

ROPEX 2005 Preview — 32

STAMP INSIDER™



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MAY / JUNE 2005



STAMPS AS COINAGE - 16

The Mutt Who Rode the Rails - 12

Journal of the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc.

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Civil War postage used as coinage encircles an 1861 portrait of the editor's great grandfather, Warren Henry Starkweather, shortly before he entered the Union Army.

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- Mar. 3 Northeast Deciduous Forest**
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- Apr. 2 Canadian bridges**
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- Apr. 12 Maclean's Magazine Centennial**
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- Apr. 22 Biosphere Reserves**
50¢, 4 designs sgl., joint issue with Ireland
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EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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COVERING THE FAMILY NAME

It began simply enough: At Christmastime Heather Sweeting sent me a 1941 airmail cover whose sender was one B. J. Starkweather of Riverside, California. Certainly an oddity since there are fewer than 800 families named Starkweather in the United States. A relative? Most likely, but not close.

The matter was all but forgotten until John A. Cali recently sent me a rather tatty 1893 postal card mailed from Cambridge, New York, to Pittsford, Vermont. The surprise came on the reverse, which carried the imprint of Starkweather & Allen China Hall in Troy. This was more intriguing as one of the owners, Ridd D. Starkweather, undoubtedly was a much closer relative — possibly being a cousin or uncle of my great grandfather who is pictured on the cover of this issue of the *STAMP INSIDER*.

FEW CLUES ON THE WEB

I am hoping that my father, who has been compiling a Starkweather genealogy, will be able to pinpoint the storekeeper's exact lineage, which may be problematical since the store was established in 1830 and a Web search has failed to turn up little more than an invoice signed by Ridd D. Starkweather in 1879, when the store was known as Starkweather, Allen & Baker, and an 1870 census listing.

The census listing indicates he was a resident of the Fifth Ward and was 36 years old, meaning he was born in 1834 — four years after the founding of the store.

The fact that he was a storekeeper may be a key. One of my great grandfather's uncles kept a store in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and was one of the first trustees of Williams College. The proximity of Williamstown to Troy is also another clue to be followed.



Albert W. Starkweather Collection

PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COLLECTION

Knowledge is an important commodity in every field of collecting. This is a particularly important aspect when you are considering adding specific items or masses to your collection. You can compare, evaluate and arrive at an educated decision or impulsively buy based on your knowledge, experience and feeling. In either case, a great degree of *knowledge* and some *luck* are needed.

The importance of *knowledge* is foremost when unusual items are offered at an enticing price, in assessing and determining authenticity and condition. *Luck* is involved in whether you see it as a fake or a genuine item and what is reality.

“Let the buyer beware” is very germane in this high technological, electronic world we inhabit. The counterfeiting of stamps, covers, overprints and postmarks is as old as the oldest profession but in today’s world a true art form. You must know how to detect these potential invasions of your pocketbook. *Philatelic knowledge* is the Rosetta stone.

I am amazed at how little I do know and how much I learn each week. I am constantly learning from other dealers and collectors at shows that I attend and sell my wares. This is evidenced by the constant in depth knowledge shared by dealers, collectors and experts and my greater insight into these little pieces of history.

While it is not expected that someone would know everything in such a diverse hobby as ours of stamp and cover collecting. It is for this purpose that the *FEDERATION*, APS, and other libraries exist. There are a large variety of topics available on all aspects of stamp collecting at these institutions and on the Web — From *STAMP COLLECTING FOR DUMMIES* and other how-to books, to catalogues and reference works. All of these locations are at your disposal. *Use them* and *listen* to experts in the field and you will be richer for the experiences acquired and shared.

FEDERATION SUMMER MEETING

The *FEDERATION* will conduct its summer meeting during *ROPEX* on Sunday, June 12, at 1 p.m. The agenda includes roll call, introduction of visitors, illnesses and deaths, minutes, communications, treasurer’s report, vice presidents’ report, editor’s report, special communications, unfinished business — executive orders, constitutional amendments, redistricting, and formal approval of Dansville Area Stamp and Coin Club as a member, election of officers, and new business.

Each club may send two delegates. Proxies are to be sent to John A. Cali, secretary.

THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

The National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution (NPM) has an attractive Web site — [WWW.POSTALMUSEUM.SI.EDU](http://www.POSTALMUSEUM.SI.EDU) — that should be of interest to newcomers and veteran philatelists alike. The site loads quickly and is easy to navigate. Of particular value is a site map, which allows visitors to quickly access everything that is posted on the site.

There are three major subdivisions to the site: *Exhibits*, *The Collection*, and *Upcoming Events*. The first provides an index to the museum's exhibits, including brief information about each and some sparse illustrations, while the second provides general information about the scope of its holdings. The third is a calendar of special events — workshops, lectures, films, performances, and family-oriented programs. Several of the museum's collections are posted online.



There are several fascinating interactive features, including the *Postmaster's Challenge* quiz on the home page and a game room under the site's *Activity Zone*, which includes other quizzes, an online coloring book which can be printed out, and a barcode decoding game. Visitors may also create customized stationery and download wallpaper for their computer screen.

The *Resources* page should be of particular interest to clubs and philatelic writers. These include an extensive photo archive, publications, a link to the NPM library, and online versions of articles about the museum in *Smithsonian* magazine. The *Resources* section also includes information on research and educational materials, as well as outside resources, including the American Philatelic Society's slide loan program.

The *Educators* section offers several free curriculum guides for classroom activities that combine history and philately. The museum offers guided student tours, information about which is also included in this section.

Those interested in getting up close and personal with the NPM will find more information under *Getting Involved*.

The site is frequently updated and is well worth revisiting time after time.

— Albert W. Starkweather

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THIS SPECIALTY IS RIGHT ON TARGET

The other day I was sorting town cancels of British Sudan. After checking watermarks and identifying catalog numbers, I noticed that one stamp catalogued at 20 cents used, while an unused copy of the same stamp was \$7.50. I thought how I would rather have my canceled copy than the mint one any day. You see, the canceled stamp told me the town from which it was mailed and the date it was mailed. That leads us into this month's theme.

Collecting postmarks can be very rewarding, interesting, educational, and, yes, inexpensive. A postmark not only gives location and date, but also may include time of day. Occasionally it further identifies mailed at sea, canceled on a train, soldier's mail, et al. The terms *bullseye cancel* or *socked on the nose (SON)* have come to be the monikers of such gems, and we are talking on the stamp, not on cover.

There are many ways to collect cancels. Arnie Leiter of Troy has a wonderful SON calendar collection, one stamp for each day of the year, on U.S. stamps. Another nice collection would be your birthday for X number of years.

Collectors of Great Britain are familiar with their 19th century cancels starting with the Maltese cross, followed by duplex and squared circle cancels. You could spend a lifetime collecting GB duplex cancels and not be complete, and not be penniless. And speaking of GB duplex cancels, if the killer bars surrounding the numeral form a rectangle, it comes from Scotland, if they form a diamond, it is from Ireland, and if they form an oval or circle, that indicates England and or Wales.

So consider collecting cancels — from a state, from a country ... Oh, did I mention? There are no rules, so you decide.



Bullseyes

Clockwise: San Diego, CA, April 25, 1956; Berber, Sudan Aug, 11, 1902; Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope Aug. 9, 1893; Victoria, Secyelles Jan 1, 1938; Hobart, Tasmania Oct 6, 1902; and Darlington, England July 18, 1906.

George McGowan Collection

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Owney: The Mutt Who Rode the Rails

By James Darnell

Abraham Lincoln is unquestionably one of the most famous persons to have made the trip by rail through New York State. But, he is not the only national celebrity to have ridden the rails in New York in the nineteenth century.

Owney was another celebrity who did so. Lincoln made only a few trips through New York State on the railroad, most notably on his inaugural train in 1861 and, sadly, again in 1865 on his funeral train. Although the dates go unrecorded, Owney undoubtedly traversed New York State countless times over a nine-year span between 1888 and 1897. And surely he stopped at railyard communities occasionally on business — doing those things that canines are wont to do, especially on railroad rest stops.



Railway mail clerks considered Owney a good luck charm. At a time when accidents were all too common, no train he rode was ever in a wreck. The clerks adopted Owney as their unofficial mascot, marking his travels by placing medals and tags on his collar. Each time Owney returned home to Albany, the clerks there saved the tags.

Owney was a dog — but a very special dog, world renowned for his travels. In his career of riding the rails, it is estimated that he logged over 140,000 miles — enough to circle the earth nearly six times! And indeed in 1895, he did make a trip around the world, traveling across America, Asia, and Europe by rail and across oceans by steamship.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

Owney's story began in 1888, when, as a stray mutt, he wandered into the Albany, NY post office. The postal workers adopted him, letting him sleep on an old mail sack and feeding him part of their lunches. He got his name, when workers initially kept asking, "Who's your owner?"

One day his sack was needed for a mail shipment. Owney followed the scent of the sack when it was loaded on a departing train and got on. He was discovered at the next station and was returned to Albany. However, he must have enjoyed his first railroad journey, because he continued to hop on outbound mail cars. Soon he was traveling, first on New York State mail routes and then eventually across the United States.

Continued on Page 14

Image Courtesy of the National Postal Museum

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Owney: The Mutt Who Rode the Rails — Continued from Page 12

Mail clerks in Albany attached a note to Owney's collar asking employees of the Railway Mail Service to record his journeys by attaching leather or metal baggage tags to his collar. His fame grew along with the weight of the tags on his collar. On April 9, 1894, a writer for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* wrote:

Nearly every place he stops Owney receives an additional tag. He now wears a big bunch of them. When he jogs along, they jingle like bells on a junk wagon.

Railway mail clerks were happy to have Owney accompany them on their trips, believing that he brought them good luck. In an era when train wrecks and resulting fatalities were quite common, no train that Owney rode was ever involved in an accident.

A TRAGIC END

Tragically, his adventures ended on June 11, 1897 in Toledo, Ohio. Reportedly, he was mistreated while being shown off to a reporter and he reacted by biting a postal worker.

Though exact circumstances were sketchy, Owney clearly died of a gunshot wound. Postal workers from all over the U.S. collected money for his preservation by a Toledo taxidermist. In 1904 Owney was an attraction at the World's Fair in St. Louis.

A MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON

It is interesting to note that, also like Abraham Lincoln, Owney has a memorial in our nation's capitol, albeit not quite as magnificent as Lincoln's. In 1911 he was given to the Smithsonian Institution and today a much less-traveled Owney can still be seen at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, still wearing his jacket, and his many tags and honorary medals. The National Postal Museum has an online presence at WWW.POSTALMUSEUM.SI.EDU.

James Darnell is secretary of the Finger Lakes Stamp Club.



Some of Owney's tags. Owney can be seen on display in the National Postal Museum's atrium, wearing his jacket and surrounded by several of his tags.

Image Courtesy of the National Postal Museum

JOHN J. NUNES PRESENTS

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Neither Fish nor Fowl

ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAGE CURRENCY

By *Albert W. Starkweather*

For decades fractional postage currency and encased postage stamps were universally despised and shunned by both philatelists and numismatists. These items created during the Civil War to offset the shortage of coins were ignored by all but a discriminating few and as a result are now both relatively scarce and command premium prices.

At the outset of the war in 1861 all U.S. stamps in print were declared invalid for use so that supplies in Confederate states could not be used to send mail to the north. This included all issues between 1851 and 1861. (The 1847 issues had been invalidated on July 1, 1851.) Those living in Union states were given a reasonable amount of time to exchange their old stamps for the new series issued on August 17, 1861.

COIN HOARDING CREATES SEVERE SHORTAGES

The fallout of this and the government's suspension of specie payments — payment in gold or silver for the face value of a coin or bill, along with uncertainty over the duration and outcome of the war, led to currency hoarding, which created a coin shortage so severe that soon hardly any coins were available to make purchases or change. The value of the metallic content in circulating coinage quickly became greater than the face value of the coins themselves, making it profitable to melt coins for bullion value.

The federal government's authorization of the use of postage stamps as a replacement for coinage led to runs on post offices and an immediate shortage of stamps. The public soon discovered that stamps were unsuitable for such use when they were unprotected, as they soon became unrecognizable sodden masses. Medications usually were dispensed by pharmacists and doctors in small paper envelopes and these soon were adopted as postage stamp envelopes. They contained a specified value in stamps and very often had the denomination and the name of the sponsoring merchant on the outside. Those of a larcenous bent soon discovered it was easy to seal lesser value stamps or even pieces of cut newspaper into a larger value envelope.

ENCASED POSTAGE PROTECTED 'DAMAGED' STAMPS

This led John Gault to create *encased postage* — stamp sealed in a small brass case with a transparent mica front, which enabled stamps to be passed like coins without destroying them. Gault's invention, which featured advertising copy embossed on the back of the case, was patented on August 12, 1862.



Continued on Page 18

Courtesy of Joseph O. Christofaro

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Encased Postage & Postage Currency — Continued from Page 16

The encased stamps were nearly always 1861 or 1862 regular issues. Gault, who marketed his invention to eastern merchants mostly in New York, stamped the company name, address and slogan on the back of the casing and sent the unprepared casings to the merchant. The merchant would purchase stamps in the denominations needed for change and then trim them to size and encapsulate them. Gault charged two to three cents for each casing.

Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger, a New York City chemist and metallurgist, created a second type of encased postage, the Feuchtwanger Strip. The rectangular strip had a metal



backing with a mica covering, usually encasing three 3-cent stamps. These strips had open ends and stamps could be slid in or out. There is uncertainty over whether these were actually created during the Civil War or a fantasy item from the 1890s.

POSTAGE CURRENCY SUPERSEDES ENCASED POSTAGE

Postage currency, issued by the U.S. Treasury, featured postage stamp designs on treasury paper. U.S. Treasurer Francis E. Spinner first made the substitute by affixing postage stamps singly and in multiples to the treasury paper. He arranged with the Post office to replace worn stamps with new when necessary. Postage currency technically was not money, but a way to make stamps negotiable. Moreover, it could be considered illegal, as it has not been approved by Congress.



This makeshift arrangement was followed by the printing of stamps on treasury paper. On July 17, 1862, Congress legitimized Spinner's solution by authorizing the issuance of postage currency in 5-, 10-, 25- and 50-cent denominations. The new currency was issued both perforated and imperforate.



These remained in use until May 27, 1863. On Oct. 10, 1863, a second issue was released. These, and the three issues that followed, did not show stamps and are called fractional currency. In 1876, a year after the last fractional currency was printed, Congress authorized minting of silver coins to redeem outstanding fractional currency. The notes had served well in trade for a decade after the end of the war as small change continued to be in short supply.

Courtesy of Joseph O. Christofaro, bottom; Robert A. Siegel, top

Table 25

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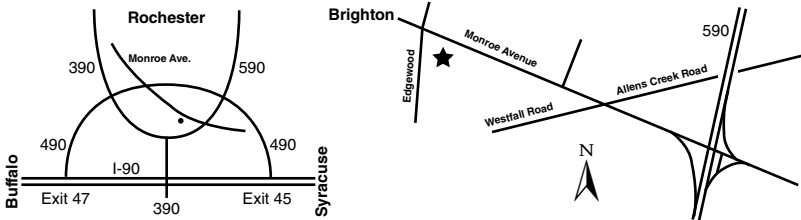
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Oswego Postmaster Ron LaRose and Oswego Rotary Club member Robert H. Wood, background, show three different covers available February 23 as pictorial cancellation collectors' pieces. They commemorated Rotary International's centennial. Oswego and Oswego Sunrise Rotary club members staffed a table at the Oswego Post Office to sell the covers at \$2 each. Proceeds went toward the clubs' commitment to their joint Oswego Library project. Similar covers were issued in Fulton. See pages 44 and 47.

Photo by Harrison Wilde, Oswego Palladium-Times



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Three-dimensional objets d'arte created by participants at STAMP CAMP USA.

Stamp Camp USA Program Featured at ROPEX 2005

By Cheryl Edgcomb

STAMP CAMP USA will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 11 at ROPEX, Events Coordinator Thomas M. Fortunato has announced. Geared for children in grades three through eight, STAMP CAMP USA is a collaborative educational program that boosts children's learning skills and knowledge through the use of worldwide stamps.

Using an incentive tool — *Stamp Camp Cash* — participants have a variety of opportunities to earn camp dollars, which they later spend to purchase prizes at the end-of-camp auction. Campers begin their hands-on philatelic adventure by learning stamp collecting basics, including the proper care of a stamp collection and the use of standard hobby tools. After they have been exposed to the basics, a variety of interactive project activities reinforce the learning process. Stamp cataloging is explained, and selected activity sheets help reinforce life skills applications.

Throughout the day, campers choose favorite topics from among the large assortment of worldwide stamps, and these stamps are then used to create three-dimensional stamp exhibits, as well as the more traditional $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ -inch competitive page formats. Upon completion of each activity, more stamp cash is earned, and the day's event is concluded with prizewinners from exhibit competitions being announced at a closing awards ceremony.

Postage stamps, with their colorful images and fascinating subjects have been a source of hobby pleasure for many generations. There is something to interest everyone in the world of stamps, and they provide a stimulus for exciting discussion and an opportunity to compete with other campers in a way that is not only educational, but fun. Stamp collecting truly is a hobby that can last a lifetime.

The STAMP CAMP USA program operates as a not for profit organization in Pennsylvania, and has filed for a 501(c)(3) tax exemption. The program began 10 years ago as an after school summer program for students in the Northern Tioga School District in northern

Continued on Page 38

Photo by Cheryl Edgcomb

Visit These Fine Dealers at ROPEX '05

1840-1950 MOSTLY STAMPS (formerly Hampshire Stamps)

TABLE 11: U.S., British Empire and worldwide — stamps, covers, and lots

P.O. Box 423, Milford, NH 03055-0423; (603) 673-7180, hstamps@jlc.net

TOM BARON STAMP CO. — TABLE 12: U.S. & foreign postal history, FDCs, and naval covers

Always buying; P.O. Box 1339, Long Beach, NY 11561-1339; (516) 763-9205, tomcovers@aol.com

BRITANNIA ENTERPRISES — TABLE 6: Worldwide covers, cinderellas, and ephemera

P.O. Box 2114, Orleans, MA 02653; (508) 240-0799, meadbritannia@aol.com

DRAGON CARDS — CACHET MAKERS' BOURSE TABLE D: Unusual U.S. first day cover cards since 1983;

P.O. Box 561, Paramus, NJ 07653-0561; (201) 251-4235, dragoncards@pobox.com

FRIEDMAN'S COVER CORNER — TABLE 17: Worldwide covers & postal history, flights, U.S. patriotics, mint stationery;

P.O. Box 300459, Arlington, TX 76007-0459; (817) 467-1841, covercnr@eaze.net

AL GRECO STAMPS — TABLE 21: U.S. and worldwide stamps, covers, and postcards

1190 Nolan Road, Macedon, NY 14502; (315) 986-7948, agreco@agopen.com

HOMESPUN CACHETS — CACHET MAKERS' BOURSE TABLE B: U.S. FDCs

P.O. Box 49376, Algood, TN 38506-0376; (931) 537-6970, homespun@multiopro.com

JUNCTION CACHETS BY LONEGOAT — CACHET MAKERS' BOURSE TABLE C: U.S. FDCs, event covers, pictorial cancels;

P.O. Box 185, Bel Air, MD 21014 (410)588-5972, lonegoatjunction@msn.com

JOHN J. NUNES — TABLE 26: U.S. and worldwide covers, and ephemera

80 Fredericks Road, Scotia, NY 12302; (518) 399-8395, nunesnook@aol.com

PACK-RAT COVERS, JIM SMITH — TABLE 22: U.S. covers — military, naval, topicals, FDCs, 25-cent boxes;

P.O. Box 512, Oshtemo, MI 49077-0512; (269) 375-6188

PHANTOM STAMPS, COINS & SUPPLIES — TABLE 20: U.S. & worldwide stamps, covers, topicals, and supplies;

P.O. Box 395, Manchester, NY 14504; (585) 289-9365, sawyer2pid@juno.com

J. REEVES & Co. — TABLE 19: U.S. covers — military, naval, topicals, FDCs, and 25-cent boxes;

P.O. Box 407, Huntingdon, PA 16652; (814) 643-5427, jreevesandcompany@hotmail.com

LES ROSEN DOLLAR COVERS — TABLE DD1: U.S. and worldwide FDCs, stamps

7724 Matchwood Lane, Liverpool, NY 13090; (315) 652-9635, fdcsrfun@aol.com

RPA 10 CENT STAMPS — TABLE 4: Worldwide stamps at 10 cents each

Rochester Philatelic Association, P.O. Box 10296, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206

ROBERT C. SWED — TABLE 10: U.S. used stamps and covers and classic FDCs

1204 Elderon Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808; (302) 994-6086

MARK SZUBA — TABLE 18: U.S. and worldwide stamps, postcards, lots

P.O. Box 3532, Syracuse, NY 13220-3532; (315) 345-4115, Merristamp@aol.com

DOUGLAS WEISZ U.S. COVERS — TABLE 15: FDCs, naval, flights, events, postal history, and stationery;

(773) 914-4332, weiszcovers@ameritech.net

WHIT'S COVERS — TABLE 1: U.S. First Day Covers (post 1925), postal history, events, etc.

