National Stamp Show  Rochester, New York

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World Series of Philately Event

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Friday, June 18  10–6
Saturday, June 19  10–5
Sunday, June 20  10–4

Webster Community Field House
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Complimentary “Breakfast at ROPEX”
Lecture by John Hotchner:
The Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee
(Saturday 9 a.m.)

First annual meeting of the newly
formed Auxiliary Markings Club
(Saturday 1–3 p.m.)

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Contents

U.S. AND CANADA NEW ISSUES (REVISED) .... 4
EDITOR’S PAGE ........................................ 6
PRESIDENT’S PAGE ................................. 7
SITE SEEING: RESEARCH ON THE WEB ........ 8
NEW STORE STAFF PHOTOGRAPH ............... 9
A SHORT HISTORY OF PICTORIAL CANCELS ... 10
RECALLING THE ORIGINS OF ROPEX ............ 14
POSTAL HISTORY COMPETITION AT ROPEX .... 17
ROPEX 2004 SHOW CALENDAR .................... 18
STAMP COLLECTOR’S WORD FIND ................ 20
DONALD P. CONNELLY DIES ........................ 21
CLUB PAGES ........................................... 22
CLUBS & CONTACTS .................................... 37
SHOWS & BOURSES ................................... 38

Advertisers

ROPEX 2004 ........................................... 2
RS STAMP SHOW ..................................... 5
SYRACUSE STAMP, COINS & COLLECTIBLES ... 5
THOUSAND ISLANDS SHOW ....................... 9
MIDEASTERN GALLERIES LLC .................... 11
CNY STAMP, COIN & COVER SHOW ............ 13
HENRY GITNER PHILATELISTS, INC. ............. 15
B. TRADING CO. ....................................... 17
OSWEGO COUNTY POSTCARD SHOW ........... 19
CAPITAL DISTRICT STAMP SHOW ............... 38
SUBURBAN STAMP, COINS & COLLECTIBLES .. 38
BIG “E” COINS & STAMPS .......................... 38
SHOWGARD .............................................. BACK COVER

Subscriptions, Copyright, Advertising

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Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions (In inches)</th>
<th>Per Insertion</th>
<th>Contract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>$ 28.00</td>
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<td>$ 45.00</td>
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<td>$ 48.00</td>
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<td>$120.00</td>
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<td>$ 65.00</td>
<td>$ 52.00</td>
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<td>$ 60.00</td>
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<td>Inserts</td>
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<td>POR</td>
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</table>

NOTE: All advertisement payments must be made prior to effective date of publication!
### 2004 U.S. Issues Revised

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Pacific Coral Reef</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
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<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Year of the Monkey</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl., Orefino, ID 83544; Sioux City, IA 51101; Hartford, IL 62048; Atchison, KS 66002; Saint Charles, MO 63301; Great Falls, MT 59401; Omaha, NE 68101; Washburn, ND 58577; Pierre, SD 57501; Astoria, OR 97103; Ilwaco, WA 98624</td>
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<td>Love: Candy Hearts</td>
<td>Revere, MA</td>
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<td>Paul Robeson</td>
<td>Princeton, NJ</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
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<td>Snowy Egret</td>
<td>Norfolk, VA</td>
<td>37¢ booklet of 20</td>
</tr>
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<td>Theodor Geisel “Dr. Seuss”</td>
<td>La Jolla, CA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Garden Bouquet (Wedding)</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>37¢ booklet of 20</td>
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<td>Chippendale chair</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>4¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>23¢ postal card</td>
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<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>U.S. Air Force Academy</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
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<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>Henry Mancini</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>American Choreographers</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>37¢ sgl., 4 designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Lewis and Clark</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>37¢ booklet, two designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Isamu Noguchi</td>
<td>Long Island City</td>
<td>37¢ sgl., 5 designs</td>
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<td>The Art of Disney</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>4 designs, Anaheim, CA</td>
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<td>Summer Olympics</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Harriton House</td>
<td>Bryn Mawr, PA</td>
<td>23¢ postal card</td>
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<td>The Art of Disney</td>
<td>Clarksville, TN</td>
<td>23¢ sgl., Clarksville, TN</td>
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<td>Wilma Rudolph</td>
<td>Santa Clara, CA</td>
<td>23¢ sgl., Santa Clara, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 25</td>
<td>American Toleware</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>5¢ reissue as pane of 20</td>
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<td>Stanford, CA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
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<td>Jul 23</td>
<td>James Baldwin</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>John Wayne</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
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<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>Sickle Cell Anemia</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Art of the American Indian</td>
<td>Sana Fe, NM</td>
<td>37¢ sgl., 10 designs</td>
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<td>Madonna &amp; Child by Monaco</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Holiday Ornaments</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Kwanzaa</td>
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<td>37¢ sgl.</td>
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### 2004 Canada Revised

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue</th>
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<td>Year of the Monkey</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢ sgl., and $1.40 souvenir sheet</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>NHL All-stars</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢, pane of 6 gummed and self-adhesive</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Quebec Winter Carnival</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢ sgl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Army Cadets 125th Anniversary</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢ sgl.</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>University of Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Samuel Cunard and Sir Hugh Allen</td>
<td>Nova Scotia, 49¢ sgl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>Festival International de Jazz de Montréal</td>
<td>Halifax, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>49¢ sgl, coincides with ROYAL <em>2004</em> ROYALE, philatelic exhibition in Halifax, Nova Scotia, 49¢ sgl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 6</td>
<td>D-Day 60th Anniversary</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>49¢ sgl.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued on Page 22
RS Stamp Show

Sunday, September 5
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Door Prizes • Free Parking • 19 Dealers

The RS Stamp Show is at Eagles Club #52
100 Buffalo Road (Rt. 33)
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From the NYS Thruway Exits 45 or 47, take I-490 to Exit 7A (Rt. 33 East), go 1.7 miles east. The Eagles Club is on the left.

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Holiday Inn
Thruway Exit 35 — Carrier Circle

2004 Shows at Same Location
November 13–14

Contact
Ed Bailey
P.O. Box 2338, Syracuse, New York
315 • 452 • 0593
Editor’s Page

Albert W. Starkweather
5520 Gunn Hwy #1406 — Tampa, FL 33624–2847
e-mail — designondemand@verizon.net

We are Growing

This is the largest issue of the Stamp Insider in recent years, with our growth being bolstered by the addition of a new face to the club pages — Buffalo Stamp Club, and the return of two other Federation member groups — Fort Orange Stamp Club and Schenectady Stamp Club. We are very happy to have them as part of our family.

We also welcome three new advertisers as well — Mideastern Stamp Galleries LLC, who came on board in the last issue, and Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc., and B. Trading Co. Please show your support by patronizing them and all our other advertisers.

Jim Darnell of Finger Lakes Stamp Club deserves many thanks and credits for his philatelic puzzles, which will be continued in future issues as long as he is willing and his creative juices continue to flow.

New Appearance

This issue should be greatly improved in printing quality, as we have changed printers. The change will make illustrations much clearer and the type more legible. I wish to thank the printer the publication has used for the past 20 years. Unfortunately, he currently is unable to handle electronic files or to improve print quality.

July / August Issue

There will be a sixth issue this year for July/August. This will benefit clubs who meet throughout the year, as well as allowing us to include the annual index. The deadline for advertising and editorial copy will be June 1, and the issue will be mailed in late July.

