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Vol. 23 No. 4 March / April 2006

Stamp Boxes

Journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies
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Contents
U.S. and Canada New Issues .................... 4
Editor’s Perspective .......................... 6
President’s Viewpoint ......................... 7
George Fekete Site Seeing: Touching Fellow Philatelists Online ...... 8
George McGowan’s Thrifty Philatelist: An Out-Of-The-World Theme ........... 10
Ada Prill’s Newcomers’ Corner: Semipostals Support Worthy Causes ..... 12
Daniel Piazza: The Stamps of Charade ....... 14
George McGowan: Stamp Boxes ................ 18

About the Cover
Stamp boxes are a popular collectible and come in a vast array of designs and materials — from gold to lowly plastic.

The Road To Washington 2006:
New Yorkers Chair Committees .......... 22
Northern New Yorker on CSAC ............. 22
Texas Youth Art Contest Winners ...... 32
Florence Wright: Easter Seals .............. 36
Daniel Piazza: Story Behind the Stamp ... 37
Robert Finnegan: Youth & Philately ....... 38
Communications; Retro Postmarks? ....... 39
Club Pages ..................................... 40–61
39-Cent Purple Heart Stamp .............. 44
James Darnell Puzzler ....................... 52
Erin Offers St. Patrick’s Covers ............. 53
Wisconsin Federation Turns 75 .......... 55
Stamp Camp Reaches More Than 5,000 ... 59
Shows & Bourses ............................ 62
Want & Exchange Ads ...................... 64
Heather Sweeting The Last Words: Only Philatelic Usage? ............. 66

Advertiser Index ......................... 65

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Stamp Insider™ is published six times per year by the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies for the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc., a non-profit organization, at P.O. Box 401, Fulton, NY 13069-0401. Subscriptions: $6 per year; inquire of Subscriptions. Stamp Insider is sent free to members of participating clubs. Content ©2006 Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies Inc.; Design ©2006 Albert W. Starkweather / Design on Demand. Stamp Insider and the magnifying glass logo are trademarks of the Federation. Any portion of this publication may be reproduced without prior consent, provided credit is given. Written expression or opinions of the writers are their own and not necessarily those of the Stamp Insider or Federation. Some product names and images may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation, without intent to infringe. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy, but validity is not guaranteed. Articles by readers are encouraged. Manuscripts cannot be returned without a large SASE. Electronic submissions are preferred.

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Editorial & ad deadlines for the two months following are Dec. 7, Feb. 7, April 15, June 15, Aug. 15, Oct. 15
2006 U.S. New Issues

Jan. 3  True Blue Love
       1st class sgl., booklet, DC
Jan. 10 Children’s Books
       39¢ pane of 16 (8 designs), joint issue with UK, Findlay, OH,
Jan. 11 Winter Olympics
       39¢ sgl., Colorado Springs, CO
Jan. 25  Hattie McDaniel
       39¢ sgl., Beverly Hills, CA
Jan. 29  Lunar New Year
       39¢ pane of 12 designs, DC
Feb. 8  Liberty & Flag
       39¢ booklet, coil, Washington, DC
Feb. 24  Bryce Canyon
       63¢ sgl., St. Louis, MO
Feb. 24  Great Smoky Mts.
       75¢ sgl., St. Louis, MO
Feb. 24  Yosemite
       84¢ sgl., St. Louis, MO
Mar. 1  Our Wedding
       39¢, 63¢ booklets of 20/40, NYC
Mar. 8  Priority mail
       $4.05 sgl., Washington, DC
Mar. 8  Express mail
       $14.40 sgl., Washington, DC
Mar. 8  Buckeye butterfly
       24¢ sgl. booklet, Washington, DC
Mar. 8  Dr. Jonas Salk
       63¢ sgl., Washington, DC
Mar. 8  Dr. Albert Sabin
       87¢ sgl., Washington, DC
Mar. 8  Liberty & Flag
       39¢ water-activated, coil, DC
Mar. 16  Crops of Americas
       39¢ sgl., booklet (9 designs), New York, NYC
Mar. 17  True Blue Love
       39¢ sgl., booklet, New York, NY
Apr. 1  Benjamin Franklin
       39¢ pane of 20 (four designs), Philadelphia, PA
Apr. 7  Sugar Ray Robinson
       39¢ sgl., Detroit, MI
Apt. ? Florida Wetland
       39¢ sgl, 10 designs, Everglades, FL
Apr. 21  The Art of Disney
       39¢ pane of 20 (four designs), Lake Buena Vista, FL
May. 17  Amber Alert
       39¢ sgl., Washington, DC
mid May Katherine Porter
       39¢ sgl., Killeen, TX & College Park, MD
May 27  Wonders of America
       39¢ pane of 40 designs, DC
May 28  400th Anniversary of Champlain Survey
       39¢ sgl. s/s of 4 (two 39¢ U.S., two 51¢ Canada), joint issue with Canada, Washington, DC & Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia
May 29  Washington 2006 s/s
       $8 face value s/s (3 designs), DC
May 30  Distinguished American Diplomats
       39¢ s/s of six designs, DC
Jun. 8  Judy Garland
       39¢ sgl., New York, NY
Jul. 13  Baseball Sluggers
       39¢ pane of 20 (four designs), New York, NY

2006 Canada New Issues

Jan. 6  Year of the Dog
       51¢ sgl., $1.49 s/s
Jan. 12  Queen’s birthday
       51¢ sgl.
Feb. 3  Winter Olympics
       51¢ se-tenant pair
Mar. 8  Ontario Horticultural Association Centennial
       51¢ pane of 8 (four designs)
Apr. 3  Birthdays
       51¢ sgl,
Apr. 7  Dorothy Knowles
       51¢ sgl., $1.40 s/s (51/89¢)
Apr. 21  Queen’s birthday
       $1.49 s/s of 2
Apr. ?  McClelland & Stewart 100th Anniversary
       51¢ sgl.
Apr. ?  Canadian Labour Congress, 50th anniversary
       51¢ sgl.
May ?  Museum of Civilization 150th Anniversary
       51¢ sgl.
May 26  Fay Wray
       51¢ sgl.
May 28  Champlain’s Survey
       400th Anniversary
       51¢ sgl, s/s of 4 (two 37 U.S., two 51¢ Canada), joint issue with U.S.
Jun. ?  Vancouver Aquarium 50th anniversary
       51¢ booklet of 8 (two designs)
       51¢ sgl.
Jun. 28  Canadian Forces Snowbirds
       51¢ pane of 8 (two designs),
Jul. ?  Mountaineering
       51¢ sgl.
Jul. ?  World Lacrosse
       51¢ sgl.
Aug. ?  Duck Decoys
       51¢ pane of 16 (four designs)
Aug. ?  Wine and Cheese
       51¢ pane of 16 (four designs)
Sep. ?  Opera
       51¢ pane of 16 (four designs),
Sep. ?  McDonald University Centennial
       51¢ sgl.
Oct. ?  Endangered Species
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Oct. ?  Society of Graphic Designers of Canada 50th Anniversary
       51¢ sgl.
Nov. ?  Christmas Cards
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89¢ booklet of 6 (one design),
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Nov. ?  Christmas Traditional
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4  Stamp Insider
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5th — 2005 State Quarters Proof Set

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Some Good Ideas Worth Stealing

Those who carefully peruse the club pages in the Stamp Insider can find many beneficial ideas worth stealing for their own club. The following suggestions were compiled from this issue.

E-mail newsletter: Buffalo Stamp Club is offering its members the alternative of receiving its newsletter by e-mail in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format. The Stamp Insider is already available online in PDF format at www.nystampclubs.org. The concept could be carried a step further by using e-mail to notify members of clubs changes in meeting dates or other timely information.

Open house with a plus: Leatherstocking Stamp Club in Cooperstown recently sought to attract new members through a What Have You Got night. The public was invited to bring philatelic material about which they have questions to be answered by club members who were to share their knowledge and expertise.

Other ideas that could be pursued in attracting new members might include offering free starter kits, a coffee and cake meeting, and a Dutch treat dinner at a local restaurant. To ensure that the event is successful, it should be publicized well in advance in the local papers.

Dollars for charity: Dansville Area Coin & Stamp Club conducted its annual Project Christmas Auction to raise funds for the Dansville American Legion’s program to help people in need during the holidays. The auction raised more than $400 for the Legion’s charity. Helping local charities rewards clubs with much-needed publicity.

Cover committee: Finger Lakes Stamp Club has an established Cover Committee to plan club-produced covers for the year. Most of the output by the club and its youth affiliate, the All-Star Stamp Club, are first day covers. Other clubs with active cover programs include Elmira, Syracuse, and Uncle Sam.

Presentation pieces: Syracuse Stamp Club has taken cover issuance one step further by presenting a framed set of the club’s Distinguished Marines first day covers to the Syracuse VA Medical Center. Such artwork reflects the club’s commitment to the community.

Youth and school clubs: Federation members have been asked for assistance in establishing two new youth-oriented clubs — one in for an elementary school in Niskayuna and the other for a home school group in the Rome area. The former was inspired by Robert Finnegan’s Youth & Philately column. The home school group has asked Lavinia Tilton, treasurer of the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club, to help it organize a club. Other clubs with youth programs include Finger Lakes, Tri-County, and Utica.
A Call For Action — Not Reaction

On a positive note for this time period, the New England American Stamp Dealers Association chapter (NEASDA) recently approved the donation of $500 to our Federation in recognition of the improved job we are accomplishing with the Stamp Insider over the last two years. Kudos to our editor, Al Starkweather and his able staff of writers and assistants, especially Heather Sweeting, second in command, and the unheralded efforts of distribution by John A. Cali. This fact and the continued high advertisement support we are achieving through Al Starkweather’s solitary and tireless efforts are noteworthy and appreciated.

On a negative note, I note with dismay the recent announcement that the Central New York Show held at the Turning Stone Casino will not be held due to lack of sufficient volunteers in the sponsoring clubs. I am reversing this decision and plan to sponsor a Federation show with the help of Federation members, at the same location on the first week of October. Details are yet to be worked out. I will keep you informed.