34 Red Cedar Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482; (802) 985-8519, whits@sover.net

June 10–12 at Webster Community Field House, Webster, NY

Famous Americans on U.S. Stamps Quiz

By Terrill S. Miller

1. This educator helped open a school for the deaf in Hartford, CT, in 1816. His son founded the College for the Deaf in Washington, DC, bearing his name.
2. This Republican Senator from Illinois helped Congress pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 under a Democratic president.
3. An actor known for short answers, he starred in more than 80 films, including *Farewell to Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.
4. Born in Illinois, he wrote both of the novels named in Question 3.
5. A lifelong humanitarian, he founded the Colony of Georgia for debtors.
6. In 1860, this newspaperman bought the struggling New York Times, whose motto is *All The News That's Fit to Print*.
7. In 1846, this adventurer went west along the Oregon and Santa Fe trails. His writings *Along the Oregon Trail* are famous today.
8. A honky-tonk musician, he wrote some of America's best ragtime pieces, including *Maple Leaf Rag* and *Sugar Cane Rag*.
9. This world-renowned sculptor is most famous for the marble statue in Washington's Lincoln Memorial.
10. Though born in California, this poet is known as a New England poet. Winner of four Pulitzer prizes, he read a poem at Kennedy's inauguration in 1961.
11. A successful Pittsburgh banker, he was Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Harding and Coolidge.
12. Known as the *Red Fox of Kinderhook*, this president had the misfortune of the Panic of 1837 during his term.
13. A Connecticut Yankee, he published the "Dictionary of the English Language" in 1828.
14. A crusader for progressive government, this Kansas newspaperman was known as the "Sage of Emporia," where he was born and died.
15. A radical Civil War-era poet little known in his day, he is most remembered for his *Leaves of Grass*.
16. An Ohio senator and Civil War general, this president was killed in 1881 by a crazed office seeker.
17. A vaudeville performer with the Ziegfeld Follies and later in movies, he is most remembered for hating dogs and children.
18. The son of a Lithuanian rabbi, he was the first president of Yeshiva University in 1915.
19. When the British burned Washington in 1814, it is said she fled with George Washington's portrait.
20. This prospector discovered a rich vein of silver in Nevada in 1859, this lode named for him is still known today.
21. A Swedish-born inventor, his revolving turret helped the *Monitor* fight the *Virginia* to a draw in 1862.

Continued on Page 49

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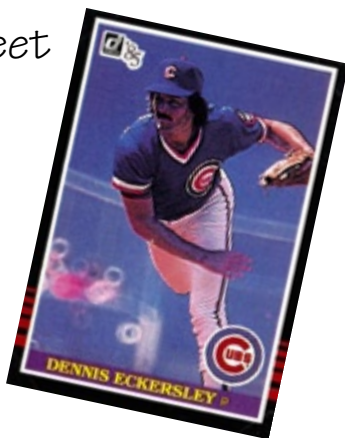
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Appraisals by appointment

Museum Exhibit Recalls Harriet Nichols

By Alan Parsons

When a local historical society contacts a local stamp club for help with an exhibit, the club has a special opportunity to promote the hobby. This was the case in early February when Horseheads Historical Society contacted Elmira Stamp Club for help with its planned exhibit of an unusual stamp collection bequeathed to it in 1990 by longtime Horseheads resident and artist Harriet Nichols.

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

Paddy Bachman of the Historical Society posed the question: Was there anything club members could show having both stamp collecting and Horseheads connections? The answer was *yes*. The exhibit opened in mid February and closed April 23 at the museum in the former Pennsylvania Railroad depot on Broad Street in Horseheads. The main attraction was the Nichols collection, a feast for the eyes and a remarkable expression and combination of a collector's love of both art and stamps. As described by the Museum:

The collection features famous paintings, sculpture, folk art, and other artistic items on international stamps. Miss Nichols mounted each stamp on a separate page and framed it with her own delicate and original painted designs that complemented the beauty and theme of the subject. The collection consists of 1,000 pages, each page with only one stamp. 67 of the pages were included in the exhibit.

On two separate occasions the Elmira Club has shown portions of the collection at *STEPEX*, its annual show at the Arnot Mall, and plans to do so again this fall. Miss Nichols died Dec. 27, 1990 at the age of 95.

Under the heading *Sideline Collecting*, Elmira club members and others contributed cacheted first day and other commemorative covers (Horseheads was one of 15 first day sites for the 1929 Sullivan commemorative), a display of U.S. postal cards and slogan postage meters, and selections of Horseheads postal history.

When the Horseheads Post Office first opened, in 1826, it was located in Tioga County and the name was often styled as two words — *Horse Heads*. The exhibit included a manuscript town mark, Horse Heads, NY, on an 1830 folded letter sheet addressed to Middletown, Connecticut.



Detail of Sassoperreto's "Madonna at Prayer."

Photos by Alan Parsons

NAME CHANGES

Chemung County, where Horseheads is located, was formed out of Tioga County March 29, 1836. Less than a year later, on Jan. 28, 1837, Horseheads changed its name to Fairport since it was an important junction on the busy Chemung Canal connecting Seneca Lake and the Erie Canal to Elmira and Corning. Fairport used both manuscript and handstamp town marks during its 13 years of existence. The exhibit included examples of both: a manuscript town mark on a postmaster free franked folded letter sheet dated May 8, 1838 and a blue handstamped town mark on a folded letter sheet datelined February 10, 1848 and rated “5” by another blue handstamp.

When Fairport reverted to Horseheads January 15, 1853, the post office took it in stride and quickly began using handstamps for both town marks and rate marks on outgoing mail. An unusual 3-cent rate marking, illustrated in Bernadt’s *Postal Markings of New York State, 1792–1856* and described as “PAID in vertical arc to left of 3 in 13x16mm truncated rectangle” was used by Horseheads during the period 1853–1856, and a blue example of this was shown on a folded letter sheet dated March 25, 1853.

Other Horseheads postal history items in the exhibit included patriotic covers from the Civil and Spanish-American wars, advertising covers from the 19th and early 20th centuries, a war-rate cover from November 1917, and an example of the horse head fancy cancel used on registered mail in the 1930s. Through inquiries Paddy Bachman was able to establish the street location of the businesses identified on the advertising covers with an address given only as “Horseheads, NY,” and included this information in the exhibit descriptions along with pertinent information about the owners of the businesses.



Artifacts from the John Street post office.

Photographs and articles about past and present Horseheads postal facilities

and postmasters were prominently displayed, together with a listing of names and years in office of all Horseheads postmasters from 1826 to the present. Canceling devices and other artifacts from former Horseheads post offices were shown as well.

Included in the post office part of the exhibit was a display of cartoons and articles by Horseheads resident Eugene Zimmerman, a world-renowned artist/cartoonist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Entitled *Zim and the Horseheads Post Office*, the display made it clear that Zim poked fun at the post office along with other institutions of his time.

Other features of the exhibit included a large selection of post cards showing Horseheads scenes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a display of valentines, pages from *Mad’s Talking Stamps*, and two of the scrapbooks kept by Harriet Nichols.



NEWCOMERS' CORNER

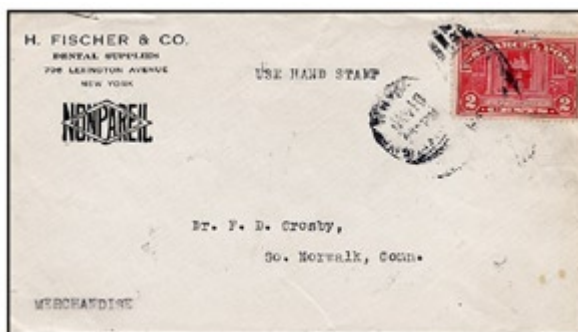
Essential information for newer collectors

THE ORIGINS OF PARCEL POST SERVICE

By Heather Sweeting

Parcel post is used today as a term for sending packages through the mail.

Parcel post delivery was established for international packages in 1878 by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). In the late 1800s many rural U.S. mail customers had to travel to the nearest train depot or city post office in order to receive their packages. Those who couldn't travel to retrieve the packages often hired other delivery services to pick up and make deliveries.



Correct parcel post stamp usage — The cover is marked merchandise and appears to be dated Jan. 10, 1913.

Customers in remote small town areas began to clamor for package delivery, especially after establishment of rural free delivery in 1896. Parcel post service was established on Jan. 1, 1913. Its success led to an immediate development of numerous mail order businesses in tobacco, books, food items, etc. Packages were considered to be 4th class mail. Packages weighing more than four ounces paid a set rate per pound.

Parcel post stamps were a short-lived phenomenon. A dozen different parcel post stamps were issued, as well as five parcel post due stamps. Values of the parcel stamps were one, two, three, four, five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, cents and \$1, printed in red. The postage due stamps were issued in one, two, five, 10, and 25 cent values, and were green. Only one printing of these stamps, which were unpopular with the public, was made.

According to the Scott catalog, the 20 cent parcel post stamp holds the distinction of being the first stamp in any country to depict an airplane. They are also among the earliest U. S. stamps to be engraved from photographic designs

The Postmaster General directed that regular stamps could be used on packages after July 1, 1913. Post offices were directed to use up their remaining supplies on any type of mail. A collector can search a little and find parcel post stamps on letters and post cards after this point, but can you find one used on an actual package mailed between January and June 1913?

Illustration Courtesy of the Swanson Group

STEPEX EXHIBITOR INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORM AVAILABLE

Whether you are a first-time or experienced exhibitor, traditionalist, topicalist, postal historian, first day cover enthusiast, revenueur, aerophilatelist, etc., *STEPEX* welcomes all.

