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The Cycles of Activity in Stamp Collecting

There has been much discussion in this and other philatelic publications about how to increase interest in our hobby. One big factor to consider is how to resolve the fact that, while it is estimated that there are more than four million stamp collectors in this country, only a small fraction are within mainstream philately (society or club membership, attendance at shows or shops, subscribers to philatelic publications, etc.) We also have to be aware of the increasing numbers of collectors who rely on the internet for their needs.

From my experiences, both as a longtime collector and dealer, I believe that there are other factors to consider in assessing stamp collecting activity. It appears that such activity can be somewhat cyclical — periods of intense interest followed by times of inactivity, and the duration of these can vary widely from very short to, in some cases, years or even decades.

Consider a typical stamp collecting career for most of us. Many of us started out as youngsters, garnering our initial interest from the stamp ads in newspapers, comic books, and magazines. This was a period of intense activity, but as we grew up, our priorities changed, and for a time we did virtually nothing with our collections. Later on, we resumed our interest and the cycles continued. Retirement for many sparked a renewed interest.

The point is that at any one moment only a part of the alleged four million stamp collectors are truly active. If they were all active at the same moment, I do not think that we would be having discussion on what many perceive to be a declining hobby.

I remember that many years ago, a very active collector would come into my shop on a Saturday morning about once a month. He carried his US album, and made a substantial purchase each time. Then he disappeared. Despite repeated mailings and contact attempts, he no longer visited us. About a decade later, he waltzed in with his album on a Saturday morning as if no time had passed. In the intervening years, he had been occupied with three children in college. Now that they were done, he was back to his hobby.

At any one time, only a small percentage of collectors on my monthly mailing list seem to be really active in visiting my shop or the local shows or clubs. Eventually, sometimes after months or years, they seem to show renewed interest.

I believe we can do something to keep these periods of inactivity on the shorter side and thus have more active collectors at any moment. Collectors respond to mailing lists, to advertisements, to emails, etc. These serve as a reminder about their hobby and can spark a renewed interest. Every club, society, shop, show, or publication needs to strive to incorporate both old and new ways to renew and keep interest in our hobby at its maximum. We are probably doing some things right, but we need to do more. I invite you to contact us at the Stamp Insider with any comments or suggestions.
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NY-2016 Badly Publicized

It is no longer: “If you Build It They Will Come.” Promoters of events big and small must heavily publicize and advertise to get the public’s attention. Unfortunately, this has not been the case so far for World Stamp Show-New York 2016. With only six months to go to the opening, there has been almost nothing that would attract a collector.

At this point for the Washington 2006 show I was buried in publicity material, as were all other philatelic authors. All I have seen for New York is a series of dry “Newsletter” release announcements and dealer and society insider information that have little interest for the average collector. The article that begins on page 34 is a prime example.

Having spent nearly forty years as a newspaper editor, I have seen thousands of press releases. These are among the dullest and least informative of any I ever saw.

As I look back at the pre 2006 issues of the Stamp Insider, I particularly remember a one-on-one interview by then staff writer Judy Routson with the show’s executive director, Gordon C. Morison. That had what I consider to be one of the best covers of the journal. Even more importantly, the Federation clubs and their members were all abuzz about the Washington show. The Buffalo Stamp Club’s mention is this month’s column is the first interest I have heard about the New York show.

What is needed are press releases and photos that emphasize what the show offers, including lists of societies, dealers, special events, and written in a style that will attract traffic to the show. I’m not suggesting abandoning the five Ws — who, what, when, were, and why — but rather presenting the information in a dynamic manner.

Trigger a feeling within readers that they will be missing the philatelic event of the decade or perhaps of their lifetime. Emphasize incentives for visitors. Seek feedback on collectors’ expectations. Build excitement. These are all realizable goals.

Losing a Cartoonist and Welcoming a New Columnist

Because of deteriorating health, Stan Burdick will no longer continue his series of cartoons. See page 39 for more. We welcome Gary Dickinson of Kelowna, British Columbia, who will write about BNA in “Postcard from Canada.”

6 / Stamp Insider • November/December 2015
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World Stamp Show-NY 2016, the international show coming to New York City from May 28 through June 4 next spring could be in trouble and there are a variety of reasons for this, all of which reveal problems with the hobby in general.

Some of the issues with the show are beyond human control. The dollar is currently very strong in value compared to most other currencies. This has deterred many out-of-country dealers from attending the show and will likely limit attendance.

The situation with US dealers is equally bleak. Small and large shows in the US are having trouble filling the tables. Attendance is down and costs are up. Many dealers, such as myself, have the problem of age. The thought of driving to and from Manhattan and spending ten days on one’s feet is not a very appealing thought.

Prior to the selection of the show site, dealers were polled as to where they would like to see the show held. The dealers were strongly in favor of a venue in a large mid-American location, such as Columbus, Ohio. However, it was decided to hold the show in New York City. As a result the costs are likely double or triple what they would be in another venue.

Let’s look at the overall costs of the show. Table rent of a good size booth is $12,500. Hotels and meals for ten days is about $3,500 for two people. Having help to do the ten-day show is about $2,000. In our case, there is also the loss of internet sales which must be accounted for. This puts the breakeven point for sales at about $50,000.

We have polled a number of our customers, who in most cases are not planning on attending the show. The reasons are varied, but the thought of spending money on transportation and lodging instead of their hobby is a common one. Like the dealers, a large percentage of the customers are older.

As a result, the show is significantly undersold with many tables still available. Will the show be a success? Washington, D.C., in 2006 sure was a success to all the dealers. Will European dealers come? Will a significant number of out of the area collectors come? What are your thoughts? Are you planning to attend?
The members of the World Stamp Show-New York 2016 organizing committee read Mr. Doubleday’s column with great interest. He is a very experienced and well-respected show dealer and he makes many valid points about things that cannot be controlled. We respect his opinion and appreciate his concern for WSS-NY 2016 but we respectfully disagree with his conclusion in his last paragraph. The truth is that WSS-NY 2016 is in great shape.

According to Experient, the hotel management company, WSS-NY 2016 is way ahead on hotel room bookings based on the amount of time between now and the opening of the show. Much of the reason for this is the very reasonable rates at nearby hotels that the WSS-NY 2016 show committee has negotiated to meet all budgets.

Literally all of the super booths and the vast majority of the booths in the front of the show are sold. WSS-NY 2016 has competitive entries for 6,450 frames and has accepted 4,250 frames, exceeding the projected 4,000 expected frames.

The court of honor is absolutely breathtaking featuring the finest of all worldwide rarities, including the unique British Guiana Magenta which has not been on public display since 1986, the unique Swedish treskilling yellow color error, and a nearly intact sheet of the Penny Black that has never been outside of its archive.

WSS-NY 2016 has an invited class of more than one hundred frames filled with diverse exhibits including youth-centric exhibits (Mickey Mouse, The Simpsons, Sesame Street, etc.), valentines, postal fraud, mail robberies, topicals and much more. For the first time ever, FDC exhibits will be admitted in an FIP show.

All society booths are sold with more than ninety-five societies participating. Sixteen conference rooms are heavily booked with lectures and presentations all day for the full eight days.

Five auction houses are hosting dynamic auctions as official auctioneers. The US Postal Service has gone all-in as a major player, hosting at least six first day ceremonies planned throughout the week.


The wise dealers who have signed up are already actively preparing to take full advantage of WSS-NY 2016. They understand that this is a once a decade opportunity to grow their business both by making new customers (particularly those who reside outside of the US to whom they have not had prior access) and by developing relationships with potential sellers. They are busy enhancing their inventory by preparing for sale special items they have squirreled away for the occasion and items they typically do not bring to a local or national show. Many of these items will never appear on a website for retail sale.

Overall, the buzz for WSS-NY 2016 is extremely high and all signs point to it being an extremely successful show that is not to be missed.

For more information on WSS-NY 2016, please visit www.ny2016.org.
New York postal history was well represented in the September 30 auction of 1847–1869 US issues by Robert A. Siegel. The sale featured material from the Kenneth D. Gilbert exhibit from that period. Among the New York covers offered was one that traveled through Buffalo.

Lot 32, was franked with the five cent red brown (Scott 1) and addressed to Auburn. It was described as a folded letter dated September 25, 1850, from Detroit, Michigan. The stamp was tied by a blue grid cancel with a “Buffalo N. Y. Sep. 27” oval blue cancel with fleurons, described as a type X in Nathan Calkins’ Early Buffalo Postal History book. Additional markings included strikes of blue “Steam Boat,” “Free,” and “Due 5 cts” in a scroll. The cover was listed as fine with a presale estimate of $500–750.

The cover was carried by a Lake Erie steamboat captain to Buffalo where it entered the mail. It appears the free marking was used to obliterate the due marking. One explanation may be that the postal clerk may have included the distance from Detroit to Auburn, more than three hundred miles, as an additional assessment of five cents postage. The distance from Buffalo to Auburn is one hundred and twenty-five miles and the error was corrected by the free marking. Even with the stamp, markings, and interesting story, the cover sold for only $450.
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— Empire State Postal History Society Bulletin October 1980

Railroads played a key role in mail distribution in the late 19th century with establishment of the Railway Mail Service (RMS). The Fast Mail was an experiment begun in 1875 on the New York Central & Hudson River and Lake Shore & Southern Michigan railroads. The 900-mile trip was made in 26 hours, including pickups and dropoffs enroute. The experiment was a success but was terminated in 1876 by a dispute over payment for services.

Fast mail trains returned to service in 1881 on the New York–Chicago route. The 50-foot railway post office (RPO) cars were painted white with cream tint borders, and labeled United States Post Office and Fast Mail Train. Immediately behind the locomotive was the RPO, followed by express and baggage cars, then passenger coaches. There were three divisions, each with its own crews, New York–Syracuse, Syracuse–Cleveland, and Cleveland–Chicago.

Fast mail trains were used on other heavy traffic runs and eventually declined about 1917. After World War I, fast mails were no longer run as the new faster way of transporting mail began, and that of course was air mail service.

Shown, above left, is a letter from Minneapolis to New Orleans postmarked CHIC. & MINN. FAST MAIL / R.P.O. / JULY 31 1894 / EAST (for eastbound). The eastern- or northern-most city always comes first in the post offices’ system of RPO designations. Above right is letter mailed from Boston to Buffalo. Note the postmark of 6 p.m. on September 26, 1894. Inset is a postmark on reverse of that cover: N.Y. Fast Mail Tr.(ain ) 11 / Due Buffalo, N.Y. 9:35 A.M / SEP 27 1894. Fifteen and one half hours is a timely delivery, even by today’s standards. This type of postmark is called a performance and service mark, and is prized by RPO collectors.

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The Grand Canyon of the East

By Glenn A. Estus

One of the major tourist attractions in northern New York is Ausable Chasm, a gorge carved by the Ausable River between the towns of Chesterfield in Essex County and Ausable in Clinton County. The chasm is almost two miles long and is now both a summer and winter vacation destination. It is part of the ninety-four mile long Ausable River and drains a watershed of 516 square miles. It was originally named “Au Sable” (French for “of sand”) by Samuel de Champlain when he first explored the region in 1609 because of its extensive sandy delta eroded from its sandstone path.

The “Grand Canyon of the East” was formed after the last Ice Age in the Pleistocene era and has been fifteen thousand years or more in the making. After the Civil War and the massive development of the railroad system, Americans began in droves to explore the United States. Ausable Chasm was one of the places to be explored. By 1876, there was also a small community which had grown up around Birmingham Falls, the original name of the falls at the beginning of the Chasm. Today the falls are called Rainbow Falls and Horseshoe Falls.

[Editor’s note: Seneca Ray Stoddard, a one-time ornamental painter of railroad cars in Troy, moved to Glens Falls and reinvented himself in the late 1860s as a photographer and landscape artist, a career change to which he eventually would add cartographer, writer, publisher, poet, lecturer, traveler, and conservationist. In the process, Stoddard opened the Adirondack Mountains to the outside world and was largely responsible for its designation as a park by the State of New York. His photographs of the chasm, its hotels, and numerous other mountain locations were often used for postcards, stereo views, and on hotel advertising (Figure 1). The cover article in the January–February 2009 issue of the Stamp Insider explored Stoddard’s career in the Adirondacks as a travel photographer, writer, and publisher.]

