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Editorial & ad deadlines for the two months following are Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Dec. 1.
ESPHS Rejects Stamp Insider Funding

The Empire State Postal History Society Executive Board, of which I am a member, has voted against funding Stamp Insider subscriptions for its membership. ESPHS has a substantial balance in its available investments and is fiscally able to make such a commitment. It should be noted that other Federation clubs are providing the Insider to their membership.

The commitment would cost ESPHS approximately $600. ESPHS members currently pay $15 per year in dues and receive the Bulletin and Excelsior. The board vote resulted in a tie that was broken by President Alan Parsons, who cast the deciding no vote on February 17. Those opposing subscribing saw little or no postal history value in the Stamp Insider and did not believe that the publication or the Federation contributed to ESPHS’ goals or the interests of a majority of its membership.

Those of us who voted yes do not support this decision or the arguments. I will propose renewing the funding when the new ESPHS administration takes office next year, with the hopes its members will continue to receive our bimonthly publication.

Until then ESPHS members no longer will receive the Stamp Insider unless they receive it by virtue of belonging to another philatelic organization within the Federation. This goes into effect with the July–August issue.

In 2007, Parsons and I personally contributed $328.50 each to provide the Stamp Insider to each ESPHS member who did not already receive the publication. Parsons proposed the cost-sharing initiative after the ESPHS Executive Board rejected funding.

I solely financed the 2006 Stamp Insider subscriptions in order to provide news and articles on a timely basis.

I am requesting that ESPHS members wishing to continue receiving the Stamp Insider subscribe individually for $4.50 per year postpaid. This is not the $7.50 price normally applicable to non-Federation members. Please send your payment to Federation Secretary Ronald K. Ratchford, 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308-2805. We need your support to continue providing this quality nonprofit publication to club members and other subscribers.

If anyone would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Federation to help sponsor the ESPHS subscriptions for 2008 and to ensure the continuation of its club page, please let me know. I also encourage ESPHS members to let its Executive Board know their views on its actions. Please mail, e-mail or call ESPHS Secretary George McGowan, P. O. Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482, geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com, 518-479-4396; and Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905-1212, alatholleyrd@aol.com, 607-732-0181.
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Welcoming New Members and Their Support

Please join me in welcoming the addition of two new member organizations to the Federation — the New York Chapter of the American Topical Association, ATA Chapter No. 3, and the Connecticut Cover Club, Chapter 85 of the American First Day Cover Society. It is notable that the Connecticut group is the first Federation member outside of the state, although our bylaws were changed in June 2005 to expand our boundaries and vision beyond arbitrary map boundaries. The first contributions of both groups appear on pages 41 and 44.

Both cited the value of receiving the Stamp Insider for their members and of its value in getting their messages to nearly 2,000 club recipients, subscribers, and philatelic show attendees, particularly in attracting new members. They are seeking a common goal, but for different reasons. The ATA chapter is hoping to rebuild its membership after it had declined to fewer than 10 members, while the Connecticut club is seeking to grow its membership from its original core members.

Another recent addition to the Federation family is the Western Monroe Philatelic Society, which came onboard with the March–April issue of the Insider.

Why We Have Deadlines

One correspondent asked why I couldn’t wait two or three days after a deadline had passed to accept an article I knew was coming. The answers are simple:

- Despite many correspondents submitting their copy early, I am inundated on deadline. Editing, placing copy and art, proofreading, and any necessary changes usually require the following three days. I then have pre-press chores to perform in order to ensure that the journal prints correctly and that Adventure Graphics’ task is easier in transitioning electronic copy to press plates.
- The Insider is uploaded for the printer on the fourth day following the deadline, ensuring that the he has the issue no later than Friday or Monday mornings. It also ensures that the Insider will be printed and mailed at least two weeks before the first cover date. The U.S. Postal Service is often lax in delivery, but not because of printing delays.
- The rule of printing is first in, first out. If I am late in submitting the print package to Adventure, jobs submitted by other clients will be moved to the head of the queue in the order they were received and the Insider will go to the bottom.
- To ensure that I meet this schedule, I have several evergreen items and short articles to fill gaps on completed pages and to replace articles that fail to arrive.
- If late copy is too long for its allotted space, it must be cut and or edited to fit and sometimes held for the next issue.
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Specialized Knowledge Is Rewarding

You don’t need deep pockets or an encyclopedic knowledge of philately to find a bargain for your collection, or to make a buck. While a little knowledge may be a dangerous thing, a lot of knowledge can serve one well. The good news is a lot of knowledge is relative: you can spend a modest amount of time, or be obsessive acquiring a lot of knowledge, more aptly termed specialized knowledge. Two personal examples will illustrate:

One type of specialized knowledge is found in books. The 1932 Washington Bicentennial two-cent red stamped envelope has two die types. The difference is unmistakable, with the Die 2 (Scott No. U525a) “S” rising slightly above the other letters in postage (middle illustration). A Die 2 entire catalogues for $85, while a Die 1 entire (Scott No. U525) catalogues for 50 cents. It is not hard to find U525a entires in the $5 range at most decent-sized bourses. Rarer yet, is the blue paper variety of Die 1 (Scott No. U525b) that catalogues for $40,000, in italics, in the 2008 Scott Specialized Catalogue.

For me, a much more satisfying find is an unreported one. I specialize in the Washington–Franklin series and am always seeking multiples, especially with plate numbers or other selvage markings that I can use as reference material. Several weeks ago I noticed that the perforations in the horizontal direction were smaller than the larger — and normal — ones in the vertical direction on a block of six of Scott No. 499, plate number 8886 (cropped).

Large and small hole varieties of the Liberty series are well documented and described in The Liberty Series by Ken Lawrence, C. David Eeles, and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz. Lawrence reported in the June 2006 Scott Stamp Monthly that his pair of 1919 five-cent Washington-Franklin, Scott No. 496, was certified by the American Philatelic Expertizing Service, and was confirmed by specialist Clark Frazier who has a strip of four of the same stamp.

None of the catalogues list the variety I discovered, nor did experts I consulted recall it. I wasn’t looking for this variety, but my interest in the general subject, particularly Washington–Franklins provided me with the information that led to this discovery. A find like this should help to advance our understanding of Washington–Franklin perforation history, and may also be a nice piece to include in a specialized exhibit of this series.
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The Two-Cent Hudson-Fulton Stamp of 1909

The tercentenary of the discovery of the Hudson River and the centennial of its first navigation by steam were celebrated in 1909 with much fanfare.

In 1609 the Dutch East India Company sent British navigator Henry Hudson in the *Half Moon* to search for a northwest passage. After trying the ice to the north, he decided to search the American coast for an isthmus, which he believed, separated the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. Hudson entered New York harbor on September 3, 1609, and spent a month moving about 150 miles to approximately what is now known as Albany.

By the 19th century traffic on the river flourished, especially with the openings of the Erie, the Champlain, and the Delaware & Hudson canals. Steam navigation came to the river in 1807 when Robert Fulton launched his *Clermont* and made the historic trip from New York to Albany. Within a month, there was regular steam service on the river.

The Hudson River Maritime Museum has some great information on both Hudson and Fulton as well as illustrations and maps. ([www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org))

The U.S. Post Office Department commemorated the events with a special postage stamp, placed on sale September 25, 1909 in New York City. The vignette shows the Hudson River palisades in the background with the *Half Moon* sailing north and the *Clermont* steaming south. In the foreground is an Indian in a canoe, and in the distance is another canoe with four Indians. The canoes represent the first means of navigation on the great river.

The USPS reports that 72,634,631 copies were issued perf 12 (Scott No. 372), and 216,480 were issued imperforated, (Scott No. 373). A total of eight plates were used, 5388 through 5395. They were printed 240 to a plate in four panes of 60 each. There are approximately 100–200 first day covers known of any city.
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Album Page Design: Good — Fast — Cheap

The title of this column contains an old bit of wisdom. Pick any two of the words good, fast, cheap and you won’t get the third. It holds true for computer programs to make album pages, too. There are excellent programs for sale that can make great pages. A good free program, though, isn’t going to be anywhere near as fast and easy to use as one you can buy.

Free stamp album page program? Yup. There’s one called AlbumEasy. It’s a download at www.thestampweb.com. It runs on PCs with Windows or Linux. Instructions are available too. You also will need Adobe Acrobat Reader — another free download — and a word processor such as MS Notepad.

AlbumEasy reads commands from a text file that you create and translates them into a .pdf file. The .pdf file makes an album page that can be displayed onscreen and printed out. The commands do three things: draw stamp boxes, add words and numbers inside and outside the boxes to the page, and border the page. You can control box sizes, typefaces and spacing.

The slow part? With AlbumEasy, you don’t compose the album page on your screen. You go through four steps: write the commands, save the commands, run AlbumEasy to create the .pdf file, and then run Adobe Reader to view and print the page. If corrections are needed, it’s back to step 1 – changing the text file. Then you repeat steps 2 through 4.

It’s not all that much of a hassle after you get used to the program’s commands and build up a few good pages. You can use a text file you’ve created for one page as a template for new and somewhat different pages. Some page text files are downloadable at the AlbumEasy site to get you started.