- I am soliciting the officers of a volunteer club or clubs to be in charge of exhibits and would desire it to be all or one of the following clubs: Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Elmira, Olean, or Albany who have previous experience and whose job it will be to get exhibitors, get the frames, setup and tear down and solicit awards.
- I already have appointed myself in charge of the dealers bourse and have the commitment of NEASDA that they will host the bourse with some of their 25 dealer members, in addition to our own local and regional dealers.
- I am soliciting anyone experienced to take the lead and be the chairman for the event, along with an inexperienced apprentice to learn and repeat the event next year.
- I am seeking members to assist on the various committees, such as youth, advertising, setup/tear down, food, cachet, meetings etc. E-mail John A. Cali at rocket@dreamscape.com to express your interest in volunteering to lead or support any of these committees.
- I am allocating seed funds to support this effort both for prizes, club assistance, etc., I expect bourse dealer table revenue along with exhibit fees to allow the Federation to see black ink.
- I request the club officers and members of the previously sponsored CNY event to pitch in as we try to rejuvenate the show you created and turn it into a Federation-sponsored event. Help us get restarted.

Feel free to share your thoughts on this subject with me and let me know what you can do to help. E-mail me at nunesnook@aol.com or call 518-399-8395.
Touching Fellow Philatelists Online

With access to the Internet, even a recluse can communicate with other philatelists. From the comfort of your own home, favorite Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) hot spot or hotel room there are several ways to connect with other stamp weenies: e-mail, chat rooms, message boards, newsgroups, blogs, and clubs.

Unless you just arrived from another planet, you probably have a fairly good idea of how e-mail is used. In addition to transmitting words electronically, e-mail is a convenient way to share philatelic images.

A chat room is a virtual room in cyberspace where you can communicate with one or more other participants in real time. Typically, one uses an alias or nickname when entering a chat room. Chat rooms can have scheduled or ad hoc sessions. Virtual Stamp Club hosts a stamp chat room, forums.delphiforums.com/stamps/chat, which can be accessed by registering for free at Delphi Forms.

Although real-time conversations can take place on a message board, an immediate response usually isn’t expected by other participants. Messages posted on a message board are archived for obvious reasons. A popular and informative message board hosted by Richard Frajola can be found at kbnnet.com/book/html/frajolaboard.html.

Newsgroups are actually spartan message boards. Messages are text-only, cannot contain attachments and are accessed via mail client rather than Web browser. Philatelic newsgroups tend to have more international participation than chat rooms and message boards, perhaps because sending and receiving text messages is relatively fast and accessible using a dialup ISP. RCSD, rec.collecting.stamps.discuss, is a popular philatelic newsgroup.

The blog (Web log or Weblog) is a one-way flow of information where comments are posted by the author. Allen Bohart’s blog, philatelicbits.com is attractive, user-friendly and informative. Or, you can start your own blog at blogger.com/start.

Both physical and virtual clubs and other organizations can be accessed online. Three of my favorite physical sites are Rochester Philatelic Association, geocities.com/rpastamps, APS, stamps.org, and the Federation, nystampclubs.org. As the name implies, forum host Lloyd de Vries’ Virtual Stamp Club, virtualstampclub.com, is an online club open to the public. It has a message board, chat room and much more. You can participate as a guest or member — and there are no dues! Once you become a member, you’re a member for life.

Not all destinations fall neatly into one of these categories. For example, Michael Mills maintains a great Web site at glassinesurfer.com/newstips.shtml. Gotta go — surf’s up!
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An Out-of-The World Theme

Collecting space can be a great addition to your philatelic interests and shouldn’t force you to get another job to pay for it. Subjects include Goddard, the astronauts, Sputnik, Pioneer Mercury, Apollo, Viking, Explorer, Gemini, Skylab, Soyuz, and the shuttle. If you are old enough to remember the Ed Sullivan Show or All In The Family, you have a better than average knowledge of the space program. Philately and space went hand in hand through the 20th century.

One of my favorites is Pioneer. From 1958 to 1978, NASA launched 13 Pioneer flights to explore the solar system. Two of them — Pioneer 10 and 11 — had an additional purpose.

Pioneer 10 was launched March 2, 1972. Among other successes, it sent back information on the asteroid belt and gave us the first close-up images of Jupiter. This data lead to the conclusion that it is a liquid planet. Pioneer 11 was launched April 5, 1972. The last contact with Pioneer 10 was Jan. 22, 2003 and the last contact with Pioneer 11 was in November 1995.

What is special about Pioneer 10 and 11 is that they are presently heading — in almost opposite directions — into deep space with a special message. Both probes carry A Message from Earth — gold plaques designed by Carl Sagan and Frank Drake and drawn by Linda Salzman Sagan. The plaques depict images of man and woman, a representation of a hydrogen atom, a map of our solar system with an indication of which planet the craft came from, and a map of the Milky Way galaxy pointing to our solar system.

It will take about two million years for the probes to get close to other stars. The idea is that if there is anyone out there, and if they are as scientifically advanced as we are, with a basic knowledge of chemistry and mathematics, they will be able to read the plaque. The plaque is not written in English or Russian, or even Martian. The plaque is written in the language of science, specifically binary code, the same as your pocket calculator or home computer. A hydrogen atom or counting digits is the same anywhere in the universe.

I wonder if you could say that Pioneer carries the first intergalactic post card?
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U.S. SEMIPOSTAL ISSUES SUPPORT WORTHY CAUSES

In 1996 the United States Postal Service issued a Breast Cancer Awareness stamp (Scott #3081) depicting the figure of a woman, somewhat strangely shown from the back, with a pink ribbon on her shoulder. Just two years later USPS issued a Breast Cancer Research stamp (Scott #B1). This one showed a woman from the front, perhaps a bit more logically, but sufficiently abstract that it would be hard for the most prudish among us to be offended by it.

Why two breast cancer stamps so close together? Well, there is an important difference between these two stamps. The first, like other U.S. awareness stamps such as the 1993 AIDS Awareness (Scott #2806), 1999 Prostate Cancer Awareness (Scott #3315), and 2001 Diabetes Awareness (Scott #3503), are ordinary commemorative stamps, meant to draw attention to specific good causes, but not to do anything about them.

The Breast Cancer Research stamp, on the other hand, is a semipostal stamp, which actually raises money for government research to find better treatments and an eventual cure for breast cancer. The buyer pays a premium of a few cents over the cost of postage. The exact amount has varied as this stamp has endured through rate changes, but it has always been less than 10 cents a stamp. It originally was 32 cents for first class postage and eight cents for research.

Those extra pennies go to fund research. How much can a few cents matter? Well, since 1998 those pennies have added up to almost $48 million dollars! And the stamp was recently authorized to remain on sale for another two years, so you still have a chance to add your pennies to the effort to defeat this terrible disease.

The U.S. has since issued two other semipostal stamps, one in 2002 honoring the Heroes of 2001, i.e., the rescue workers killed on 9/11 (Scott #B2), and the other in 2003 to fund efforts to Stop Family Violence (Scott #B3). Neither was as popular as the breast cancer semipostal, and both have already gone off sale. Both of these were 37 cents for first class postage and eight cents for the charity.
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The Stamps of Charade: Imagined and Real

Philately is a curious hobby. It seems to afflict its victims with a species of mania. I don’t doubt these stamp collecting fellows would murder each other for one of the things.
— Ellery Queen

By Daniel Piazza

**Charade.** Director Stanley Donen. With Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. Also starring Walter Matthau, George Kennedy, and James Coburn. A Universal release, 1963.

Warning: Plot details follow, but the film’s ending is not revealed.

*Charade*, a blockbuster when it premiered at New York City’s Radio City Music Hall on Dec. 5, 1963, was perhaps the quirkiest film of the 1960s. It is one-third romance, one-third screwball comedy, and one-third Hitchcockian film noir. Further complicating matters, the characters are constantly changing their names and identities — Cary Grant assumes four different names in two days! Philatelists, however, remember the film because a collection of rare stamps is key to the plot.

Audrey Hepburn stars as Regina Lampert, a Paris socialite who resolves to divorce her unaffectionate older husband, Charles. Before she can do it, however, the police find Charles’ body alongside the Paris–Bordeaux rail line. Three mysterious men appear at his funeral and begin to stalk his widow. Hamilton Bartholomew of the CIA (Walter Matthau) summons Regina to the American Embassy and tells her that Charles was wanted for stealing $250,000 from the United States government during World War II. The three men and the government all want the fortune — and they will not let Regina rest until she produces it.

She does not have it, however, and calls an acquaintance named Peter Joshua (Cary Grant) to help her find it. With Joshua’s prodding, Regina remembers the last appointment in her husband’s date book: *Thursday, Five p.m., Jardin des Champs-Élysées.* Regina and Joshua (now calling himself Adam Canfield after a brief stint as Alex Dyle) stake the place out and discover that it is a weekly outdoor stamp market. When Canfield enters the market, a nondescript envelope found in Charles’ effects — one letter, stamped but unsealed, addressed — suddenly takes on new significance for him. The three stamps on the envelope are the fortune!

Regina has given the stamps to her best friend’s little boy, a budding philatelist. The trail leads to the home of a dignified, elderly stamp dealer, Monsieur Félix (Paul Bonifas), to whom the boy has traded the stamps for a large worldwide mixture. As M. Félix produces the stamps...
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and reverently intones their identities and histories, the experienced philatelist will recognize them as thinly disguised versions of some of the world’s greatest philatelic rarities.

On the left is an unused stamp the dealer identifies as *De Gula Fyraskillingen*, a Swedish yellow four shilling of 1854 (despite the fact that it is appears to be red). Félix tells Regina that it is worth about $85,000. This is a reference to the world’s most valuable stamp, the only known copy of the Swedish three-shilling yellow color error of 1855, last sold in 1996 for the equivalent of nearly $2 million. The Treskilling Yellow, as the stamp is often called, is postally used, so an unused copy would be quite a find indeed!

In the middle is a specimen M. Félix calls *The Hawaiian Blue* and values at $65,000. He tells Regina that in 1894, the stamp’s owner was murdered by another collector. The stamp is, in fact, a strikingly good facsimile of the Hawaiian Missionaries of 1851–53 except that it is denominated at 3¢, a value not in the original series. An unused copy of the real 2¢ value, however, was at the center of a murder scandal. In 1892, Gaston Leroux (a Parisian philatelist not to be confused with the author of *Le Fantôme de l’Opéra*) was murdered by Hector Giroux, a collector desperate to complete his Hawaiian collection. Giroux was later guillotined for the crime. This *Parisian murder* stamp last sold in 1995 for $660,000.

The stamp on the right, according to the elderly dealer, is *the masterpiece*. He calls it the *Gazette Moldov* and explains that it is the most valuable stamp in the world at $100,000. Its value, he continues, stems from the fact that it was “printed by hand on colored paper.” The allusion here is to the *Bull’s Head* stamps of Moldavia, released in two issues during 1858 and 1859. Although some of these stamps are scarce, they were never the world’s most valuable. The more common lower denominations can still be picked up for about $100, and philatelic writer Michael Mills has said that he believes the stamp shown in *Charade* may be a genuine copy with the denomination altered to 82 parales, a value not in the actual set.