According to H. P. Smith’s History of Essex County (1885), there were a grist mill and store as well as a starch factory and on May 5, 1876, a post office with the name of Ausable Chasm was established with Joshua Appleyard as the first postmaster. The post office was originally on the Essex County side of the river until 1887 when Postal Bulletin 2143, March 17, 1887, announced that the post office was moved “about 30 rods across the river into Clinton County”.

Postal Bulletin 21366 (August 26, 1982) reported that the name of the post office was changed from Ausable Chasm to Au Sable Chasm on October 3, 1981. Au Sable Chasm remained in Clinton County until it was closed on November 16, 1985, and permanently discontinued on February 1, 1988, after one hundred and twelve years.

As one would expect there are many picture post cards showing the sights of the Chasm. However, even before post cards we can see example of corner cards with both text and photographs from the 1880s. (Figure 2).

Continued on Page 16
Ausable Chasm — Continued from Page 14

Like many other tourist destinations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, hotels sprung up to accommodate visitors. The Hotel Ausable Chasm (Figures 3 and 4) overlooked the Rainbow Falls at the beginning of the chasm (Figure 5).

Today there is a power generation plant at the site of Rainbow Falls which is shown on a postcard from 1929 (Figure 6), as well as at the lower right in the photograph on the front cover. There must have been enough mail sent through the Ausable Chasm post office to warrant a machine cancel. The stamp is a one-cent Benjamin Franklin definitive with three huge margins from a booklet pane (Figure 7).

One of the highlights of a visit to the Chasm is the boat ride down the Ausable River. Along the way you can see Elephants Head and Jacobs Ladder. (Figures 8–10).

In the 1930s New York State rerouted part of US Route 9 to the west of the chasm and built a decorative bridge which even today is used a vantage point to see the Rainbow and Horseshoe Falls. The card showing the 1930s bridge was used in 1949 (Figure 11). It would seem that the machine cancel was gone and a handcancel was being used. The postage on the card was overpaid by one cent with a three-cent presidential stamp rather than a two-cent stamp. The three-cent stamp is a coil like the kind usually sold at tourist venues for use on letters going back home.
LET’S VISIT THE CORAL REEFS!

Scott J37–39
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In the Heart of the Adirondacks
The CCC camp at Lake Placid in May 1935 had a population of more than two hundred men, including six cooks and a large dog. More than 220,700 men were involved in New York State alone, working on parks, roads, bridges, plantings, fire control, and insect control.

Roosevelt’s Tree Army:
COVERS FROM THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, 1933–1942
By Charles Epting
The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s first relief programs enacted shortly after he assumed the presidency in 1933. Simply put, the CCC was designed to give young men manual labor jobs aimed at the protection, restoration, and development of natural resources across the nation.

Enrollees in the work camps had to be unmarried and between the ages of 18 and 25. They were paid $30 per month, $25 of which had to be sent home to their families. They were also supplied housing, clothing, and food as part of their employment.

The effects of the Civilian Conservation Corps can still be seen to this day in national, state, and regional parks across the country; countless bridges and buildings were constructed, roads were graded, and trees were planted. Because of the tangible improvements the CCC brought, it is widely considered to be the most popular of Roosevelt’s New Deal agencies.

The CCC also provided invaluable training for young men. Although not a military program per se, CCC camps were administered

Being Served
A cook, more interested in the camera than the president, serves him a meal at Camp Roosevelt in August 1933. The camp in Shenandoah National Park was the first in the nation. FDR is beaming as the meal was much more appetizing than those served by Henrietta Nesbitt, reportedly the worst White House cook in history.
by the War Department, and many alumni of the program went on to serve in World War II. According to multiple sources, the rigid structure and order provided by the CCC made the transition into military service much easier than it otherwise would have been.

However, despite the immeasurable legacy of the CCC, there exists remarkably little CCC-related philatelic material, especially when you consider the vast amount of World War II correspondence that exists. Through fairly extensive searching, I have only been able to turn up a handful of CCC covers, and even fewer among these represent personal communication (versus business mail). The first cover illustrated features a three-cent purple Wisconsin Tercentenary stamp (Scott 739) and is postmarked Waterbury, Vermont, August 8, 1934. It is addressed to 1st Lieut. K. G. Hooker of the 1219th CCC Company in Cuttingsville, Vermont. There is no return address, so it is impossible to know who sent the letter. Because it is handwritten it seems highly likely that it was personal correspondence (Figure 1).

CCC Company 1219 was founded on November 20, 1933 and primarily employed men with road-building and forest firefighting jobs on state forest land. At its peak, there were around two hundred and fifty men stationed in Cuttingsville.

A second CCC cover was addressed from Company 4440 in Forest, Mississippi, to Burleigh Brooks Incorporated (a camera and optical company based in New York City). Because the envelope contained official business, it carries a free frank with a Merid & Shreve RPO (Meridian Mississippi & Shreveport Louisiana) cancel (Figure 2).

A similar cover, from Company 1205 in Newfield, New York, is also addressed to Burleigh Brooks, Inc., and carries a Geneva & Buff. (Buffalo) RPO cancel. Instead of carrying the War Department free frank, this cover has three US Navy one-cent stamps (Scott 790, Figure 3).

Two letters were sent from E. Baltrush to Gladys Bardon from Company 613 in Marseilles, Illinois, and have three-cent purple Washington stamps (Scott 720).
The more interesting cover is official CCC stationery, which has a design containing palm and pine trees (Figure 4). Such are exceedingly rare. This is the only example in my collection, and one of only two I have ever seen. The other Baltrush cover is a plain envelope with Baltrush’s return address written in pencil on the reverse (Figure 5). If it was not for its return address, it is unlikely that anyone would have recognized it as being related to the CCC.

It is very difficult to ascertain why so few CCC covers apparently have survived. Discussions with a number of dealers have often ended with shrugged shoulders. Approximately 16.1 million Americans served in World War II, whereas three million men were enrolled in the CCC. On a superficial level this suggests that there should be one CCC cover for every five or six World War II covers. However, other factors are at play. It must also be assumed that men serving overseas during the war would have written home more frequently, and that families and young men were more likely to save their correspondence during the war II than during the time of the CCC. Because of the remoteness of many CCC camps and the lack of disposable income, letter-writing may not have been a priority for many.

See CCC Covers and Ephemera Online on page 22 to see two recent eBay offerings.

Regardless, none of these factors can account for the near-complete lack of CCC philatelic material available. I believe it must be attributed to a lack of awareness, both on the part of dealers and collectors. It is my hope that if more people begin actively searching for covers and letters to and from CCC men, more material will be uncovered and more untold stories from the camps will be brought to light more than eighty years after the program was founded.

About the Author

Charles Epting is a recent graduate of the University of Southern California and 2014–2105 USPCS Young Philatelic Leaders Fellow. He is the author of four books, and his research specializes in the Interwar Period. His collecting interests include 1930s postal history, World’s Fair commemoratives, and the postal history of Southern California.
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CCC Covers and Ephemera Online

By Albert W. Starkweather

The internet is a valuable resource for philatelists seeking esoteric material and information on such topics as the Civilian Conservation Corps. While there is a substantial showing for the CCC itself, as Charles Epting has discovered, there is very little about philately, and even less showing covers to and from men at the camps.

In a recent search, I found only two covers — both on eBay. At the time of this writing, one was still up for bid. It had a typewritten War Department corner card and penalty envelope warning. It was mailed from Miss. S ES-1 CCC Co. 1483 in Meridian, Mississippi, to National Photo & News Service, San Antonio Texas, and was postmarked on April 8, 1935, with an Air-Mail Saves Time slogan machine cancel (Figure 1).

Epting’s covers addressed to Burleigh Brooks and this cover indicate that photographic documentation was an important aspect of CCC operations. National Photo was owned by Eugene Omar Goldbeck who undoubtedly used his Cirkut camera manufactured by Rochester (New York) Panoramic Camera Company and by its successor — Eastman Kodak — to record the camp’s residents. This is borne out by the check notation above the address.

The camera captured a panoramic image by pivoting horizontally on a tripod (along a vertical axis), while a roll of film moved across the film plane. These were controlled by a handwound clockwork mechanism. The Cirkut produced long, narrow prints ideal for recording large groups, birdseye views of cities and events, and sweeping landscapes. Cirkut cameras were used extensively during World War II to record groups of soldiers being processed through training camps.

The second cover (Figure 2) on eBay was unsold and not relisted after the auction’s expiration date in late September. A pair of US Navy one-cent stamps (Scott 790) was

Continued on Page 24
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Covers and Ephemera — Continued from Page 22

used on a cover from the destroyer USS Rathburne in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to the Educational Adviser, 560th Company CCC, Bannock Camp SCS-6, in Pocatello Idaho. It was postmarked October 27, 1938, on the Rathburne with “Pearl Harbor T.H.” in killer bars.

Given a low opening bid of $15, high interest in Navy covers, and the ship’s Pearl Harbor postmark, it is surprising that it did not sell. The Wickes class destroyer was launched on December 27, 1917, and commissioned on June 24, 1918. It was decommissioned at San Diego on February 12, 1923, and recommissioned on February 8, 1930. The Rathburn was converted to a high-speed transport in 1944, and served in the western Pacific. In April, Rathburne suffered damage from a kamikaze, resulting in flooding and fires but no casualties.

Paper ephemera includes recruiting posters, some of which are eerily similar to Soviet propaganda. One, shared by the CCC and the US Forest Service shows three idealized young men marching in unison with firefighting tools.

The CCC disbanded a year earlier than planned when the 77th Congress ceased funding, causing it to end operations at the end of the federal fiscal year on June 30, 1942. Letters were sent to each camp on July 31, instructing the caretakers how to prepare all property for transfer to an Army representative.

On April 5, 1983, the US Postal Service issued a twenty-cent stamp in Luray, Virginia, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the CCC (Scott 2037). Unofficial FDCs were posted in Shenandoah, Virginia, to reflect the first camp’s location in the Shenandoah National Park.
Buffalo Stamp Club’s Two Great Events

AUTUMN STAMP FESTIVAL
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, November 21

BUFPEX 2016
Buffalo’s Oldest & Largest Stamp Festival
Exhibition, Bourse & More On Its Way!
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 5
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, March 6
Free Admission, Parking & Door Prizes — Lunch Available Both Days
Both at VFW Leonard Post 6251
2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, New York
Contact: Robert Meegan — r.meegan@worldnet.att.net

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition
An APS World Series of Philately Show
February 5, 6 & 7, 2016
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
801 North Tamiami Trail (Hwy. 41), Sarasota, Florida

Exhibits • National Stamp Dealers
Postal Administrations • & more!
Show Chairman — Liz Hisey:
Phone: 941-444-0777 • E-mail: lizhisey@comcast.net
Could You Win Stamp Collecting Jeopardy?

By Steve Swain

Most of us consider ourselves to be reasonably knowledgeable stamp collectors. We confidently talk about special issues, rare stamps, countries of origin, stamp color variations, 19th century postal history, etc. But are we good enough to win a stamp collecting game of Jeopardy!, the American television quiz show?

For those unfamiliar with the show, Jeopardy! has a unique answer-and-question format for a multitude of topics related to history, literature, the arts, pop culture, science, geography, sports, and many more. Game contestants are presented with clues in the form of answers, and the contestant must phrase their responses in the form of a question. Clues have specific dollar amounts, with the more difficult clues — and correct questions — having higher rewards. For example, an “Astronomy” clue for $400 could be: “These long distance travelers may be dirty ice balls.” The correct response in a question form is, “What are comets?”

Jeopardy! debuted on NBC on March 30, 1964, and the series was part of the network’s daytime lineup until January 3, 1975. The show was conceived by Merv Griffin. The original host was Art Fleming (1924–1995).