Archives

This volume and future volumes of the Stamp Insider will be saved for the Federation archive at Rome Historical Society on CD-ROM as Acrobat files that may be viewed on any computer. At some point, the previous 20 volumes of the publication will be indexed on a CD-ROM for the archives, making searches easier for future researchers.

Help Wanted

I would like to remind everyone that the Federation is still seeking a Junior Affairs Vice President. If you would like to volunteer — or know someone who would be ideal for the position, please contact Federation Secretary John A. Cali or Nominating Committee Chair Joe Christofaro as soon as possible.
**Anticipating Ropex**

The only upstate New York National show, *Ropex*, will be held once again in June. We wish them a successful show. This event is always something to look forward to as I hope our readers will agree. Please read the enclosed show details and history of the show. (see ad page 2, history page 16, *Ropex* calendar page 18, and RPA page 31)

**Federation Meeting and Elections**

Prior to *Ropex* our Annual Federation meeting with elections will be held June 13 at The Beches Restaurant in Rome. We will have a breakfast/brunch at 11 a.m., followed by a 1 p.m. meeting and auction.

The Nominating Committee is hard at work soliciting candidates for office. Each club is entitled to have two delegates appointed or elected from their membership to represent them at Federation meetings. However, all club members are Federation members and thus eligible for office. Nominating Committee Chair Joe Christofaro has stated that he would like to have a contested slate for the June elections. Please give this some thought. The two other members of the Nominating Committee are Ernie Lewis and John A. Cali.

**Remembering Don Connelly**

We were recently notified of the passing our own magician extraordinaire Don Connelly. Many of our readers knew Don for his many activities with our member clubs. The many services he performed for the federation in different capacities could only be described as staggering. He will certainly be missed. I served as a federation judge under Don’s stewardship as judges’ secretary. (See obituary page 21)

**Archives Progressing Well**

I have been advised that the Federation archive at Rome Historical Society is coming along nicely. We have had several new acquisitions. Some items are donations while others require a modest expense. Joe Christofaro is in charge of a catalog listing for our members.

**How Are We Doing?**

We, as federation officers, would like to know if the group is performing well and according to your wishes. The only way to know this is if you contact informing us how we are doing. Perhaps we can improve in certain areas while cutting back in others. Just let us know. Our contact information is in the publication or notify your delegates.
The Web as a Research Tool

The Internet provides a valuable research tool for collectors in smaller cities and towns, where the local library may be a bit thin on philatelic books and periodicals and for those whose book budget often has too much month left over at the end of the money.

**www.collector-resources.com** — An umbrella to locate information about all kinds of collectibles, including stamps and covers. A search of Collector-Resources for “stamps for collectors” yields 18 links to philatelically oriented sites, mostly commercial.

**www.livefromsiliconvalley.com/airmail/airmail.html** — The virtual Air Mail Stamp Museum is well organized and beautifully illustrated, but be aware of the ubiquitous annoying pop-under messages — those which hide behind your main screen and steal memory.

**www.afdc.org** — The American First Day Cover Society’s site features online access to its auctions through a catalogue and bidding form. It also offers its 13 handbooks through an online order form, as well as the opportunity to join the society or renew membership.

**http://home.att.net/~aranman/epa1.html** — The Éire Philatelic Association’s site may lack the polish of those of the larger and more affluent organizations, but there is plenty of information that is well organized. A site index is at the ready for those who may stray off the beaten path.

**www.stampshows.com** — A list of stamp shows worldwide, need we say more? The site is advertising heavy, but the information is free — a fair trade off.

**www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/pb.htm** — The U.S. Postal Service Bulletin, which is archived back to 1995. Once you have found what you want in the index, the online versions are displayed in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format.

**www.stamporama.com** — StampoRama is similar in concept to Lloyd de Vries’ Virtual Stamp Club, but is less extensive. It has some interesting features including mentoring. To access some of the more advanced features, membership is required … but free.

**www.un.org/depts/unpa** — The United Nations Postal Administration’s Web site is far more user friendly and informative for collectors than the U.S. Postal Service’s attempt to be all things for all people — a site so abysmal that only the truly desperate would go there. The U.N. site is devoted to collectors and makes a visit an enjoyable experience.

**Note:** In the case of the Web addresses in this column, the http:// convention is assumed. Readers visiting the online version of the *Stamp Insider* will find that the Web addresses are hyperlinked and will summon the site being described.
New Store Staff: Mideastern Galleries LLC — a stamp and coin store — opened recently in Rome, New York. From left: owner Joseph O. Christofaro, his partner William Lambert, and his wife, Yon Christofaro. (See ad on page 13)

26TH ANNUAL
1000 ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL COIN, STAMP, POSTCARD AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW
AND
EMPIRE STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND CONVENTION

CLAYTON ARENA
ROUTE 12
CLAYTON, NEW YORK 13624

SHOW DATES
JULY 24–25, 2004

SATURDAY 10 A.M.–5 P.M.
SUNDAY 10 A.M.–3 P.M.
A Short History of U.S. Pictorial Cancels

By John A. Cali

Pictorial cancels by most readers’ standards are not a postal history item. However, their evolution spans over a century from forerunners to the ones one now sees on everyday mail. Certainly they deserve their place in the panorama of postal history.

Forerunner pictorial cancels are those one would see at, for example, the 1898 Trans Mississippi International Exposition and the few philatelic expositions of the time. They usually were circular cancels with straight-line killer bars.

The only variance from a standard cancellation of the period was that such postmarks would include wording indicating they emanated from a certain location within a world’s fair or were from a philatelic event. Gradually, various clubs began to note special events in the cancel in this manner. This trend lasted well into the 1950s. Variations occurred when a notation was placed within the killer bars or in the circular date stamp (cds) itself denoting that it was a special event or a postal station within the event.

It was in the late 1950s that the First Day of Issue standard killer bar in-corporated some form of graphic tying it to the stamp’s design. One may recall the Credo and Champion of Liberty series, which along with a few others carried this style of cancel.

During the decades of the 1950s and 1960s, pictorial cancels began to evolve into something similar to how they appear today. The circular design with killer bars, for the most part, has become a thing of the past. One now sees very decorative pictorial cancels that attempt to convey the event/topic or depicts a scene from its theme. The last 10 years have shown a dramatic increase in the style and quantity of pictorial cancels requested of the U.S. Postal Service.

Continued on Page 12
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jozep_mideastern@verizon.net

Tuesday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday & Monday: Closed

Owners: Joseph O. Christofaro
Yon Christofaro
William Lambert
SUBMITTING A PICTORIAL CANCEL

An interesting aspect of the pictorial cancel history is the specific criteria that must be met when submitting a request for an event pictorial cancel. A sponsoring organization must submit a letter indicating date, location, and other particulars to their local postmaster.

This must be done 90 days before the date(s) requested for the cancel. It is then submitted up the Postal Service chain of command where it is either approved or denied. The cancel is generally used on the days reported in the press. However, new policies allow for obtaining these cancels for up to 30 days after the event.

The now defunct Pictorial Cancellation Society served the needs of many collectors. This organization coordinated individuals to provide information when a pictorial cancel would be used. This service was provided because of lack of accurate advance notices or list of previously issued postmarks being issued by the USPS at that time. Now, the USPS does keep such a listing. This service seems to have come about after the demise of the Pictorial Cancellation Society in the 1990s. There was a gap of about two and a half years between the two compilations of cancels.