Félix tells Regina that he fully expected the stamps’ owner to come looking for them; he only traded the worldwide mixture in order to “buy some time” alone with them. He returns the stamps to her with a shrug, saying only: “For a few minutes they were mine — that is enough.” When she offers to purchase the mixture for her girlfriend’s son, Félix tallies the price: “350 European, 200 Asian, 175 American, 100 African, and 12 Princess Grace commemorative — which comes to ten francs.” This is philately’s more mundane side!

Continued on Page 20
Shows for ’06

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Collecting Stamp Boxes

By George McGowan

Soon after the introduction of the first postage stamp in 1840 entrepreneurs were providing secure ways of keeping track of them. A penny was a valuable sum at that time, and considering the size and fragility of the postage stamps, stamp boxes, as we call them, became a necessity. The manufacturing of fancy little boxes for matches, snuff, and spices was well established, and the conversion to one, two, or three little compartments with a curved bottom was very easy. If a box doesn’t have the characteristic curved bottom for easy retrieval, it is probably not a stamp box.

Later, with the introduction of convenient street mailboxes and home delivery, a trip to the post office became less frequent. People began to buy stamps in advance, which brought with it a need to store these valuable small pieces of paper. This period from the late 19th century through the beginning of the 20th century was the most popular time for stamp boxes.

Stamp boxes were provided for every class of people. The rich purchased them from such jewelers as Tiffany and Fabergé in Paris, New York, and London. Everyone else got theirs from catalogs, general stores, and home crafts. They were also very popular give aways from insurance companies, and could be purchased as a souvenir at most tourist attractions.

Stamp boxes can be found made from every possible material — gold, silver, brass, copper, aluminum, leather, china, ivory, glass, jade, wood, paper, and in combination. They appear in the form of jewelry like necklaces, desk sets, pocket folders, and for single stamps and coil rolls. Some even have engravings of real stamps used in its design.

Collecting stamp boxes is a lot like collecting stamps. You can collect by metal or material, by country of origin, by time period, by artist or jeweler, or by design. Finding these little gems can be fun and a bit challenging. You are much more likely to find a stamp box at an antique store than at a stamp show.

Along with postal scales, moistening devices, and other postal go withs, a collection stamp boxes can be a nice addition to the stamp room.

Stamp Boxes for Hockey Fans — See Page 20
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March / April 2006
19
Charade — Continued from Page 16

Despite the film’s offbeat nature, Look magazine called it “probably the best American film” of 1963. Part of the reason for Charade’s success was its all-star cast and crew. It was Cary Grant’s last really good work; he retired in 1966 after making two more rather forgettable films. The Oscar-winning duo of Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer provided the film’s score and lyrics, respectively. Moreover, Audrey Hepburn, fresh from her unforgettable performance as Holly Golightly in Breakfast at Tiffany’s, was now starring in what turned out to be her most successful film to that point — Charade took in more than $6 million at the box office.

It is fitting that all four of these Hollywood legends who worked on Charade have been honored with their own commemorative stamps. The 37¢ Henry Mancini commemorative, issued on April 13, 2004, includes Charade in a list of films on which he worked (look just under the tip of his baton). When David Fineman, chairman of the USPS Board of Governors, spoke at the June 11, 2003 first day of issue for the Hepburn commemorative, he called Charade “a movie about a mysterious rare stamp starring a one-of-a-kind actress … the best kind of film!”

Fineman was correct — Stanley Donen’s Charade is truly a philatelist’s philm.

Can readers suggest any other films or popular novels where the world of stamps and philately figures prominently? Send your ideas to webmaster@syracusestampclub.org.

References

Information about the real stamps that inspired the ones in Charade can be found in Volume 1 of Donna O’Keefe, Linn’s Philatelic Gems (Sidney, OH: Amos Press, c. 1989). Michael Mills’ analysis of the “Gazette Moldov” stamp appears in his “Glassine Surfer” column for the November 1998 issue of the American Philatelist. The story of Gaston Leroux’s murder may be found in Scott’s Stamp Monthly 15:10 (August 1997) p. 87. David Fineman’s remarks at the Audrey Hepburn FDOI ceremony can be found at www.usps.gov.
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It’s the Olympics, the Super Bowl, and the World Series of Philately all wrapped into one. This is how Thomas M. Fortunato, Media Communications Committee chair for Washington 2006 (W2006), describes the forthcoming World Philatelic Exhibition. The Rochester native is in charge of publicity and public relations for the once-a-decade exposition sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). Also supported by the U.S. Postal Service, American Philatelic Society, American Stamp Dealers Association, and membership contributions, W2006 takes place May 27–June 3 at the new Washington, DC, Convention Center.

According to Fortunato, a Rochester Philatelic Association member and former president, W2006 Executive Director Gordon C. Morison asked him in early 2001 to head the Media Communications Committee. “I’ve known Gordon for many years,” he said, “because of his Rochester connections.”

In addition to sending out numerous press releases promoting the event, Fortunato provides regular member updates and maintains the show’s Internet site. The periodic updates, packed with the latest details about all aspects of the world-class exhibition, began primarily as a member newsletter. Fortunato said that early in the planning process, donations were solicited to help finance the show. Donors became members, and originally the updates were created as a service for them. Now the updates are available to everyone.

A stamp collector since age 6, when he inherited a next-door neighbor’s “20 pounds plus of leftover stamps,” Fortunato says he is a worldwide collector, but has specialized “in a lot of different things” including ceramics and glass. His interest in these subjects stems from his studies at Alfred University, from which he graduated as a ceramic engineer. An exhibit on ceramics — one of several thematic exhibits he has done — garnered a gold in a national show. “I’ll compete at the international level for the first time at Washington 2006,” he said.

Fortunato’s exhibit will be among the roughly 640 competitive exhibits at the mega-show. But there’s much more than exhibits at W2006. Among the myriad happenings, according to Fortunato, will be buckets of stamps for kids, new worldwide issues at face value from the issuing postal administrations, and many society meetings, conventions, and...

Continued on Page 24
Washington 2006—the next great international stamp show—will soon be here!

This souvenir sheet will be issued by the USPS at the show

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seminars. “If you want to spend millions of dollars for something that’s up for auction, you can do that, too,” he said. “There’s literally something for everyone.”

An account manager for Sutherland Global Services marketing group in Pittsford, where he has been employed for the past 13 years, Fortunato devotes much of his spare time to promoting philately. A regional and national APS judge, he has written numerous articles and columns. Fortunato is the special events coordinator for the Rochester Philatelic Association, and was three-time chair for Ropex, an APS World Series of Philately stamp show. He’s handled publicity and PR for several groups, including the Cover Collectors Circuit Club and the International Society of Worldwide Collectors. An APS life member, he has served as Chapter Activities Chairman for the past eight years. He also holds life memberships in the American Topical Association and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors.

Fortunato’s hobbies include music and designing and maintaining web sites. He is a Webmaster for several personal sites, non-profit organizations, and “the Web’s largest amateur wrestling reference site.” He has sung and traveled internationally with the Greece (New York) Choral Society for about 24 years.

He has advice for those who plan to attend the show. “If you’ve never been to an international show,” he said, “it can be overwhelming. There’s simply so much to see.” His advice: “Try to set an agenda. Give yourself enough time to see the highlights — maybe the first day ceremonies, or the rarer stamps, such as the Queen’s collection.”

Whether you spend eight days or eight hours at W2006, you’re sure to find something of interest. “It’s a show for everybody,” Fortunato reiterated, “I encourage everybody to come.”

**Ann Triggle, Awards Committee Chair**

Ann Triggle, a native of the United Kingdom who now hails from Clarence, near Buffalo, predicts that the *Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition* “will be a most spectacular event.”

Because she had served as Pacific 97 Awards Chairman, Triggle said she was approached about serving in the same capacity for W2006. She accepted and took over her duties in 2001. Triggle noted, “The Awards Committee has to cast a worldwide net for special prizes. Selection of the mint and the medals also come under our wing.”

The committee reportedly chose Northwest Territorial Mint of Auburn, WA, for the *Washington 2006* exhibit medals, which have been designed by Richard Sheaff. Many exceptional and unusual prizes have also been donated.
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Washington 2006 Still Seeking Stamp Donations

Donations of stamps to be used as handouts to visitors continue to be accepted in any quantity, separated into four categories: on- or off-paper U.S., or on- or off-paper worldwide. Place these in envelopes and mail them to W2006 Stamp Zone, c/o Joan Bleakley, 15906 Crest Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191. These may be sent at any time. Include an e-mail address to be notified when your shipment has arrived.

Washington 2006 — Continued from Page 24

A retired professor at the State University of New York School of Pharmacy at the University at Buffalo, Triggle’s interest in philately was kindled when she was 11 years old. That interest has now been narrowed to “mainly postal markings and covers.”

On Aug. 6, 2005, Triggle was one of three recipients of the John N. Luff Awards, the highest recognition accorded by the APS. During the StampShow awards banquet in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Triggle received the award for Outstanding Service to the APS.

Having served as APS vice president from 2001 to 2003, Triggle simultaneously served on the Board of Directors at the Royal Philatelic Society Canada (RPSC) and acted as liaison between APS and RPSC. She has chaired the APS Awards Committee, and has been vice chairman and is presently chairman of the Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges. Triggle has represented the APS at the FIP Thematic Commission since 1996, and was elected to the five-member FIP Thematic Bureau in 2000, a position she still holds. She has also co-authored text for beginning exhibitors, which she uses in teaching an APS correspondence course on exhibiting.

Along with W2006 President and fellow Great Britain Collectors Club member Michael D. Dixon, Triggle served as a commissioner for Stamp Show 2000 in London. A seminar speaker at local, regional, and national levels for both the APS and the ATA, she is an exhibitor, as well as an APS accredited judge. She is also accredited to judge both postal history and thematics at the international level.

Triggle lives part of the year in Sarasota, FL, and is an active member of several APS chapters: the Buffalo Stamp Club, Rochester Philatelic Association, and Sarasota Philatelic Club. She is also active in the Royal Philatelic Society of London and is a member of the National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists. Additionally, she has served on the committees of two APS World Series of Philately Stamp Shows: Ropex and Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. Her next assignment is as a judge for Aripex 2006, the APS World Series of Philately Show scheduled for Feb. 10–12, in Mesa, AZ. In May she’ll be heading to the Washington, DC Convention Center at 801 Mt. Vernon Place, for the colossal World Philatelic Exhibition.

