardens offer much to see, along with the famous St. Louis Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum and Science Center in Forest Park. There's the Museum of Transport, Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour, enough Casinos to take in a different one each night, a huge variety of live music all over and a number of other attractions. There might even be a baseball game at Busch Stadium III. Mark your calendar now. For additional information on other St. Louis attractions, go to explorestlouis.com. ☐



Rock-n-Roll pioneer Chuck Berry still packs a full house once a month at Blueberry Hill, one of St. Louis' most popular attractions in "The Loop."

Robert E. Lamb

This is the second in a series of brief biographies of our Board of Directors.



Bob Lamb of Burke, Va., Director of Fund-Raising and Chair of the ATA Internet Sales Committee, has served on the ATA board for five years. His diverse collecting interests include maps on stamps as well as worldwide stamps and covers. A student of postal systems of the world, Bob's goal is to visit all of the 289 entities that currently issue postage stamps. So far he's been to 171. For more than three decades, Bob was in U.S. diplomatic service, where his assignments included Assistant Secretary of State for seven years and ambassador to Cyprus for three years. From 1994-2007 he was executive director of the American Philatelic Society. Bob and Lucille, his wife of 51 years, have three children and eight grandchildren. ☐



Topics on Postmarks

George DeKornfeld

Gone to the Dogs

As another deadline rapidly approaches, I'm sitting in my stamp den trying for the life of me to come up with another pictorial cancellation topic to write about for this issue of *Topical Time* ... and I'm downright stumped. Mind you, the difficulty isn't exactly a dearth of themes to choose from, since as topicalists we are all well aware of the seemingly endless subjects we can choose to collect and study. That's the problem: making the choice. As I was sitting here racking my brain, I suddenly felt a familiar nudge at my knee and, looking down, was glad to see the happy face and waggy tail of one of my best friends, Benny. He's my Labrador Retriever rescue and he's looking – as Labs always seem to

Figure 1.

be – for a treat. Being a sucker (and Benny knows it!), I fetched him a biscuit. As I was sitting back down, you must try to envision the lit, cartoon-like light bulb suddenly appearing above my head. The answer had been right in front of me all along and was lying there right at my feet; a quick look from those deep brown eyes provided all the confirmation I needed. Yes, dear reader, this article has gone to the dogs, but hopefully not in the established negative sense.



Figure 3.



Figure 2.

Postmarks picturing pooches (try saying that three times fast!) can be found used on cover from many countries worldwide, and we'll take a brief survey of some of them. Let's start with a perennial favorite: Figure 1 shows a 1969 Austrian pictorial cancel tying a 4-Shilling Vienna Gate issue of 1960 that commemorates Welttierschutztag (World Animal Day) and features the German

Shepherd, ears erect and alert. A relatively new breed of dog, the German Shepherd has been around since the late 1800s and is well known for its intelligence, strength and desire to please, making it suitable as both a working dog as well as a beloved family member. These traits make them super side-kicks (think ‘Rin Tin Tin’) or other devoted helpers. The Figure 2 pictorial used in Oakland, Calif., in 1979 shows one of the helper functions of these versatile canines, that of the so-called Seeing Eye Dog.

Having now eased into the topic of working dogs, take a look at Figure 3. In 1985, Netherlands issued a stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the Royal National Institution where seeing-eye dogs are trained and eventually provided, free of charge, to Dutch citizens in need of their help. Their first graduate, Sunny, is

shown on the stamp, as are the Braille initials K.N.G.F. for Stichting Konichlyh Nederland Gelendehonderdfonds. The pictorial postmark used showing a guide dog’s harness provides a clear and self-evident concordance with the postage stamp.

Italy boasts of one of its own Guide Dog Schools, as shown in Figure 4. This 1997 pictorial postmark illustrating a dog – a helping hand – and the Lions Club International logo, was struck on the 600-Lire Scaliger Castle issue of 1983.

Figure 5.

German Shepherds, as their name suggests, were – and are – used for the herding of various farm critters, but they by no means are the only dogs gifted with this ability. In Figure 5 we see used on a Great Britain 46p Machin issue a postmark celebrating The International Sheep Dog Society. This society holds sheep dog trials every three years. The one being commemorated in Figure 5 was held at Bedford in 2008.

The dog shown is the Border Collie, considered to be the best sheep herder and the smartest of all the dog breeds; the name ‘collie’ is apparently derived from an old Celtic word meaning ‘useful,’ which certainly would apply if you were in a situation that involved moving a large group of sheep from point A to point B.

Now that temperatures are falling and winter is rapidly approach-



Figure 4.



Figure 6.

**Figure 7.**

tain in 1989, commemorating The Big Sky Dog Sled Race, the stamps include a 17¢ coil pair from the Transportation coil series.

Figure 7 shows a very pretty blue sled dog pictorial used in Russia in 1994, the centerpiece of which is, appropriately, a Siberian Husky. The name ‘Husky’ is derived from the contraction of ‘Huskimos’ coming from the pronunciation given to the word ‘Eskimos’ by the English sailors of early trading vessels. Its first recorded use was in 1852 for the dogs kept by these Eskimo people. Although included as a demonstration event at the 1932 Winter Oly-

pics held

in Lake Placid, N.Y., and the 1994 Winter Olympics in Norway, the Olympic rings in the postmark are likely merely wishful thinking, as sled dog racing has not yet become an official Olympic sport.

Greenland, not surprisingly, has used some Sled Dog pictorials over the years, as can be seen in Figures 8 and 9. Figure 8 shows a 1972 dog harness pictorial used on the 90-ore dog sledding issue of the same year, a fit-

**Figure 9.****Figure 10.**

ing, it follows that we should take a look at some seasonal furry workaholics, the Sled Dogs. Starting with a U.S. pictorial, Figure 6 (another item with a nice concordance between stamp and the postmark) shows a dogsled with a ‘Northern Dog’ having a good-old howl at what one can only imagine is a full moon in the sky above. Used in Mon-

**Figure 8.**

Postkarte

**Figure 11.**

ting franking for the postmark, indeed. Figure 9 shows a Husky in a sled harness and, again, the stamp used (a 1.20-Krone issue of 1975), makes a perfect fit, as it commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Sirius Sled Dog Patrol, a Danish Navy unit of six dog teams that patrols the northeast of Greenland protecting Danish mineral interests.

Dogs, just like stamps, enjoy a dedicated following and, as a result, dogs and their owners participate in shows, exhibitions and competitions, just as we stamp collectors do. So, let's look at a few pictorials on this subtopic. Since these are essentially self explanatory, I am listing them in laundry-list fashion:

Figures 10 & 11: "Rassehunde" ('breed dog') shows held in what was at the time East Germany, 1986 and 1984, respectively.

Figure 12: An exposition held in Monaco in 1992.

Figure 13: A dog show held in New Caledonia in 1992.

Figure 14: World Canine Championship held in Lima, Peru, in 1988.

Figure 15: International Dog exhibition held at Bucuresti, Romania, in 1996.

Once in a while, a famous dog will appear in a pictorial cancel, as is the case in the example shown in Figure 16. Laika, a female mixed breed of husky and terrier descent, became the first animal to orbit Earth after being launched into space by the Soviet spacecraft *Sputnik II*. Originally found as a stray on the streets of Moscow, Laika, which means 'barker' in Russian, was trained along with two other dogs and was ultimately selected for the flight. Sadly, Laika didn't survive.

Figures 12, 13, 14, 15, at right, from top.

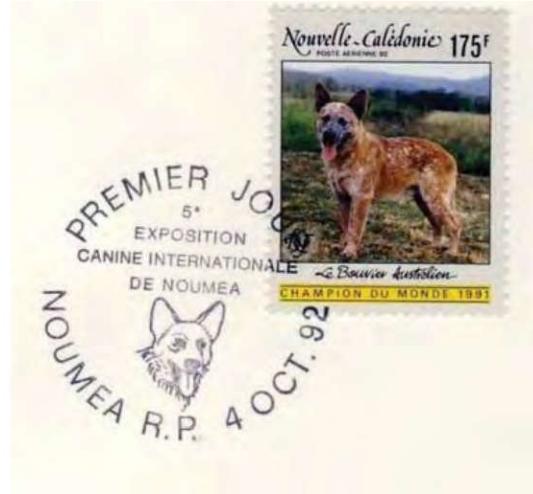




Figure 16.



Figure 17 (above), Figure 18 (right).

often in a comical fashion. Let's do another laundry list of some of these:

Figure 17: A French 1979 pictorial using the slogan 'Keep your City Clean,' which includes a hound with a group of running Parisians carrying a push-broom.

Figure 18: An Italian postmark celebrating the National Agricultural Food Market, used in 2007 (love the dog's pose and nose).



Figure 19 (above), Figure 20 (right).

the trip, reportedly after overheating during the early part of the flight, but her legacy lives on by providing some early data on the physiological responses of living beings placed within a weightless space environment. In 2008, a small monument was erected in Moscow showing Laika proudly perched on the top of a rocket. Sputnik II was launched on Nov. 3, 1957, so our pictorial here, from Romania, commemorates the 50th anniversary of this mission.

Appreciated as they are, our canine brethren are often depicted as caricatures where various features are represented pictorially in an exaggerated way,



Figure 19: A Japanese pictorial that includes a dragonfly for those of us who also collect insects as a topical interest.

Figure 20: A 1991 Bulgarian postmark that lies somewhere between a caricature and a true depiction of the Bulldog, a pooch with a loveable face and gait, famous for its wrinkled face, protruding tongue and droopy jowls.



Figure 21 (above), Figure 22 (left).

Let's close with a couple of 'tools of the trade.' Figure 21 shows a First-day pictorial postmark used on the 1979 Great Britain se-tenant dog issue depicting the Welsh Springer Spaniel, the Old English Sheep Dog, the Irish Setter and a West

Highland Terrier, all neatly struck with the image of a dog collar. And finally, the category that spawned the idea for this issue's article: the dog treat, in this case a tasty chew bone as shown used on Sweden's se-tenant dog issue of 2001 (Figure 22).

As this issue of *TT* will be the last for 2013, allow Benny (below left), Mishka (below right) and me to wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and all the best for 2014! Until next time...

All comments and corrections are eagerly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at:
Gdekornfel@fairpoint.net. ☺



Chris Steenerson

Hello, my name is Chris Steenerson, and I am the new Director of Digital and Social Media for the American Topical Association. I am honored to have been chosen to serve in this capacity. I hope to continue the fine work of my predecessors and add many new video titles that will help to promote topical stamp collecting.

Let's start by running the credits. Many thanks to everyone involved in creating and distributing digital media for the ATA thus far. Frank Gomba did a great job setting up and running the slide show programs. Florence Wright took over and did a fine work reworking many of the slide programs. Dennis Dengel, with the help of Harvey & Terri Edwards, did a superb job updating and modernizing the slide shows and launching us into the DVD era.

Thanks to Vera Felts and the ATA Office staff for supplying DVD fulfillment and distribution.

ATA members were very fortunate to have such talented and caring individuals to lead our multimedia program over the years.

I am now in the process of reviewing all of the current digital offerings. I hope to add or update three to four video titles each year (more, if possible). If you represent a Chapters or Study Unit that would like to help put together a topical video about your specialty, please contact me at: *ATA@RxStamps.com*.

If you would like to donate high resolution scans of your favorite topical stamps, please send them to me at: *ATA@RxStamps.com*.

The ATA's new YouTube channel is in the planning stages. We hope to add a large variety of short videos about all aspects of topical and thematic stamp collecting. Assistance is available for anyone wishing to create a video for the ATA's YouTube channel to help spread the word about different stamp specialties or exhibits. Help us promote topical stamp collecting!

More news will be forthcoming ASAP. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome! ☺



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Jane Austen: Renowned English Novelist

Barry Floyd



Jane Austen

Jane Austen (1775-1817) was a highly talented writer whose works of romantic fiction – though she remained a spinster – made her one of the most widely read writers in English literature. She is probably the only major novelist in the genre whose limited output – six books – had the same basic plot: intelligent and attractive young women who – though different in character and circumstance – fall in love and surmount various obstacles to finally obtain their chosen partners in marriage. The theme is most famously introduced in the succinct opening words of *Pride and Prejudice*: ‘*It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.*’

The seventh child of eight, Austen was raised in the family of a rural rector in the county of Hampshire, living most of her life within a close-knit community located on the lower fringes of the English landed gentry. Her education was uneven: short spells under tutors in Oxford and Southampton, but then largely at home with her father and older brothers, with an accessible library. Her closest friend and confidante was her older sister Cassandra.

According to Park Honan, a biographer of Jane Austen, life in the family home was lived ‘*in an open, amused, easy intellectual atmosphere*’ where topics of social or political interest were debated freely. Such discussions must have greatly influenced the contents of her works in later life.

With her father’s retirement from his parish in 1801 and the family move to Bristol, Austen was faced with a new set of urban experiences to widen her insights into English society. In fact, her artist apprenticeship as a writer lasted from her teenage years into her 30s. During this time she experimented with various styles of writing stories, composing and extensively revising three major novels. With the publication of *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1815), she finally achieved success as a published author. The amusing plots, full of wit, irony and social satire, essentially highlight the dependence of women on marriage to secure social standing and economic security. However, her creations brought her little personal fame and only a few favorable reviews during her lifetime. Two more novels were published



Figure 1. Most images of Jane Austen are based on the portrait by her sister, Cassandra, which was done during Austen's lifetime (above right). The painting above left and the engraving in this article's opening section were both based on the cruder portrait. It has also been noted that Austen has been "prettified."



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posthumously: *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, published together in 1818. It is thanks to positive assessments by scholars of the 19th and 20th centuries that her work has become widely known and appreciated around the world.

Austen's writing was not just a hobby; it was to become her whole life. Yet she remained modest and even disparaging of her literary abilities. In a letter to a friend, penned in 1815, just two years before she died, she wrote: '*I think I may boast myself to be, with all possible Vanity, the most unlearned and uninformed Female who ever dared to be an Authoress.*'

Jane Austen's final years were spent with her widowed mother and, later, with her sister Cassandra, at a number of locations in southeast England. She died in 1817 at Winchester, Hampshire, at the regrettably early age of 44 and is buried in the historic cathedral within that city.

Authentic portraits of Jane in her prime have engendered controversy, especially as the Bank of England agreed in 2013 to feature her image on newly minted £10 notes. The engraving in the opening of this feature (selected by the bank) is one of several that were produced by numerous artists up to 50 years after Austen's death. Some critics have described them as 'crudely saccharine': prettified images of an authenticated though less-attractive drawing by her sister Cassandra, sketched during Austen's lifetime (Figure 1).

Commemorative Stamps

Great Britain released six stamps in honor of Jane Austen in 2013, marking the 200th anniversary of the publication of her most famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. The five remaining stamps in the set depict scenes from her other published novels.

1st Class: *Sense and Sensibility*

Austen's first published work, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811) appeared under the pseudonym of "A Lady." It is set in southwest England between 1792 and 1797 and follows the life and loves of Elinor and Marianne Dashwood as they experience romantic and heartbreak emotions in the course of their sheltered lives. On the death of their father they are obliged to dwell in a meager cottage on a distant relative's property.

Elinor, the older sister, is characterized as a sensible, intelligent, musically talented woman, though attractive and with a capacity to love deeply. She cares greatly for the welfare and state of mind of her younger sister, placing her interests above those of her own. Marianne is more romantically inclined and

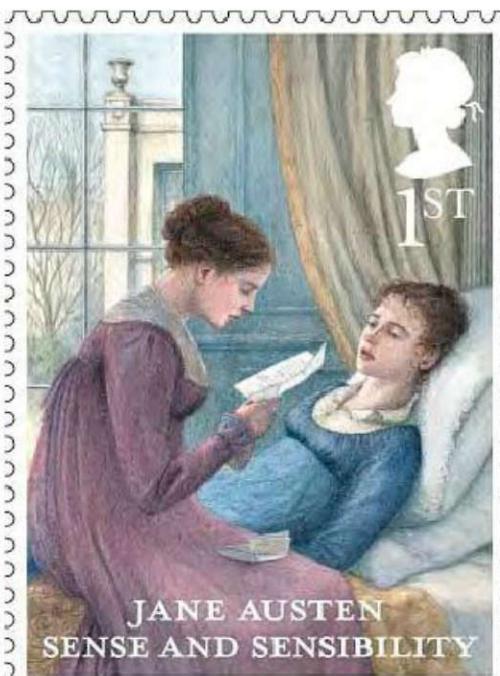


Figure 2. Sense and Sensibility.

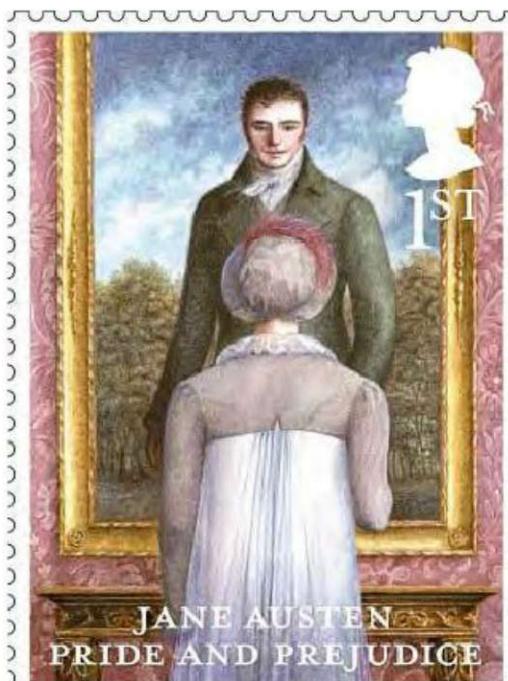


Figure 3. Pride and Prejudice.

eagerly expressive as she wrestles with the attention of suitors, experiencing the joys of love but also the sorrows of rejection. In the course of the novel it is disclosed that her sensibilities have been selfish and that her conduct should be more like that of Elinor. She eventually marries the elderly Colonel Brandon.

