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TOPICAL TIME

January-February 2016

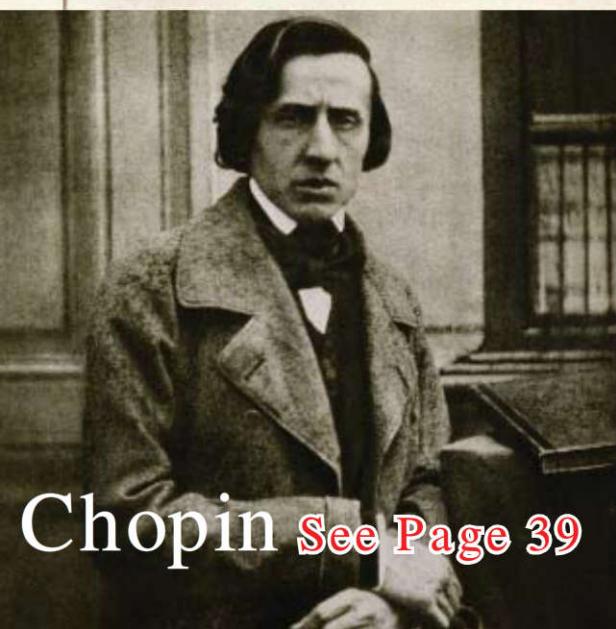
Vol. 67, No. 1

Whole Number 395

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**50TH
ANNIVERSARY·NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD**



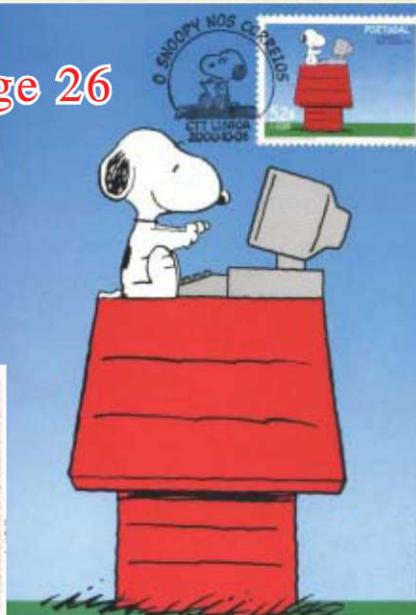
Chopin See Page 39

Shiprock, N.M.

See Page 42

Snoopy! See Page 26

**Canadian
Pictorial Permits**
See Page 59



Journal of Thematic Philately

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Boldly to the Future 2015 goal met! See Page 10.

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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,
please request on line, e-mail, fax, telephone or write to:**

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FREE "Stamp Tips of the Trade": Please visit www.UPAstampauctions.co.uk

**Please contribute to the 2015 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...
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in next year's listing of donors!**



JACK'S JOURNAL

Updates to Previous Columns

Looking for a new topic? – May-June 2010

Included in this column was a mini-list of several stamps and postmarks that specifically promote topical philately. But, as Larry Dodson rightfully pointed out, I totally forgot about the stamps issued for our ATA's National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in 2004-05 and 2007-09! (Is such a thoughtless error grounds for impeachment?) First-day covers of those stamps, as well as covers with older and newer NTSS postmarks are listed for sale on our website: american topical assn.org/ntss/show_cachets_available.pdf

MaryAnn Bowman and Dottie Smith also responded with additional items. Therefore, this mini-topic is not so mini! Perhaps in my post-presidential retirement, I'll get to compile a new list!

Unfair and unnecessary - Sept.-Oct 2010

The then-new Uniform Exhibitors' Evaluation Form (UEEF) contradicted the *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging* by not including a note that – for knowledge and research – a thematic exhibit weighs thematic knowledge and philatelic knowledge equally, totaling 35% (all other categories of exhibits have a knowledge/research breakdown of 25% and 10%). Now, a proposed revised UEEF, already in use by a number of judges and expected to be officially sanctioned by the APS board soon, includes such a note.

Why not American Thematic Association? – May-June 2012

This column noted the distinction between often-confusing terms. A topical collection of birds, for example, contains only stamps and other philatelic items that picture birds. If that collection is expanded to include items depicting things related to birds, say, birds' habitats or predators, it becomes a thematic collection.

The column then reflected on ATA's various uses of the terms "topical" and "thematic."

Additional information: Our ATA logo prominently displays our name "American



ATA members always get a 10% discount.

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A great ATA Resource!

Topical Association,” but also includes the words “SERVING THE WORLD OF THEMATIC PHILATELY.” Therefore, it acknowledges that we are inclusive – for new collectors, for those who are content to be topicalists and for those who decide to become thematicists.

From Victoria to Elizabeth – March-April 2014

Queen Elizabeth II has now broken Victoria’s record and become the longest-reigning monarch in British history. This crowning achievement has been marked by issues from Alderney, Antigua, Ascension Island, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, British Antarctic Territory, Canada, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Jersey, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tristan da Cunha and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Shown nearby is a Great Britain miniature sheet for this event.



Ever come across a neat item... March–April 2015

We can't collect every topic that appeals to us. Our albums would break and we'd go broke. What to do? This recent column suggested taking our passion and making a checklist of that tempting topic.

That's what I did with the topic "Enigma" – the Nazi coding machine. And that's what ATA member Wobbe Vegter in South Africa had already done. Describing himself as a "cyber philatelist," he wrote, "*Being an avid collector of computer-related stamps and stationery, I have extracted from my own collection a more complete listing of this topic showing Enigma / Turing / Colossus / Bombe / Bletchley, etc., resulting in a mixture of stamps, FDCs, cancels, postal cards, etc.*" My original list had nine items – adding Vegter's items brings the total to 26. This is a fine example of one member improving on another's checklist, one of the benefits of belonging to the ATA! Thank you, Wobbe!

Members may purchase this list for 50¢ by contacting the ATA office. ☐

Official Call

American Topical Association's Annual Meeting will be held Friday, June 3, 2016, 1pm, during World Stamp Show NY2016 at Javits Center, New York City. ☐



About ATA

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

New on ATA Website

www.americantopicalassn.org

- Youth page - Topical Tidbits: “Dragons.”
- Checklist dATABse: Updated listings. The checklist listing for January includes all new issues from *Linn's* through December 2015.

New ATA “Members Only” Website: www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org

If your current email address is on file with the ATA Office, on Dec. 1 ATA sent you an email giving simple steps for accessing our new “members only” page at www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org. Your login ID is your ATA member number (noted in your email). You were issued a temporary password that will be functional until you change it. Sometime soon, please log on to the website and change that temporary password to make it your own. The great news: **no more passwords for *Topical Time* issues!** You will no longer have to use an ATA-supplied password to access the last three years of *Topical Time* issues. Just log in once, using your own password, and you’re ready to read. Page-turning versions of all back issues from 2013-15 are posted; PDF versions are coming soon.

Checklists

Forms to use for checklist updates/changes as well as for new checklists are on our website: www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml. Send the information directly to Tom Stillman: atachecklists@gmail.com or PO Box 210748, San Francisco CA 94121-0748.

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Do you have 10 minutes? Instead of pacing, flipping through a magazine or eating a snack, use that stray 10 minutes and check out www.TopicalsOnLine.com. You'll be amazed at the great selection of stamps and will want to go back when you have more time to browse. ATA members always get a 10% discount, and all purchases benefit the ATA.

Recent Shows and New Members

Oct. 31-Nov. 1: Aapex, Ann Arbor, Mich. Ambassadors: **Lorraine Stanton, Steve Sherman, Sandy Strzalkowski, Tim Strzalkowski.**

Nov. 6-8: CSDA National Postage Stamp Show, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Ambassador: **Larry Davidson.** New Members: 3

Nov. 7-8: Kentpex, Grand Rapids, Mich. Ambassador: **Lorraine Stanton**

Dec. 4-6: Florex, Orlando, Fla. Ambassadors: **Dawn Hamman, John Hamman.**

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

If you can assist at the ATA table for an hour or two, please contact the ATA Office.

You may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (e.g. *Topical Time* archives, handbooks, checklists, DVDs) be brought to these shows for you.

For the shows listed in green, we will have the capability to print checklists upon request.

Jan. 29-31: APS AmeriStamp, Atlanta, Ga.

Feb. 6-8: Sarasota National Stamp Show, Sarasota, Fla.

March 5-6: KnoxPEx, Knoxville, Tenn.

March 19: Nashville Stamp Show, Nashville, Tenn.

April 1-3: St. Louis Stamp Expo, St. Louis, Mo.

WANTED:

- **Detail Person** - Assist with ATA's checklist service. Contact ATA Office.
- **APS Website Reviewer** - Review the APS website monthly and compile lists of thematic exhibit winners and ATA unit literature awards at World Series of Philately (WSP) shows. Send lists to NTSS Exhibits Chair and ATA Office.
- **DVD Reviewer** - Evaluate one or more of the following: Americana, Amsterdam, Art, My Eclectic Collection, Firemen, Integrating Navy, Lions Club, National Parks, Olympics, Orchestration, Scouts, South Africa, Space, Stamps on Stamps, Trains. Form provided. ☐

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

Boldly to the Future Goal Reached again!

Looking back at 2015, we see a year of progress for the ATA, based on our strategic plan for updating and strengthening the association. There is a revitalized outreach to all topical collectors through the attractive new *Topical Time* and the ATA's brighter, fresher website. We have been able to improve and expand services to members. The popular new checklists program and ATA's own Internet sales sites www.topicalsonline.org are now well established.

The year 2016 will present the ATA with new opportunities. Several new member services are planned, including a course on beginning topical stamp collecting. The new "members only" area of the ATA website will be expanded to include more information for members.

We will have an exceptional new opportunity in 2016. For the first time in 10 years the United States hosts an International Stamp Exhibition. From May 28-June 5, this decade's international will be held at New York's Javits Center. World Stamp Show NY2016 will be the biggest event in world in this philatelic year. The ATA will have a booth – where we can serve members and promote topical collecting to philatelists from all over the world. We hope you will be able to visit the show and will stop by the ATA booth and talk to Vera and the volunteers who are helping to make this possible for us.

Your contributions have been responsible for the ATA's progress over the last couple of years. Please consider making at least a small donation to help us maintain this momentum. Every gift large or small can help ...



BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

2015 BTTF Goal: \$35,000

Received by Dec. 31, 2015: \$35,159.49

Every dollar you gave helped to reach our goal!

These are some ways you can send your **BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE** gift for 2015:

- Check drawn on U.S. bank in U.S. funds - *best, since it saves us fees* - payable to "American Topical Association," PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA.
- Log into ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org; click on "Boldly To The Future."
- At [PayPal.com](https://www.PayPal.com), send a BTTF donation to american topical@msn.com. One can safely and securely pay by debit or credit card on the website even without a PayPal account.

ATA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Each donation is tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers and is acknowledged with a "tax letter" acceptable to the IRS.



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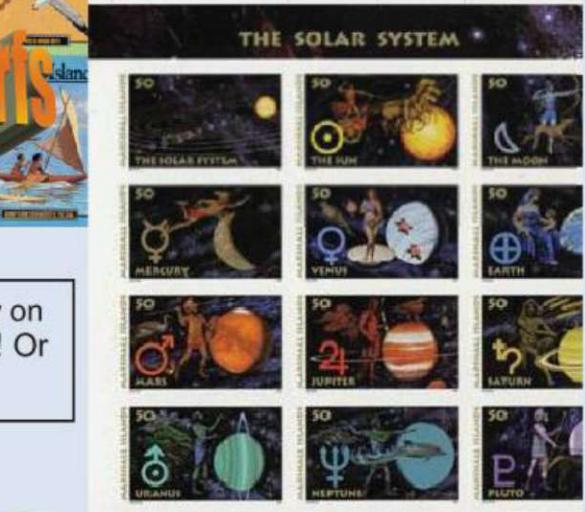
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WWII collectors:

For the 50th Anniversary of WWII, 100 sets were issued depicting events and battles. The stamps were available as singles or with an attached bottom inscription tab. Available perf & Imperf and gutter pairs!



VERA'S VIEWS

New “Members Only” ATA Website

Every ATA member for whom our office has a valid email address received an email on Dec. 1 containing a (temporary) password to our new site:

www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org

If you have an email address it is essential to add ***americantopical@msn.com*** to your list of email contacts. Even if you've been receiving ATA emails, future ones sent directly from this new site might go to your “spam” folder if we are not in your contact list.

Hundreds of members have each now accessed our new site and changed the temporary password to one that is meaningful. More content will be added to the site as time goes by, but the most important change is your ability to access the electronic version *Topical Time* without cumbersome individual passwords. Page-turning hot-linked versions of *Topical Time* issues from 2013 through the current issue are posted there. Soon, PDF versions needing no additional password will be added to the site.

When you are logged in to the site, you can view your member profile information, including the collecting topics you've submitted to ATA. You can even update your contact information and collecting interests on the website. Renewing your ATA membership has never been easier! One can renew by PayPal or by credit card with only a few clicks.

Keeping your email address current with ATA is, of course, vitally necessary for accessing the new site. If you have an email address (or a new one not submitted to ATA), please email ***americantopical@msn.com*** and we will activate your connection to the new members-only site.

Electronic payments. Many members comment on instructions I write about transmitting money electronically to ATA. There has been another change that I thought you would like to know about. A much more secure way of paying by credit card is now in place. It is also less expensive for ATA. It is incorporated into our new members-only website, but it's easy to use without accessing our site. Here's the best way:

1. Access ***www.PayPal.com*** (you need not have a PayPal account to pay by credit card).
2. Click on “Send Money” and key in ***americantopical@msn.com***.
3. Key in the amount you wish to transmit to us.
4. Click on **“Pay with a debit or credit card”** and proceed with your transaction.

To make things even easier, or you find it uncomfortable to navigate web pages, if you wish to purchase checklists or handbooks, donate to BTTF or renew your ATA

membership, just do this: email or call our office and let us know what you'd like. We will institute a "Request for Money" through PayPal and it will be easy to pay by credit card by completing step 4 mentioned previously.

Membership reminders. Emailed membership reminders formerly issued from the ATA Office are now coming from the new website. You'll receive a reminder 60 days before your membership is due to expire and, again, seven days before the expiration date. It is so very helpful to the ATA Office staff if you renew as soon as possible after you receive a reminder. If you plan to resign your ATA membership for any reason, please do let the office know as soon as you receive your reminder.

Lancaster's packet night. The Lancaster County Philatelic Society of Pennsylvania, one of ATA's affiliated chapters, held a very successful "packet night" in October. Prior to the meeting, contact was made with ATA and the APS to learn what kinds of stamp packets were most needed for outreach programs. At the packet night meeting, members enjoyed sorting stamps from both club supplies and duplicate stamps contributed by its members (please see photo nearby). Paul Petersen reported:

"We had a successful packet night for APS and ATA. We came up with 54 topical packets of 35 stamps each on about eight topics with large samples of airplanes and Christmas. We are learning that, given a table with a gazillion stamps, it still takes time to assemble 30-35 quality stamps on a given topic. Since one member contributed a large collection of airplane stamps, this topic is highly represented with really quality stamps. The same is true for the Christmas packets. Both topics have many mint stamps."

ATA gratefully received the 54 packets prepared by our Lancaster County affiliated chapter. They have been assembled into Taste of Topicals packets that many ATA members gave for holiday gifts and which collectors are purchasing at stamp shows.



If you're a member of a local stamp club, I hope you'll mention this fine idea to your group's program chair. Thanks again to Paul and to Lucy Eyster, ATA's Chapter Representative, for contributing to the Packet Night project for their club.

Retired life members. ATA has a new membership category called "Retired Life Member." So far, nine of our life members have chosen to "retire" from active participation in ATA, as their health and/or interests have changed. When life members make that choice, it helps ATA, as we then do not spend precious monetary resources to print and mail *Topical Time* issues that probably go unread. Retired life members can choose to return to ATA participation at any time should their situation change.

Many times when an ATA member dies or becomes disabled, his or her family members are so busy and stressed that the ATA Office is never notified. Sometimes we have continued to mail *Topical Time* for several years, especially to a life member, not knowing that our member was not living or could no longer enjoy the journal. So we – like most organizations – occasionally need to be reassured that our membership mailings are correct. If you are an ATA Life Member no longer active in philately and would like to "retire" from active participation while still retaining your membership and its privileges, just notify the ATA Office and we will classify you as a Retired Life Member.

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TOPICAL POSTLINE

Thematic Checks?

The ATA and, more recently, the American Philatelic Society are bordering on recognizing topical subjects as appropriate for exhibiting at WSP exhibitions. The new (7th) edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* will be issued by August 2016 and will likely contain details of how one goes about preparing and judging a topical exhibit. It becomes increasing important, therefore, to distinguish between topical and thematic exhibits. The recent article on "Thematic Aspects of Revenue Stamped Paper (RSP)" (TT Vol. 66, No. 6, pages 33-42), introduces yet another area for adding to topical subjects. I especially appreciate the article as a revenue collector myself. However, the title is misleading in that the nature of revenue stamped paper lends itself only to topical collections and exhibits, not thematic exhibits. The philatelic aspects of these items are limited to the imprinted revenue, much akin to the stamp and cancel on a first-day cover. The non-revenue printed designs on these checks and documents are not philatelic, and are akin to the cachet on a first-day cover or illustration on illustrated mail. Accordingly, while these are clearly of interest in topical collecting they would not be readily acceptable for thematic exhibits – especially outside the United States.

— Edwin J. Andrews

Edwin, many thanks for the commentary and feedback. The article might have been more appropriately titled "topical." However, your observations are accurate only to a point. While it is true that the revenue stamp is the primary philatelic

component of a check, comparing the images on RSP to cachets on FDCs trivializes their importance and relevance to themes, which I argue can – and do – contribute to a thematic collection as well as a topical one. (Do you notice I'm attempting to begin a dialogue on the subject?)

The following is from the Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting (Sixth Edition) for Thematics:

"A thematic exhibitor has virtually the entire world of philatelic material, as defined in para. 2.1, as candidates for use in the exhibit. Philatelic material selected for exhibit should clearly and properly illustrate the thematic point under discussion."

Paragraph 2.1 explains that eligible material comes from all areas of the postal, revenue and even maximaphily categories, as long as it helps further the stated narrative of the exhibitor. The manual goes on to describe that the exhibitor has both the freedom (and burden) of completely defining the subject and scope of the exhibit through the use of this very wide range of material.

I agree that the images on RSP would be irrelevant to a traditional revenue exhibit, but not as much so to a thematic.

Unlike cachets (or even some types of illustrated mail), the images are not present for entirely ornamental reasons. Engraved images, in particular, but others as well, were intentionally included by some users to provide additional protection against the counterfeiting of checks. The fact they also appeared as trains, buildings, allegorical figures and other topics is icing on the cake that would help tell aspects of the stories of transportation, architecture and other themes.

— Wayne



WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Alternating Columns and More

One of the pleasures – and ultimate challenges – of being an effective editor of a large journal is trying to maintain balance; balance of both breadth and depth of content, as well as providing a pleasing variety of subjects in each issue.

From my standpoint, this is even more challenging as editor of *Topical Time*, where we represent the varied interests of thousands of members with an even great number of collecting types. It isn't uncommon for members to report "I never see anything on my topic." Of course there's no way we can hit every topic, nor can we simply dwell upon only the dozen most popular, but we can use our approach to write, edit and run many features and columns in ways that help most collectors, regardless what they collect. In other words, you don't have to collect Space, for example, to learn new ways to seek out new stamps and new theematics. To boldly go where no collector ... oh, never mind. But a well-written philatelic feature about a specific topic can give virtually any collector something relevant to his or her own collecting interests, as well as new ideas for treatment.

One means of doing this is by adding regular columns, such as "Cinderella Corner," "Meters by Topic," "Topics on Postmarks," "Youth in Topics," and "My Topic," all of which feature different approaches.

However, *Topical Time* is first and foremost a society journal, with society needs that must be communicated to members. When we also factor in "Jack's Journal," "Vera's Views," "Wayne's Impressions," "About ATA," "Award Winners," "Chapter Chatter," "Units in Action," "Membership," "Foreign Thematic Exhibits" and all the types of society business that comes as stand-alone pieces (information on NTSS, various bits of society news, nominations, deadlines and much more), what seems at first like a generous 96 pages of editorial space quickly runs out, leaving little for independently written features, which are enjoyed by all the membership. In 2015 we ran an average of about two actual topical features in each issue, sometimes very short ones. You'll likely find this issue the most luxurious of the year, but we also do not have the 2015 index, which will appear in the next issue.

But let's go back to columns, something that came to the forefront as a result of several requests to once again see "Editing With Style," which hasn't run for several issues now – no room. I'd also like to see regular columns on Maximaphily, exhibiting, utilization of the computer to enhance your experience and more. Aside from a lack of authors, we don't have room.

So, as we add more columns that I feel are important, some will – by necessity – alternate. You'll see that this year with "Meters by Topic" and "Editing With Style."

What would you like to see as columns or features? Please let me know. ☐



TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

Santa

By the time this issue of *Topical Time* comes to hand, many of us will be found attempting to escape the winter cold by hiding inside where it's warm and comfy, hopefully finding the time to catch up on some of the philatelic projects delayed over the summer when other pursuits often take priority. It seems like only yesterday that I was covered in pollen and grass clippings and now, suddenly, and without warning, I'm firing up a hot chocolate to help take the chill off before I head over to the stamp den. The speed at which time flies provides me with a constant source of amusement, although I don't care much for the way the speed seems to be increasing as I get older. As I write this, Thanksgiving is only a heartbeat away and the Christmas rush is on and in full swing.

Christmas was always a huge deal when I was growing up (and even well after I had become an adult). The day after Thanksgiving the decorations would start going up and, by the time Dec. 24 rolled around, there wasn't a square inch in the house that didn't in some way reflect the holiday season. So, in the spirit of the season, this time around let's look at some pictorial postmarks that feature the

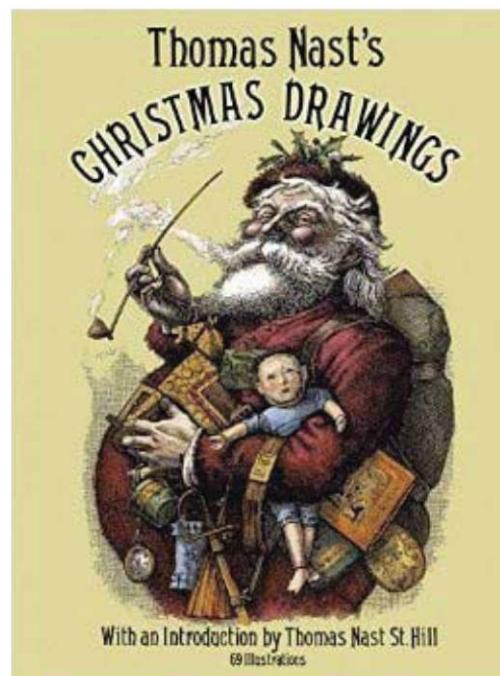


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

world-famous secular symbol of Christmas, Santa Claus.

Santa's roots go all the way back to the 4th century, when a



**Figure 3.**

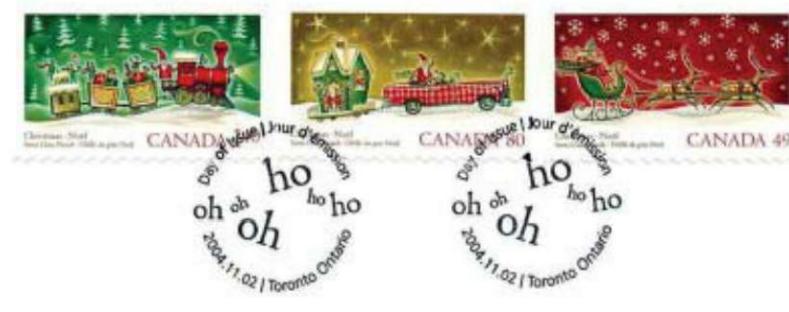
Greek Bishop in Lycia, named Nicholas, earned Saint-hood because of his generosity in giving gifts to the poor. By the Middle Ages, his Saint Day, Dec. 6, was celebrated by the giving of gifts to children (a tradition my European parents, thankfully, kept alive).

The Reformation's opposition

to the glorification of saints eventually had the giving of gifts tradition moved to Dec. 24 and 25, while a simultaneous amalgamation of the Germanic Yule festival, the Dutch Sinterklaas, and the English Father Christmas gave us the beginnings of the Santa we now know. Here in the United States, Thomas Nast, a cartoonist for *Harper's Weekly*,

provided us, in 1863, with

an image of a chubby and jolly bearded elf that, with only some tweaking over the years, has endured as our vision of Santa Claus (Figure 1).