Editor’s Note: For the latest information on all aspects of the show, or to register in advance, log on to www.washington-2006.org, or write to WASHINGTON 2006, P. O. Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006, for a brochure.
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MARCH / APRIL 2006 27
Every year, the U.S. Postal Service receives more than 50,000 suggestions for stamps on thousands of topics. The Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) has the difficult task of choosing and recommending about 25 of these ideas that are both educational and interesting enough to become postage stamps.

Established in 1957, CSAC’s primary goal is to choose subjects for recommendation to the Postmaster General. The committee considers every suggestion, regardless of who makes it or how it is presented, and evaluates the merits of each. It’s a difficult task, since only a limited number of new commemorative items can be issued annually. In addition to the USPS’s extensive line of regular stamps, approximately two dozen new subjects for commemoratives — most of which are suggested by the public — are recommended annually. CSAC members also review and provide guidance on artwork and designs for stamp subjects that are scheduled to be issued.

In February 2002, Postmaster General John E. Potter announced the appointment of two new members to the CSAC. One of those appointees was Watertown native and retired U.S. House of Representatives executive Cary R. Brick. The other appointee was Jean Picker Firstenberg, director and CEO of the American Film Institute (AFI). Postmaster General Potter said at the time, “Their enthusiasm and dedication to public service will greatly benefit the U.S. commemorative stamp program.”

At the time of his retirement in early 2000, Brick was chief of staff for U.S. Rep. John McHugh, R–NY, and senior chief of staff for New York’s 33-member congressional delegation. With more than three decades of legislative and executive branch service in the federal government, he was one of the longest-serving House of Representatives executives. He also served as chief executive officer of Northern New York’s congressional office.

Additionally, as Chief of Staff to the chairman, Brick supervised the staff of the Postal Service Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and participated in the introduction of the first major legislative reform of the U. S. Postal Service in 25 years.

One of 14 members on the CSAC, Brick said his desire to join the influential panel stemmed from his “interest in the process and postal issues.” Like Brick, all committee members are appointed by the Postmaster General. Their backgrounds reflect a wide

Continued on Page 30
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range of educational, artistic, historical, and professional expertise, and they all share an interest in philately and “fulfilling the needs of the mailing public.” According to Brick, members can serve a maximum of four three-year terms. Members are reimbursed for travel expenses and receive a $730 stipend.

A Syracuse University graduate, Brick says he became interested in philately as a teenager. “I am a casual collector,” he said, “with a focus on U.S. history, sports, nature, patriotic, and social awareness stamps.”

Becoming a member of CSAC is another in the long list of Brick’s accomplishments and affiliations. Currently a resident of Clayton on the St. Lawrence River, Brick is an acting village justice and an adjunct professor of political science at Jefferson Community College, Watertown. He remains actively involved in his community, serving as a Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce director, as well as a trustee of several area organizations. He is also a life member of Jefferson County Detachment 753, Marine Corps League in Watertown.

He has received numerous awards and citations from community and veterans’ organizations, educational institutions, and state and local governments for his outstanding leadership, including the Department of the Army’s highest civilian decorations. While serving with three successive Members of Congress, representing New York’s northernmost counties, Brick championed more than 30,000 cases on behalf of individuals and institutions facing problems with federal and state agencies and departments.

Brick attends CSAC meetings four times a year in Washington, DC. At these meetings, the committee considers all new proposals and takes one of two actions: It may reject the new proposal or it may set it aside for consideration for future issuance. If set aside for consideration, the subject remains “under consideration” in a file maintained for the committee. Each new proposed subject is listed on the CSAC’s agenda for its next meeting. Committee members determine if the proposal meets CSAC guidelines, after which they research the subject.

Other members of CSAC are Chairperson Ronald A. Robinson, Vice Chairperson Michael R. Brock, David L. Eynon, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Sylvia Harris, I. Michael Heyman, past APS President John M. Hotchner, actor Karl Malden, James Miho, Joan A. Mondale, Richard F. Phelps, and Maria E. Santana.
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Seven students from New York State were among the 23 winners of the Texas Philatelic Association’s 2005 Youth Holiday Cover Contest. The annual event attracted 140 entries from students aged 4 to 14 across the United States. Entrants were asked to draw a stamp for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, or the holiday the entrant’s family recognizes.

First place winners included Shannon Moore, 7, of Brooklyn, who drew Santa’s Reindeer and elves in the 4—8-year-old age group [1]; Jessica Scoones of Deansboro, who drew a manger in the 9-year-old group [2]; and Amy Yao of Niskayuna, who drew a candle lighting up a Christmas tree and tied with a student from Richardson, TX, in the 11-year-old group [3].

Second place winners included Sahir Jaggi of Cohoes, who drew the diya (tealight) for Diwali, the festival of lights, in the 10-year-old group [4]; and Alexandria Alinea of Oriskany Falls, who depicted a puppy alone on Christmas Eve in the 11-year-old group [5]. Jaggi tied with a student from Winter Park, FL.

Third place winners included Shelby Burns of Clinton, who drew sitting by the fire and tied for the award with a student from Winter Park, FL, in the 10-year-old group [6]; and Akanshu Srivastav of Oriskany Falls in the 11-year-old group [7], who explained that “the Nobel prices are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden. The dynamite symbolizes Alfred Nobel, its inventor, and the snow symbolizes winner because the prizes are awarded on Dec. 10.”

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Phone Number (include area code)
❑ United States  ❑ Worldwide  ❑ Collection  ❑ Accumulation

Approximate value ______________________________________
Based on _____________________________________________
Brief description of stamps________________________________

Mystic Stamp Company
Attention: Buying Department
9700 Mill Street, Camden, N.Y. 13316
Phone: 1-800-835-3609 Fax: 1-800-385-4919
StampBuyer@MysticStamp.com
Easter Seals Arose from Streetcar Accident

By Florence Wright

Easter — a day and a season that represents to many people resurrection and new life. And so it was that, in 1934, Easter was chosen as the time for the sale of seals that would benefit the rehabilitation of crippled children.

From left: The first Easter seal from 1934, 1963 seal showing the lily as the crutch for the crippled child, and the 50th anniversary 1984 seal.

The National Society for Crippled Children was started in 1921 by Ohio Businessman Edgar F. Allen. In 1907 his son died from injuries suffered in a streetcar accident, and might have been saved if there had been adequate medical facilities in the city of Elyria, Ohio. Allen sold his business and devoted his energies and finances to building a hospital. But to his dismay, he found that children with disabilities — crippled and injured — were often hidden from public view and sometimes removed from proper care and rehabilitation.

The Society, needing donations and public support, launched its first Easter seals campaign in the spring of 1934. Designed by J. H. Donahey, a cartoonist/artist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the first seal pictured a white cross and a crippled child. He said “Simplicity of design seems appropriate since the crippled child asks simply for the right to live a normal life.”

In 1952, the lily — symbolizing spring — was incorporated as the Easter Seals’ logo, and has appeared on nearly every seal since. By 1967, the Easter seal was so well recognized that the organization formally adopted the name Easter Seals, and so it remains today.

For additional information on Easter Seals, contact Florence Wright, secretary–treasurer of the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society, P.O. Box 18615, Rochester, NY 14618, or e-mail: fwright2@rochester.rr.com.
Britain’s Royal Mail issued Christmas stamps Nov. 1, 2005 with worldwide Madonna and Child paintings. The 68p stamp for the airmail letter rate to non-European Union countries features a 1620 era Indian painting of the Holy Family as Hindus with tilaka, traditional forehead markings. The painting is in Bombay’s Prince of Wales Museum.

The Hindu Forum of Britain labelled the stamp insensitive and demanded its withdrawal because “it showed people who were clearly Hindu worshipping Christ.” The World Hindu Mahasangam branded the image a fake. Royal Mail refused to withdraw the stamp, but by mid-November had instructed the kingdom’s 14,400 post offices not to sell it unless it was specifically requested. Threatened mass demonstrations never materialized.

These groups did not speak for everyone. Indian art historian Ranjit Hoskote examined the painting and found it authentic and inoffensive. A reader of the Indian Deccan Herald newspaper wrote: “As an Indian and a practicing Catholic I am very happy to see the stamp as an excellent fusion of the Indian culture with the Catholic faith.” British Hindus told Ekklesia, a religious news service, they feared “self-appointed community leaders” hoped “to boost their own standing” by “making an issue over nothing.”
Far Away Places with Strange Sounding Names

In my youth group one of the hardest understandings for young philatelists is that there are many countries in the world that do not use English on their postage stamps. Many students are at a loss. Simple stamp identifiers are available and really help in stamp identification.

After my students have a feel for the vastness of planet Earth, we pursue simple activities such as the one below. Obviously, there is a reward for each correct answer. You could also bring in an atlas and have the students locate the identified nation on a map for additional prizes of stamps. I hope your young philatelists can benefit from this activity or one of your own similar designs. It is a good way to refresh our own understanding of foreign stamps as well.

1. Magyar Posta
2. Österreich
3. Deutsche Bundespost
4. Grønland
5. Nippon
6. Bayern
7. CCCP
8. Helvetia
9. Československa
10. Éire
11. Côte d’Ivoire
12. Danmark
13. Island
14. Brasil Correo
15. Polska
A. Germany
B. Switzerland
C. Japan
D. Iceland
E. Czechoslovakia
F. Hungary
G. Denmark
H. Ivory Coast
I. Brazil
J. Austria
K. Poland
L. Ireland
M. Bavaria
N. USSR
O. Greenland

Answers on Page 64
Retro Postmarks Could Enliven U.S. Philately

I have been collecting since the early 1960s and have become disillusioned by the path the U.S. Postal Service is taking. Granted there are several issues that I feel are worth collecting, but the majority are nothing more than labels. I know the Bureau of Printing and Engraving no longer prints stamps. Therefore, most issues are not engraved as in the past.

I see many people using the flag definitive. How blah, how remedial. I think, with enough noise, the Postal Service could revitalize stamp collecting.

Here is my idea: In the 19th century, the cancellations for the United States, Canada, and major European countries were very interesting. The post office could hand stamp at their windows instead of using the current machine cancels. What would they stamp in variety of colors, including black, red, green, and blue? Here is my list:

- Early U.S. and Canada fancy cancels
- England’s Maltese cross
- France’s dotted diamond
- City cancels patterned after early Austria, Germany, and Prussia

Just think of it — The flag definitive would now be more collectible, stamp sales would soar. This would make collecting fun again and even worldwide collectors would like to collect these special retro cancellations.