The 1st Class stamp shows Elinor reading to the bedbound Marianne. She is probably nursing a sprained ankle suffered while out walking. Caught in the rain, Elinor slipped on a muddy path and was rescued by one of her suitors, the dashing but ultimately unworthy John Willoughby.

1st Class *Pride and Prejudice*

The second of the 1st Class stamps celebrates Austen's most memorable novel, *Pride and Prejudice*.

Although published two centuries ago the book continues to be read widely and has thus become one of the most popular stories in English literature. To date the book has sold some 20 million copies worldwide and several film and TV adaptations have been made.

Of the six Austen books published, *Pride and Prejudice* is the happiest. The style is lucid, elegant and beautifully balanced, spiced with epigrams, humor and sardonic wit. The novel centers around the Bennett family, more particularly Elizabeth, the second of five daughters of a country gentleman living in a small fictional community near London. Mr. Bennett is a bookish man who rather neglects his role as head of the household. His wife is portrayed as lacking in social graces and focused mainly on finding suitable husbands for her daughters. Austen's writing is so appealing that readers of *Pride and Prejudice* become as anxious as Mrs. Bennett to see that her girls should be well and truly married.

Elizabeth is 20 years old, intelligent, lively and attractive and shares her father's keen wit. Austen wrote of Elizabeth: "*I must confess that I think her as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print.*" However, like her father, Elizabeth is capable of sarcastic observations and has a tendency to judge people on first contact, hence the "prejudice" of the title. She and her sisters are involved in a series of attachments to various potential suitors and husbands, raising issues of manners, upbringing, education and morality. The Messrs. Bingley and Darcy, also a Rev. Collins, serve as principal protagonists in the extended saga. The chapter in which Mr. Collins, unattractive and conceited, proposes to Elizabeth and is firmly rejected by her is one of the novel's highest delights. Mr. Darcy is Elizabeth's main sparring partner: tall and handsome but rather antisocial and with an aloof decorum, viewed by others as excessive pride. He is 28 years old and the wealthy owner of an estate in Derbyshire. At the novel's end the two overcome their differences and early

prejudices and decide to marry. Other sisterly attachments are also happily resolved.

The stamp shown in Figure 3 pictures Elizabeth gazing at a gallery portrait of Mr. Darcy, '*with such a smile over the face, as she remembered to have sometimes seen, when he looked at her. She stood several minutes before the picture in earnest contemplation.*'

77p Mansfield Park

Published in 1814, when Austen was 38, *Mansfield Park* is viewed as marking her full maturity as an author. Austen turns her attention to the concerns of English society in her day, focusing on the slave trade and the roots of upper-class wealth in exploitation and corruption. Yet, commenting upon her plots, Austen wrote: "*Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. I quit such odious subjects as soon as I can, impatient to restore everybody not greatly in guilt themselves, to tolerable comfort, and to have done with all the rest.*"

Mansfield Park is the English estate of a wealthy baronet, Sir Thomas and his wife Lady Bertram, who own a large sugar estate in Antigua in the West Indies. Into their privileged lives enters a young girl from a large and relatively poor family, Fanny Price, whose mother is a sister to Lady Bertram (who clearly married well). With many mouths to feed, Fanny's parents are grateful for the opportunity to send their daughter, age 10, to be raised with such fine relatives. Yet her four cousins, largely vain and spoiled, constantly remind Fanny of her inferior status. Only cousin Edmund – the most good-natured of the siblings – shows her a measure of kindness; in due course his thoughtfulness and developing affection leads Fanny to fall (secretly) in love with him.

But before a happy ending to the narrative, our adopted lass faces further emotional trials as she grows into maturity, some of which are quite hurtful. The wife of the local parson is mean-spirited and even verbally abusive towards Fanny while Edmund becomes romantically involved with a wealthy regular visitor to Mansfield Park, Mary Crawford. It is a typical complication of a Jane Austen novel that Mary is initially attracted to Edmund's older brother Tom, heir to the estate and – it turns out – an inveterate gambler. Mary's brother Henry is thought to be interested in gaining the hand of another of the cousins – Maria Bertram – before turning his attention to Fanny. She declines his marriage proposal out of hand: disapproving of his morals and because she really loves someone else.

Towards the end of the story Edmund has become a clergyman and has come to appreciate how important Fanny is to his life. He proposes to her, she accepts and they marry, eventually moving into the Mansfield Park parsonage, with the blessing

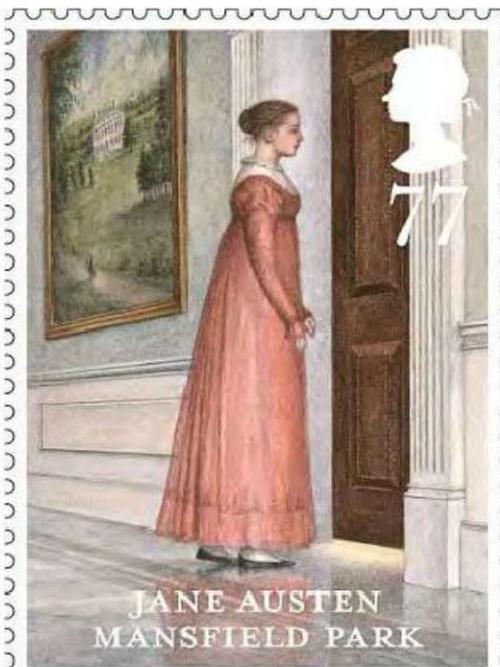


Figure 4. Mansfield Park.

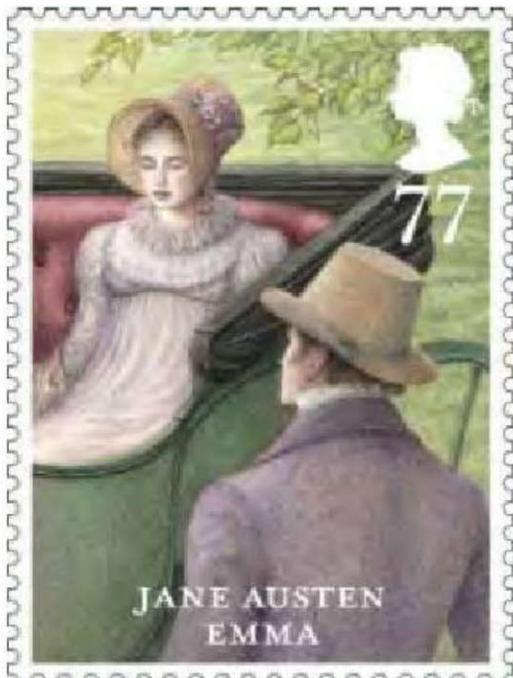


Figure 5. Emma.

of his father Sir Thomas Bertram, the stern patriarch, who has recently returned from a year in the Caribbean to deal with problems on his plantation.

The 77p stamp shown in Figure 4 portrays a tall Fanny Price, probably around 16 years of age, standing within one of the spacious rooms in Mansfield Park.

77p *Emma*

Unlike Fanny Price, the protagonist in our next novel – Emma Woodhouse – is an independently wealthy woman, the richest in fact of all of Jane Austen’s leading female characters. While writing the novel, Austen called Emma “*a heroine whom no-one but myself will much like.*” Fortunately most readers will disagree. The opening sentence reveals that she is “*handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and a happy disposition.*” However, she is also described as rather self-satisfied and spoiled by her widowed and hypochondriac father with whom she lives, along with her equally comfortably well-off sisters.

The novel concerns Emma’s attempts to be a matchmaker among her several acquaintances. She appears blind to the dangers of meddling in other people’s lives and, in consequence, carelessly manipulates their emotional relationships, described by Austen in considerable and fascinating detail. Emma’s own romantic misadventures are also treated. After vowing early on that she will never marry (she has no financial need, having a large inheritance and anyway she seems unable to fall in love) she does get involved with an arrogant and pompous social climber, Mr. Elton the local vicar, who is summarily rejected. Emma also flirts with a handsome and charming Mr. Churchill but, after an unavoidable separation, she realizes that she does not miss him as much as expected. As the story develops it is clear that Emma’s complacency has been challenged and her mind awakened to some of life’s more intractable dilemmas. Towards the end of the novel she comes to admire a gentleman neighbor, Mr. Knightly, who in the course of the narrative has offered Emma beneficial advice and occasional criticism, not all of which she accepts graciously. However, she realizes belatedly that she has long been in love with Mr. Knightly after all. He also realizes that he has fallen in love with Emma and, after proposing marriage, she happily accepts.

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The 77p stamp pictured in Figure 5 shows Emma Woodhouse seated in a carriage, being observed by her admirer, George Knightley.

£1.28 Northanger Abbey

Around 1798, when she was 23 years old, Jane Austen began writing *Northanger Abbey*, originally titled *Memorandum Susan*. She revised the work in 1803 and it was sold to a bookseller for £10 who eventually declined to publish it. Some years later, in 1816, Jane's brother Henry bought the manuscript back for the same price and Jane was able to make further revisions to the story a year before she died. The lead character's name was changed from Susan to Catharine. After this twisted history of creation, the novel was finally published posthumously, in late 1817. Presumably, the new title of *Northanger Abbey* was given the work by Henry Austen.

The revisions and delayed publication certainly paid off. It is a wonderfully entertaining story, executed with high-spirited gusto yet, at its heart, it is a serious, unsentimental commentary on love and marriage. The novel is frequently referred to by critics as Jane Austen's Gothic parody. '*Decrepit castles, locked rooms, mysterious chests, cryptic notes and tyrannical fathers*' give the story an uncanny air, together with some decidedly satirical slants.

The story's heroine is an innocent 17-year-old Catherine Moorland, one of 10 children of a country parson. She is fond of reading Gothic novels and their plots influence Catherine's own impressions of places and the people she meets. Thus, when anticipating a visit to the old mansion of Northanger Abbey, she assumes it to be truly ancient, dark and full of Gothic horrors and fantastic mystery.

From her home village of Fullerton, Catherine is invited by wealthy neighbors to visit Bath and to experience there the winter season of balls, the theatre and other enjoyable social activities. Austen herself was familiar with the fashionable city, having lived there from 1801-05, although for her they were unproductive and not very happy years. Initially excited by the city's attractions, Catherine is a little concerned at her lack of new acquaintances until she meets a clever young gentleman, Henry Tilney, with whom she converses, dances and falls in love for the first time. But, to her disappointment, Henry leaves Bath on business and Catherine meets a succession of other young men and women, some to become good friends, while others – such as rough-mannered, slovenly John Thorpe, who tells inflated stories about his exploits – are less appealing. In her effort to try and maintain friendships, Catherine gets involved in some regrettable even mortifying misunderstandings and these prove very upsetting to her.



Figure 6. Northanger Abbey.



Figure 7. Persuasion.

Henry Tilney reappears on the scene and Catherine is invited to stay at the family estate of Northanger Abbey. With her Gothic bent, the shadowy atmosphere of the property fills her mind with suspicion. Is the family concealing some terrible secrets within the elegant rooms of the Abbey? Is there a mystery surrounding the death of Henry's mother? Can she trust Henry or is he part of an evil conspiracy? Henry is finally able to persuade the troubled young woman to see the perils of confusing life with art. She learns that Gothic novels are really just fiction and do not always correspond to reality.

Henry's father, the imposing General Tilney, does not approve of his son's growing affection for Catherine. He believes erroneously that she

is nearly destitute and forbids Henry to see his beloved again. But Henry rebels against his father's diktat and tells Catherine – to her delight – that he wants to marry her. The story ends with the General acquiescing, since Henry's younger sister Eleanor has become engaged to a wealthy titled man and he learns that Catherine, despite her humble background, is far from destitute after all.

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The first of the £1.28 stamps, shown in Figure 6, shows Catherine examining some of the ornate furnishings in one of Northanger Abbey's spacious rooms.

£1.28 Persuasion

Persuasion is Jane Austen's final completed novel, published posthumously in late 1817 in a joint volume with *Northanger Abbey*. It is connected with *Northanger Abbey* in that the plot is again set partly in Bath. It is widely appreciated as an appealing love story, exemplifying again the author's acclaimed wit and ironic narrative style. Yet, perhaps because it was written rather hastily at the onset of the illness which would ultimately end Austen's life, the satire directed at some of the novels' characters is more biting than in her previous works.

Readers might infer from the title that its author intended "persuasion" to be the working theme of the novel. Certainly the theme is repeated several times, with vignettes within the story, but it is not clear whether Austen herself selected the title. More probably it was chosen by her brother Henry or sister Cassandra after her death.



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The heroine of the novel is Anne, a lovely, thoughtful and warm-hearted lass, but the overlooked middle daughter of the fatuous, snobbish Sir Walter Elliot. A widower, he is supported by his oldest daughter Elizabeth (who resembles him temperamentally) and he spends excessive amounts of money on frivolous schemes. We learn that at the early age of 19 Anne met and fell in love with a handsome but penniless young naval officer, Frederick Wentworth. Her father and sister, however, consider him an inappropriate match for an Elliot of Kellynch Hall – the family estate – and he is rejected.

Now 27 and still unmarried, Anne seems destined for spinsterhood. However Frederick re-enters her life when Sir Walter, forced by his profligacy, lets the family estate to none other than Frederick's brother-in-law Admiral Croft, whose promotion and a considerable fortune stem from successes in the Napoleonic wars. Frederick has been raised to the rank of captain in the navy and is no longer financially embarrassed. Austen's choice of naval person-

nel in the story is interesting; two of her own brothers rose to the rank of admiral in the Royal Navy.

What happens as Anne and Frederick are thrown together in the socially vibrant world of Bath is touching and wittily told. Still resentful of the earlier engagement refusal, he is at first deliberately cool and formal with Anne but, as their relationship develops, Frederick is persuaded that she has many appealing qualities. On her part, having spent several years bitterly regretting that she had been persuaded to reject him by her stern father, Anne revives her love for the handsome captain as he proceeds to show her various acts of kindness. However, the plot is made more complex by the introduction of additional family ties and courtships and the appearance of an eager new suitor for Anne, Mr. William Elliot, a long-estranged cousin and her father's heir. Although William seems a perfect gentleman, Anne distrusts him, finding his character disturbingly opaque. Meanwhile Captain Wentworth absorbs all these developments and they eventually lead him to write a letter to Anne expressing his true feelings for her. In a tender scene, they are fully reconciled and renew their engagement; the match is now much more palatable to Anne's family in their reduced circumstances. The novel ends happily in marriage.

The second £1.28 stamp, pictured in Figure 7, shows a warmly-dressed Anne, complete with hand muff, receiving the attention of two gentlemen, presumably her husband-to-be Frederick Wentworth and the discouraged suitor, William Elliot.

We hope this brief review of the life and novels of Jane Austen will encourage other collectors to pursue literary themes on stamps or, in the case of those already committed to the topic, to delve deeper into the works of other distinguished writers at home or abroad. ☐

Acknowledgments:

Much valuable information on the featured author may be obtained via the Jane Austen Centre, 40 Gay Street, in the heart of the Georgian town of Bath in the County of Somerset, England. It produces an online magazine and a free monthly newsletter (www.janeausten.co.uk).

There is also a Jane Austen Society of the United Kingdom, which aims to honor the author and provide interest in her life and works (www.janeaustensoc.freeuk).

The entries in Wikipedia on Jane Austen and her six published novels offer useful summaries of her life and cleverly crafted romantic plots.

Recommended Further Reading:

Paula Byrne, *The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things* (Harper Press, London, 2013). Claire Tomalin, *Jane Austen: A Life* (Penguin Books, London, 2012).

Barry Floyd is a longtime ATA member, collector and writer who lives in Great Britain. He has contributed extensively to Topical Time over the years, writing on subjects as diverse as African Art and Charles Darwin (one of his favorite subjects). He continues to submit features as time allows. He may be contacted by email at: bnfloyd@hotmail.com.

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A Truss Bridge Spotter's Guide

Alexander R. Borges

Thousands of years ago, man began to place fallen trees over streams for passage, thus creating the first simple beam bridges. It was much later that the idea arose to build a truss bridge where the simple beam is replaced by a truss, built from an upper and a lower log, connected by shorter elements, mostly in the form of triangles. The triangle was chosen because it is a very strong structural element, the only polygon resistant to deformation, unless the length or shape of the sides is changed. Little is known about truss bridges built in ancient times, because wooden structures exposed to the elements have a short life span. An exception is a boat bridge over the Danube, one of the achievements of the Roman Emperor Trajan (53-117 AD), depicted as a wooden truss bridge on the column he had erected in Rome (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Roman boat bridge over the Danube River, Romania Scott 2744.