Figure 5.**Figure 4.****Figure 5.**

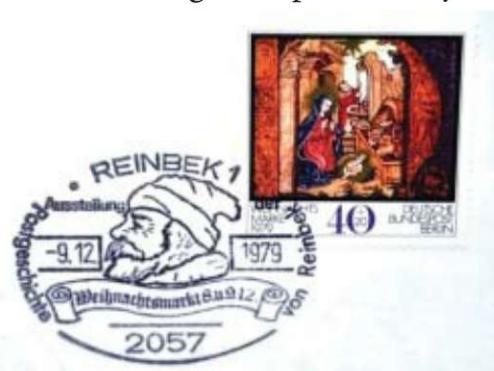
Our first pictorial can be found on a 1994 first-day cover from Brussels, Belgium,

that clearly meets our definition of "concordance" as the stamp, pictorial and cachet all share the same design, Santa on the rooftop by a chimney. Chimneys and hearths have been considered sources of beneficence from as far back as ancient times. Santa in most of his early forms would commonly use this portal to deliver gifts. I particularly like the

**Figure 6.**

hue of this cover, which mimics the nighttime bluish reflections we see on the fallen snow during a cold, clear winter's night (Figure 2).

Figures 3 and 4 show us two more FDC pictorials, both of these from Ottawa, Canada, used in 1991 and 1993, respectively. And, while we're visiting north of our border, Figure 5 brings us a postmark used in Toronto in 2004. While not

**Figure 7.**

strictly a pictorial, this FDC cancellation is still a good fit for our theme as it uses Santa's most well-known utterance: "Ho Ho Ho."

Napapiiri in Lapland, Finland, is considered by many to be the official base of operations for Santa because it sits at the northernmost section of the Arctic Circle. Tourists swarm this area during the Christmas season to enjoy the landscape and to visit two attractions: Santa Claus Village and Santa Park. Activities include tours of Santa's workshop, hanging out with real reindeer and, of course, gift shopping.



Figure 8.

A seasonal post office is also part of the mix, our Figure 6 pictorial having been applied there in 1999.

Any of us who have ventured into a German deli looking for Christmas marzipan or a Stollen (as the next best thing to actually being in the country) realize that these folks have a deeply entrenched reverence toward Weihnachts traditions. Numerous pictorial postmarks of all things Christmas are issued each year, so let's take a look at a few of their Santa offerings.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

Figure 7: A somber-looking Santa appears on this 1979 pictorial issued by the Reinbek Philatelic Association for an exhibiton and Christmas market.



Figure 12.

Figure 8: A marking that proclaims Erlebnis Briefmarken ("Experience Stamps") was used at Mainz in 2000 with a much jollier-looking Claus.



Figure 11.

**Figure 13.**

Figure 11: Used at Düsseldorf in 2014, this tourism-themed pictorial with a skiing Santa and passenger plane overhead touts “Christmas in the Snow” at Fagernes, Norway. The wooden sign reading “God jul!” wishes us all a Merry Christmas in Norwegian.

Figure 12: Our final German example, another Essen marking, commemorates the 42nd International Christmas Market held there while depicting a Greenlandic Santa whose sled is being pulled by a pair of Northern dogs, an interesting choice, since Greenland is loaded with reindeer...

Next up is a first-day pictorial that nicely mirrors the stamp it's been applied to. A 2-dinari Macedonian issue of 2007 features Santa whose pose, if just the stamp were shown, would lead one to believe Santa was speed skating. The boots in the marking, however, quickly dismiss that perception (Figure 13).

Figure 14 attempts to make it clear that Norway has laid claim to Santa, given

its proximity to the North Pole, as this 1987 pictorial, including a stylized globe, shows. The “8600 MO” in the marking indicates the postal code for Mo I Rana (or, Mo), a town in Nordland County located just below the Arctic Circle.

Here's an attractive group from Romania:

Figure 15: A marking issued for the 2001

Figure 9: Pictorial from Himmelpfort, 2012. This exact marking is also known used in 2014, also at Himmelpfort, with just the year date changed. Although I haven't seen any examples, it's likely this handstamp was used over several seasons.

Figure 10: Another oval marking, this one from Essen, commemorating the 2013 International Christmas Market, has an interesting twist in that it depicts an American version of Santa Claus.

**Figure 14.****Figure 15.****Figure 16.**



Figure 17.

Santa Philatelic Exhibition held at Bucharest. The stamp with the burning candle adds a nice Christmas-y flavor.

The pictorial in Figure 16, unusual in that its shape mimics a postage stamp, wishes us all a Cracn Fekecit (Merry Christmas). Used at Cluj-Napoca in 2001,

this marking includes both Santa and some mushrooms, the latter being associated with the season, especially since they can be regularly found growing underneath

pine trees (some of which end up being used as Christmas trees).

Figure 17: Used in the County of Vâlcea in 2003, the way this Santa, as portrayed, has me expecting him to be wishing everyone a Cool Yule. Here we also see "Crăciun Fericit," another way of writing Merry Christmas.

Figure 18: Our final cancel from Romania was used in 2004, also at Vâlcea.

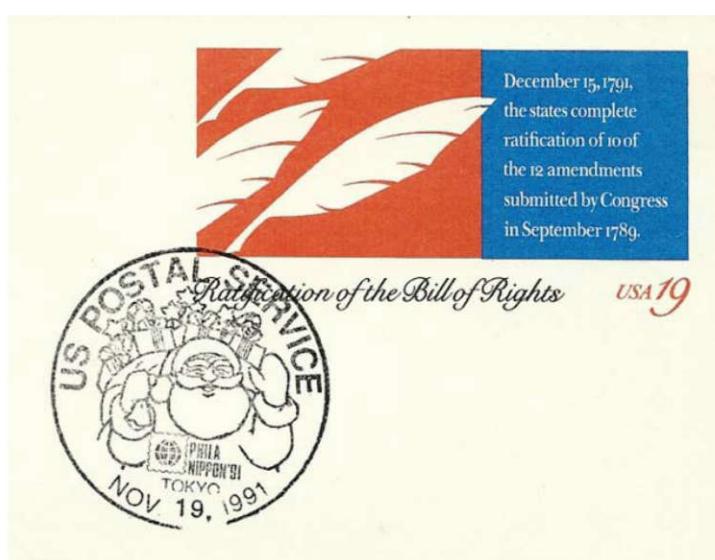


Figure 20.



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Figure 18.

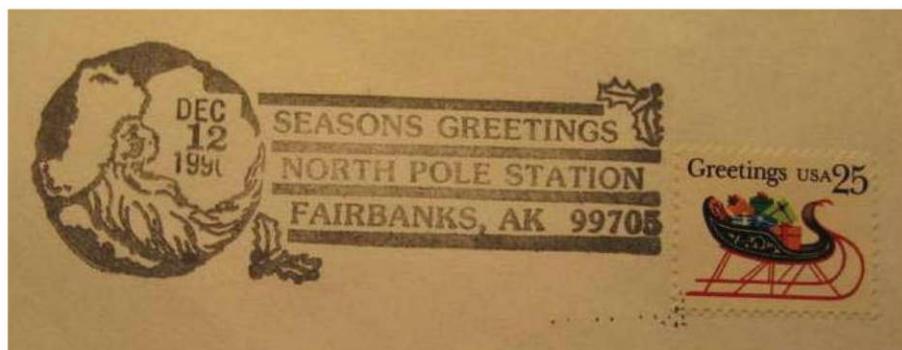


Figure 19.

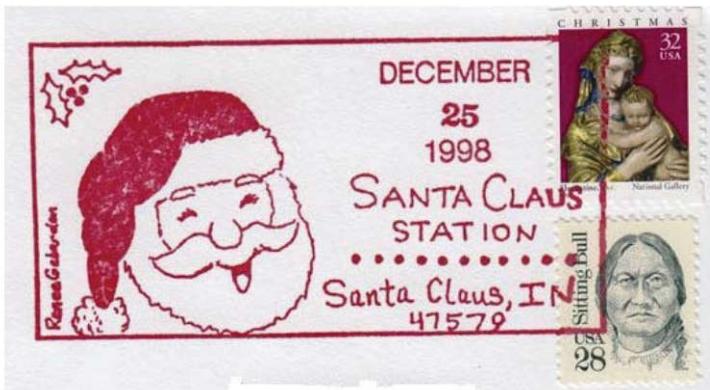


Figure 21.

Nippon, the international postal show held in Tokyo in 1991.

Figure 21: A nice red handstamp depicting Mr. Claus and some holly created by someone with a Mailer's Postmark Permit used at Santa Claus, Ind., on Christmas Day 1998.

Exhibiting a nice concordance with the stamp used, the green marking in Figure 22 comes from Oshtemo, Mich., and was used in 2004, also on Christmas Day.

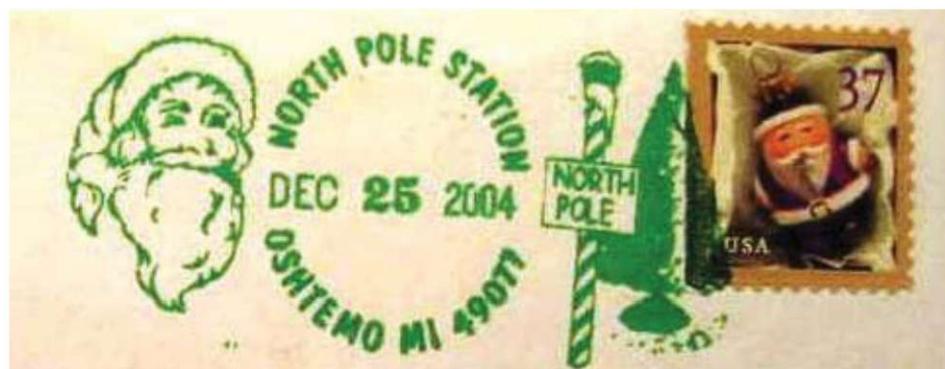


Figure 22.

Figure 23: Last, but not least, another Santa Claus, Ind., pictorial, this one from 2014.



Figure 23.

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Let's close out with some markings used closer to home, here in the United States:

Figure 19: Fairbanks, Alaska, 1990, the Santa here looking suspiciously like Dr. Seuss' Grinch.

Figure 20: A U.S. Postal Service pictorial commemorating Phila

Nippon, the international postal show held in Tokyo in 1991.

Figure 21: A nice red handstamp depicting Mr. Claus and some holly created by someone with a Mailer's Postmark Permit used at Santa Claus, Ind., on Christmas Day 1998.

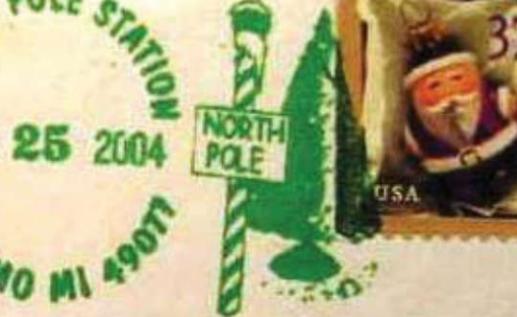


Figure 22.

Figure 23: Last, but not least, another Santa Claus, Ind., pictorial, this one from 2014.

Well, that's it for Santa, and for that matter, 2015. I hope you all had wonderful holidays and I wish all of my fellow ATA members all the very best for 2016! Keep warm...but not too warm (Figure 24)...until next time.

Postscript: Member Tom Pesikey from Wilmington, Del., wrote in to say he enjoyed the article on Automobile pictorials and mentioned he is one of the lucky owners of one of the 252 BMW 507s made! He is an avid automobile topical collector. I also heard from Larry Stotter of Tiburon, Calif, who is enthusiastic about all things transportation. He is looking for information on the vehicles shown on the U.S. Transportation coil series issue that began in 1981, particularly the history of the conveyances portrayed on the stamps. Anyone that could be of help, please email me and I'll get you in contact with one another.

All comments and corrections regarding this column are eagerly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at: gdekornfel@fairpoint.net.

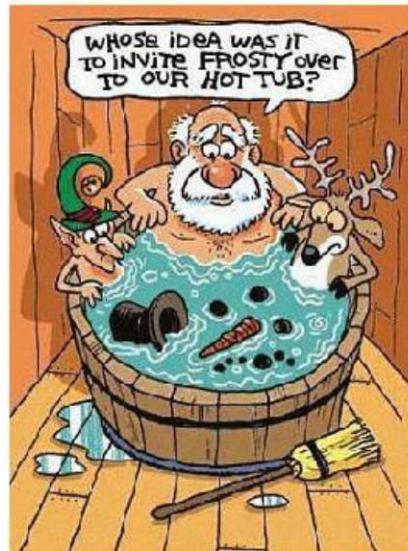


Figure 24.



Editing With Style

Wayne L. Youngblood

The Purpose of this Column's Title

An editor's job is simple: Make everyone's prose read as if it were professionally written, clarify muddy writing and keep a consistent style that runs throughout the publication. It is not a matter of simply flowing in text, correcting a few spelling errors and slapping some pictures in to make a piece pretty.

If you are an editor of a newsletter or journal of any size, your job is to not only make the material you receive fit the available space, but to make it readable as well. No contributor to your publication is exempt from necessary edits to achieve this goal. Indeed, some need more work than others.

Remember, none of us is an objective judge of our own writing. The best writing occurs when an author writes, edits, rewrites, re-edits and then fine-tunes his or her thoughts, then submits the work to an editor for a final polish. Most authors who are not professional writers are not even consistent within their own pieces in terms of style (types of punctuation, word use, expression of dates and more). This is not a criticism, they just do not have trained eyes for inconsistencies.

I have previously written on the strong need to adopt a style for consistency. If you have not yet done this, I urge you to start the new year right! There is no "right" or "wrong" style book (and there are many differences between some), but I choose to use the *Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual*. This volume, designed specifically for publications and periodicals, is clean, consistent, easy to use, applies common sense and is nowhere nearly as ponderous or pretentious as some used by academia. □

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My Topic

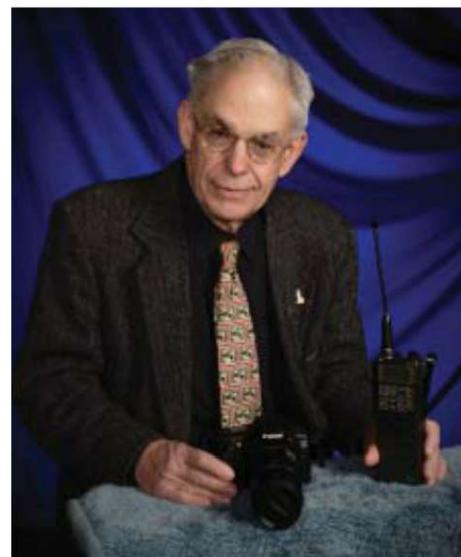
Steve Brandt

Dawn Hamman

This is the 13th in a series of brief vignettes spotlighting interests of some of our fellow ATA members.

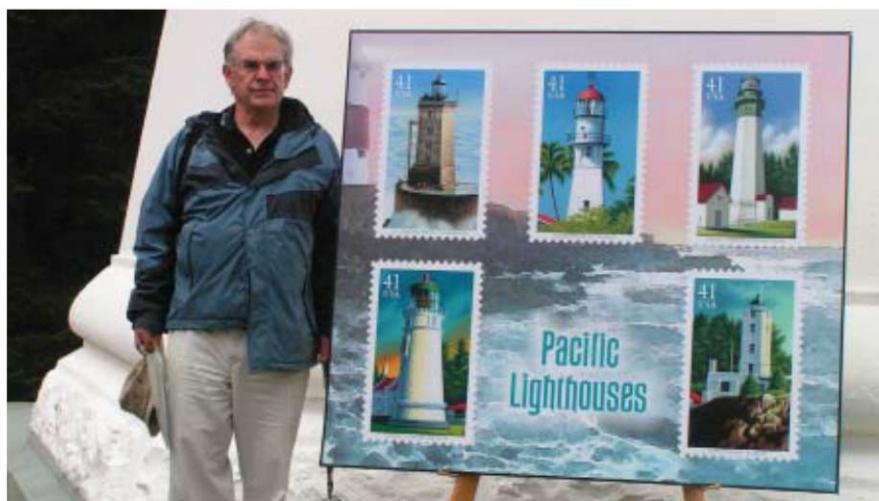
As a child growing up in Southern California, Steve Brandt was delighted the first time he saw a lighthouse, just as he has been every time since. And he has seen a lot of lighthouses!

"The fascination I felt as a child is still there, and I am able to 'visit' lighthouses through my hobbies: photography and stamp collecting," Steve said. An accomplished photographer, he has enjoyed taking photos of lighthouses all along the West Coast, as well as Alaska and in the Midwest and East Coast. If a lighthouse has been pictured on a stamp, he will make a special effort to visit it.



Collecting lighthouse stamps is a popular topic, and Steve has made many friends during his 10 years as a member of the Lighthouse Stamp Society. A Portland resident and retired electronics engineer, he has been active in the Salem (Ore.) and Oregon Stamp Societies, and he serves on the board of the Pipex show.

This busy topical collector is always on the lookout for new stamps featuring lighthouses. "If I haven't already photographed it, there might be a trip in the future," Steve notes. □



Top: Steve's photo of the Umpqua River Lighthouse (built in 1894); above left, the 41¢ stamp; above, Steve at the first-day ceremony for the Pacific Lighthouses issue.

Snoopy on Stamps

by Gary S. Goodman

[Editor's note: Snoopy, of course, is the almost ubiquitous and lovable beagle that is an integral part of Charles M. Schultz's comic world of Peanuts. He made his appearance in the comic strip Oct 4, 1950, just two days after the debut of what would become a near-worldwide phenomenon. The Peanuts Movie was released Nov. 6, 2015. We apologize in advance for the quality of some of the images, for which neither the author nor editor were able to obtain better examples.]

The very first stamps on which Snoopy appeared were from Angola in 1999. The stamp issue was titled "Countdown To The Millennium," and an abundance of

stamp sheetlets appeared. There could be some doubt as to how genuine this stamp issue is, as the country seemed to print this issue like "sticky labels," and I have yet to see these stamps postally



Figure 1.

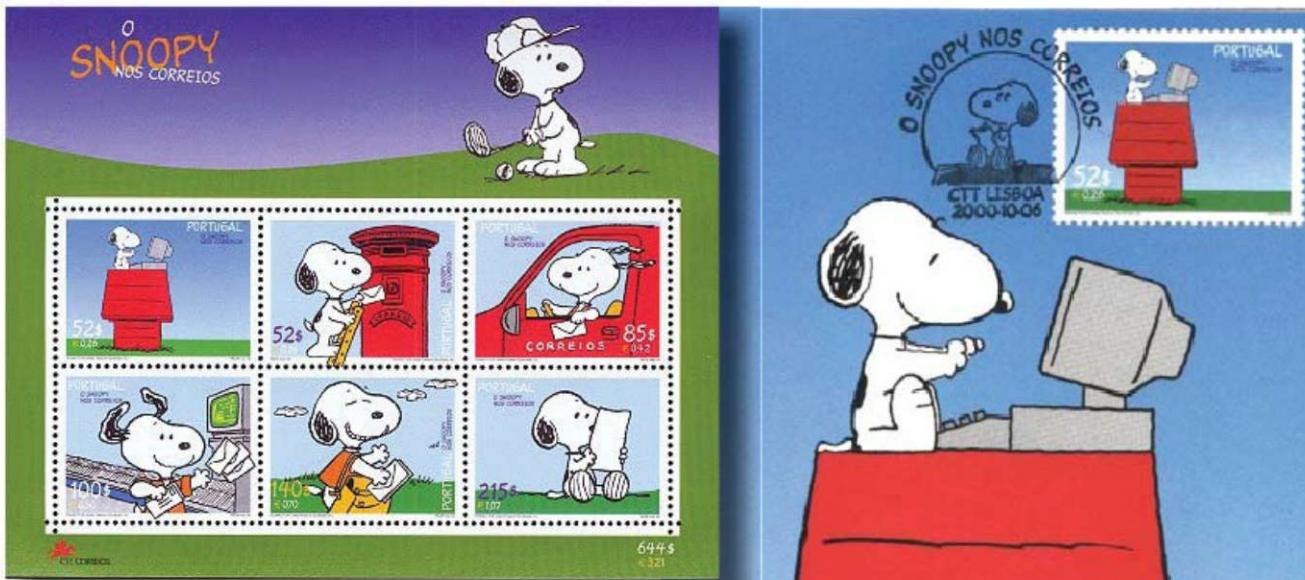
used. But nevertheless, two stamps depict Snoopy and his gang at the cinema (Figure 1).

Portugal was the first "genuine" country to issue stamps, in October 2000, to commemorate the "50th Anniversary of the Peanuts Cartoon Strip."

The stamps show Snoopy And The Mail, and include a colorful set of six stamps, as well as an attractive miniature sheet (Figure 2).

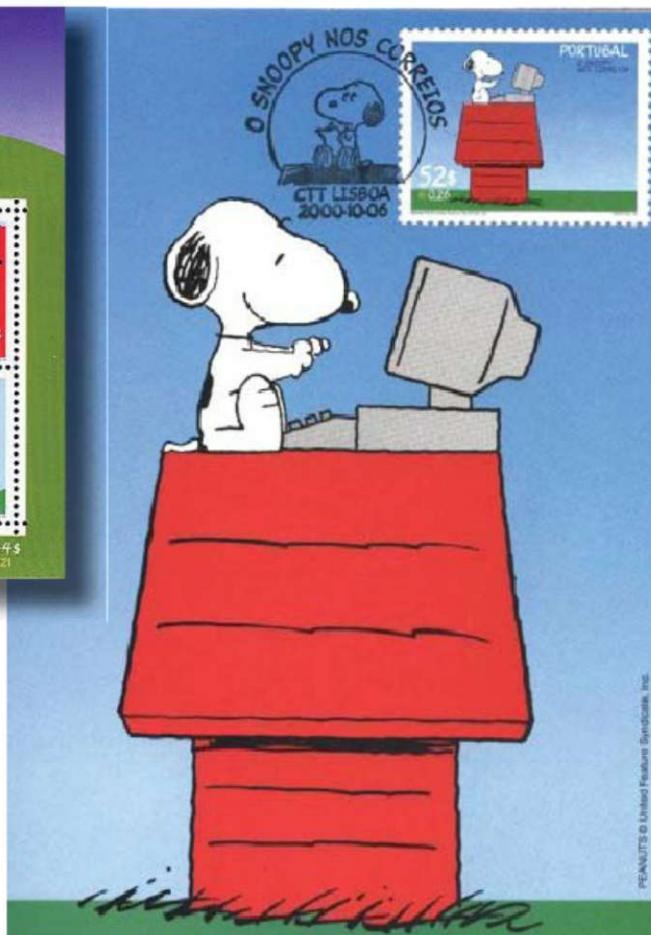


Also, a set of 6 postcards was issued, with an enlarged reproduction of each stamp design on each postcard. Figure 3 shows one of the postcards from the set with the matching stamp, postmarked on the first day of issue. Although created specifically for collectors, these are essentially maximum cards with complete concordance.