I’ll cover some hints and tips for using the program in my next column. Meanwhile, if you decide to try the program and have questions about it, send me an e-mail. I’ll do my best to answer them. Please use the words album page in the subject line.
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Sixteen denominations of the 1917–1919 Washington-Franklins were surcharged in Washington, DC at double face value for sale in Shanghai, China. A shortage of two- and four-cent denominations promoted the U.S. postal authorities in Shanghai to locally overprint stocks of non-surcharged U.S. stamp in the summer of 1922 (bottom right).

**Overprinted U.S. Stamps for China Were Short-Lived**

*By Warren H. Crain and Arthur P. von Reyn*

Many collectors of United States material do not seem to know, or perhaps forget, that from 1919 to 1922, U.S. stamps were overprinted for use in Shanghai, China. One reason is that most stamp catalogues relegate them to the back of the book.

**Brief History of Trade With China**

Soon after independence, America began working on trade with China. In 1784–1785 the ship *Empress of China* made a successful round trip to Canton for this purpose. From then on American ships made the voyage and enjoyed lucrative business deals in China.

Shanghai eventually became the most important trade center of central China, with the United States establishing an American Consulate there about 1863. At that time, mail could be sent to China either by British mail via Southampton or Marseilles or by private ship from San Francisco. Postage rates via Southampton or Marseilles were quite expensive and the cheaper route via San Francisco was irregular.

Quicker and cheaper mail service to China was needed by the middle 1860s due to increased American interests in China. In 1865, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company was

*Continued on Page 18*
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Azusa
This postcard to a Swiss destination, posted during the period when the overprinted stamps were withdrawn from sale, was carried on the RMS Empress of Asia owned by Canadian Pacific Steamships Ltd. With the exception of assignments during both World Wars, its entire commercial life was spent transporting cargo and passengers from the Orient to British Columbia. The Empress of Asia was launched in 1912. During World War II, it was converted to a troop carrier, being lost on February 5, 1942 while in a convoy approaching Singapore.

**Overprints — Continued from Page 16**

awarded the contract for mail steamship service to China. Three years later, the postmaster general was authorized to establish a general postal agency in Shanghai so mail services between China and the United States could be expedited. Mail volume increased rapidly, as those at other foreign concessions in China found letters bound for Europe arrived more quickly if routed across the United States, thanks to the completion of the trans-continental railroad in 1869.

**U.S. Postal Agency in China**

A half century later, it was decided that there should be dual currency stamps for use at the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai, rather than regular U.S. stamps, as had been used up to that time. The reasoning was that revenue would be enhanced if stamps could be sold to non-American patrons who had local currency and desired to use the U.S. postal facility.

Sixteen then current unwatermarked, perforation 11 stamps of the 1917–1919 United States series were overprinted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington in three lines with the word Shanghai on the top, a surcharged value ranging from two cents to

*Continued on Page 20*

**About This Issue’s Cover**

Shanghai was established as a bustling center of commerce in the early 20th century, prompting many foreign postal agencies — including the United States — to establish offices there. Postmen moved mail handled within the city on bicycles, sharing the narrow streets with trolleys and a growing number of motor vehicles. The U.S. Government Printing Office published the Commercial Handbook of China by Julean Arnold, which included postal information. Many foreigners, including the agent for Swiss-based Ciba chemical company, patronized the U.S. agency.
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Overprints — Continued from Page 18

$2 in the middle, and the word China below (Scott No. K1–16). All the denominations regularly sold at U.S. post offices were utilized, except for the 11- and 13-cent values. The overprinting was done in black on 14 stamps; red ink was applied to the seven-cent and $1 values due to those stamps’ colors being black and light violet respectively.

Because the local currency, the Maria Theresa thaler silver dollar, was worth half an American dollar at the time, the surcharged values were double the stamps’ original denominations. Thus, they could be sold in either currency. The stamps were placed on sale at Shanghai on July 1, 1919 and were not available to the public in the United States.

When supplies of the two-cent and four-cent denominations ran short, regular stamps were locally overprinted and sold beginning July 3, 1922 (Scott No. K17–18). The four-cent value (Scott No. K18) of these locals resulted in the only errors associated with the Shanghai agency; some mint copies exist with Shanghai omitted or China only, with valuations of $5,000 and $15,000 respectively in the 2008 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. In the regular series, the only known error is a double surcharge on the $2 value (Scott No. K16a). It is valued by Scott at $8,000 mint hinged, $13,000 mint never hinged, and $8,000 used. Scott italicizes error and all used values of this issue.

What the Postal Agency failed to take into account was the fluctuating value of the thaler. And, for a time it dropped to less than half of the value of the American dollar. Speculators saw an opportunity to make some money by buying the stamps with deflated thalers, resulting in the overprinted stamps being removed from sale from October 1920 through October 1921.

The stamps did not have a long life, for a resolution was passed in February 1922 at the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armament that as a gesture of good will towards China, the U.S. and most other postal agencies would close at the end of the year.

For a short time after the closing of the Shanghai agency, Scott No. K1–16 were on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Washington. Some values, probably the lower ones, were even reprinted to meet collector demand. Aside from the previously mentioned errors, the most expensive value today is Scott No. K15, the mint $1 value on 50 cents, which catalogues $575 hinged and $1,300 never hinged in the 2008 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers.

About the Authors

Warren H. Crain of San Antonio, TX, is editor of Roadrunner, the Texas Stamp Dealers Association’s newsletter. He began collecting stamps at age 9 and has been a dealer since 1983. Crain has been submitting his Crain’s Corner column to The Texas Philatelist, journal of the Texas Philatelic Association since 1963.

Arthur P. von Reyn of Dallas, TX, is president of the Texas Philatelic Association, Inc.
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Lighthouses & Philately

PART III OF IV — AMERICAN HISTORY DATES TO COLONIAL TIMES

By John S. Babbitt

“Sail on!” it says: “sail on, ye stately ships!”
And with your floating bridge the ocean span;
Be mine to guard this light from all eclipse.
Be yours to bring man nearer unto man.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Lighthouses in America date back to the Colonial Era when each of the 13 original colonies along shorelines was responsible for building and maintaining its lighthouses. The first lighthouse in North America was the Boston Light, first lit on September 14, 1716. It was built on Little Brewster Island at the entrance to Boston Harbor. The colonies had 12 lighthouses in operation when the United States gained Independence. Sandy Hook Light, New Jersey (Scott No. 1605 and 2474), completed in 1764, is the only one of the original lighthouses that is still standing.

Portland Head Light (Maine statehood sesquicentennial, Scott No. 1391) in Maine was one of the first lighthouses completed by our new government after the revolution. Because the fledgling government had so little money President George Washington advised the builders to use materials found in the area.

The lighthouse has been witness to numerous shipwrecks over the years. It was here Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s lighthouse poem The Lighthouse was written in the late 1840s.

In 1990, the U.S. post office began a trend that has become very popular among collectors. On April 26, 1990 a booklet of five 25-cent lighthouse commemoratives (Scott No. 2470–2474) was issued. Three very popular lighthouses were included: Cape Hatteras (North Carolina), the tallest and most famous brick lighthouse in America; Sandy Hook (New Jersey), the oldest surviving lighthouse; and West Quoddy Light in Lubec, Maine, which is located on the easternmost point of North America.

Continued on Page 24
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Lighthouses — Continued from Page 22

The trend continued in 1995 when five Great Lakes Lighthouse stamps (Scott No. 2969–2973) were issued. The 32-cent stamps featured: Marblehead light (Lake Erie), oldest light on the Great Lakes; St. Joseph Light (Lake Michigan); Spectacle Reef Light (Lake Huron); Thirty Mile Point Light (Lake Ontario); and Split Rock Lighthouse (Lake Superior). Lighthouses played a key role as storms on these lakes were fierce and many perished in shipwrecks.

June 13, 2003 saw the release of five 37-cent self-stick Southeastern Lighthouse stamps (Scott No. 3787–3791) — Tybee Island (Georgia), Cape Lookout (North Carolina), Morris Island (South Carolina), Hillsboro Inlet (Florida), and Old Cape Henry (Virginia). The stamps contained scrambled hidden images that when viewed through the U.S. Postal stamp decoder revealed the year in which the lighthouses were built.

The Pacific coast was honored by the USPS on June 21, 2007 with release of five 39-cent stamps depicting lighthouses in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

To Be Continued
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— Countdown To StampExpo 400 —

Plans Moving Forward for Federation Show

By Conrad Novick
stampexpo400@nystampclubs.org

As of May 1, the countdown to the 2009 Hudson–Fulton–Champlain Quadricentennial Stamp Exposition (StampExpo 400) stands at T – 512 days (and counting). Since the conception of the Federation-sponsored event two months ago, a lot of planning and structuring has been accomplished.

Mission Statement
The mission of StampExpo 400 is to present to the public a philatelic event that provides focus and education on historical events that were central to New York State history.

A September 25, 2009 stamp is being sought as a legacy to the 1909 Hudson–Fulton issue. The New York State Quadricentennial Commission has gotten involved with the push for an issue and has enlisted the New York State Congressional Delegation to add its support in petitioning the U.S. Postal Service Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee for the release. The original request was made in 2003 and resulted only in the 2006 joint U.S.–Canada Champlain souvenir sheet.