After several revivals, Jeopardy! returned to television in 1984 as a daily syndicated series with Alex Trebek as host. Over the many years of the Jeopardy! game show, stamp collecting has been a very common category. Hundreds upon hundreds of clues have been presented to contestants for “Stamps,” “Postage,” “Stamp Collecting,” and other philatelic categories.

Could you win a game of stamp collecting Jeopardy!? Below are twenty answers from the archives of actual Jeopardy! shows. Correct responses (in the required Jeopardy! question format) can be found on page 30. Some clues and questions are relatively easy, even for novice stamp collectors. But some will certainly test the extent of your philatelic knowledge.

The total dollar reward for knowing all of the correct questions for the stamp collecting clues is $10,000.

- If you win between $200 and $4,000, that’s a good effort.
- If you win between $4,000 and $8,000, that’s a very respectable performance.
- If you win more than $8,000, consider auditioning to be a Jeopardy! game contestant! Good luck!

Turn To Page 28 To Test Yourself
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The Jeopardy Challenge

1. FOREIGN STAMPS for $400 — “Helvetia” is still inscribed on this mountainous country’s currency and stamps.

2. PHILATELIC PHUN for $200 — Between 1840 & 1902 all British postage stamps had a picture of her.

3. US STAMPS for $800 — This “hot dog” of a Supreme Court justice appears in profile on a 2009 stamp.

4. STAMPS for $200 — Until these holes on stamps were introduced in the 1850s, individual stamps in full sheets had to be separated with scissors.

5. STAMP COLLECTING for $600 — To organize and protect stamps, you put them into this type of envelope whose name is derived from a transparent material.

6. PEOPLE ON STAMPS for $200 — Amelia Earhart appears on a 1963 issue of this type of special purpose stamp.

7. STAMPS for $400 — These fund-raising stamps for disabled children were first issued in 1934.

8. US STAMPS for $300 — In May of 1873, the Post Office issued postcards with postage of this value.

9. STAMPS for $600 — An international rate stamp has a photo of this nearly 700-square mile swamp in Georgia and Florida.

10. POSTAGE for $400 — After seeing employees filch stamps, Arthur Pitney developed this type of machine.


12. FOREIGN STAMPS for $1200 — A series of Bulgarian stamps featuring types of these had one with a penny-farthing on it.

13. GREETINGS FROM AMERICA STAMPS for $400 — It was the fifth time the Post Office has released a fifty-state set; the first was in 1976 & featured these of each.

14. US STAMPS for $1000 — This late California governor & US Chief Justice was honored on a postage stamp in 1992.

15. CELEBRATE THE CENTURY WITH STAMPS for $300 — 1920s Art Deco architecture is exemplified by this New York building on a stamp.

16. 1999 EUROPEAN STAMPS for $300 — Janusz Wysocki designed this country’s 1.40-zloty rollerblading stamp.

17. PHILATELIC PHUN for $200 — In 1847 Ben Franklin was on the front of one of the first US stamps to have this on the back.

18. IT’S AN HONOR for $800 — A 2010 postage stamp was issued in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, honoring this legendary actress.

19. US STAMPS for $600 — FDR’s in 1982 was the last stamp to show one of these; they were removed from photos of Jackson Pollock & Edward R. Murrow.

20. STAMPS 1999 for $100 — 100 million stamps incorrectly placing this big landmark in Colorado instead of Arizona won’t be released.

Answers on Page 30
Saratoga County’s Most Interesting Collectibles Headquarters

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- Philatelics
- Vintage comic books
- Non-Sports cards
- Paper ephemera
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- Dealer member American Philatelic Society (#94747) 28 years
- Member Ephemera Society
- Member Long Island Postcard Club
- Comic book seminars and appearance on TV’s Antiques Show and Sell Program
- Show promotions and appearances

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Great Britain, including Channel Islands
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Nominations Distinguished Topical Philatelist

The American Topical Association is now accepting nominations for its highest award — Distinguished Topical Philatelist. This very special honor is bestowed upon a person who has made significant contributions to topical philately and the ATA in particular. The award will be presented at the ATA Annual Meeting on June 3, 2016, at World Stamp Show-NY 2016.

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome (Jerry) Husak. To date one hundred and seventeen people have received the honor. Recipients have included residents of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Italy. A listing of past winners is posted at http://americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml.

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

The selection committee consists of chair Donald W. Smith, Donald Beuthel, Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Dorothy C. Smith, Dalene Thomas, and Mark H. Winnegrad. Deadline for nominating letters is December 31, 2015. Send nominations to Donald W. Smith, P.O. Box 576, Johnstown, PA 15907-0576.

The 2015 DTP winner was Donald P. Wright of New Jersey, an entomologist active in the ATA Biology Unit, past editor of the unit’s newsletter, and author of or contributor to four ATA handbooks.

Here Are the Jeopardy Questions

1. What is Switzerland?
2. Who is Queen Victoria?
3. Who is (Felix) Frankfurter?
4. What are perforations?
5. What is glassine?
6. What is air mail?
7. What are Easter Seals?
8. What is one cent?
9. What is the Okefenokee?
10. What is a postage meter?
11. Who is Sacagawea?
12. What are bicycles?
13. What are state flags?
14. Who is (Earl) Warren?
15. What is the Chrysler Building?
16. What is Poland?
17. What is adhesive?
18. Who is Katharine Hepburn?
19. What is a cigarette?
20. What is the Grand Canyon?
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YOU CHOOSE THE AREA! WE CHOOSE THE STAMPS!
Review: Canada’s George VI Definitive FDCs


Author Gary Dickinson, the Stamp Insider’s new Canada columnist, explores the country’s most confusing issues. The George VI definitives were based on photographs of Dorothy Wilding, and there were five values—one through five cents. The actual first day of issue dates are confusing, and the confusion was created by the Canada Post Office. The original designs lacked two words, “Postes / Postage.” Millions of these stamps were printed and shipped to post offices for the intended June 6, 1949, release date.

Postal officials decided it would be politically correct to revise the designs by adding the words. Early in June the post offices were requested to return the original stamps and await the revised designs to be issued later. These were released on November 15, 1949. CPO was about to destroy millions of unrevised stamps when it realized that if any had leaked out, they would be rarities. It released the earlier stamps in January 1950 with no announcement and no first day servicing. Earliest known uses of the unrevised designs are highly sought. There are coil versions of some of the values and also color changes for two of the stamps, adding to the challenge of finding first day covers of those issues. For years the date of earliest use was recognized as January 19 at London, Ontario. However, a recent discovery of a January 16 Toronto cover is shown. Dickinson records other cities with EKUs of January 20, 21, and 23–26.

Two chapters of the monograph describe the cachets for the revised design issues, in alphabetical order of the cachetmaker. Some of the producers are familiar to collectors of US FDCs — Gladys Adler, Fulton Stamp Company, C. W. George, and Michael Sanders. Some of the major Canadian cachet makers are Grover Stamp Exchange, Herman Jacobi, and Joseph C. Rosenbaum (JCR), as well as several who employed general purpose designs. Dickinson’s list is thorough enough that it includes a Walter Crosby design intended for a US naval event.

Chapter 3 ends with illustrations of unknown cachetmakers and also a miscellany of corner cards, label cachets, airmail border envelopes, and such. Another chapter shows about fifty covers with unofficial FD postmarks arranged alphabetically from Arvida, Quebec, to Woodstock, Ontario. These are also for the revised designs.

The final chapter provides summary tables of US and Canadian cachet makers, a list of post offices with known first day cancels of the revised design, and a list of EKU post offices for the unrevised issues. A bibliography will lead collectors to other sources for research.

The two-column text format allows for decent sized illustrations which are nicely done in color throughout. Although first day covers of commemorative issues attract many collectors, the ones for this King George VI definitive series offer a challenge for enthusiasts.

— Alan Warren
Vatican City Mint Year Sets

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NY-2016 Gears Up for Societies

By Wade Saadi

Here’s an update for World Stamp Show-New York 2016. At this point we have sold out all of our sixty-two society-designated booths. Through sharing, ninety-five societies will be participating.

**Promotional Frames**

Societies contributing $250 or more are entitled to a sixteen-page exhibit frame, which will be located in a designated area on the floor with other society frames. They are intended to be used to promote the various societies.

We recommend including material specific to your collecting specialty. Focus on the benefits of joining your organization. The last page of your exhibit should identify the location of your society booth, with an invitation to visit it for more information. Remember that these frames will be viewed both by veteran collectors and casual show-goers, so make them colorful and attractive!

**Society Booths**

Each basic society booth is ten by ten feet and includes eight-foot skirted front and back tables, five chairs, and a wastebasket. A professional custom made seven by forty-four-inch sign is also provided with the society name and booth number.

Additional amenities have been asked for and will available at an extra cost. This includes an electrical connection. There are two lockable storage cabinet options as well. All need to be reserved in advance and are for the eight-day duration of the show.

**Promotional Items**

We can provide organizations with many promotional items to help spread the word about World Stamp Show-New York 2016 and their participation in this once-a-decade philatelic event.

November and December is typically the time when renewal announcements are sent out, and we have promotional show labels for envelopes and stuffers with show information to include with your material. Just let us know how many of each you would like and we will get it right out to you.

Stamp shows may request a packet of brochures, pins, and other items we have on hand to executive assistant Christine Jimenez at christine.jimenez@my2016.org.

**Online Events Listing**

Much time in the past few weeks has been put into listing show meetings and events on our website. Go to www.ny2016.org/EventCalendar.aspx to check out the latest schedule, which is updated regularly. Meeting space is still available throughout the eight-day show at no cost.

*Continued on Page 36*
5th Annual Albany Postcard Show

The World’s Largest Postcard Shop is bringing a spectacular show to the Capital Region at the

The Polonaise
(formerly the Polish Community Center)

225 Washington Avenue Extension

9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12

For more information: (410) 939-0999
marymartinpostcards@gmail.com • www.marylmartin.com
The schedule is also available to download in both PDF and Excel versions. Events that are “after-hours” or in venues other than the Javits Center are also listed. If you are sponsoring an event you may wish to supply additional details. Email society and affiliates chair Rod Juell at rodney.juell@ny2016.org with the information to be posted on the website.

If you have not already done so, consider planning programs that will not only benefit specialists and current members, but also programs of an introductory nature that will be attractive to more casual show goers.

**Champion Philately**

We suspect that you and your group already realize the great potential that WSS-NY 2016 has in introducing your specialty to tens of thousands of stamps collectors attending the show. However, in the broader sense this once-a-decade event offers us all the opportunity to share our passion of philately with millions more.

Greater New York City is truly the melting pot of the world, filled with enclaves of ethnic cultures living in the many boroughs around town. This diversity is clearly evident by the various print publications distributed throughout the region and beyond. We have an ever-growing list of editorial contacts at these newspapers and periodicals and believe their readership would be interested in learning about the philately of their homeland.

Is there someone in your organization interested in writing a brief introductory article about the country, region or collecting specialty of your philatelic group? We’re looking for non-technical stories relating history and culture through philately with the goal of exposing non-collectors in particular to our hobby. Keep it brief, to under seven hundred words, and include plenty of images related to the text.

We’ll submit it to the publication(s) we think would be most interested in publishing it, including a short blurb inviting readers to the upcoming WSS-NY 2016. It might also be possible to get it translated for a non-English speaking community. This can be a win-win for everyone involved. Your group will be able to reach an untapped audience, raise awareness of WSS-NY 2016 and help grow philately overall.

For more information about participating in this project, please contact Tom Fortunato by email at thomas.fortunato@ny2016.org. Our goal is to submit articles to publications no later than January.

**Bargain Airfares**

If you are coming to WSS-NY 2016 and flying into the greater New York area, this is the time to lock in some of the best airfares you can imagine. There is a fare war going on right now affecting flights during show time. The greatest discounts usually include traveling on a Wednesday.

Here are some examples for Newark and LaGuardia airports. Using Hotwire.com on October 20 to check rates on flights departing on Thursday, May 26 (you will want to spend a day or two checking out the city before the show starts) and heading back home on Wednesday, June 1, here is what we found for round trips, including taxes and fees, and most do not require ridiculously early or late flights. Most of the prices here are the
cheapest rates overall across the board, unless noted. The same rates were found on Trav-eloCity.com and Kayak.com, two other very popular discount sites.