**Figure 2 (above).****Figure 3 (right).**

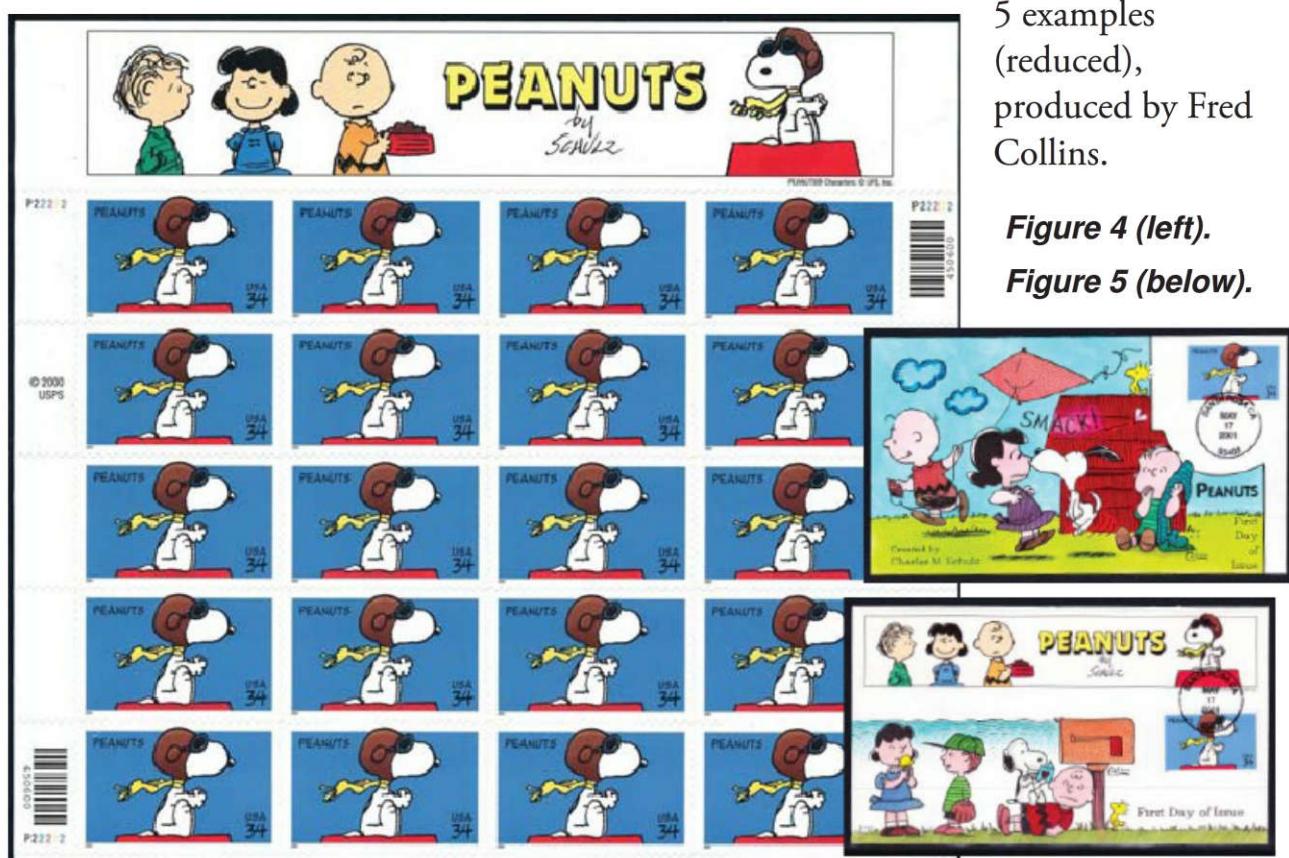
Then, on May 17, 2001, the United States released a self-adhesive stamp (single design, in panes of 20), titled "Peanuts," depicting Snoopy, as a World War I Flying Ace, on top of his house. One of these sheetlets is shown in Figure 4. At the top of the sheetlet (in the margin), Charlie Brown, Lucy and Linus are also depicted.

Many U.S. first day cover/cachet designers produced very attractive covers for this issue, and I have more than 150 in my collection, including the two Figure



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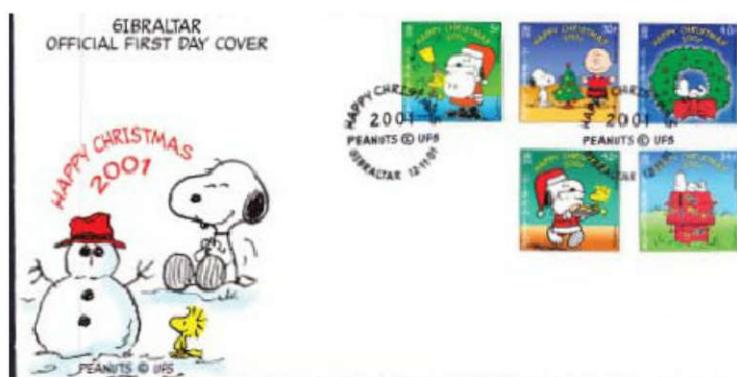
5 examples
(reduced),
produced by Fred
Collins.

Figure 4 (left).**Figure 5 (below).**

PEANUTS © UFS


Figure 6 (above).

Figure 7 (below).



In November 2001, Gibraltar followed suit, with a Christmas issue titled “Happy Christmas 2001,” which depicts Snoopy in various Christmas scenes, although Charlie Brown and Woodstock also appear on some of the stamps.

The five stamps were released both as individual stamps and as a miniature sheet. Figure 6 shows the souvenir sheet.

Also created were rather cute first-day covers of these stamps and miniature sheet, one of which is shown reduced in Figure 7.

A most colorful Peanuts issue was released in March 2002, when the Cayman Islands produced an issue

Figure 8 (below).

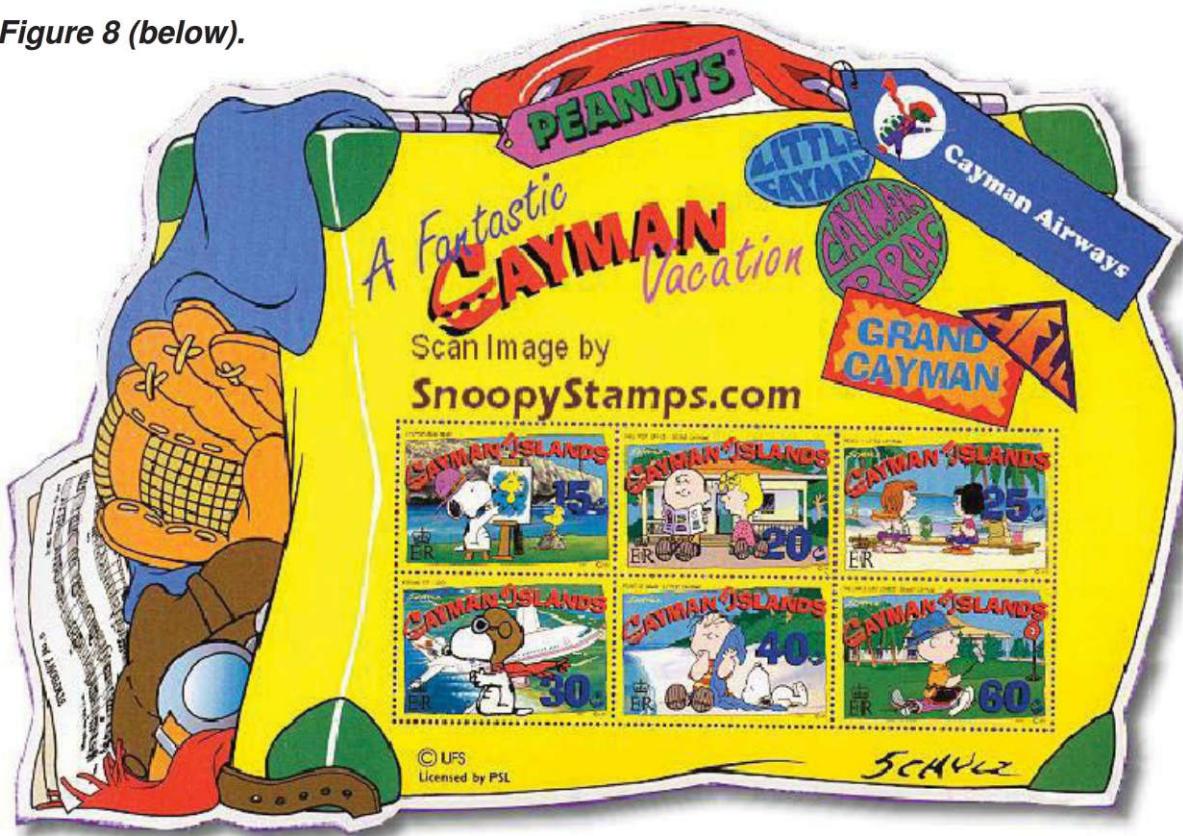




Figure 9. A first-day cover for the 2002 Cayman Islands issue.

titled “Peanuts Cayman Islands Vacation.” The set of six stamps also appeared in a miniature sheet, shown in Figure 8.

Of all the Snoopy stamp issues so far, the first-day cover for these stamps has to be my favorite. An example of that cover is shown in Figure 9.

Gibraltar was the first country to issue a second Snoopy issue. This was in November 2003, titled “Snoopy Christmas 2003 - Joy To The World.” This issue consisted of a single stamp in a miniature sheet, with Snoopy and Gang all singing around the Christmas tree (Figure 10).

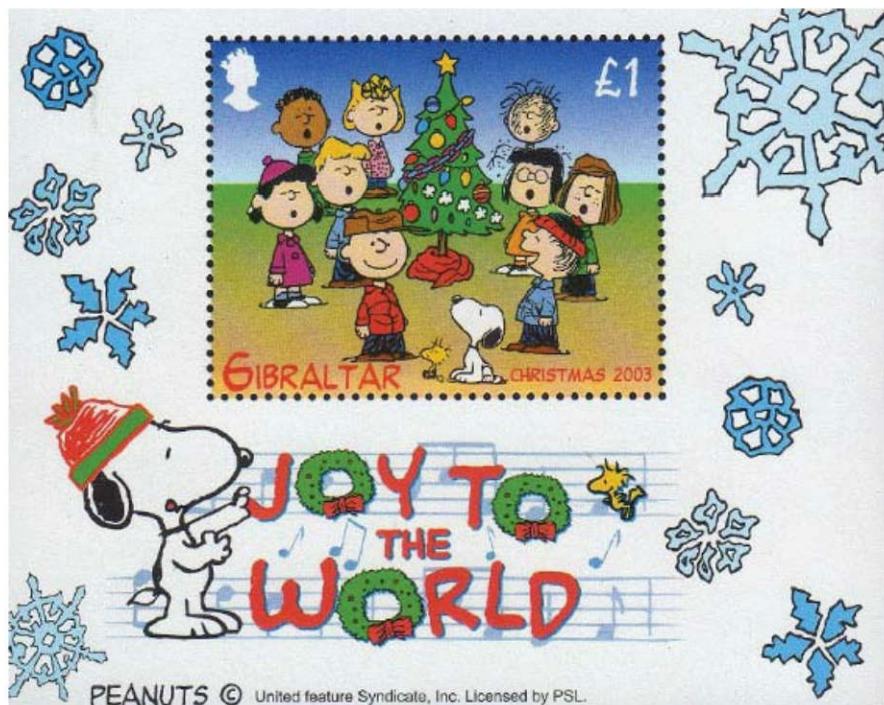
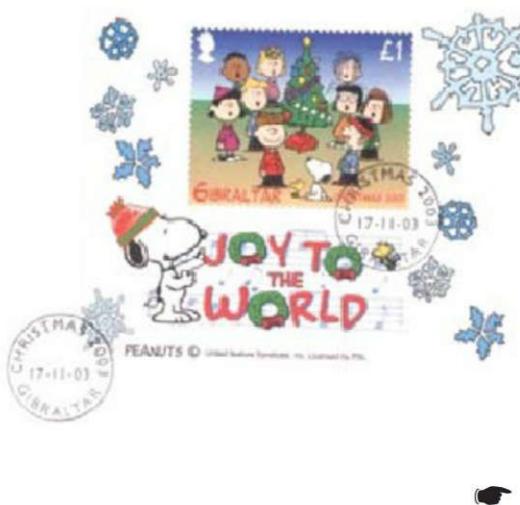
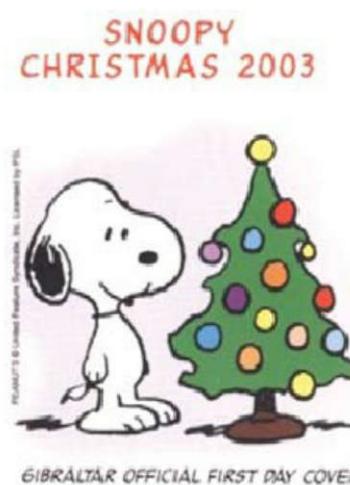
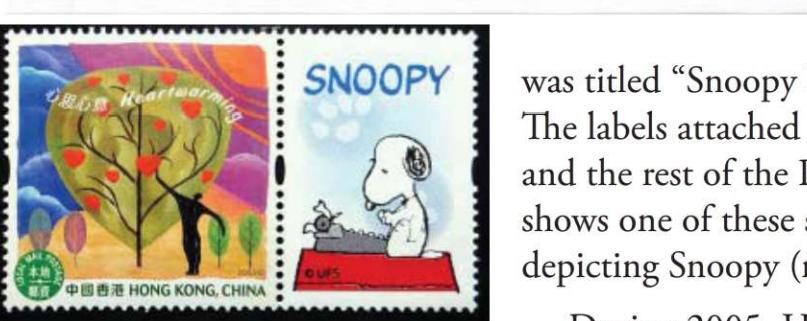
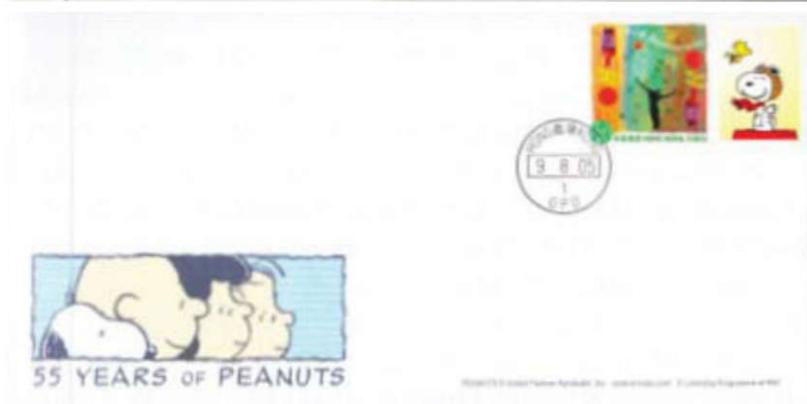


Figure 10 (above).

Figure 11 (below).





of generic stamps with Snoopy-themed labels attached, with an attractive first-day cover (Figure 13, reduced). Incidentally, the same year, Australia also issued a sheet of 10 generic stamps and Snoopy-themed labels attached titled “55 Years Of Snoopy.”

The year 2006 saw Hong Kong issue yet another sheet of generic stamps and labels, titled “Snoopy Philatelic Ambassador 2006.” One of these labels is shown in Figure 14. The basic generic stamp is the same on all three issues.

China also issued a sheetlet of 10 generic stamps in 2006, with Snoopy featured on the labels, titled “Snoopy - Year Of The Beagle.”

In the United States, computer-generated stamps can be obtained via various websites, and the stamps can be used on U.S. mail. In December 2006, www.stamps.com, one of these sites, produced a stamp depicting Snoopy in a Christmas scene (Figure 15). December 2007 also saw Snoopy appear on three

Figure 12 (left).

Figure 13 (center left).

Figure 14 (bottom left).

The first-day cover also depicts Snoopy standing next to a colorful Christmas tree. (Figure 11).

In 2003, Hong Kong issued a sheet of 16 generic stamps “Local Mail” and “Airmail” stamps (not Snoopy related), with the labels attached commemorating the Olympics. The same stamps have been released with other themes. In 2005, a sheet

was titled “Snoopy Philatelic Ambassador 2005.” The labels attached to these stamps depict Snoopy and the rest of the Peanuts characters. Figure 12 shows one of these stamps, on cover, with a label depicting Snoopy (reduced).

During 2005, Hong Kong issued a second sheet



Figure 15.

computer-generated stamps with the Peanuts gang, in various Christmas-themed stamps.

In July 2007, Belgium issued a set of five colorful Peanuts stamps, all featuring Snoopy. A few also included Woodstock (Figure 16).

The next Snoopy-related stamps did not appear until

March 2010.

This next issue is from Japan and is a delightful sheetlet featuring Snoopy and Peanuts characters reading and writing a letter. The sheetlet is illustrated in Figure 17. The first-day covers are attractive as well.

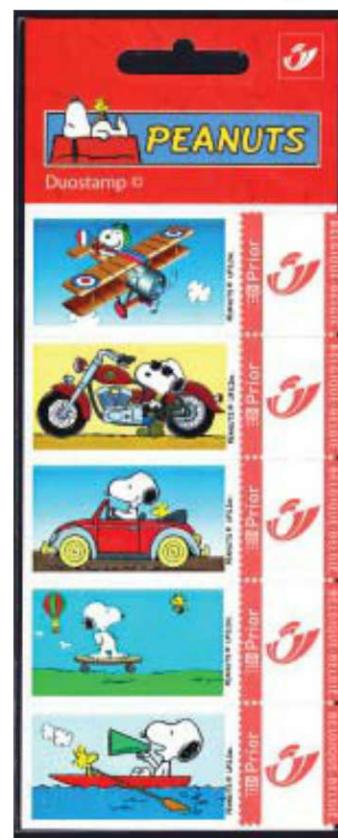


Figure 16.

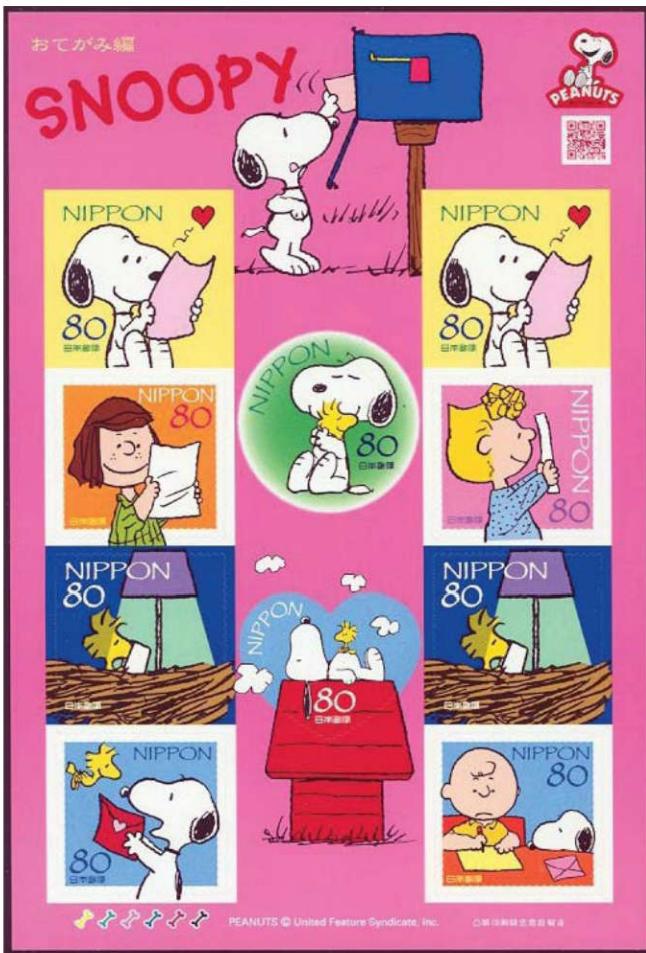


Figure 17.

be purchased. A first-day cover featuring Snoopy's doghouse in the cachet was also created. A sheetlet is illustrated in Figure 18.

Then there was a four-year wait (until August 2014) before the next Snoopy stamps were issued. Those came from Japan, which issued two stamps in sheetlets of 10, titled "Snoopy And Friends."

With 2015 being the 65th anniversary of Peanuts, and the November release of a film, I am sure we will see more Snoopy stamps issued from other countries (hopefully!).

Figure 18.





Figure 19. The 2015 Charlie Brown Christmas stamp issue of the United States.

In late 2015, the United States released its Contemporary Christmas stamps, which feature images from the television classic, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, which debuted 50 years earlier, in 1965. Those stamps are shown in Figure 19. Snoopy appears in three out of 10 of those designs.



Figure 20.

I have compiled a collection of nearly 300 cacheted U.S. first-day covers, all with an illustrated Snoopy theme that has a connection to the stamp issue on cover. Two of these are shown in Figure 20.

Figure 20 shows a 1969 U.S. Space stamp, which has Snoopy portrayed as an Astronaut. The other cover has a 1999 U.S. stamp with the illustration depicting Snoopy playing golf (both shown reduced).

I have been working on these two collections for 15 years.

Finally, the most unique and interesting item in my Snoopy Collection, has to be the Figure 21 cover from Aug. 26, 1952, with a Minneapolis postmark.

The cover has the typed wording in the top-left corner "Cartoonist Of 'Peanuts' Comic Strip," and has a newspaper cutting of a young Charles Schulz pasted onto the envelope. Below is Charles M. Schulz's autograph. I presume the creator of this cover was the addressee on the envelope, a Mrs. P. C. Reim, a very forward-thinking person. When this cover was made, Charles Schulz would have been 29 years of age. His cartoons had started to appear in newspapers, only two years earlier, in 1950.

The place name Minneapolis was very apt, too, as this was the place where Schulz was born Nov. 26, 1922.

Who would have thought that Schulz – at 29 years of age – (when the cover was signed), would become one of the most famous and popular cartoonists ever –

Topical Time
during the next
48 years.

33

There are two items that I am still looking for to complete my collection.

I am looking for a Meter franking machine impression, from 1969, from a U.S. bakery in Wisconsin that

depicts a dancing Snoopy, and the wording "Snoopy For President."

The other item is a U.S. Blue Airmail label from around 1971, which depicts Snoopy as the WWI Flying Ace.

I would be very interested in contacting fellow collectors who also collect Snoopy on stamps. In 15 years of collecting, I have not found anyone else with this interest.
[Editor's Note: The ATA Office keeps records on all ATA members' interests, including Comics. Contacting the ATA Office to help find other collectors with the same interest is always a good idea. There is also a Snoopy checklist offered by the ATA, which will be available free through Feb. 29.]

If you would like more information on collecting Snoopy on stamps, please don't hesitate to contact me at the following email address: garygoodman@talktalk.net. ☐

Gary S. Goodman actively contributed to the ATA's 2015 Free Holiday Checklist featuring the characters of Charles M. Schulz. Dozens of collectors – ATA members and nonmembers – requested the free list. If you would like a copy of the list and didn't request it by the end-of-year deadline, the ATA Office will honor your request until Leap Day, Feb. 29, 2016. Just email american topical@msn.com to receive a PDF copy, or mail a stamped, addressed envelope to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008.

Goodman is also a collector of other thematic subjects on stamps, including ice cream, post offices, sweets/candy and various product brands. His main thematic collection, of course, is Judaica on stamps, and he is the founder of the Judaica Thematic Society, which is a study unit of the ATA. For further details of the society, email: judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net.

What do you collect?

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Figure 21.

Lonely Onlys...

Can You “Top” These Topicals?

Mark Sommer

[Editor’s Note: This is the first installment of several to be presented throughout the year, focusing on unusual or, perhaps, unique topics.]

Okay, so the ATA has completed a database of hundreds of topicals. Fine. You have a master list of items and most of the items you need.

What do you do now? A. Try another topic? Perhaps. B. Give up topical collecting because you have completed your list? (No! This is a trick question.) C. Integrate other topicals to show stamps utilizing the Venn diagram?

If you are looking for a new challenge, how about finding “only topic” on stamps as another category? Let’s explain. Those stamps shown in this month’s column are unique, in that – to the best of my knowledge – they are the only ones displaying the topic they represent.

The challenge? Either find other stamps showing these topics to prove me wrong or point out other potentially unique stamp topics. Don’t just sit there reading, get out those catalogs and start looking! ☺



Left: Gene Simmons, Kiss and Scream.

This 2009 issue from Tristan da Cunha honors Old Year’s Night, a New Year’s Eve tradition when men known as Okalolies wear costumes to scare people. The Okalolie to the far left is wearing makeup that mimics that of rock band Kiss bassist Gene Simmons. Another figure, to the left of center, is wearing a mask made popular by the movie *Scream*. The facial expression is that of the central figure in Edvard Munch’s painting, *The Scream*.



Above (from left): This Åland issue may be the only stamp to show potato chips. Is this 2014 stamp from Austria (fired at 820 degrees celcius) the only porcelain stamp? The little chimney sweep on this 2014 stamp from Slovenia may be the only one of his type.



From left (counter-clockwise): Although several stamps are known that depict olive oil, this one may be the only one that promotes a specific brand. The stamp shown at lower left, released by Austria in 2008 to promote UEFA Euro 2008, may not be the only soccer stamp, but it is the only one created using the same material used to manufacture soccer balls. Saint-Pierre & Miquelon released the stamp below in 2014 and is probably the only issue to show a person blowing soap bubbles.



TopicalsOnLine Offers More Choices

We are pleased to announce that www.TopicalsOnLine.com has many new options for purchasing stamps and other items. Log in and take a look!

The site, as always, offers the option to type in a topic you collect or choose by topic or country from the pull-down screens. If you know the country and Scott number you're looking for, you can search that way too. Click "Apply," and the items for sale will appear.