Elmira Stamp Club will conduct its 30th annual show on Oct. 21 and 22 at its usual location — the Arnot Mall, exit 51 off I-86 (formerly Rt. 17) in Horseheads.

It is never too early to start planning an exhibit and reserving frames. The exhibitors information sheet and entry form is available from Show Chair Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, phone 607-732-0181 or 607-734-2271, e-mail alatholleyrd@aol.com. *STEPEX* exhibit frames hold 16 vertical album pages from $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ to $9 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Fees of \$4 per frame are waived for Elmira Stamp Club members and junior exhibitors.

Gold, silver and bronze awards will be made for both adult and junior exhibits based on point scores from a jury of Federation-accredited judges. In addition, there will be awards in specialized categories such as New York postal history (ESPHS awards) and first day covers (AFDCS awards) if criteria are met.

Last but not least, *STEPEX* has an award for the most popular exhibit based on balloting by show visitors. The stated purpose of the show is to bring stamp collecting to the general public through exhibits by, and contacts with, collectors and dealers and often those contacts bring forth interesting comments on the ballots cast for the most popular exhibit.

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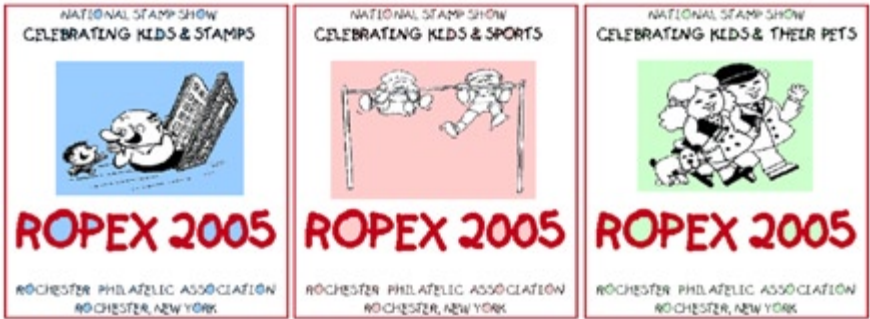
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Previewing Ropex 2005

By Joe Doles

Rochester Philatelic Association's annual *ROPEX 2005* will be June 10 to 12 at the Webster Community Field House, 800 Five Mile Line Road, Webster. The show is an American Philatelic Society *World Series of Philately* event. Hours are Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Theme of the show is *Celebrating Youth*, with the show covers reflecting this: *Kids and Stamps* is the first day's theme, *Kids and Sports* the second, and *Kids and Their Pets* the third.

By mid April 27 dealers, four cachet makers, the United States Postal Service, and the United Nations Postal Administration were committed to the show.

EXHIBITS

Each 16-page frame is \$8 for multi-frames or \$15 for a single frame. Youth under age 21 are charged \$5 per frame. *ROPEX* is the last *Champion of Champions* qualifier of the season before *STAMPSHOW 2005* in Grand Rapids, MI, on Aug. 4 to 7. Ada Prill is exhibits manager. She may be contacted by phone at 585-328-2438, by mail at *ROPEX* Exhibits, 130 Trafalgar St, Rochester, NY 14619-1224, or e-mail at april@rochester.rr.com.

Judges are Chief Judge Stephen S. Washburne, Philadelphia, PA; Thomas F. Allen, Cleveland, OH, Ken Martin, State College, PA; Greg Pope, Austin, TX, and Dominick Riccio, New York City.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On Friday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. stamp dealers not reserving tables for the show or collectors may enter the show's early *Bird* bourse for \$20.

A Cachet Makers' Bourse will be Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. Four dealers — Dragon Cards, Homespun Cachets, Junction Cachets by Lonegoat, and OH-TN Covers — have signed up.

Continued on Page 48

Visit the UNPA booth at ROPEX to obtain
the latest United Nations products



Call toll-free: 1-800-234-UNPA (9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday).
You may also fax your order to: 1-212-963-9854; or e-mail: unpa@un.org

UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, NY 10017 <http://unstamps.un.org>



ADIRONDACK STAMP, POST CARD & EPHEMERA CLUB

Meets at 7:30 p.m. first and third Fridays at Glens Falls National Bank Community Room, South Street
Directions — Call Joe Kopczak before 9 p.m. at 518-761-0020

SHERLOCK HOLMES ON STAMPS

A long-time devotee of *the greatest man who never lived*, club president William R. Hanson has designed several thousand postage stamps, including a number of issues honoring Sherlock Holmes, and has contributed to the literature on the subject.

At the May 6 meeting, he will offer a rare opportunity to view scarce proofs, unique original postage stamp art, and his collection of stamps first day covers, post cards, special cachets and cancellations, autographs, and Holmes ephemera. This includes his Sherlock Holmes cachet for the 2004 first day of issue of the 37-cent rose stamp. The covers will be on sale for \$10 each at the meeting or may be ordered postpaid from: Dr. William R. Hanson, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801. A few examples of the April 2003 cacheted covers with the Glens Falls “Doc Hanson Station” pictorial cancellation are available as well.



Those attending the meeting are invited to bring any of Dr. Hanson’s stamp designs or magazine articles or material related to Apollo 16 for signing. Signatures for collectors are always free.

Among many other articles, Dr. Hanson has had two on Sherlock Holmes appear in the *American Philatelist*: “The Adventure of the Detective Stamp” in October 2000, which is a survey article on Holmes stamps from the point of view of a stamp designer; and “Sherlock Holmes and the Hawaiian Treasure” in July 2001. A limited number of the latter *American Philatelist* will be available at the issue price of \$3.95.

In 1972, Dr. Hanson had the distinction of being the only artist whose paintings were approved by NASA to be flown to the surface of the Moon, hence the title *Lunar Artist—Apollo 16*. Due to his experience in the space program many of his stamp design commissions were space related, including being the official artist for the Halley’s Comet project. He was the first artist commissioned for all three of the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific as they became postally independent: Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

More about Dr. Hanson may be found at WWW.TRUSSEL.COM/DETFIC/HANSON1.HTM. Denny Dobry’s 221B Baker Street site offers a tour of his wonderful reconstruction of Holmes’ and Watson’s London sitting room — [HTTP://MYSITE.VERIZON.NET/VZE8FMW3/INDEX.HTML](http://MYSITE.VERIZON.NET/VZE8FMW3/INDEX.HTML).

Dominica souvenir sheet imperforate proof courtesy William R. Hanson

BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

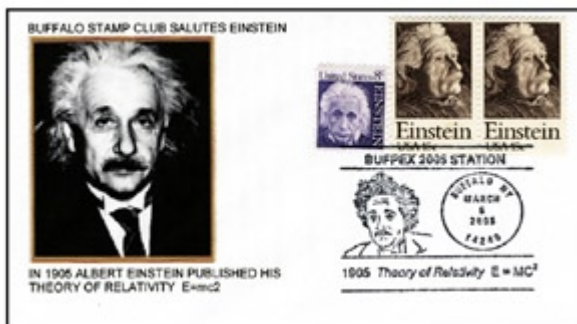
Meets twice monthly at 7:45 p.m. on Fridays
at VFW Leonard Post, Cheektowaga

Contact Al Carroccia — e-mail fuzzy9600@aol.com



BUFPEX 2005 A SUCCESS

BUFPEX 2005 is history. The club's annual show and bourse at the VFW Leonard Post on March 5 and 6 was a success. Twelve dealers and the U.S. Postal Service kept the steady stream of people busy, especially on Saturday. The show commemorated the centennial celebration of Einstein's *Theory of Relativity*



and a cover with a cachet and pictorial cancel was available throughout the show. Covers are available for \$1.50 plus SASE from Marge Schleining, 260 Tampa Drive, Buffalo, NY 14220.

Nine exhibitors entered 14 exhibits filling 40 frames of 16 pages each. Every exhibit received a ribbon. Judges were Walter Orton III, Alan Parsons, and Thomas M. Fortunato. *The United States Domestic Letter Rates 1825–1900*, a six-frame exhibit by Robert Meegan, won Best of Show award and Gold. The exhibit, through a myriad of postal history, surveys the diverse rates of the period. It also earned awards for Best Exhibit of Cancels and Usage of United States and Best United States. Best Foreign Exhibit went to *Poland 1960 Stamp Centenary* by Boris Politziner. He also earned the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor — Excellence in Presentation. Other awards were:

GOLD: Ann Triggler *Clarence, New York* and *Wales, New York* single-frame postal history surveys on those western New York towns, *British Slogans*, and topical exhibit *Fish*; Walter Orton III *Proofs of Proprietary Battleship* revenue; Marge Schleining *Women in History* that also earned the Most Popular Exhibit award, and Janet Klug *Elbert Hubbard*, which also earned the best Single Frame Award.



Marge and Don Schleining receive the Fred L. Koepp Memorial Trophy for service to the club from Bob Meegan, left, and Walter Orton III.

Continued on Page 41

Photo by Alan Parsons



CENTRAL NEW YORK FIRST DAY COVER SOCIETY

AFDCS Chapter 53

Contact John A. Cali, 613 W. 4th St., Fulton, NY 13069
e-mail rocket@dreamscape.com



FDC GROUP MEETING DURING ROPEX

The Chapter 53 First Day Cover Society group will meet at *ROPEX* on Saturday June 11 between noon and 1:30 pm. Meeting location will likely be in one of the *ROPEX* conference rooms. Check the *ROPEX* Web site (www.geocities.com/rpastamps/ropex.html) for the exact location closer to the event.

ROPEX is sponsoring a cachet maker's bourse following the meeting from 2 to 6 p.m.

FAMOUS NEW YORK FIRST DAYS

In 1779 General John Sullivan was selected by George Washington to lead a strategic campaign against the Iroquois nation. It was hoped that by destroying the Iroquois, an ally of the Loyalists, the British force would become significantly weaker. The Sullivan–Clinton Campaign was one of the most significant military undertakings of the Revolutionary War.

Sullivan led 4,500 men from the Easton, Pennsylvania area up the Susquehanna River Valley. General

James Clinton advanced from the Mohawk River Valley and would link up with Sullivan's forces in Tioga.

Washington told Sullivan not to accept any offer of peace before “the total ruin” of the Iroquois settlements and crops. More fascinating details of the Sullivan–Clinton campaign may be found at <http://sullivanclinton.com>.