The future holds the promise of many more and varied types of pictorial cancels. One now sees a variety of pictorial meters and private imprints. Consider that this entire field began as a means of using the obliteration of a stamp for another purpose!

[RPO with Killer Bar Message, top; Ernst Reuter First Day Cover, middle; and Schaghticoke 178th Anniversary, bottom]

[This article originally was written for the March 2004 issue EXCELSIOR!, the journal of New York State postal history published by the Empire State Postal History Society.]
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Philatelic Exhibition and Bourse

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Saturday & Sunday

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E-mail: Jozep_mideastern@verizon.net
Recalling the Origins of ROPEX

By Thomas M. Fortunato and Albert W. Starkweather

The first ROPEX was held from Sept. 24–26, 1971, but can trace its roots to an event four years earlier when the American Topical Association held its 16th annual convention in Rochester in June 1967.

The Rochester Philatelic Association was prepared, having purchased frames from the 1966 Sipex show held in Washington, DC, the year earlier.

Although the term ROPEX—ROCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION—was first used for the 1971 show, held Sept. 24–26, the 1967 Topex show could be considered the first ROPEX. ROPEX/Topex ’71 honored the Monroe County Sesquicentennial.

Show dates have varied over the years. The 1972–1974 shows were in June, while 1976 was in November, 1978 in April, and 1979 in October. From 1981–2002, the show dates varied between March and April, primarily due to site scheduling conflicts and Easter weekend. With its new venue at the Webster Field House, the 2003 and the forthcoming 2004 show were set for June.

Much of the success can be attributed in part to the efforts of Gordon C. Morison

Much of the success of RPA’s show history can be attributed in part to the efforts of former Assistant Postmaster General Gordon C. Morison, who joined the U.S. Postal Service in 1970 as head of its Philatelic Division.

The committee for the 1967 show included: Dorothy P. Fordham, general chairman; with the Steering Committee of Mrs. Fordham, Dr. E. W. Hainlen, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Morison; Dr. Leslie Roll, secretary; and S. Clark Place, treasurer. Chairmen were G. James Papin, bourse; Wolfgang Fritzsche, exhibits; Dr. Helmut Zander, prospectus; Jacob Legeer, judges and awards; Mrs. S. Clark Place, banquet; Dr. George Joel, special activities; Mrs. Louis Giambra, hospitality; Helen del Solar, cachets and seals; Frank Balassa, security and insurance; and Mary Morison, publicity.

Subsequent ROPEX Shows

ROPEX ’72 was a joint show with Unipex IV and commemorated the 125th anniversary of the first U.S. postage stamps.

In 1973, ROPEX honored the colonial post rider and noted the first of several first day ceremonies during its history. The 8-cent stamp was issued in Rochester on June 22 — the

Continued on Page 16
Our Pledge to You

We have assisted thousands of stamp collectors over the past 23+ years in realizing their goals. We are happy to serve the beginner and specialist alike. Our reputation as one of the world’s leading buyers of philatelic properties, combined with our staff of experts, consistently yields a stunning inventory of worldwide treasures. When the time comes to sell your collection, accumulation or dealer stock, you can be assured of getting top dollar.

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We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Amex
Ropex — Continued from Page 14

opening day of the show — to commemorate the role of the courier in helping to unify the 13 colonies.

Ropex again hosted the American Topical Association in 1974. Theme of the show was the Universal Postal Union (UPU) centennial.

There was no show in 1975, while in 1976 the theme was the American Revolution Bicentennial. Again, there was no show in 1977.

Ropex ’78 honored the 125th anniversary of founding of the New York Central Railroad. The railroad was merely a memory by then — having merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad as the Penn Central, which declared bankruptcy in 1970.

The 50th anniversary of the Canadian Bluenose Stamp was noted at Ropex ’79.

After a year’s hiatus, Ropex commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross and the 200th anniversary of the battle of Yorktown in 1981.

The themes of Ropex ’82 were the 175th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s steamboat and the 200th anniversary of the Great Seal of the United States.

At Ropex ’83, there was the second first day of issue ceremony for the show — marking issuance of the 3-cent Handcar in the Transportation Series definitives on March 25.

The sesquicentennial of the City of Rochester was noted during Ropex ’84.

The 14-cent Iceboat coil in the Transportation Series definitives was issued on March 23 at Ropex ’85. The show also saluted American Space Achievements.

Transportation formed the heart of Ropex ’86, ’87, and ’88, with forms of transportation being the theme for the first, aviation the second, and rail transportation of the latter. The middle show also had a Salute to Baseball.


Ropex ’90 commemorated 150 Years of Women on Stamps.

A dual first day ceremony for the Tulip definitives highlighted Ropex ’91, with issuance of the 29-cent single and booklet stamps on April 5. These replaced a series of Tulip F valu-
ROPEX Postal History Competition

By Alan Parsons

Invitations were mailed last August/September to nine northeastern U.S. postal history societies to join the Empire State Postal History Society in a postal history exhibiting competition at Ropex '04 in Webster on June 18–20.

Invited were societies in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

As the host society, ESPHS will provide an award for the best multi-frame postal history exhibit and for the best single-frame postal history exhibit entered by a member of the competing societies. The Ropex jury will determine the winner of each of these awards.

Special Award

To further encourage postal history exhibiting by members of the invited societies there will be an award for the winning society in the competition based on points earned for medal levels of exhibits and for having the most exhibits, exhibitors, pages on exhibit, and exhibits of postal history specific to the state of the competing society.

Continued on Page 32
— Ropex 2004 Calendar —

**Friday, June 18**
- 8 a.m.: Dealers’ bourse
- 10 a.m.: Show opens
- 6 p.m.: Show closes
- 7 p.m.: Auction

**Saturday, June 19**
- 9 a.m.: Breakfast at Ropex Lecture

1 p.m.: Auxiliary Markings Club first annual meeting (see page 35)
- 5 p.m.: Show closes
- 6 p.m.: Awards banquet

**Sunday, June 20**
- 10 a.m.: Show opens
- 4 p.m.: Show closes

Ropex — Continued from Page 16

ations issued on Jan. 22 in Washington, DC. (See first day cover illustration on page 12.) Theme for the show was local lighthouses.

The 29-cent Tulip coil was issued in Rochester on March 2, 1992, weeks before that year’s Ropex, which commemorated the 500th Anniversary of Columbus’ discovery of America.

Ropex ’93 marked 100 Years of Commemoratives and the 25th anniversary of APS Champion of Champions award.

Themes of Ropex’94, ’95, ’96, and ’97 were Trains and the Mail, Man in Space, the 100th anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games, and the 150th anniversary of the First U.S. Postage Stamps respectively.

The 30th anniversary of the movie, 2001: A Space Odyssey, the 60th anniversary of the radio broadcast of War of the Worlds, and the 90th anniversary of L. Frank Baum’s book, Dorothy & the Wizard of Oz, were celebrated at Ropex ’98.

The United Nations issued its 33- and 60-cent Australia World Heritage stamps on March 19 during Ropex ’99. Theme of the show was Apollo Missions 8, 11, and 17.

Trains again were the theme of Ropex 2000.

Diabetes awareness and Christmas Philately were the themes of Ropex 2001, while the 2002 show marked the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear.