Trusses were widely used in medieval Europe, mostly in the construction of the walls

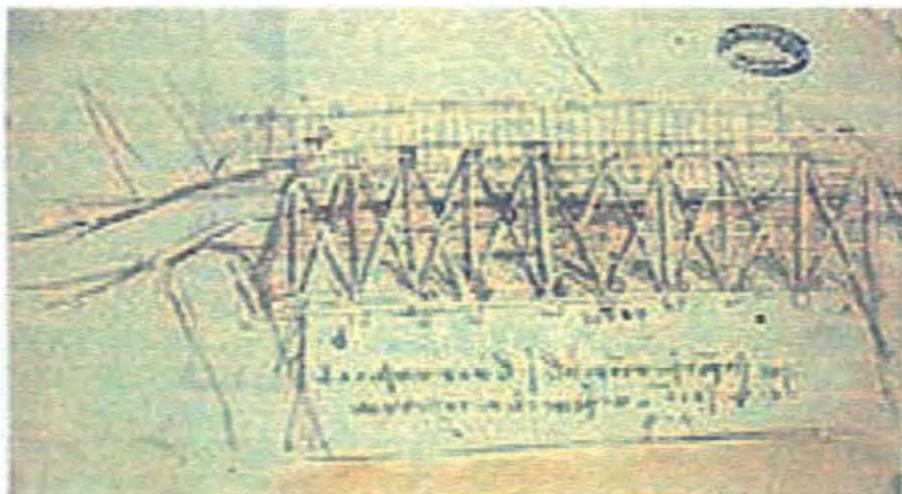


Figure 2. A drawing of a truss bridge from Leonardo da Vinci's Notebook.



Figure 3. Andrea Palladio, Italy Scott 524.

and roofs of half-timbered houses and also to build wooden bridges. However, the builders were unable to calculate the forces in a truss and therefore often added unnecessary extra members. Great advances in the design of trusses were made during the Renaissance. Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) sketched a wooden truss bridge in his Notebook, a concept many years ahead of its time (Figure 2). Another Italian, the architect Andrea Palladio (1518-80, Figure 3), created several truss bridge designs, shown in

his *Four Books of Architecture*. One of his designs actually constructed is the wooden bridge over the Brenta River at Bassano in Italy (Figure 4). It had to be rebuilt several times, the last time by the Italian Alpine Regiment after World War II, thus acquiring the new name “Ponte degli Alpini.”

Wood was the only material available to build a truss bridge until the Industrial Revolution; it is a material that rapidly deteriorates when exposed to the elements. This led to the idea of a covered bridge with sides and a roof to protect the structure.

In Switzerland many covered bridges were built by members of the Grubenmann family. Hans Ulrich Grubenmann's (1709-83) bridge over the Rhine River at Schaffhausen is a hybrid arch/truss design, shown on a recent Swiss stamp (Figure 5). Covered bridge design in the United States initially followed European examples, but then American engineers created many new structural variations and the covered bridge became an icon of the rural American landscape. Theodore Burr (1771-1822) created the Burr-arch-truss, a combination timber truss and arch. His most famous bridge is the Camelback Bridge from 1816 over the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, shown in a pictorial cancel (Figure 6). The Cornish-Windsor Bridge over the Connecticut River is a Town-lattice-trust and the subject of a “Wonders of America” stamp (Scott 4071, not shown).



Figure 5. Hans Ulrich Grubenmann and his Rhine Bridge at Schaffhausen, Switzerland Scott 1332.

famous bridge is the Camelback Bridge from 1816 over the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, shown in a pictorial cancel (Figure 6). The Cornish-Windsor Bridge over the Connecticut River is a Town-lattice-trust and the subject of a “Wonders of America” stamp (Scott 4071, not shown).

After the invention of the steam engine, the era of railroad building began. Railroads require mild grades, thus requiring the construction of numerous bridges, many of them taller, longer and designed for greater loads than the existing bridges of the period. Some early railroad bridges were masonry arches and some of them wooden trestle bridges, but gradually the metallic truss bridge became the



Figure 4. Bridge at Bassano, Italy Scott 507.



Figure Fig. 6. Burr's Camelback Bridge is shown on this 1983 pictorial cancel.



Figure 7. Pratt-type truss bridge, Mauritius Scott 645.

the longitudinal members of the truss by triangles. An East German stamp (Figure 8) shows a modern road bridge, designed as a Warren-truss. Lattice-type trusses have many relatively small, closely spaced elements, a design first created by Ithiel Town in 1820, but often used for metallic bridges. An example is the Spanish railroad bridge shown in a recent pictorial cancel (Figure 9). Many

other truss configurations have been devised by bridge designers, such as the K-truss which consists of a series of one vertical and two diagonal elements in the form of the letter "K". The Long-truss consists of vertical elements with diagonal elements between them, forming the letter "X," while some trusses have diamond-shaped diagonals between the vertical elements.



Figure 8. Warren-type truss bridge, East Germany Scott 1759.

Truss bridges can also be classified by the location of the deck or roadway with regard to the truss, which can be above the truss, below the truss or partly above and partly below – a type of bridge called through-truss. A railroad bridge in Ecuador is an example



Figure 9. Lattice-type bridge on 1984 Spanish pictorial cancel.

where the roadway is located above the truss (Figure 10). The roadway of the Turkish railroad bridge shown in Figure 11 is located at the bottom of the trusses. This bridge also has a horizontal top truss connecting the lateral trusses, a type of design called box-truss, while a bridge without the top truss is known as a pony-truss. The Auckland Harbour Bridge is an example of



Figure 10. Deck-truss bridge, Ecuador Scott C369.

a through-truss (Figure 12). Completed in 1959, the bridge has an 800-foot-long (244 meters) arch-shaped truss as a main span.

When the gap is excessively long to be bridged by a single span, a multi-span bridge may be required. Multi-span truss bridges either have several independent spans, or a truss continuous over several piers, which complicates the design but generally results in a saving of materials. The Silo Highway Bridge in Taiwan consists of several independent truss spans (Figure 13). The Danube Bridge at



Figure 12. Auckland Harbour Bridge, a through-truss style, on New Zealand Scott 2251.

Cernavoda from 1987 is a Warren-truss, continuous over three spans (Figure 14). To increase the span of a bridge and thus to reduce the number of piers required, truss bridges are often designed as cantilevers. A cantilever bridge consists of back-to-back pairs of cantilevers, supported by a pier. Visually they can be distinguished by the greater height of the truss over the piers. The Queensboro (or 59th Street) Bridge over the East River in New York City is a cantilever bridge designed by

Gustav Lindenthal, completed in 1909. Its somewhat cluttered appearance with its unnecessary ornamentation is not appealing to the modern observer, but it was the subject of one of the "America the Beautiful" postal cards from 1989 (Scott UX137, not shown). The Glienicke Bridge over the Havel River, opened in 1907, is another cantilever-truss bridge (Figure 15). The bridge connects Berlin and Potsdam and became famous during the Cold War, when it was located between West Berlin and East Germany and was used for the exchange of spies and prisoners.



Figure 14. Cernavoda Bridge, a continuous truss bridge, is shown on Romania Scott 3564.



Figure 11. A box-truss bridge on Turkey Scott J96.



Figure 13. The Silo Highway Bridge, shown on China (PRC) Scott 1095.

In 1866, the German engineer Heinrich Gerber obtained a patent for a design that adds a suspended span, also called drop-in span, between the ends of two adjacent cantilevers. The first large cantilever bridge to use this system was the Forth Rail Bridge. It was also the first major bridge in Europe using steel, instead of wrought iron. The bridge has two 521 m (1,710 feet) main spans with Gerber-type 107 m (350 feet) long suspended spans. When



Figure 15. The Glienicker Bridge, a cantilever type, is shown map-style on Germany Scott 1988.

(Figure 16). Construction of the bridge began in 1904, but the bridge collapsed twice during construction with heavy loss of life. It was finally completed in 1917, exceeding the spans of the Forth Rail Bridge by 30 m (100 feet). Another Canadian bridge of a similar design is the Jaques Cartier Bridge over the Saint Lawrence, built from 1925-30, shown on one of the Canadian bridge stamps from 2005 (Scott 2100, not shown). From 1937-43 a bridge was built over the Hoogly River in Kalkota, India, known as Howrah Bridge, but officially renamed Rabindra Setu. This cantilever bridge has three spans, the largest measuring 437.5 m (1,501 feet) with a 172 m (564 feet) drop-in section. The bridge is shown in a pictorial cancel (Figure 17) and also on a stamp from India released in 2007 (Scott 2204, not shown).

completed in 1889, it was greatly admired as a wonder of engineering, but is considered by today's engineers to be unnecessarily heavy, probably in reaction to the Tay Bridge disaster of 1879. One of the two British stamps issued in 1964 to mark the completion of the Forth Road Bridge depicts both bridges, the Victorian cantilever bridge and the New Road Bridge, a slender suspension bridge, much more attuned to today's aesthetics (Great Britain Scott 419). The bridge also may be seen on the cover of the 1989 *Scots Connection* booklet. A similar design was used for the Quebec Bridge in Canada



Figure 16. Quebec Bridge, a cantilever bridge with suspended span, shown on Canada Scott 156.



Figure 17. A Hoogly River Bridge pictorial cancel on an India postal card.

Trusses are also used as structural elements in other bridge types, particularly for metallic arch bridges. Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923) built several large arch bridges with wrought-iron trusses for the arch, the piers and the roadway. Based on his experience with the Maria Pia Bridge in Oporto, Eiffel created the dar-

ing Garabit Viaduct (Figure 18). Completed in 1884, this single-track railroad bridge has a main span of 152.4 m (500 feet). A few years later, Anton von Rieppel designed the Muengsten Railroad Bridge over Germany's Wupper Valley, with wrought-iron trusses used to form the arch, the piers and the roadway (Figure 19). That arch has a span of 170 m (558 ft) and the bridge is still the highest railroad bridge in Germany, with a height of 197 m (350 ft) above the valley. The bridge over the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Mo., designed by James B. Eads (1820-87) and completed in 1874, was the first major structure to use

steel instead of wrought-iron and is still in use. It is shown on U.S. stamps Scott 293 and 3209b. Famous steel arch bridges of the early 20th century include the Victoria Falls Bridge in Africa, depicted on stamps from Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia. A much larger steel arch bridge was Gustav Lindenthal's (1850-1935) Hell Gate Bridge, which was completed in 1916. A very similar design was created for the Sydney Harbor Bridge, which was built from 1923-32, shown on several stamps and other philatelic items from Australia and other countries. The steel arch of that bridge has a span of 503 m



Figure 19. Muengsten Bridge, Germany Scott 1972.

(1,652 ft), a record that remained until 1977 when the New River Gorge Bridge with a span of 518 m (1,700 ft) was inaugurated. The bridge is the subject of a recent United States Priority Mail stamp.

Today's bridge designers have many more choices than their Victorian predecessors and only rarely decide to build a truss bridge. However, trusses are frequently used as essential elements for other bridge types, such as steel arches and suspension and cable-stayed bridges. The San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge complex, built in record time from 1933-36, used trusses for the towers and the roadway of its suspension bridges. Lisbon's bridge over the Tagus River, built 1962-66, originally called "Ponte Salazar" and later renamed "Ponte 25 de Abril," is a very similar design. It can be seen on a stamp from Portugal (Figure 20). The bridge over the Yangtze River at Wuhan from 1995 is a recent



Figure 18. The Garabit Viaduct, as depicted on France Scott 683.

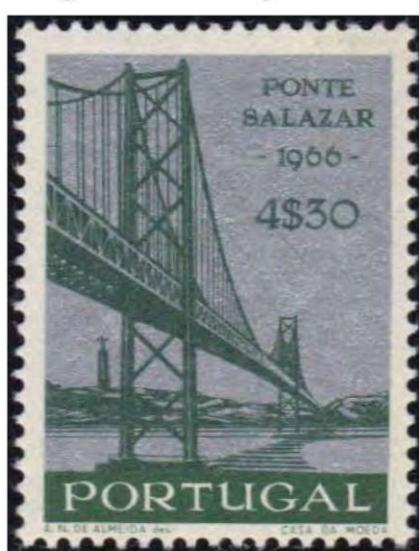


Figure 20. The Tagus River Bridge, a suspension type, on Portugal Scott 979.



Figure 21. The Yangtze River Bridge, a cable-stayed bridge, shown on China (PRC) Scott 3135.

bridge types, but the truss remains a valuable structural form with many applications in engineering. ☐

Alexander R. Borges is a retired civil engineer who has worked in several countries on water-related projects. His hobby is the study of civil engineering history and collecting and exhibiting relevant stamps. His e-mail address is: aborges5531@comcast.net



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example of a cable-stayed bridge with a truss forming the roadway. That bridge is shown on several Chinese stamps, one of them seen in Figure 21.

While the typical 19th-century metallic truss bridge is seen today as the “ugly duckling” of bridges, it once was an important element of the era of railroad construction. Today’s aesthetics prefer the cleaner lines of the modern



Study Unit Spotlight

This month: Sports Philatelists International

[Editor's Note: This is the 19th installment of a regular feature intended to – indeed – spotlight one of our study units and the fine work done in its journal. This month we feature "Looking Back at London 2012," from the Fall 2013 issue of the Journal of Sports Philately. To be considered for "Study Unit Spotlight," please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal during the past year or so and submit it to the Topical Time editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or Study Unit Director Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]】

Looking Back at London 2012

Part 1: Candidature Period to the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Bob Wilcock

[Editor's note: This is the first of three or more installments on this topic in Journal of Sports Philately. For more, please contact Sports Philatelists International. –Wayne]

It seems like just yesterday that London's outstanding Olympic Games and ground-breaking Paralympic Games came to an end. With the first anniversary past, it is appropriate to look back at the philatelic coverage of the Games and the postal history in particular. I will attempt to provide a detailed overview, rather than a comprehensive listing, of the Games' philately.



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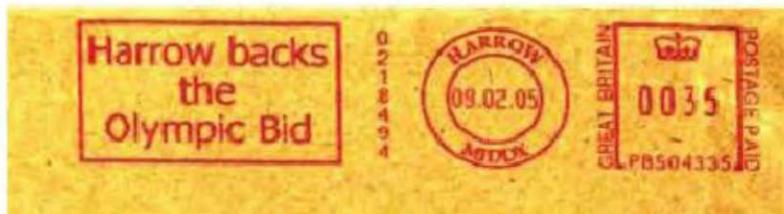
(164)

Figure 1. London 2012 bid committee envelope with special meter publicizing the "LONDON 2012" bid. Postage of £1.25 paid the printed matter rate to the United States for an airmail small packet weighing less than 100g.

The Candidature Period

It is now nearly 10 years since London's bid was launched. Very quickly, the Candidature Committee introduced a meter to frank mail (Figure 1).

As the bid progressed, commercial and civic sponsors used meters, sometimes very briefly, to show their support (Figures 2 and 3). The Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) reached an agreement with the committee permitting the use of computer-generated Royal Mail Smart-Stamps to publicize Great Britain's bid (Figures 4 and 5).



Figures 2 and 3 (top and above). At top, *EDF Energy meter (EDF also used the logo on its postage-paid envelopes)*. Above, a meter from Harrow, believed to have been used for only a few days.

As the bid progressed, commercial and civic sponsors used meters, sometimes very briefly, to show their support (Figures 2 and 3). The Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) reached an agreement with the committee permitting the use of computer-generated Royal Mail Smart-Stamps to publicize Great Britain's bid (Figures 4 and 5).

Royal Mail lent its support in June 2004 with

a booklet of six gold First Class definitives bearing the Queen's head, with text on the cover reading "Supporting London 2012" and a white label inside, reading: "Royal Mail is proud to support London's bid to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012" (Figure 6).

The booklet was not exactly eye-catching, but the public could not miss the slogan campaign begun without warning on Dec. 20, 2004. Sprayed-on inkjet cancels reading "London 2012 Royal Mail Backs the Bid" were used continuously until July 2005 in four mail centers in the London area: London South, Gatwick, Greenford & Windsor and Watford (Figure 7). These slogan cancels were withdrawn a few days after the awarding of the Games to London on July 6, 2005.

IOC Evaluation Commission
16 - 19 February 2005



Figure 6. In 2004, Great Britain released this booklet of six gold Queen's head 1st class stamp: label on inside front cover.

The Award to London

The Games were awarded to London at the 117th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Singapore on July 6, 2005. SOC had a Smart-Stamp ready for the occasion (Figure 8), more in hope than expectation, Paris being the pundits' favorite.

Royal Mail was caught on the hop: it had no stamp designs ready but was inspired

to re-use the 1996 Olympic stamp designs in a miniature sheet inscribed "London 2012 – Host City." Paranoia on the part of Royal Mail's legal department meant the word "Olympic" never appeared on the stamps or in publicity because Interna-

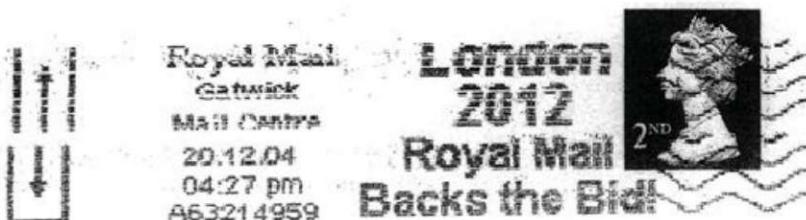


Figure 7. "London 2012 Royal Mail Backs the Bid!" inkjet slogan machine cancel applied at Gatwick, on the first day of use, Dec. 12, 2004.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) consent did not come through in time.

Two of the 19 special handstamps did include the word "Olympic," while another referred to the fact London was chosen to host the Games for the third time. All 19 cancels are shown in Figure 9.

It should be mentioned that in the United Kingdom cancels are available via Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (SHCs). The two Figure 9 cancels with the text "First Day of Issue" were Royal Mail's official first-day cancels. The others were sponsored and paid for by various organizations – mostly commercial first-day cover producers – intended exclusively for their own covers. However, to avoid them being treated as cachets, Royal Mail produced the cancels and retained the copyright, making them available to all. They are advertised in a *Postmark Bulletin* and applied in the SHCs. The four-digit numbers beneath some of the images are the Royal Mail numbers.