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<td>Seattle</td>
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**Show Program Advertising**
Each participating society will be listed in the official show program. Societies contributing a minimum of $1,000 will receive a half-page display ad at no additional cost, approximately six by four and a half inches in size. Exact specifics for the camera-ready PDF ad will be sent to you when ready through Rod with submission instructions.

Program advertising is available on a limited first-come basis. Inquiries are welcome. Contact exhibition catalogue editor Matthew Healey matthew.healey@ny2016.org.

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Toronto CSDA Shows Ending

By Rick Day, CSDA President

Regrettably, the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association must inform the collecting and dealing communities that the November 2015 Toronto National Postage Stamp Show will be our last one.

The CSDA got into the show business as a service to its members: to provide them an opportunity to make new contacts and increase sales and also to bring dealers from across Canada and the United States to Toronto and other cities for the benefit of collectors.

Since not all CSDA members took booths at the association shows, the board always insisted that the shows pay for themselves. The board was not going to approve using the money of all the members to subsidize shows and, by extension, that small percentage of the membership who took booths at them.

Our April 2015 show lost a substantial amount of money primarily because the pool of dealers available and willing to take booths was not sufficient to sustain the break-even requirement for the shows to continue. For this reason and with sincere regrets, the Board voted to get out of the show business for the foreseeable future after our November 2015 show.

The CSDA show business began almost thirty years ago when our first show was held in the grand ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel. We moved from there to the Toronto Convention Centre, then to the Queen Elizabeth Building on the CNE grounds, and ultimately to our current location at the International Centre. Each of these moves was made, primarily, in order to reduce costs. As the cost at each of those venues rose, we moved.

There was a very positive response from dealers and collectors alike to the moves and we had planned on being in our current location for many more years. Although we have tried different strategies over the years to attract more dealers, the essential problem is that there are no longer enough national level stamp dealers in Canada to keep the shows going within the traditional model.

The CSDA remains open to partnering with individuals or groups that want to hold national level events, if we think there’s a reasonable chance for success. As it stands, many of the dealers who attend the CSDA shows also do the Unipex Stamp and Coin Show in January. No doubt most of those dealers would be open to taking booths at any other large Toronto area shows if and when they are held.

Unitrade Association will move Unipex to a new location — the Montecassino Hotel & Event Venue, 3710 Chesswood Drive in Toronto’s Downsview area — for its January 22–24, 2016, event.

Personally, I’d like to thank all of the collectors and booth holders who have attended our shows over the years and made them memorable. I look forward to seeing you November 6–8 at the International Centre.
Our Resident Cartoonist Lays Down His Pen

Health issues have forced Stan Burdick, our longtime cartoonist, to lay down his pen. His offbeat sense of humor and old school drawing style matched perfectly and will be sorely missed.

I discovered Stan in 2008 when I was doing publicity for the Federation’s forthcoming StampExpo 400.

After some gentle persuasion, he readily agreed to produce a cartoon on a bi-monthly basis. From the first the title was Philateli-Calamity. Stan’s work poked good natured jabs at philatelists young and old, long-suffering spouses and often their revenge, club mentality, the popular culture, and sometimes familiar faces.

His artwork is handdrawn in ink with color marker overlay. Penciled worklines sometimes are in evidence. Stan’s themes are simple and to the point.

The task of scanning and emailing the finished cartoon, along with sending his Fort Ticonderoga column, was left to his wife, Cathie, as Stan is not computer literate.

With his permission, Stan’s entire collection of cartoons has been posted in the Virtual Programs section on the Stamp Insider website. Let him know if you have enjoyed them by sending a note to 129 The Portage, Ticonderoga, New York 12883-1414, or cburdick5@bridgepoint1.com.

— Albert W. Starkweather
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Switchable dual UV lamp
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**LH-COITSC1** (DW1)  $65.95  
SSS Price $56.06

0.1 - 500 g  
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SSS Price $50.95

**Post Office-opoly**
Buy your favorite stamps, build monopolies, and increase your rent by adding Post Offices and Bulk Mail Centers. Sounds easy enough, but throw in some “over the weight limit” packages, over-stuffed mailboxes and a temperamental bulldog and it gets a little more difficult and A LOT more fun! It’s YOUR roll! What A Wonderful Thing!

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<th>Product</th>
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<td>Love Stamp</td>
<td>ZGK-MONTLS</td>
<td>$24.95</td>
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Over 500 colors as used in Michel catalogs (In German 2011 Ed)  
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Larry Rausch of Rochester received the gold and grand award for his Identification and Use of United Kingdom One Penny (1d) Perfins 1868–1880 exhibit at Stepex 2015 at Big Flats American Legion Post on October 23 and 24. A detail from his exhibit is shown at the right. Other award winners were:

**Gold**
- William J. Hart of Queensbury: Registry Service in New York State — 1901 to 1910 — on First Class Mail (NYC Excluded)
- Robert W. Lighthouse of Rochester: 1898 Canada Map Stamp, a Plating Study
- Alan Parsons of Elmira: 19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY
- Ada M. Prill of Rochester: The East Branch of the Delaware River
- Ellie Steeb of Rochester: Everybody Must Get Stoned

**Silver**
- Allison Cusick of Pittsburgh: The Postal Markings of Lakeside, Ohio
- Raymond M. Stone of Rochester: Princess Diana (UN Souvenir Sheet)

**Show Covers**
Show covers commemorate the end of the Civil War and closing of Elmira Prison Camp. It repeats the wording on the monument in Woodlawn National Cemetery amid the gravestones of the Confederate Soldiers who died at the camp in 1864–1865. Covers are available at monthly Elmira Stamp Club meetings and by mail for $2 each plus a No. 10 sase from Neal Walker, 403 Herrick Street, Elmira, New York 14904. Make checks payable to Elmira Stamp Club.
Youth & Philately
Robert Finnegan
10 O’Neill Drive
Oneonta, NY 13820-1154
rfinneg@stny.rr.com, 607-432-8141

The Many Christmas Issues

I know it is early, but before we know it, the holiday season will be fast upon us. The USPS certainly reminds us early enough, with its new issues beginning to go on sale as early as October 1 this year with *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Over the years the USPS has unveiled many Christmas issues, the first being in 1962 (Scott 1205). In 1963 it depicted the National Christmas Tree with the White House in the background (Scott 1240). A year later it issued four in total with five-cent issues picturing holly, mistletoe, poinsettia and a pine cone (Scott 1254–1257). Later holiday stamps pictured famous images of the Madonna, Christmas toys, and George Washington kneeling at Valley Forge.

Ask your young collectors to build up the number of stamps in their collections by carefully cutting off envelope corners from the many holiday cards sent out each year. There is nothing wrong with having many of the same stamps in one’s duplicate box for trading purposes. How many stamps during that time of season miss being canceled?

With Christmas issues being so numerous among “cigar boxes” out there, perhaps the youth advisor could mount a number of them on some tagboard with missing dates of the first day of issue and/or Scott Catalog numbers. Have the student collectors research the dates of the mounted stamps to find out which stamps are the oldest among the holiday issues.
Blogs — Links to Dynamic Philately

A blog (short for weblog) is a website typically created and maintained by an individual or small group. Blogs generally do not provide as much content and as many features as standard websites, but that is purposeful and valuable. A blog is dynamic. Its content changes on a regular basis, sometimes daily.

Most importantly, unlike most standard websites a blog allows site visitors to communicate with the site and other visitors by posting a comment, narrative or an article as a new post or as a reply to a previous visitor’s post.

The world wide web definitely lives up to its name when it comes to philatelic blogs. The hundreds of blogs available on the internet provide opportunities to learn about and offer postings related to French stamp collecting, how stamps are created and issued by various countries, Indian stamping methods and techniques, worldwide birds-on-stamps, the history of German stamps, the Argentina 1935–1951 definitive series, and so on.

Philatelic blogs range from the overly simple and narrowly focused to quite impressively designed, content rich sites offering a wealth of stamp collecting information, insight and pleasure.

If you are new to philatelic blogs, become familiar with such sites by visiting Philately Today at www.philatelytoday.com. The site represents the very essence of a classic blog created and maintained by a single individual. No frills, no bells and whistles. Just easy to navigate posts related to worldwide stamps and postal history.

[Editor’s note: To be successful, bloggers must keep their sites up to date, at least weekly, if not daily. The last post on the Philately Today site is from August 19. Visitors will not return if they discover that there is no new information being posted on a regular basis.]

One of my favorite posts in Philately Today’s Kids Corner section is an April 30,
2015, offering by 11-year-old Aram who provides a nicely presented history of the Penny Black stamp and its successors.

I believe a successful philatelic blog, and one that is worth visiting often, has the following characteristics:

- Straightforward, easy to use navigation, usually via menus and sidebars.
- Posts are categorized and site visitors can easily access post archives.
- Posts can contain text, images and links to other posts, both within the blog and to the entire web.

Here are two sites I consider to have most, if not all, of the criteria for a successful blog:

Created and maintained by Keijo Kortelainen of Finland, Stamp Collecting Blog (www.stampcollectingblog.com) has more than 9,200 posts and 500 article entries from visitors making it a site providing an especially wide range of information and discussion of all things philatelic.

The site’s left sidebar provides easy navigation to latest comments, viewing archived entries, browsing articles by topic and country and, yes, viewing the collection of the site’s creator. The home page search feature allows you to narrow searches by articles only, discussions (posts) only, or both. Article categories and titles of popular articles are provided at the bottom of the site’s home page.

International Stamp News (www.stampnews.com) is in a blog class by itself. A professionally designed, image-rich layout is a true joy to visit. The site’s left sidebar provides access to the most popular posts and posts receiving the most comments. The News Wire category allows you to select a month and year for viewing hundreds of worldwide philatelic news items.

At the bottom of the main page, the News section provides links to sites and articles offering discussions related to last year’s most popular stamps, post offices around the world and the ten most “touching” stamps of 2014. International Stamp News presents numerous blogging avenues for novice and experienced collectors.

Expand your philatelic vista from only viewing web content to participating and contributing. Blogs can be your daily links to dynamic philately. Consider becoming a philatelic blogger on one or more of the numerous sites and enjoy!
Taft Embraces the Automobile

One hundred thirty years ago in Germany, Karl Friedrich Benz produced what is considered the first true automobile, a vehicle with four wheels and a gasoline-fueled internal combustion engine. Then, one hundred years ago, on December 10, 1915, the millionth Ford rolled off Henry Ford’s visionary assembly line at the iconic River Rouge plant in Detroit, Michigan. Now, fifty years have passed since the 1965 model Ford Mustang set the American car buying world on fire. These milestones inspired this column.

William Howard Taft was the first US president to embrace automobiles. It was he who replaced the stable on the White House grounds with a four-car garage for two White Steamers and two Pierce-Arrows. He rode to the inaugural ball in one of them, attractively depicted (Billy Possum was Taft’s mascot) riding with Uncle Sam on a 1909 Fred Lounsbury unposted, heavily embossed postcard. White produced a photo card of Taft and his family in one of their steamers.

Early postcards teach us that a man had a better chance of winning a beautiful woman’s heart if he could drive her around in a fancy convertible. Famous artist F. Earl Christy, showed a handsome young couple taking a spin “In An Auto.” One of his cards depicted women only in cars, including “Yale University College Girls in Automobile.”

Families took advantage of the freedom of movement allotted them by the new machine, even if it was just in a photographer’s studio. One showed a mother and son “on their way” to Coney Island in an undated real photo postcard. With automobiles came auto racing. One card depicts a large crowd in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, turning out for a major automobile race on the sand on an undated linen postcard printed by Tichnor Bros. of Boston. Old Orchard Beach was a popular setting for many postcards.