Signature Event
StampExpo 400 has achieved status as a signature event of the celebration, giving it state-backed promotion and exposure. We created an Expo logo (shown here) and are planning a Web site to keep information and suggestions flowing.

Continued on Page 28

New York State has issued a Quadricentennial pin.
The Commemorative Cacheted Cover by Aviation Artist Frank H. Schaufler is shown above. One of the four Pictorial Postmarks is shown actual size, left.

Here is a unique opportunity to own a piece of modern postal history. The 1941 HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT GROUP MUSEUM in Geneseo, New York will reënact the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Airmail with authentic CAM route aircraft during Olde Aerodrome Days Biplane Rally Week on July 9 and 10. Flights will go between Geneseo, Rochester, Niagara Falls & Buffalo. All proceeds will go to the Museum.

**Only $25 per set of four + $2.95 shipping & handling**

1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum  
P. O. Box 185, Geneseo, NY 14454-0185  

Drop in & see us at 3489 Big Tree Lane when you are in the neighborhood!

Seth Goltzer Photo
I have contacted Lloyd A. de Vries, American First Day Cover Society vice president, about having that organization conduct a nationwide contest for official first day cover cachets. We also hope to have an array of special cancellations and commemorative envelopes centering on the Quadricentennial created for municipalities around the state.

**HELP WANTED**

We will have 11 committees. As Expo chair, I am attempting to spread the work around so that no one will be overwhelmed. Presently we have all but four of the committee chairs filled. They are: Dee J. Archer of Loudonville, Accounting / Archive; **Federation** President John J. Nunes, Bourse; Thomas M. Fortunato of Rochester Philatelic Association, Exhibits; David Dempsey of Syracuse Stamp Club, Municipal Cancellations; Lloyd A. de Vries, Commemorative Covers; and Albert W. Starkweather, Advertising & Program. Positions to be filled are: Ceremonies & Awards, Organizational Attendance, Hospitality, and Security.

If anyone would like to volunteer as a committee chair, work with a committee, or even suggest a category that I may have overlooked, please contact me at the e-mail address listed below my byline.

**Editor’s Note:** Send an e-mail to Starkweather for a copy of the show logo in PDF or Adobe Acrobat format. Clubs are encouraged to use the logo in their newsletters.

It is my intention to make this stamp exposition the biggest and best that the east coast ever has seen. As the **Federation** is a sponsor of this event, this is an amazing opportunity and has the ability to catapult it to national prominence. I ask that everyone reading this try to become a part of this celebration and event, as it is your **Federation** too. At the risk of sounding like a cliché; no job or ability is too small!
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While we like to buy specialized collections and rarities individually, we do buy material of all types. Most of our buying comes from the dealers whom most of you know, and we pay their prices after they buy from you, the collector! So ... doesn’t it make sense to call us first and check our interests? If we cannot personally visit you at your home office, we will have one of our trusted associate dealers do so to give you first class service which people have come to expect from Quality Investors, Ltd., my firm since 1969. Call with confidence as we are members in good standing of ASDA, PTS, CCNY, APS [Life Member], USSS, USPSS, and others.

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McLeod Firm Sold To Henry Gitner

By George Fekete

McLeod Stamp & Coin Co., Inc., the last full-service stamp dealer in the Rochester area, closed its doors on March 1 and sold the business after serving generations of collectors for more than 30 years. Of the two remaining stamp dealers listed in the Rochester Yellow Pages, one is primarily a coin dealer while the other is a vest pocket dealer operating out of his home.

Sealed bids for McLeod’s stock were opened on March 4. Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc. of Middletown was the successful bidder. Douglas Scott Musinger has leased the vacated space at 2423 Monroe Ave. and plans to open Brighton Tokens & Coins, www.rightcoins.com, specializing in rare coins, collectibles, jewelry, and appraisals in mid-April.

McLeod’s History
The late Andy Hale joined forces with an established coin dealer, David Bates, in 1974 and opened McLeod Stamp Company on the second floor of a building at 2198 Monroe Ave. Three years later Bates closed his business and left the Rochester area. During the 33 years McLeod was in business, there were five full-time employees: Hale, Bates, Ursula Loose, John Kellas, and Randy Jones. A part-time employee, Beverly Herzich worked as a secretary for McLeod throughout its existence.

Loose worked for Bates for about three years before succeeding him in 1978 on the emergent coin side of the McLeod company. Kellas worked part-time for three years before joining Hale full-time in the stamp business in 1980. Jones was hired in 1991 and worked on both sides of the businesses, primarily coins during the last few years. After Hale’s death in 2001, Loose and Kellas assumed ownership, with Jones remaining as a full-time employee.

There were five full-time employees and a handful of part-timers, none of them named McLeod! Who was McLeod? Hale specialized in pre-stamp ship mail of the West Indies, ending with the Lady McLeod stamp. Hale owned a single and a cover of the Lady McLeod. In 1846, an undenominated local label was issued by Captain David Bryce, skipper of the three-masted paddle steamer, Lady McLeod, named in honor of the wife of Sir Henry McLeod, Governor of Trinidad. The five-cent (or $4 per 100) label that paid for mail carried between the coastal towns that the Lady McLeod served became known by the same name as the vessel that carried mail franked with it.

Significant Transactions
Each side of the business has experienced its share of significant transactions. A large block of the imperforate double five-cent error, Scott No. 485, was sold for $42,000 by McLeod in a Matthew Bennett International auction, around 2000. In 2006, a block of 25
of the 1917 one-cent Washington, Scott No. 498g, the largest recorded multiple, was hammered down for $75,000 for McLeod by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. [January/February 2007 Stamp Insider].

A descendant of Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents George Washington and John Adams and one-time Governor of Connecticut, brought a 1792 pattern no silver center cent to McLeod and inquired about selling it. McLeod suggested that the coin, which increased the census for this variety from eight to nine, be placed in the February 2005 Ira & Larry Goldberg pre-Long Beach sale in Beverly Hills, where it was hammered down for $437,000; it was resold via private treaty for around $660,000 in July 2006.

On another occasion, a customer offered McLeod a 1796 large cent valued in the $700–800 range. As the customer was about to leave she removed a shiny dime from the loose change at the bottom of her purse and, as an afterthought, asked if it was worth anything. To her surprise, the 1796 coin, in almost uncirculated condition, was valued at more than $20,000.
Famous Scientists Recognized in Syracuse

By Richard Erat

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled enlargements of the four 2008 American scientists stamp series on March 6 at Syracuse’s Museum of Science & Technology (MOST). Approximately 50 students and teachers from Syracuse high schools attended. MOST Exhibit Manager Peter Plumley, MOST President Larry Leatherman, and Onondaga County Legislator Marty Masterpole made welcoming remarks. Gail Weeks, USPS Officer in Charge, and Jeffrey Costello, Customer Relations Coordinator of the Syracuse USPS, opened the ceremony. Presentations were made about the honored scientists:

**John Bardeen** by Can Isik, electrical engineering professor and associate dean at L. C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science of Syracuse University (SU);

**Edwin Hubble** by Carl Rosenzweig, Syracuse University Physics Department professor;

**Linus Pauling** by James Spencer, SU Chemistry Department professor; and

**Gerty Cori** — By John Russell, SU Biology Department chair and professor.

A short presentation by Richard Erat, Syracuse Stamp Club vice president, highlighted the history of the club and examples of stamp and cover collecting.

Vincent Juchimek, SSC board member, designed the first day cachet and pictorial cancellation for the American scientists stamps in Syracuse. See more about the event and how to order the covers on page 60.
The 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum will reënact the 90th anniversary of the first regularly scheduled U.S. air mail flight on July 9 and 10, when covers will be flown from the Geneseo airport during the annual week-long Olde Aerodrome Days Biplane Rally. This precedes the 29th annual Geneseo Airshow, The Greatest Show On Turf.

Three flights will leave Geneseo (Aerodrome Station No. 1) at approximately 11 a.m. both days for Rochester (Aerodrome Station No. 2), Niagara Falls (Aerodrome Station No. 3), and Buffalo (Aerodrome Station No. 4). Cancelled covers will be flown back to Geneseo. Three to six classic aircraft that flew the CAM routes in the 1920s and 1930s plan to participate, including two Stearmans, two Pitcairn Mail Wings, and possibly a Ford Tri-Motor and a DeHavilland DH-4.

A cachet and pictorial cancellations for each city were designed by aviation artist Frank H. Schaufler. The oval cancels incorporate the encircling wings used on CAM Route 4 in April 1926. The cover is based on the transcontinental map airmail stamp set (Scott No. C7–C9) used from February 15, 1926 to January 31, 1927. Instead of a U.S. map, Schaufler pictured western New York. Arrows departing from Geneseo to the three destinations are shown. Replacing the DH-4s on the original stamps are two of the biplanes that will carry the covers—a Stearman Model 4E Speed Mail owned by Todd Stuart of Key West, FL, and the last flying 1931 Pitcairn PA-8 Mail Wing owned by Nemacolin Woodlands Vintage Aircraft Collection.

There will be 1,000 sets with all four Aerodrome Stations cancellations and a photographic stamp-like label of the Pitcairn. (See advertisement on page 27.) An additional limited run of unserviced souvenir covers will be available. All proceeds from the sales go to the museum, which is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historical aircraft.