Now, here are the new options. When you click on "Search Stamps" from the NAVIGATION column on the left, you'll see (on the right side of the screen) a new pull-down option labeled "Material." It offers a choice of items in 25 popular categories:

Single	Event Cover	Postal History
Complete Set	Corner Card	Postal Stationery
Partial Set	Maximum Card	Revenues
Multiple	Cinderella	Books and Literature
Plate Block	Local	Ephemera
Souvenir Sheet	Meter	ATA Collectibles
Booklet	New Issues	Catalogs
Cover	Post Card	
FDC	Post Mark	

The ATA Collectibles section has a nice choice of colorful covers/cachets from various ATA events. Add to your collection, or purchase something for a friend.

TopicalsOnLine is constantly expanding its inventory. Stop back often! ATA members receive a 10% discount, and all sales benefit the ATA. ☺

Study Unit Spotlight

This Month: Chemistry and Physics on Stamps Study Unit

[Editor's Note: This is the 32nd 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 “The Small Bang,” from Philatelia Chimica et Physica, Summer 2014 (Vol. 36, No. 3). 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 (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it to the Topical Time editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]

The Small Bang

By Al Raddi

Firecrackers are small cylinders with explosive powder inside and a fuse attached (Figure 1). They are discharged to make a noise (bang), often during celebrations such as the Chinese New Year and the United States Independence Day (4th of July) (Figures 2 and 3).

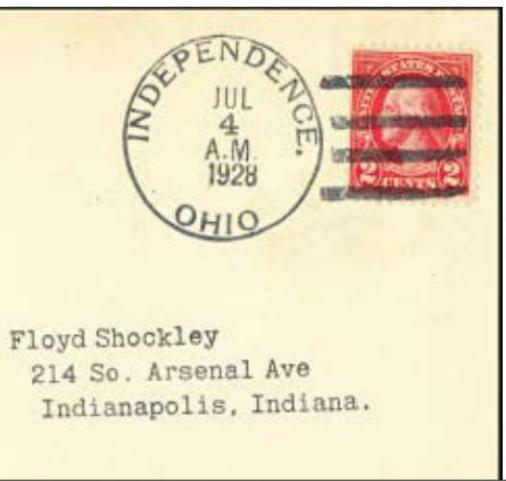


They are discharged to make a noise (bang), often during celebrations such as the Chinese New Year and the United States Independence Day (4th of July) (Figures 2 and 3).

The earliest ancestor of firecrackers was a type of bamboo used in China around 200 BCE that exploded when continuously heated (Figures 4 and 5).

Around 850 CE, a Chinese alchemist trying to create an immortality elixir unexpectedly created gunpowder

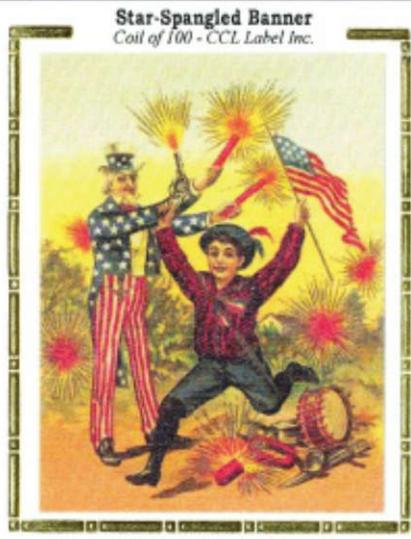
(Figures 6 and 7) – a mixture of 75 parts saltpeter (Figures 8 and 9), 15 parts charcoal (Figures 10 and 11), and 10 parts sulfur (Figures 12 and 13) –



Floyd Shockley
214 So. Arsenal Ave
Indianapolis, Indiana.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Colorado "Silk" Cachet - First Day of Issue

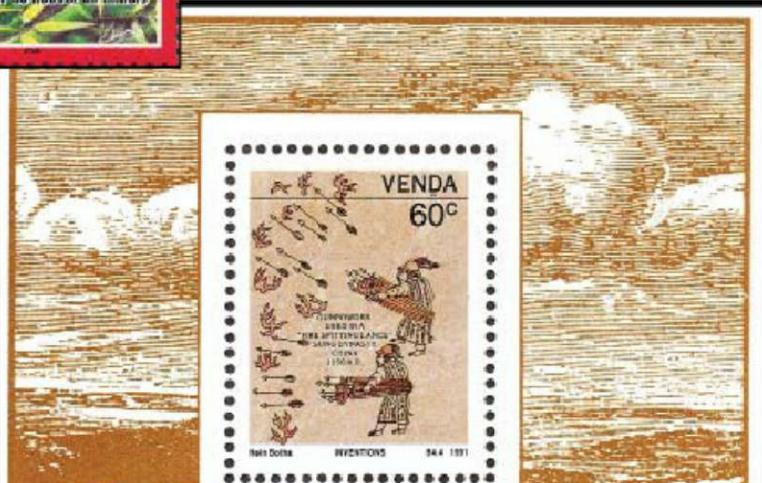
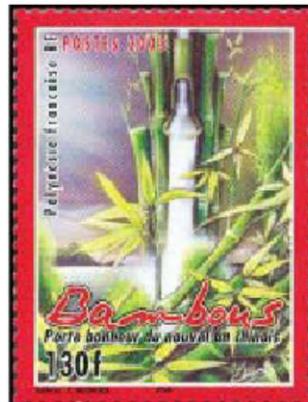
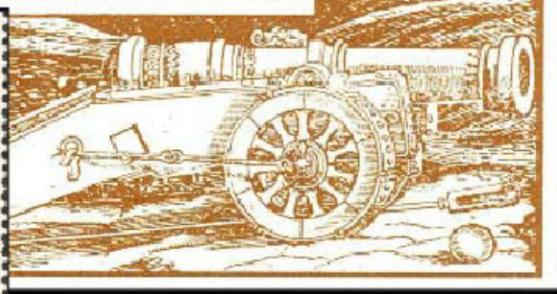
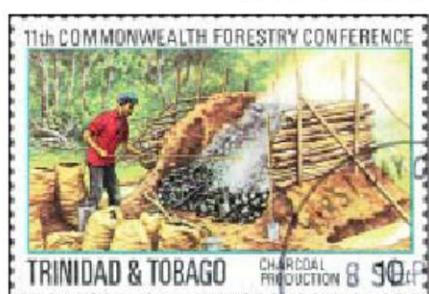
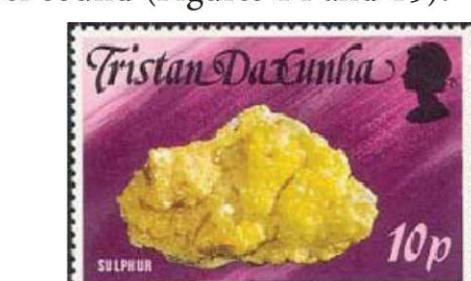
Figure 1 (top).

Figure 2 (center).

Figure 3 (left).

Figure 4 (right).**Figure 5 (far right).**

that exploded with a flash and a bang when exposed to an open flame. Gunpowder firecrackers – gunpowder tightly wrapped in straw

**Figure 6 (above).****Figure 7 (right).****Figure 10 (below).****Figure 11 (bottom).****Figure 12 (right).****Figure 13 (far right).****Figure 8 (far left).****Figure 9 (left).**

paper with a bamboo fuse – quickly followed. Though they didn't lengthen life, firecrackers were thought to improve the quality of

life by scaring away evil spirits.

Modern firecrackers (flashlight firecrackers) use flash powder – a combination of a metallic fuel and an oxidizer – instead of gunpowder. They produce a brighter flash and a sharper sound (Figures 14 and 15).



Figures 14 (far left) and 15 (left).

However, legal consumer fire-crackers are only about 1½”

long and are limited to a maximum of 50 milligrams of flash powder. So, it's a small bang – no matter what the package labels would have you believe (Figures 16-18).

Acknowledgement

My gratitude to Manfred Sander for commenting on a draft of this article. □

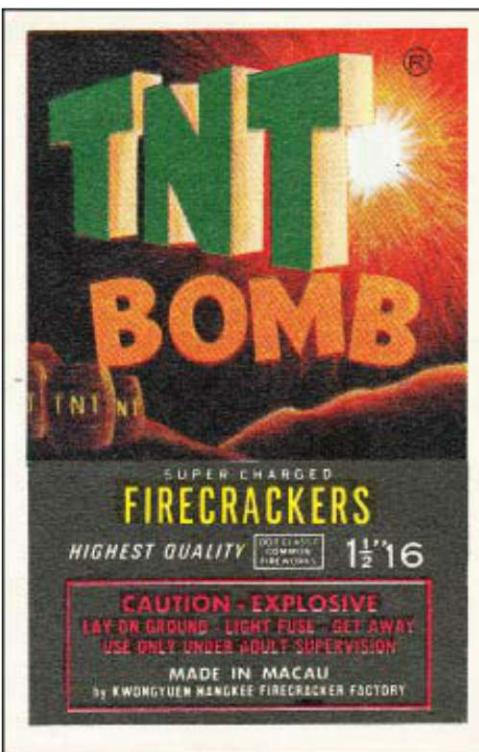
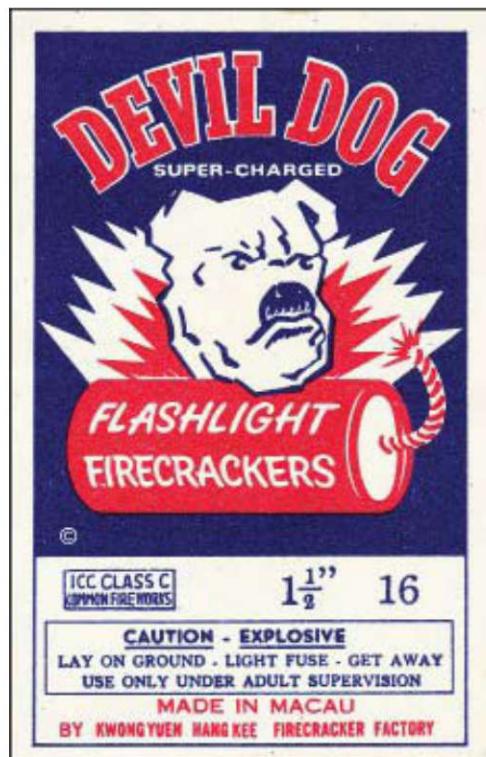


Figure 16. Three firecracker labels.

Chemistry & Physics on Stamps Study Unit

The Chemistry & Physics on Stamps Study Unit was founded in 1979, as was its journal, *Philatelia Chimica*, which was started by Richard Gratton as a graduate student at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In 1979, CPOSSU became an ATA Study Unit, and by 1982 also became an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. The quarterly *Philatelia Chimica et Physica* is a very strong benefit of membership, which currently runs \$20 in the United States, \$27 in Canada and \$40 elsewhere. For more information, write to Roland Hirsch, 20458 Waters Point Ln, Germantown MD 20874-1091, email: michael@cpossu.org or visit the website at: www.cpossu.org.



Frederic Chopin

Barry Floyd

An attractive topic for collectors is the portrayal of distinguished classical composers on commemorative stamps.

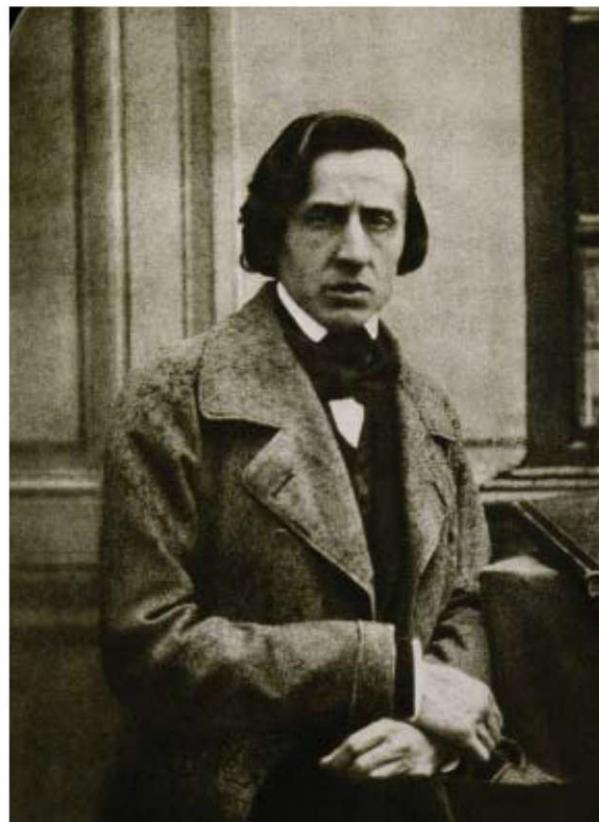
From Brahms and Beethoven to Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Wagner, many stamp issues have appeared over the years featuring world-renowned musicians and their music. When looking at the philatelic imagery of these creative composers, it is tempting to learn about their lives which were sometimes successful and fulfilling, but at other times disheartening or even tragic.

An example of the topic may be drawn from stamps honoring Frederic Francois Chopin, a Polish-born composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic era of classical music (Figure 1).

Frederic Chopin was born in the

Duchy of Warsaw, Poland, in 1810 and died in Paris at the young age of 39 in 1849. An infant prodigy, he played the piano in public when seven, and composed pieces at the age of nine. Following lessons at the Warsaw Conservatoire, his advanced compositions began to appear regularly. He had a highly individual style of keyboard writing, strongly influenced by Polish folk music, particularly the mazurkas and polonaises. His playing was incomparable, remarkable for its creativity, intensity and ability to show off his outstanding talents.

From 1825-31 Chopin traveled widely around Europe, appearing on concert platforms in many major cities. Then, in 1831 at the age of 21, he settled permanently in Paris. Here he performed concerts, gave piano lessons and met other inspirational composers such as Liszt, Mendelssohn, Berlioz and Bellini. Chopin became



Frederic Chopin, 1810-49.

Figure 1. Romania Scott 1348, Stanley Gibbons 2768, which was released in 1960 (top left). Also shown is the Eugene Delacroix portrait upon which the stamp design was based (cropped, left).

a French citizen in 1835. It was in Paris in 1837 that he met the notorious Madame Dudevant, a novelist better known as George Sand. Their often stormy relationship was to last for some 10 years.

With Chopin in poor health (likely tuberculosis), his doctor recommended a warmer climate and, in 1838, Chopin and Sand moved to Mallorca, one of the Spanish Balearic Islands, where they took up residence in Valldemossa Monastery (Figure 2).

However, living in frugal surroundings and with Sand complaining of the island's culture and its unfriendly people, they returned to Paris after just a year in the Mediterranean. Yet the time spent in Valldemossa proved very productive for Chopin, enabling him to write numerous piano works, including the etudes, impromptus, nocturnes, preludes, scherzos, sonatas and waltzes. These innovations in style, harmony and musical form were influential throughout and after the late Romantic period.

Back in Paris, while continuing to suffer from poor health and fighting with his mistress, Chopin produced further works and pursued master classes



VALDEMOSA
Mallorca



Figure 2. Chopin's Valldemossa Monastery in Spain (top) and his piano room (above).



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in piano playing. In his last years, he was supported financially by a female admirer who, in 1848, arranged for him to visit England and Scotland on a concert tour. But tuberculosis was now taking hold and some planned musical events, unfortunately, had to be canceled. In 1849, Chopin returned to Paris, exhausted and distressed by his continuing illness.



Figure 3. Chopin at age 39, as depicted on Russia Scott 2406, Gibbons 2517.

stamps feature a side view of the composer when he was probably at the height of his musical creativity. It is based on a portrait by Eugene Delacroix.

Since 1927, an annual International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition has been held in Warsaw, honoring the memory of the great Polish-born composer and open to virtuoso piano players from around the world. The 1980 Polish stamp commemorating this event, shown in Figure 4, features a small profile of Chopin set above trees, symbolic of the many branches of musical art form which can be played out upon the versatile piano.

I trust this brief review of the life and times of Frederic Chopin, as reflected in the commemorative stamps honoring his life, will encourage other collectors to follow suit and to seek numerous philatelic items available marking the contributions of other classical musicians to their special profession. And, for those collectors already dedicated to studying composers on stamps, they will no doubt agree that learning about the life stories of famous musicians is a truly rewarding aspect of our hobby. A whole world of classical music awaits us! □



Figure 4. Poland Scott 2418, Gibbons 2704.

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.

Shiprock, N.M., and the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Stamp

Thomas Lera

There is something intriguing about the visual simplicity – yet background complexity – of the images on postage stamps. In a finite space they can convey a story involving art, politics, economics, technology, famous people, as well as buildings, landmarks and more, each with its own history. Stamps also represent the labor of numerous craftsmen, each of whom left their mark, and transcend national boundaries, ethical and social classes.



Figure 1. Mrs. C.W. Via's proposed stamp designs. These essays have not previously been seen by the public or previously published.

Stamps are beautiful in themselves, but they take on even more interest when we learn the history behind them. These miniature works of art, created by some of the best artists and engravers, constitute a visual portrait of who we are, what we value and what we have accomplished. This is the story behind the New Mexico Statehood stamp issued in 1962 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of statehood.

The four-year journey from concept to stamp began Jan. 16, 1958, when Governor Edwin Mechem wrote to Postmaster General (PMG) Arthur E. Summerfield, requesting the release of a commemorative stamp celebrating New Mexico's 50 years of statehood. L. Rohe Walter, Special Assistant to the PMG, wrote back, saying the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee would review the proposal in mid-1961 when the committee would meet to determine the stamps to be issued in 1962.¹

New Mexico State Senator Fabian Chavez Jr., excited about the possibility of a New Mexico commemorative stamp, authored Senate Joint Memorial No. 1. Endorsed by Tom Bolack, President of the New Mexico Senate; Jack M. Campbell, Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives; and Governor Mechem,



Figure 2. Unaccepted stamp designs prepared by Bureau of Engraving and Printing artists for the 1962 issue. The top example is closest to the issued version.²

the memorial requested that President John F. Kennedy and the newly appointed PMG J. Edward Day issue a commemorative stamp. He sent a copy of the Memorial to U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez who, in turn, forwarded it to PMG Day.

Three years later, on Sept. 29, 1961, Acting PMG H.W. Brawley informed Governor Mechem, Senator Dennis Chavez and Congressmen Joseph M. Montoya and Thomas G. Morris, the recommendation of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee had been accepted for a New Mexico 50th anniversary commemorative stamp to be issued in Santa Fe in 1962.

Governor Mechem immediately formed an Anniversary Commission to plan for the ceremony and review stamp designs. Meanwhile, Congressman Morris submitted several design proposals for consideration, including three from Mrs.



Figure 3. New Mexico Statehood stamp designed by Robert J. Jones, engraved by Richard M. Bower and Howard F. Sharpless, Bureau of Engraving and Printing.³ (Courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum).

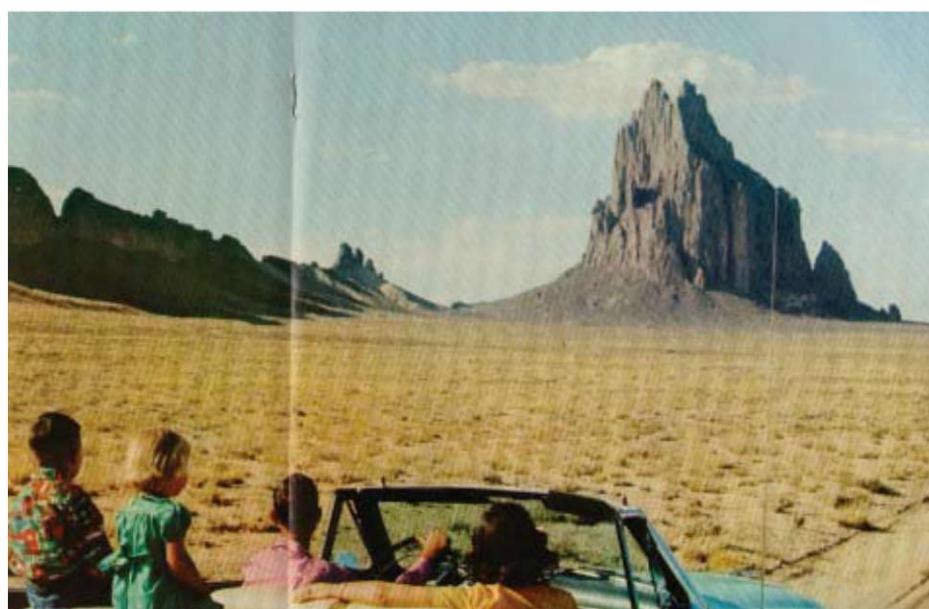


Figure 4. The original photo of Shiprock used for the stamp design originally appeared in the July 1956 issue of New Mexico Magazine.

or Ship Rock derives from the peak's resemblance to an enormous 19th-century clipper ship, created in part by the dikes, or wall-like sheets of lava that radiate away from the central neck. At least two of the six dikes are visible on the stamp.

Shiprock has long been a point of interest for photographers. It was featured in several film productions and novels, first appearing on the silver screen in the 1941 Western film, *Sundown*. Its most recent appearances, in the summer of 2013, were in *The Lone Ranger*, a Western remake starring Johnny Depp, and the sci-fi movie *The Host*.

However, Shiprock has deep spiritual significance to the Navajo Nation. It was named for a mythological bird that transported their ancestors to the northwestern part of the state as they fled from a war-like tribe. The Shamans prayed for help and the ground beneath them rose up and formed an enormous bird known by the Navajos as Tse Bitai, or "the winged rock." Legends say the bird flew day and night finally landing where Shiprock now stands.

C.W. Via of Santa Fe (Figure 1), seen here for the first time.

Preliminary designs (Figure 2) were prepared by several artists from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. While these images have been in the Postmaster General's Collection for more than 50 years, this is the first time they have been made public.

The final stamp design (Figure 3), adapted from a photo of Shiprock in the July 1956 issue of *New Mexico Magazine* (Figure 4), was approved Oct. 20 by PMG Day and issued on Jan. 5, 1962, Statehood

Day.

Although the U.S. Post Office Department listed Shiprock as a mesa in all of its public relations information, it is actually a volcanic core, or neck. Located in northwestern New Mexico, Shiprock is the remnant of a volcanic eruption that occurred some 30 million years ago. The name "Shiprock"

The New Mexico Golden Anniversary Commission recommended the Seal of New Mexico be used for the pictorial "First Day of Issue" cancellation (Figure 5), which the Post Office Department gladly accepted.



Figure 5. Final Design of the first-day cancellation.

On Jan. 6, 1962, in blustery 30-degree weather, more than 100 people participated in a brief ceremony held at the Santa Fe Plaza, where a platform had been erected directly in front of the Palace of the Governors. Congressman Montoya and State Senator Chavez were present, as was Harold M. Jinks, Director of Postmasters and Rural Appointments, Bureau of Operations, who introduced the New Mexico Statehood Commemorative Stamp.

Mr. Jinks said in his remarks, *"Fifty years is but a fleeting moment in the passage of history. Five decades ago, New Mexico became the 47th state. Santa Fe, the state capital, is the oldest seat of government in the United States, founded by Spaniards in 1610. In 1912 there was one first class post office within the state boundaries. Today there are 27, among the 404 post offices of all classes located in the state."*⁴

Through the medium of the mail, 100 million of these stamps communicated to Americans, as well as citizens of distant lands, that 50 years ago the United States acquired a promising and progressive new state – the State of New Mexico.⁵ □

Footnotes:

1. **Third Assistant Postmaster General's Files - Folder 1191, Smithsonian National Postal Museum.** The letters and resolutions referenced can be found in this folder along with Figures 1 and 5.
2. **Postmaster General's Collection – Record ID PMG.12.72.* unaccepted design images as shown in Figure 2.**
3. **Source of original photograph of "Shiprock" from New Mexico Magazine, Vol. 34, July 1956, No. 67: 36-37.**
4. **Post Office Department, Washington 25, D.C. Information Service Philatelic Release No. 1 Jan. 6, 1962.**
5. **All of the referenced material is available for viewing at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, www.postalmuseum.si.edu.**

Thomas Lera's first book, *Bats in Philately*, was published by ATA in 1995. Cave Post Offices was published in 2011. Recently retired emeritus from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum as Winton M. Blount Research Chair, he has written more than 100 philatelic articles published in leading journals, including *The London Philatelist*, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, *The American Philatelist*, *The Confederate Philatelist* and four Congress Books. He is a national philatelic judge and a member of several philatelic societies including the ATA and the Royal Philatelic Society, London.



CINDERELLA CORNER

Arthur H. Grotel

Harps

I recently met a wonderful young harpist in New York City, Bridget Kibey. If you love harp music, she is terrific and has her own website.



Figure 1 (above), stamp enlarged below.

have come up with some nice items related to harps, not the world's easiest topic.