15 NEW YORK FDCs

The Sullivan stamp was issued on June 17, 1929, the 150th anniversary of the campaign. First Day covers are available from Washington DC, and 15 different New York towns along the route of the campaign; Auburn, Binghamton, Canajoharie, Canandaigua, Elmira, Geneseo, Geneva, Horseheads, Owego, Penn Yan, Perry, Seneca Falls, Waterloo, Watkins Glen, and Waverly.



CHENANGO VALLEY STAMP CLUB

Contact Albert Guenzburger, Vice President
P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780
607•895•6531 — e-mail aguenz@mkl.com



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAMILTON — PART II

By Braden Houston

Having become a trading center for an extensive farming area, the hamlet was incorporated as the Village of Hamilton in 1816, and named for Alexander Hamilton, Washington's Secretary of the Treasury. The Chenango Canal, begun in 1833 and completed in 1837, put Hamilton on the water route between the Erie Canal at Utica and the Susquehanna River at Binghamton.

The project brought to the village large numbers of Irish laborers who lived in a shantytown on Canal Street (now Maple Avenue) known as New Dublin. These laborers dug the canal bed (using the soil to fill in the village park, then a marshy area) and constructed six area reservoirs. One of these reservoirs converted a great swamp just north of the village into Lake Moraine, now a local water recreation area.

The canal toll office was located at the corner of Utica and Montgomery Streets. Hamilton's canal was primarily a freight highway hauling lumber, coal and grain. Horses and mules pulled the boats along the canal towpath, however, it was never able to compete with the faster stage lines, and thus was never self-sustaining.

The Chenango Canal ceased operations in 1878. Railroad transportation became available in September 1870 when the first passenger train of the Utica, Clinton & Binghamton Railroad passed through the village on its way north. However, the line, which had been leased to the New York Ontario & Western Railroad met the same fate as the canal. Unable to compete with improved highway transportation, the NYO&W became the first Class I railroad in the United States to fully abandon service in 1957.



The New York Ontario & Western Railway's Oswego & Norwich RPO went through Hamilton. A post office was established in Hamilton around 1824, with much of the mail being handled by the railroad for nearly 80 years.

To Be Continued



DANSVILLE AREA COIN & STAMP CLUB

P.O. Box 574, Dansville, NY 14437-0574

Ed Perry, President — David Wilkinson, Vice President
Susan Edwards, Secretary & Editor — Gerald Freeman, Jr., Treasurer
Contact Susan Edwards — e-mail see10@frontiernet.net

LEARNING ABOUT THE FUN IN FDCS

The club was to be treated at its April meeting to an innovative program on first day covers by Rick Kase of Rochester, secretary/treasurer of the Central New York First Day Cover Society.

Anybody who thinks stamp collecting is boring and takes a lot of money hasn't met Rick, who believes that hobbies should be fun, and lives his belief. One of his specialties is *esoteric* first day covers. Most people go to a ceremony honoring the issuing of a new stamp and put the stamp on an envelope to have it canceled. Not Rick, who he looks for unusual three-dimensional items to decorate with the new stamp and the *first day of issue* cancellation.

His imagination misses no tie-in. When a stamp was issued honoring poet Dorothy Parker, Rick canceled an old pair of glasses. Why? Because Dorothy Parker wrote the famous lines, "Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses!" When the U.S. Postal Service honored Gen. Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, Rick was on hand to cancel a bottle of vinegar.

HELPING TROUBLED YOUTHS

We received a letter from the Utica Stamp Club about Sister Jane Margaret, who recently celebrated her 84th birthday. She devotes much of her time to teach troubled youths and teaches them about stamp collecting. They were requesting donations for her to buy materials to help these youths. We sent her \$20 and in return received a very nice thank you letter.

We had a very good turn out for our March meeting, we had 23 members present. We went over our assets and expenses, most of which were to go towards the April Coin-O-Rama.

ROPEX Featuring Stamp Camp USA — Continued from Page 22

Pennsylvania, and has expanded through a Pennsylvania Pilot program to include all areas from within the state. The program presently functions as a joint collaborative between the U.S. Postal Service, the American Philatelic Society, and communities-at-large. The program anticipates a nation-wide expansion to be effected once the pilot phases have been completed.

Advance registration is required for participation and questions may be referred to the *STAMP CAMP USA* field office at 149 East Main Street, P O Box 377, Knoxville, PA 16928-0377, by calling 814-326-0810, or by e-mail at stampcampusa@intergate.com. Deadline for registration is June 6, 2005. The \$25 registration fee includes more than \$50 in supplies and instruction.

Cheryl Edgcomb is Stamp Camp USA Program Coordinator.

ELMIRA STAMP CLUB

Meets at Bath National Bank Community Room, North Main and First streets, Elmira (use rear entrance). Doors open at 7 p.m., meeting at 8. Stamp circuit available.

Contact Alan Parsons — e-mail alatholleyrd@aol.com



ONE-PAGE EXHIBITS COMING IN MAY

In addition to an auction, our May meeting again will feature one-page exhibits by club members. It's an opportunity to display some unusual or interesting items from your collection, and talk briefly about them. The pages are hung on a line for easy viewing. There will be no judging or grading, just an opportunity to share your *prizes* with others.

STPEX AND OCTAGON FAIR PARTICIPATION PLANNED

The club again has been invited to participate in the annual Elmira College Octagon Fair on Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is an excellent outreach opportunity. Coordinator Judy Stewart is seeking volunteers to assist her. She is usually at club meetings but can be contacted by phone at 607-732-7075 or e-mail at marjuretired@aol.com.

Final arrangements have been made for our 30th annual *STPEX* stamp show at Arnot Mall on Oct. 21 and 22. Our Super Auction will be held on Oct. 22 at *STPEX* instead of at the November club meeting. Show cards are now available at club meetings for distribution by members. *STPEX* exhibitor information and entry forms also can be picked up at the meetings.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Christopher Didas of Hornell, who collects U.S., Canada, and Germany; Kevin Bahr of Pine City, U.S. and space stamps, and Marge Schleining of Buffalo, a dedicated topical collector and long-time exhibitor at *STPEX*.

PROGRAMS

May 17 — One-page exhibits and auction

June 21 — Slide program Nursing: *A Distinguished History on Postage Stamps*

MEETING NOTES

FEBRUARY — 19 attended. We voted to second nominations for APS 2005 election candidates and announcements were made regarding *STPEX 2005* as well as a stamp-related exhibit by the Horseheads Historical Society opening at its museum (see page 26). Fred Dykins urged the club to take the initiative in preserving a large plaque listing former Elmira postmasters now hanging in a vacated building. The meeting concluded with President Mike Breed showing the APS slide show *By the Seat of Their Pants: The Early Years of the Air Mail Service*.

Continued on Page 45



**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

www.esphs.org
Membership information —
John A. Lange, Jr.
373 Root Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

LABEL OFFERS THE 'STRAIT' TRUTH

By Joseph T. Rowbottom III

Postal history is generally thought of as stampless covers, folded letters, envelopes, and other covers collected for their markings showing the movement of the item through the mail. There are other types of items that are also collected as postal history, such as wrappers, mailing tags, and mailing labels. As the years go on, I seem to be attracted more and more to items that in addition to adhering to postal history principles are also humorous.



A mailing label, whose origin was the Industrial Department of Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, NY, lists the package contents as *strait jackets*. It seems that Sing Sing was making strait jackets as one of its manufactured products. I bet they made a pretty good one, having the research and development facility right on site.

The label is addressed to Twin Elms on West Onondaga Street in Syracuse in care of Eugene N. Boudreau, MD. Twin Elms was a psychiatric hospital in the 1930s. It later became the Benjamin Rush Center. Dr. Boudreau was a well-respected psychiatrist of the time and was the Medical Director at Twin Elms.

To me the most enjoyable thing about collecting postal history is the detective game that ensues after the acquisition of an item in attempting to glean as much information as possible from the cover. I knew none of this before I bought this label and now I do. I guess that's better than synapses dying from disuse as we get older.

FINGER LAKES STAMP CLUB

Meetings at Geneva

Les Morse, President — Dave Himes, Vice President
Gary Chicoine, Treasurer — James Darnell, Secretary
Contact 136 Lock St., Clyde, NY 14433
315•923•7355 — e-mail jdarnell@novocon.net



SILENT AUCTIONS PROVING POPULAR

Our newly instituted silent auctions have become very popular, with growing member participation and increased offerings each time. These, combined with cash door prizes which increase \$5 each time the member whose name is drawn is not present, has helped steadily increase our average attendance.

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome a new member, Judy Luce, of Geneva who joined us in March.

STAMP GRADING WORKSHOP

On March 23, our members participated in a workshop, *The Grading of Stamps* led by fellow member and former club secretary, Bob LaBelle, of Baldwinsville. With a hands-on approach, using several sets of stamps and magnifiers, we learned how to examine the various stamp characteristics and about the criteria to use in assessing a stamp's quality and subsequent value. Members found it very educational and useful.

HENRY FONDA FDCs OFFERED

We will be offering first-day-issue cachets for the soon to be released Henry Fonda commemorative stamp, which will be available in June. The cachet can be ordered by sending \$2 per cachet and a #10 SASE to Gil Lewis, 502 Rt. 88 S., Newark, NY 14513.

PROGRAMS

- May 11 — *Kiloware Scramble Part II*
- May 25 — Dish-to-pass supper
- June 8 — Guest speaker TBA and silent auction
- June 22 — Annual picnic and *Anything Auction*

BUFPEX — Continued from Page 35

SILVER: Ray Stone *13.2 Cent Coal Car*, Boris Politziner *Poland 1960 Stamp Centenary*, Janet Klug's *Collecting Australian Military Mail* and *Treasures from the Trash Can*, and Theresa Meegan *Foxes on Stamps*.

BRONZE: Fred Laufer *Legends of the West*.

All in all it was a fun-filled weekend. Many, many thanks to those members who volunteered to set up frames, man the club table and tear down after the show. See you next year!



FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB

P.O. Box 5475
Albany, NY 12205-0475

Don VanHoesen, President — George McGowan, First Vice President
Rick Harringer, Second Vice President — Ray Coco, Treasurer
Maris Tirums, Secretary — e-mail mxtirums@hotmail.com

LANGE PRESENTS STAMPLESS PROGRAM

For our second February meeting we had the good fortune to have John Lange speak on *Stampless Covers of Saratoga County*. John began this collection in 1965 and organizes alphabetically by town. He has a vast knowledge of postal history, rates and rate changes, and cancels of the stampless period.