A two-sided, matted, and framed collector’s edition containing the four covers will have a printed facsimile of the 24-cent Curtiss Jenny stamp (Scott No. C3) used on the 1918 inaugural flights on the reverses and a current 42-cent stamp with a backstamp from the destination. The reverse will also carry signatures of the pilots of each flight, USPS official, cachet artist and label photographer. The front panel will include a signed and numbered limited edition of 50 commemorative plaques signed by the artist, and a full-color Pitcairn photo of the label signed by the photographer. The rear panel will include an enlargement of the Geneseo cancellation and artist’s hallmark vignette.

More information is available from the 1941 Historical Aircraft Group, P. O. Box 185, Geneseo, NY. 14454-0185; phone 585–243-2100; www.1941hag.org.
One of the larger parades in New York City is the Salute to Israel Parade held each spring to commemorate the establishment of the modern State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The 60th anniversary of its founding will be celebrated in Manhattan on June 1. The parade will proceed up Fifth Avenue from 57th to 79th streets. It is expected to have one million spectators, 100,000 marchers, 40 floats, and 20 bands. (www.salutetoisrael.com)

Theodor Herzl, a Hungarian-born journalist and spiritual father of modern Israel, is believed to have been driven to his Zionist position following the 1890s Dreyfus Affair. A Jewish French soldier, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, was convicted of treason on trumped-up charges in a secret court marshal. His trial (he was later pardoned and then exonerated) unleashed a huge wave of anti-Semitism throughout France. In 1897 Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress, proclaiming that the Jewish people have the right to their own homeland, and he was elected the first president of the World Zionist Organization. He died in 1904 at the age of 44.

A year after Herzl’s death, a Russian-born biochemist, Chaim Weizmann, moved to Britain. He greatly helped the Allied cause during World War I, thus getting to know politicians at the highest level of government. He used his prestige to encourage Britain to commit to the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine through The Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, which was reaffirmed in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations in 1922.

After the Holocaust more worldwide support existed for establishing a refuge for the Jews, nearly extinguished from Europe by the Nazis. On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of Israel. Hence, simultaneously with the end of the British Mandate in Palestine, on May 14, a group of prominent Jews issued a formal Declaration of Israel’s Independence. Weizmann, who was instrumental in getting the UN’s resolution passed and in assuring President Harry S.

Continued on Page 68
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**EBay Can Be Unpredictable**

While it can be a source of affordable gems, eBay can be unpredictable. One wonders why some covers do not sell or even command minimum bids. This is a disturbing trend particularly among stampless covers, which are curious from an historical perspective as well as a documentary record from the pre-adhesive period of postal rates.

A case in point is a cover posted circa 1854 from Waterloo to Penn Yan. The attractive cover with a May 2 Waterloo circular date stamp and a three-cent paid marking is fine example of the March 1851 postal rate, which covered domestic letters not over a half-ounce and traveling less than 3,000 miles if prepaid. The paid marking and the fact that Waterloo, in Seneca County, and Penn Yan, in Yates County, were well within the 3,000 miles make this a fine addition to postal history collectors of these two towns and counties. Starting bid was $9.95, but none were received.

A cover from Turin to Boonville with a three-cent small banknote, probably Scott No. 147, was postmarked with a clear Boonville circular date stamp and a faded Turin cancel. This cover was advertised in Boonville and that marking is also clear. Both towns are situated on the Black River, with Boonville enjoying economic growth during this period as a canal town on the Black River Canal, which connected to the Erie Canal. Starting bid was $14.99, but none were received.

Both covers would have made interesting additions to New York postal history collections and are excellent examples from the three-cent rate period in effect during the 1850s. Hopefully these covers eventually will find a home, perhaps in your collection.
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Stamp Collections and Geography

I always have encouraged students to challenge themselves by combining their thirst for collecting stamps with some element of the school curriculum. As a youngster I remember wondering where the countries name on some of my stamps were located. I had a globe, and my world album had an atlas.

Not knowing what resources students might have at home we devote some time at our meetings in Sidney to simple geography. The youngsters have student planners incorporating an atlas, which we use for at least five to 10 minutes at each meeting to locate specific countries on the world map. I provide clues such as, “This country is located east of the prime meridian. Find Poland.” I provide students with opportunities to further develop their location skills and reward them with free stamps. I simply provide them with various names of countries and have them use their atlases to identify the continent the country is located.

If you would like to help your youngsters learn and have fun with their stamps, try these simple activities. Older children who have a stronger sense of what the world looks like from their experiences with mapping skills will do better than younger children. I suggest utilizing a world wall map and having children locate the places directly on that map. Better yet, give students stamps from particular countries and have them search them out on the map itself. All of us are educators and can help children do more than place their stamps in old cigar boxes.
FDCs for Printed-On-Demand Stamps

Change is difficult for all of us to accept. All around us we see change that we might not understand or like. But the change still comes.

Usually this column concentrates on first day covers from the United States that show stamps of a type with which we are familiar. This month our emphasis is two FDCs from the Oceania country of Papua New Guinea. Before World War I the northern part of the country was a German colony and the rest was controlled by Australia. After the war the two colonies were joined into the Australian colony of Papua New Guinea until they gained independence in 1975.

At first glance it appears we have two official FDCs of stamps canceled at Port Moresby, the capital city. Each cancel says FIRST DAY OF ISSUE. However, when you go to the Papua New Guinea section of the Scott Stamp Catalogue you will not find these stamps listed. Why not? Because Scott has been extremely reluctant to list these types of postage stamps that were printed on demand in machines of the type shown on the 1990 first day cover.

These stamps are known by a number of names in the rest of the world: FRAMA, ATMs, Automatic Stamps. However, they are true postage stamps — a stamp with a value, which can be used at any post office at any time. Currently, there are scores of stamps of this type from most all countries of the world, including the U.S., but you’ll find none of them in Scott. Come on, Scott: Get with it and update your catalogues. It’s the 21st Century, not the 19th!
PERFORATED CONTROL MARK IDENTIFIED

I enjoyed George Fekete’s column on perforated control marks on a four-cent Washington (Scott No. 346). What a nice photo [Stamp Insider, March–April]. Most Schermack Control perfins are on the one-cent denominations.


Companies long ago abandoned perfins when they realized that an employee who would steal stamps would use them on a company envelope to send their personal mail. Governments have been slower to realize this truth. Michigan, Illinois, North Dakota, and New Jersey, so far as I know, are still using perfins. So are a few smaller government units.

— Dave Smith, Ithaca

THE DECLINE IN EXPERTISATION

“The Collectors Universe quarterly report (Form 10Q) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 11 shows a sharp decline in the number of stamps submitted to Professional Stamp Experts for authentication and grading. Compared to 18,000 stamps submitted for the quarter ended December 31, 2006, only 11,700 stamps were submitted in the quarter ended December 31, 2007. …”

(Ken Lawrence, Virtual Stamp Club Message Board Posting)

Reading the cover article in the March–April Stamp Insider, maybe that’s a (very good) reason for a decline in submissions. When you get four almost completely different gradings for the same stamp, you gotta wonder — Who are the experts?

— Conrad Novick, VSC Message Board Posting

ENJOYS THE INSIDER

I really enjoy the magazine, and being a beginner (only in it for two years although 59 years old!), I find the articles to be outstanding and highly informative. My hat is off to your organization for putting together such a professional magazine!

— Zach Allerton, by e-mail
Club Has Busy Schedule

The club has plans for a busy spring. The new officers, under the leadership of President Conrad Novick, have been encouraged by the enthusiasm of our new members and the community for our show and programs. We plan to continue to make stamp collecting and related collectibles a big activity again in the area.

For the past several months, Conrad has been providing the club column in addition to other articles in the *Stamp Insider*, a busy exhibiting schedule and a full time job for the state. He asked me — Joe Kopczak — to provide the club page. This is my first attempt; Conrad is a tough act to follow.

Auction A Success

We conducted an auction on March 14 at our new home, the Moreau Community Center. This is something we haven’t done in many years. Twenty-five lots found new homes. Several of the lots resulted in spirited bidding by two or more members and increased profits to sellers. We enjoyed it so much that we are planning another auction in May.

We plan to hold the second Friday meetings at the Moreau Community Center with a special program, where we can accommodate 30–40 attendees.

On the fourth Friday there will be a business meeting at Joe Kopczak’s house, 44 Surrey Field Drive, Queensbury, at 7 p.m. All members are invited and, for now, we are also encouraging guests at these second meetings each month. No formal program will be planned for these meetings but we have a lot of business and planning to do and we will still have plenty of time to share stamps and related experiences. If you need directions to Kopczak's house, please call 761-0020 before 9 p.m.

New Number/E-Mail

President Novick has a new telephone number — 518-636-3919. The club now also has a dedicated e-mail address — glensfallsstampclub@adelphia.net.

As announced in the March–April *Stamp Insider*, Novick is heading the 2009 *Hudson–Fulton–Champlain Quadracentennial Stamp Exposition (StampExpo 400)*. His first column about the forthcoming event appears on page 26. A dedicated e-mail address has been established for that event — stampexpo400@nystampclubs.org.

Programs

May 9 — Auction night. Guests are encouraged to attend and bid. You must be a member to submit lots for sale.