There are many instruments called harps. Some are not harps, but are more closely related to lyres and zithers. The two basic modern types of true harps are Celtic harp, also used in Wales, and the familiar standing harp with pedal action. The former is, as they name implies, primarily associated with Ireland and may be found on her stamps, postal

Fi
Fi
bey. She is not a collector but I gave her a few Cinderellas and she loves them ... has them out on her living room table. Needless to say, I thought, aha, here's a potential new enthusiast. In my search, I



Figure 2.

lyres and zithers. The two basic modern types of true harps are Celtic harp, also used in Wales, and the familiar standing harp with pedal action. The former is, as they name implies, primarily associated with Ireland and may be found on her stamps, postal

Figure 3.



stationery and patriotic Cinderellas. I'll talk about them some other time.

True harps have a more-or-less triangular shape with strings attached top and bottom. The modern standing harp derived from the so-called Egyptian harp of a type that became popular in Europe in mediaeval times. Figure 1 one shows a very early form while Figure 2 illustrates one from around 1600. Each string could play only one note.

The addition of pedals permitted more chromatic notes to be played; note the pedals at the base of the harp on this advertising postal card from the 1880s (Figure 3). Being a particularly beautiful instrument, harps are often used to celebrate musical events such as Music Week in Lucerne in 1941 (Figure 4) and the 25th anniversary of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (Figure 5).

Many harps were manufactured by companies that also made pianos. The finest U.S. maker is Lyon & Healy, celebrating its 75th year in business in 1939

(Figure 6). An interesting example of image plagiarism can be seen in the poster stamps issued by Lichtenstein Pianos (Figure 7) and Perzina Pianos. (Figure 8) I suspect the colored image came first. The woman sitting by the sea exemplifies the tranquility associated with harp music. □

Figure 7 (far left).

Figure 8 (left).



Figure 4 (above).

Figure 6 (below).

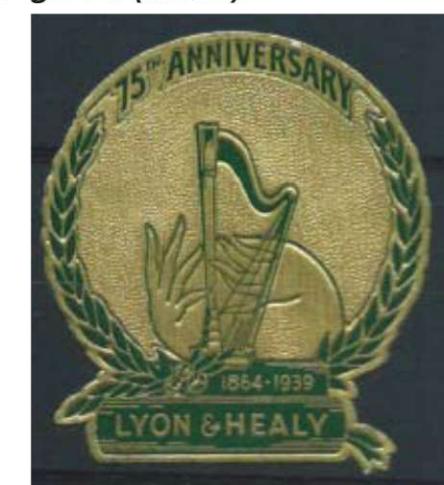


Figure 5.



Arthur H. Grotin, longtime cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA, or by email: agrotin43@icloud.com.

Covers That Have Flown and Some Stories to go With Them

by Ray E. Cartier

Many air and space covers have interesting stories behind them and that is what often makes cover exhibits a little wordy, but when there is a story, it should be told. In chronological order this article starts with a cover (Figure 1) that was flown by balloon during the Siege of Paris. (Sept. 19, 1870-Jan. 28, 1871). The Prussian army

laid siege to Paris and this is where, according to my research, airmail first took hold.

There were only two balloons in Paris at the time that the city was encircled.

The use of

balloons to carry mail was first proposed by the photographer and balloonist Felix Nadar, the same man who gave Jules Verne his first balloon flight. Victor Hugo was a city official who was in Paris throughout the siege. Letters and passengers were placed on balloons that flew out of the city. The Vaugirard Balloon Factory, located in Paris, built 64 more balloons during the siege, all of which were used, including one that accidentally set a world distance record by ending up in Norway. The cargo on the first trip included more than 175 pounds of letters, as well as a few carrier

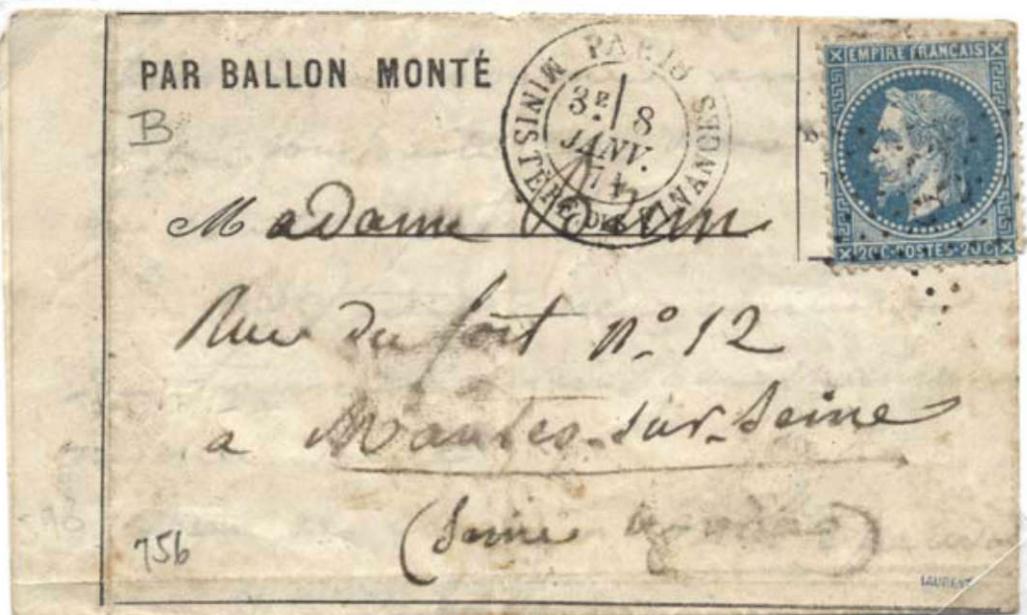


Figure 2.

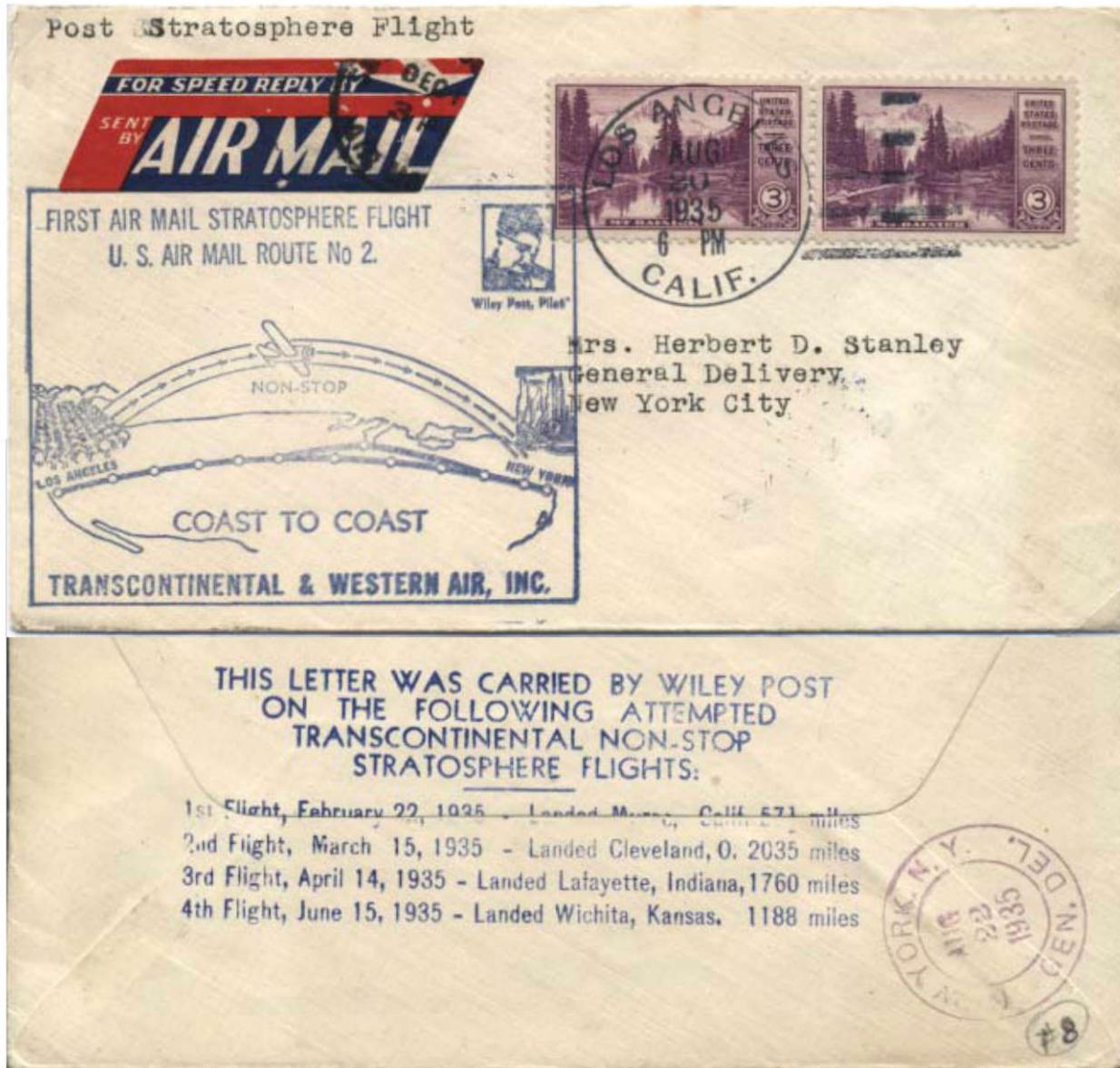


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**Figure 2.**

pigeons to deliver return mail to Paris. For postage, 20-centime stamps were used and canceled with a series of dots called the Paris Star cancel. The Figure 1 cover was flown on the balloon, *Le Duquesne*, on Jan. 9, 1871.

Next, people who were already known for their flying skills received a lot of mail to be carried by them as world records were being set. Among those pilots were Charles Lindbergh and Wiley Post. The Figure 2 Wiley Post cover (shown front and back) was carried on the first coast-to-coast stratospheric flight on Contract Air Mail (CAM) Route 2. It was also flown on four preceding attempts, all of which had come up short.

A cover flown on Foreign Air Mail (FAM) Route 14 is shown next, in Figure 3. This cover, flown on the first flight of

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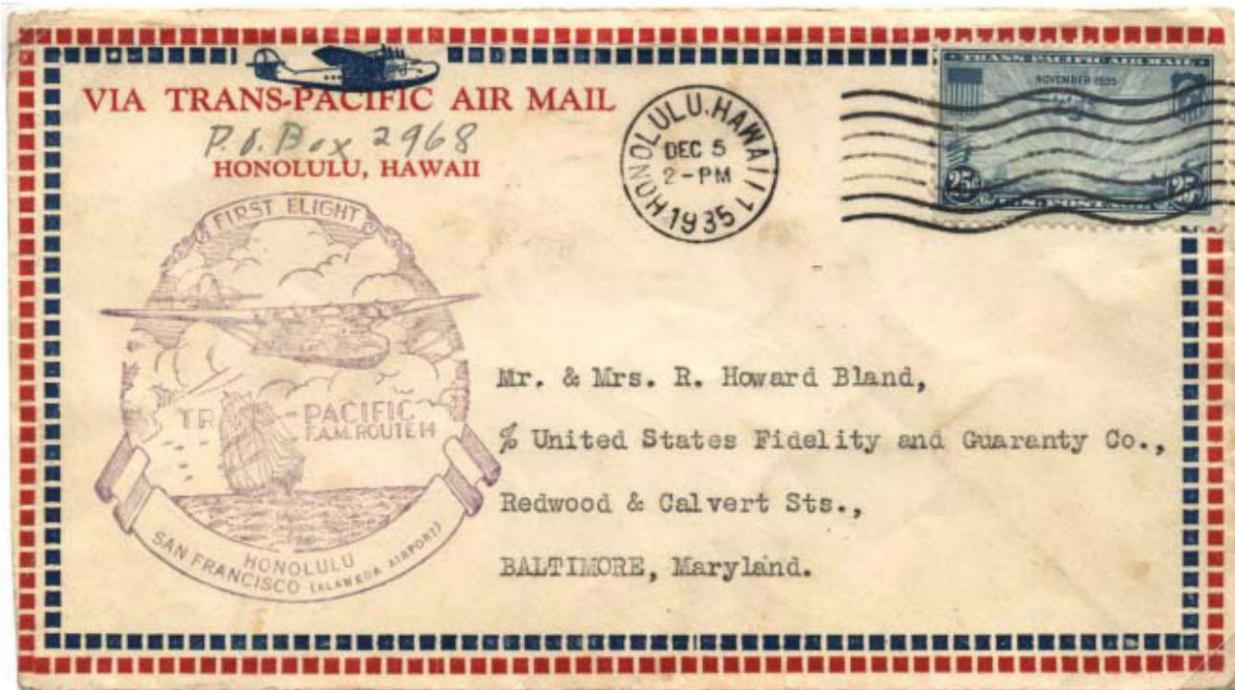


Figure 3.

the Pan-Am Clipper from Hawaii to San Francisco, opened the door to passengers to fly to and from exotic locations in the Pacific and Asia. The types of vehicles that carried mail go beyond the pilots and the routes.

The first model Rocket Plane in the United States was flown by a group of hobbyists including Willey Ley, who signed the flown cover shown in Figure 4. It was claimed to be the first interstate rocket mail, but it flew only a few yards and then slid across an ice-covered lake from New York into New Jersey. There were two flights that day and both failed to fly as hoped. The second Rocket Plane's covers had an orange label instead of the green one shown here. Then, of course, a *Graf Zeppelin*



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

cover (Figure 5), flown from Frankfurt to New York City, earns a place among the many other covers that have flown. This one bears a socked-on-the-nose Frankfurt cancel, along with a "T," which is used in many countries to indicate "Postage Due." A receiving cancel in New York City is adjacent to a 10¢ due rubber stamp. This



Figure 6.

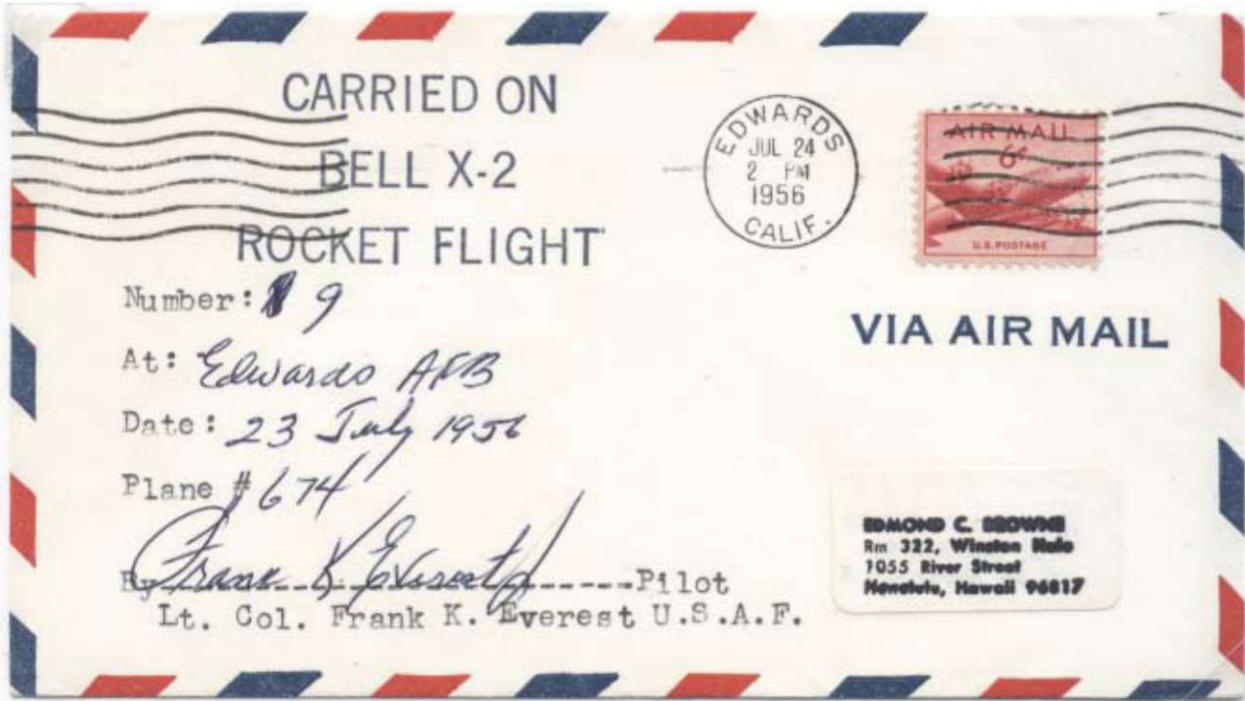


Figure 7.

type is known as an “Opera Glass” marking. “Zeppelin Post” is written in cursive at the top of the cover.

In 1943, the Japanese flew more than 9,000 balloons carrying incendiary devices across the Pacific, hoping to set the American West on fire. More than 3,600 of them touched down in the United States, Canada and even Mexico, but no major fires were sparked, although the only Americans to die in the 48 United States were a woman and her four children who were picnicking in the forest in Oregon and found an unexploded device, which then blew up. In 1943, due to these balloons, the United States placed a ban on flying balloons within the country.

In 1947, when the military was emptying old warehouses, Don Piccard, son of Jean and Jeanette Piccard, the first people to travel into the stratosphere in North America, asked if he could have one of the FUGO balloons for a single flight. It



Figure 8.



Figure 9.

was given to him and he affixed a gondola to it and flew 100 covers in this, the first balloon to fly in the United States after World War II. One of these covers is shown in Figure 6. Later, Don Piccard initiated balloon contests for altitude, speed and distance in the United States and is sometimes called the father of U.S. ballooning.

The United States started testing real rocket planes at Muroc, Calif., now Edwards Air Force Base, in the mid-1940s. The early Bell X-1A and D-558 rocket planes were top secret and no covers exist for them, but Lt. Col Frank Everest flew nine or 10 covers on each of six different flights of the Bell X-2. The one shown in Figure 7 was on a flight that set a world speed record – at that time – of 1,900 miles per hour at 68,205 feet.

The first flight of the Boeing 707 jet airliner, which would open stratospheric flights to anyone who could afford airfare, took place from the Boeing plant in Seattle, Wash. (Figure 8). Although many call this a "first flight," those of us who collect covers from the first time that a new aircraft's wheels leave the ground, call this a "Maiden Flight." The term "first flight" is used by collectors who seek covers flown from city A to city B for the first time when new routes are established or when propeller flights on those routes became jet flights.

Although U.S. military pilots are told to not carry covers, the test pilots at the manufacturing plants don't necessarily have to comply. When the maiden flight of the B-58 Hustler jet bomber took place in 1956, there were 15 covers on board. One of these is shown in Figure 9. The entire crew of three signed this historic cover. The small, world-speed-record-breaking jet bomber replaced the post-WWII gigantic B-36 Peacekeepers with their six push-propellers, and it also carried nuclear weapons. John Denver's father, Maj. Henry Deutchendorf, once broke six world records in a single day, flying a B-58.

One day before Alan Shepard became America's first space farer (Figure 10), two Naval officers donned the Mercury Mark IV space suits on the deck of the USS



Figure 10.

Antietam in the Gulf of Mexico. A giant balloon was inflated to its capacity of 10 million cubic feet and this Strato-Lab High No. 5 balloon carried the two men to a new world altitude record of 113,000 feet, breaking a record that had held for 21 years. As they floated back down, Commander Malcolm Ross, USNR, and Lt. Com-

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Figure 11.

mander Victor Prather, USN, opened their visors at 7,000 feet. They signed covers, including the Figure 10 example, during their long descent. Once they splashed down, they each had a cigarette as the helicopter from the *Antietam* flew out to retrieve them. Ross grabbed the cable and stepped on the hook and slipped, but he caught himself and was winched up. Next, Prather grabbed the cable and stepped on the hook. He too, slipped, but he didn't have the cable well in hand and he fell into the Gulf. His suit quickly filled up with water and he sank and drowned before the men aboard the helicopter could jump in and save him. As a result, the manufacturer added a wide rubber neck piece to the inside of the suit. Three months later, when Gus Grissom, our second astronaut, splashed down and his hatch blew open, he found himself in the water. But the rubber collar saved his life and very possibly kept us from a long delay that could have allowed the Soviets to beat us to the moon.

The next cover, Figure 11, was actually flown to the moon on *Apollo 15*. Although the three astronauts had listed the covers that they were taking in their personal preference kits, and those lists were approved, upper management at NASA did not know about them until they were told that a German dealer had some for sale. NASA confiscated all of the unsold covers and reprimanded the crew. The crew knew that they would not fly again and sued NASA. They won, and that is why this cover is able to be shown.



Figure 12.

A Russian cover flown to the Soviet space station *Salyut 6* aboard the *Soyuz 28* capsule is one that I obtained from Cosmonaut Georgi Grechko (Figure 12). He wrote on the flap, in Russian (translated): “*The Board Cancellations on this envelope were applied by me, the first official postmaster of this postal department on board the Soyuz 27, Salyut 6 – Soyuz 28. 8.3.78 (March 8, 1978).*”

The cover is signed by Grechko and his crewmate, Yuri Romanenko, as well as

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Figure 13 (above).

Figure 14 (right).

the two cosmonauts from *Soyuz 27* who were preparing to return to Earth. Grechko also related to several in a group of Space Unit members, when we were able to get him to visit us at a member's home the week after the "wall" fell, that he was tasked to calculate the amount of fuel necessary to put *Sputnik 1* in orbit when he worked under Korolev, the Soviet equivalent to Wernher von Braun.

Only once did the United States ever fly covers on the Space Shuttle and there were about 200,000 of them. On the front there were three hub postmarks. The top reads "Launched Aboard Challenger – Aug. 30, 1983." The next hub reads "Kennedy Space Center, FL 32815 – August 14 1983," and is followed with the text "Space Mail." These covers (Figure 13) were orbited via STS-8. The third hub reads, "Returned to Earth – Edwards AFB, CA Sep 5, 1983." This third hub also appears on the obverse of the envelope. However, the flown cover shown in my exhibit errs in that it lacks this back stamp (Figure 14).

The Chinese cover shown in Figure 15 looks similar to most of the other well-illustrated space covers that the Chinese government produces. But on the back of the cover, written in both Chinese and English, there is a paragraph that reads, in part: "To commemorate this flight, China National Philatelic Corporation issued 3,999 covers with significant commemorative values, to be piggybacked on board the spaceship." With more than a million active collectors in China, very few of these covers have fallen into U.S. hands.



**Figure 15.**

Finally, Dick Rutan, with Jeana Yeager, flew around the world without refueling in an aircraft that was designed by his brother Burt, flew a few covers (Figure 16) on an early flight of the first commercial rocket plane – *EZ-Rocket N132EZ*. The plane set a world record flight, distance to point, from Mojave, Calif., to California City, Calif. As Dick signed this cover for me, he quipped, “It was also the shortest World Record flight on the books.” ☺



Photo: Creative Commons

Flown on board EZ-Rocket
N132EZ World Record Flight
Distance to Point
Mojave Ca to California City Ca

**Figure 16.**

Ray Cartier is a longtime collector, was Executive Director of ATA from 2003-09 and is currently the ATA Representative to the Space Unit. He lives in Texas with his wife, well-known topicalist Karen Cartier.

Canadian Pictorial Bulk Mail Permits

By Dale Speirs

Postal history isn't something that happened 50 or 100 years ago, but something that is still happening. In Canada, the postal system is undergoing massive changes as Canada Post makes the move into parcels and couriered packages. Ordinary letter mail is rapidly fading away, but advertisers still rely on physical mail to bypass spam filters. In 2013, Canada Post began allowing bulk mailers to modify their permits by the addition of pictorial imprints in a

frame shaded to create the impression of a postage stamp. It has long been known that people are more likely to open stamped mail than bulk imprint mail, so advertisers have latched on to the new regulations as a method to convince recipients to read the item. Many of these pictorial imprints are topicals, and make wonderful additions to philatelic collections. Several of the following items are shown both as a cover, and with a blown-up enlargement of the imprint.

Figure 1 shows the earliest pictorial permit I have, which was from a bank celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2013. The frame and shading are as specified in the regulations, but the bank saved money by printing the image in the same color as the rest of the stationery. Figure 2 was received in December 2013 from my telephone company, which is always trying to convince me to upgrade to additional services I don't need. It goes all out for fancy color on coated paper. Figure



Figure 1.