I collect mainly Czechoslovakia since they use the old engraving method. But now I could collect the definitive stamp with a variety of cancels — Maltese cross, dotted diamond, geometric designs, and whatever other special cancels the USPS came up with.

*Michael Schneider, Tampa, FL*

Editor’s Note: Mr. Schneider is a USPS mail carrier.
Club Welcomes Two New Members

We welcomed new members Phil Smith of Clifton Park and Ernie Paquin of Gansevoort on Jan. 20. Both experienced collectors bring many new ideas to meetings.

Favorite Page and Trading/Selling Nights: Besides our formal speaker programs, we’ve had enthusiastic participation in Favorite Page and Trading/Selling nights. We hope to soon have enough attendees to schedule auctions again.

Cachet Program: On Feb. 17 Conrad Novick and Doc Hanson showed how a FDC is created. Doc does the artwork and suggests the text while Conrad produces and prints the final design. Each attendee was given a finished first day cover.

New Covers: Doc Hanson’s latest Holmes cover features the 37-cent Christmas Cookies Dec. 10 FDC with his original artwork for the opening scene of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle. The signed and numbered 100-cover edition is $10 postpaid from William R. Hanson, MD, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801. He also prepared 20 signed, cacheted covers for the Nov. 12 pictorial Holmes/Gillette Festival cancel at Tryon, NC. They are $4.50 postpaid or $4 if ordered with the Holmes Christmas FDC; limit one.

Marine Corps FDCs Still Available: Conrad Novick, 96 Feeder Dam Road, South Glens Falls, NY 12803 has a few sets of four Marine Heroes FDCs at $12 plus $1.25 shipping.

Programs

March 3 — Rocket Planes and the rare mail they carried, from the Gloria across Greenwood Lake, NY to the Shuttle into outer space — a short talk and display

March 17 — Bring some new items you have added to your collection recently

April 7 — Duck hunting stamps. Should 2000 or so be the cut-off date, given the marketing games being played by federal and state agencies? A discussion and display

April 21 — TBA. Contact Doc Hanson at 518-798-9592 or drhanson@localnet.com
Bufpex Featuring Special Cancel and Cachet

Preparations are nearly complete for Bufpex 2006. The annual show of the Buffalo Stamp Club will take place Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5, 2006 at the VFW Leonard Post 6251, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

Bufpex celebrates 60 years of the Leonard Post, the present home of the club. A cancel and cachet designed by Marge Schleining will be available at the show. To order by mail send $1.50 plus a sase to Marge Schleining, 260 Tampa Drive, Buffalo, NY 14220.

Twenty dealers from western New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada, as well as the U.S. Postal Service will take part in the two-day bourse. The exhibit area will have 20 frames competing for awards, including single-frame and thematic exhibits, among others. Also popular at Bufpex is the kitchen, which will have a variety of food available.

The Empire State Postal History Society will conduct its second regional meeting at Bufpex. The organization will meet on March 4 at 2 p.m. Any changes will be posted at the show.

Auctions and Meetings Well Attended

Club auctions and meetings have been well attended lately. The monthly auction, held on the first Friday of the month, has been averaging between 90 and 100 lots with some very good material changing hands. The auction has been drawing between 30 and 40 members and very competitive bidding with around $900 being added to the treasury.

Bob Meegan gave an excellent, but abbreviated, presentation on exhibiting at the January meeting with 20 members in attendance. Alfred Carroccia discussed auxiliary and ancillary markings at the February meeting with both U.S. and foreign examples.

Membership Passes Century Mark

Membership finally passed the century mark! The Buffalo Stamp Club welcomes the following new members: Patrick Kerins, Elliott Hume, David L. Smith, Donald Moran, Bill Hager, Carlo Perfetto and Carlo Perfetto, Jr., and Gail Brzezowski, wife of member Joe Brzezowski.

Newsletter by E-mail

The club’s newsletter editor, Alfred Carroccia, has added optional distribution of the monthly publication by e-mail in PDF format.
Commemorating Washington’s Newburgh HQ

Do you know that the first state registered landmark historic site in the United States is located in Newburgh, New York? The Jonathan Hasbrouck house became famous as George Washington’s headquarters after the final Revolutionary War battle at Yorktown in 1782. George, with wife Martha, lived in Newburgh while awaiting the signing of the peace treaty in Paris for more than 16 months, a record stay for any of his military residences.

The site includes a museum, the Tower of Victory monument erected between 1886 and 1897 to commemorate the centennial of Washington’s accomplishments while headquartered at Newburgh, and the original eight-room 1750 built mansion decorated in period style.

In nearby New Windsor is Washington’s Cantonment, the last encampment made by his army before the end of the war. In October 1782 Washington moved his army to New Windsor for the winter. By late December 1782 the 7,000 soldiers and 500 women and children camp followers had erected nearly 600 log huts. High-ranking officers, including Major Gen. Horatio Gates, commandant of the Cantonment, and Major Gen. Henry Knox, Artillery Commander, were quartered in nearby private homes. Washington made his headquarters in the Hasbrouck house six miles away in Newburgh.

On April 19, 1933, a stamp was issued honoring the Newburgh residence and peace proclamation. A total of 73,382,400 of the three-cent rotary press printing, perforated 10.5 × 11, (Scott 727) stamp was issued. The stamp was later reissued in 1935 (Scott 752) as part of the ungummed Farley series.

While in Newburgh, Washington created the Badge of Military Merit, to recognize unusual acts of gallantry by soldiers. The badge itself eventually died out but was revived in 1932 as the Purple Heart, which bears Washington’s profile and crest.
An Unusual New Year’s First Day Cover

How many of you can remember this First Day of Issue? Oddly enough, it was issued from Washington, DC, on New Year’s Day — Jan. 1, 1932. The following article is from a contemporary Central New York newspaper:

**MAY BUY ISSUE OF WASHINGTON STAMPS JAN. 2**

Oneidans Expected to Purchase Heavily of Series in 12 Denominations

**BIRTH COMMEMORATED**

Sale in Honor of 200th Anniversary of the Father of Our Country

The Washington bicentennial stamp series, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Father of Our Country, will be placed on sale at the Oneida Post Office on January 2, postal officials announced today.

The stamp series will be issued New Year’s Day but its sale has been deferred until the next day in all post offices throughout the country except in Washington, DC, where they will be sold for three hours in the morning. This series will be in 12 denominations from one-half to the ten-cent issue.

Postal authorities are looking forward to the largest stamp sales on record and are making preparations for handling the tremendous volume of business that is expected. It is estimated that more than twenty million George Washington stamps in all denominations will be sold during the 12 months period that will mark bicentennial celebration.

**Varying Designs and Colors**

Each value will be of a different design and color and each will bear a different portrait of Washington. The one-half cent will be dark brown with a likeness of Washington after a miniature of Charles Wilson Peale, the original of which is in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The one cent will be green, with a reproduction of the profile bust now in Mount Vernon, made by [Jean-Antoine] Houdon in 1785. The one and one-half cent, light brown, will have the “Virginia Colonel” likeness from the portrait by Peale, painted in 1772, and now at Washington and Lee University.

A copy of the “Atheneum” portrait, painted by Gilbert Stuart at Germantown in 1796, the original of which is in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, will form the center of the two cent. The three cent purple will contain a likeness taken from the Peale portrait of Washington in the uniform of a general made at Valley Forge in 1777 and now owned by the State Normal School at Westchester, PA. Another of Peale’s portraits, a copy of that in possession of William Patten of Rhinebeck, NY, painted in 1777, will be on the four-cent brown.
46th Annual Coin-O-Rama Scheduled April 30
The 46th annual Coin-O-Rama, sponsored by the Dansville and Perry-Warsaw coin and stamp clubs, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 30 at Dansville Senior High School, North Main Street. It will offer 40 dealer tables of coins, stamps, and sports cards; door prizes, food, and refreshments. Raffle prizes are: first — $10 gold piece, second — 10 silver dollars, third — prestige proof set, fourth — 2005 proof set, and fifth — 2005 state quarters proof set.

Meeting Has Good Turnout
The regular monthly meeting of the Dansville Area Coin & Stamp Club was held on Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. We had a good turn out with 28 members present. The secretary’s minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer’s report was also read and accepted. We also discussed the Coin-O-Rama. The School is all set and the Security is also set.

More Than $400 Raised for Legion Charity
We also went over the results of our Project Christmas Auction. The money we raise goes to the American Legion in Dansville and they use it for people in need during Christmas. We doubled our amount this year and we raised more than $400.

We also talked about changing our April meeting because the third Sunday is Easter Sunday. Bill Hastings won an uncirculated set as a raffle prize. Peter Dolan also won an uncirculated set. Ed Perry and Trevor White won the door Prizes. Donald Wise won the $5 pill drawing; he was not present so the February pill drawing was $7. The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Purple Heart Stamp To Be Reissued
The U.S. Postal Service will re-issue the Purple Heart stamp in April to reflect the recent postage rate increase. The stamp originally was issued on May 30, 2003 to honor the sacrifice of members of the U.S. military services who have been killed or wounded in action.

“At a time when our military service members continue to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is appropriate that the Purple Heart stamp be reissued at the new first-class rate,” the USPS said. The specific date for the issue of the 39-cent stamp will be announced shortly. Until the new stamp is available, the current 37-cent Purple Heart stamp will remain on sale.
Club Elects 2006 Officers

Officers for 2006 were elected at the December meeting. David Lester succeeds Carol Imhoff as secretary. She declined reelection after many years of diligent and faithful service as secretary. We are very grateful for her dedication. Thank you, Carol. Returned to office were Mike Breed, president; Don Dolan, vice president and treasurer; and Harold vonHagn, membership secretary and director through Dec. 31, 2008. Other officers are Marlin Stewart, immediate past president; Galer Perreault, director through 2006, and Ron Cary, director through 2007.

Programs

March 21 — Auction night
April 18 — Slide program: The Division of the Union

2006 Dues: This year’s dues of $10 for adults and $5 for youth may be paid at club meetings or mailed to Harold vonHagn, 9 Cobbles West, Elmira, NY 14905. Pay now and save the club the expense of sending a reminder.

Meeting Notes

December — There was a veritable feast of Christmas goodies for the 23 members and guests, just five days before Christmas. Many thanks to those who contributed food and drink. Adding to the holiday spirit was the presence of Jason Erway’s young daughter, Erin, too young to be a cub member or stamp collector but still enjoying the event. Fred Dykins brought double prints of the pictures he took at our November awards banquet; many members took home a remembrance of this occasion. The meeting concluded with a showing of the APS slide program Civil War Federal Patriotics.