May 23 — Meeting at Kopczak’s house
ATA Chapter Joins the Federation

New York Chapter No. 3 of the American Topical Association has joined the Federation as part of its reorganization efforts and its goal to at least double its membership by the end of the year. The chapter currently has eight members.

We always have a program, speaker, or exhibit. We have beginners nights and to tell you the truth, that’s the one at which everyone shows up!

One other Federation club — the Rochester Philatelic Association — is also an ATA chapter. ATA chapters, in reality, are stamp clubs from around the country and the world in which three or more members are also ATA members. If your club has at least three ATA members it can become a chapter and receive Topical Time and other membership benefits for the cost of individual dues. Clubs with six or more ATA members can become a chapter at no cost.

The ATA will hold its annual National Topical Stamp Show 2008 in the Portland, OR suburb of Clackamas on June 13–15 at the Monarch Hotel For more information contact ATA Executive Director Ray E. Cartier, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057; phone 817-274-1181; e-mail atadir@sbcglobal.net, or visit www.americantopicalassn.org.

More information is available from Chapters Director Frederick Skvara, P. O. Box 6228, Bridgewater, NJ 08807; e-mail: fcskvara@optonline.net.

Monkey Business

It figures! Just when I give up my column a fabulous piece comes along. Sender and addressee have been blurred to protect the hilarious, but neither one is me. The card is in my collection now. Former Governor Elliot Spitzer and the New York State capitol are shown on the picture side. The card was postmarked at Albany’s Capitol Station on March 11 — the day after the New York Times broke the story and the day before he resigned.

— Daniel A. Piazza
Bufpex Draws More Visitors Than Expected

Bufpex 2008, the club’s annual two-day exhibition and bourse, drew larger than anticipated crowds. Most dealers reported brisk sales. For the second straight year the club sold out its show covers for both days. The March 2 cover was particularly sought, as it was a Sunday cancel. The Club’s membership applications were depleted by midday Sunday with the hope that they will be returned with new members.

Ten exhibits were entered, along with two in the non-competitive class, with a total of 20 frames. Judges Thomas M. Fortunato and Alan Parsons awarded the following:

**Gold** — U.S. Documentary Battleship Revenues of 1898 with printed Railroad Cancellations by Walter Orton, also won Best in Show and Single Frame awards; and Foxes: The Beautiful Fox in Nature and Fable by Theresa Meegan, who also won Best Topical Award.

**Silver** — Speeding up the Mails; Special Delivery and Express Mail by Tim Carey, who also won the Romito Award for used U.S. postal markings; Postal Usage of the Martha Washington 1½ Cent Presidential Issue by Alfred Carroccia, who also won Bredl Cover Award; The Big Three by Alan Davis, who also won the Foreign and Emil Auer awards for best first time exhibit; and Legends of the West by Fred Laufer.

**Bronze** — Illustrated Mail by Sybil Peterson, who also won Cunningham Award for originality; Daily Living in 20th Century America Through the Contents of Covers by Larry Cherns; Queen Elizabeth II Coronation by Laufer, who also won Walter Grotke Award for British Empire; and King George VI Coronation by Laufer.

**Programs**

- May 16 — Auction
- TBA — Summer picnic
Starting From Scratch

The club’s March meeting was enlightening and philatelically educational. A number of long-standing members participated in a series of demonstrations for the benefit of our newer members.

Brad Houston demonstrated the complete process of removing stamps from envelopes, soaking, drying, pressing, hinging and placing stamps in their appropriate albums. Frank Lee brought in grilled and non-grilled stamps that needed to be identified through the process of watermarking. He demonstrated on how philatelic watermarking fluid is used, and he noted that lighter fluid can be substituted. Finally, Ship Pixley brought in a neighbor’s inherited foreign stamp album and assessed random stamps, valuating them with the aid of Scott catalogues, giving some interesting results.

The April program was the APS slide presentation, *Stamp Collecting Basics: A Lerner’s Album*. At our next meeting a vote will be taken on the proposal to move our January and February meetings to our open months of July and August. Over the past few years a number of our winter meetings have been cancelled due to poor weather conditions.
GRANDY CD HONORED AT CHICAGOPEX 2007

Connecticut Cover Club (CCC) founding member Joseph Connolly and his son, Sean, won a gold medal in the literature exhibit at Chicagopex 2007 for the CD-ROM they authored on the distinguished philatelic career of Winfred Milton Grandy. Many of the CCC members knew Mr. Grandy and consider him the Dean of Connecticut Cachet Makers. The authors are presently working on a second edition.

Editor’s Note: The CD-ROM may be ordered directly from Connolly for $23 postpaid.

CCC President Rich Hoffman has started a program to annually honor a Connecticut cachet maker. The first person to receive this award will be honored by the CCC at APS StampShow 2008 this August in Hartford, CT. The club will present an award to the cachet maker and a first day cover for the Connecticut stamp from the Flags of Our Nation series will honor him.

FROM AN ALAN WARREN REVIEW

Philatelic literature reviewer Alan Warren reviewed the Grandy CD-ROM in the second quarter 2007 Philatelic Communicator, writing, in part:

“Until now collectors of Grandy cachets have had to rely on occasional articles in the philatelic press and several catalogues, including Barry Newton’s 1980 catalogue, Winfred M. Grandy: FDC Photo Cachet Catalog published by F.D.C. Publishing Co. Now a major collector of Grandy materials, who personally knew the cachet maker, has prepared a listing of the cachets and varieties along with background material and historic photographs. ...

“The format of the CD’s contents is one large Adobe Acrobat PDF file. Although the pages are not numbered, the Adobe Reader toolbar indicates which page you are on, and when you go to print, it also tells you the current page number. Page numbers placed directly on each page would have been helpful for reference.

“This compact disc is a fine example of what modern technology can provide at a fraction of the cost of a printed book. The CD contains wonderful full color illustrations and covers nearly a thousand pages! The love of his subject breathes throughout the author’s work. Joseph Connolly, with the assistance of his son, has prepared an in-depth document of the life and work of one of the hobby’s most famous cachetmakers. Grandy collectors will forever be indebted to the Connollys for this compilation.”
The Dutchess Philatelic Society meets in Poughkeepsie, which is one town south of Hyde Park — the home of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In addition to the home, Springwood, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is located on the same site off U.S. Route 9.

When stamps have been issued for Franklin, Eleanor, and the Presidential Libraries, the ceremonies have been held on the grounds in Hyde Park. The U.S. Postal Service has been present, providing first day cancels for philatelists and the general public. There are usually numerous dignitaries attending the formal ceremonies.

The little extra mentioned in the title is autographs. The covers printed here show Scott No. 1950, issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of FDR’s birth. One cover shows the signature of the governor of New York at that time, Hugh Carey. The other contains the signature of FDR’s son, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. When the Presidential Libraries stamp, Scott No. 3930, was issued on August 4, 2005, the ceremony included the grandson of FDR, David Roosevelt. His autograph was secured on one of the FDR first day covers and we have a double autograph.

Autographs are one more way to enhance your collection and make it interesting to both collectors and non-collectors.
Elmira, New York
Meets at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7) the 3rd Tuesday at Five Star Bank Community Room, 351 N. Main St. (rear entrance); Stamp circuit available
Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14905-1212
alatholleyrd@aol.com, 607-732-0181

One-Page Exhibits Coming Up
For years the club’s May meeting has featured one-page exhibits. The pages are hung on a line and the member is asked to say a few words about the display. Every member should have at least one page to bring to this meeting. If you don’t want to prepare a special page for this event, then bring a favorite album page and tell us why you like it. In the course of preparing a new page or looking for a favorite album page, consider the possibility of expanding the subject into 16 or more pages for an exhibit at our annual Stepex show in October.

Programs
May 20 — One-page exhibits and auction night
June 17 — Slide program: Detecting Forgeries

CAC Newsletter: The APS Chapter Activities Committee publishes a quarterly newsletter and sends it to all chapters, including the Elmira Stamp Club. This is now an all-digital publication available to any club member with e-mail. Send an e-mail to cacnews@stamps.org to join the CACN e-blast list.

Stamp Camp USA requested help in preparing materials for its activities. Neal Walker and Jules Hojnowski spent most of March 29 at Stamp Camp’s new location in Elkland, PA. Jules reported having a wonderful time and planned to attend a further workshop on April 12.

Meeting Notes
February — 21 attended. Parsons brought Stepex 2008 show cards for distribution. He announced the Exhibitor Information and Entry Form was available. On display were auction items donated by Carol Busher, life member and former secretary. Guests were Cheryl Edgcumb and Linda Cox of Stamp Camp USA. Cheryl thanked the club for its support and updated us on Stamp Camp activities, including a show during the 2008 Laurel Festival in Wellsboro, PA on June 20 and 21. The meeting concluded with a APS slide program, The Doctoring of Postage Stamps — Philatelists Beware!
March — 20 attended. Judy Stewart said the 2008 Elmira College Octagon Fair will be September 20 and asked members to help at the club table. Hojnowski entered artwork in the annual Maryland Sheep and Fibre Festival competition. She noted she collected stamps on her return envelope and requested stamps be used. She not only got stamps on the envelope, but also all the stamps received by the festival stuffed inside. Fred Dykins read of a previous club picnic and asked members to consider renewing it. All 22 auction lots sold for a total of $37.70. Fourteen lots, all but one donated by Carol Busher, sold for a total of $23.75. This, plus the $1.40 commission on other lots, enriched the treasury by $25.15.
Positive Sign the Club Grows Stronger

This past winter we saw a positive sign that our club is growing stronger. With the addition of several new members over the past year, our winter attendance for 2007–2008 was consistently pushing 20 members per meeting. In the past we would be lucky to see double-digit attendance at meetings in January and February.