Themes of Ropex 2003 were 175 Years of Railroading in America, 100 Years of Manned Flight, and 50 Years of the Corvette. The United Nations released its 23- and 37-cent se-tenant pair of stamps for the International Year of Freshwater on June 20.

(The source of nearly all the information in this article comes from two sections on the RPA Web site — RPA History and Archives and Prior RPA Stamp Shows 1921–present.)
Minneapolis Community & Technical College bested seven other teams to win the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III women’s basketball championship tournament March 11–13 at Corning Community College. Corning Post Office issued a pictorial cancel and #10 cacheted cover selling for $1. Mail orders to Donna Woodcock, Customer Service Representative, Corning Main Post Office, 198 Baker St., Corning, NY 14830-9998, should include a SASE. Requests for specific state Greetings from America stamps will be honored, if available.
Stamp Collector’s Word Find

By Jim Darnell

Hidden in the block of letters below are 50 terms related to stamp collecting. The terms are aligned horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. The terms may be written both forwards or backwards. The hidden terms are listed below.

K O S G N O T G U T T E R P A I R C T S
R T A G G E D A R E H I D D E N M A R K
A P M A T S L I O C H I N V E R T C E C
M L E B A L P S E N A P T E L K O O B O
T A B T D T C B I L I N G U A L A V M M
S D C U Y S T E N A N T Q C M S E U M
O L E C M T U E L A C I P O T X L R N E
P A H G E D N S U R C H A R G E F I E M
Z M K T N P I E V R T M A C H F L T O
S Y A E E I L H D O I L N O R I L A R
E N A T T H H C A C N O A S E A D D L A
M T M A S E C A T T A C T P M X E K P T
I N I R E E A A T O E M D R I T T F E D I
P I S O R W M N C R R B I R T R I D O V
O R P F I N U S P I F A L E A R N C C E
S P E R F A T I O N L O G C I L L A
T R R E M E Y E S L L U B P C O T I A L
A E F P C I T S E M O D E G K I S C R
L V X M O K R A M R E T A W E I V I O N
T O P I M P R I N T D E R E T N E C L P

airmail    cto    label    plate block
album      definitive    local    plate number
bilingual  domestic    machin    postcard
booklet pane fdc    mint    postmark
bull’s eye   gutter pair    misperf    precancel
 cachet      hidden mark    mount    rouletted
centered    hinged    overprint    semipostal
coil stamp  invert    pair    se-tenant
commemorative imperforate    perfin    spif
cover      imprint    perforation    stamp

surcharge    tab
    tagged    tête-bêche
    thin    tongs
topical    triptych
    used
watermark
Donald P. Connelly — 1912–2004

Donald P. Connelly, 91, of Oneida, a former Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc., officer, judge, speaker, and exhibitor, died March 27 at Oneida Healthcare Center. He had been a professional magician and musician.

Mr. Connelly was a Federation vice president from 1968 to 1978 and in 1981–1982. He also served twice as acting president after the death of Gordon Parker in 1969 and after Eugene Gillett moved to Florida in 1982.

He had been a member of the Chenango Valley Stamp Club in Hamilton and the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club (formerly Copper City Stamp Club), and of the former Community Stamp Club in Oneida–Sherrill. He was also an honorary member of the Syracuse Stamp Club.

As a member of the Federation Speakers Bureau, Mr. Connelly had presented programs on *Foreign Nations Honor Franklin D. Roosevelt; Interesting Pages from a FDR Collection; Covers Autographed by People Connected with FDR; Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the World; March of Dimes Autographed Covers; Canal Zone Definitives, Commemoratives, and Airmails;* and *Great Britain Silver Wedding Issues.*

He was also a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), and a former member of the American Topical Association and Franklin D. Roosevelt Philatelic Society. He served for nine years on the board of directors of the IBM and for 26 years as chairman of its Sick & Convalescent Committee.

Mr. Connelly was inducted and served as a member of the IBM’s Order of Merlin Honorary Society and the Utica-Rome Chapter 101, serving as president and later honored when the chapter was renamed the Don Connelly Ring in 1980.

In his youth he had polio, but beat it and became a member of his school track team and was fit enough to serve in World War II. When he retired in 1973, Mr. Connelly had been employed for 20 years at the former Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome. He also was as a professional musician, playing with several southern tier of New York orchestras in the 1930s and various American Legion drum corps in Norwich, Oneonta, Syracuse, and Johnson City following the war.

During World War II, he served with the U. S. Army in the Pacific Theater for four years as a combat medic, receiving severe wounds in the campaign at Tarawa, New Britain Island, and was awarded two Bronze Stars. While recovering from his wounds he discovered magic and within a surprisingly short time, joined the USO and performed all over the world sharing the stage with many of the top stars of the time. He was employed in different theaters, vaudeville, and nightclubs in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

*Continued on Page 22*
Two Auctions Upcoming

The weather here in Buffalo is starting to change for the better and for many that means putting away the collection and paying attention to the yard. We still have two months of meetings, and with two more auctions — May 7 and June 4. It’s a great time to pick up some end of the season deals.

The dust has settled from the show and there seem to be smiles all around. Great dealers and a great turnout made this a show to remember. We were lucky enough to snag three world class judges for our exhibits. Janet Klug, Ton McCane, and Ray Stone judged a field of excellent exhibits. It was great way to show off our club in a national light.

That’s about it for the news from Buffalo so until the fall ...

Happy Collecting, Rich and the Buffalo Stamp Club

Donald P. Connelly — Continued from Page 21

He married Mildred “Molly” Steere in 1936. Molly was an important part of his magic life and did an excellent and unusual act in which she painted pictures with colored sand. Mrs. Connelly died on Dec. 23, 2000.

Funeral services were held March 31 at the Campbell-Dean Funeral Home, Inc., Oneida. Spring interment was to be in Morrisville Cemetery. Contributions in Mr. Connelly’s memory may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 116 W. Grove St., Oneida, NY 13421, or the Oneida Healthcare Center Foundation, P.O. Box 705, Oneida, NY 13421.

— Albert W. Starkweather

Canada Cont’d from Page 4

Jun. 18 Traversée Int’l de Lac St-Jean 49¢ sgl.
Jun. 20 Macdonald Institute Centennial 49¢ sgl.
Jun. 26 French Settlement at Île Ste-Croix 400th Anniversary

joint issue by Canada and France, 49¢ sgl.

Jul. 28 Olympic Games 40 & 49¢ stamps
Sep. 23 Nobel Laureates Michael Smith and Gerhard Herzberg 49¢ pair
Fall Montreal Institute of Cardiology 49¢ sgl.

Oct. 1 Stamp Collecting 49¢, eight designs
Oct. ? Painter Jean-Paul Lemieux domestic rate?, set of stamps
Oct. 25 150 years of Canadian Victoria Cross 49¢ pair
Nov. ? Toronto Santa Claus parade centennial 49 and 80¢ and $1.40 stamps
Elmira Stamp Club
Meets at Bath National Bank Community Room, North Main and First streets, Elmira (use rear entrance). Doors open at 7 p.m., meeting at 8. Stamp circuit available.

One-Page Exhibits Planned
In addition to the bimonthly auction, the May meeting will feature members’ one-page exhibits. Plan to bring something of interest to display and describe. It’s not a contest, just a good way to share your hobby with others!