January — 26 present, topping December, proving refreshments aren’t the only attraction. Don Dolan reported on the treasury, reviewing and distributing income and expense reports for the fourth quarter and the calendar year 2005. We are still solvent, but need our dues to stay solvent. Galer Perreault reported on the 2005 sales and expenses of the United Stamp Societies circuits offered at meetings, noting that the year produced a profit of $29.25 for the club. While this doesn’t seem like much, it was more than 700 percent better than the $3.99 earned for the club in 2004. In discussing Stepex 2006 plans Al Parsons advised that the Arnot Mall wanted to schedule our show this year on either the first or fourth Friday/Saturday in October, rather than the third Friday/Saturday, our traditional time for the show. This prompted a discussion of alternate sites, and a number of good suggestions were made.
Ev’rythin’s Up To Date in Kansas City

By Joseph T. Rowbottom III

Do any of you remember that old tune “Ev’rythin’s up to date in Kansas City / They’ve gone about as fur as they c’n go!” [EDITOR’S NOTE: Rogers & Hammerstein Oklahoma, 1943]

Well, I have to say kudos to K.C. because by 1923 they must have pretty much solved all the problems of educating Homo sapiens. And they must have had leftover money to burn because they took all that expertise in pedagogy and all that excess cash and applied it to the education of chickens.

The American Poultry School must have been quite advanced for its day, with courses like vegetable husbandry and history both fowl and fair. In gym, they played Duck, Duck, Goose, but never Chicken.

The cafeteria served a lot of peanut butter and jelly but there were no McNuggets™ or egg salad. Recess must have been quite a sight with the entire student body pecking in the schoolyard.

A cover like this, although it doesn’t have any great postal history merit and is probably only worth a buck or two, leads your mind to flights of fancy or buffoonery or quiet giggling depending on your personality. But, it’s hard not to smile — and that is its real worth.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Books from the American Poultry School, which offered classes for poultry raisers, are still be offered by antiquarian book stores.]
NEW PRESIDENT TAKES THE GAVEL

Les Morse of Lyons, our club president for the past two years decided to step down. We all wish him well and thank him for his leadership. Elected president for 2006 was Donald Grover of Fairport. The other officers from last year — Vice President Dave Himes, Treasurer Gary Chicoine, and Secretary James Darnell — were returned to office.

NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

The unusually mild weather for the start of 2006 has helped keep our winter attendance at a high level. At our second meeting in January, we were pleased to welcome a new member, John Lord of Waterloo.

COVER COMMITTEE’S PLANS

Our cover committee has decided to produce covers for five 2006 issues, beginning with the Jonas Salk stamp to be issued in March. We will follow with the set of four Benjamin Franklin commemoratives, the Judy Garland commemorative, the set of four Baseball Sluggers commemoratives, and the set of four American Motorcycle pictorials.

NEW PROGRAM FEATURE

Our program committee decided to add a new feature this year — two-member presentations of their favorite collections or philatelic items. Four such presentations were scheduled for 2006. Robert LaBelle and David Himes opened with their presentations at our first meeting in February.

PROGRAMS

March 8 — APS Slide Show: Postally Used Valentines of the 19th Century
March 22 — Guest speaker TBA
April 12 — Two-member presentations by Donald Grover and Les Morse
April 26 — Member auction
Schedule Altered for Travel Plans
Due to a traveling commitment, Tom Hanley will not be able to speak on March 14. We will reschedule him early next season. However, we have a perfect replacement. Steve Prigozy who could not make it on Nov. 22 will speak on Telegraph Covers.

Holiday Banquet Memorable
Our holiday banquet was most enjoyable. Many thanks to Jim Kirby and Ray Coco for organizing the evening and to John J. Nunes, and all the members who brought exchange gifts.

First Night Cover Available
Covers are available from the club for Albany’s First Night celebration on Dec. 31, 2005. Send $3 and a sase to Fort Orange Stamp Club, P.O. Box 5475, Albany, NY 12205.

Single Page Night
On Jan. 10 we had Single Page Night. It is always amazing to see the variety of collecting interests and the vast accumulation of knowledge shared by the group. Queen Elizabeth, toilets, postal history, Canada souvenir sheets, autographed ducks, PF certificates, Newfoundland proofs, non-Zeppelin airships, and a newly discovered variety of a New Zealand newspaper stamp were among the items on display.

Programs
March 14 — Steve Prigozy Telegraph Covers
March 28 — John Adamec’s Philatelic Quiz
April 11 — Italy by Jerry La Mastra
April 25 — Members auction
Club to Sponsor New Junior Club

Following a visit by a home-school mother and her four children to the Jan. 12 meeting, club members have decided to sponsor a new junior club. The mother brought her children, ranging in age from about 5 to 11, so they could learn about the stamp-collecting hobby. Members demonstrated how stamps can be a fascinating and fun way to learn about history. Fort Stanwix covers were also given to the children, who were very attentive throughout the meeting.

The mother later asked that several club members attend a monthly home school association meeting and explain to other parents how stamp collecting can help children better understand history. At their second January meeting, club members agreed to sponsor a stamp club for the home-schooled children.

Stamp Show Plans Scraped

Although it was reported in the last issue of the Stamp Insider that the club was planning its third biennial Central New York Stamp and Cover Show, members have since decided not to pursue these plans due to the expenses involved. Instead the club will use its resources to promote philately to youngsters. Members also discussed renting transportation to enable all members to attend other out-of-the-area stamp shows.

The Flu Bug Bites

Club president Steve Stawiarz has been battling a bad case of the flu, and his wife is also ill. Secretary Joe Christofaro and several of his family are also flu victims. Get well wishes are extended to all these folks. When everyone has recovered, the club intends to resume the APS slide shows at their monthly meetings.
New Meeting Location Sought

The club will relocate its meetings, as the Hughes Building, our current meeting place, is no longer available. We thank President Tom Schneider who was responsible for allowing us to meet there for many years. We will inform our members about the location of the next meetings. The new location will also be posted on the club’s Federation Website page. We may meet at members’ homes if no location is found.

Town of Volney Bicentennial

The Town of Volney is celebrating its bicentennial on March 25. Town officials have provided details of the celebratory activities and are planning a pictorial cancel. Their theme is Celebrate Our Heritage. The public is invited to the celebration from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. for displays and from 1–4 p.m. for games, entertainment, and food.

Dues Payable: Dues will be accepted until March–April for 2006. They remain at $6.

USPS To Issue Healthy Stamp

WASHINGTON, April 1 — The U. S. Postal Service has unveiled an addition to the 2006 commemorative stamp issues. The stamp, paid for by the American Poultry Industry, and approved by the U.S. Department of Health is the latest in a series of semipostal issues. The stamp is a stamp on stamp depicting the poultry centennial issue of 1948 (Scott #969).

Recent semipostal stamps have raised money for Breast Cancer research, Stopping Family Violence, and the Heroes of 9/11. This semipostal is designed to combat the spread of avian (bird) flu. Patrons who lick the adhesive backing of this newly issued stamp will receive a minute dose of flu vaccine designed to be absorbed by the tongue. Licking each of the 100 stamps in the sheet will provide a full dose of the vaccine and increase stamp sales.

The Surgeon General said, “This is just an additional layer of protection to keep the flu from spreading.” Those who won’t go to the doctor’s office or health center for a flu shot can merely go to the post office. Legendary poultry magnate Frank Perdue, in a post mortem statement, said “The poultry industry did not want to put all our eggs in one basket. We want to stop the spread of avian flu. This stamp was a way to spread our wings and give something back to the community at large. You’ll be a real turkey if you don’t buy this stamp!”
APS Chapter 210
Meets from 7:30–9:30 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday
in Room 384, Morrison Hall at Cornell University
Howard Schlieder, 511 Linn St., Ithaca, NY 14850
yszekely@twcny.rr.com, 607-277-3192

Auction Fun

Ithaca Philatelic Society members enjoy a recent evening auction at Morrison Hall, Cornell University. From left, upper left, Secretary Howard Schlieder; Suzanne Stumpe, a collector of Hungarian and Canadian issues; and retired Professor Julius Fabricant. Retired Cornell University Professor and Auctioneer, Charles Uhl, addresses Fabricant during an auction, middle left. Charles Uhl and Treasurer Yoram Szekely, upper right, complete a transaction following the auction. Schlieder and Ms. Stumpe examine auction lots, bottom left. Pre-cancel and perfin expert David Smith talks with Fabricant, bottom right.
Club Shares Expertise To Attract New Members

The club sought new members in February with a *What Have You Got* night. The public was invited to bring philatelic material about which they had questions to be answered by club members. The event was publicized through a press release sent to area newspapers.

Programs

March 7 — *German Colonies* by Bill Samuelsen
April 4 — APS slide show

James Darnell’s Stamp Puzzler

Place the name of each kind of stamp defined into the matching box. When completed, the name of your favorite stamp periodical will appear in the highlighted boxes reading down. 1. A stamp for revenue purposes. 2. A stamp with a scene rather than a person, crest, or numeral. 3. A stamp with minor production errors. 4. A stamp honoring a special event, personality, or anniversary. 5. A stamp depicting birds, dogs, cats, horses, flowers, cars, etc. 6. A stamp whose purchase price includes an amount dedicated to a charitable cause. 7. A stamp available over an extended period of time used for everyday postage. 8. A stamp cut in half used as one half the face value of the uncut stamp. 9. A stamp with initials or design punched into it by firms to prevent unauthorized use. 10. A stamp-like item that is not valid for postage. 11. A stamp with means or separation omitted. 12. A stamp used for mail sent by an air carrier. *Solution on Page 64.*
St. Bonaventure May Be Olepex 2006 Venue

The club may have Olepex 2006 at St. Bonaventure University if its China / Far East exhibit is available for public display. The exhibit is a collection that was donated to the university about 30 years ago. Fred Printz has contacted the university about this. Printz said that the show could be held at the university at no cost. St. Bonaventure is just west of Olean.

It has been decided that the show would have exhibits and that the local Boy Scout troop would help assemble and dismantle the show frames. President Ronald J. Yeager indicated that two dealers probably would not return because of poor sales at the last show, which did not have exhibits. However, he said there are three dealers on the waiting list. The importance of local publicity was emphasized. The show usually is held in September.