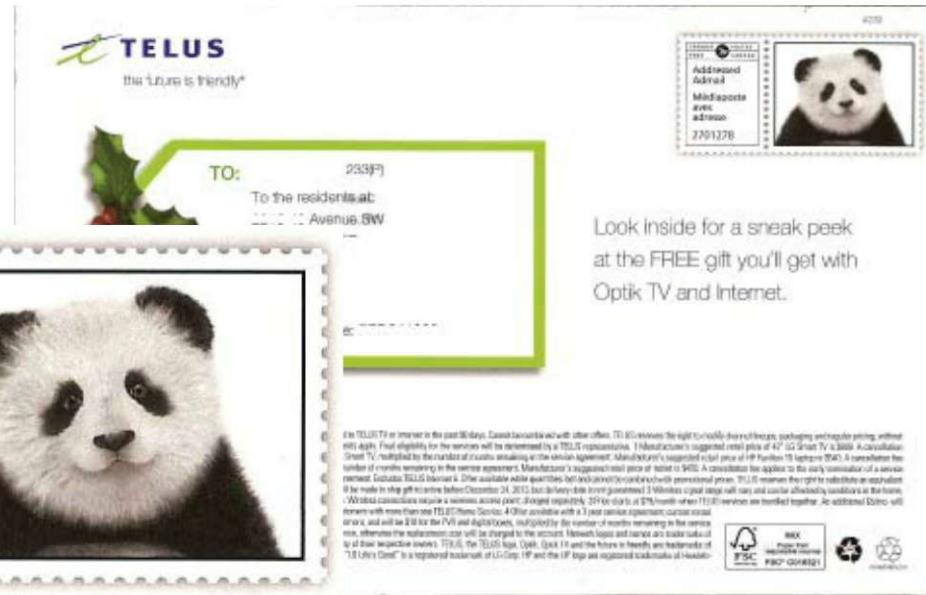


Figure 2.

3 is from a subsequent mail-out sent to me in February 2014.

Pandas and cheetahs don't have anything to do with telecommunications, but other advertisers try to fit their pictorial permits to the theme of their business. Figure 4 is a cover whose permit depicts a pair of praying hands that match the theme of the mailout.

Others make no sense. Figure 5 is graphically cropped from an 8.5 x 11 mailout I received from a local real estate agent.

Elephants don't really go together with Calgary houses, and I suspect that the agent simply got the image from a stock-photo website because it likely would attract attention.

These covers are a part of postal history, but it will likely take a num-

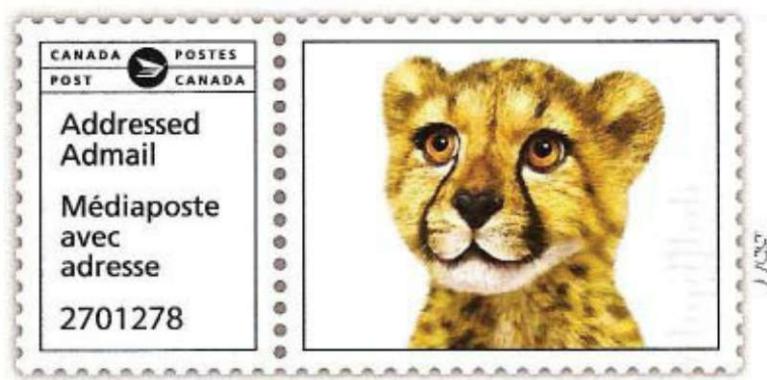


Figure 3.

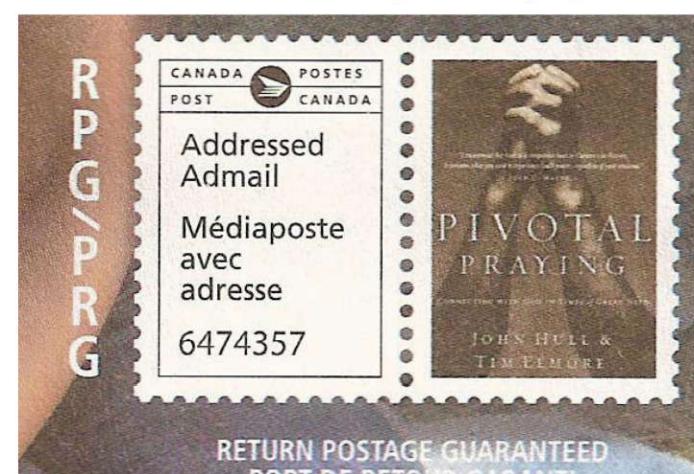
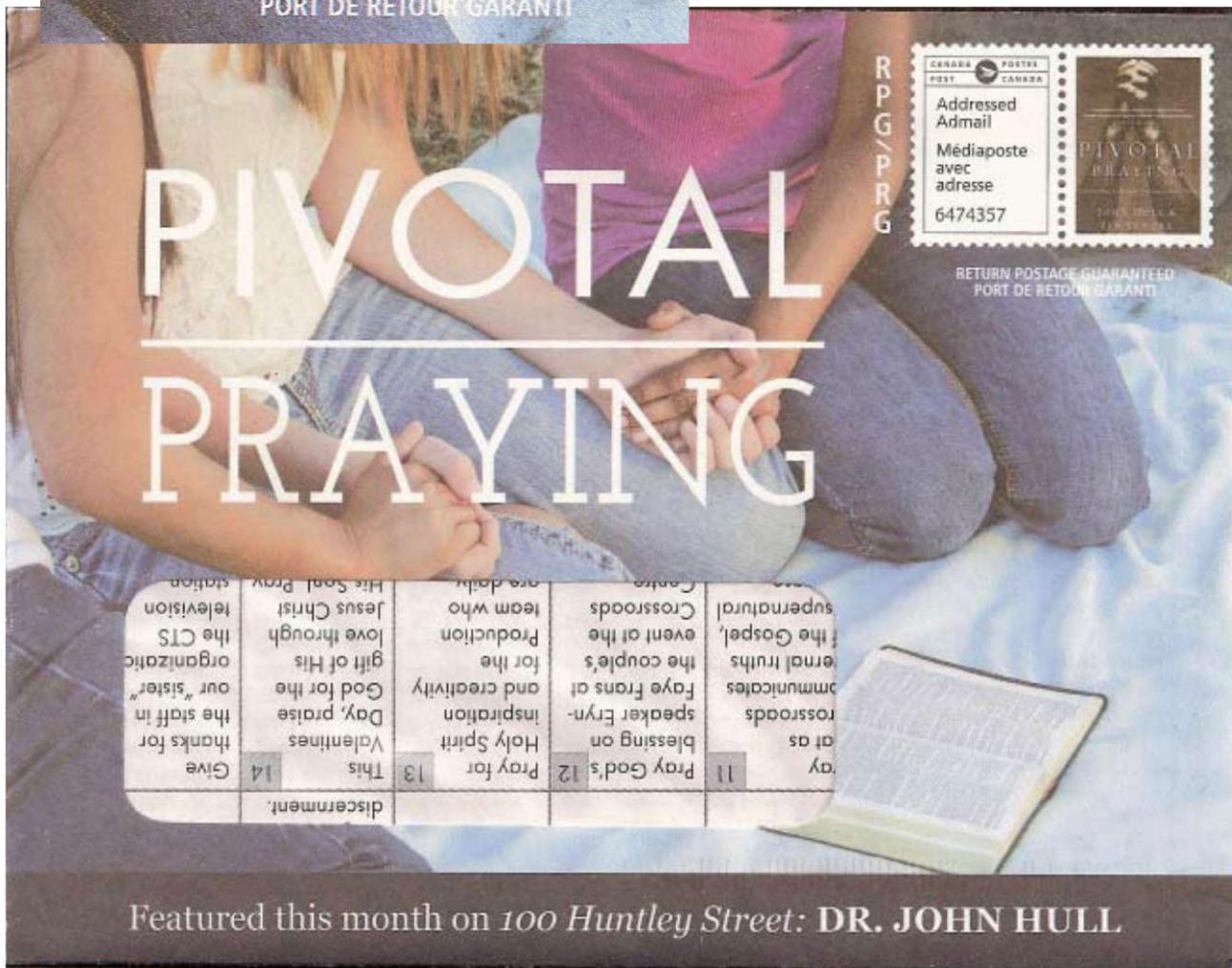


Figure 4.



Featured this month on 100 Huntley Street: DR. JOHN HULL

ber of years for them to take their rightful place. At the moment, they are too rare for completist topical collectors to buy, but with time they should start appearing in dealer stocks, first in Canadian junk boxes, then as individually sleeved and priced items. ☐

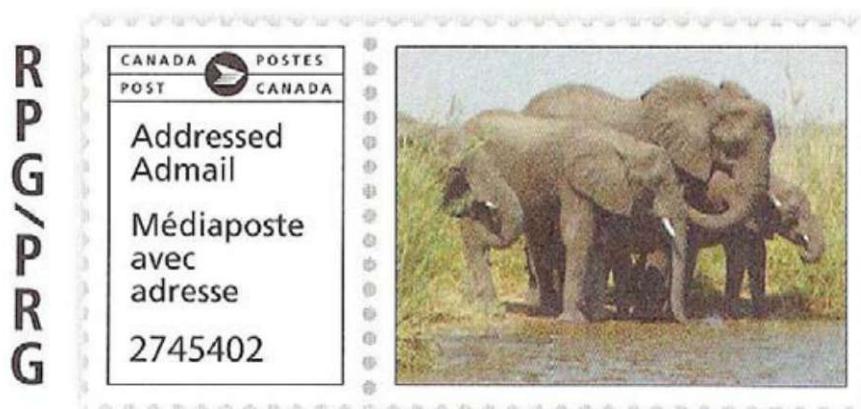


Figure 5.

Dale Speirs is a longtime collector living in Canada who is always interested in finding fun philatelic pursuits. His calendar project has been a longtime effort.

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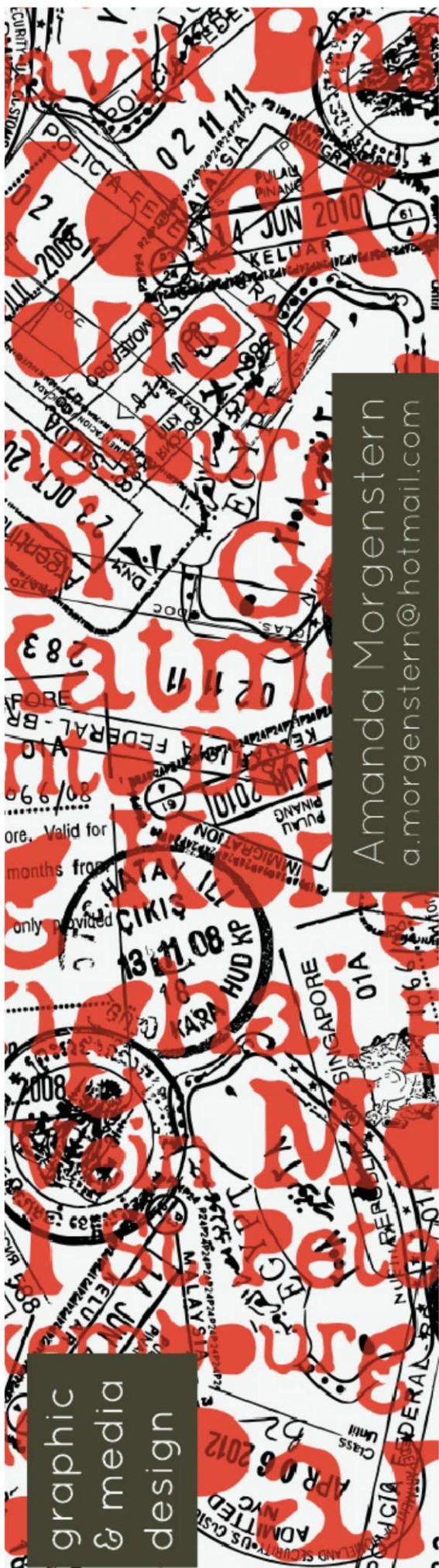
Our new website, TopicalsOnLine (www.topicalsonline.com), continues to grow, as people discover the great selection of inexpensive stamps for sale and discover how easy it is to list duplicates. Grab your checklists and stop in!

ATA board member Bob Lamb, who spearheaded the website project, has enjoyed watching it grow and continues to receive positive feedback from buyers and sellers.

Topical and thematic collectors have varied interests, and stamps have so far been listed and purchased for the majority of the topics that ATA officially identifies. There are some topics that are not yet represented, but more are added all the time. TopicalsOnLine is a great new tool to help you collect and is a fantastic member resource. Please check it out if you haven't already! ☐

Free Topical Album Pages

The American Philatelic Society offers downloadable mini-albums that may be printed free of charge. The albums contain between four and 30 pages and include background information on the stamps. Topics include American Military History, Baseball, Black Heritage, Childhood, Gone Fishing, Hispanic American Heritage, Hollywood, Lincoln, Love, National Parks, Nondenominated Stamps, Olympics, Santa, Space, Women and various states. They are available at the APS website: www.stamps.org/free-album-pages. ☐



Amanda Morgenstern
a.morgenstern@hotmail.com

The Burgess Shale

By Gregory W. Frux

High on Mount Field in the Canadian Rockies, a band of sedimentary rock harbors astounding evidence of ancient life forms. The Burgess Shale contains fossils preserving the soft bodies of animals vanished from the earth half a billion years ago. This site is considered remarkable for the level of preservation of the animals and for the diversity of previously unknown creatures. Professor Stephen Jay Gould wrote that these are the world's most important fossils¹. Alongside trilobites, there appear remains of exotic life forms that went extinct in the Cambrian Period. The fossils reveal body plans wildly different than modern animals – life forms with five eyes, a single claw and more – so much so that paleontologists have even named one species Hallucigenia. The significance is that these fossil give us a window into a deep past and of the great variety of life forms of that era, which disappeared long ago. The Burgess Shale is located in Yoho National Park and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In 2007 I had the opportunity to participate in a guided hike to the Burgess Shale, an activity which only a small number of visitors get to do. These hikes

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are run by the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation and are carefully supervised. My journal of the hike notes it was a stiff climb and that we have close-up encounters with both moose and elk, each with full antlers.

"We lunch on ledges with views of Emerald Lake. Shale lens [-shaped] with limestone above. Crossed slides on narrow trails with good exposure. It is three pm when we reach [the Burgess] shale. Stiff climb on loose rock up to the quarry. The fossils we see are faint and small, but powerfully meaningful. Handle half billion year old fossils. Sketched and viewed for an hour."

After this adventure I wanted to create a philatelic memento. At the time I was unaware of

the 1990 Canadian prehistoric life issue (Scott 1282a). This block of four stamps includes images of stromatolites (ancient fossil algae), a trilobite, a sea scorpion and *opabinia regalis* (Figure 1). The last is one of the fossil invertebrates found in the Burgess Shale, although the location is not identified on the stamp. A description of this animal is illuminating, "One of the strangest Burgess Shale fossils. Its side flaps and



Figure 1. A block of four 1990 Canadian Prehistoric Life issue, with pictorial first-day cancel from Field, British Columbia (Scott 1282a).

ATA Mission Statement

The American Topical Association promotes topical stamp collecting and the educational and recreational aspects of this hobby by...

- ☒ Encouraging the collection, research, and study of topical stamps and their subjects.
- ☒ Providing for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.
- ☒ Developing and publishing books, checklists, and audio-visual programs.
- ☒ Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.
- ☒ Assisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.



Figure 2. Hand-drawn commemorative cover, the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Burgess Shale, canceled Aug. 30, 2009.

finned tail indicate it was swimmer. Its two most remarkable features are the frontal appendage which ended in a grasping claw, and its five stalked eyes.”²

Following my visit I created a cover to honor the 100th Anniversary of the discovery of the Burgess Shale, which was to occur in 2009. I decorated the cover with graphite drawings of several fossils found in the Shale: Burgessia, Hallucigenia, Aysheaia and Opabinia. I chose graphite because of its resemblance to the texture and color of the rock, and attempted to draw the fossils as they would be found embedded in the shale (Figure 2). I prepaid the postage with an 80¢ maple leaf stamp and waited.

As it turned out, the cover, which I had sent to the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation was duly canceled Aug. 30, 2009, in the closest town to the site, Field, British Columbia. Field was created around the construction of the Trans Canadian Railroad, near Kicking Horse Pass at an elevation of 4,078 feet. The cancellation marked the anni-

Figure 3. Cancel on 106th Anniversary of the discovery of the Burgess Shale. This is the marking on the envelope containing the Figure 2 cover – six years later!



versary of the completion of the famed Spiral Tunnels – a marvel of railroad engineering that created a safer route for trains through the Canadian Rockies. These tunnels reduced a train grade of 4.4% to 2.2%.³

Once my cover was canceled, it apparently was lost in the Foundation files. This past summer it was rediscovered. I received an envelope from Canada, bearing a postmark from Field, dated Aug 30, 2015 (Figure 3). Inside was a lovely note:

"Gregory,

"I'm finishing up my second season as the operations manager of the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation. While sorting through old files in the office last winter, I came across your beautifully illustrated envelope.

"The depiction of the creatures on the envelope turns out to be quite accurate.

*"At the 2009 Burgess Shale conference in Banff, the scientists were still arguing about the affinities of *Wiwaxia* and *Hallucigenia*. *Wiwaxia* turns out to have a raspy tongue (*radula*) and is assigned to the phylum *Mollusca*. A re-description of*



Figure 4. Two pins, from the Burgess Shale Foundation, sent to the author as a kindness.



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Onychophoran (Lobopod worm) Hallucigenia was published this summer. The eyes and mouth are situated on the narrow end of the body.

"I've kept the envelope in sight all summer so that would be ready to mail in late August. The post mark on the package will indicate 106 years since Charles Doolittle Walcott's discovery of the Burgess Shale fossils.

"Best wishes from the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation

[signed]

"Kathy Taersum,

"Manager of Operations & Geoscience Foundation"

I was delighted with this thoughtful and detailed letter. What fun to be reunited with my cover after six years. Kathy also enclosed two pins honoring the Burgess Shale site, an additional gesture of kindness (Figure 4). ☐

Notes:

1. Stephen J. Gould, *Wonderful Life*, Page 23, W.W. Norton Company, New York, 1989.
2. Murray Cuppold and Wayne Powell, *A Geoscience Guide to The Burgess Shale*, page 43, The Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation, 2006.
3. [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field,_British_Columbia) article, "Field, British Columbia."
4. For information about visiting the Burgess Shale, go to:
www.burgess-shale.bc.ca/guided-hikes

Gregory William Frux is realist artist living in Brooklyn, N.Y., painting there as well as in wilderness areas throughout the Americas. He was formerly an architect and also curator of the artworks for the New York City public school system. His stamp collection is worldwide, with strong collections of Bolivia, Greenland, Kyrgyzstan and Poland, as well as a topical collection on mountains and mountain climbing. His other hobby is mountaineering.



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Units in Action

Jeffrey Hayward, ATA Study Unit Coordinator (stamps@jeffbayward.com)

Americana Unit

Americana Philatelic News

Joan Newcomb lists, in "Tributes to Walt Disney," various stamps issued by countries since Disney's death in 1968. More than 100 countries from six continents have issued stamps honoring Walt Disney from 1968-2015. In 2001, many nations released stamps and souvenir sheets to commemorate what would have been Walt's 100th birthday.

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

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net
Website: www.americanauunit.org

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

"Qingtong Qua – Early Bronze Coins of China," is the feature article in the October 2015 *Old World Archaeologist*. This article explains the various types of currency used early in China until the creation of bronze coins, which could be easily strung or placed on wooden dowels. Two pages of new issues are listed in the New Digs sections of this issue.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$23 elsewhere. Contact Caroline Scannell, 14 Dawn Dr, Smithtown NY 11787-1761.



Email: editor@owasu.org

Website: www.owasu.org

Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)

Armenian Philatelic Journal

Nick Pezikian shares "The First Pictorial Stamps of Armenia: The Chassepot Set of 1920" in *Armenian Philatelic Journal* September



2015. At age 11, while reading a book, Pezikian first discovered that the stamps were issued by Armenia in the 1920s. The stamps never saw postal use, since there was a greater need for fiscal stamps, which is how they were used. There were three designs; one of an eagle holding the sword of justice, a woman spinning wool and the last design of the twin peaks of Mt. Ararat.

Dues are \$35 in the United States, \$45 elsewhere. Contact Igor Grigorian, 2764 Delavan Dr, Los Angeles CA 90065-5134.

Email: igorgrig@pacbell.net
Website: www.armenianphilatelic.org

Astronomy Study Unit

Astrofax

The December 2015 issue of



Astrofax discusses the rejuvenation of the study unit after a four-year hiatus and introduces the newsletter's new editor. The 12-page bulletin features illustrated articles about the

25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope, the first landing on a comet

by the European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission and a celestial quiz to celebrate Meteor Day.

In the March 2016 issue, *Astrofax* will resume publication of checklists of new astronomy-related stamps.

Dues are \$8 in the United States and Canada, \$12 elsewhere. Contact John W.G. Budd, 728 Sugar Camp Way, Brooksville FL 34604.

Email: jwgbudd@gmail.com

Biology Unit

Biophilately

A biography of Alfred Russel



Wallace, the anthropologist, biologist, explorer and geographer

appears in the December 2015 issue of *Biophilately*. Wallace is also known for his work on the development of the theory of evolution through natural selection. The Universiti Malaysia Sarawak organized an international conference in 2013 and had personalized stamps created to commemorate his death in 1913.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere and \$15 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Christopher Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724.

Email: chris-dahle@fastermac.net

Website: www.biophilately.org

Carto-Philatelic Society

The New Carto-Philatelist

Barry J. Garner continues his series

of "Routes on Map Stamps," showing stamps depicting postal routes, transportation, telecommunication



and routes by air. One of the stamps in the article shows the route of a North Atlantic cable, which was used to connect Iceland and the Faroe Islands,

giving Iceland telephone access to the world in 1962.

Several pages of new issues also appear in *The New Carto-Philatelist* October 2015.

Dues are \$20 in North America, \$25 elsewhere. Electronic membership is \$15 worldwide. Contact Marybeth Sulkowski, 1117 Douglas Ave Unit 209, North Providence RI 02904-5374.

Email: mb37zx@aol.com

Website: www.mapsonstamps.org

Cats on Stamps Study Unit

Cat Mews

What may be the "First Cuban Blue" cat on a postage stamp appears in the Winter 2015



issue of *Cat Mews*. COSSU

member Patrick Roberts discovered this cat breed on a souvenir sheet issued by Cuba. Similar to the Russian Blue Cat, the Cuban Blue is a spontaneous mutation and natural breed. Several pages of new cat stamp-related issues appear in this edition of *Cat Mews*.

Dues are \$14 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Bob Jarvis, 2731 Teton Ln, Fairfield CA 94533-6503.

Email: bobmarci@aol.com

Website: www.catsonstamps.org

Chemistry & Physics Study Unit

Philatelia Chimica et Physica

In the Summer 2014 *Philatelia*

Chimica et Physica

Richard Oertel

illustrates the discovery of "The Big Bang Theory," a brief philatelic history of a dynamic universe through the use of the European



Organization for Nuclear Research's (CERN) Large Hadron Collider (LHC) to reproduce conditions of the early universe. Almost 30 philatelic items are used to illustrate our current understanding of cosmic evolution.

Dues are \$20 in the United States, \$26 in Canada, \$40 elsewhere. Contact Roland F. Hirsch, 20458 Waters Point Lane, Germantown MD 20874-1091.
Email: michael@cpossu.org
Website: www.cpossu.org

Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Chesstamp Review

A cover sent by the former chess player Bobby Fisher to the Israeli Chess Federation is shown in *Chesstamp Review* July-September 2015.



The cancellation date is not legible, however the stamps on the cover were

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issued by Spain on Nov. 3, 1970.

According to the Israeli Chess Federation, the letter was a polite note declining to participate in any tournaments in Israel.

Dues are \$17 in North America and \$24 elsewhere. Contact Barry Keith, 555 Rolling Valley Ct, Charlottesville VA 22902-8257.

Email: keithfam@embarqmail.com

Website: www.chessonstamps.org

Christmas Philatelic Club

Yule Log

Like many others, President



Christine Sanders collects "Christmas Day Postmarks" from Christmas-associated towns and cities. In 2014, Sanders sent out 27 covers to be postmarked and returned to her. Some of the post offices offered pictorial cancels, the most attractive from Santa Claus, Ind., which shows Santa Claus and snowflakes.

Most of the covers were hand-canceled and some received additional spray cancels when processed at regional centers.

Dues are \$25 in the United States and Canada, \$35 elsewhere. Contact Jim Balog, PO Box 744, Geneva OH 44041-0744.