**SOC SmartStamps using
At top, the IOC Evaluation
16-19, 2005, and (above) "100
tion.**



s with bid



Figure 8. SOC's "Congratulations" SmartStamp. A small number was prepared in advance and dated July 6. A larger print run was dated July 7 (most received "Revenue Protection" handstamps).

LOCOG & ODA

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) – the body responsible for laying out the Olympic Park and delivering all of the venues – opened offices in



Figure 9. Nineteen cancels honoring the awarding of the 2012 Olympic Games to London are shown above. Note that only two (No. 9737 and No. 9738) use the word "Olympic," while No. 9709 references all three London Olympic Games of 1908, 1948 and 2012. The two cancels at lower right (without numbers) were first-day cancels used by Royal Mail.

Churchill Tower at Canary Wharf, with fine views over the Olympic Park, and dramatic views of aircraft taking off from the London City Airport.

The Canary Wharf Post Office moved to the ground floor of Churchill Tower, but LOCOG and ODA set up an arrangement whereby all their outgoing mail was dispatched through the Barclays Bank mailroom, Barclays being the main occupiers of the building. Instead of a franking meter, the bodies obtained a PHQ (Post Office Headquarters) number "HQ 2012." For a short period, the mailroom staff used rubber handstamps inscribed with either "1" or "2" for First and Second Class outgoing mail (Figure 10). In due course, First Class (only) printed labels were used (Figure 11). These continued to be employed until well after the conclusion of the Games and the winding up of the two organizations at the end of 2012.



Figures 10 and 11. HQ 2012 rubber stamp (left). HQ 2012 printed label (right).



Figure 12. USPS label from "LOCO GAMES".

"1" or "2" for First and Second Class outgoing mail (Figure 10). In due course, First Class (only) printed labels were used (Figure 11). These continued to be employed until well after the conclusion of the Games and the winding up of the two organizations at the end of 2012.

LOCOG and ODA signed an agreement with UPS, the Official Logistics and Express Delivery Supporter of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, for everything other than ordinary mail (Figure 12). This arrangement between LOCOG and UPS was the source of many headaches for Royal Mail, particularly with respect to facilities for athletes, press and the public during the Games (to be discussed in more detail in the final installment of this series of articles).

The Build-up to Beijing 2008

The only development in this period was that SOC signed one of the first agreements with LOCOG enabling the Society to issue SmartStamps incorporating official LOCOG images.

Be part of 2012



6 - 27th July 2006



Figure 13. SmartStamp depicting the "Roadshow Bus," which started a tour of the United Kingdom on the first anniversary of London's success.

One of the first of SOC's SmartStamps commemorated the national tour of the Olympic Roadshow Bus in 2006 (Figure 13). Further activity commenced after the Beijing Games.

Beijing Handover and After

Royal Mail joined with China Post to produce four stamps, two showing the Bird's Eye Stadium and Forbidden City in Beijing, and two for the Tower of London and London Eye (Figure 14). The British set was united in a miniature sheet made particularly attractive with an overlay of the Olympic Rings printed in a transparent glossy varnish (known omitted from one sheet).

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Figure 14. PHQ card depicting the miniature sheet with English and Chinese handover stamps and respective cancels for Aug. 24, 2008.

On this occasion, two of the 13 sponsored first-day cancels referred specifically to the Olympics, and one of the two from Royal Mail depicted the Olympic Rings. The handover was on a Sunday, so the stamps were issued on Friday Aug. 22,

Sports Philatelists International (SPI)

Sports Philatelists International was originally founded in 1951 by Clifford Smith. The group reorganized and was chartered in August 1953 as the International Association of Sports Philately. The unit experienced some difficulty publishing its journal and reorganized in 1962 as Sports Philatelists International. SPI was once again chartered in 1982 after the ATA dropped the requirement that all study unit members must be ATA members. Since then, SPI has served its members by providing information about more than 72 different sports on stamps, as well as stamps related to the Olympic Games.

In addition to its quarterly *Journal of Sports Philately*, SPI members may participate in quarterly mail-bid auctions, the opportunity to purchase cacheted covers and postal cards and may also purchase handbooks and monographs at member rates.

SPI dues are \$29 in the United States and Canada, \$39 worldwide. SPI also offers electronic-only membership for \$15. The SPI website may be found at www.sportstamps.org. To submit dues, or for more information on the organization, contact Mark Maestrone, 2824 Curie Pl, San Diego CA 92122-4110.

Email: member@sportstamps.org

2008. There was one special cancel for handover day, and joint cancels were possible. All 14 cancels are shown in Figure 15. □



Figure 15. The 14 first-day cancels for the joint issue between Royal Mail and China Post commemorating the handover from Beijing to London.

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The Joys of Columbus (stamps, that is)

By Leslie Seff

As a young immigrant to the United States in 1949, I started collecting stamps from all over the world.

In those days, what my children refer to as “the Middle Ages,” the United



Italy Scott 1911.

States released 10-12 stamps a year, and my collecting buddies and I would all rush down to our local post office and beg the postal clerk for the plate block on the first day they were available. The Scott catalog was only one volume and was readily available at our local library. My interest, philatelically, was anything that I could get my hands on. People still wrote those archaic things called “letters,” which made collecting challenging, interesting and – above all – fun.

I have always had a great fascination with the age of exploration and discovery. The explorers, conquistadors and settlers captured my interest at a young age and I read many books on Cortez, Cabeza de Vaca, Columbus, Magellan, Hudson and Balboa, just to name a few.

Although my collecting interests waned during my high school and college years, I never lost the desire and would, whenever the opportunity arose, tear off a stamp from an envelope and file it with a lot of other stamps that I had accumulated. My oldest son, Paul, rekindled my interest when, at the age of 12, he began to ask for the U.S. year mint sets and for me to accompany him to various philatelic shows in the New York City area. Thus, after an absence of about 10 years, I was back in



Isabella, Brazil Scott 717.



French Antarctica Scott C121.

the fold, so to speak, and have been an avid collector since.

Christopher Columbus as a topical collection piqued my interest about 12 years ago when I came across the ATA Handbook No. 121, edited by David Nye, president of the Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society. Inside were articles on Columbus, covering various aspects of his life and voyages, written by Jeanne Zonay, Caroline Scanell, Dorothy Smith, Richard Thomas and George Griffenhagen.



Hungary Scott C54.



St. Vincent Scott 3522.

Within the CCPS there are members whose interests cover a wide range of subtopics within the Columbus theme. For example, we have members whose interests are nautical, historical and the 1893 Worlds Fair in Chicago. On that topic, two of our members have museums specializing in memorabilia from that era.

Philatelically, our members run the gamut from specialized postal markings to collecting one-of-a-kind stamps from the 1893 commemorative issues (Scott U.S. 230-245). I collect stamps on the Columbus theme from all over the world, such as those that accompany this article, and have

amassed three albums on Columbus stamps; two on White Ace pages inscribed “Christopher Columbus”; and one with envelopes and cards.

Over the past 10 or so years, Columbus has received quite a bit of negative publicity with books and articles criticizing many of his exploits and actions as “Admiral of the Ocean Sea.” Some of this criticism may be justified, but staying away from this controversy, Columbus nevertheless stands out as a fascinating thematic topic. I would estimate that nearly 70% of the world’s nations have issued stamps directly or indirectly related to the Columbus topic. Though never achieving his ultimate goal of reaching China and Japan, Co-



**Dominican Republic
Scott 368.**

Columbus stands out as a catalyst for the meeting of two worlds or, as one recent biographer explains:

“For all the scorn Columbus engendered, his four voyages constitute one of the greatest adventure stories in history. Although he was not the first explorer to visit the distant shores of the Americas, his was the discovery that permanently planted the reality of New World in the imaginations – and political schemes – of the Old. Colum-

Included in the handbook was a checklist with countries (listed alphabetically) that have issued stamps pertaining to the life and voyages of the navigator. I was hooked! I immediately filed for membership and, for the past seven years, have been the Society’s secretary and have written articles for its journal, *Discovery*. It has been through the CCPS that I have met and corresponded with other members from all over the world.



Netherlands Scott 812.



United States Scott 2626c.

bus forever changed the idea of what a European empire could be. He had the vision – and, at times, the delusion – to imagine, and to persuade himself and others that he had found something immense, important, and lasting.”*

I have often wondered why stamp collecting as a hobby has diminished over the past 20-25 years. An answer must definitely lie in the fact that in our highly technological society, computers, email, cell phones and all kinds of pads (I've lost count) make it easy to do things more quickly and, therefore, get instant satisfaction. Perhaps that's where the problem lies. Stamp collecting involves time and patience; something missing in today's world. We all live in a very highly stressful and chaotic world. For my part, stamp collecting (and my Columbus thematic) give me a kind of security and peacefulness that one needs to relax and enjoy life. Isn't that what a hobby should do for us?

*Bergreen, Laurence, *Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504*, Viking, 2011, page 368. ■

Leslie Seff is a longtime collector and enthusiast of Columbus collectibles. He lives in the Bronx, N.Y.



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Units in Action

Jeffrey Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com)

Americana Unit

Editor Fred Skvara authors a biography of "Matthew Alexander Henson, Arctic Explorer (1866-1955)" in the July/September issue of *Americana Philatelic News*.

Henson accompanied associate Robert Peary on several expeditions making several attempts to reach the



North Pole over a period of 18 years. Henson and Peary finally achieved their goal of reaching the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

Many stamps and covers highlight the route that Robert Peary and Matthew Henson used to successfully reach the North Pole.

Dues are \$6 in the United States, \$12 elsewhere. Contact: Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Road; Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net

Website: americanaunit.org

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Canadiana Study Unit

In the September 2013 issue of *The Canadian Connection*,

Eric Gibson explains that while the electron microscope was not invented in Canada, the first practical electron microscope was built in Toronto in 1938. The microscope was built by a team of four at the University of Toronto. The electron microscope built by the team

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was on display at the Ontario Science Museum in Toronto until it was recently returned to the university.

Dues are CA\$15 in Canada, US\$18 in the United States, \$25 elsewhere. Contact John G. Peebles, Box 3262, Station A, London, Ontario N6A 4K3 Canada.

Email: john.peebles@sympatico.ca

Errors, Freaks and Oddities Collectors' Club

Joseph Monteiro discusses New



Zealand shifted color errors found in recent auctions in the April-June 2013 issue of *The EFO Collector*. One of the errors shown is a color shift on two sets of the 1981 New Zealand Royal Wedding issue. As a result of the shift of silver grey, the inscription "Royal Wedding" appears on the horizontal perforations at the top and bottom of each stamp.

Dues are \$17 in the United States and Canada, \$34 elsewhere. Contact David Hunt, 45 Fairway Drive, Denver PA 17517.

Email: dhhunt@ptdprolog.net

Website: efocc.org

Europa Study Unit

Part I of "Monograph of the 1957



Europa Stamps," by the late Steve Luster is featured in the September-October 2013 *Europa News*. Two stamps issued by Belgium in 1957 are the focus of Part I of this monograph with many illustrations of the stamps, first-day covers and maximum cards.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere and \$10 for an

electronic version worldwide. Contact Tonny Van Loij, 3002 S. Xanthia St., Denver CO 80231-4237.

Email: tvanloij@gmail.com

Website: europastudyunit.org

Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Study Unit

Rick Rennie gives a history of the "Mines of Newfoundland and Labrador: Bell Island Mines" in the Summer 2013 issue of *Philagems International*. While iron ore deposits were reported to be

found in the late 1570s, it was not until 1890 that mining began on Bell Island. Two Newfoundland stamps illustrating Bell Island and mining operations are shown, along with Bell Island Mines, Newfoundland postmarks.

Dues are \$15 in North America, and \$20 elsewhere. Contact Gilberte Proteau, 138 Rue Lafontaine, Beloeil, Quebec, J3G 2G7, Canada.

Email: gilberte.ferland@sympatico.ca

or, Alan Dean, Pres., 108 Newton Sq, Pointe-Claire, Dorval, Quebec H9R 1H8, Canada.

Email: norma.al@sympatico.ca

Golf Society, Int'l Philatelic

In the September 2013 issue of *Tee Time*, Andrew Ilnycky notes that golfing is frequently interwoven with other topics on stamp issues. Andrew uses two stamp issues from Ras al-Khaima and the Republic of Mali showing Apollo astronauts golfing on the lunar surface.

Dues are \$15 in the United States and Canada, \$18 elsewhere. Contact



Ron Spiers, 8025 Saddle Run, Powell OH 43065-9543.
Email: ipgsonline@gmail.com
Website: ipgsonline.org

Journalists, Authors, & Poets on Stamps (JAPOS)

The Summer 2013 issue of *JAPOS*



opens with the "T.S. Eliot's Challenging Verse," where the author notes that *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* was popular with younger pupils and also has many philatelic items that were produced

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related to this book.

Several songs and dances from the musical *CATS* are based on Eliot's poems. The USPS released a stamp for the musical *CATS* as part of the U.S. Celebrate Century Series.

Dues are \$9 in the United States and \$12 elsewhere. Contact Clete Delvaux, 800 E. River Drive, Unit B, De Pere WI 54115-4159.

Email: cdelvaux@msn.com

or, Mark Winnegrad, 1450 Parkchester Rd, Bronx NY 10462-7622

Judaica Thematic Society

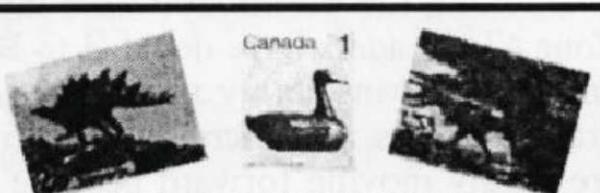
Gene Eisen authors Part II of "A



Review of Works by Jewish Sculptors on Stamps" in the September 2013 of the *Judaica Thematic Society Newsletter*. The second part of Eisen's review focuses on 17 Jewish sculptors who developed their skills in parts of Europe, South America and the United States and who had their sculptures illustrated on stamps. An article illustrating four New Year postcards also appears in this issue.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available in electronic format only at no cost. Contact Gary Goodman at the following email address.

Email: judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net



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Lighthouse Stamp Society

The September/October 2013 issue of *The Philatelic Beacon* contains six pages of new issues illustrating new stamps, along with details of some of the lighthouses depicted on those stamps.



Dues are \$12 in the United States, \$15 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 8612 W Warren Ln, Lakewood CO 80227-2352.

Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org

Web: lighthousestampsociety.org

Masonic Study Unit



The Philatelic Freemason offers several biographies of Freemasons in the September-October 2013 issue. Also shown in this issue is a special masonic sheet of commemorative stamps that were

authorized for use in Scotland to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lodge Houstoun St. Johnstone No. 247 in Scotland.

Dues are \$10 in the United States, \$12 in Canada and Mexico and \$16 elsewhere. Contact: Robert A.

Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover, MA 01810.

Email: radpm67@gmail.com

or, Gene Fricks

Email: genefricks@comcast.net

Napoléonic Age Philatelists

The "200th Anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig" leads the October-December 2013 issue of *Campaign*. The Battle of Leipzig was the largest of the Napoleonic wars. Depleted ammunition forced Napoleon and

his army to retreat after the fourth day of the battle.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$20 elsewhere. Contact Ken Berry, 7513 Clayton Drive, Oklahoma City OK 73132-5636

Email: krb2@earthlink.net

or, Donald W. Smith, P.O. Box 576, Johnstown, PA 15907-0576.

Email: donsmith32@atlanticbb.net

Website: nap-stamps.org

Petroleum Philatelic Society International

Hugo Vargas tells us about "Hellfighters" in the Fall 2013 issue of *The Petro-Philatelist*. The Comoro Islands issued a sheet and minisheet in 2009 of famous firefighters.



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Paul "Red" Adair appears on one of the stamps. He pioneered techniques to control and extinguish fires and blowouts in oil wells. John Wayne also appears on one of the stamps in the set. Wayne portrayed Adair in the 1968 film, *Hellfighters*.

Dues are \$25 in the United States and Canada, \$40 elsewhere and \$20 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Feitze Papa, 922 Meander Dr, Walnut Creek CA 94598-4239.

Email: oildad@astound.net

Railroad Unit, Casey Jones

Florence Wright points out "Railroad



Tracks are for More Than Trains" in the September-October 2013 issue of *The Dispatcher*.

Wright was intrigued by a rail car depicted on a stamp recently released by the Czech Republic, having never seen a rail car of this type on a stamp. It is a Tatra 15/30, which has seats for four, is engine driven and is mounted on a four-wheel undercarriage.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$17 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere. Junior (21 years old or younger, U.S. only) memberships are \$10. Contact Roy W. Menninger,

November-December 2013

Treasurer and Membership Secretary, CJRRU-ATA, P.O. Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511.

Email: roymenn@sbcglobal.net

Website: uqp.de/cjr

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

The October 2013 issue of *The ROS Bulletin*



addresses several administrative issues for the Rotary on

Stamps Unit. There were also no new issues to report.

Dues are \$20. Contact Gerald FitzSimmons, 105 Calle Ricardo, Victoria TX 77904-1203.

Email: gfitz@suddenlink.net

Website: rotaryonstamps.org

Ships on Stamps Unit

The feature article of the July August



2013 issue of *Watercraft Philately* highlights a recent set of three stamps issued by An

Post featuring the Port of Cork, Ireland.