After producing only one first day cover last year, a new cover committee is in full swing with several covers in the works — the first being for the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp on May 15. The Sinatra stamp should be one of the first at the new first-class rate of 42 cents. Anyone wishing to order the cover should send a No. 10 sase and $2 (or $3.75 for two) payable to Gil Lewis, 502 Rt. 88 S., Newark, NY 14513.

Having produced nearly 300 first-day covers over the past 20 years, we are in the process of digitally recording the images of all our covers and preserving them on CDs. The work is being done by Jim Snow, one of our newer members from Geneva.

Our secretary, Jim Darnell recently visited the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA. While there he was able to see the Headsville Post Office, which had just opened a couple of weeks before on March 3. With the help of Becky Dean, docent for the exhibit and postal clerk, he generated 20 covers commemorating the official opening of the post office at the center. The covers were given to attendees of our meeting on March 26.

Programs

May 14 — Annual banquet
May 28 — APS slide–tape show: Stamp Printing Methods
June 11 — Auction
June 25 — Annual picnic

Other Federation Clubs

Putnam Philatelic Society of Carmel, and St. Lawrence International Stamp Club of Massena are also members of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies. The Putnam club contact is Drew A. Nicholson, 18 Valley Drive, Pawling, NY 12564-1140, danndn@comcast.net. Meetings are on the first and third Fridays at 7 p.m. in the third floor cafeteria of Guideposts, Seminary Hill in Carmel. Patrick R. Rourk, 3 Morton St., Norwood, NY 13668-1100, prourk@twcny.rr.com, is the St. Lawrence Club contact.
Both of our February meeting programs were cancelled because of bad weather and we will reschedule them soon. On March 11 Bruce Menia, a former club member, presented a program on collecting USPS Souvenir Pages. He spoke specifically on booklets and the many ways to collect them, including tagging, watermarks, plate numbers, guideline, selvage, other printer’s marks, and full panes or singles.

Bruce dropped his membership a few years ago because of work commitments, but since his program he has rejoined, and we welcome him back.

On March 25 Don Van Hoesen shared his fantastic collection of Canadian Semi-Official Airmail stamps and covers. Issuing these pioneer stamps were various aero groups, such as the Aero Club of Canada, to commemorate special events, and several airplane companies to prepay mail carried commercially to areas not accessible by the usual mail delivery systems. These companies held contracts and operated under strict postal authority control. Stamps were to be affixed to the back of the cover only and canceled usually with a date and or points of flight.

**Programs**

- May 13 — *The Mormon Salamander Letters* by Elwyn Doubleday
- May 27 — Annual meeting and banquet
Club Designing Fort Stanwix Day Covers

The club is planning its annual pictorial cancellation and cachet for the annual Fort Stanwix Day on August 3. More details on this year’s annual cover and ordering information will be available in a future STAMP INSIDER.

Fort Stanwix National Monument is administered by the National Park Service and is a reconstruction of the fort on its original location based on old plans and archaeological excavations. It was named for its builder, General John Stanwix.

There were 700 defenders of the fort, including a few women, during the August 1777 siege. General Herkimer brought a relief force to help the garrison, which was under the command of Colonel Gansevoort, but was ambushed about six miles east of the fort at Oriskany. Both sides took heavy losses during the battle.
Club Meetings Going Smoothly

The club’s meetings have been going smoothly despite February’s cancellation. The snow stranded some of us that month. We made up for the loss with a fantastic March get together, which found us making up for this lost meeting with really getting into a batch of stamps. It didn’t appear we would get through it all. Everyone was pleased with their finds.

Meeting Ideas
Stampo or a video presentation may be something to try at either the May or June meeting. We may try other program ideas as well.

The news at our Fulton Post Office is that we still have Postmaster Bette Prietti going around to other area postal facilities to facilitate their operations as the USPS directs her. She currently is at the Oswego Post Office as Officer in Charge. We hope that her duties will allow her to return to us soon.
**MEETING EXPANDS KNOWLEDGE AND ALBUMS**

Dr. Sheldon Gosline of Elmira Stamp Club, right, explains his *Dr. Kilmer Provisionals* collection to Ithaca members Julius Fabricant, front, and David Smith. It documents philatelic and historical aspects of a family firm that manufactured patent medicines in the Binghamton area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It won a Single Frame Prix d’Honneur at the APS *AMERISTAMP EXPO* in January.

During the same March 12 meeting members examined kiloware offered by dealer David Houseman of Syracuse. From left: Yoram Szekely, Howard Schlieder, Robert Packard, Patricia Keller, and Suzanne Stumpe.

The March–April *STAMP INSIDER* had just been distributed to the members.

— John C. Robbins photos
Cooperstown, New York
Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday except February and March at the Tillapaugh home, 28 Pioneer St.
Ellen Tillapaugh, 80 Beaver St., Cooperstown, NY 13326-1202
kuchtill@verizon.net, 607-547-5646

Club Announces Three Programs
The club has listed its programs for May, June, and July. Dan Blacksmith will present UN Stamps and First Days on May 6, while Bill Samuelsen will talk about Postal Stamps from Germany on June 3, and Albert Keck will discuss Baseball Cachets on July 1.

A Brief Philatelic Quiz

By Terrill S. Miller

1. The Philadelphia-born acting trio dominated the American theater in the first half of the 20th century.
2. Our first naval hero captured many British ships including the HMS Serapis, but lost the fight against corruption at home.
3. This New York born son of Dutch parents was our only president who spoke English as a second language.
4. The last Civil War warrior president opposed the Spanish–American War, although his future vice president was very much for it and fought in it.
5. This theologian and writer son of an English admiral founded a colony based on brotherhood and peace.
6. This woman fought prejudice to become the first female physician. Her New York City clinic trained Union Civil War nurses and in 1865 she founded the first women's medical college.
7. A New York-born president was the only one to marry in the White House. His wife, Frances, at 21 was our youngest first lady. Her daughter, Baby Ruth, had a candy bar named after her.
8. This 19th century Maine native wrote poetry about a blacksmith, Paul Revere, and Evangeline.
9. A physician from Greece, he proved that malignant tumors of the uterus and cervix could be diagnosed by microscope. The test named after him is still used.
10. The son of a Georgia sharecropper, this Negro league star and future Rookie of the Year and Hall of Famer broke the major league color ban in 1947.
11. A British actor and playwright, he is arguably the greatest of the English-speaking world.
12. His humorous stories of the Dutch by our first great American author are still favorites.

Answers on Page 62
Computer-Generated Postage
The label, marked APC (above left) is U.S. Postal Service computer-generated postage from an APC (Automated Postal Center). The other two were printed on personal computers with special software.

Philately Not Immune To Technology
Technology has impacted our lives in many ways. More and more, even philately is not immune to technology. The accompanying illustration shows three types of postage stamps that are made by computer.

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers lists these under two headings: Computer Vended Postage Stamps and Personal Computer Postage. The trick is to decide which of the illustrations is considered a postage stamp and which is personal computer postage.

Computer vended postage stamps are bought at the post office and can be used at any post office and at anytime. Personal computer postage is sold by private companies with the permission of the postal service and can be used at any post office and at any time.

The first illustration (left) is computer-vended postage as evidenced by the APC on the right side. It was purchased at a vending machine in a post office. In Scott these have a catalogue number beginning with CVP.

The Plattsburgh post office on Miller Street has one of these APCs (Automated Postal Center). The machine will not accept cash, only a credit or debit card. It will weigh individual pieces of mail and dispense an APC stamp for each piece or you can buy a booklet pane of 18 forever stamps.

The other two illustrations were printed using special software on home computers and have a catalogue number beginning with 1CVP. This is a whole brand new area to explore. Watch your mail.

Meetings — May 10 and June 14 programs announced by mail.
REDISCOVERING DEAD POST OFFICES

By Bill Howden

In searching for 19th century Allegany county post offices, I have been surprised to find that many places are not lost, nor are the names forgotten, especially by the people still living there!

My first and favorite discovery was spotted on a road sign. A turn onto Old Withey Road led me across a new concrete bridge into the front yard of a single home and a dead-end. An overgrown track edging a field, after a later consultation with my 1840 postal routes map, appeared to be the early Withey Road, but it was a dead-end to me. The Withey post office existed from 1887 to 1902. Years later I met a man from Belmont with the last name of Withey.

While looking for Allen Centre — a post office from 1831 to 1878, I came across a pioneer cemetery on one of several dirt roads in the town of Allen. A tall Van Allen monument gave me pause to read that John P. Van Allen was the pioneer settler of Black Creek. There are several Allen families still residing in the county.

Next to the Van Allen monument was a very old headstone in memory of Jane, wife of Nathan Overton. Overton was postmaster of Allensville (1825–1830) and was the second postmaster of Allen, from 1830. The first Allen post office was formed in 1824. I still do not know exactly where these post offices were located.