Programs

- March 6 — W. R. Case & Sons, Bradford by Ronald J. Yeager
  A philatelic history of the knife maker
- April 3 — APS slide show

Erin Historical Society Offers Covers

The Erin Historical Society of Erin, NY, is offering cachets for two Irish-related events — St. Patrick’s Day and the annual Irish Festival of music and dance. This will mark the 66th year that the society has done so. Proceeds of the sale benefit the Erin Historical Museum. There are two different unique designs — an Irish greeting on a postcard or a greeting on an envelope — for cancellation on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, and March 18, the day of the festival.

Cost is $1.50 for a postcard and $3 for a cover, plus a sase. For cards and covers to be mailed directly, orders should include the exact address of the recipient. Checks should be made payable to the society. Orders are to be sent to the Erin Historical Society, P.O. Box 138, Erin, NY 14838. The society may be contacted at 607-739-0242 or at smurphy237@aol.com.

The society’s museum is located at 53 Fairview Road, Erin, NY 14838. The historian is Suzanne Murphy. Hours are by appointment only. The museum has exhibits of rural Americana and railroad items and historical information. It also has collection of St. Patrick’s Day memorabilia; school, church, and genealogy records; information, articles and records of the history of Erin; and information about farm tools, logging, and various milling operations within the town.
Club Considering More Meetings
The Oswego Stamp club discussed several items at its January meeting. Member Nick Todaro made a motion to have club meetings twice a month in hope of gaining new members. President Leigh LeClair said he would check on the availability of the meeting facility to see if this possible. A membership vote on this may take place in the future when the snowbirds return.

Post Office To Observe Bicentennial
The club also began discussion about a celebration for the bicentennial of the Oswego Post office. A pictorial cancel is planned for this event, which will take place in early October 2006. Oswego, is one of the longest continuously operating post offices in the northeast. It is hoped that the club can use this opportunity to get some publicity and encourage new collectors.

Show and Tell: Our February meeting included a show and tell session with each member sharing a favorite philatelic item. The club is considering a program of a one page night.

Officers Reelected: The officers were reelected at the December meeting.

Sterling Cover: A very limited number of cachets from the Sterling cancellation are still available on a first-come, first-served basis. They are available for $1 plus a number 10 SASE from Heather Sweeting, 14329 Victory St., Sterling NY 13156-3172. All proceeds will go to the Sterling Historical society.

Philatelic or not? A young collector might think this is a fantastic example of an imperforate coil line pair used on a personal cover. An old-time collector would recognize this as a philatelic exchange between two long-time stamp collectors, Herbert Fox, of Oswego and W. Ray Staplin, both avid collectors 82 years ago. Does that make the cover a philatelic franking or an unusually odd usage on cover made for a friend? Have you ever found one of these on piece that wasn’t intentionally created by a collector?
Club Has Busy March–April Schedule

The association has scheduled its March and April meetings, which will include member participation, guest speakers, an auction, and a banquet.

Programs

March 9 — Be Your Own Dealer Night
This is your chance to sell those philatelic items you don’t know what to do with. We have extension cords but you must supply your own lights. Set up starts at 7 p.m.

March 23 — Called Auction
Kelly Armstrong will coordinate the Jim Sanders/Doug Perry Memorial Auction. More than 100 lots will be available. Come early to review them. Doors open at 7 p.m.

April 13 — Joint Meeting with Toastmasters: National Postal Museum slide show

April 24 — Annual RPA Club Banquet, Red Fedele’s Brookhouse from 6:30–9:30 p.m.
Guest speaker Maurine McGuire. Call 585-319-3274 for more information.

April 27 — New Member Recruitment Night; refreshments
For more information call 585-319-3274.

Wisconsin Federation Celebrating 75th Anniversary

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC), the nation’s oldest state philatelic federation, will celebrate its 75th anniversary at WiscoPex 2006 on March 11–12 in Rockford, IL. Plans are being made to celebrate the anniversary at other shows this year.

Organized philately in Wisconsin dates to the founding of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society in November 1899. Delegates from nine stamp clubs formed the Wisconsin Association of Philatelic Societies at a meeting in Fond du Lac, WI, on March 19, 1932. The name changed to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs in 1935. The organization encompasses 31 clubs within the state, as well as in Illinois and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

WFSC president for 2006 is Maurice D. Wozniak of Waupaca, WI. More information is available from Karen L. Weigt, WFSC secretary, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562-4339, or www.WFSCstamps.org.
How the Club Came Into Being

A small item appeared in the Dec. 10, 1930 issue of the Schenectady Union-Star: “Stamp collectors will meet tonight at 8 o’clock at 254 State St. to organize a club which will include members from the county as well as the city.” It was noted that “it is believed there will be a large membership as there are many enthusiasts in the section ... Promoters emphasize that juniors are not to be included in the organization.”

Nine men were present for the organizational meeting. Apparently there was no photograph of that group. The Alling Rubber Co., in whose store the initial meeting was held, would be available as the site for future meetings. Later, meetings also would be held at the YMCA. Finally, the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce provided a room in its building for use of the club, which had attained a membership of 54 within about a year.

During its initial year the club arranged to hold its first annual exhibit in the Schenectady County Historical Society building on lower Union Street. This exhibit drew a large attendance. In August 1931, the stamp club, together with the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce, sponsored a cachet celebrating the Centenary of Steam Railroading. There were about 1,525 covers prepared with this printed cachet.

It is notable that the special temporary postal station for the 75th anniversary of the club was at the Washington Avenue headquarters of the historical society on Dec. 10, 2005. The special postmark was applied to mail that day, but no special cacheted envelope was available that time. Credit goes to Albert W. Starkweather, Stamp Insider editor, for creating a cachet based, in part, on the Dec. 17, 1934 program booklet for the club’s second Christmas party.

A limited number of cacheted covers were prepared — some with the 37-cent Meriwether Lewis stamp and some with the 37-cent William Clark stamp. These are available from Ronald K. Ratchford, 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308-2805 for $2.50 each for a random cover or $4.50 a set plus a sase.

Programs

March 6 — Atomic Bomb Tests by John J. Nunes
April 3 — Tax Paid Revenues by Ray Majors
A TRIBUTE TO A FELLOW STAMP COLLECTOR

On Dec. 13, 2005, the Steuben Stamp Club lost one of its charter members and a good friend, Gary V. Harrison. Gary was born in Hornell, NY, and had resided in Canisteo all his life. From 1982 to 1997 he was employed as a custodian for the Canisteo School District and retired due to ill health.

A member of the club since its inception in 1987, Gary was an enthusiastic philatelist and loved sharing his enthusiasm with his fellow collectors. He, his mother Betty, and brother Rick were lifelong stamp collectors. His sense of humor, generosity and friendship will be greatly missed.

Harrison, 57, was a 1967 graduate of Canisteo Central School and attended Wanakena School of Forestry. He was also a life member of the North American Hunting Club.

His mother, Betty Harrison of Canisteo; a son, Gary V. Harrison II of Canisteo; and his brother, Richard L. Harrison of Canisteo, survive him.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852; or the Canisteo Ambulance Corp., c/o Gerald Bertram, 42 Fourth St., Canisteo, NY 14823.

REVISED ROSTER

Club members are John S. Babbitt; Sue Babbitt, president and APS representative; Bill Berry, treasurer; Craig Braack; Phil Bretz; Art Gaisser; Don Gross, vice president; Rosmarie Gross, secretary; Rick Harrison; John Heaslip; Eloise Hopkins; Dr. John Kelly, historian; Al Merriam; Dan Todd, Bulletin editor; and Mary Lou Wightman.

PROGRAMS

- March 13 — Bill Berry
- April 10 — Owls as a Topical by Dan Todd

ST. LAWRENCE INTERNATIONAL STAMP CLUB

The club meets monthly at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday at Massena Library and on the third Tuesday at Cornwall, Ontario, Library. Contract person is Patrick R. Rourk, 3 Morton St., Norwood, NY 13668-1100, prourke@twcny.rr.com, 315-353-8892. New members are being sought.
Expertisers Share Their Stories

Sergio and Liane Sismondo of The Classic Collector (www.sismondostamps.com), professional philatelic expertisers and consultants who have worked for Scott Publishing Co. and the Philatelic Foundation, shared unusual and interesting stories of the stamps and people they have encountered at shows and auctions all over the world at our Jan. 6 meeting. Sergio also explained the intense research that goes into preparing one of his certificates. Then he demonstrated the process on several dozen specimens provided by club members. The presentation held club members in rapt attention for nearly two hours and was “one of the best the club has ever seen,” President Mike Ammann said.

First New Member of 2006

Bernie Serrianne of Syracuse was elected to membership at the Jan. 20 meeting. He collects Australia, Czechoslovakia, and Italy.

Loss of a Life Member

Lottie Noldan of East Syracuse, a 25-year life member, died on Jan. 3 at the age of 92. She joined the club in 1981 but had not been able to attend meetings for many years because of poor health. A moment of silence was observed in her memory at the Jan. 6 meeting.

Program Schedule Available

A printed wallet card containing the entire 2006 program schedule is available. Attend a meeting, call 315-476-8052, or e-mail webmaster@syracusestampclub.org.

Programs

March 3 — Stampo and Three-Cent Worldwide Mixture
March 17 — APS slide show: Irish Philately
March 31 — Auction
April 7 — Swap & Shop
April 21 — Auction

Mini-auctions will be conducted at 7:45 p.m. on March 3 and April 7, if material allows.

Club members Vincent Juchimek, center, and Jeff Costello, right, present Syracuse VA Medical Center director James Cody with a framed set of the club’s Distinguished Marines first day covers. The ceremony took place in the director’s office on Dec. 2, 2005.
Club Announces March and April Programs

The club will be having a fun night of questions relative to philatelic trivia ranging from U.S. History, world geography, and biographical sketches of people on stamps at its March 20 meeting. Teacher Bob Finnegan will serve as game show host. The April 17 meeting will allow members to view its first ever viewing of an APS slide presentation, Slips on Ships on Stamps. This slide presentation should be of great interest to those topical collectors.

School Club Numbers 35 Members

Robert Finnegan reports he now has upwards of 35 junior collectors at his Sidney Elementary School Stamp Club at his home school. His budding philatelists are in grades three to five. The Tri-County Club is inviting the juniors to its May 15 meeting where they will be engaged in games and activities, which will allow them to “earn” additional philatelic materials.