The container ship *Maersk Nolanville*, along with the *Gerry O'Sullivan* tug are the subjects of the first 60¢ issue. The second 60¢ issue

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shows the racing yacht *Cork Clipper*. The 90¢ stamp shows the *Queen Elizabeth*. A detailed history for each ship is also provided.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$9 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Myron P. Molnau, 1616 E 32nd Ct, Spokane WA 99203-3918.

Email: hobbies@turbanet.com

Website: shipsonstamps.org

Sports Philatelists International

In the Fall 2013 issue of the *Journal of Sports Philately*, Bob Wilcock's Part I of "Looking back at London 2012" recounts the candidature period when London bid to host the 2012 Olympic games [Editor's note: Please see "Study Unit Spotlight" on Page 45 of this issue]. The article shows meters, slogan,



machine cancels and 19 Royal Mail cancels honoring the awarding of the 2012 Olympic Games to London.

Dues are \$29 in the United States and Canada and \$39 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for \$15 worldwide. Contact Mark C. Maestrone, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego CA 92122.

Email: markspi@prodigy.net

Website: sportstamps.org

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Cinderella Corner

Arthur H. Grotén

The *Imperator*

Given a starting point, one can build a collection (well, mini-collection) about a very narrow topic. When I learned that my wife's grandmother came over on the

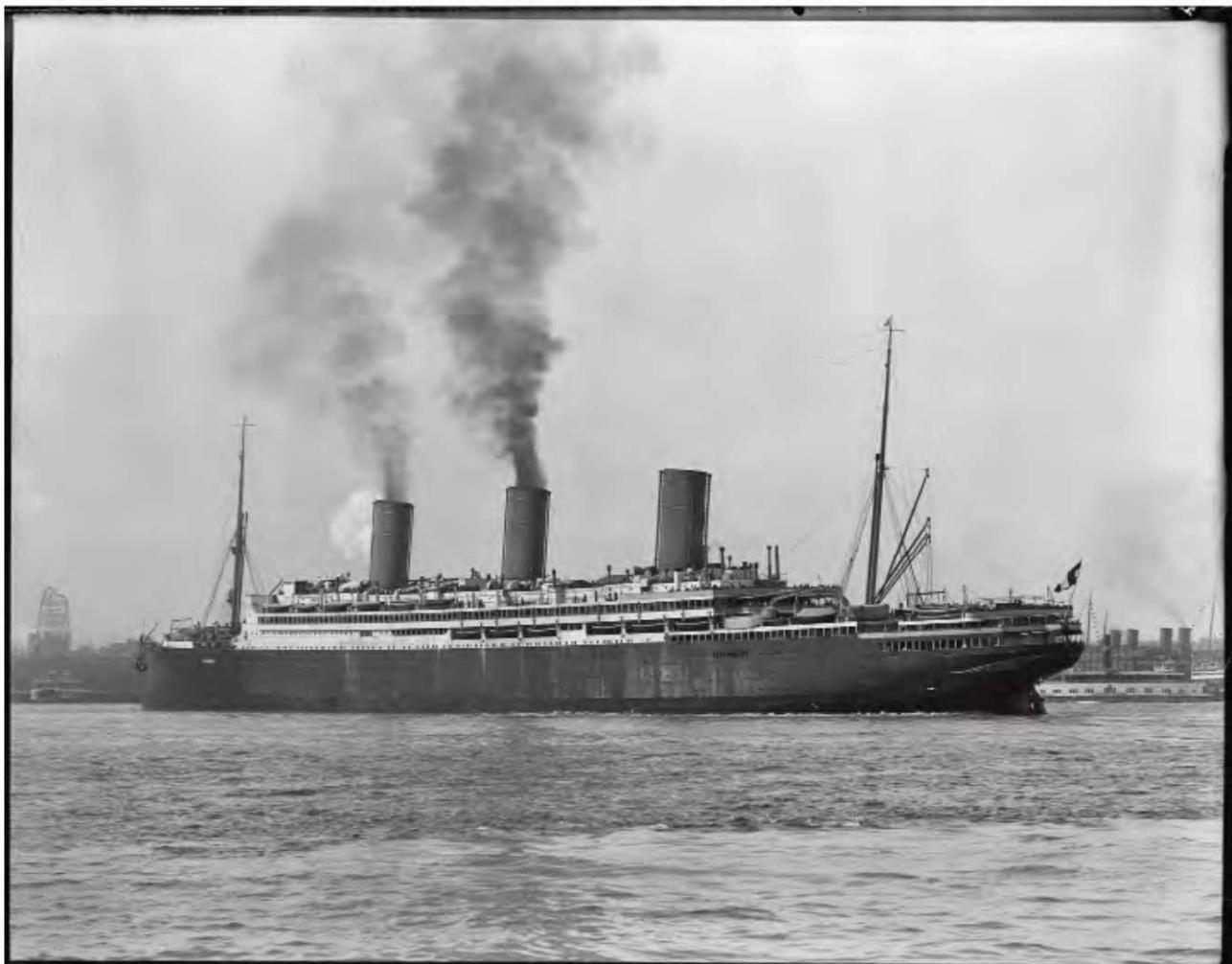


Figure 1. The *Imperator* steaming into New York City.

**Pictorial postmarks, meters,
cinderella items
and slogan cancellations
can all add greatly
to any topical or thematic collection!**

S. S. Imperator, Hamburg-American Line

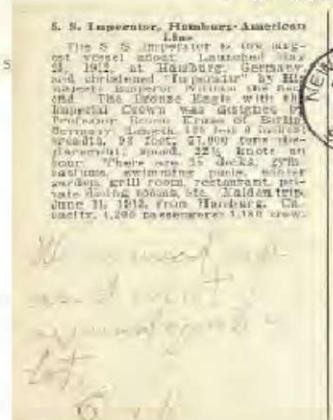
The S. S. Imperator is the largest vessel afloat. Launched May 25, 1912, at Hamburg, Germany, she is the second largest ship in the world. Her Majesty Empress William the Second, The German Kaiser with the Imperial Crown were passengers. Length 810 feet, beam 92 feet, 87,000 tons displacement; speed 21½ knots; armament, 12 150 mm., 12 100 mm., swimming pools, water garden, golf room, restaurant, private dining rooms, etc. Abalone 1913, June 1, 1913, 12,000 passengers, 1,200 crew.

Berlin May 26-12
Arr fo!
arrived Sat at Hanbury
Leaving for Dresden
tomorrow sincerely
Paula J R

Figures 2 and 3. The author was able to find Imperator post-cards postmarked the day his wife's grandmother left Germany (above) and on the day she arrived in New York City (right).



Miss Emma Ott
1432 No Park Ave
Chicago IL
01/11



Figures 4 and 5 (above). Examples of ship-related poster stamps located by the author.

Figure 6 (right). Even a bookplate from The Imperator adds to a personal topical collection.

This led to locating at least 15 poster stamps of the ship. Some were created by the Hamburg-America Line (Figure 4), others were stock, included in sets designed to attract collectors (Figure 5). The *Imperator* was the largest ship in the world at the time and her image was used to project German prowess and power.

I even found a bookplate for use in the ship's library (Figure 6). I keep looking and, from time to time, add another piece to this small, but highly personal collection. What better way to celebrate one's family history? ☺

Imperator in May 1914, I immediately went to Google to learn what I could and then to eBay to see what I could find.

The very first item (Figure 1) was an original glass plate of the ship arriving in New York City, two trips before Grandma's, in March 1914. Perusing through a post-card dealer's stock I came across cards with the ship's image sent the day she left and the day

she arrived (Figures 2 and 3).



Arthur H. Grotens, cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at P.O. Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA.

Exphimo 2013, Eppan 2013, Thailand 2013

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at three exhibitions – Exphimo 2013, Eppan 2013 and Thailand 2013. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 (silver) or higher are listed.

Legend: **LG** – large gold, **G** – gold, **LV** – large vermeil, **V** – vermeil, **LS** – large silver, **S** – silver. * denotes ATA member.

Exphimo 2013

This national exhibition with international participation was held in Bad Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, May 18-20, 2013. The theme for the exhibition was “Cars.” It was sponsored by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (FSPL) and organized by the Philcolux Thematic Association.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Willy Bats (Netherlands)	<i>The Omnibus – A Vehicle for All</i>	90, G
Bogdan Cymerys (Poland)	<i>Road Safety – Saves Lives</i>	86, G
Ingo Steinhäuser (Germany)	<i>Volkswagen – an Air-Cooled Success Story</i>	82, V
Richard Schaffer (Austria)	<i>The Evolution of Car and Motorcycle Racing</i>	82, V
Bernard George (France)	<i>When the Motor-bike became a Motorcycle</i>	81, V
Willy Hasselbring (Germany)	<i>The Development of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles</i>	76, V

One-frame Exhibits

Richard Winkler (Austria)	<i>As the World Moves... Rolling</i>	90, G
Hans-Jörg Brand (Switzerland)	<i>The Most Beautiful Ferrari Sports Car</i>	80, S
Maria Antunes (Luxembourg)	<i>Street Mail</i>	77, S

Eppan 2013

This national exhibition with international participation was held in Eppan, Italy, June 21-23, 2013, under the patronage of the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies and the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA).

Multi-frame Exhibits

Hartmut Scholz (Germany)	<i>The “Biography” of Beer</i>	85, G
Anton Willinger (Austria)	<i>“Sun Birds”, as Virgil called Bees 2000 Years Ago</i>	85, G
Maurizio Rocci (Germany)	<i>Wine: the Magic of an Old Tradition</i>	82, LV
Franco Pastori (Italy)	<i>Decay and Crisis of the West: the Birth of The Middle Ages</i>	81, LV
Heinrich Simmerle (Italy)	<i>Viticulture: History, Economy, Culture</i>	80, LV
György Szirtes (Hungary)	<i>Europe’s Blue Highway: From the Black Forest to the Black Sea</i>	77, V
Dr. József Lippal (Hungary)	<i>Franz Liszt’s Life and Work</i>	75, V
Ivan Librić (Croatia)	<i>Football in Croatia</i>	75, V
Lajos Botos (Hungary)	<i>Antarctica – The White Desert</i>	73, LS
Italo Greppi (Italy)	<i>Getting to Know Birds</i>	73, LS
Reinhard Wernli (Switzerland)	<i>The Ocean as a Habitat</i>	71, LS
Slavolijub Katančević (Croatia)	<i>Man Sails Again</i>	70, LS

Veni Ferant (Slovenia)**One-frame Exhibits***An Everlasting Tree – Olive*

77, V

Thailand 2013

This World Stamp Exhibition was held in Bangkok, Thailand, Aug. 2-8, 2013, under the auspices of FIAP (Federation of Inter-Asian Philately) and the patronage of FIP (International Federation of Philately). The exhibition celebrates the 130th Anniversary of the release of the first Thai stamp. Thematic exhibitors could exhibit in one of three categories – Nature, Culture or Technology.

Multi-frame Exhibits**Nature**

Raino Heino (Finland)
Ryoo Sang Boom (Korea)
***Linda Joy Lee** (Australia)
Lin Shih-Tse (Chinese Taipei)
Lin Wen Long (China)
Mieczyslaw Rozek (Poland)
Francisco Sergio Marinho (Brazil)
Liu Jiandong (China)
Julije Maras (Croatia)
Rainer Icen (Finland)

Binderiya Batbileg (Mongolia)
Anuar Bashah Sohore (Malaysia)

<i>Weather – from Observations to Forecasts</i>	94, G
<i>Stories about Weather and Climate</i>	92, G
<i>Flower Magic</i>	91, G
<i>Molluscs</i>	86, LV
<i>Horses and Mankind</i>	85, LV
<i>Towards Mountain Peaks</i>	84, V
<i>The Game of Foxes – Espionage and Intelligence</i>	83, V
<i>Pigeons – Post Messenger and Symbol of Peace</i>	83, V
<i>Gold and Golden</i>	80, V
<i>The Invisible Threat – The Most Important Microbial Diseases in the History of Mankind</i>	80, V
<i>Horses</i>	76, LS
<i>Mosques</i>	70, S

Culture

Kim Ki-Hoon (Korea)
Mei Jun (China)
Estanislao Pan de Alfaro (Spain)
***Phairot Jiraprasertkun** (Thailand)
Yosuke Naito (Japan)
***Richard Wheeler** (UK)
Luis-Fernando Diaz (Costa Rica)
Shi Yiping (China)
Mei Haitao (China)
Shen Guoliang (China)
Frederic Grosz (Israel)
Meller Konstatin (Russia)
Shin Myung Soon (Korea)
Wu Zhuangqiang (China)
Johnson Sau Chee Min (Malaysia)
Lars Strandell (Sweden)
Zeeshan Advani (Pakistan)
Chen Defen (China)
Min Hyeong-Ki (Korea)
Artur Banas (Hungary)
Jorge Yacoub (Venezuela)
Rajesh Bhura (India)
Nawal Kishore Tatiwala (India)

<i>The History of Taste</i>	96, LG
<i>Play Soccer – Enjoy This Very Popular Sport</i>	90, G
<i>The Scouting Adventure</i>	90, G
<i>Olympic Games</i>	90, G
<i>Korea and the Cold War 1945-1953</i>	88, LV
<i>The Evolution of Puppetry</i>	88, LV
<i>Coffee: Ambassador of America</i>	87, LV
<i>Getting Closer to Ludwig van Beethoven</i>	87, LV
<i>The Case of Fire on Trial</i>	85, LV
<i>Tobacco</i>	85, LV
<i>Romantica – Musicians and their Music</i>	85, LV
<i>The Olympic Games – Sports and Politics</i>	85, LV
<i>Politics of Democracy</i>	85, LV
<i>Rubbish of Daily Life</i>	83, V
<i>Opposite: The Contradicting Norm</i>	83, V
<i>Rotary – In the Service of Mankind</i>	83, V
<i>The Olympic Games from 1896 to 1952</i>	77, LS
<i>Pagodas</i>	76, LS
<i>Christmas</i>	76, LS
<i>A Sport that Originates in the Alps – Alpine Skiing</i>	75, LS
<i>Flying Machines</i>	75, LS
<i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>	70, S
<i>Gems and Jewellery</i>	70, S

Richard Schaffer (Austria)

***Bengt-Goran Osterdahl** (Sweden)

Peter Weir (UK)

Eui Suk Shim (Korea)

Huang Guojian (China)

Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares (Brazil)

Izhak Barak (Israel)

Yuichi Enosawa (Japan)

Roger Tan (Singapore)

Di Lalla Hector Alberto (Argentina)

Petr Fencl (Czech Republic)

Matejka Jaromir (Austria)

Brijmohan Modi (India)

Rachmat Asaad Hamid (Indonesia)

Technology

<i>Evolution of the Motor Car and the Sport of Motorcycle Racing</i>	95, LG
<i>The History of Chemistry</i>	93, G
<i>Liquid of Life: Blood, from Ancient Myths to Modern Medicine</i>	92, G
<i>Wonder on Four Wheels</i>	92, G
<i>A Story about Sailing Vessels: How they were Created, Developed and Replaced by Steamers</i>	90, G
<i>Petroleum: Black Gold</i>	88, LV
<i>The Development of Aviation and Transportation of Mail by Air until 1914</i>	86, LV
<i>Urban Public Transit and its Background from the Industrial Revolution to the Present Time</i>	86, LV
<i>Bridges</i>	83, V
<i>Changing the Horse Power – The Automobile</i>	82, V
<i>First Woman in Space</i>	80, V
<i>From Pioneers in Space to Living in Space</i>	76, LS
<i>The History of Architecture with Culture & Heritage</i>	76, LS
<i>Bridges around the World</i>	75, LS

One-frame Exhibits

Ginaldo Bezerra Silva (Brazil)

Han Yatin (China)

Zhang Guangdong (China)

Alvaro Carvajal (Venezuela)

<i>A Wonderful City: Visit Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountain</i>	86
<i>Beware of Thieves</i>	80
<i>The Classroom</i>	80
<i>Simon Bolivar: A Hero</i>	76

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA Board of Directors, is a retired University mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for 53 years and exhibiting for 27 years. His gold-award-winning display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, was voted "most popular exhibit" at the 2007 and 2008 NTSS shows. His mailing address is P.O. Box 154, 86 Big Tub Road, Tobermory, Ontario N0H 2R0, Canada. His e-mail address is lawrencedavidson@gmail.com.

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Chapter Chatter

By Tonny E. Van Loij

Ann Arbor Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 98) in Michigan: The July meeting featured speaker Steve Heaney, who presented *The Printing Process for Stamps in Catalogues*. The club also held a mini-auction and had sales circuits available.

The August meeting was devoted to the 2013 Aapex planning sessions. Mike Homel had most of the dealers lined up. The question was raised whether the club has sufficient interest and volunteers needed to continue competitive exhibits.

ATA Chapter No. 5 in Wisconsin: The July program, *A Glimpse of Milwaukee through its Advertising Covers*, was presented by Jim Meverden. About 75 Milwaukee advertising covers from between the



1850s and the 1920s were shown. Jim Meverden is a professional engineer and environmental consultant. His long manufacturing history led to his interest in ad covers.

The August meeting was so close after Stampshow 2013 that the program was a show and tell about great items acquired at the show.

Editor Robert Mather closed the newsletter with a short history of "The Stamps that Tried to take a Bite out of Crime," the Kansas-Nebraska overprints.

Battle Creek Stamp Club ATA Chapter No 117) in Battle Creek, Mich.: Editor Steve Sherman started *BCSC News* with the announcement that candidates would be solicited for the September election of club officers. The June field trip to the Marshall Postal Museum was a *great* success. Dan Boone started the trip with five club members and commented on the low turnout during the trip. Arriving at the museum, all were surprised to see many additional members who had taken independent transportation. The final count was a crowded group of 21 club members. Start the fireworks!