Postcards depicting automobiles sell from fifty cents to more than $100, depending on rarity, signed artist, attractiveness, real photo, and of course, condition. They make a fun, and very affordable way to collect beautiful cars. ■
Free Mail for Servicemen Ends

There is a longstanding custom of giving servicemen — and now women — free mail privileges in wartime. Traditionally free mail has been available only to those stationed overseas in combat zones, but World War II was of such scope and breadth that all members of the military enjoyed the privilege, no matter where they were located.

World War II was thrust upon a nation that was shocked that we were forced into it, despite the fact that it had been raging across the world for more than two years. There was a lot of scrambling to gear up for the war, and granting free mail to servicemen was a small detail that was overlooked until four months into the war. It was finally approved by Congress on Friday, March 27, 1942. However, it was not announced in the Postal Bulletin until Wednesday, April 1, and most postal historians accept that as the first day of free mail. Oddly, when approving the measure, Congress also specified that the privilege would end on December 31, 1947, which must have seemed impossibly far away.

The war ended well before that, of course, in early September 1945, but the end date of free mail was never changed. Here is a cover noting the arrival of that date. It was mailed by a serviceman from Arlington, Virginia, site of our national military cemetery. The sender notes in an enclosed letter that “Many of our men gave their lives during the recent struggle. It is therefore fitting that this cachet be postmarked at Arlington.”

If you have been involved in organized philately for a while, you might well recognize both the name of the sender, and the addressee, of this cover. Then-major James T. DeVoss remained in the Army after the war and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. He was obviously an avid philatelist, and when he retired from the Army in 1961 he became the executive secretary of the American Philatelic Society. He guided the expansion of the services offered by the society, and helped increase its membership to more than 50,000 before he retired again in 1981.

The addressee was also an important figure in philately. Harry Weiss of Holton, Kansas was a philatelic writer from the 1930s into the 1960s. At the time this cover was mailed, he was the editor/publisher of a small but influential magazine titled Weekly Philatelic Gossip.

Today servicemen and women stationed in Afghanistan can still send free mail but, alas, most of them send emails instead.
During World War II the United States housed more than 400,000 Axis prisoners of war. This cover from my collection is an example of a “Prisoner of War” (POW) envelope as mandated by the Geneva Convention.

This example is from an Italian POW Captain Ruggia addressed to Luigi Ruggia, presumably a male relative, in Orezzo, Italy. Orezzo is a town located just northeast of Milan close to the Italian Alps.

Unfortunately, I have not had the message translated yet, but it should make interesting reading. It is handwritten and difficult to decipher, and written in Italian.

Mail from prisoners was and still is considered essential under the requirements of the convention. The country holding the prisoners is required to allow mailing privileges and must use the envelope provided. Mail is to be transported free. This can be seen from the marking on the cover just above the stamp. In this case the envelope has had the valid airmail rate of thirty cents per half ounce to Europe affixed to provide for airmail service, otherwise the mail would have been transported by surface mail taking much longer to be delivered. Similar to an aerogram, the sender wrote the message inside and then folded it to form the envelope for mailing.

The reverse of the cover shows the prisoner was being held at Fort George C. Meade in Maryland and return mail was to be directed to a post office box number in New York. The 76th Division and the Virginia/Maryland 29th Division trained and staged at the fort for service in Europe. A large number of support and tank battalions were also formed here as were the Army’s Special Services School and a German/Italian POW camp.
Meade’s POW camp was built to accommodate 2,000, but had to be quickly expanded once the United States and its allies gained ground. In May 1942, the Meade facility was primarily a German POW camp handling the flood of prisoners from the North African campaign, but for a time civilian internees and other POWs shared the facility. At its peak, the camp held 4,000. The prisoners lived in four-man tents with a stove and a forty-watt bulb for light. The Geneva Convention required the US to provide the enemy with the same conditions experienced by American troops.

Prisoners were given ten cents a day to buy coupons to exchange at the canteen. In addition, they were paid for any extra work — three stone bridges still standing at Fort Meade were built by prisoners. Others sewed uniforms, did machine work, and harvested crops.

Fort Meade housed a number of German and Italian prisoners of war starting in September 1943 and until 1946 when all of them were repatriated back to their home countries. A large number of the prisoners did not want to return to their home countries, but were returned because the convention required it.

Some prisoners died in captivity primarily of natural causes. However, one German prisoner, Werner Henke, was shot while trying to escape from nearby Fort Hunt, Virginia, on June 15, 1944. Henke was one of the greatest German U-boat commanders. He is buried in the cemetery at Fort Meade. Captain Ruggia is not listed as being buried at Fort Meade so it is assumed he returned to Italy after the war.

**References**

“Geneva Conventions: Section V. Relations of Prisoners of War With the Exterior.”
Society of Professional Journalists webpage (www.globalissuesgroup.com/geneva/convention3.html)
Fort Meade Museum website (www.ftmeade.army.mil/Museum)
Top U-boat Aces (http://uboat.net/men/henke.htm)

**Author’s Note**
This article by the author was originally published in the American Air Mail Society’s, *Airpost Journal* March 2006 Issue, Vol.77, No.3.
Bernarr Macfadden (1868–1955) was a tireless self-promoter (he changed his name from Bernard McFadden to sound ‘stronger’) credited with starting the American obsession with health food and fitness. He propounded many fads (nudity, eating solely raw food, fasting, etc.); started a chain of vegetarian restaurants; published a wide selection of fiction and self-improvement books; and operated a sanitarium in Battle Creek where John Harvey Kellogg held sway and followed Sylvester Graham’s crusade against white bread.

Macfadden later had an acquaintance in high office. He was photographed with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, in 1941 (Figure 1).

Bernarr’s enthusiasm for restoring sexual prowess earlier ran afoul of postal regulations. Generally known as the Comstock Law, the Act for the Suppression of Trade in, and Circulation of, Obscene Literature and Articles of Immoral Use, passed March 3, 1873, trapped many reformers who looked to improve American health. Another target was Margaret Sanger. The birth control activist, sex educator, writer, and nurse, who opened the first birth control clinic in the United States, and established organizations that evolved into the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, was a native of Corning, New York.

The mailing shown in Figure 2 was sent in 1909 from Battle Creek to a Miss Laura E. Groh in Maryland — one piece of a bulk mailing to round up support for a pardon for his 1908 conviction under the Comstock Law that referred to articles appearing in his magazine, Physical Culture, published in New Jersey. The illustrated corner card boasted that there was a Macfadden sanatorium in England. A pamphlet outlined his defense: his advice to young men was not lewd or vile (Figures 3 and 4). Miss Groh and others were asked to collect signatures on a petition for Bernarr’s pardon (Figure 5). Miss Groh signed on the first of many lines, had second thoughts about putting her first name, and erased it and failed to collect any others, and did not reply to Macfadden’s New York headquarters in the Flatiron Building.

Never one to miss a chance to advertise, Bernarr also included an illustrated brochure about his Battle Creek Sanatorium (Figure 6). The brochure also included advice about how to restore one’s sexual energy.

But, as for the 1907 Grand Jury indictment, President Taft did extend a pardon to Macfadden for the two-year prison sentence, but Bernarr still had to pay the $2,000 fine. Anthony Comstock continued to hound Bernarr personally, and he was again arrested, served some time, and paid many fines. A contemporary publication (The Arena, 1908) observed: “Mr. Macfadden’s real offense is that he is a radical thinker with a large and influential following, and his views upon what constitutes a plane of high morality are apparently at a wide variance with the narrow official methods of the Post-Office Department.”
Many of the statements which have been made regarding the mail pending in the United States Supreme Court against us for alleged dissemination of obscene matter through the mails have been so untrue and malicious that I have been compelled to prepare this booklet, setting forth the facts.

The prosecution was based on a serial story entitled “Growing to Manhood in Outland” (1 Story), illustrations of which appeared in Physical Culture Magazine in 1906.2 This story was designed to illustrate the issuance into the mails of letters which are likely to do harm who are not intended at least regarding our own books to do harm. The offense is the dissemination of a vicious and injurious form from invalid men and boys they meet elsewhere. The lessons introduced into the story, in which a just young man in a boy’s school and a kitchen girl are participants, while told in language void of obscenity, supplies an atmosphere for erotic impulse. It was designed to serve as a warning against such inoculations—in stead of stimulating immoral, it tended to create healthy and dignified. It was a purpose to parents to give their sons instructions that would save them from such evil趋向，a notion in which young men might see how debasing and unclean such “seamy” gymnastics really are. Neither in language nor purpose was there any obscenity, but instead there was a distinct moral purpose in the story.


“It is held that a letter, although exceedingly coarse and vulgar, but which has no tendency to excite libidinous thoughts or impure desires, or to deprave and corrupt the morals of those whose minds are open to such influences, is not obscene, lewd or lascivious within the meaning of the statute.”

WHEREAS, Bernarr Macfadden has been convicted in the Federal Courts of the United States under the charge of sending obscene literature through the mail. This literature being copies of the Physical Culture Magazine, which has for its object the education of the public in the science of health building; therefore, we, the undersigned, do hereby respectfully request that he be granted in this petition.

We make this request (1) because we believe that instead of being a felon, he is in reality a public benefactor; (2) because, as every reader of his literature will testify, his influence has every instance in regard the highest morality to all and outside the house; (3) because he was the first man who had the courage to expose the patent medicine charlatans; (4) because he is on the moving spirit in those corporations, with nearly a thousand stock-holders, engaged in large commercial enterprises that depend for their existence upon the enlightenment of the public in the science of building fine, strong bodies.
Postage Due Poses a Challenge

While many postage due covers are easy to understand — missing postage, short paid, etc., others require knowledge of rates, exchange rates, routes, and many other facts. A pre-World War I Russian postal card (top left) in Hebrew from 1914 to Syracuse is problematical in that it lacks a CDS, meaning the message would have to be translated to determine the origin point and date. A cover mailed from Nigeria in the 1930s (top right) to Montgomery Ward in Chicago was assessed five cents in postage due, the US domestic airmail rate until July 5, 1932. Postage dues served other purposes as well. A March 3, 1972, change of address notification mailed from Bath, Maine, to a stamp dealer in Monmouth, Maine, was assessed ten cents for the service. The rate is not readily apparent.
**Snowflakes a Favorite USPS Subject**

Snowflakes seem to be a favorite subject of the United States Postal Service. In the last fifty-five years, a number of snowflake stamps have appeared during the winter season. The first stamp that I could find that deliberately pictures a snowflake was the 1960 Olympic Winter Games stamp (Scott 1146). There are a few Christmas stamps that show snowflakes, but the snowflakes are just incidental to the overall scene.

We have to fast forward to 2006 for the first real set of snowflake stamps which were issued for that year’s holiday season. Four thirty-nine-cent stamps were issued on October 17, 2006. Although there were only four designs there are sixteen different Scott numbers since the stamps were issued in a pane of twenty stamps, two different types of booklets of twenty as well as an ATM booklet of eighteen. These are Scott 4101–4116.

In 2013 a set of five Presorted Standard coil stamps (value of ten cents) was issued showing actual photograph of snowflakes (Scott 4808–4812). They were not ordinarily available to regular collectors since there were issued in coils of 3,000 and 10,000. The presorted standard rate is usually used by businesses sending large mailings.

This year’s stamps are available in booklets of twenty having five copies of each design. One side has three blocks of four and the other two blocks of four plus a large label. Since the stamps were issued at the annual ASDA Fall Postage Stamp Show in New York City, there were a number of postmarking options, including the ASDA’s pictorial cancel.
Our Mutual First Postmaster General

In 1753 the government in London, England, appointed Benjamin Franklin and William Hunter as joint deputy postmasters general for British colonies in North America, although the bulk of the duties fell to Franklin because of Hunter’s ill health. During his two decade tenure, Franklin reorganized postal service in North America, increasing the speed and reliability of mail delivery and turning the post office into a profitable operation.

In his earlier years Franklin had considered the British Empire to be “the greatest phenomenon of the eighteenth century,” but his support turned increasingly to the rebellious colonists and he was eventually fired from his position by the British government in 1774.

The American bicentennial in 1976 was marked by a joint Canada–US issue featuring a portrait of Franklin overlooking a map of British North America. Both were designed by Bernard Reiland of the Canada Post Office. Their overall appearance was similar although there were slight differences in color, size, and text. The Canadian stamp was valued at ten cents and the US stamp at thirteen.