Aristotle was found after discovering a road named State. Upon turning onto State, a look to my left stunned me: A faded, wood-plank sign stated Aristotle Pioneer–Inn Farm 1817! I had not only found Aristotle, but I also later found that the center section of the still occupied home was the original building of the Aristotle post office (1888–1902). The State road is also an original post road dating from 1810, and the location and name Aristotle is on the 2004 Allegany County tourism map, so it also, is in fact, not lost or forgotten.
Oswego, New York
Meets at 6 p.m. on the 4th Monday except July and August at Faith United Church, 12 Mark Fitzgibbons Drive
Leigh LeClair, 212 Murray St., Oswego, NY 13126-4032
psleclair@verizon.net, 315-342-5653

Anniversary Cover
Club Secretary John A. Cali and Christie Losurdo display one of the February 8 covers prepared by Oswego Stamp Club to celebrate its 60th and the city’s 160th anniversaries. The cachet depicts the Breitbeck Park bell. Covers are available for $2 postpaid from Cali, 613 W. 4th St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104.

Club and City Noting Anniversaries
Oswego Stamp Club celebrated two milestones with a pictorial postmark and cachet on February 8 — the 60th anniversary of the club’s founding in 1948 and the 160th anniversary of incorporation of the City of Oswego in 1848.

The club was conceived on November 8, 1947, when George Gwilliam, Fred Wright, Ford Babcock, and Harold Baxter met at the Gwilliam home. Its formal organization came on February 8, 1948, when Babcock was elected president. Membership grew from the original four to 34 in 1982. The club currently has 12 members on its roster. It is Chapter 729 of the APS.

The club currently meets at Faith United Church after having a number of homes. Plans are being made to move the meetings to the Oswego Public Library, 120 E. Second St., once renovations to that building are completed.

Postmaster’s Free Frank
This folded letter sheet was sent from Oswego on October 4, 1820 by Scriba Postmaster Theophilus S. Morgan. A post office had been established at Oswego in 1806.
Rochester, New York
www.rpastamps.org
Meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Thursday
at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Road

Joseph Doles, P. O. Box 10206, Brighton Sta., Rochester, NY 14610-0206
jdoles@rochester.rr.com, 585-621-3012

Ropex Hosting First Day Ceremony

We will host a first day of issue ceremony at Ropex, RPA’s first U.S. fdoi since 1992. RPA member Joseph Doles designed this year’s cover and cancel.

The stamps being issued are part of the Scenic American Landscapes. The 72-cent Thirteen Mile Woods, NH will be the Canada / Mexico airmail rate. The 94-cent St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands will be the international airmail rate. Doles was asked to design a cancel and cachet that would tie together. The yellow elder (cedar) is the official flower of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The purple lilac is the state flower of New Hampshire. At the time of the Ropex show the city of Rochester also celebrates its annual Lilac Festival only a couple miles north of the show location.

The cover Doles designed for the previous U.S. first day of issue at Ropex was for the 29-cent, perf 10, tulip coil stamp designed by Wallace Marosek. This combo cover was also franked with the sheet stamp, a booklet stamp and the rouletted coil pair, all issued earlier in 1991.

Programs
May 8 — Blanche Stuart Scott (Scott No. C-99) by John Babbitt
May 16–18 — Ropex 2008
May 22 — Hooker Stamps by Ann Triggle
June 12 — RPA annual business meeting and election of officers
June 26 — Annual Strawberry Night
SCHENECTADY’S MAIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

In the early 20th century, Schenectady was a fast-growing city in large part because of the rapid expansion of the General Electric Company.

On September 2, 1902, a new post office was opened for business on the ground floor of the Andrew Kinum building located at 161 and 163 Jay Street in the downtown area. This rented facility would serve for about a decade as the post office.

The newly constructed Federal Building at the northeast corner of Jay and Liberty streets was not completed until about 1914. Two decades later, the United States Post Office was temporarily located in a building along Erie Boulevard while the Federal Building underwent a massive expansion that would more than double its previous size.

Today, it is likely that few people will readily detect that the main post office building of more than 90 years ago was so dramatically altered in the 1930s. Exterior details were carefully matched. On the interior, the post office lobby has matching ornamentation near the ceilings despite the height of the ceiling in the newer section being substantially higher than that in the older section.

A special postmark depicting the exterior of the building was available from 1988 until probably well into the 1990s.

PROGRAMS

May 5 — End of season banquet at Petta’s Restaurant, 134 Duane Ave.
How We Might Improve Attendance

My last column stimulated a reaction from a Staten Island Stamp Insider reader who does not belong to SIPS. His problem is that he is busy on the night we meet. He provided a few suggestions, including moving the meeting night — a non-starter.

One good suggestion was to expand our use of the Internet. I lack the computer skills, time, and discipline to run a Web site. There were no volunteers at the meeting when the suggestions were discussed. Our meetings are totally unstructured, so merely getting a discussion of business was an accomplishment. [Editor’s Note: The club has Web space at www.nystampclubs.org/club_pages/club_page.html. This contains basic information, but it can easily be updated with club-supplied information.]

One member agreed to answer e-mail for the club. Lately new members match the numbers of departing older members. Generally our membership has been stable, but not growing. SIPS is about having fun with our stamps and sharing our philatelic enjoyment with each other. Those of us who attend have about all the fun we can handle. Anybody out there who wants to join?

Venue Issues

Some years ago we met midweek at an armory and usually had 35–40 attendees. When the armory demanded a $1 million bond for us to continue meeting there, our leadership decided the club could not afford the bond and we began wandering and changing meeting nights.

Every time we shifted venues, and nights, we lost members, who could not attend on whatever night we met, could not find the new location, or just never got the word we were moving.

We drifted for several years, losing members each time. We tried two different nights, and at least three other locations, none of which lasted long, and eventually even tried meeting in members’ homes. We lost more members, although some of the homes were interesting.

When I became a member of my church’s Congregational Council, I was able to arrange to have SIPS meet in a room our congregation makes available to community organizations. It is a nice setting, but by that time, we were down to six–12 at a meeting. That is our current situation, even though we have been meeting at this location for 10 years.

Our meeting is determined by the night the room is free. The church does not charge us rent, but accepts a donation. One meeting location we investigated wanted $50 per meeting night, which was far beyond SIPS’s means. Let’s face it.

We’re lucky to still be in existence, and only because of the dedication of our members, and the indulgence of my church. We in SIPS have a responsibility to carry on.
Club Gives Covers To High School Students

The club donated time and material to provide free first day covers to Syracuse high school students and teachers attending the 2008 American scientists stamp series unveiling at the Museum of Science and Technology on March 6. Free packets of stamps and club information were provided to all attending. (See related article on page 32.)

Thanks to Cali
On March 7 Club member John A. Cali presented the history of early 20th century Syracuse stamp dealer A. Atlas Levi. Cali showed covers created by Levi during his early 20th century years as a dealer in the Syracuse area.

Donations
The club covers donated by the late Frederick L. Scholl, who was a long-time Syracuse stamp dealer. Also another donation of an auction lot of several unused Scandinavian Scott albums was appreciated by our club.

Programs
- May 2 — Bring a Cinderella: things mistaken for stamps
- May 16 — Selling Stamps on eBay, 2006 Results by Rick Erat
- May 30 — Auction
- June 6 — Swap & shop; pizza & soda
- June 20 — APS Slide Show: 1932 Winter Olympics on Cover

Museum Event
The club produced a set of four covers for the event at the museum. Contact the club for ordering information. Among those at the event were, from left, Vince and Diane Juchimek, Michael Ammann, and Richard Erat.
CLUB EXPECTS A BUSY MAY MEETING

The club is looking forward to an onslaught in May, as the members will host Bob Finnegan’s elementary school stamp club. Finnegan develops four–five different activities for the youngsters and their family members. Refreshments will follow.

We usually average around 25 students with their parents and siblings. All members are encouraged to attend, as one or two members are needed at each learning station. This meeting is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. so the children can engage themselves in all the activities.

CONFEDERATE PROGRAM: Members had the opportunity to learn about the stamps issued by the south during the Civil War when they viewed the APS slide presentation in April.

PROGRAM TOPICS Sought
Members are encouraged to suggest ideas for the 2007–2008 philatelic year to our programming committee — Spike Paranya, Bill Bauer, and Finnegan.

Spring Federation Meeting

The Spring Federation of New York Stamp Clubs meeting will be Sunday, May 18, at 1 p.m. at ROPEX in the ESL Complex upstairs meeting room.

Agenda

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors
2. Illnesses and Deaths
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4. Communications
5. Treasurer’s Report with Bills Payable
6. Report of District Vice Presidents
7. Report of Standing Committees: SI Editor, Treasurer, Library
8. Report of Special Committees
9. Old Business
10. Unfinished Business: Amendments
11. New Business
12. Calendar of Events
13. Announcements

Delegates unable to attend the meeting are requested to submit their proxy by mail or e-mail and to direct the secretary to mark their organization present.

Ronald K. Ratchford, Secretary
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**BAD WEATHER AND GOOD PROGRAMS**

Our club experienced a few bad weather meetings since the first of the year. However, we’ve had a few very good programs. In February we had the good fortune to host Bruce Menia who gave us a fine presentation on collecting USPS souvenir pages.