According to the August *BCSC News*, the July club auction collected a hefty \$358. Congrats to Mike Denney, who worked with the Kalamazoo club to have members from both clubs create a single-frame club exhibit for Chicagopex 2013.

Robert Graebner Chapter No. 17 of AFDCS (ATA Chapter No.93) in Washington, D.C.: Rollin Berger announced in the July/August issue of *Graebner Gazette*, the details of Americover 2013 Convention & Exhibition in Independence, Ohio. The theme was Flags & FDCs for All Seasons. A press release was printed about a first: the United States Postal Service digitally unveiled new stamp artwork. Specifically, it was a virtual mosaic of the 1963 March on Washington stamp, made up of Facebook users' profile photos which came into focus as more people participated.

A full schedule was published for Americover 2013 show and auction. The newsletter closed with yet another first-day notice for the August release of "Made in America" stamps.

Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 4) in Pennsylvania: Editor Don Smith brought attention to the great upcoming programs of the club. A thank-you was given to Rusty Smith for an outstanding May program on Hawaii.

The club held its annual banquet in September. The speaker was A. Mercer Bristow, head of expertizing at the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa.

Kalamazoo Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 116) in Parchment, Mich.: Editor Steve Sherman gave an overview of the 2013 second quarter (the newsletter is quarterly). The club had some great meetings and another successful Kazoopex. The average meeting is attended by 30 club members. Mike Baranoski presented one of the great programs *Portuguese East Africa*, focusing on the conflict between Germany and Portugal. The May program was by Jim Smith on *Navel Covers*, specifically the *Nautilus* submarine covers for the undersea crossing of the North Pole in 1958. June featured two mini presentations, Roger Wavio on *Crash Covers*, and Dave Westrate spoke on *Owney the Mail Dog*. Van

Seigling's *Harry Potter* exhibit information closed the newsletter, listing some of his latest awards.

Knoxville Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 121) in Tennessee: The July issue of the *Knoxville Philatelic Society News* started out with articles by Tom Broadhead about the design of "The Global" Forever stamp design, and by president Tom Ringenbach about the results of the latest APS elections. Secretary Charlie Wade gave an overview of the June meeting.

John Smart's July program was about his first stamp album. Stu Hanlein had an article about the "Opportunity to go to a Different Stamp Show," the Precancel Stamp Society's convention in Chattanooga, Tenn. The July newsletter closed with Tom Broadhead's article about the long lasting 1998 Breast Cancer semi-postal stamp.

Tom Ringenbach reported on the then-upcoming one-day Stamp Show Summit that precedes the APS Stampshow in Milwaukee. The ultimate purpose of the Summit is to improve the quality and success rate of stamp shows. John Smartt talked about his first stamp album, the thick Harris *Master Global Album*. Bruce Roberts talked about a cool but funny day with his granddaughter during which she happened to go through some covers that Bruce had in his car. She was amazed that something 114 years old could be bought for 50¢. What a reward.

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (ATA Chapter No. 118) in Pennsylvania: The July newsletter started with a thank-you note by presi-

dent Robert Noble to all those who helped with the Open House, as well as a thank you to Mike Bach and Roy Baardsen for organizing the club trip to the National Postal Museum. The July program was by Al Schaub about the American gunboat in China philately. Joy Bouchard reported on the July mini-business meeting.

The August newsletter had articles by Joy Bouchard and Editor Paul Petersen about "The Wrightsville Bridge-1863" and the souvenir cover created for this event by Arcraft, and "A Space Cover with a History," a cover that was designed and created, but never authorized by NASA.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 90) in Arlington, Texas: President Mike Smith wrote in his letter about upcoming activities, which included Expo 2013 and the single-frame club exhibit. Ben Termini had a great article about "Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico" (which stands for sea-mail postage). The stamps were released between 1875-79 to pay for carriage of mail to overseas destinations. Termini noted that these relatively obscure and inexpensive stamps were forged extensively. Ray Cartier commented about his fishing trip and the philatelic connection with it. He showed a picture of the northern-most township in the contiguous United States, Angle Inlet, Minn. It is the only place in the United States (outside of Alaska), that is north of the 49th parallel and makes it an enclave.

Milwaukee Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Wisconsin: The July *Milwaukee Philatelist* started with an article about two Civil

War battles, Vicksburg and Gettysburg. Stamps were released to commemorate both events, in Vicksburg, Miss., and Gettysburg, Pa., on May 23, 2013.

The June program was given by Ellis Bromberg from Milwaukee Public Television on the contributions and experiences of Jews in America who have been pictured on stamps. Al and Sharon Durtka, who go to Alaska every year to help with the Iditarod race, talked about their experiences.

The club must have been very busy, as I received two different newsletters from August. At any rate, articles were abundant by Schutta and Mather; about the New England Coastal Lighthouses, "The Man in Black" (Johnny Cash), and a mystery stamp – Free Mail – US ARMY – USAF, Peace Keepers.

Motor City Stamp and Cover Club (ATA Chapter No. 95) in Detroit, Mich.: According to the July *On Cover*, the 2013 annual picnic was to be at the Detroit Mailboat headquarters, the J.W. Westcott Co. Bldg. (ZIP Code 48222, the first boat to have its own ZIP Code). The June meeting minutes were presented by Bob Quintero.

The August meeting featured its Motomoney-13 auction. Bill Ouellette assumed responsibilities for the annual picnic.

A list was published with upcoming programs and activities for the remainder of 2013.

Salem Stamp Society (ATA Chapter No. 114) in Oregon: The July issue of *Willamette Stamp and Tongs* called on members to send in lots for a members-only auction. The editor reported on two articles that were printed in

Linn's Stamp News, "One from the Department of Useless (but Interesting) Information," about Grant Wood's 1930 painting, *American Gothic*, which was shown on the U.S. 32¢ stamp in the 1998 Four Centuries of American Art 20-stamp pane. The painting of the man standing with his pitchfork and the woman standing beside him are familiar to most people, who assume they are husband and wife. Actually, John Hotchner tells us, they are father and daughter. The second article, by the same person, is about the 22¢ Flag Over Capitol "Test" coil stamp, the first of its kind. This stamp is Scott 2115c and was a live test for new stamp paper manufactured with a zinc orthosilicate phosphor-coated surface. The stamps were identified with the letter "T" at the bottom.

The Fall Stampex was held Sept. 21 at the Pacific Highway Inn. Librarian

Lisa Janz reported that three books have been added to the library.

Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122) in Venice, Fla.: President John Hamman writes in the July newsletter about the doctors' advice to keep body and mind active. They encourage us to exercise, read, play games, socialize and enjoy our hobbies. "Want to recharge your philatelic batteries?" That would be a good start.

Secretary Terry Raymond gave an overview of the June club minutes. Jim Nelson mentioned that the children's program started June 18. He met with about 60 second through fourth graders and was to meet with about 30 fifth and sixth graders soon afterward.

Jim Gerard reported on a potential new meeting place. Jack Harwood reported on his trip to Israel as a commissioner at the stamp show there. Editor Dawn Hamman had a nice article about finds in the dollar box at a stamp show, a marking from the Tampa & Venice R.P.O. The Tampa & Venice Railway Post Office was operated by the Seaboard Air Line Railway. It ran from April 3, 1924, to Feb. 25, 1925; and from April 11, 1929, to Aug. 31, 1953.

The August newsletter contained information about upcoming events and the minutes of the July meeting. A total of 32 members was in attendance. The program was given by Postmaster Kevin Sullivan, providing information on postal services.

West Suburban Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 44) in Plymouth, Mich.: The July/August newsletter started with the announcement that the club's own Alex Haimann was elected APS Vice President. Jerome C. Jarnick wrote

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about "Prisoner of War - Australia to Bowmanville." He showed an Australian letter sheet sent by Oberleutnant Heinz Täuber, interned at the Dhurriegile POW camp to Oberleutnant Hinrich Würdemann, interned in Canada and held at Camp 30, Bowmanville, Canada. A very interesting piece. The letter was censored by both Australian and Canadian authorities. A faint purple single-line handstamp reads "Approved for transmission by Camp Commandant Dhurr."

Another article by Edmund J. James was about researching addressees on early U.S. covers, which is one of his philatelic passions. He takes lots of opportunities to use the internet.

Election for officers took place in August.

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (ATA Chapter No. 107) in Wisconsin: President Karen Weigt comments on her being back after 21 years as WFSC secretary and then seven years out of office, serving only on various committees. Looking ahead, she welcomes Michael Mules as VP and hopes to push him up the ladder at the next officer election. Other new officers are Mike Sagstetter, Central Region VP; MaryAnn Bowman, vice president, Youth Division; Maurice D. Wozniak, Northeast Region VP; Darren Mueller, East Central Region VP; John Paré, Southwest Region VP; and Art Schmitz, Southeast Region VP.

Cheryl Ganz of Washington, D.C., and Steve Kluskens of Niagara, Wis., were inducted into the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame. Other news in *Across the Fence Post* included doing stampshows on a shoestring, Tosapex

2013, Oct. 26-27 in West Allis, Wis., and the passing of longtime collector Ken McCall, age 80.

Canada

Calgary Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 91) in Calgary, Canada: In the July issue of *Calgary Philatelist*, Peter Fleck reported about one of the more interesting encounters I have seen in a long time. Although the Canadian penny officially went out of circulation Feb. 4, 2013, the coin still has buying power. It's just that you'd be hard-pressed to find anything that still retails for a penny. The 1¢ stamp may very well be the last item available for a single penny. "Penny in hand," Fleck wrote, "I went to the West Park Post office in Red Deer on April 23. And, sure enough, I emerged with a 1¢ beneficial insect stamp (Scott 2234). Since the transaction was less than 10¢, no GTS was charged. I even have the receipt to prove it" (it was printed in the newsletter). The question is, "How much longer will this be possible?" Besides that, how much is the cost of the transaction receipt or the clerk's time?

Dale Speirs wrote about Annexed Post Offices of Calgary: Shepard. Gordon Demke wrote about "Canadian Stamps of Remembrance: Part 11." Speirs had a second article about "Recent Errors on Canada Post Stationery." The August edition of *Calgary Philatelist* had Gordon Demke's series about "Remembrance Stamps: Part 12," including the regiments, the Princess of Wales' Own regiment and the 49th (Sault St. Marie) Field Artillery Regiment.

On June 21, the ground floor of the Calgary Central Library was flooded a

meter (3 feet) deep. The philatelic section of the bookshelves was located in that area. Many items were destroyed. It was to be sometime in August before the library re-opened. Fortunately, the local history room is on the fourth floor and the government documents section was on the third floor. Hopefully the humidity didn't get to those collections. Alas, the microfilm collection of newspapers was in the basement.

On the next page of the *Calgary Philatelist*, Speirs wrote about the "Calgary Post Offices and the Great Flood of 2013." Leanteri Polvikoski closes the newsletter with an article about "The Ghosts of Stampede Post Offices."

South Africa

Thematics Southern Africa (ATA Chapter No. 103) in South Africa: The quarterly *ThemNews* from August starts with an article by President Robert Harm and touches on the ups and downs between the Philatelic Federation of

South Africa and Thematics Southern Africa. Wobbe Vegter wrote about the same problems between the two organizations. He commented about the use of certain materials for exhibiting. The Philatelic Federation proposed publishing his article only after cutting it in half (from 755 to 382 words) and after removing the parts "that do not positively fuel the debate." Discussion will undoubtedly continue. An article that appeared in *Topical Time* in 2012 about "Thematic Exhibiting, The Walt Disney Example," was reprinted to show the difficulties to categorize exhibits. Petra Heath showed several items in an article about the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela – from stamps to ephemera, covers, cancellations and more.

Colin Whittle wrote about his collection, *The Smallest of our Wild Cats* and Wobbe Vegter wrote about part of his collecting interest, Cyber heroes of the past – Walter Houser Brattain. □

Tonny E Van Loij, retired, is a member of ATA. In addition to being ATA Director of Chapters, he is president of the Aurora Stamp Club, executive secretary of the Europa Study Unit and secretary of Rompex. His mailing address is 3002 S. Xanthia Street, Denver CO 80231. His email address is tvanloij@gmail.com.



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Youth in Topics

MaryAnn Bowman

The long, dark hours of winter's evenings are upon us, as is another holiday season. Use some of this time to relax and enjoy reading your issue of *Topical Time*. Then plan to write or email me and let me know about successful youth activities and programming so that I can feature it in a future issue.

Grand Opening of the Gross Gallery at the NPM

What a grand event it was! The opening of the new Gross Gallery of the National Postal Museum was Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013. Family activities, tours and programs were offered throughout the day.

Family activities at the museum included a make your own stamp collection activity, a stamp design contest, a correspondence/writing activity for families and a scavenger hunt with prizes. Visitors could meet and greet Ben Franklin, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Tweety.



One of the activities during the opening of the NPM's Gross Gallery allowed people (young and old) to create their own topical collection (above).

*Figure 6 (right). The Gross Gallery opening offered many different hands-on opportunities.
Photos courtesy NPM.*

The museum also includes the new Byrne Educational Loft, an area designated to be used by educational groups such as schools and stamp clubs.

The new Gross Gallery has six thematic areas containing stunning displays and





This young visitor to the NPM obviously was enjoying her stamps.
Photo courtesy May Day Taylor.

interactive multi-media that reveal amazing stories showcasing the museum's holdings. Throughout the thematic areas are hundreds of pullout frames and drawers containing more than 20,000 objects and providing opportunities to view philatelic items that have never been on public display.

The thematic areas include *World of Stamps*, *Gems of American Philately*, *Mail Marks History*, *Connect with U.S. Stamps*, the *National Stamp Salon* and *Stamps Around the Globe*. The *Postmasters Suite* houses the rotating exhibits, currently featuring "Favorite Finds" through the end of the year. A new exhibit: *Pacific Exchange: China and U.S. Mail* opens in March.

Children will find many things to keep their interest. Anyone attending can take home free stamps to begin their own collection. In the *Connect With US Stamps* area of the gallery, there are touchscreen tables that allow guests to sort through the National Postal Museum's collection and create their own stamp collection based on the topics that interest them most. These virtual mini-albums can then be emailed directly to themselves. Nearby is another interactive where visitors can create a stamp design using their own image (a camera takes four quick photos and you choose the image you prefer) and again have it emailed to yourself.

Time and space does not allow me to do justice to the hands-on activities that you can experience at the National Postal Museum, nor to the many



Another activity allowing the interaction between adults, children and stamps.
Photo courtesy Ken Martin.

displays and audio-visual activities that comprise the new gallery. Whether you plan on visiting the National Postal Museum or are unable to, you can experience some of the excitement of the new gallery by visiting the website: www.postalmuseum.si.edu/stampgallery/index.html.

Canadian Youth Program

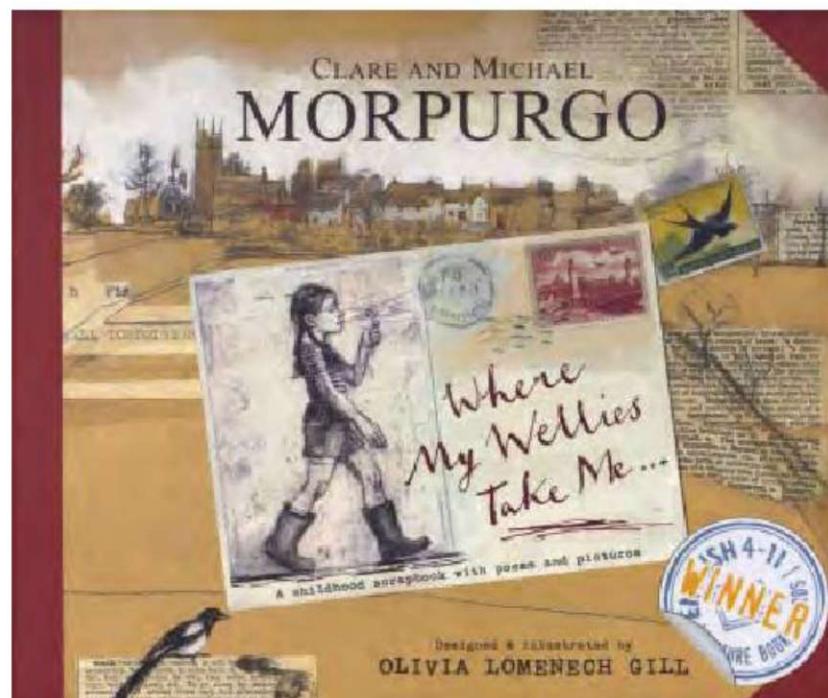
As I write this, I have just received word that the Canada Post's youth program has come to a close. Its Stamp Quest program included a starter kit with binder, tongs, magnifying glass and membership in the Stamp Quest Club. Membership included four mailings a year that had album pages for each new issue, a newsletter that had stamp adventures and stories of new stamp issues using their cartoon character Perf and his friends, as well as opportunities to enter contest and win prizes. Although memberships were supposedly for one year with the purchase of the Starter Kit, there did not seem to be any renewals or additional fees paid from year to year.

In its place, a new program called *Stuck on Stamps!* will be introduced. The package will feature a selection of the latest new Canadian stamps and StampFact cards that offer information about the stamp issues as well as a checklist card to help the collector organize the stamps.

Where My Wellies Take Me...