To date I have documented close to one hundred different FDC cachets with one or the other or both stamps. Few of them were made by private Canadian cachet makers as most producers had left the FDC marketplace in the early 1970s with the entry of Canada Post and its official covers. The SCS (Scotia Cover Service) cachet shown in Figure 1 was one of only five known Canadian products. Its design incorporates a combination of stylized elements from the Great Seal of the U.S. and some early flag designs. The majority of the twenty total FDCs bearing the Canadian stamp were produced by US cachet makers.

David Pritchard’s cachet bearing his “David ‘C’ Cachets” logo is shown in Figure 2 with the US stamp, while an Artmaster cachet franked with both stamps is illustrated in Figure 3. The latter was signed by the designer.
Larry Davidson won the grand award at the National Topical Stamp Show for his exhibit, “Beavers: Nature’s Engineers.” He answered some questions about the exhibit.

Q. How did you decide that the beaver would be your topic?

I intended to create an exhibit to show in Canada and the US that would interest viewers in both countries. I also wanted an original subject. Since the beaver is the national symbol of Canada as well as the state animal of Oregon and the state mammal of New York, I thought that it would be an appropriate subject. Historically, the search for beaver pelts was responsible for opening up much of western Canada and western United States by organizations such as the Hudson’s Bay Company and John Jacob Astor’s American Fur Company.

Q. What are some of the interesting philatelic items in the exhibit?

Canada’s first stamp of 1851 shows a beaver. Actually it was the very first stamp to show an animal. While a mint copy was too expensive, I do have a specimen block of four. There is also an 1838 stampless cover sent from Norway House via Hudson’s Bay Company canoe to York Factory (on Hudson’s Bay) then by HBC supply ship to England, and on to Hudson’s Bay House in London. The enclosed letter refers to the flourishing fur trade that year.

Q. As it is a display class exhibit, you are allowed to include non-philatelic items. What are some interesting ones in the exhibit?

The plan page includes an old-time stereoscopic card for use in a stereoscope, giving an image of a beaver with the perception of 3D depth. Also, I show a fossil of part of the incisor tooth of a giant beaver found in fossil deposits in Florida.

Q. What’s next for “Beavers: Nature’s Engineers”?

I intend to revise the exhibit for a fourth time. It will be decreased from six to five frames, to eliminate some of the weaker, less important items and hence highlight the better material. I will also create a mini-study of Canada’s first stamp. It first appeared imperforate on laid paper, then imperforate on wove paper and then on wove paper perforated. After that, the denomination changed from pence to cents and another stamp was created.

Q. What advice would you offer to someone thinking of exhibiting?

Don’t give up after your early attempts.
Club Forced To Cancel Auction

The club was forced to cancel the auction on September 11 when the Leonard Post became unavailable. Due to the short notice the club was unable to prepare a mailing to notify members of the cancellation. Board members sent out emails and made phone calls to some members with the plea to “spread the news.” A notice was also placed on the club’s web page.

Unfortunately some members did show up on September 11. The board of directors apologized to those members who made the trip that night. Some members complained that the club does not keep phone numbers and/or email addresses for emergency purposes.

The board decided to update the member list to include contact information. The issue of security has always been paramount with the member list and it has been decided to keep the contact list confidential.

World Stamp Show Trip Planned

With the success and popularity of our bus trip to the American Philatelic Society Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, it was decided by the board to arrange a trip to World Stamp Show-NY-2016.

Tim Carey is exploring different options and researching the hotels in New York City. Several members have already expressed interest. Carey is seeking input from those interested. Stay tuned for more details!

Autumn Stamp Festival Reminder

The Autumn Stamp Festival will be on Saturday, November 21, at the Leonard Post from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twelve dealers and the United States Post Office will participate in the bourse.

The club will operate its hospitality table at the entrance and greet visitors. There will be free door prizes and every hour each visitor will have a chance to win a $10 gift certificate to spend with one of the bourse dealers.

The Autumn Stamp Festival has been popular with both visitors and the dealers.
Our Paul Newman Adventure

By Joe Connolly & Andy Doback

Paul Newman had a huge connection with Connecticut. During World War II he attended a Navy training program at Yale hoping for acceptance as a pilot. Amazingly, the future actor with the great blue eyes was color blind. He was sent for training as a radioman and a gunner. After serving in the Pacific during the war, he graduated from Kenyon College and attended Yale Drama School.

Newman and his wife, Joanne Woodward, moved to Westport in 1958 where they lived until his death in 2008. He founded Newman’s Own, a Westport-based food company that donates an enormous amount of money to charity. Newman donated seven and a half acres of his land to the Town of Westport as part of a thirty-nine acre nature preserve. In 1958 he founded the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford to give every child a chance to just be a kid. Newman enjoyed driving his race car at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville.

Rich Hoffman, Andy Doback, and Joe Connolly went to Westport to get unofficial FDCs. The locals were buying the Newman stamps by the handful! Joe mistakenly had a clerk apply the Westport postmark to covers specifically cacheted for Lakeville. We added the Lakeville postmark to create dual cancels.

The postmaster at Lakeville, Barbara Graham, shown with Andy, gave us a wonderful welcome to her post office which was built back in FDR’s day.
The Statue of Liberty

Dedicated in 1886 the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the United States. It was created by Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi (lower center) of hammered copper. Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who created the Eiffel Tower, designed the statue’s steel skeleton.

Bartholdi was honored on a US stamp in 1986 (Scott 2147) here pictured on a Dutchess Philatelic Society Mid-Hudson Stamp Show cover from that year. Fund raising for the base of the statue was done in the United States with Joseph Pulitzer using his New York World newspaper to help reach the goal. An American architect Richard Morris Hunt designed the base itself. On October 28, 1886, President Grover Cleveland dedicated the statue.

In 1956, the year Bedloe’s Island was renamed Liberty Island, the United States issued a souvenir sheet (Scott 1075) with the three- and eight-cent liberty stamps from the 1954–1968 Liberty set. That set featured two eight-cent issues, one flat plate and one rotary. There was also an eleven-cent stamp issued in 1961. (Scott 1044A)

Other countries have also used our Liberty on their postage. One example shown here is a fifty cent and one dollar souvenir sheet from Antigua issued in 1972 (Scott 301 and 303). The dollar issue features the statue.
Elmira, New York
Meets at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) on the third Tuesday at Steele Memorial Library, 101 East Church St.
Stamp Circuit Available; Visitors welcome
Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14905-1212
607-732-0181

Stepex 2015 Opens on Schedule

Overcoming unforeseen stumbling blocks, Stepex 2015, the fortieth consecutive annual show sponsored by the club, opened October 23 on schedule at the Big Flats American Legion Post.

The show frames had to be erected by a group not anticipating the hard labor involved due to a conflict encountered by the youth group normally doing this. To its credit, the youth group did manage the takedown when the show closed. Eleven frames out of sixty were empty due to a mixup with the scheduled exhibitor.

On the second day, member Gordon Stratton dug into his cover collection and filled the empty frames on the first day. He also serviced the show covers.

There were eight competitive exhibits plus six non-competitive. The jury — Tom Fortunato of Rochester and Robert Meegan of Orchard Park — awarded six golds and two silvers (see list on page 42).

Longtime Member Dies
The club extends condolences to the family of Kent Marshall, 71, a longtime club member and stamp collector, who died on September 26, 2015.

Programs
November 17 — Member auction
December 15 — Stepex awards; holiday treats; APS DVD: “Number Ones of the World”

Meeting Notes
September 2015: Fourteen attended. A short meeting was followed by an auction of fourteen lots called by club president Mike Breed. Auction teller Wayne Nyre reported thirteen lots sold for $68.00, with club lots bringing $47.50 and nonclub selling for $20.50.
October 2015: Ten attended. The meeting concerned final preparations for Stepex 2015. This was followed by a DVD presentation: “Prexie Postal History.”

At the Club Table
At the club table are, from left; Alan Parsons, show chair; Mike Breed, club president; and Donald Dolan, Jr., vice president, treasurer and secretary.
Instant Messaging in Only a Month

By Glenn A. Estus

Today we are all used to having almost instantaneous communication with family members either via telephone, or email, or even by letter. But before the middle of the nineteenth century people often left their families and immigrated to other countries, knowing they would probably never see their families again. The letter was the only means of keeping in touch and the news in the letters could be months or years old.

A letter from Hoesville, New York (Fulton County) to Kelso, Scotland, neatly illustrates the point. Kelso is in Roxburghshire on the Scotland/England border.

Hoesville was a short named post office from May 28, 1846, to June 13, 1849. Previously it was known as West Galway Church (1838 to 1846) and changed its name again in 1849 to West Galway (1849 to 1919).

Although the post office was officially known as Hoesville, the writer, a niece of the addressee, Mrs. Eccles, used West Galway as her location. The letter is dated July 23, 1846 less than two months after the post office name was established. According to New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmaster from 1775 to 1980, the first postmaster was Peter I. Hoes. Obviously the post office was named after him.

Information with the cover indicates that the letter was mailed from Hoesville on July 29, 1846, and PAID to New York City where it was then carried privately to Liverpool before being entered into the British postal system. On the reverse is a “Liverpool Ship Letter” transit marking (21 Aug 1846) and a Kelso receiving mark (Aug 23, 1846).

The letter sheet is three and a half pages of tightly spaced writing telling of family gatherings, local deaths, the weather — all the things that people still tell family members about today.

(This information originally appeared in the March 2015 Excelsior!)

(Continued on next page)
Newman Cachet A Joint Effort

After many years of producing first day covers for many different issues, the club had only been producing covers for War of 1812 and Civil War commemorative issues for the past few years.

But this September we added another cacheted cover for the Paul Newman commemorative stamp. The cover was a joint effort of two of our club officers — designed by treasurer Shirley Stowell and secretary Jim Darnell. The image on the cover depicts the many facets of Newman’s career. It consists of a large black and white image of Paul Newman, surrounded by colored images of him as actor, director, racing enthusiast, and philanthropist.

A limited number of these covers are still available. Anyone wishing to obtain the Paul Newman cacheted FDC can do so by sending a check for $2.50 payable to the Finger Lakes Stamp Club along with a No. 10 sase to: Finger Lakes Stamp Club, c/o James Darnell, 136 Lock Street, Clyde, NY 14433.

The club is planning on continuing to increase its production of first day covers in 2016.

Programs
November 11 — Highlights of FDC Collecting
December 9 — Christmas Party
Club Programs for 2015–2016 Season

The club has already had four programs, including World War II Patriotics by Alvin Sabo (right top and center), New York State Match & Medicine Stamps Part II by Warren Coons (bottom right), Jim Thorpe: The Philately of an Indian Athlete by Charles Eson, and Philatelic Exhibition Seals by Scott Adams.

November–December Schedule
November 10 — Members’ Autumn Auction
November 24 — Collecting Precancels by George McGowan
December 8 — Holiday Banquet
No second meeting in December

2016 Schedule
January 12 — Single Page Night
January 26 — Aviators by James Kirby
February 9 — Postal History and the Economy by Robert Harris & Diane DeBlois
February 23 — Buy and Sell at the Members’ Bourse
March 8 — Stamp Stories Part 3 by Maris Tirums
March 22 — Members’ Spring Auction
April 12 — Tagging of Stamps by Bruce Menia
April 26 — Henry Clay’s Place in Philately by Richard Wells
May 10 — Italian Social Republic by Jerry LaMastra
May 24 — Annual meeting & banquet
November Meeting Date Changed

Our November club meeting will be the last one for this year. It will be on the second Thursday instead of our regularly scheduled fourth Thursday of the month which is the Thanksgiving Holiday.

During this last meeting, there will be no APS slide presentation. We hope members will bring more philatelic material to have an end of year sale.

Christmas Dinner Being Planned
At the November meeting we will finalize the location of the restaurant for our annual Christmas dinner.

Members View Postal Rarities Program
During October’s meeting members enjoyed watching an APS slide presentation entitled “Postal Rarities From The National Postage Stamp Collection.”