Long-time member and Troy resident Peg Kocienski shared her Troy postcards collection on March 5. She added many personal touches, such as the morning she crossed the old Troy–Green Island bridge it fell into the Hudson River.

On March 19 our philatelic knowledge of United States stamps was again tested during our annual *Philatelic Quiz* put together by President Terry Miller. Terry’s questions are neither too long or too short and never to difficult or to easy, keeping the evening interesting and educational.

We have been receiving APS circuits and it appears they are a big hit. If you would like to acquire some nice stamps at reasonable prices, be sure to come to the meetings a bit early.

**PROGRAMS**

- May 7 — *Zeppelins* by Jim Kirby
- May 21 — End of season banquet

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**TERRILL S. MILLER QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 53**

Members To Contribute Club Columns

At the April 1 meeting it was decided to have a different member contribute a column for each issue of the Stamp Insider. This follows a precedent begun years ago by Empire State Postal History Society and recently adopted by Ithaca Philatelic Society.

This will help ensure an interesting variety of topics on a timely basis. Other clubs wishing to keep their page fresh and faced with columnist burnout might consider doing this as well.

Stamp Camp USA Plans Show and Bike Rally

Stamp Camp USA will have its first postage stamp show and philatelic exhibition, Stamp Camp USA Expo 2008, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival. The show will be held at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church community room, Pearl and Church streets, Wellsboro, PA on June 20 and June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be a dealer bourse, operational USPS station, pictorial postmark, traditional and creative competitive stamp exhibits, philatelic seminars, youth and adult leader stamp camp training, and more.

Stamp Camp USA is a program typically for children ages 8 to 14. Campers begin by learning stamp-collecting basics, including the proper care of a collection and the use of stamp tools. Popular hands-on activities follow, with an emphasis on creative story telling through individual and team projects. The camp schedule is flexible, and campers receive an assortment of hobby materials from which to build their personal collections. During the activities, campers earn stamp camp cash, which is used to purchase prizes at the end-of-camp auction.

Bike Rally Poker Run

The third annual Bike Rally Poker Run, benefiting Stamp Camp USA kid’s camps, will be at Cox’s Harley Pavilion, 2911 S. Main St., Rt. 660, Mansfield, PA, on June 28. Registration will be from 10: 30 to 11:30 a.m. Riders will depart in a group at 11:30 with a lead rider. The ride will be approximately 100 miles, with designated stops for card drawings. The entry fee of $14 per rider includes an all-American picnic following the return to Cox’s Pavilion.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, along with door prizes and give-a-ways. Trophies will be presented to the top three riders. Rain date is July 12.

For more information about the show, rally or Stamp Camp USA educational programs, call 814-258-5601 or 570-827-2820, write Stamp Camp at 117 Court St., Suite A, Elkland, PA 16920, or e-mail at ststampcampa@stny.rr.com.
One of the most prolific stamp subjects on United States stamps — after George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, two noted American Freemasons — is the Statue of Liberty. The official name of this world-renowned American icon is *Liberty Enlightening the World*.

The Statue of Liberty has its own Masonic connection. It was the creation of Frederic Auguste Bartholdi (Scott No. 2147 and France Scott No. B 335), a noted French Freemason. The structural support for Lady Liberty was engineered by another famous Freemason, Alexander Gustave Eiffel (France Scott No. B546), whose other noted work is the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The French government wished to present a gift to the United States in time for the U.S. Centennial in 1876. The task to design Lady Liberty was assigned to Bartholdi who planned to have the statue complete in time for the Centennial Exhibition. However, production delays were chronic and only the right arm with its torch (Americana series Scott No. 3485 and others) were completed in time. Visitors to the Centennial Exhibition were charged a 50-cent admission to climb a ladder and travel inside the statue’s arm. The admission price was used as a fund raiser to build a pedestal for the statue. Meanwhile, the completed head of Lady Liberty was finished and showcased in Paris on June 30, 1878.

The cornerstone for the statue was laid on August 5, 1884, but completion was delayed until 1885. Newspaperman and Freemason, Joseph Pulitzer (Scott No. 946) made a vigilant editorial campaign to renew interest and funding for the pedestal.

It took four months for the statue to be reassembled at its new home in New York Harbor and it was officially dedicated by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886.
MEMBERS CREATING PERSONAL PRESENTATIONS

Our meetings over this past year have been well attended and full of informative presentations. As with many stamp clubs, APS slide shows and circuits have long been a regular part of our programming. Because many of our members have seen some of the slide shows three, four, and even more times we wanted to try something new this year. We decided to have our members create their own philatelic presentations. Using a laptop computer with a wireless Internet connection, video projector, flatbed scanner, and Microsoft PowerPoint software, our members have created some interesting presentations.

Topics for these original presentations have included an overview of zeppelin covers, Irish postal history together with a travelogue of Ireland, a demonstration on how to use the Internet for philatelic research, and an introduction to safely buying stamps on eBay and how to avoid various pitfalls. These presentations were well received and enjoyed by all club members. Some of these presentations already have been shown to other local clubs.

In February we had a guest presentation by Luis Greiff, Jr. He presented three classic Post Office training films on the Railway Post Office system from the 1950s. The films provided a good overview and a behind-the-scenes look at the running of the Railway Post Office system. Everyone found the films interesting and enlightening about an area of which most members had little knowledge.

PROGRAMS

May 13 — Banquet, location TBA
June 10 — Election of officers, APS circuits, and silent auction
July–August — No meetings
Sept. 9 — Dues payable, APS circuits, and silent auction
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**Shows & Bourses**

**MAY**

4—Gates
RS Stamp Show, Diplomat Banquet Center & Hotel, 1956 Lyell Ave.10–4. Bourse. John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com.

9–11—Boxborough, MA

16–18—Rochester
Rochester Philatelic Association Ropex 2008, ESL Sports Centre, Monroe Community College, 2700 Brighton–Henrietta Town Line Rd. 11–6 May 16, 10–5 May 17, 10–3 May 18. Dealers, USPS, UN Postal Administration souvenir cancel, and cacheted envelopes. E-mail: STAMPTMF@frontiernet.net; Web: www.rpastamps.org.

18—Latham

25—West Seneca
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May / June 2008
Israel — Continued from Page 33

Truman’s support, became Israel’s first president. However, the real power lay with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, a Polish born labor and military leader with a forceful personality who immigrated to Palestine when he was 20 years old. He was an ardent socialist and passionate Zionist who shaped Israeli society from the early 20th century through the 1960s. Within minutes of the declaration, the U.S. formally recognized the new nation, followed by Iran and several other nations.

Although the declaration specifically called for peace with its neighboring states, the fledgling nation immediately was invaded by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Greatly outgunned and outmanned, Israel, led by Ben-Gurion, successfully fought off the invading armies although losing nearly 1 percent of its population. Most of the fighting in the War of Independence ended by June of 1949. As we all know, however, warfare has recurred on a regular basis in that very troubled part of the world for the past 60 years.

The postcards depict the front page of the Palestine Post (later the Jerusalem Post) after independence was declared, an announcement of the 2000 Salute to Israel Parade, and an Israeli card from the 1970s depicting major cites in Jerusalem.
What Can You Get for Three Bits + S & H?

These days the talk of a recession looms large. The average consumer’s wallet is being pinched by astronomical gas and energy prices, higher food prices, and rising taxes. Business at dollar stores is booming, a favorite destination of bargain hunters. What if you don’t even have a dollar? What can you buy for just 75 cents?

In the days of penny candy 75 cents would have given you a few cavities or a stomach ache. For many years, it would have bought you 25 three-cent postage stamps. Today you could buy one Harriet Beecher Stowe stamp which would pay the rate for mailing a three-ounce letter.

I searched on the Web for 75-cent items. The first item to pop up was a site called the “75 Cents Store.” It appeared to be under construction and offered nothing for sale. Continuing my search, I found 75 cents would buy one copy of USA Today newspaper. It could also buy a fifth of a gallon of gas which would get you about five–seven miles depending on your mpg.

If you really are into the 75-cent thing you could buy the book Crazy About Crockpots: 101 Soups and Stews for Less Than 75 Cents a Serving by Penny Stone, except that it costs $9.60 plus shipping from Amazon. I suppose the money you save buying other foods might pay for it. There is 75centspsychic.net where you can talk to America’s leading psychics. Sadly, this is no bargain as they charge 75 cents to $1.18 a minute for their advice.

Frustrated with the lack of offerings on the Web in general, I turned to eBay. The first item to pop up was a signed, Phyllis Diller black and white photo print on sale for 75 cents, with a $4.45 shipping cost. There was 16 hours left in the auction and it had no bids. You can see why for yourself! There was a nice never hinged Scott No. Q11 75-cent parcel post stamp which you could buy now for $99. Maybe there aren’t that many real bargains left in the world!

Seriously though, do you take your change out of your pockets each night and throw it in a jar? Thanks to our many advertisers and Norm Cohen’s Adventure Graphics, there is one incredible bargain you can get mailed directly to your home. For a mere 75 cents an issue, you can receive the Stamp Insider and keep up with all the philatelic news, shows, and club activities that occur each year. Sounds like a bargain to me!
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