I was perusing the children's section of my public library when a new book caught my eye. The cover included a postcard-like design with stamp and cancel. So I had to take it home and read it. Although there are a few more illustrations that picture either postcards or stamps, philatelic elements do not appear on every page.

The picture book, written by Clare and Michael Morpurgo, tells the story of a young English girl out for a walk in her wellies (rubber boots). As she walks and wanders the roads of her village countryside, favorite poems pop into her head and each by well-known poets aptly relate to the things that Pippa sees and does on her afternoon walk.



Where My Wellies Take Me... features illustrative philatelic themes.

Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the charity Farms for City Children which was set up to enable city children to experience a week of farm living feeding animals, working in the garden and other farm duties while also having time to explore and enjoy the countryside.

Create a Holiday Cover

Last year, Aimee Devine created a cachet for the 2012 Santa and Sleigh Christmas issue. What was unusual about the cover was that the cachet was designed to cover/cross four envelopes. Each envelope was produced and printed on standard size paper. Youth (and adults) could print out the cachet, cut and paste to create the envelope and color in the black-and-white line drawing to make four covers that – when placed next to each other in proper sequence – would create one single design centered among the four envelopes. The four different stamps from the Santa and Sleigh issue were added in the open areas or corners and canceled.

This year's Gingerbread House stamp also comes as four different designs and begs to be treated in the same way. So I asked Aimee if she could create another similar activity. The four envelopes that can be made to create the cachet for the Gingerbread House stamps is expected to reside on the website of the American First Day Cover Society. You can check out both of these four-cover designs at www.afdcs.org.

Create the cachets for yourself or give or send as sets of four to friends, relatives or other collectors. Add stamps and either send them through the regular mail stream or send for one of the many pictorial and holiday cancels offered this time of year.

Holiday Thoughts

As the old year ends, think of ways to share the hobby with others. A gift of stamps, an album or stock card filled with stamps related to the interests of the recipient, or even a framed montage of stamps and/or covers are a meaningful way to start a person on their way to becoming a collector. Offer to share your collection and stamp collecting interests with club members and community organizations. Spread the word about the joys of philately.

With the start and anticipation of the New Year, resolve to organize your collection and send your duplicates to the ATA for use in their outreach programs. Then start planning now to visit the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season! ☺

MaryAnn Bowman is a youth activist, director of ATA Youth Activities, was named as the 2005 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist and currently serves on the Smithsonian's Council of Philatelists. Her mailing address is PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187 USA.



The design of the 2012 holiday cover set of four created by Aimee Devine.

Saint Louis: A City For Topicalists

Dorothy K. Youngblood

Saint Louis, Mo., is famous for its identifiable, easy-to-find Gateway Arch, its sports teams, great zoo, blues music and museums. But if you spend a little time there, you will discover so much more. Tucked into its many distinct neighborhoods, Saint Louis offers a myriad of interesting and distinctive places to visit, as well as tie-ins to many different topicalals.

Sports

Bocce: The Italia America Bocce Club, 2210 Marconi Ave. St. Louis, Mo., is a place of fellowship and fun. From its beginnings in 1975, the club has grown from a gathering of friends in Italian "The Hill" neighborhood to a formal club with a world-class facility that hosts tournaments nightly and has hosted the U.S. Bocce Championships five times. The club also has an extremely active youth outreach program, working with public, private and special schools.



The St. Louis Bocce Club is truly an outgrowth of passion and solid, persistent grassroots effort. It officially began to function in 1975, with the original group playing bocce at "John and Rose's on the Hill," a local bar with a bocce court. The group's camaraderie, as well as their pleasure singing together gave birth to the idea of forming a bocce club, but let's let the club tell its own story.

"Enthusiasm grew to a high pitch and the decision was made to organize a small group under the name 'The St. Louis Bocce Club.' One cold, Sunday morning, after the 9 o'clock Mass, Aldo Della Croce escorted a group to Manchester Avenue to look over the place of their future home. Everyone exclaimed 'Are you kidding! This is it?! Aldo, you must be out of your wits if you think we can convert this shack to a place to play bocce!"

"It seemed a formidable task to attempt to change this abandoned, neglected building filled with clay, into a respectable place for us to play bocce! No one smiled as they gazed upon this ugly shed ... a refuge for the run-away dogs from the near-by Humane Society. Loose shingles on the roof flapped madly in the wind ... Against the north wall was a mass of clay, enough to make all the brick for a new home. This all had to be removed! ... We never realized that this clay was holding back the only standing wall of the

Above: A Zazzle personalized postage stamp honoring the sport of bocce (bocci).

Right: The present-day and permanent home of the Italia America Bocce Club.





Above: The exterior of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, which led to the relocation of the Chess Museum and Hall of Fame, right across the street.



Above right: A recent stamp from Iceland featuring the popular sport of chess.

location! It was located in the center of our beloved Hill on 2210 Marconi Ave. ... the club returned to establish its permanent nest where it once began to meet – On The Hill! Plumbers, electricians, brick-layers, tile-setters, cabinetmakers, carpenters, painters, and many craftsmen, 50 or 60 men, worked together. The women organized fund raisers ... dinners, entertainment, etc. ... The carpeted dining room holds 250 to 300 people. The dancing area is parquet!" The rest, as they say, is history. The beautiful club is, indeed, worth a visit and could lead to a mini-topical!

Chess: In the neighborhood known as the Central West End (around the corner from our apartment), chess enthusiasts gather from around the world to compete, develop skills and enjoy camaraderie at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Avenue. "It is the mission of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, an educational organization, to maintain a formal program of instruction to teach the game of chess and to promote and support its educational program through community outreach and local and national partnerships to increase the awareness of the educational value of chess." The U.S. Chess Federation moved its World Chess Hall of Fame to Saint Louis in 2011 (across the street from the club), due to the success and growing international reputation of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center. This historic 15,000 square-foot building features the U.S. and World Chess Hall of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection and features temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. These two partners not only celebrate, but encourage and develop the wonderful sport of chess. Be sure to visit!

shack. ... All [renovation] was accomplished by members – a roof over our heads; ladies and men's toilets, tile work, woodwork, plastering, painting; bar, and kitchen ... free labor from the men of our club.

"Then, after 17 years of dreams and hopes we made the big decision ... to build our new home, our own bocce club. A parcel of land under the Kingshighway viaduct was purchased ... We were all set to sign the contract ... But, before this could become a reality, our guardian angels guided the committee toward the prospect of a new



Above: A vintage motorcycle is found on this recent issue from Denmark.

Right: A striking image of one of the cycles found at the Moto Museum in Midtown.



Motorcycles: Located at 3441 Olive Street at Lindell Blvd. (in Midtown), one block east of the Fox Theatre and across from Saint Louis University, is the Moto Museum featuring a collection of rare and vintage motorcycles from European manufacturers 1900-75.

Although the collection is not as manageable as one of, say, stamps, it is not to be missed. See you in St. Louis next year! ☺

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Review: *A Handbook of Cancels on United States Federal Wine Tax Stamps*

Wayne L. Youngblood

A Handbook of Cancels on United States Federal Wine Tax Stamps, by David G. Nussmann and Donald A. Woodworth, Jr., published 2011 by the American Revenue Association, hardbound, 736 pages, color and B&W illustrations, includes searchable CD-ROM. Available for \$65 postpaid from the American Revenue Association (ARA) or major U.S. dealers in revenue stamps and philatelic literature. The ARA's website is: www.revenuer.org.

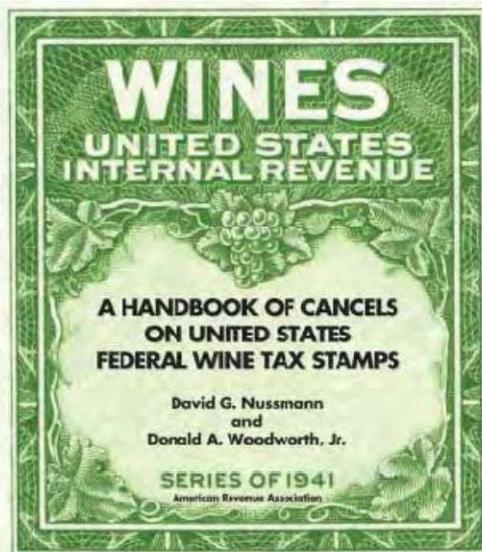
Without question, this book is a major contribution to the literature of 20th-century American revenue stamps and offers much for those who either specialize in revenues or adds them to a topical or thematic collection. It offers the first comprehensive description of cancels used on U.S. federal wine and fermented fruit juice tax stamps. Of nearly 1,000 identified companies, the authors have chronicled the location of more than 700 and the actual history of about 560 – with operating locations and dates, wines produced, key players, historical anecdotes, stamps used and, of course, cancels used upon them.

The book employs a rigorous method to systematically record details of every known cancel. Each Scott-listed wine and fermented fruit juice stamp, with earliest and latest known uses, is documented in conjunction with applicable rate periods. Also covered are provisional uses that occurred as production of new stamps failed to keep pace with tax law changes.

The book expands footnotes in the Scott catalog by providing documentation on the so-called “In-Between” issue, which falls between the large Series of 1916 and large Series of 1933. As with any pioneering work, the book does not claim to document every cancel, as small amounts of new material have continuously emerged. The appearance of the book generated renewed interest in this particular field of revenue stamp collecting. Some errors have inevitably crept into a book of this size – but they pale in comparison to the huge volume of new information presented on this large series of revenue stamps used by the federal government between 1914-54.

Readers will enjoy learning about these fascinating stamps and the many firms that used them – from the great wine growing regions of California and New York to surprising byways in Arkansas and other states not particularly associated with wine production. Fascinating cancels are found from Beaulieu, Beringer, Sebastiani, Taylor and other firms that still supply wine for America’s dinner tables.

If you’re thinking about a birthday or special gift for the stamp collector in your family, someone with an interest in wine and the historical aspects of its taxation – or even if it will be useful on your own reference shelf, this is your opportunity to pick up a solid hobby resource. ☐





Publication Reviews

George B. Griffenhagen

Italian Themes

Phila-Italy Americana: Italian Themes on U.S. Postage Stamps, by Gerardo Perrotta, \$19.99 from Xlibris Corporation, www.Xlibris.com, 6 by 9 inches, soft cover, 110 pages, 2013.

This handbook describes and illustrates 124 U.S. stamps that have an Italian theme. Each stamp is described by theme and illustrated in black-and-white (some with heavy cancellations that partially obliterate the stamp design). The year released, the denomination and the Scott catalog numbers are provided in an appendix. The handbook is divided into six chapters. The Introduction describes the 1869 U.S. stamp (Scott 117) that illustrates the *SS Adriatic*, a ship of the British White Star Line. The author states that while this stamp does not bear a direct link to Italy, the name "Adriatic" forces one to think of the Adriatic Sea ... As navigation routes were opening away from the Adriatic ... the conditions were right for Christopher Columbus to test his conviction that he could reach the East by going west.

This leads us to the first chapter that describes 39 U.S. stamps depicting Christopher Columbus and illustrates 23 U.S. stamps, including the 15¢ 1869 U.S. stamp (Scott 118) picturing the Oct. 12, 1492, landing of Columbus. The fact that Columbus was born in Genoa ties him to Italy, and the fact that he dared to sail into the unknown defines the prelude of the first American pioneers. The second chapter describes six U.S. stamps with the word

Columbia, a romanticized reference to Christopher Columbus. One of these is the 1954 U.S. stamp (Scott 1029) for the founding of Columbia University. Other U.S. stamps depict the 1898 Columbia Auto (Scott 3120), the 1893 Columbian Doll (Scott 3151b) and the 1981 launch of the *Columbia* Space Shuttle (Scott 3190a).

The title of chapter three is "Italians in America" and the 10 U.S. stamps pictured are devoted to Italians who were born in Italy. Seven who lived at least for a while in the United States include patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi (Scott 1168); diplomat Philip Mazzei (Scott C98); pioneer Francis Vigo (Scott UX111); opera singer Enrico Caruso (Scott 2250); orchestra conductor Arturo Toscanini (Scott 2411); actor Rudolph Valentino (Scott 2819); and scientist Enrico Fermi (Scott 3533). Chapter four leads off with a U.S. stamp (Scott 3183i) depicting an Italian immigrant family arriving at Ellis Island in 1905. Between 1889 and 1920 more than one million Italians came to the United States. This chapter honors 10 personalities who were born or raised in the United States by Italian immigrant parents.

Chapter five, titled "Art and Culture," includes a wide variety of Italian-themed U.S. stamps. Art is represented by a 1940 U.S. stamp (Scott 895) depicting the Three Graces by Italian artist Sandro Botticelli. A 1958 U.S. stamp (Scott 1107) for the International Geophysical Year shows the hands of Michelangelo's famous fresco, *Creation*

of Adam. Two 1995 U.S. Love stamps (Scott 2948 & 2958) depict winged cherubs that were originally painted by Raphael. Three U.S. stamps portray the July 10, 1943, invasion of Sicily (Scott 2765c), the September 1943 invasion of Italy (Scott 2765f) and the Aug. 25, 1944, liberation of Rome (Scott 2838f). The city of Torino was publicized with the 2006 U.S. stamp (Scott 4025) for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. The Lincoln Memorial (Scott 1116) should remind us that the statue was carved by the Italian Piccirilla brothers. The 1964 U.S. stamp (Scott 1258) of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge tells us that Giovanni da Verrazano discovered the entrance to the Hudson in 1524. The 1973 U.S. stamp (Scott 1500) for Progress in Electronics shows the equipment used by Guglielmo Marconi to receive the first wireless transatlantic transmission by electromagnetic waves.

The fifth and final chapter describes and illustrates 31 U.S. Christmas stamps. The first U.S. Christmas stamp (Scott 1414) by an Italian artist depicts the Nativity scene by Lorenzo Lotto. The 1971 U.S. Christmas stamp (Scott 1444) depicts the Adoration of the Shepherds by Giorgione. Then for the next 36 years, U.S. Christmas stamps used versions of the Madonna and Child. Twenty-eight were by Italian artists, three of them by Raphael and another three by Botticelli.

In addition to the four-page appendix providing essential formation on all stamps illustrated, this handbook includes a two-page bibliography and a four-page useful subject index. The author, Gerardo Perrotta, an ATA member, is a native of Paola, Italy, and recently retired from University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where he worked for many

years in the Department of Pathology and Medical Laboratory. He and his wife (Mariateresa) reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, and have four children and three granddaughters. This handbook is also available as a case-bound hardcover edition for \$29.99, and as an E-Book for \$3.99 from Xlibris Corporation. Orders@Xlibris.com.

Foreign Thematic Periodicals Netherlands

Thema, Society for Thematic Philately. Volume 26, September 2013, Henk van Zutphen, editor, 16 Elzendweg, 6617-AW, Bergharen, The Netherlands, henk.vanzutphen@inter.nl.net, 8½ by 11¾ inches, saddle stitched, 48 pages.

This issue of the Dutch journal on thematic philately features an article describing the athletes of the Summer Olympics of 1912 held in Stockholm. Jean Bouin (1888-1914) of France won the silver medal in the 5,000-meter race in Stockholm, losing to Hannes Kolehmainen (1889-1966) of Finland by 0.1 of a second in a race of just over 14 minutes. This remains as one of the most memorable moments of international track races. Kolehmainen, called the Flying Finn, also received gold medals for the 10,000-meter race and the Individual Cross Country race. Bouin is pictured on France Scott 969 (1960), while Kolehmainen appears on stamps of Finland (1999, Scott 806) and Sierra Leone (2003, Scott 2651). But one of the greatest athletes of all time was Jim Thorpe (1888-1953) of the United States, who won gold medals in 1912 for both the decathlon and the pentathlon. Jim Thorpe is pictured on stamps of Palau (1996, Scott 401); Togo (1984, Scott C494); and on two U.S. stamps (Scott 2089 and 3183g). Also included is a short article on the beautiful Canna indica and a three-page article on the Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandaris*).

Periodicals by Theme

Medicine

Medi-Theme, Medical Philately Study Group, Volume 32, August 2013, Dr. S. W. Stewart Menzies, editor, 32 King Edward Road, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear, NE30 2RP, England, stuart@swsm.co.uk, 8½ by 11 inches, saddle stitched, 36 pages.

This issue of the medical philately journal features an article on the history of Dentistry with a checklist of 20 stamps released by 14 different countries. Also included are biographies of the following Scots who left their mark on medicine: James Lind (1716-94) and James Young Simpson (1811-70); Israeli achievements in cardiology; medical leeches; and a review of the physicians in Russia who in 1952-53 were arrested on order of Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin for “facilitating” murders of Soviet leadership by medical mismanagement or poisoning. This became known as the “Doctors’ Plot,” which Soviet Premier Nikita Kruschev claimed in 1956 was “fabricated” by Stalin.

Ships

U.S.C.S. Log, Universal Ship Cancellation Society, Volume 80, No. 10, October 2013, Richard D. Jones, editor, 137 Putnam Ave, Ormond Beach FL 32174, mbcmjones@yahoo.com, 8½ by 11 inches, saddle stitched, 32 pages.

How deep do submarines go? This question is answered in this issue of the *USCS Log* by illustrating some early philatelic covers. The *USS Aragon* submerged to a depth of 323 feet on March 23, 1937, but was lost in World War II. In 1940 the *USS Barracuda*, the *USS Searaveno* and the *USS Seawolf* could submerge no deeper than 262 feet. However, the U.S. Navy *Bathyscape Trieste* submerged to a depth of 1,920

feet on Oct. 13, 1961. A small submarine called the *DSV-2 Alvin* submerged to the depth of 8,202 feet on Nov. 24, 1997, and, on Jan. 10, 2010, on its 50th anniversary, the *Bathyscape Trieste* went to the depth of 35,767 feet, which is the deepest-known place in the ocean, at the Mariana Trench, near Guam.