Winter Break
We do not meet in January and February. Our meetings will resume on March 24, 2016.

A Brief History of the Club
In September 1927, the Rome YMCA organized a stamp club as part of its youth program. This continued until March 1932 when members of the Y organized the Copper City Stamp Club, an offshoot of the original club and opened its membership to all collectors in the area.

During the years that followed the club participated in many shows and was the host club on several occasions.

The club later changed its name to Fort Stanwix Stamp Club to better reflect Rome’s historic fort. The club formerly was a member of the group of five clubs, which presented the annual CinCopeX exhibition. Membership is open to both adults and juniors.

In 2004, the club began a short-lived new show in conjunction with the Utica Stamp Club — the Central New York Stamp, Coin & Cover Show, which was held at the Turning Stone Casino and Resort in Verona.

The former Community Stamp Club was incorporated into the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club in mid 2005.

Happy Holidays
The Fort Stanwix Stamp Club members wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may you all get that dream philatelic item you have wished for.
Stamp & Postcard Show Memories

Fourth annual Stamp and Postcard Show organizer Bob Finnegan, top left, chats with dealers Bob Kruppo and Jim Collins. George Mingle of Clayton offered a huge array of postcards, above. The Tri-County Club table was staffed by Brenda and David VerValin and Jimmy Gale.

Two Programs Scheduled Before Break

There are two more club programs scheduled before our annual winter break in January and February.

November 5 — Zeppelin Air Mail by Tim Walker
December 3 — Transportation Series by Jim Collins

Cooperstown, New York
Meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday, except January & February, at the Tillapaugh home, 28 Pioneer St.
Ellen Tillapaugh
80 Beaver St., Cooperstown, NY 13326-1202
kuchtill@gmail.com, 607-547-5646
Enjoying Good Mysteries and History

By Mike Frechette. Society President

I enjoy good mysteries. I also enjoy history. Lately, I have been researching paquebot covers for a presentation later this year. Like a good mystery, once you start discovering things, the answers lead you on to areas that you never would have investigated on your own.

Take the simple act of looking at a cover. We all get mail; we have all seen covers. Some of us only collect mint stamps, so we tend to relegate the cover to the trash pile. But every cover is as unique as a snowflake. It has the addressee, the sender, the stamp, the postmark, and the cancellation. That is five areas to look at and think about. It may have postal markings indicating transit problems. If it is a postcard, it has content. It may have a cachet. In short, it is a miniature history book waiting to be read.

As I write this, I am staring at a bland cover that I found in a dollar box. The stamp is a ubiquitous three-cent Washington stamp (Scott 721) valued at … wait, what are gripper cracks? Does this stamp have them? If it does, it is worth more than 25 cents. And the cancellation: “Century of Progress World’s Fair June 1–Nov 1 Chicago 1934.” It increases the value to $3–4). Next, I look at the sender: Manufacturing Clearing House of Illinois, Inc. Who were they? Are they in existence today? If you try Google you get a hit, but that company was founded in 1980 and the cover is postmarked in 1934. Is there a rule that after so many years, you can reuse a company name? A mystery to be solved!

I could not find anything about the addressee, White Hardware Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, on Google, but did discover that the oldest hardware store in the United States is in Worcester. Elwood Adams Hardware store opened in the late 1700s.

We all tend to get caught up in the value aspects of collecting. This is a natural outcome of specializing to a point where you cannot afford or find the last remaining items to complete your collection. We get discouraged and frustrated and lose sight of what our hobby is supposed to be. Several years ago I decided to collect British Machins, and for several months bought every item that a dealer could find for me. Finally, he wrote to me to say he had no more to send — I had obtained every item up to that time. I was very downhearted and lost interest in collecting for a while before deciding it was time to find something new that piqued my interest.

Now every time I learn something new or hear about some area from other society members, it triggers a chain reaction and I find myself exploring every byway imaginable for the oddest things. I urge everyone to take a step back every once in a while, and learn to enjoy our great hobby all over again. Don’t be afraid to share with your non-collector friends — who knows, one of them may actually start collecting!
SHOW DEEMED A SUCCESS

The club held its October meeting on Columbus Day. One of our two new members who joined at the our annual Olepex show was in attendance. The president gave his report and stated that the show was well attended in comparison with last year’s show. There were six dealers in attendance.

The club made a small profit on the show thanks to two dealers taking double table space and the fact that our president who was in charge of our luncheon donated all the food for the show.

Casey Kielbas of Tri-K Stamps in Buffalo, one of our newer members, also attended his first meeting of our club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
A nominating committee was appointed to elect officers for the coming new year.

HOWDEN DESCRIBES HIS COLLECTIONS
The program was given by member Bill Howden who provided information and exhibits on a number of collections he had accumulated over the years he had been collecting. He first came to the club with his son who was a junior member at the time. His son quit collecting but Bill got interested and now more than twenty-five years later he is heavily involved with a number of collecting avenues. His favorite is the postal history of Allegany County.

PROGRAMS
November 9 — Fall Auction. All members are encouraged to bring something to sell. December 14 — Our annual Christmas Party will be held at the club meeting room. Meat and refreshments will be provided. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass. The party will start at 6 p.m. instead of our regularly scheduled time of 7.

Enclosure a Clue
This May 14 postmark on this cover from Olean to Angelica does not indicate the year. Luckily the original letter, dated May 14, 1872, was enclosed.
Revenue Provides Clue to Bank’s History

An interesting local item recently was offered on eBay — a Scott R27C revenue stamp dated March 15, 1865. It was used at the “Oswego River Bank” located in Fulton New York. An article in the May 30, 1935 Fulton Patriot states:

“On Oct. 6, 1855 the Oswego River Bank was organized with a capital of $11,500, and with John J. Wolcott, president; George Salmon, vice-president DeWitt Gardner, cashier, and Lewis E. Loomis, W. B. Shaw, John Dutto, John A. Livingston, Alfred Mix, Elisha Leavenworth, Charles Benedict, Justice Townsend and B.N. Hinman directors. Every man of these first directors was prominent in the affairs of the village of Fulton or central New York, every man a man of business and of such solid integrity that from the start the confidence of the community abided in the Oswego River Bank. In the first year of business the small institution which was serving the needs of a few scattered farmers, store owners, the saw and grist mills, made wonderful progress. The figures available reveal that on January 12th, two weeks after the opening, there were deposits of $7,405 and loans of $4,672; the cash or currency on hand being less than $3,000. A year later deposits had risen to $15,000.

“With the clearing of the first canal in 1855, the clearing of the forests and building of roads, industry and commerce gradually increased and the community prospered. So we find that when the National Banking Act was passed in 1864, the Oswego River Bank, with hundreds of others, gave up its charter and reorganized as the First National bank, with a capital of $115,000.

“Oswego River Bank and the First National Bank occupied as first quarters the second floor of the block formerly known as the Church Block, now known as the Elliott Block. In time the bank outgrew its quarters, and added new services and facilities. It moved to 103 Oneida street, then to the new Telephone Building in South First street, and later to its present headquarters at Cayuga and First streets ... In 1917 the First National Bank ceased operations under that name to reopen ... under a new name, the Oswego County Trust Company, with greatly increased scope for serving the public, with a capital and surplus of $150,000. Under this title it has continued under the leadership of men who are outstanding for their personal achievements, their integrity and courage, as proven by the public in the institution.”
Member Survey To Help Guide the Association

Fred Haynes put together a member survey to poll members about their meeting topic and collecting interests. We thought the results were interesting, and ask other federation clubs to consider posing these questions to their members as well. [Editor’s Note: I endorse this idea as it will prove to be a valuable tool for clubs whose membership is flagging.]

A total of 26 responses were received, but not all people answered all questions. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being no interest and 5 being very interested, rate your interest in each of these meeting types:

**Average Response**
- Member Presentations: 4.46
- Called Auctions: 3.68
- Everyone a Dealer: 3.32
- Dinner Meetings: 2.82

**Other Ideas for Meetings**
- Guest presentations (perhaps APS, ATA, etc.)
- Members bring an unusual or special item to share
- Workshops or tutorials (how to)
- Interactive exercises (perhaps as ice breakers)

**Should We Hold Meetings During the Summer?**
- Yes: 13
- No: 2 (six suggested one per month, two suggested a picnic)

**Do You Plan to Attend World Stamp Show-NY 2016?**
- Yes: 4
- No: 13
- Maybe: 6

**Applying the Results**
Results from the survey will be used by the RPA board to determine subjects for upcoming meetings. Interestingly they were very close to what we expected, as live member presentations continue to remain very popular compared to “canned” ones!

**Programs**
Only 1 meeting a month in November because the date falls on Thanksgiving and December because the date falls on Christmas Eve.
- November 12 — Everyone-A-Dealer Night
- December 10 — Stamp quiz and Christmas party
Museum Celebrates Stamp Collecting Month

The museum celebrated National Stamp Collecting Month in its traditional way by inviting members to display parts of their collections in its main gallery. Exhibits included pre-1840 envelopes from the Massachusetts island counties, postcards of Vermont’s scenic Route 100, a collection of worldwide stamps featuring famous libraries and archives, World War II German Fieldpost, library mail (special postcards used to send reminders to patrons) and a collection of American Revolution covers including ones signed by George Washington, Ben Franklin, and John Hancock.

The letters related well to the talk on the history of the post during the revolution given by assistant professor and author Joseph Adelman at the museum’s annual dinner. His presentation focused on the role of William Goddard during the war.

November includes activities and exhibits designed to attract non-collectors to the museum. Character actress Jessa Piia will present her impersonation of famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart on November 11, a school holiday. All children will receive a free US Earhart airmail stamp. First day covers of the stamp will also be on display.

That evening the Museum will hold an opening reception for an exhibit on the one hundred year history of the Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School. Author Rose Doherty of the book Katharine Gibbs Beyond White Gloves and a former instructor at the school will talk about this famous institution, often called the “Harvard of Secretarial Schools.” She will explain philatelic connections including the importance of learning about proper formats for all types of correspondence. Also in November, to correspond with the exhibit “Comics and Stamps,” the museum will offer free evaluations of people’s old comic books by local expert John Cimino.

Education Director Henry Lukas is working with the Boston Public Schools’ Director of Social Studies to bring the museum’s various programs using stamps to help teach about geography and history to elementary school classrooms in the city. Also in October the museum was visited by more than eighty members of the Delphos Museum of Postal History in Delphos, Ohio. The members were on their annual New England foliage tour.

The museum continues to accept donations both to add to its collection and for resale and offers evaluations of personal collections for a small fee.
A New Season Off and Running

The Staten Island Philatelic Society has started off another season, continuing our run since 1884! Some members brought in the treasures added over the summer, and some were impressive to see. One item was an 11 a.m. December 7, 1941, cover from Honolulu, which produced a strong discussion about the possibility of it being real or a forgery. I had to compare it to my Enns, Austria cancel on a Third Reich stamp, purportedly canceled on May 6, 1945. That was the day the US Army occupied Enns, also on a Sunday. Interestingly, I have an Austrian certificate stating the cancel, based on a photo copy, could be real. It is the only certificate in my collection, so you can see the faith I have in certificates.

On the other hand, in preparation for major renovative repairs to my house, I have put my collection, reference library and accumulated magazines into storage, for an unknown and unknowable duration. Very depressing to receive catalogues and really be unable to do anything with them. I want to play!

A German friend has given me another load of private-mail covers he received in his mailbox. It is all interesting, but I am not sure how to store them or categorize them. I have very few covers in my collection, relative to stamps, but the hobby seems to be driving towards more and more covers. Some of my German covers have only indicia-type markings, some have impressed stamp-like devices, and one from the Baden-Württemberg Post (a private corporation) actually had a real stamp of its own design. The B-W Post charges 44 (euro) cents to deliver a letter, while the Bundespost is up to 62 (euro) cents. That’s pretty stiff competition. I do not know if these covers fit into a stamp collection, but I’ll have to concede they are actual postal items, delivered by an authorized body in apparently successful competition with the German post office. More things to ponder and study, adding to the fun of the hobby.