We were treated to manuscript, straight line, oval, and circle examples. If that wasn't enough, John also spoke of the routes that the mail actually traveled. The stampless period came to an end in 1855 when all mail had to be prepaid, proof of which, was an adhesive stamp.

MIXING MEDICINE AND PHILATELY

Our first March meeting was canceled because of snow, but our second meeting's speaker more than made up for the loss.

Dr. Joseph Y. Rudnick presented a wonderful and informative program on *Medicine and Philately*, with a local twist. He mixed medical history and philatelic history in just the right prescription to keep the audience entertained and informed for the entire meeting. One of his themes was the origin of the Red Cross, and featured here is Scott #367 of St. Pierre & Miquelon, on FDC issued Sept. 2, 1963 commemorating the Centenary of the Red Cross.



BANQUET APPROACHING

It won't be long and the end of the year banquet will be upon us, so members are asked to contact Vicky Miller if they will be attending.

PROGRAMS

- May 10 — *Cape Triangles* by Guy Dillaway
- May 24 — Spring banquet

FT. STANWIX STAMP CLUB, INC.

Incorporating Community Stamp Club

Steven Stawiarz, President — Joseph Occhipinti, Vice President

Lavinia Tilton, Treasurer — Joe Christofaro, Secretary

e-mail jchrist6@twcny.rr.com



COMMUNITY STAMP CLUB WELCOMED

It is with sadness and a sense of loss, yet with open arms, that we welcome Oneida Community Stamp Club into our ranks. Ernest Lewis, Community's treasurer, delivered its library to Fort Stanwix. Items we cannot use or house, along with Community's minutes and historical papers, will be donated to the *FEDERATION* library. The five remaining Community members will officially be voted into membership at our May 12 meeting.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Following tradition, the first June meeting will be June 12 at the Christofaro home, 201 Maple St., Rome. We invite all readers to our annual picnic, a chance to get together and just have fun. We are joined by members' families and friends and guests from other clubs. The Christofaros provide meat, coffee, and soda; members bring side dishes to pass. The only business is installation of new officers and selecting APS and ATA program topics for the coming year.

WHO IS ILL AND WHO IS HEALTHY?

Vinnie Tilton is still recovering ... doctor says she can now drive 10 miles to any destination of her choice. She has been seen driving to the intersection of Routes 5 and 69, stopping a bit (at a stop sign!), then driving to the intersection of Routes 69 and 20 ... again stopping for a bit for similar reasons, and then driving to Hamilton. What a gal. She can follow directions to a "T" and still obey her doctor's orders!

Joe Christofaro visited the doctor in mid April. He was having severe joint problems and his doctor recently characterized his right knee x-ray as a *nightmare*...and that's his good knee!

Judy Routson continues to fight her joint problems; Joe Occhipinti has been working hard on his cholesterol; and Phil Brown has overcome any physical issues and continues to travel with his beautiful wife, Angie.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Al Starkweather for a most successful *STAMP INSIDER* year — unarguably the best year for the publication ever. We know he and the publication will be a top award getter in this year's APS Chapter Activities Committee newsletter competition. Our congratulations also go to Heather Sweeting for her invaluable assistance on the *STAMP INSIDER*, which, without her background work and her written contributions, would not be what it is. Our congratulations go as well to John J. Nunes, our president, who has blistered his way through a very difficult and changing year for our organization.



FULTON STAMP CLUB

P.O. Box 401 — Fulton, NY 13069

Tom Schneider, President — Lori Orr, Interim Vice President
John A. Cali, Secretary — Penny Schneider, Treasurer

CLUB COORDINATES COVER WITH ROTARY

The club coordinated a cover project with the Fulton and Fulton Sunrise Rotary clubs for Rotary International's centenary on Feb. 23. A pictorial cancel was applied.

Covers were franked with the 37-cent birthday adhesive. Some also had the eight-cent 1955 Rotary 50th anniversary stamp added. The dual franking provided a sense of the past and present efforts. Aspects of the cancel used the same concept. The older health, hunger, and humanity graphic was used in 1980 with the remainder echoing the centennial theme. The Fulton Stamp Club plans on other similar projects to promote the group's profile in the community.



A NEW VICE PRESIDENT AND A NEW MEMBER

Member Lori Orr has accepted the vice president's position recently vacated by Norman Merrill. We are sure she will do a great job. We also welcome Carol Barton into membership. She brings much knowledge to the club and will be looked to for her expertise in computers as it relates to stamps.

Postmark and Cancel Marking Echotaps Event

A pictorial cancel and cacheted cover will honor *Echotaps* on May 21, in Steuben and Chemung counties, according to Donna Woodcock, Campbell, NY, postmaster.

The event involves 600 to 800 buglers/brass players lining the 41 miles between Bath National Cemetery and Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira playing *Taps* down the line from one end to the other. The line will go through Campbell along the street where Donna's post office is located. Send requests with a SASE for the cancel only as well as orders at \$1 each for cacheted #6 covers with the cancel to Postmaster, 8753 Main St., Campbell, NY 14821.



LEATHERSTOCKING STAMP CLUB

Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday at 28 Pioneer Street

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



MARCH PROGRAM POSTPONED TO JUNE

Due to a snow storm, the club did not meet on March 1. Albert Keck's program for that evening — *Return To Sender* — will be presented at the June meeting.

OFFICERS REELECTED

All officers were reelected on Feb. 1 to serve in 2005. A \$100 gift was presented to the Tillapaughs for use of their home for monthly club meetings. The gift was returned to the club's treasury. Martin Tillapaugh, in recognition of the importance of stamp collecting in the lives of George and Marjorie Tillapaugh, conveyed his pleasure in continuing to host the club at the Tillapaugh Funeral Home.

At the February meeting Bill Samuelson presented *Poland: German Occupation 1939–1944*. This was an informative presentation of covers, souvenir sheets, and used and mint material from that period.

PROGRAMS

- May 3 — APS slide show *Development of Postal History of East Germany*
- June 7 — Return to Sender by Albert Keck
- July 5 — TBA
- Aug. 2 — TBA
- Sept. 6 — TBA
- Oct. 4 — TBA
- Nov. 1 — *World War II Patriotic Covers* by Albert Keck

Elmira Stamp Club — Continued from Page 39

MARCH — 29 were at auction night, including Randy Smith, attending his first meeting since joining at *STEPEX* last fall; Randy had his son and daughter with him. Clayton Spangenberg did a show and tell with a 1947 *Elmira Star-Gazette* clipping regarding the club working with veterans at the Bath VA, and then told us how Forty Fort, PA got its name. We voted to second Wayne Youngblood's nomination for APS Secretary. Mike Breed and Don Dolan called an auction of 29 lots, selling 19 for a gross of \$40.75. There were no club lots so the club's *take* was its commission of \$4.25, but thanks to the purchaser who added \$2 to his winning bid as a contribution to the club.

If you haven't yet paid your 2005 dues (\$5 for adults, \$3 for juniors), please do so at the May meeting or by sending them to Harold vonHagn, 9 Cobbles W., Elmira, NY 14905.



OLEAN AREA STAMP CLUB

*Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday
at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 109 S. Barry St.*

*Ronald J. Yeager, President — Fred Printz, Vice President
Jack Searles, Secretary — Richard Heiser, Treasurer*

CLUB NEWSLETTER GETTING COLOR

The club met on March 7 and resolved an issue on publishing our newsletter in color. Although the original copy contains many colored items, it is always printed in black and white due to the expense of color photocopying. A motion was passed that at least three times per year we print two pages in color. The issues in which this will occur and the pages to be done in color will be at the discretion of the editor.

A small donation was made to Sister Jane Margaret, a member of the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club who does considerable work with youth. The money will be used to help her with supplies etc.

President Ronald J. Yeager reported on his attendance at the Olean Post Office where the Rotary Club had a celebration honoring their 100th Anniversary. They had a special commemorative cancel that was used to cancel mail on that day. The mayor attended and read a proclamation honoring the Rotary Club for its service to the community. Stamp club members Jack Searles and Robert Schaumleffel are also members of Olean Rotary Club.



The program was a presentation of one page exhibits made up entirely from stamps found in a big pile of worldwide stamps. The idea was to show that anyone can exhibit. This 20-minute exercise produced some interesting topics. The members judged the exhibits and points were awarded on what they felt were the best three exhibits. First place went to Carl Timme for *A Day at the Zoo*, Second place went to Richard Heiser for *Evolution*, and third prize went to Richard Sherman for *Modes of Transportation*.

The monthly auction sold 13 of the 19 lots. A club profit of \$3.35 was realized.

Congratulations to one of our newest members, Richard Zalewski, who celebrated his 50th anniversary on Jan. 15. He and his wife Donna have three children.

PROGRAMS

May 2 — Slide show: *A History of Hawaii*; refreshments by Richard Heiser

June 6 — Program by John J. Nunes TBA; refreshments by Richard Sherman

OSWEGO STAMP CLUB

*Meets at 6 p.m. the fourth Monday
at Faith United Church, 12 Fitzgibbons Drive*

*Leigh LeClair, President — Matt Roy, Vice President
John A. Cali, Secretary — Matt Roy, Treasurer*



CLUB AND ROTARY SHARE CENTENNIAL EVENT

The Oswego Stamp and Oswego and Oswego Sunrise Rotary clubs celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Rotary International organization with a pictorial cancellation on February 23.

Stamp club member and Rotarian Richard S. Shineman was instrumental in organizing and planning the event. Proceeds from sales of covers are going to Rotary's joint Oswego Library project. Covers are available for \$2 each plus SASE from Robert H. Wood, 10 County Rt. 45A, Apt. 406, Oswego, NY 13126.



There are three types of franking, all with the eight-cent Rotary 50th anniversary stamp from 1955. These are used in combination with the 37-cent 2004 U.S.S. Constellation, 2003 Wright brothers' centennial, and 2003 Old Glory. Other New York communities celebrating the centennial, included Fulton, Cobleskill, Farmingdale, Olean, and Williamsville.



SNOWBIRDS RETURNING FROM SOUTH

This month the club will welcome back its *snowbird* members from the south. In May the club will be creating a pictorial for the July Oswego County Fair in Sandy Creek, as well as planning its annual June picnic.