Space

Orbit, Astro Space Stamp Society, No. 99, October 2013, Jeff Dugdale, editor, Glebe Cottage, Spreymouth, Mosstodloch, Moray, Scotland 1V32 7LE, United Kingdom, jefforbited@aol.com, 8¼ by 11½ inches, 40 pages.

The British journal on space devotes most of its pages to spacecraft, planets and constellations, but this issue includes a visit to the little town in Holland called Franeker. This town includes a world-famous scientific wonder that was created by Eise Eisinga (1744-1829). He was a wool carder, but was also a keen amateur astronomer. On May 8, 1774, a conjunction of the moon and three planets was predicted and the local minister published a report in which he interpreted this conjunction as a return to the position of the planets at the day of creation. The Reverend predicted that the planets and the moon would collide and the earth would be pushed out of its orbit and burned to a crisp by the sun. There was panic in Holland, but Eisinga was not afraid because he knew better. He decided to build a planetarium in the living room of his home to prove there was no reason to panic. He wasn’t able until 1781 to complete his working model of the solar system, which was shown on the ceiling in his living room and was driven by a pendulum clock. In 1818, King William I of the Netherlands visited the planetarium and was so impressed that he later bought it for the State, but left it in Eisinga’s home

in Franeker. On the 250th anniversary of Eise Eisinga's birth, the oldest still-working planetarium in the world was philatelically recognized by the Netherlands on May 5, 1994, with a commemorative stamp (Scott 860). Today, Eise Eisinga's planetarium has been turned into a museum with a large collection of historic astronomical instruments, a souvenir shop and a café in the house next door.

Topics in Print

Scandinavian Celebrations is the title of an article by David Kent published in the Oct. 4, 2013, issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. It's party time across Scandinavia to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays and publicize them with commemorative stamps. Crown Prince Haakon and Princess Mette-Marit of Norway were both born in 1973 and are celebrating their 40th birthdays. Sweden is celebrating the 40th anniversary of King Carl XVI Gustaf as head of state. He ascended to the throne in 1973, upon the death of King Gustaf VI Adolph (1882-1973). Queen Margrethe II of Denmark is also Queen of Greenland and is the first woman monarch of Denmark since Margrethe I who ruled 1375-1412. Finland is the only Scandinavian country that has never been a monarchy. After centuries of domination by the kings and czars of Sweden and Russia, Finland gained its independence in 1917, and decided to become a republic with an elected head of state. Not wanting to be left out of the postal party, in August Finland Post released a stamp to celebrate the 65th birthday of president Sauli Niinisto.

Legends of baseball are described by Robert A. Moss in the October 2013 issue of the *American Philatelist*. Starting with the 1939 U.S. stamp (Scott 855) for the Centennial of Baseball, the article features illustrations of 62 U.S.

baseball stamps. The author debunks the legend that the game of baseball was "invented" in 1839 by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, N.Y. Baseball evolved over many years from various English and American precursors, such as cricket, rounders, town ball and stool ball. Baseball is mentioned in America as far back as 1791 in an ordinance in Pittsfield, Mass. The evolution of the modern game can be traced back to the New York Knickerbocker Club, which played a baseball game with the New York Nine in 1846 at Elysian Fields in Hoboken, N.J. The article identifies, in a full-page chart of information, 30 famous baseball players whose images have appeared on U.S. stamps. However, the author points out, the USPS does not portray living individuals on stamps, so great players Sandy Koufax, Willie Mays and others are absent. To include living players in your thematic collection of baseball players, you need to look at foreign stamps. Sandy Koufax and Willie Mays are depicted on a 1989 St. Vincent set (Scott 1212 and 1213). Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline and Don Mattingly are all pictured on 1988 stamps of Grenada. In fact, there are 237 different baseball players pictured on foreign stamps as compared to 37 different baseball players pictured on U.S. stamps. For those interested in collecting only U.S. stamps, the American Philatelic Society offers free, downloadable *U.S. Baseball Stamp Album* pages at: www.stamps.org/Free-Album-Pages.

Readers of Topical Time who know of other topical articles published in less well-known periodicals are urged to send photocopies or tear sheets of the article to George Griffenhagen, 12226 Cathedral Dr, Woodbridge VA 22192-2232, or via email at gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com, for mention in future "Publication Reviews" columns. □



Membership

New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members of similar collecting interests are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited without prior written consent of the Executive Director of the Association. **This list includes new membership numbers 56847-56866 and recent reinstatements.** Dealer members are denoted with "DM" and Family members "FM" after their membership numbers.

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56850	ANONYMOUS	
56857	ANONYMOUS	
56858	ANONYMOUS	
56860	ANONYMOUS	
56863	ALLY, J R. Raymond, PO Box 330, Shingle Springs CA 95682-0330	Dinosaurs, Space, Marine
56855	BROWN, Tiffanie, <i>tiffaniebrown@sbcglobal.net</i> PO Box 471, Houston TX 77001-0471	Obama, African-Americans, Flags
56864	CIESLA, Helen, <i>hciesla@mindspring.com</i> 207 Northeast Rd, Aberdeen MD 21001-2242	Olympics, Space, Christmas, Lighter-than-Aircraft
56853	CRUMP, Laurel	Elephants, Golf, Pelicans
56859	FULMIZI, Shelley, <i>shelley1.suzanne1@gmail.com</i>	Christmas, Trains, Motorcycles, Picasso, Circus, Giraffes, Music
56865-DM	HANDLIN, Walter, PO Box 6091, Mesa AZ 85216-6091, <i>w.handlin@cox.net</i>	
56861	HIRCHERT, Holly	Chemistry, Malaria, Science
56856	LOEFFLER, Sharon, <i>svl33@sbcglobal.net</i> 2948 E 84th St, Tulsa OK 74137-1406	Trains, Cats, Russia, Iceland, Greenland
56854	SARGENT, Fred, <i>throck1938@gmail.com</i> 1001 E Oregon Rd Apt 1644, Lititz PA 17543-9205	U.S., Great Britain
56849	SHUEYM, Richard, 52 Pajaro Ave, Ventura CA 93004-1329	U.S., Worldwide, Naval Covers
56862	SKRIVANIE, Oliver, PO Box 470, Egg Harbor WI 54209-0470, <i>073@dcwis.com</i>	Blimps
56852	STRADER, Richard, <i>beanowiggles@gmail.com</i>	Stamps on Stamps, Dogs
56851	TUCKSMITH, Richard, <i>rtucksmit1@gmail.com</i> 435 E 85th St Apt L, New York NY 10028-6380	Soccer, Religion, Sherlock Holmes
56848	VERGA, Angelo, <i>ajverga@hotmail.com</i>	Archaeology, Horses, Maps
56866	GPO Box 1118, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia WILSON, Diane, <i>dhwilson19@gmail.com</i>	Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Plants

Deceased Members

MAEDA, Chuichi (20180) JAPAN
GARHART, John (56299) IN

Address Changes

34013 MERCHANT, Ron, 1026 Ernst St, Cadillac MI 49601-1204

**Please make it a goal to recruit
at least one new member this year...
*Help us continue to “Buck the Trend!”***

Joseph F. Frasch, Jr. 1948-2013

Van Siegling

Joseph F. Frasch, Jr., ATA general counsel and Director of our Claims Service for the past six years, died Oct. 16 in Columbus, Ohio. "Joe" was also a noted exhibitor and accredited judge of both the APS and ATA.

In his dual role of giving legal counsel to the ATA board of directors and of mediating claims of violation of the ATA Philatelic Code of Ethics, Joe volunteered his time and offered appropriate guidance when needed. But his favorite annual report was this year when he wrote "No claims. No activity."

Corpus Juris, Joe's exhibit about the men and women of the American legal system as portrayed on postal and revenue material, won the Grand Award at the 2005 National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee, Wis. His later exhibit, *The History of the Louisiana Purchase 1492-1804*, also won gold awards, the most recent at this year's NTSS-Ropex in Rochester, N.Y. Joe also led exhibiting seminars at several NTSS events. The final time he served on an NTSS jury was at Lancaster, Pa., in 2012.

A graduate of Capital University and Capital University Law School, Joe practiced law in Columbus since 1974. He was a member of the local Worthington and Columbus stamp clubs.

Among Joe's survivors is his wife of 41 years, Cheryl. ☺

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ATA Membership Recruiters 2013

The following ATA members have recruited a total of 79 new members up to Oct. 15 of this year. They receive \$5 in ATA Bucks credit for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.

ATA Dealer Members shown in red.

New Members

Stout, Jean (Miss.)	16
Hamman, Dawn (Fla.)	11
Lingler, Sandra and Andy	8
Edholm, Keith & Carol (Wash.)	4
Johnson, Bruce L (Calif.)	4
Bruce, Susan (Ill.)	3
Davidson, Larry E (Canada)	3
Fisk, Allan (N.Y.)	3
Asher, Barbara (Ga.)	2
Coe, LeA (Ga.)	2
Jacobs, Norman (Ga.)	2
Scannell, Caroline (N.Y.)	2
Schneider, Jean (Fla.)	2
Shenberger, Richard (Nev.)	2
Winnegrad, Mark (N.Y.)	2
Chun, Stephen (Ala.)	1

Collins, Beth (Minn.)

Eyster, Lucy (Pa.)	1
Levasseur, Thomas (Me.)	1
Nieuwlandt, Dan (Colo.)	1
Osborne, Cathleen (Wash.)	1
Pettway, Jim (Tenn.)	1
Ryan, Laurie (Ohio)	1
Sazama, Robert (Fla.)	1
Smith, Bernie (Canada)	1
Smith, Dale (Mo.)	1
Sullivan, Joe (Md.)	1
Wawrukiewicz, Tony (Ore.)	1

Also:

British Thematic Society	1
Christmas Philatelic Club	1
Ships on Stamps Study Unit	1
Virtual Stamp Club	1



15. <u>ITEMS</u> <u>10</u>		16. <u>ITEMS</u> <u>11</u>
17. <u>EFFECT</u> <u>AND</u> <u>NATURE</u> <u>OF</u> <u>CREDITS</u>		18. <u>JULY</u> <u>-</u> <u>AVG</u> <u>6</u>
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e. Total Premium Books Distribution (Sum of 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19)		76
f. Total Premium Books (Sum of 16 and 19)		2,804
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i. Excess Paid (Paid Exceeded by 15% Less 16)		46,922
j. Total Premium Books Received, Less 15% Excess Paid or Paid Under P-Form 503 (If Used), (2,835 - 46,922) <u>Excess Paid Subtracted From This Column</u>		97,412

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Stamp News Australasia: Kevin Morgan, editor, P.O. Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia

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March 22, 2014, Wisconsin. Baypex '14, sponsored by the Green Bay Philatelic Society, St. Matthew Catholic Church Multi-purpose Room, 2575 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay, Wis. (Free admission and free parking in rear) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: Ray D. Perry (920) 469-8925
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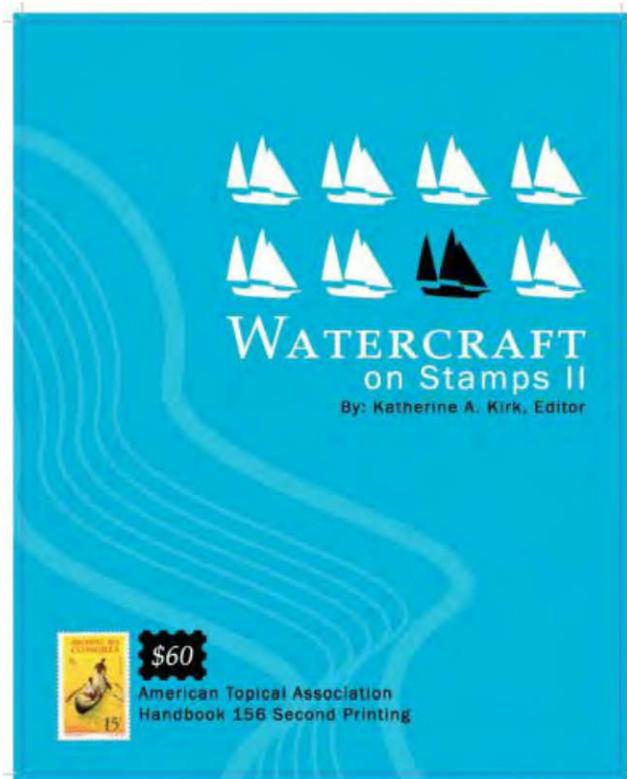
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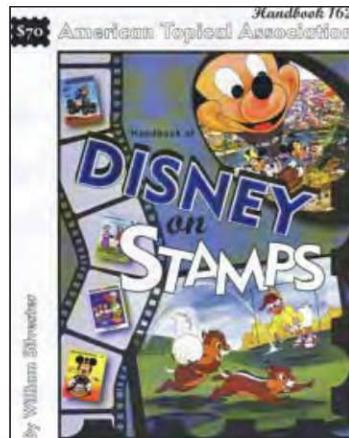
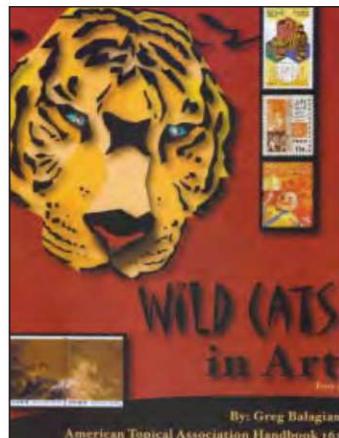
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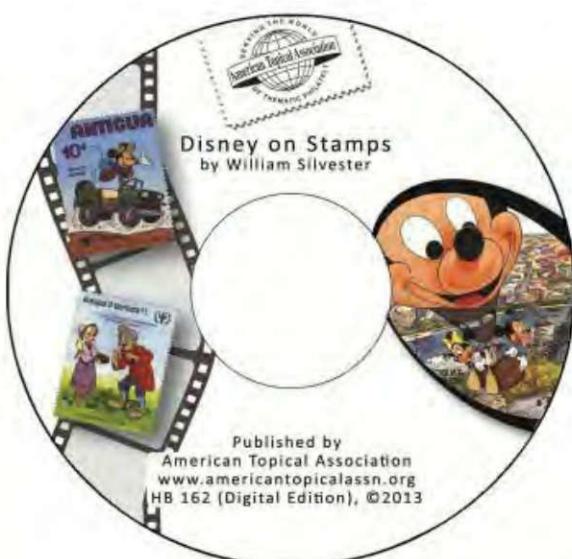


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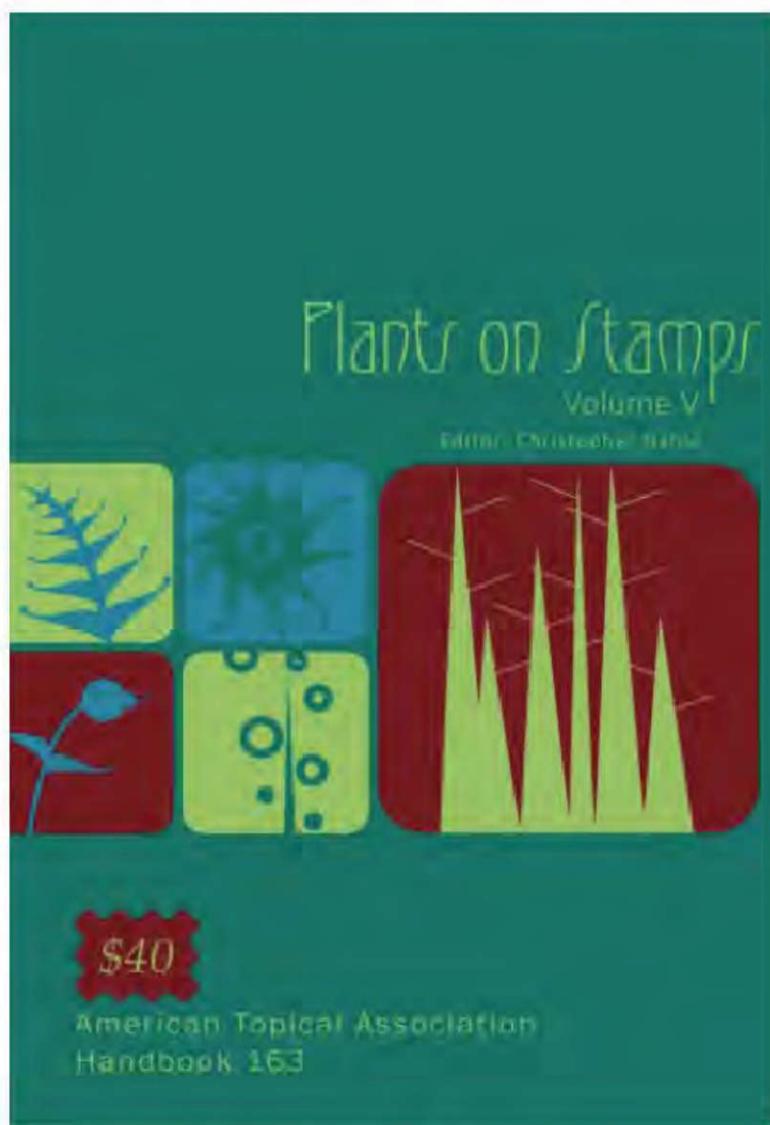
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