Mystery Cachet

A red linoleum block print marked the 295th anniversary of the settlement of Staten Island in 1639. The identity of the cachetmaker, HP, is unknown.
Rent a Tent

Those who wanted to go back to nature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries could rent what they needed. The spring bed cots were probably not as comfortable as the name implies.

Syracuse, New York

www.syracusestampclub.org
Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first & third Fridays at the Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Ave.
Allen Swift, PO Box 593, Syracuse, NY 13057-0593
agsses@aol.com, 315-427-5063

Syrapex 2015 Scheduled November 8

Syrapex 2015 will be on November 8 at a new location — the Maplewood Inn 400 7th North Street in Liverpool. The inn is accessible from Thruway exit 36. The show will be for one day with limited exhibits from Syracuse Stamp Club members.

The bourse will have ten to twelve dealers from the upstate area. Club members will be selling past event covers at greatly reduced prices, youngsters will be given packets of stamps, and the usual hourly prizes will be given to those present.

Election of Officers
The club will hold its annual election on December 4. The president, vice president, and two directors positions will need to be filled. Anyone choosing to vie for these jobs should submit their name to any current board member for consideration.

Christmas/Holiday Party
This year we will once again be having our holiday party on December 18 at Steak and Sundae restaurant at 1830 Teall Avenue. Members will gather from 6 to 7 p.m. and a family style dinner will be served around 7. The cost is $10 for members. The first guest will be charged $20. Any additional guests will be charged $22. We had a great time last year with good food and a drawing for special prizes. We anticipate having 40–45 members and guests.

Programs*

November 6 — Cowboy Covers by Vince Juchimek
November 20 — Auction
December 4 — Program TBA; election
December 18 — Christmas/holiday party

* Remember that the club auctions off ten lots every meeting night.
Each Christmas season, the Ticonderoga Stamp Club participates in the Festival of Trees hosted by the Ticonderoga Historical Society. Last year, the club had a display of Christmas stamps and first day covers. This year the club will decorate a Christmas tree with Christmas bulbs covered with stamps.

The festival is held in the Hancock House, a reproduction of the colonial mansion built in Boston in the 1730s which was demolished in 1863. The current Hancock House was the headquarters of the New York State Historical Society for many years in Ticonderoga and was presented to the NYSHS by Horace A. Moses, who is pictured on Scott 2095. Moses was a native of Ticonderoga. Moses built the Hancock House in 1925.

Moses (1863–1947) founded Mittineague Paper Company in West Springfield, Massachusetts, which later became Strathmore Paper Company. He is noted for his involvement in forming Junior Achievement in 1919.

The festival is just one of the Ti Stamp Club’s efforts to reach out to local collectors by spreading the word about the joys of stamp collecting. One of the rooms of the Hancock House houses the post office from the old Street Road, NY post office which closed in 1909.

In August, the club sponsored a stamp scavenger hunt for youth at the Ticonderoga Heritage Museum. The club provided hundreds of stamps and the Heritage Museum supplied the youth as part of its summer enrichment program. The program was so successful that it will be repeated in the summer of 2016. Let’s hope that it has piqued the interest of a few young people and inspired them to begin collecting.
Welcome Table
Peter Craig of the Leatherstocking Stamp Club and Steve McCarthy of the Tri-County Stamp Club staff the show’s welcome table as Tri-County president Spike Paranya arrives. See more show photos from the Leatherstocking Club report on page 64.

Nearly Eighty Attend Annual Show
The Tri-County Stamp Club and the Leatherstocking Stamp Club combined efforts in conducting its fourth annual Stamp and Postcard Show at the Holiday Inn in Oneonta, New York on October 17.

The show was attended by close to eighty entrants on a cold and rainy day. Postcard dealers and stamp dealers had some brisk business in the morning hours especially. The club is considering its fifth show after conducting a survey among members. The show would once again by in October with no date in mind at the time of this writing.

Show & Tell
The Show and Tell meeting night in October was an interesting one in which some varied pieces of philately were shared with interesting stories to go along with the stamps shared.

Philatelic Jeopardy in November
The November meeting of the club will retest club members’ knowledge and expertise in a number of various elements of philately as Bob Finnegan will conduct his annual Philatelic Jeopardy Game with two teams vying for stamp prizes.

Ocean Philately in December
December meeting program will be provided by club president, Spike Paranya as he shares stamps and stories about dealing with British Pacific Ocean Philately. This is a FIRST for us and should be quite interesting. ■
The program for our September meeting was an in-depth look into the Washington–Franklin issues from 1908–1922 presented by club member Phil Kane. This series consisted of two hundred and fifty distinct issues and fifty-five coils.

The presentation covered various printing methods used, watermarks, perforations and different printing plates used. Also covered were various means to detect forgeries in this series. As we all know, this is a very challenging area of collecting US, stamps. The knowledge gained by his presentation will better enable us to gain a better grasp of this area of collecting.

Club Display Marks Stamp Collecting Month
October was National Stamp Collecting month and we inserted a banner stating such into our stamp collecting exhibit at the Oneida County Historical Society.

Adirondack Club Talk
Our program for the October meeting was titled “The 102 Adirondack Club” by Brad Houston. This program retold his travels and interviews of various residents of more than one hundred hamlets and villages located within the Adirondack Park. We obtained signatures or local die stamps in his copy of “The 102 Adirondack Club.” The signatures were obtained from all classes of people residing within the park, including postal clerks.

His project has been ongoing since April of this year and each signature had a story tied to it, many of which he told.

November and December Programs
Our major activity for the November meeting will be APS circuit books and the December meeting will be our holiday banquet at a restaurant TBD.

Nice Try
The sender of this FLS from Utica was foiled in an attempt to use a free frank. Datelined “Onondaga May 26th 1800” the word free was crossed out and a red manuscript “17” rating for 150–300 miles. The cover is ex-Calvet Hahn.
If you have an interest in the postal history of almost any state, you should be a member of the Postmark Collectors Club. In addition to publishing the monthly *PMCC Bulletin*, the club also maintains the Margie Pfund Memorial Post Mark Museum and Library at Historic Lyme Village in Bellevue, Ohio.

One of the strengths of the museum is the Willett–Thompson Collection of older material from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century mounted in more than four hundred binders. The entire collection has been scanned and was released to collectors a few years ago on two CDs for the entire collection or 11 CDs with regional states.

As editor of the *Vermont Philatelist* I finally found the time to check over the Vermont section of CD #5 which comprises Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone.

The Vermont portion of the CD includes scans of more than five hundred and fifty individual pages in the collection. Author Bill Lizotte discussed “Depression Era (Type E four bars)” handcancels in a recent issue of the *Vermont Philatelist*. These handcancels are characterized by having both the post office and the state name at the top of the cancel with the date in the middle in four lines and the circle bottom entirely vacant.

While Lizotte had a listing of twenty-eight such cancels in his collection, by looking in the W–T scans we were able to find four more cancels, two of which Bill had heard about (Fairfield and Graniteville) but never verified and two which were completely new to him (East Dummerston and Orwell).

According to Lizotte, this type of handcancel was only supplied to post offices after September 30, 1930 and into mid-1931. Many of the items in the collection are 2 × 4 inch cuts, not full covers. However, as a research utility it is a valuable resource, especially for those who cannot visit the museum in person.

More information about the W–T Collection can be found under resources on the PMCC’s website — [www.postmarks.org](http://www.postmarks.org).
Priceless Family Treasure

My 91-year-old aunt died recently, the last of her generation in my family. After clearing out her house, my sister sent me a box with more than sixty pounds of scrapbooks, postcard albums, and anything remotely philatelic. Before her death my aunt had given me her regular stamp albums and related materials; the latter contained very few philatelic items. The box contained items from my aunt and my grandmother who lived with her until her death at 102.

I separated what appeared to be postcard albums including news clippings and assorted odd paper. The cards were pasted in and not in chronological or in any order I could determine. On cards where I could see the backs I saw a few names of distant relatives, but most meant nothing.

My aunt and grandmother were not well trained as stamp collectors. Many of the loose stamps I found in the box had been peeled off and many of the post cards had suffered the same fate. There were also some loose cards. I pulled some out to get a better look. One caught my eye. I do not remember if it was the picture on the front or writing on the back that made me take a closer look but I am glad I did.

The card was a simple picture postcard with nothing special that I could detect and could easily have been found in a discount box at any stamp show. On the front a simple picture of the waterfront in Islip, New York, which is about half way out on the South Shore of Long Island. The card was addressed to my grandmother in care of the Nixon Theatre in Philadelphia where she had been working. It was sent by my grandfather, Johnnie, four years before they would marry with a simple message that her letter was received and he would write soon.

This card has made me ponder the true meaning of what is valuable and why. To me the card is a priceless piece of family history; to most collectors it is a simple plain picture post card of no special interest. It saddens me to think of all the post cards and covers that I have looked at over the years that have lost their significance with the passage of time. I advise anyone who has a piece of family history like this card please document it and let other family members know about it so it can be passed down to future generations.

Gary Musante, 107 Sherwood Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-1451
gmusante@yahoo.com, 585-637-9091
The Last Words
Heather Sweeting, Associate Editor
14329 Victory St.
Sterling NY 13156-3172
hsweeting@nystampclubs.org, 315-947-6761

Offbeat Gifts for Philatelists

The holiday giving season is once again upon us. What interesting items are out there that the philatelist might appreciate? Not knowing which stamps or supplies are on a collector’s want list can sometimes make gift giving difficult. There are many postal collectibles and ephemera that will be appreciated by fellow collectors.

Mail box and post office banks are a nice way to dress up a collector’s desk and save your change for future stamp show purchases. On eBay, they range from $8–15 for pressed tin versions to $50–100 for handcrafted wooden boxes with vintage post office box doors.

The USPS website has several new gift items this year including a Mr. Zip, airmail, and a pony express T-shirts. They even have a baby onesie outfit to start your child or grandchild’s love of stamps early. Most clothing items fall in the range of $15–20, depending on size.

If you have a railway mail collector they might appreciate a Lionel operating mail car. Airmail buffs might appreciate a Stearman biplane airplane bank, an oddity since the wing is also marked with British wing roundrels and bears no resemblance to the 1929 Stearman Speedmail.

There are numerous mail trucks available for sale in various formats. Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Ertl, and First Gear are just a few of the manufacturers that have made them. This GMC 1952 pickup is die cast, made to scale, and comes complete with burlap mail bags.

If you’d like a more historical gift, try searching on eBay for a vintage picture postcard or cancellation from your local post office, or the town where your philatelist grew up. If you are an artist you could also draw and mail a personalized holiday cover to your favorite collector.

Most of all, be sure to open carefully and save all those holiday greeting cards for your collector. They will appreciate them and it won’t cost you a cent.
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Northeast Shows & Bourses
November
6–7 — Hamilton, ON
www.hamiltonstampclub.com, southont@co.ge.co.ca.

6–8 — Mississauga, ON

8 — Meriden, CT
Meriden Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Comfort Inn, 900 East Main St. 9–3:30. Dealer bourse.
Harry Tong, 603-978-3459, hstamps@jlc.net.

8 — Liverpool
New Location!
Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show, Maplewood Inn, Carrier Circle, Thruway exit 36. 10–4:30. Bourse. Ed Bailey, 315-452-0593

15 — Troy
Capital District Third Sunday Stamp & Collectibles Show, Troy Elks Lodge, 134 N. Greenbush Road.

15 — Cheektowaga
Buffalo Stamp Club Autumn Stamp Festival. 10–5. Bourse.
VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., r.meeegan@worldnet.att.net.

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22 — Rochester
RS Stamp Show, North Greece Fireman’s Field, 3666 Latta Road (Rt. 18). 9-4. Bourse. Bob Steeb, 585-621-5019, rstamp@frontiernet.net.

22 — West Seneca

22 — New Haven, CT

December
13 — Meriden, CT
Meriden Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Comfort Inn, 900 East Main St. 9-3:30. Dealer bourse. Harry Tong, 603-978-3459, hstamps@jlc.net.

20 — Troy

27 — New Haven, CT

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