Exhibiting information sheets and entry forms for Stepex ’04, the club’s annual show at the Arnot Mall on Oct. 22–23, are available at club meetings or from Al Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14905, phone 607-732-0181, e-mail alatholleyrd@aol.com. Entries received prior to June 30 may have up to eight frames instead of five.

Programs
May 17 — One-page exhibits and auction
June 15 — Slide Program Collecting First Day Ceremony Programs

Meeting Notes
February — 18 attended. We learned of the death of long-time member Herb Charnley, a Newfield resident who died on Jan. 20. The club extends its condolences to his family. USS circuit manager Galer Perreault reported a net loss of $4.56 for 2003. Vice President Don Dolan reaffirmed plans for the Super Auction in November. Al Parsons initiated distribution of showcards for Stepex ’04, and President Mike Breed said he would attend the next meeting of the committee planning for the 225th anniversary of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign and offer the club’s assistance. The meeting concluded with the APS slide show, Number Ones of the World.

March — The meeting was held March 22 because of heavy snowfall on the normal meeting date. This cut attendance to 14. President Breed reported on his meeting with the Sullivan Campaign anniversary committee — they would like us to do a commemorative cover for the event, including cachet and pictorial cancel. Al Parsons announced a sizeable contribution to the club of books, albums, periodicals and other philatelic supplies by Nancy Sherman, whose husband, Albert Sherman, was an active club member at the time of his death August 25, 2001. A portion of this generous contribution, making up seven lots, was included in the night’s auction. The meeting concluded with the auction, 21 lots in all, grossing $43.35. Just over half the gross ($22), represented proceeds from the Sherman lots, and this, plus the club’s commission on the other lots, brought a total of $24.10 to the club treasury.
The Collecting Gene

By Heather Sweeting

Well, I’ve got it — the collecting gene. I think it first became evident to me at the age of 7, when I became completely obsessed with reading each and every Nancy Drew mystery in numerical order. It later blossomed to include everything from drums, Uncle Sam, Pez® dispensers, CDs, etc.

I can blame both sides of the family for this obsession ... and I’m betting that if you are reading this you are likely suffering from a similar mutation/genetic disposition. I know that my Dad was extremely amused and happy to share this obsession with me ... the thrill of the hunt, finding a missing item, or restoring some old furniture. That was until the garage he built for storing old cars started to get filled up with my stuff as well. Parking in the garage was never really an option anyway. He had it much too full with other things!

When I moved into the family homestead in Fair Haven I assumed that my father had long ago relieved it of any philatelic materials. This was for the most part true ... but I did find one mystery cover among old papers in a drawer. This cover is certainly not a philatelic gem by any means. The edges of the envelope are rather worn and the three-cent war-rate stamp is torn. The mystery of this cover lies in the pathway it took overseas and back.

A Letter from Fairhaven

My great grandfather, C. (Charlie) Sant, mailed this letter from Fair Haven on May 20, 1918. (Note that fairhaven in this cancel is one word. Postmarks later separated the town name into two distinct words.) The letter was addressed to his son, Pvt. Joseph Lee Sant, 2nd [unreadable] Battlement Detachment, 2nd Training Brigade, Kelly Field, South San Antonio, Texas. The letter was received at KELLY JUNE Field (stamped in black twice over the address) and Forwarded (Rep) A.S.S. A A.E. F. (American Expeditionary Force) Via New

Continued on Page 39
Attendance Growing

Since our regular meeting resumed in February after two consecutive weather-related cancellations, member attendance has increased considerably and remained steady. Either our programs or our new $5 door prize or both must be popular with our membership.

We recently welcomed back a former member, Larry Teed of Geneva, who rejoined us after a few years’ absence.

Frames Being Prepared

Some of our members have been preparing $16 \times 20$-inch miniframes with various philatelic items for display at each meeting. The displays have included *Penny Black & Other Scott #1s*, *A Postcard Romance*, *Nobel Prize Winning Physicists on Stamps*, *Foreign Currency and Stamps*, *Old Business Envelopes*, *Space Stamps*, and *The Wright Brothers on Stamps*.

Cachets on Sale

We had a great success with our Dr. Seuss cachets, selling more than 100 of them.

Next we will be offering a set of three cachets for the Lewis and Clark stamps being issued this month. The price is $5 for each set. You can request them from any or all of the 11 first day of issue cities (your choice).

A complete set of 33 cachets (three from each of the issuing cities) will be $50.

In June we will be offering a cachet for the U.S.S, Constellation stamp for $2.

To order send a sase and payment to: Finger Lakes Stamp Club, c/o Gil Lewis, 502 Rt. 88 S., Newark, NY 14513.

Member Bob LaBelle will be attending the Lewis and Clark first day of issue ceremonies at one of the western sites. He plans to send each club member a first day cover.

Programs

- May 12 — *Kiloware Scramble*
- May 26 — Social evening, dish-to-pass supper
- June 9 — *Kiloware Scramble Revisited*
- June — Annual picnic and white elephant auction; exact date TBA
End of Year Banquet

The club’s annual end-of-year banquet will be on Tuesday, May 25 at the University Club, 141 Washington Ave. Previous banquets at this prestigious location have been most impressive. Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with an informal cocktail social hour followed by dinner at 7.

Three entrees are available: baked salmon, chicken cordon bleu, or roast prime rib of beef. These are accompanied by salad, potato or rice, and a vegetable.

Cost is $20 per person, with tax and gratuity included.

Year-End Traditions

Attendees will be treated to time honored FOSC year-end traditions, including the introduction of the new officers, and a reading of the outgoing president’s poem. Ray Coco will act as master of ceremonies and attempt to keep things as lively as possible, considering that this function may likely last well past some of the member’s normal bedtime — hey our group ain’t getting any younger!

The Club needs to know in advance how many members and guests will be attending and their meal choices. If you plan to attend, please contact Ray Coco at 442-3732 (daytime) or Vicki Miller at 458-8115 by May 20.

Officers Nominated

The FOSC Board of Directors, acting as the club’s Nominating Committee, has proposed the following candidates for 2004–2005: president, Don Van Hoesen; first vice president, George McGowan; second vice president, to be selected; secretary, Maris Tirums; treasurer, Ray Coco; and directors, Jack Haefeli, John J. Nunes; and Vicki Miller.

The election will take place at the regular meeting on May 11.

The next issue of the Fort Orange Philatelist, due to be published in late August 2004, will announce the final election results.

The club meets second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany Reformed Church Community Center, 760 New Scotland Ave., Albany.
ANTICIPATING SHOWS, COVERS, AND CANCELS

At our first April meeting there was much chitter-chatter regarding three forthcoming events — the big CNY Stamp, Cover, Coin, and Postcard Show to be at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona on Oct. 9 and 10, a 2004 Fort Stanwix Day cachet and hand-cancel, and a cover and cancellation commemorating the last official day for the Griffiss AFB Postal Station.

We currently are working with the National Parks Superintendent responsible for both the Fort Stanwix site in Rome and the Women’s Suffrage site in Seneca Falls. He has offered use of the architect’s rendering of the new Willet’s Education Center, which will be located at the fort and expected to open in 2005.

We also are trying to schedule our cover sale that it will be during a high visibility day at the fort where we can expect a high volume of potential buyers. In the past, we have successfully used the lobby of our main post office. The postmaster, however, has explained to us that the postal regulations actually forbid this type of usage. We were given one-time use permission last year due to the fact that we were advised of this regulation less than two weeks prior to the day of the sale.