Email: jpba4stamps@windstream.net

Website: www.christmasphilatelicclub.org

Errors, Freaks & Oddities Collectors' Club

The EFO Collector

John Hotchner continues with part two of "Perforations: Not Spending Big Bucks." Hotchner offers some affordable options that collectors may not have considered when



collecting EFOs. Hotchner suggests perfin varieties and their placement on stamps might be interesting, inexpensive and widely available to collectors. Other collecting options mentioned in this article include color variations, plate number and marginal markings, as well as cachet mistakes.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$37 elsewhere. Contact David Hunt, 45 Fairway Dr, Denver PA 17517.

Email: dhhunt@ptdprolog.net
Website: www.efocc.org

Europa Study Unit Europa News

The results for the “Best Europa Stamps of 2015” are published in the November-December 2015 *Europa News*.



A jury of eight philatelic judges was asked to judge the stamps issued this year for Europa 2015, with an Old Toys theme. The judges selected Russia as the winner. The

public was also asked to vote online for their favorite Old Toys stamp issued in 2015 and Turkey's stamp was the winner for that competition.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$30 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: www.europastudyunit.org

Halloween Spooktacular Stamps & Stuff

The Bubbling Cauldron

Denise Lazaroff reports in issue No.



2 of *The Bubbling Cauldron*, the Halloween Study Unit has gained many new members after attending NTSS and several other stamp

shows. Some study unit members were also participating in the Mysterious Halloween Challenge and were asked to create covers with Halloween-related postmarks to exchange with other members.

Dues are \$15 in the United



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States and Canada, \$20 elsewhere.
Contact Denise Lazaroff, PO Box 624,
Simpsonville SC 29681-0624.
Email: deniselazaroff@gmail.com

Judaica Thematic Society

Judaica News

Thirty different stamps of



"Landhouses in Curaçao" show the many different styles of buildings on the island of Curaçao.

Sephardic Jews began settling in Curaçao in the 17th Century. By 1790, the Jewish community was at its peak in Curaçao. One home, the Octagon, takes its name from its octagonal shape. The sisters of Simon Bolivar lived in the Octagon house. Since 1965 it has been Museo Bolivariano and houses objects from when Bolivar stayed in Curaçao.

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

Lighthouse Stamp Society

The Philatelic Beacon

Several pages of new issues, along with descriptions of each issue, are available in *The Philatelic Beacon* of November-December 2015. One of the stamps recently issued was released in September as a joint issue by Azerbaijan and Russia and shows the Maiden Tower in Baku, Azerbaijan.



The Maiden Tower is a UNESCO World Heritage Historical Monument.

In 1858, Russians added a navigational light to the top of the tower.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232. **Email:** dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org **Website:** www.lighthousestampsociety.org

Masonic Study Unit

Philatelic Freemason

Profiles of "Automobile Related



Masons" involved with the automobile industry and their accomplishments are listed in the November-December 2015 *Philatelic Freemason*.

Some of the automobile masons include Walter P. Chrysler, Ransom Eli Olds, Henry Ford and Preston Tucker.

Recognized as the auto manufacturer who changed transportation, Henry Ford was a member of the Palestine Lodge No. 357 in Detroit, Mich.

Dues are \$10 in the United States, \$12 in Canada and Mexico and \$16 elsewhere. Contact Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Rd, Andover MA 01810.

Email: radpm67@gmail.com

or, Gene Fricks

Email: genefricks@comcast.net

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Medical Subjects Unit

Scalpel & Tongs

Jayant Pai-Dhungat explores



"Coffee: The Most Popular Drink in the World," and its history and uses in medicine. Coffee was introduced to Europe via Arabia in the late 1600s.

Drinking coffee aids with digestion and

can fight drowsiness due to its caffeine content. There are also three pages of medical subject new issues in the July-September 2015 *Scalpel & Tongs*.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, and \$18 elsewhere. Contact Marion Rollings, 101 New Amwell Rd, Hillsborough NJ 08844-5516.

Email: drmarionrollings@yahoo.com

Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group)

Der Musikus

A biography of Irish harp maker

John Egan is in the September 2015 *Der Musikus*.

Originally trained as a blacksmith, Egan made harps and ran his harp

shop from 1801-41. He is known for inventing a portable harp that was three feet high which made him very



Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

To promote the study of philatelic material pertaining to *Spheniscidae* (penguins); quarterly *The Rookery Report*; US \$15, elsewhere \$20, electronic \$10.

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

Sandra L. Lingler
239 Whitman Blvd
Elyria OH 44035-1750

Email: possumember@yahoo.com

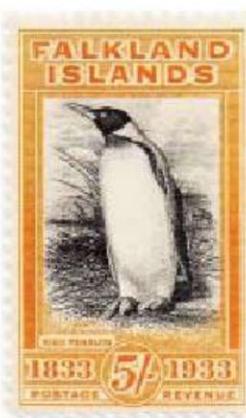
successful. Ireland issued a stamp in 2014 showing the Irish Harp as part of Europa National Musical Instruments.

Dues are €25 (€12.50 for collectors 25 years old or younger.) Young collectors receive one year of *Der Musikus* free. Contact Peter Lang, Rotkamp 14, 13053 Berlin, Germany. Email: motivgruppe.musik@gmx.de Website: www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

The Rookery Report

New issue "The Dogs that Saves



Macquarie Island - AAT" leads off the Fall 2015 issue of *The Rookery Report*. Non-native species have had a detrimental impact on the flora and fauna of Macquarie Island. Starting in 2002, dogs have

been used to help find cats, mice, rabbits and rats. The island has recently been declared pest free, the first time in more than 100 years.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Sandra Lingler, 239 Whitman Blvd, Elyria OH 44035.

Email: possumember@yahoo.com

Website: www.pinguinstamps.org

Petroleum Philatelic Society International

Petro-Philatelist

The first oil well in the Gulf

Region was in Bahrain. Hugo Vargas details the development of the oil industry in Bahrain in "Commemorative Issue of Stamps on the 80 Years of



Oil, 1931-2012." The oil industry is a cornerstone of the national economy of Bahrain, allowing the improvement of the nation's infrastructure and improving the lives of its citizens. Bahrain Post issued a set of four stamps showing a portrait of the King of Bahrain and several Bahrain Petroleum Company locations.

The Petroleum Philatelic Society International is still seeking a treasurer and an editor to take over for current officers.

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

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Plate Number Collectors Club (PNC³)

Coil Line

In the *Coil Line* November 2015,



Catalog Corner, Frank Covey reports that the plate number appears on every 27th stamp for the 25¢ Spectrum Eagle issued in September 2015. Covey also

suggests formats for how these coils may be collected and that it will be difficult to find them in unfolded strips. It may also be difficult to find a strip in the proper color combination.

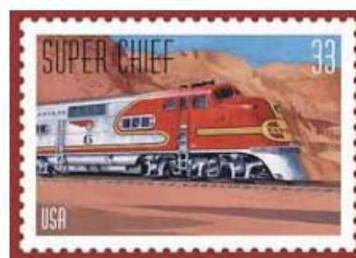
Dues are \$32-40 in the United States and Canada, \$45 elsewhere and \$18 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Michael J. Conway, 239 Judd Rd, Easton CT 06612-1025.

Email: mjcconway@hotmail.com
Website: www.pnc3.org

Railroad Unit, Casey Jones

The Dispatcher

Henrik Rossell shares several



train-related postcards by participating in the web project called "Postcrossing" in the Sept-Oct

2015 *The Dispatcher*.

Rossell has been lucky to receive postcards and some covers with train themes. One "postcrosser" (what members of Postcrossing call themselves) from Japan even went so far as to send local rail-line postcards along with information about the local rail-line on a train-themed stamped envelope.

More information about Postcrossing can be found at: www.postcrossing.com.

Dues are \$15 in the United States,

\$17 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere. Junior memberships (21 years old or younger, United States only) are \$10. Contact Roy W. Menninger, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, CJRRU-ATA, PO Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511.

Email: roymenn@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.uqp.de/cjr

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship *The ROS Bulletin*

Several new issues of Rotary stamps, along with some administrative news,

were reported in the October 2015 *The ROS Bulletin*. France issued a set of two stamps in September 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr.



Albert Schweitzer. One of the stamps in the set bears the Rotary emblem.

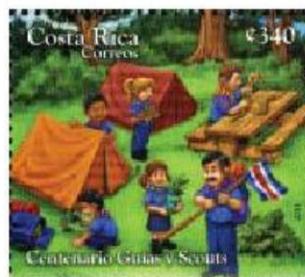
Dues are \$20. Contact Gerald FitzSimmons, 105 Calle Ricardo, Victoria TX 77904-1203.

Email: gfitz@suddenlink.net

Website: www.rotaryonstamps.org

Scouts on Stamps Society International *SOSSI Journal*

The 23rd World Jamboree 2015



was held in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, from July 28-Aug. 8, 2015. The Jamboree Post Office was

run from a tent by one clerk. A sheet of stamps with four different scouting designs was issued by Japan and was available at the Jamboree Post Office.



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SOSSI member Kuniichi Komachi attended the Jamboree and was able to prepare several covers with pictorial cancels which are shown throughout the article.

Dues are \$25 in the United States, \$30 in Canada, \$35 in Mexico and \$45 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for \$20 worldwide. Contact Lawrence E. Clay, PO Box 6228, Kennewick WA 99336-6228.
Email: lclay3731@charter.net
Website: www.sossi.org

Ships on Stamps Unit Watercraft Philately

One of the three ships shown on reissued Egyptian Suez Canal stamps has



been identified in *Watercraft Philately*, September-October 2015.

After Egypt accidentally used images of the Panama Canal

to celebrate the expansion of the Suez Canal, Egypt reissued the set of stamps showing the Suez Canal, with a ship appearing on each of the three stamps in the set.

Only one ship was able to be identified, *The Mashhour*, which is a suction dredger and has been in service widening and deepening the canal since October 1996.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$10 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Myron P. Molnau, 1616 E 32nd Ct, Spokane WA 99203-3918.
Email: hobbies@turbonet.com
Website: www.shipsonstamps.org

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of his exhibit and explains how it was used to finish telling the story of his exhibit.

Dues are \$28 in the United States, \$32 in Canada and \$40 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement, Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.

Email: bclemjr@yahoo.com

or, Larry Fillion, 18 Arlington St, Acton MA 01720

Email: malariastairs@yahoo.com

Website: www.unpi.com

Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of *The Circuit*

John Seidl continues the "Dead

Country Series" with Baden in the November-December 2015 *The Circuit*.



While the state of Baden had existed since the 12th Century, the grand Duchy of Baden was created in 1806. Stamps were issued and used in Baden from May 1851 through 1872. In 1872, Baden's stamps were replaced by stamps issued by the German Empire.

Dues are \$15 worldwide. Contact Joanne Berkowitz, Executive Director, PO Box 19006, Sacramento CA 95819-0006.

Email: joannebe@pacbell.net

Website: www.iswsc.org

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YOUTH IN TOPICS

MaryAnn Bowman

Happy New Year! “Out with the old, in with the new” – a saying or quote that can have philatelic implications. As the new year begins, consider clearing out some of the unneeded duplicate stamps and covers, giving them new life to a young or beginning collector. Donate to the ATA for its outreach programs or consider sending your donation to World Stamp Show New York 2016 for use in its Entry Level and Youth Area.

In with the new? The year 2016 could just be the year that you explore a new collecting field or discover new material for your own specialty collection. It could be the year you introduce a new collector to your local stamp club. Perhaps you will take your collection to new heights through exhibiting. Or a new philatelic friendship may bloom.

Levels of Achievement Incentive Program

As this is being written, a newly formed ad hoc committee is in the process of exploring the idea and planning the development of a possible new program offering levels of achievement for youth up to age 21.

The purpose of creating a Levels of Achievement program include encouraging active participation in the hobby and then reward such participation with a national badge (think Boy Scouts merit badge program) and certificate or some other type of incentive yet to be determined by the committee.

Participation in the program would be optional, while offering a challenge to those who are interested in achieving and working toward a higher goal. It is not unlike the hand-held games that the youth of today are playing with the goal of besting their score and proceeding to higher levels.

There are many things that the committee will have to determine. Those tasks include – but are not limited to – identifying the skills and concepts to introduce to young collectors, determining the number of skill levels for the program, selecting the skills and concepts to be mastered at each level, creating a final project or activity for completion before moving on to the next level and designing an award or incentive that will be a meaningful recognition of their achievement.

The “how-to” and details to implement the program will come later. The ideas need to be developed further and acceptance as a strategic offering for enlarging the ranks of youth involvement in the hobby will face the first test.

Today’s philatelists must understand that the youth of today are forced to collect differently than we did. Keeping up with the times and being willing to adapt is

necessary for the hobby to survive. Technology will be an important component of any new program.

A Levels of Achievement program is not a new idea. It has been written about and in fact has been practiced in other countries. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you think will help move the committee along, please share them with me through letter or email.

Foreign Stamp Identification

Being able to identify the issuing country of stamps encountered is an important skill for all collectors to learn. I recently did a mini-lesson on foreign stamp identification with my youth group. We started by first making sure that the term “foreign” was understood. Canada, Mexico and Great Britain are foreign stamps to those who live in the United States. To those who live in Canada, the United States is a foreign country, as is Mexico

and Great Britain.

Foreign is a term relevant to where you live and call home.

ISWSC World Wide Stamp Identifier

Below is the ISWSC World Wide Stamp Identifier. We have also provided a live search value of the identifier to the right. If you have any suggestions or comments please contact the webmaster@iswsc.org

[A] [B] [C] [D] [E] [F] [G] [H] [I] [J] [K] [L] [M] [N] [O] [Q] [R] [S] [T] [U] [V] [W]
[X] [Y] [Z] [Celtic] [Greek] [Roman]

Live Search The Database

We have now provided full search capability for our ISWSC World Wide Stamp Identifier. This is a live search (meaning it searches while you type) it will take a while to search through the 3000 + entries we have. Simply enter the term in the search box and the results will display below.

Next, I offered a challenge of trying to identify a foreign country for each letter of the alphabet. Younger children

offer confuse states and cities with country names. Country awareness is a skill more attuned to fourth grade and older. It is helpful to have a colorful world globe, map, or reference book to show the location of the countries mentioned.

Next I introduced the concept of the various reference materials and aids available to help with foreign stamp identification, showing examples as we talked about their use. There is a very simplified foreign identification chart within the youth section of the ATA website. Other more detailed versions, including the one provided on the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (one of ATA's fine study units) can be found online and printed out.

The lesson was followed by a game of Foreign Stamp Bingo – a game I created using actual foreign stamps mounted on a bingo-style game board. For those into technology, there are easy free bingo templates you can download and to make your own foreign stamp bingo game.

The evening concluded with a free pick of stamps, with the only catch being that before a child could put a stamp into his or her stock card, he or she had to be able to identify the stamp issuing country. To add a bit of challenge, youth also could be asked to find the country on a world map.

Chick-Fil-A Surprise It Forward Promotion

Chick-Fil-A recently introduced a series of prizes with its kid's meals with the theme of "Surprise It Forward." According to the website: "*Surprise It Forward. The best surprises are the ones you give! This program will have kids passing acts of fun and kindness forward. It features colorful postcards with encouraging messages to Mail It Forward, a kids' coupon book of fun activities so they can Gift It Forward, a book of special secret notes so they can Hide It Forward, and an on-the-go kindness card game so they can Shuffle It Forward.*"

Naturally, I am most interested in the Mail It Forward book but as of this writing, I have not been able to obtain a copy. In the past, some of the company's prizes have been offered online after



the promotion. That is how I obtained copies of a 2009 promotion that involved the United States Postal Service stamp displays, a series of five different themes that used stickers of actual U.S. stamp designs to create displays on five different themes: Stamps in History, Stamps in Motion, Stamp Safari, Sports Stamps and Wonders of America Stamps.

A future prize offering might somehow tie into the hobby: World Tour Travel Kits.

Walmart's Airmail Envelope Sticky Notes

Although not available through mail order, these airmail sticky note envelopes are cute! According to the website: "*This unique 50-sheet sticky note pad folds into an envelope for a fun way to send messages. The adhesive is located on the top flap enabling you to seal your envelope once it is folded up. The fully folded envelope measures 3.74 by two inches. What a fun way to send messages!*"



I have been trying to think of some interesting ways to use these small envelopes with my youth

group. One idea that came to mind was to use the envelope as a mini time capsule, with each child writing something related to stamp collecting (topic of your choice) and then opened at the end of the year. Or, perhaps, names could be exchanged at a stamp club meeting and then each child could search through a mixture of stamps to find “just the right stamp” to give to their secret pal, hinge it into the envelope and write a sentence or two about why they chose that stamp for the individual.

If you are a club leader, you could download a page of the stamp-themed Valentines found on the website of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (www.wfscstamps.org). Click on “Youth Resources” in the left column, and then on “Fun and Games” to access Valentines on different themes. Then put a

Valentine into one of the small envelopes and give to your young collecting friends at your February meeting.

What other ideas do you have? I'd love to hear from you!

A special thank you to Aimee Devine, who brought to my attention the philatelic-related items from Chick-Fil-A and the airmail sticky notes available at Walmart. If you find something of a philatelic nature, please share it with me so that I can pass it on to the readership. ☺

<p>You “Auto” Be My Valentine!</p>  <p>1952 Nash Healey USA 37</p>	<p>I Can't Sub-merge My Love For You —</p>  <p>LOS ANGELES CLASS USA 33</p> <p>Please Be My Valentine!</p>	<p>Valentine,</p>  <p>INDIANAPOLIS 500</p> <p>You Make My Heart RACE!</p>
<p>Valentine,</p>  <p>U.S. POSTAGE 24 CENTS 24</p> <p>You Make My Heart Soar!</p>	<p>I Choo- Choose You, Valentine!</p>  <p>SUPER CHIEF USA 33</p>	<p>It's Plane To See,</p>  <p>B-24 LIBERATOR USA 37</p> <p>I Want You for My Valentine.</p>
<p>I'm all steamed up With a brand new line,</p>  <p>AUXILIARY STEAMSHIP FOREVER</p> <p>To ask you to be My Valentine!</p>	<p>Valentine,</p>  <p>Cleveland 1918 39 USA</p> <p>My heart runs in cycles. You're the one today!</p>	<p>Sure would be smooth sailing,</p>  <p>EDWARD HOPPER USA</p> <p>If you'd be my Valentine.</p>

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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.

Chapter Chatter

By Sandy Strzalkowski

Welcome to Chapter Chatter! I encourage all ATA chapters to add me to your mailing lists. Please send me your ATA publications so we can publicize your efforts here. Newsletters may be sent to Sandy Strzalkowski at 13986 Sarasota, Redford MI 48239-2837, or by email to sandystraz@gmail.com. If you have a list of future club activities, please include that as well. Keep in mind we can only mention topical-related articles, not chapter-related activities or other philatelic subjects.

ATA Chapter 5 (ATA Chapter No. 5) in Milwaukee, Wis.

Newsletter Editor: Bob Mather.

Newsletter topics: “A Czechoslovakian Philatelic Travelogue,” “U.S. Registry Exchange Labels” and “A History of the United States Coast Guard” were all featured in the Oct. 2015 issue. The Nov. 11 meeting featured a patriotic theme. An article, “The Man with the Donkey,” featured a story about the sculpture located in Canberra, Australia, and pictures of the stamps honoring the Australian sculpture. There was also an article about the United Nations 1½¢ precanceled stamp (Nov. 2015).

Baltimore Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 128) in Ellicott City, Md.

Newsletter: *Baltimore Philatelist*, edited by Charles Morgan.

Newsletter topics: “Postage Due Bisects of the 1890s,” by Harry Charles (Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2015).

Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 4) in Johnstown, Pa.

Newsletter: *Philatelic Chatter*, edited by Don Smith.

Newsletter topics: The newsletter masthead featured two Canadian Christmas stamps, one moose design and one polar bear design. The September banquet speaker was Ken Martin, who spoke on the topic “Personal Postage.” November’s program was “1921-1941 Yugoslavia Issues” (Nov.-Dec. 2015).

Motor City Stamp & Cover Club (ATA Chapter No. 95) in Detroit, Mich.

Newsletter: *On Cover*, edited by Bob Quintero.

Newsletter topics: Motopex 15 cachets highlighted the U.S. Coast Guard’s 225th anniversary, and included three different designs and a cancel with two different dates of the show (Oct. 2015).

Omaha Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 123) in Omaha, Neb.

Newsletter: *The Spacefiller*, edited by Paul Breakenridge.

Newsletter topics: The palmares from the Omaha show held Sept. 12-13, 2015, included several topical exhibit award winners (Oct. 2015).

St. Petersburg Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 119) in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Newsletter: *St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by Louise Graves.

Newsletter topics: The November meeting topic was “Stamps on Stamps” (Nov. 2015). The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (RMPL) DVD, *Under the Big Top*, was presented at the Dec. 2 meeting. Another RMPL DVD, *Scouting on*

Stamps, was presented at the Dec. 16 meeting. Member Phil Stager won a gold for his exhibit, *Coconuts*, at the New Zealand Stamp Show. Phil also won a gold for the same exhibit at Chicagopex (Dec. 2015).

Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122), in Venice, Fla.

Newsletter: *Venice Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by Dawn Hamman.

Newsletter topics: The recent United States Coast Guard issue was highlighted, which included a description of the stamp, along with a bit of information about the Coast Guard. The first semi-postal issue, the 32¢ Breast Cancer Awareness stamp, was mentioned. Since its release in 1998, the stamp has raised \$71 million. The Famous Americans series featured the 1¢ Henry W. Longfellow stamp issued Feb. 16, 1940. There was a one-page article that featured Thanksgiving postcards. (Nov. 2015).

West Suburban Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 44), in Plymouth, Mich.

Newsletter: *Mayflower Minutes*, edited by Sandy Strzalkowski.

Newsletter topics: The Sept. 4 meeting program was “Canadian Hidden Dates,” by Wally Koster. The Sept. 25 meeting featured an APS slide show, “Fancy Cancels” (Sept. 2015). The Oct. 16 meeting had a presentation by Gray Scrimgoeur, “Canada’s Trans-Pacific Steamship Mail” (Oct. 2015). The Nov. 6 meeting featured Chuck Dalaiege’s “Canada No. 8” (Nov. 2015).

Canada

Calgary Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 91) in Calgary, Alberta.

Newsletter: *Calgary Philatelist*, edited by Dale Speirs.

Newsletter topics: The December 2015 issue’s cover features NHL goalie stamps, which were issued Oct. 2. The theme of Caltapex 2015 was the 50th anniversary of the maple leaf flag (Dec. 2015).

International

Thematics Queensland (ATA Chapter No. 86) in Queensland, Australia.

Newsletter: *Thematically Speaking*, edited by John Crowsley.

Newsletter topics: The August meeting included viewing changes to Joan Orr’s *Black Swan Dreaming*. Visitors’ interests: Darryl Kassulke is collecting Space and Bernie Smith’s interest is in Christmas. Joan Orr offers good information about exhibiting Aerophilately. This issue included many beautiful show-and-tell items in color (Oct. 2015). A PowerPoint presentation about collecting thematics was presented. Graeme and Gaye Chequer’s *About Orchids – A Chat* received a Large Vermeil award at Singapore 2015. Joan Orr’s article about Aerophilately included several covers and, again, interesting show-and-tell items were featured (Nov. 2015). ☐

**Please make it a goal to recruit
at least one new member
this year...**

Help us continue to “Buck the Trend!”

The Capital Stamp Show 2015, Nordia 2015

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at The Capital Stamp Show 2015 and Nordia 2015. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed.

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

The Capital Stamp Show 2015

This New Zealand National Stamp Exhibition and Six Nations Challenge was held in Wellington, New Zealand, Oct. 23-25, 2015. The show was organized by the New Zealand Philatelic Federation, sponsored by New Zealand Post and supported by New Zealand Stamp Dealers Association Inc. The exhibition celebrated 150 Years of Government in Wellington. All exhibitors were from New Zealand, except where indicated.