The school club members are still in need of stamp hinges, as there are no local opportunities to secure them. Any philatelists reading this can send additional hinges to Robert Finnegan, Stamp Club Advisor, Sidney Elementary School, 15 Pearl St. E., Sidney, NY 13838

The local school librarian has now subscribed to the Scott’s Stamp Monthly for the children at Sidney Elementary School, but could not afford Linn’s Stamp News.

Stamp Camp USA Reaches More Than 5,000 in 2005

Stamp Camp USA reached a total of 2,809 adults and 2,295 youth in 2005, including 11 adults and 28 youth in New York State, according to Cheryl B. Edgcomb, Stamp Camp USA CEO and Executive Director. A majority of the outreach programs were conducted in New York and Pennsylvania. Programs in New York were conducted at the Little School in Addison and during Ropex in Rochester and Stepeix in Elmira.

The organization, which is primarily a collaborative philatelic education program for children aged 8 to 14, also was granted non-profit 501(c)(3) status. As a non-profit organization, all donations may be claimed as tax deductible.

A major highlight of this year’s program schedule will be participation in the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. Stamp Camp USA is also planning new community partnerships with Little League and the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

More information is available from Stamp Camp USA, 149 E. Main St., P.O. Box 377, Knoxville, PA 16928-0377, phone 814-326-0810, e-mail stampcampusa@intergate.com.
Travel Plans Change Schedule

Due to travel plans, Tom Hanley and Arnie Leiter switched nights. On Feb. 1 Tom spoke on *Irish Philately*. On March 15, Arnie will speak on *U.S. Postmarks*. Hope to see you all there.

Holiday Banquet

On Dec. 21 the membership met at Holmes and Watson for our annual Holiday Banquet. As we did last year, we ordered off the menu and everyone enjoyed the chef’s preparations of the evening. Gifts were organized by Peg Kosinski and flowers were crafted by Phil Harris.

Local Postal History and Human Interest

On Jan 24 Dr. Joseph Y. Rudnick treated us to some local postal history and some local human interest as well. Some time ago, he acquired about 100 stampless covers all addressed to Titus Eddy in Troy. Eddy built a fortune making and selling quality printing inks. From the contents of the letters, it looks very possible that he sold the inks that printed U.S. Scott numbers one and two. Eddy’s many gifts to the community, continue even until the present, in the form of medical facilities throughout the Capital Region.

Programs

- March 1 — Winter auction
- March 15 — *U.S. Postmarks* by Arnie Leiter
- April 5 — *This ’n That* by Phil Hicks
- April 19 — Terrill Miller’s *Philatelic Quiz*

ATTENDING THE PARTY, FROM LEFT: ARNIE LEITER, MR. AND MRS. TOM HANLEY, FRITZ DODGE, BERT SOLTYSIAK, SECRETARY KEN MANGIONE, PRESIDENT TERRY MILLER, VICKI MILLER, MARGE MILLER, PEG KOSINSKI WITH CAMERA, PHIL HARRIS, ROGER MINCH SPORTING HIS HAT, MR. AND MRS. JIM DANNER, AND JOHN J. Nunes.

Dr. Joseph Y. Rudnick

George McGowan Photos
20 Attend Holiday Dinner
Our December meeting was a social event with dinner at a local restaurant. Approximately 20 members and guests attended. Jerome Wagner, member and treasurer, gave a short summary of his wife’s and his summer vacation to Turkey, Greece, and the Greek Isles.

Art on Irish Stamps
At our January meeting, member Francis Kolaritis gave a presentation about the stamps of Ireland, and their connections to the art world. He described the making of medieval prayer books by Jean, Duc de Berry, and his three brothers. Accompanying his talk were a number of illustrations of the prayer books that were most interesting.

Stamps of Newfoundland
Club member Ed Hacker spoke in February on the stamps of Newfoundland.

Historic Cover
The club issued a cover on March 1, 1932 to mark the centennial of the city of Utica. The site originally was included in a grant of 22,000 acres by King George II of England to William Cosby and some associates in 1734. The British built Fort Schuyler on it in 1758, but when Fort Stanwix at Rome was renamed for Col. Peter Schuyler, the first Fort Schuyler became known as Old Fort Schuyler. It was abandoned before the Revolutionary War.

Settlers began arriving in 1773, and the village became an important stop for settlers heading farther west. The manor was sold by the sheriff in 1792 to a group that included Gen. Philip Schuyler and Gen. John Bradstreet. In 1798, the name Utica was chosen from names placed in a hat. It is presumed to be in reference to an ancient city of that name in Roman North Africa. The city was incorporated as a village in 1798, the same year that Oneida County was organized. After the Erie Canal arrived in 1825, Utica grew quickly and became a city in 1832.

Programs
March 7 — Computers and Philately by Don Drumm
April 4 — TBA
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**Shows & Bourses**

**MARCH**

**4–5 — Cheektowaga**
BUFPEX, Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Walden Post, 2450 Walden Ave. 10–5 March 4, 10–4 March 5. Dealers, U.S. Postal Service, souvenir cancel, and cacheted envelopes. Contact BUFPEX, 113 Richfield Ave, Buffalo, NY 14220.

5 — Rochester

12 — Cheektowaga

16–19 — New York City
ASDA 14th annual POSTAGE STAMP MEGA-EVENT, Madison Square Garden at the Expo Center, 4 Pennsylvania Plaza. 10–6 Oct. 16–18 & 10-4 Oct. 19. Phone: 516-759-7000; e-mail: asdashows@erols.com; Web: www.asdaonline.com.

19 — Albany

26 — West Seneca
APRIL
7–9 Toronto
AMERISTAMP EXPO, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Hours: 11–6 April 7, 10–6 April 8 & 10–4 April 9. Dealers, Canada Post. E-mail: secretary@csdaonline.com; Web: www.csdaonline.com.

8–9 — Syracuse

16 — Albany

22–23 — Cheektowaga
BUFFALO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION (formerly CHECOPEX). Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Road. 10–5 April 22 & 10–4 April 23. 716-741-9344.

30 — West Seneca

30 — Dansville
COIN-O-RAMA sponsored by Dansville and Perry-Warsaw Coin and Stamp clubs. 10–4. Coins, stamps, sports cards. Susan Edwards, e-mail: see10@frontiernet.net.

VALLEYPEX Changed
VALLEYPEX, usually held in April, is moved to June 17–18. More details will appear in the May–June STAMP INSIDER.

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Advertiser Index
AMERICAN FIRST DAY COVER SOCIETY ............................. 64
ASDA MEGA-Event .............................................................. 31
ART COVER EXCHANGE ....................................................... 64
BEJSCO OF FLORIDA, INC ..................................................... 21
BUFFALO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION .............................. 17
BIG “E” COINS & STAMPS .................................................. 62
BUFFEX ...................................................................... 5
CHAMPION STAMP CO ......................................................... 29
COVER CONNECTION .......................................................... 27
COIN-O-RAMA ................................................................. 5
DESIGN ON DEMAND ......................................................... 64
HENRY GITNER PHILATELISTS, INC ................................. 11
HARMER--SCHAU, Inc .......................................................... 13
EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY ................... 64
ERIC JACKSON ................................................................. 19
JOURNAL OF ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES ...................... 19
LiFeTeC USA LLC ............................................................ 63
STEVE MALACK STAMPS .................................................... 21
E. JOSEPH MCCONNELL, INC ........................................... 9
GEORGE MCGOWAN ........................................................ 63
MIDEASTERN GALLERIES LLC ........................................ 25
MYSTIC STAMP COMPANY .............................................. 34–35
JOHN J. NUNES ............................................................... 15
NUTMEG STAMP SALES ...... INSIDE BACK COVER .......... 62
PRESTIGE COVERS ........................................................... 62
QUALITY INVESTORS, LTD .................................................. 13
QUALITY STAMPS .......................................................... 36
R.J. ASSOCIATES ............................................................ 39
SCHMITT INVESTORS, LTD ............................................... 27
STAMP INSIDER ............................................................. 37
STAMP NEWS ............................................................... 25
SUBURBAN STAMP, COINS & COLLECTIBLES .............. 62
SYRACUSE STAMPS, COINS & COLLECTIBLES ............... 9
UN Postal Administration...................................................... 33
VIDIFORMS COMPANY ...................................................... Back Cover
VIRTUAL STAMP CLUB ..................................................... 64
WASHINGTON PRESS ...... INSIDE FRONT COVER .......... 64
WANT & EXCHANGE .......................................................... 64
WASHINGTON 2006 ......................................................... 23
DOUGLAS WEISZ U.S. COVERS ....................................... 30
WEST SENECA SHOWS ................................................... 63

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March / April 2006 65
Have you ever been to a stamp show, browsed through boxes of items, looked at an exhibit, and heard someone say, “Oh that’s just a philatelic usage.”

It boggles my mind that some so-called philatelists express disdain for covers that are philatelic. There seems to be a feeling among the philatelic community that items philatelic companies, to or from philatelists, etc. are not considered in as high regard as those with similar commercial uses and shouldn’t be used in exhibits.

Certainly an unusual commercial or personal usage of older franking is rarer and more uncommon than one made by a philatelic business or collector. Look at your mail from the last 10–20 years, the future of our hobby so to speak. Have you received any Hawaiian missionary reprints on your mail that didn’t come from other collectors? What about the Trans-Mississippi reissues or Lewis and Clark booklet stamps? Consider for example the outstanding cover franked with the 1932 Washington bicentennial issues, shown on the Chenango Valley Stamp Club page. It must have been made by a collector, but isn’t it a really interesting and colorful piece of mail? I contend that most of what will be collected and saved and or exhibited 50 years from now will be philatelic, merely from the standpoint that it is philatelists who are using commemoratives.

Think of all the interesting frankings that can be made up with the new rate change. I’ve been looking for the bicentennial souvenir sheets used on cover. Not many were actually broken up and used as postage. Ideally I like covers used in the correct time period, but now I could take a set and turn them into my own variation of modern postage, franked with three 13 centers to make the 39-cent rate.

I would love to see an exhibit of unusual collector-based philatelic correspondence, the more outrageous the better. It could be thematic — animals, vegetable, mineral, etc.; numeric — how many different stamps can make a rate?, how many fractionals can make a rate?; or merely unusual usages such as special deliveries from dealer to customer, international stamp dealings, routings, etc.

Before you mail your next letter, take the time and effort to consider what might make it an unusual usage for the next generation of philatelists. It might be merely using a new commemorative stamp rather than a Statue of Liberty/flag, or perhaps getting the postmaster to autograph it before hand cancelling it, or adding the adhesive plate number margin piece under the stamp. Let’s do our part to ensure there will be 21st century philatelic items to collect 20 years from now.
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