The postmaster seems supportive of the idea of retiring the Griffiss AFB Station cancel and allowing us to participate with an official cover. We are also attempting to arrange for the official cancellation to be donated to the Rome Historical Society.

FEDERATION DATA BEING INPUT

Speaking of the Historical Society ... Lavinia Tilton has been a dedicated volunteer, logging in and inputting the data for the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies. Kudos to Lavinia ... thank you ... thank you ... thank you!

Joe Occhipinti and Phil Brown have the Fort Stanwix Day cover, cachet, and cancellation under control. They are and have been the heart and soul of these covers for several years. In fact, I will go as far to say that if it were not for them, this series of covers would have ended several years ago. A big thank you to these two workhorses as well.

One of our newest members, Gerry Cunningham, whom we co-opted him from the Utica Stamp Club, has again been invaluable in putting together the cachets and negotiating the purchase and printing of the stamp show covers for October...tip of the hat to you, Gerry!

Continued on Page 28
A BRIGHTER FUTURE?

The club was looking to spring and Easter with the hope of finding new members. Fulton’s economic picture is brightening with the advent of two new employers, which have taken the place of the former Nestlé USA Confections and Snacks.

Nestlé had relocated their operations in May 2003 leaving between 400–500 workers without employment. The company had made its home in Fulton for about 100 years. The two new chocolate companies intend on rehiring most of the former Nestlé workers. This may result in many new club members.

TREASURER’S PARENTS DIE

The Fulton Stamp Club sadly reports the death of Bernard and Janet Fleisch, the parents of Treasurer Penny Schneider. I am sure that all Fulton members are now aware of this. Our condolences go out to her and her family. This has, of course, impacted her husband, President Tom Schneider. The club will be in mourning for a suitable time.

ARC COVER CLUB MEETINGS

President Schneider’s new ARC Cover Club will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, while Fulton Stamp Club continues its meetings on the third Wednesdays. Both groups meet in the Hughes Building, 314 Park St. The Fulton Stamp Club meets at 7:30 p.m., except in July and August.

Further information about the club may be obtained by contacting the president at 315-592-9407 or John A. Cali, the secretary, at 315-592-4441. E-mail: rocket@dreamscape.com

Ft. Stanwix — Continued from Page 27

CHAIRING NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Finally, I’ve been asked to chair the Nominating Committee this year for the Federation. Please don’t hang up that phone if you get a call and I ask you to run for an office. I would like to see a solid, yet competitive, set of candidates for this year’s election. Any volunteers or nominations would be certainly welcomed and appreciated. I can be reached at 315-339-1628 during the day or at 315-337-9608 after 4 p.m. and on Sundays. My e-mail is mideastern@verizon.net.

— Joe Christofaro
Leatherstocking Stamp Club

The club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at 28 Pioneer Street

Bill Samuelson, President — Bill Highfield, Vice President
Peter Craig, Treasurer — Albert Keck, Youth Program
Ellen Tillapaugh, Newsletter Editor; e-mail: kuchtill@capital.net
Correspondence — 28 Pioneer St., Cooperstown, NY 13326

APS Membership Awarded

Bill Samuelsen received the free American Philatelic Society membership which Treasurer Peter Craig was able to award for having been an APS member for 25 years.

Delegate Needed

The club met on March 2 with seven members and three guests present. Craig’s treasurer’s report indicated that the club has a current balance of $1016. There was no old business. At the present time the club does not have a Federation delegate to replace Ingo Babral, who died last August. After the business meeting adjourned, the members enjoyed the video on stamp collecting provided by Bill Samuelsen.

Members noted and enjoyed the Lady Ostapeck photograph of George Tillapaugh which appeared in the March/April Stamp Insider. [Editor’s note: More of her work may be viewed at www.ladyostapeck.com]

Programs

May 4 — Favorite Philatelic Treasure; Members should bring their favorite page or philatelic item to share with the members
June 1 — APS Slide Show Plate Number Coils
July 6 — British Coronation Stamps by Ellen Tillapaugh
Aug. 3 — The 1939 Baseball Stamp by Dr. Roger MacMillan
Sept. 7 — TBA
Oct. 5 — TBA

Stamp Insider Deadlines Reminder

All copy — editorial and advertising — is due on the first of the month prior to the date of publication.

Please note added July–August issue!

July–August 2004 ------------------------------------------ June 1, 2004
September–October 2004 ---------------------------------- August 1, 2004
November–December 2004 -------------------------------- October 1, 2004
January–February 2005 --------------------------------- December 1, 2004
March–April 2005 ---------------------------------- February 1, 2005
May–June 2005 --------------------------------- April 1, 2005

Please clip and save this information for future reference. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!
Oswego Stamp Club
The club meets the fourth Monday at 6 p.m. at Faith Heritage Church, 12 Fitzgibbons Drive
Leigh LeClair, President — Matt Roy, Vice President
John A. Cali, Secretary — Matt Roy, Treasurer

Farewell to Winter
Winter 2003, we hope, has passed and will not return this year. Please keep in mind that strange things do happen in this part of the state. I hope nothing does as this is written on April 7. This is being written with temperatures still in the 40s. We should soon see much warmer weather. Yes, it is still rainy, but with a hope that things will greatly improve.

Swap Meeting
The March meeting saw a swap meeting as we struggled to obtain a quorum. Our Snowbirds had not returned. This column should find them back attending meetings as usual.

Interesting Material
Heather Sweeting visited the club with a whole mixture of material for the members to go through. There was an accumulation of at least three different publications from different dates as well as other interesting things. This really piqued the members’ interest.

May and June Meetings
Our May and June meetings should find some interesting things for us to do. June is usually our annual picnic. We will meet shortly to discuss just where this will be held.

The April and May meetings were expected to be a catch-up type of functions designed for our Floridians experiences. We hope to hear many tales.

Club contact is Leigh LeClair, 212 Murray st., Oswego NY 13126; phone 315-342-5653; email: pleclair@northnet.org

Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc.
Annual Meeting
June 13 — The Beeches Restaurant, Rome
Brunch 11 a.m. — Meeting 1 p.m.
Business Meeting & Election of Officers — Followed by Auction
Each club may send two delegates. Contact Joe Christofaro, Nominating Committee Chair, at 315-339-1628 or 337-9608;
e-mail — mideastern@verizon.net
Join Us for Ropex

Join the RPA for our annual Ropex stamp show Friday through Sunday June 18–20. Elsewhere in this issue you will find an advertisement for the show [page 2], a history of Ropex [page 14], and a calendar of events. Here are details about our special events:

Details of the Events

Friday 8–10 a.m.: Ropex dealers’ bourse — Dealers not reserving tables for the show are invited to enter early for a $20 admission fee with appropriate identification, such as a business card. The show opens to the public at 10 a.m. with free admission.

Friday 7 p.m.: Live auction — Betty “Dusty” Miller was a long-time member of the Rochester Philatelic Association. Her philatelic holdings of primarily postal history will be auctioned off. There is especially good strength in Alaskan territorial and British Empire/Commonwealth material.

Saturday 9–10 a.m.: Breakfast at Ropex Lecture — Join us for a complimentary continental breakfast and a presentation by Linn’s columnist, exhibitor, and judge John Hotchner. John will be speaking about his role on the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, the group which selects subjects and stamp designs for future U.S. stamps. RSVP recommended by June 10, as space is limited. Send request to Ropex Lecture, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615, e-mail stamptmf@frontiernet.net, or call 585-621-1670.