Multi-frame Exhibits

*Phairot Jiraprasertkun (Thailand)	<i>Olympic Games</i>	95, LG
Ke Yujun (China)	<i>Oil and Gas – How They have Come into Human Life History</i>	95, LG
Douglas South	<i>Our Feathered Friends</i>	87, G
*Phillip Stager (USA)	<i>Coconuts</i>	85, G

One-frame Exhibits

Frank Jans	<i>New Zealand Fund Raising Social Events 1903-1921</i>	88, G
George Stewart	<i>Extracts from a Frama Fanatic's Diary</i>	79, V
Grace Phillips	<i>Kiwi Kai</i>	76, V
Paul Stark	<i>Terra Australis Incognita</i>	72, LS
Barbara Streeter	<i>Culinary Delights</i>	70, LS

Open/Display Exhibits

Gary Brown (Australia)	<i>Cricket: The Game</i>	89, G
Kem Markham	<i>New Zealand – from Discovery to Depression</i>	85, G
John Paston	<i>The Suez Canal</i>	80, LV
*Monica Comrie	<i>The Sheep – Man's Greatest Provider</i>	80, LV
Ann Still	<i>Aspects of Camels</i>	75, V
Paul Stark	<i>Early Exploration of the Antarctic Continent</i>	75, V
Paul McTaggart	<i>Supreme Valor</i>	75, V
John Paston	<i>Britannia and British Royal Yachts</i>	73, LS
John Kersel	<i>SS Tahiti and SS Monowai</i>	70, LS
Michael Christensen	<i>Tin Can Island</i>	70, LS
Patrick Brownsley	<i>The Fern... From Native Plant to New Zealand Icon</i>	70, LS



Six Nations Challenge

The exhibition hosted a challenge between the countries of Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States. The team for each country was composed of four exhibits – two of eight frames and two of five frames – each of which was to be in a different class. The total scores were:

Thailand	362
United States	361
China	356
Australia	350
New Zealand	347
Canada	335

Nordia 2015

This multilateral exhibition was held in Uplands Väsby, Sweden, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2015. The countries participating were Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Nordia exhibitions are organized in rotation among the Nordic Philatelic Federations. The exhibition was sponsored by Postnord Sweden, AB Philea and the Swedish Philatelic Association.

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Multi-frame Exhibits

Nature

Anders Olason	<i>The American Civil War 1861-1865 – Background, Course of Events and Aftermath</i>	90, G
Lars Hansson	<i>Political Propaganda</i>	85, LV
Gunn Nibe	<i>The Care and Nursing of Sick People in a Historical Perspective</i>	81, V
Inge Johansen	<i>The Story of the Non-Polluting Two-Wheeler</i>	80, V
Petter J Taraldsen	<i>On Tracks</i>	80, V
Pekka Klemi	<i>Fight Against Cancer through the Years</i>	75, LS
Kaido Andres	<i>The Philatelic Footprint of the University of Tartu in 1632-2012</i>	72, S

Open/Display Exhibits

Liv Norbom	<i>To the Sailing Ship Era</i>	95, LG
Liv Marion Strömnes	<i>Polar History of Russia</i>	95, LG
*Jari Majander	<i>Your Cuppa Tea – The History, Culture and Business Of Tea</i>	92, G
Cajsa Ojakangas	<i>The Show of Mr. Turpen</i>	85, LV
Ulla Lundquist	<i>Falun (a city in Sweden) – More than a Copper Mine and Sausage</i>	83, V
Odd Eide Frömyr & Liv Norbon	<i>Scandinavian Laws and European Documents linked to the Sailing Ship Era</i>	80, V
Stefan Pomp	<i>Collecting Slania</i>	80, V
Karin Svahn	<i>The Entry in the Parish of Vätö</i>	78, LS
Hans Gunnar Eklöf	<i>The Thing is – Oscar</i>	75, LS
Margareta von Bahr	<i>Lace... Meager Livelihood – Magnificent Luxury</i>	75, LS

I would like to thank ATA members Phillip Stager of Florida and Bob Gibson of New Zealand for providing the results of The Capital Stamp Show 2015 and the Six Nations Challenge.

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for more than 54 years and exhibiting for more than 28 years. His display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, received the Grand Award at NTSS 2015. His mailing address is 30 Front St Apt 307, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada. His email address is lawrencedavidson@gmail.com.

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Membership

New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with 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 57347-57371 and recent reinstatements (membership through Dec. 1, 2015).**

57350	ADAMS, Clarence, 2039 Ireland Rd, Winston OR 94796-4576	
57361	ALEXANDER, John	Birds, Flags, Maps, Orchids, Gay/Lesbian
57348	AMOS, Addie	
57369	BERGER, Paul, <i>pberger@oil-chem.com</i>	Stamps-on-Stamps, Chemistry
57351	BRYANT, Rae and Laurence, PO Box 453, Golden Square, VIC 3555, Australia	Lighthouses
57363	CATHRALL, Ashley	Mushrooms/Fungi
57365	CURIALE, Andrew, <i>andill1602@verizon.net</i>	Sports, Actors, Disney, Cars
57370	DABAH, Victor	
53997	ERIKSSON, MATS, <i>mats.b.eriksson@comhem.se</i> Storskiftsgatain 81, Linkoping, SE-583 34, Sweden	Subways, Trains

ATA Membership Recruiters 2015

The following ATA members have recruited a total of 81 new members from January to Dec. 1, 2015. Individual members have received \$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

Davidson, Larry	19	Chouinard, Louise	1
Hamman, Dawn	9	Curiale, Tony	1
Winnegrad, Mark	6	Dimmick, Ed	1
Fisk, Allan	4	Drought, Richard M	1
Knapp, Eric	3	Edholm, Keith	1
Congrove, Jack	2	Foo, Austin	1
Eyster, Lucy	2	Hadley, Doug	1
Jones, Susan B	2	Mather, Robert	1
Quintero, Robert	2	Pettway, Jim	1
Skvara, Fred	2	Scannell, Caroline	1
Stout, Jean	2	Siegling, Van	1
Youngblood, Wayne	2	Smith, Dale	1
Bruce, Sue	1	Stanton, Lorraine	1
Cartier, Karen	1	Trier, Orlie	1

57349	FIKAR, Charles	
57352	GOODAPPLE, Sara, 3818 Biscayne St, Quincy IL 62305-4744	Birds
57353	HAVENS, Dory, doryhavens@gmail.com	Lighthouses
	432 Kelburn Rd, Apt 326, Deerfield IL 60015-4389	
57368	HILLS, Dick	
26971-LM	HOLDER III, Franklin, PO Box 939, Eastman GA 31023-0939	
54836	LEVANDOWSKI, Henry, benlevx@comcast.net	Vikings, All History, Human Origins
37111	LUCAS, Vincent	
57347	MARMARELLI, Michael	
57360	MARTINEZ, Jose Raul, raulmroig@hotmail.com	Don Quijote, Man Made Wonders
57362	MELANSON, Helen	
57358	MERRILL, Greg, glmupasaka@gmail.com	Angkor Wat, Borobudor, Buddha/Buddhism, Pagodas
57357	MILLS, Bobby	
57359	MOORE, Ellen Ann	
57355	NORMAN, Karla	Books/Literature, Childrens Literature, Sunflowers, Libraries
	5536 Hinton Ave, Memphis TN 38119-7008	
57371	PLANT, Philip	Plants
57364	SCARFE, Jim	Birds, Butterflies
57367	SMITH, Curt	
57356	TANGEDAHL, Richard	
57366	TOLEDO, Barbara	
57354	WAYNER, Robert, 348 E 4th St, Brooklyn NY 11218-3104	Railroads, Opera
46554	WUNDERLY, Kathleen	

Award Winners

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. A list of available awards and their criteria are available on the ATA webpage. The awards can be obtained by contacting the Awards Chair Dalene Thomas at dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org, or by mail at 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.

Only those shows that submit a report to the Awards Chair will be acknowledged here. *Denotes ATA member.

First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

At Filatelic Fiesta **Fran Adams** received both the ATA first and ATA second awards for: *Roosevelt and Churchill in Newfoundland: The Atlantic Meeting* and *Eskimo, Arctic People of the Ice and Snow*.

Alphonse Mocha Designer of Czechoslovakia's First Postage Stamps, exhibited by **Ron Zacks**, received the ATA first award at ThamesPex. **Alan Benz** received the ATA second award for *Modes of Transportation* and **Bill Burton** got the ATA third award for *The World of Dinosaurs*. 

Dalene Thomas is a past president of ATA and president of the Lighthouse Stamp Society. She may be contacted at dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org or 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.

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All editorial inquiries or comment for *Topical Time* should be directed to Editor Wayne L. Youngblood. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ATA, its officers or staff. Neither the ATA nor its officers assume responsibility for individual dealings with or between members.

Letters to the editor, features and short pieces are always welcomed, as long as they are strongly related to topical and thematic stamp collecting and add to the knowledge base of the hobby.

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For ATA membership information, change of address, ATA publication orders, back issues of *Topical Time* or ATA handbooks, contact the ATA Office. The 2015-17 ATA Membership Directory is available from the ATA Office for \$12, plus postage (\$3 U.S., \$6 Canada and \$13 international).

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ATA website: www.americantopicalassn.org.

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Electronic membership (access *Topical Time* online): one year \$25; two years \$45; three years \$65; five years \$100. **Domestic (U.S.) membership** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$30; two years \$55; three years \$80; five years \$125. **International membership:** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$40; two years \$75; three years \$110; five years \$175. **Life membership** (print and electronic): \$1,000.

All memberships begin in the month of the current issue of *Topical Time*, and include six issues of *Topical Time*. Subscription rates are included as part of ATA membership dues.

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(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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www.yvert-et-tellier.fr/

Canadian Stamp News:
 PO Box 28103, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7P8, Canada
bret@trajan.ca; www.canadianstampnews.ca

Filacap: José Maurício do Prado, editor,
 Caixa Postal 06, Cachoeira Paulista SP,
 12630-970, Brazil
ac.filacap@uol.com.br; www.filacap.com.br

Gibbons Stamp Monthly: Hugh Jeffries,
 editor, 5 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire,
 BH24 3SH, United Kingdom
www.stanleygibbons.com

Israel Philatelist: Donald A. Chafetz, editor,
 1943 Altonzano Dr, El Cajon CA 92020-1002 USA
sipeditor@gmail.com; www.israelstamps.com

L'Echo de la Timbrologie: editor, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036, Amiens, Cedex 1, France
www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com

Linn's Stamp News: Donna Houseman,
 managing editor, PO Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
dhouseman@amosmedia.com; www.linns.com

Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine: John F. Dunn,
 editor, 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack NH 03054-4429 USA
www.stampnewsnow.com

Philatelic Exporter: Graham Phillips, editor,
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 Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom
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 275 Rue Bryant, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1J 3E6, Canada.

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Setempe: Suzie Khumalo, editor, Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa.

South African Philatelist: Chris Mobsby,
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 South Africa
saphilatelist@iafrica.com.
www.philatelysa.co.za

Stamp Insider: Albert W. Starkweather,
 editor, 5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa FL 33624-2847 USA.

astarkweather@nystampclubs.org
www.stampinsider.org

Stamp Lover: Michael M. Goodman, editor,
 The National Philatelic Society, c/o The British Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, United Kingdom

stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk.
www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm

Stamp Magazine: Guy Thomas and Julia Lee, editors, Hadlow House, 9 High Street, Green Street Green, Kent BR6 6BG, United Kingdom.

julia.lee@mytimemedia.com
www.stampmagazine.co.uk

Stamp News Australasia: Kevin Morgan, editor, PO Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia
kevinmorgan2@live.com
www.stampnews.com.au/

U.S. Stamp News: John Hotchner, editor,
 PO Box 1125, Falls Church VA 22041-0125 USA.
www.stampnewsnow.com

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Show Calendar

Jan 24-26, 2016, California. Sandical, San Diego County Philatelic Council, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd, San Diego, Calif. Contact: Linda Mabin (407) 493-0956
Email: mabin7@cox.net
Website: www.sandical.org

Feb. 27-28, 2016, Ohio. Toledo Stamp Expo 2016, sponsored by Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo (ATA Chapter 66), Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland, Ohio. Show hours Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. 20 dealers, youth table, free parking, admission.
Contact: Clifford Campbell, (419) 874-6241.
Website: www.toledostampclub.org

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

To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, 4615 Lindell Blvd Apt 1102, Saint Louis MO 63108-3720, or by email to: wystamps@gmail.com. Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show.

March 19, 2016, Wisconsin. Baypex '16, sponsored by the Green Bay Philatelic Society, St. Matthew's Catholic Church Multipurpose Room, 2575 South Webster Ave, Green Bay, Wis., 10 dealers, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and free parking in rear of church. Local club exhibits only.

Contact: Ray Perry, 2214 Allouez Ave, Green Bay WI 54311 (920) 469-8925.
Email: fiveperrys@athenet.net

March 19-20, 2016, Ohio. The 85th annual McKinley Stamp Club Show, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St NW, North Canton, Ohio. Features a 20-dealer bourse, exhibits, cachet/cancellation. Show hours 10-5 Sat., 10-4 Sun., free admission.
Contact Dave Pool (330) 832-5992.

Email: lincolnway@sssnet.com
Website: mksc.webs.com

April 2-3, 2016, Canada. Spring National Stamp Show, sponsored by the Edmonton Stamp Club, Central Lion's Recreational Centre, 111 Ave & 113 Str., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

Contact: Ed Dykstra (780) 420-7243
Email: eddykstra@shaw.ca
Website: www.Edmontonstamp.com

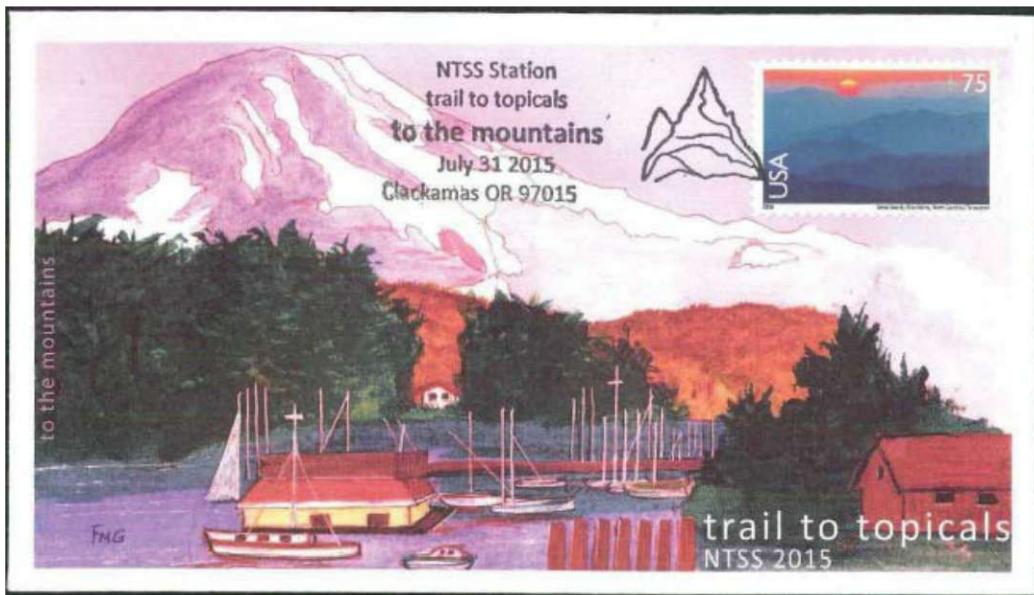


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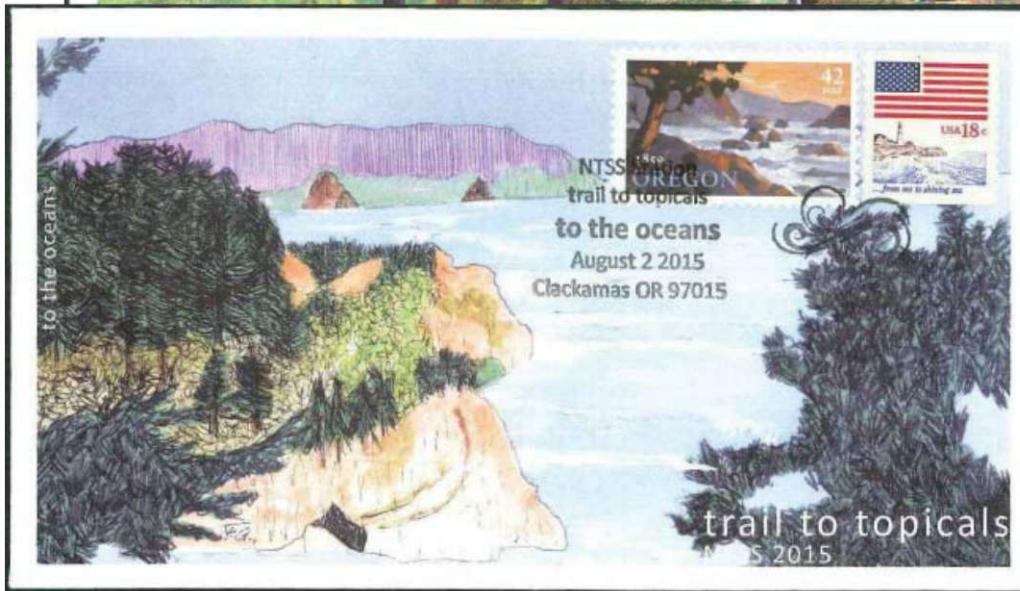
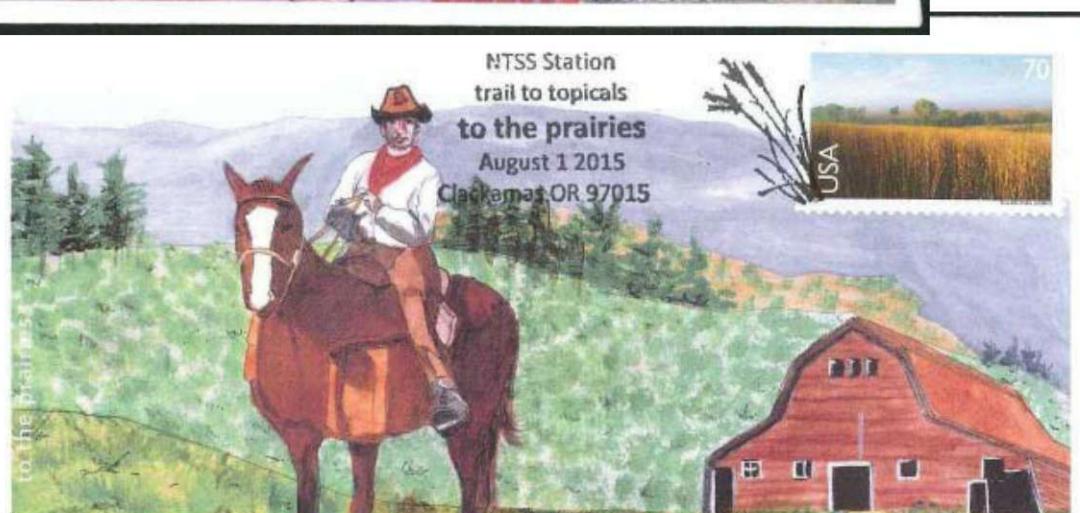
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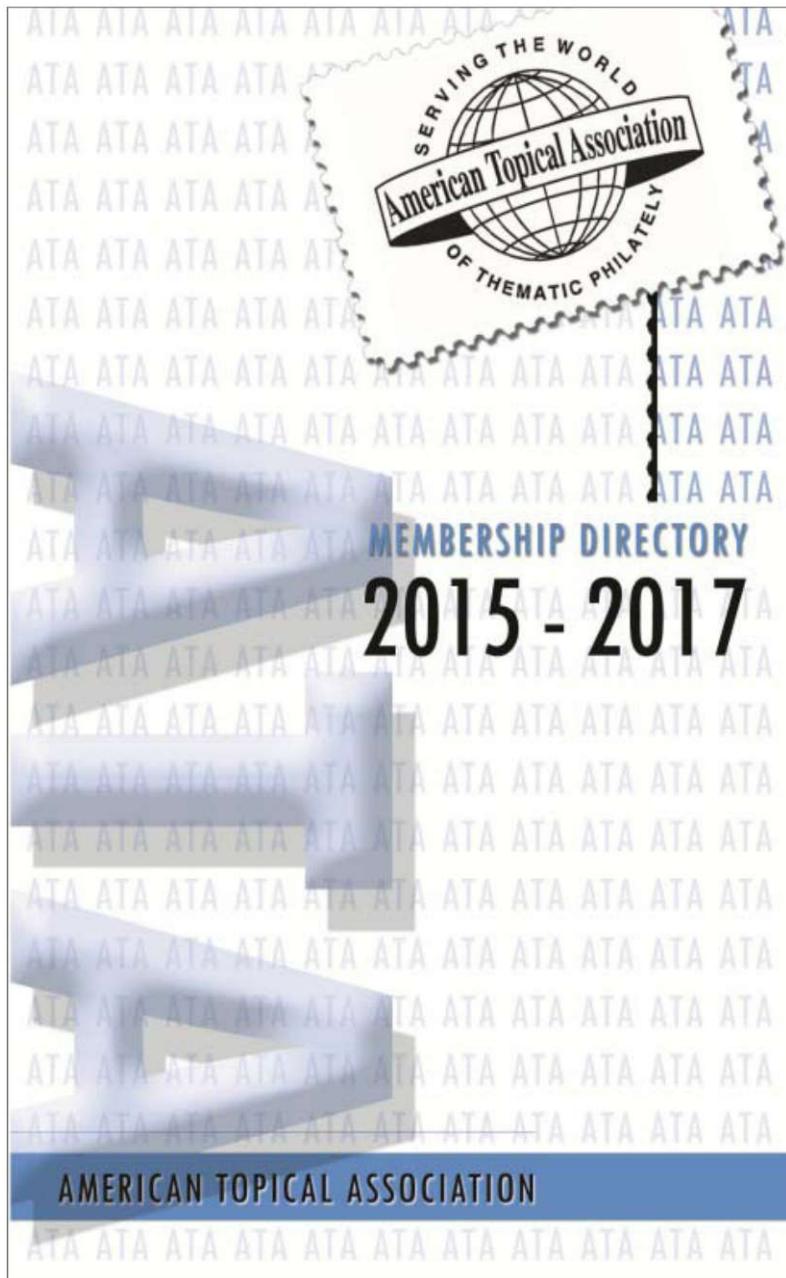


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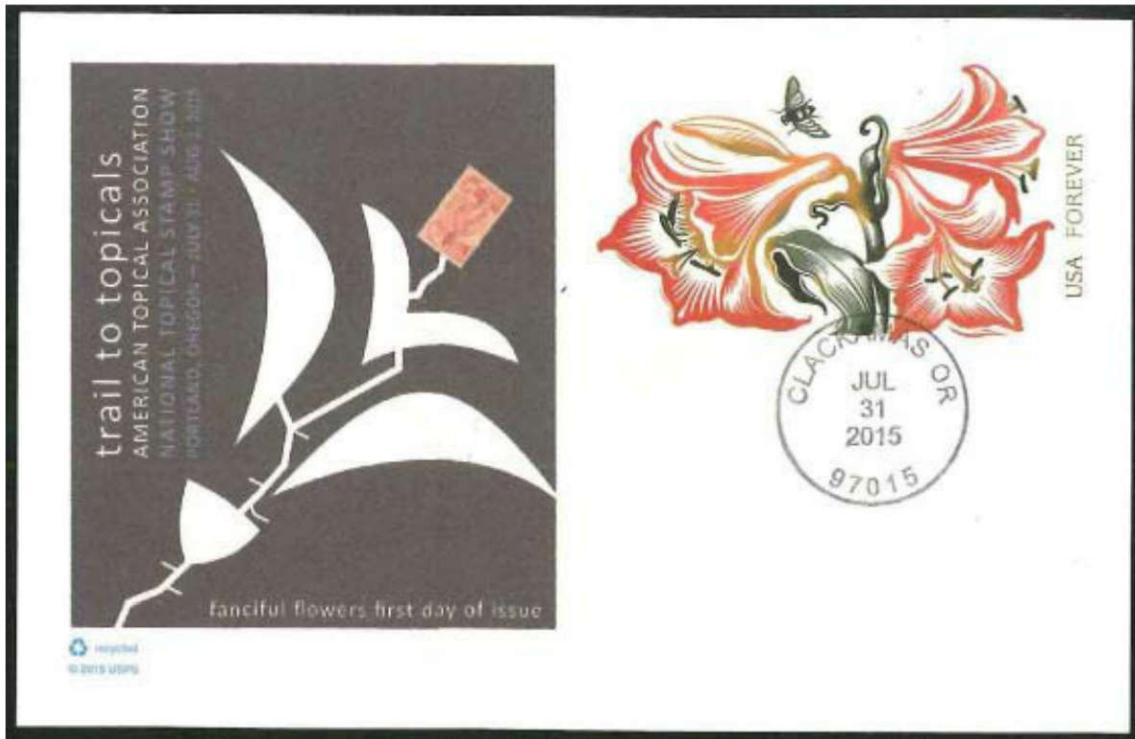
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