MAILBOX SURVIVES ... SO FAR!

Last but not least, for any of you who read the column in the last issue I am happy to say that it is now officially spring and hopefully open season on my mailbox is over. (Knock on metal ... current tally is 10 days without being hit by a snowplow!)

— Heather Sweeting



ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

<http://www.geocities.com/rpastamps>
Doors open at 7 p.m., meetings start at 7:30
e-mail jdoles@rochester.rr.com



Previewing *ROPEX 2005* — Continued from Page 32

The second annual “Breakfast at *ROPEX*” lecture will be Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. Join us for a complimentary continental breakfast and a presentation by Bob Lamb, APS Executive Director. RSVP by June 3 is recommended, as space is limited

JUST FOR KIDS

The *Youth Champion of Champions* exhibit competition has attracted approximately 20 exhibits. Youth grand champions from national level World Series of Philately exhibitions from across the U.S. and Canada are invited to compete to determine the “Champion of Champions.”

Stamp Camp USA will be conducted on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cheryl Edgcomb of Knoxville, PA, originator and manager of Stamp Camp USA, comes to Rochester with a fun six-hour class on stamp collecting basics for youngsters aged 8 to 14. Advance registration by June 6 is required for a maximum of 20 participants. The \$25 charge covers all materials. Lunch is included.

A *Youth 3-D Creative Exhibit Competition* is being conducted in conjunction with Stamp Camp USA. Youngsters ages 8-18 may participate in this unique combination of artwork and philatelic elements. See page 22 for more information about this competition and StampCamp USA.

More information on the show may be obtained by e-mail from Thomas M. Fortunato at stampmf@frontiernet.net or by visiting the *ROPEX* Web site, which is part of the RPA site, at WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/RPASTAMPS/ROPEX.HTML.

ROPEX SKIPPING 2006

ROPEX will not be held in 2006 because of conflicts with the World Philatelic Exhibition — Washington 2006, which will be held from May 27 to June 3.

RPA MEETING SCHEDULE

All programs are tentative.

- May 26 — *ROPEX* work night
- June 9 — Annual business meeting
- June 10–12 — *ROPEX* stamp show
- June 24 — Season End Strawberry Festival

SCHENECTADY STAMP CLUB

*Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday
at Union Presbyterian Church, 1068 Park Ave.*

*Michael Mellnick, President — Stephen E. Gray, Secretary
Dr. John J. Nunes, Treasurer — Ron Ratchford, Historian
Dr. Joseph Y. Rudnick, Librarian.*



JOINT MEETING SNOWED OUT

It has been that kind of winter. The joint meeting with the Fort Orange Stamp Club for March 8 featuring Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard, APS Historian, fell victim to a major snow storm.

The club held its second meeting of the year on April 4. The members very much enjoyed an album of airmail plate blocks displayed by Angelo Tommassone.

Prior to the meeting, a woman whose late father, C. F. Kirney, was one of the founders of the club showed us his cover collection. It consisted of FDCs from the 1930s, SSC banquet programs for 1935–1937, and early flight covers from the area and from earlier flight of the *Hindenburg*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For our May 2 meeting we will be taken on some *Philatelic Journeys* by Ron Richford who will depict in great detail his journeys to FDC locations and specific events for special postmarks.

Mark your calendars for the July 10 Tri-Club picnic and auction.

Famous Americans Quiz — Continued from Page 24

22. A reformer and abolitionist, she wrote the words to the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.
23. A distinguished diplomat and lawyer, he became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
24. This Ogallala Sioux chief led his warriors to wipe out Gen. George Custer at the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876.
25. The Union Army's best cavalryman, he stayed in the Army after the Civil War and became Commander of the Army after Sherman in 1884.
26. The first president of the Texas Republic, he was ousted as governor of the State of Texas for opposing secession.
27. The last of the Civil War presidents, he was president during the Spanish-American War in 1899.
28. This doctor who helped prove that mosquitoes carried yellow fever had the capital's medical center named for him.
29. Lincoln's Secretary of State from New York, he is best known for the Alaska Purchase of 1865.

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 55.

Terrill S. Miller is president of Uncle Sam Stamp Club.



SYRACUSE STAMP CLUB

Meets at 8 p.m. on the first and third Fridays
Correspondence to President Lynn Goodfellow
P.O. Box 3436, Syracuse, NY 13220
Columnist Daniel A. Piazza — dpiazza@twcny.rr.com.

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT OUR MEETINGS

Attendance at club meetings has averaged about 20–25 members so far this year, and the auctions have been lively with many excellent quality lots. Now that spring is here and the snow has melted, why not consider re-joining your old friends on meeting nights?

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

The club will host a spring open house with pizza and drinks on May 6 at 8 p.m. The evening will feature *FEDERATION* President John J. Nunes as guest speaker on the topic of *Revenue Stamps*. Members can assist by bringing some small exhibits for tabletop display and by spreading the word to prospective members.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- JEFF WELTON was unanimously voted in as a new member at the March 4 meeting.
- PAUL R. DAVIS had a witty letter to the editor published in the March 2005 issue of the *American Philatelist* concerning the misidentification of Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone stamps in a January *AP* article.
- JOHN DAVIS recently celebrated his 90th birthday.
- RICHARD NETZBAND sponsored DANIEL A. PIAZZA for membership in the APS.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

A chapter of the Sons of Philatelia, a national philatelic society designed to attract young collectors to the hobby, existed briefly at Syracuse during 1895 and 1896. This was probably the first organized philatelic society in the city.

PROGRAMS

May 6 — Open house; *Revenue Stamps* by John J. Nunes

May 20 — Auction

June 3 — Worldwide stamp mixture: thousands of stamps for three cents each

June 17 — Auction

July 1 — Cover night: members please bring a favorite cover to show and talk about

TALK BACK TO US!

Comments and contributions for this column may be sent to Daniel A. Piazza at dpiazza@twcny.rr.com. Items for the *Member Spotlight* are especially desired. All other correspondence should be sent to President Lynn Goodfellow at the address above.

TRI-COUNTY STAMP CLUB

*Sidney, New York 13838
Meets at 7 p.m. the third Monday at Sidney Civic Center*

*Contact Albert Guenzburger
P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780 — 607•895•6531*



PHILATELIC TRIVIA POPULAR WITH CLUB

The April meeting was another evening of fun with trivia experts being able to come up with appropriate responses to the geography of the world, history of the United States, and tidbits of philatelic trivia put together by our treasurer, Bob Finnegan.

MATERIAL FOR WASHINGTON 2004 BEING ORGANIZED

The May meeting that typically was our Youth Night in the past will be devoted to organizing material to send out to Washington 2006 to use next year at the National Philatelic Exposition.

The items packaged once again will be sent out to the organization spearheading this massive undertaking. The stamp material will be utilized at stations to encourage the beginning collectors to become more involved in our great hobby.

The May meeting will also be devoted to making plans for our upcoming June social gathering. The meeting has been held at the Sidney Golf and Country Club the past two years. Members are asked to begin thinking of what avenues of collecting they may want our Program Committee to consider next year by providing the group with some input.

YOUTH CLUB PLANNED AT SCHOOL

Bob Finnegan hopes to engage new beginners next year, as he will once again at the Sidney Elementary School. He hopes to be sponsoring the Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club, named in honor of the first postmaster general and reminiscent of the now defunct U.S. Postal Service-sponsored clubs. Bob has had approximately 40 students in his club in the past and hopes to do the same in 2005–2006 school year.



Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, Inc. Annual Meeting

June 12 at 1 p.m. — ROPEX, Webster, NY

Business Meeting and Election of Officers

Each club may send two delegates or proxies.

Contact John A. Cali, Secretary — rocket@dreamscape.com

Nominating Committee Maris Tirums & Heather Sweeting



UNCLE SAM STAMP CLUB

P.O. Box 335 — Troy, New York 12181-0335

Terrill S. Miller, President

Phil Hicks & George McGowan, Vice Presidents

John Mangione, Secretary — John J. Nunes, Treasurer

TERRY MILLER TESTS THE CLUB

Once a year we try to have our brains tested on our philatelic knowledge. For the past four or five years, Terry Miller has organized and presented the questions. This year, the theme was *Famous Americans on U.S. Stamps*.

There were 29 questions in all, which were well chosen, and led to lots of good fun and good philately. Stamp Insider readers wishing to test their knowledge will find the quiz on Page 29 of this issue.

NUNES SUBSTITUTES FOR TRENCHARD

For our first meeting in March the scheduled speaker, Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard could not make it up from Pennsylvania, but fortunately John J. Nunes filled in and gave a super talk on *Submarine Mail*. The history of submarines was given, mixed with the times that submarines actually carried mail, both commercial and philatelic.

Trenchard's talk on *U.S. Stamp Club History* will be rescheduled in better weather.

HANLEY OUTLINES IRISH PHILATELY

For our second March meeting, as he has done for more years than anyone wants to admit, Tom Hanley spoke on *Irish Philately*. This year's topic was identifying the first 65 stamps of Ireland. Many collectors find it a difficult task to identify most of these overprints, but Tom broke it down and presented it simply and logically, along with examples. Illustrated



here is the 1975 STAMPA Exhibition Souvenir, of which only 1,000 were issued. It features and commemorates an example of the Thom & Company overprints.

SPRING BANQUET

Our spring banquet will on May 18, and we hope to see everyone there.

UTICA STAMP CLUB

*Meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday
at New Hartford Public Library*

Jerome Wagner, President — Richard Drumm, Vice President

Wayne Turkowski, Recording Secretary

Jerry Cunningham, Corresponding Secretary — Rick Snow, Treasurer



A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF BOLIVIA

Inclement weather at our March meeting limited the number of attendees. President Jerome Wagner spoke on Bolivia and the Chaco War between Paraguay and Bolivia. The war was fought for the purpose of establishing a Pacific seaport for Bolivia and the assumption that large quantities of oil were available in the Chaco region.

His collection of Bolivian stamps and related materials provided a comprehensive view of the country and its history.

HUNGARIAN ROYALTY

A program entitled *Knowledgeable Royalty of Hungary* was to be presented by Larry Griswold and Francis Kolaritis. APS circuit books again were to be available.

CHILDREN'S SHOW

A stamp show consisting of children's philatelic exhibits was to be held on April 16 at St. Margaret's House. Children from St. Mary's School Stamp Club in Clinton and from the House of the Good Shepard in Utica presented the exhibits. Philatelic items were sold.

STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS

Also, students from St. Mary's School Stamp Club from Clinton, under the guidance of club member Janet Collmer, participated in the Texas Philatelic Association 2004 Youth Holiday Cover Contest.

Stephanie Havens of Sauquoit (top) captured first place in the 8–9 year old category. Hannah DiLorenzo of Holland Patent (middle) and Timothy Doyle of Clinton (bottom) tied for second place. Our congratulations to the winners.



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Shows & Bourses

MAY

1 — Rochester

RS Stamp Show, Eagles Club, 1200 Buffalo Rd. 10-4. Bourse. John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com.

1 — West Seneca

Stamp, Coin, Postcard & Collectibles Show, Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., 10-4. Bourse. Victor Drajem, 716-656-8080.

15 — Cheektowaga

Buffalo Numismatic Assn. Stamp, Coin & Currency Bourse & Auction, Fr. Justin Hall, K of C, 2735 Union Rd. 10-5. Frank Munzi, 716-633-4104.

22 — Albany

Capital District Stamp Show, Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave. 10-4. Bourse. John Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com.

JUNE

5 — West Seneca

Stamp, Coin, Postcard & Collectibles Show, Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., 10-4. Bourse. Victor Drajem, 716-656-8080.

10-12 — Rochester

ROPEX 2004 sponsored by Rochester Philatelic Association at Webster Community Field House, Thomas High School, 800 Five Mile Line Rd. See ad on page 5. E-mail stamptmf@frontiernet.net; Web: www.geocities.com/rpastamps/ropex.html.

19 — *Cheektowaga*

Buffalo Numismatic Assn.
Stamp, Coin & Currency
Bourse & Auction, Fr. Justin
Hall, K of C, 2735 Union Rd.
10-5. Frank Munzi,
716-633-4104.

26 — *Albany*

Capital District Stamp Show,
Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave.
10-4. Bourse. John Nunes,
518-399-8395, e-mail:
nunesnook@aol.com.

Famous Americans Answers

1. Thomas H. Gallaudet
2. Everett M. Dirkson
3. Gary Cooper
4. Ernest Hemingway
5. James Oglethorpe
6. Adolph Ochs
7. Francis Parkman
8. Scott Joplin
9. Daniel Chester French
10. Robert Frost
11. Andrew Mellon
12. Martin Van Buren
13. Noah Webster
14. William Allen White
15. Walt Whitman
16. James Garfield
17. W. C. Fields
18. Bernard Revel
19. Dolly Madison
20. Henry Comstock
21. John Erickson
22. Julia Ward Howe
23. John Jay
24. Crazy Horse
25. Philip Sheridan
26. Sam Houston
27. William McKinley
28. Walter Reed
29. William Seward

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CLUBS & CONTACTS

ADIRONDACK STAMP, POST CARD & EPHEMERA CLUB (APS CHAPTER 1276)

Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays most months at 7:30 p.m. at Glens Falls National Bank Community Room.

Contact: Dr. William R. Hanson, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801

E-mail: drhanson@localnet.com

Phone: 518-798-9592

BUFFALO STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 37)

Meets twice monthly on Fridays at 7:45 p.m. VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

Contact: Al Carroccia, 152 Windmill Road, West Seneca, NY 14218

E-mail: fuzzy9600@aol.com

Phone: 716-674-0302

CENTRAL NEW YORK FIRST DAY COVER SOCIETY (AFDCS CHAPTER 53)

In reorganization. New members being sought.

Contact: John Cali, 613 W. 4th St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104

E-mail: rocket@dreamscape.com

Phone: 315-592-4441

CHENANGO VALLEY STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 781)

Meets 1st Monday of the month at Alana Cultural Center, Colgate University Campus.

Contact: Albert Guenzburger, P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780

E-mail: aguenz@mkl.com

Phone: 607-895-6531

DANVILLE AREA COIN & STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 1196)

Meets 3rd Sunday at Dansville Town Hall, Clara Barton Street., at 2 p.m. from September through June.

Contact: Susan Edwards, c/o DACC, P.O. Box 574, Dansville, NY 14437-0574

E-Mail: see10@frontiernet.net

Phone: 585-335-8663

ELMIRA STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 237)

Meets 3rd Tuesday at Community Room, Bath National Bank, North Main and First streets (rear entrance).

Contact: Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14901

E-mail: alatholleyrd@aol.com

Phone: 607-732-0181

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY (APS UNIT 28)

Meets 1st Sunday in May and October.

Contact: John Lange, 373 Root Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3227

E-mail: gestus@westelcom.com

Phone: 518-882-6373

www.esphs.org

FINGER LAKES STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 428)

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at Sawdust Cafe, NYS Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

Contact: James Darnell, 136 Lock St., Clyde, NY 14433

E-mail: jdarnell@novococon.net

Phone: 315-923-7355

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 138)

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany Reformed Church Community Center, 760 New Scotland Ave., Albany.

Contact: Maris Tirums, P.O. Box 5475, Albany NY 12205-0475

E-mail: mxtirums@hotmail.com

Phone: 518-438-1657

FORT STANWIX STAMP CLUB, INC. OF ROME, NEW YORK (APS CHAPTER 1227)

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Rome Municipal Building, 2nd Floor.

Contact: Joe Christofaro, 201 Maple St., Rome, NY 13440

E-mail: jchrist6@twcny.rr.com

Phone: 315-337-9608

FULTON STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 1193)

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Hughes Building, 314 Park St.

Contact: Tom Schneider, 15 W. First St., Fulton, NY 13069

E-mail: rocket@dreamscape.com

Phone: 315-592-4441

ITHACA STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 210)

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 384, Morrison Hall, on the Cornell University

Campus. Parking available in back. Front door locked after 8 p.m.

Contact: Howard Schlieder, 511 Linn St., Ithaca, NY 14850

E-mail: yszekely@twcny.rr.com

LEATHERSTOCKING STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 1334)

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the home of George Tillapaugh, 28 Pioneer St., Cooperstown.

Contact: Ellen Tillapaugh, 80 Beaver St., Cooperstown, NY 13326

E-mail: kuchtill@verizon.net

OLEAN AREA STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 1442)

Meets 1st Monday (1 week later on legal holidays) at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 109 S. Barry St.

Contact: Leslie Crane, R1, Box 832, Shinglehouse, PA 16748

E-mail: searles@adelphia.net

OSWEGO STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 728)

Meets 4th Monday at 6 p.m. at Faith United Church, 12 Mark Fitzgibbons Drive.

Contact: Leigh LeClair, 212 Murray St., Oswego, NY 13126

E-mail: pleclair@northnet.org

Phone: 315-342-5653

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION (APS CHAPTER 207)

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday 7 p.m. at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Road.
Contact: Joe Doles, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206 Phone: 585-621-3012
E-mail: jdoles@rochester.rr.com www.geocities.com/rpastamps

ST. LAWRENCE INTERNATIONAL STAMP CLUB

Meets 1st Thursday at Massena Library at 7 p.m.; 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Cornwall, Ontario, Library.
Contact: Pat Rourk, 3 Morton St., Norwood, NY 13668-1100 Phone: 315-353-8892
E-mail: prourk@twcny.rr.com

SCHENECTADY STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 153)

Meets 1st Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Union Presbyterian Church.
Contact: Steve Gray, 10 Hillcrest Vlg. C-1, Niskayuna, NY 12309-3831 Phone: 518-372-9866
E-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

SYRACUSE STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 50)

Meets 1st & 3rd Friday at 8 p.m. at the Reformed Church of Syracuse.
Contact: Allen Swift, P.O. Box 3436, Syracuse, NY 13220 Phone: 315-457-3201
E-mail: agsses@aol.com

TRI-COUNTY STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 292)

Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 p.m. at Sidney Civic Center.
Contact: Albert Guenzburger, P.O. Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780 Phone: 607-895-6531
E-mail: rfinnegan@stny.rr.com

UNCLE SAM STAMP CLUB OF TROY (APS CHAPTER 240)

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Holmes & Watson Ltd., 450 Broadway.
Contact: Terrill Miller, P.O. Box 335, Troy, NY 12181-0335 Phone: 518-869-6872
E-mail: unclesamty@aol.com

UTICA STAMP CLUB (APS CHAPTER 66)

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at New Hartford Town Library.
Contact: G. M. Cunningham, P.O. Box 374, Washington Mills, NY 13479 Phone: 315-736-1965
E-mail: Jerry50nh@aol.com

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THE LAST WORDS

Heather Sweeting, Associate Editor
14329 Victory St., Sterling NY 13156-3172
e-mail hsweetin@twcny.rr.com

POSTAL MACHINERY UNKIND TO STAMPS

I have an entire box of *combo* covers. This is my term for those with multiple stamps used to make up various rates. Well-intentioned collectors frequently attempt to create interesting postal frankings on their mail. Inspiration for this column came from a recently purchased piece from Cover Mania made up completely of fractional rate stamps.

First, however, a rousing hat's off to the whirling dervish of philatelic energy otherwise known as Federation President John J. Nunes for hosting and repeatedly organizing such philatelic endeavors as the recent and fun Cover Mania in Albany. I spent only one day at the event as I had to attend a school concert but left thinking: "I should have planned on staying for the entire show."

Some collectors are merely using up old mint postage when mailing items. Others are more serious about multiple frankings. Some folks try to collect as many unusual rate combinations as they can for a certain value. How many different combinations are available for mail at the current 37-cent rate? Others try to make rate combos in relation to envelope art or stamp subject. For example, an illustrated Christmas envelope mailed using four or five different holiday stamps would be neat. Other subjects such as trains, birds, Washington, etc. could also provide good challenges.



Sadly the work of these well-intentioned philatelists is often treated unkindly by modern postal machinery. About 65 percent of the multi-franked covers I receive end up in the soaker box with a majority of the stamps on them ripped or torn during processing. This applies to multi-franked postcards as well. (More recent self adhesive stamps tend to fare slightly better than older commemoratives.)

Surely covers such as these are eye catching compared to most ordinary mail. Can they be used to spark non-collectors' interest in philately? If the stamps are torn, the effort is lost. Perhaps using a single new commemorative stamp on a cover is better? Would the average person notice a new stamp on their mail, which for the most part is stampless? What if philatelists asked for their multi stamps items to be hand cancelled? Would that improve their survival?

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