Saturday 6 p.m.: Ropex awards banquet — The traditional show buffet banquet will be held at The Venetian, located nearby at 767 Holt Road. The menu includes: chef carved prime rib and baked ham, chicken, oven roasted potatoes, rice pilaf, honey-glazed baby carrots, penne pasta and marinara sauce, fruit salad, pasta salad, tossed salad, rolls and butter, coffee-tea-milk, and ice cream. Special dietary requests will be honored.

Cocktails 6–6:30 p.m., dinner starting at 6:30. Tickets are $25 per person and are only available through advance reservations received by June 1. Make checks payable to Ropex, mailing them to: Ropex Banquet, Ray Stone, 228 Giles Ave, Rochester, NY 14609.

Continued on Page 39
Program and Picnic Planned

Dr. Joseph Y. Rudnick will present the *Spice of Philately* on the 3rd of May.

The tri-club picnic, in cooperation with the Fort Orange Stamp Club and the Uncle Sam Stamp Club, is scheduled for July 11 at the home of Phil Hicks, in the hinterlands of Schoharie County.

Club officers for 2004–2005 are: Michael Mellnick, president; Steve Gray, secretary; Dr. John J. Nunes, treasurer; Ronald Ratchford, historian; and Dr. Rudnick, librarian. The vice president position is open.

Over the past several months the club has enjoyed two of our own club’s auctions, a tri-club auction, as well as presentations on philately. The subjects by members covered such diverse topics as *Third Reich Philately*, *the Battles of Saratoga and Bennington*, and the *Solomon Islands*.

Postal History Competition — Continued from Page 17

The privately donated award for the winning society will be designed for perpetual use, to be passed to future winners of multi-state postal history exhibiting competitions including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The *Ropex* competition continues what began at Nojex 2002 between the postal history societies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, hosted by the New Jersey Postal History Society.

As of April 1, postal history exhibits of Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, and New York had been entered in *Ropex ’04*, with entries anticipated from Ohio and Pennsylvania. There were still 100 frames available on April 1, and hopefully the missing states will show up, as well as further exhibits from the state postal history societies already entered.

On Saturday, June 19, at *Ropex* there will be a seminar/discussion session for all interested postal history exhibitors to exchange information and ideas and give thought to the future of state postal history societies.

ESPHS will have a table, shared with the other competing postal history societies, near the *Ropex* entrance. Postal history exhibitors and competing society members should check at this table for event times, locations and directions.
ORIENTATION PAMPHLET
The pamphlet for 2004 was distributed to members at the March 16 meeting. If you have not gotten your pamphlet yet, come to a meeting and ask for one. All the current operational data for the club is contained within it.

MEMBERSHIP
We have continued to have great turnouts for club meetings — up to 35 members. Several new members have joined within the past few months. Club auctions are jammed with some great material; 60 to 70 lots are the normal. The new innovation of occasionally adding pizza and soda to a club meeting has been well received and brings out all the hungry folks.

MINI-AUCTIONS
We are running out of mini-auction lots. The mini-auctions are held on the first meeting of each month. If you would like to submit lots to the mini-auction, bring them to Mike Ammann a meeting or two before the mini-auction night. They can not be submitted the night of the auction, as we must carefully control the number of lots.

KEEP ON STAMPING!
Enjoy the beautiful weather this time of year, but keep stamping.

PROGRAMS
- May 7 — *Postmark Museum* by David Proulx
- May 21 — TBA by John Davis
- June 4 — *Postal History of Central New York* by Nick Todaro
- June 18 — Auction
- July 2 — *Stamp Quiz* by Jim Steele-Prizes and Pizza &Soda

CORRESPONDENCE
Correspondence should be sent to:
President Lynn Goodfellow
P.O. Box 3436
Syracuse, NY 13220
Philatelic Game Show

Bob Finnegan, long time youth advisor for the Tri-Town area hosted a Philatelic Game Show of sorts to test the geographic, historical and philatelic knowledge of the Tri-County Stamp Club membership at its March meeting and reports that the membership fared rather nicely.

First Day Cover Program

The April 19 meeting of the club featured the topic of First Day Cover Collecting as the American Philatelic Society shared a slide presentation entitled Fascinating Highlights of First Day Cover Collecting. A discussion of the topic followed and some covers were shared as well.

Preparing for World Philatelic Exposition Donation

The May 17 meeting will be one in which the membership will be working as they go through accumulations of stamps to donate to the international philatelic exhibition — World Philatelic Exposition 2006 — which will take place at the Convention Center in Washington, DC, from May 27 through June 3.

Stamps will be sorted as to whether they are U.S. or foreign and stamps on paper will be trimmed.

It is the hope of the organizers of the 2006 event to have more than a million stamps donated by the various clubs and individual collectors. The stamps being used by the club are those accumulated by youth advisor, Bob Finnegan.

This exhibition will be an educational centerpiece to expand an interest in stamp collecting throughout the Americas. Programs will be developed to bring the art and history of philately to new audiences with a special emphasis on school age children.

More information on the show may be found at: http://www.washington-2006.org.

Barbecue or Dinner in June?

The June meeting is usually a get together in the form of a barbecue or dinner. At this time it has not been determined as to where the meeting will be held.
Another Good Year

As we head toward summer, another stamp club year is winding down. We have had several excellent programs. Our first March meeting was Don Van Hoesen’s talk on the 1898 Battleship issue. The different types of proprietary and documentary stamps that were used as tax stamps to finance the Spanish American war. The battleship depicted portrayed the Maine.

Previous Programs

Our second March meeting was Tom Hanley’s talk on Irish stamps. He had a series of letters from an Irish family in the 1920s to their daughter in Albany. Their letters really brought them to life.

At the first April meeting Phil Hicks spoke on U.S. Naval Covers. Among them was the U.S.S. Indianapolis, infamous for its part in the Atom bomb and its sinking at the end of the war with a huge loss of life. Looking ahead Ray Majors was to speak on U.S. tax paid at the April meeting. We thank our speakers for their programs.

Single Page Night

May will have Single Page Night with our postponed Competition Night. Our Spring Banquet will be May 19. Our picnic will be sometime in August. More about our Fall program later. Have a good summer.

Auxiliary Markings Club Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Auxiliary Markings Club will be at Ropex on June 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. Exhibits of any kind are welcome from club members. The first competitions for the Richard B. Graham Award for Excellence in Exhibiting Auxiliary Markings and the President’s Award for Single Frame Auxiliary Marking Exhibiting Excellence also will be held at Ropex. Visit the club at www.postal-markings.org.

The club brings together collectors interested in movement of the mails — especially mail bearing evidence of problems, such as inadequate postage, accidents that occurred with planes, trains, ships or trucks carrying the mail, or literally hundreds of other reasons. Membership secretary is Gerald Johnson, 6621 W. Victoria Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336.
Programs Postponed

Due to inclement weather our February meeting was cancelled, consequently programs for March and April were advanced one month.

Officers Nominated

At the April meeting, in addition to a discussion by Larry Griswold and his program on Machin imprints, the nominating Committee recommended the following new officers: Jerome Wagner for president, Richard Drumm for vice president, Wayne Turkowski for financial secretary, Rick Snow for treasurer. Those in attendance approved the slate and the election will take place at the June banquet.

Programs

The May 4 meeting will feature a summary and discussion of Plate Number Coils (PNC) moderated by Wayne Turkowski.

The first meeting of the new fiscal year will be on June 7. It will consist of a dinner at a local restaurant and the introduction of our new slate of officers.

Winning Drawings

Saint Mary’s School Stamp Club of Clinton once again won has prizes in the Holiday Contest of the Texas Philatelic Association. Students entered drawings of a holiday of their choice.

Katie Ziemba, 12, of Clinton was the top winner in the nation in 2003. Her drawing depicting the celebration of Kwanzaa was on the cover of *The Texas Philatelist*, November–December issue. The TPA may be accessed online at www.texasphilatelic.org.

Other winners included Alexandria Alinea of Oriskany Falls, who tied for first place in the 9-year-old group; Emily Smith of New Hartford, who came in third place in the 10-year-old group; Victoria Girmonde of Saquoit, who received first place in the 11–14 age group; and Kristin Bullwinkle of New Hartford, who tied for second place in the 11–14 age group.

Prizes to all club members were stamps and other philatelic items. These were presented to club members on Feb. 2 by leader Janet Collmer, a member of the Utica Stamp Club, during school lunch period.
Clubs & Contacts

Adirondack Stamp, Post Card & Ephemera Club
Dr. William R. Hanson, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801; drhanson@localnet.com; 518-798-9592

Buffalo Stamp Club
Richard Cropp, 353 Lisbon Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215; bumper@bumperland.com; 716-837-9526; www.buffalostampclub.org

Chenango Valley Stamp Club
Albert Guenzburger, P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780; aguenz@mkl.com; 607-895-6531

Elmira Stamp Club
Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14901; alatholleyrd@aol.com; 607-732-0181

Empire State Postal History Society
John Lange, 373 Root Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3227; gestus@westelcom.com; 518-882-6373; www.esphs.org

Finger Lakes Stamp Club (APS Chapter 428)
Contact: James Darnell, 136 Lock St., Clyde, NY 14433; jdarnell@novocon.net; 315-923-7355

Fort Orange Stamp Club
Maris Tirums, P.O. Box 5475, Albany NY 12205-0475; mxtirums@hotmail.com; 518-438-1657

Fort Stanwix Stamp Club
Joe Christofaro, 201 Maple St., Rome, NY 13440; jchrist6@twcny.rr.com; 315-337-9608

Fulton Stamp Club
Tom Schneider, 15 W. First St., Fulton, NY 13069; rocket@dgreenscape.com; 315-592-4441

Ithaca Stamp Club
Contact: Howard Schlieder, 511 Linn St., Ithaca, NY 14850; yszechely@twcny.rr.com

Leatherstocking Stamp Club
Ellen Tillapaugh, 80 Beaver St., Cooperstown, NY 13326; kuchtill@capital.net

Olean Stamp Club
Leslie Crane, R1, Box 832, Shinglehouse, PA 16748; searles@eznet.net

Oswego Stamp Club
Leigh LeClair, 212 Murray St., Oswego, NY 13126; pleclair@northnet.org; 315-342-5653

Rochester Philatelic Association
Joe Doles, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206; stampm@frontiernet.net; www.geocities.com/rpastamps

St. Lawrence International Stamp Club
Pat Rourk, 3 Morton St., Norwood, NY 13668-1100; prourk@twcny.rr.com; 315-353-8892

Schenectady Stamp Club
Steve Gray, 10 Hillcrest Vlg. C-1, Niskayuna, NY 12309-3831; nunesnook@aol.com;

Sodus Stamp Club
Dr. William A. Stirling, Secretary; pspiers@rochester.rr.com; 315-483-6153

Syracuse Stamp Club
Allen Swift, P.O. Box 3436, Syracuse, NY 13220; agsses@aol.com

Tri-County Stamp Club
Albert Guenzburger, P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780; rfinnegan@stny.rr.com; 607-895-6531

Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy (APS Chapter 240)
Terrill Miller, P.O. Box 335, Troy, NY 12181-0335; unclesamty@aol.com; 518-869-6872

Utica Stamp Club
G. M. Cunningham, P.O. Box 374, Washington Mills, NY 13479; Jerriyc50nh@aol.com; 315-732-6757

Watch for Meeting Information in Next Issue
Shows/Bourses

**Rochester — May 2**
RS Stamp Show, Eagle’s Club, 1200 Buffalo Rd., 10–4. Bourse. Contact: John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

**Albany — May 16**
Capital District Stamp Show, Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., 10–4. Bourse. Contact: John J. Nunes: 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

**West Seneca — May 23**
Stamp, Coin & Postcard Show. Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., 10–4. Free admission and door prizes. Contact: Bill Biddle, 716-828-1375, e-mail: blbiddle@aol.com

**Albany — June 13**
Capital District Stamp Show, Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., 10–4. Bourse. Contact: John J. Nunes: 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

**Rochester — June 18–20**
Ropex 2004 sponsored by Rochester Philatelic Association at the Webster Community Field House, 800 Five Mile Line Rd., Webster. See ad on page 2 for details.

Continued on Page 39
ROPEX 2004 — Continued from Page 31

ROPEX COVERS

Show theme is Birds of North America. Cancels and corresponding cachets designed by Joe Doles are available for $2 each or a set of 3 for $5 with a sase. Otherwise add $1 for every three covers ordered to cover postage and handling. Send orders to: Ropex Covers, c/o RPA, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206.

PROGRAMS

May 13 — Ropex preparation night
May 27 — TBD
June 10 — Annual business meeting
June 24 — Year-end strawberry festival

Shows / Bourses — Continued from Page 38

WEST SENeca — JUNE 27
Stamp, Coin & Postcard Show. Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., 10–4. Free admission and door prizes. Contact: Bill Biddle, 716-828-1375. E-mail: blbiddle@aol.com

CLAYTON — JULY 24–25
26th Coin, Stamp, Postcard & Collectibles Show. Clayton Arena. Hours: 10–5, 10–2. Bourse. Contact: George Mingle, e-mail: gmingle@1000islandsschools.org

ALBANY — JULY 18
Capital District Stamp Show, Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., 10–4. Bourse. Contact John J. Nunes: 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

The Collecting Gene — Continued from Page 24

York. Does the marking A. S. S. A stand for American Sailors and Soldiers Associations?

Or is it a forwarding marking for a cargo ship? [Editor’s note: Kelly Field was a training site for aviators, observers, and mechanics, as well as being a supply and repair depot. This suggests that ASSA may have meant the Army Signal Supply Agency.]

Upon arrival in New York the letter landed in Camp Merritt, New Jersey. (red ink side corner) Camp Merritt was the hub for organizing and transporting thousands of AEF soldiers overseas. Joseph Sant and his brigade had already left for France. I am surmising that the letter then followed him overseas by the date 7 17 in blue under the Orly Seine marking and the SS Max (also in blue ... far bottom left side). Was SS Max a ship?

Joseph Sant was not located there either. A pointing hand forwarding mark in purple, and return to writer / unknown were stamped on the cover. The final marking — N. C. 10/29/1918 AAAP at Orly Seine — appears in red ink at the very top. The American Allies had established an airfield at Orly, France. The letter was likely shipped back to Fair Haven from there.

So, to end with a cliché, what goes around comes around. Sometimes it’s the mail, Sometimes it’s the collector gene!
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