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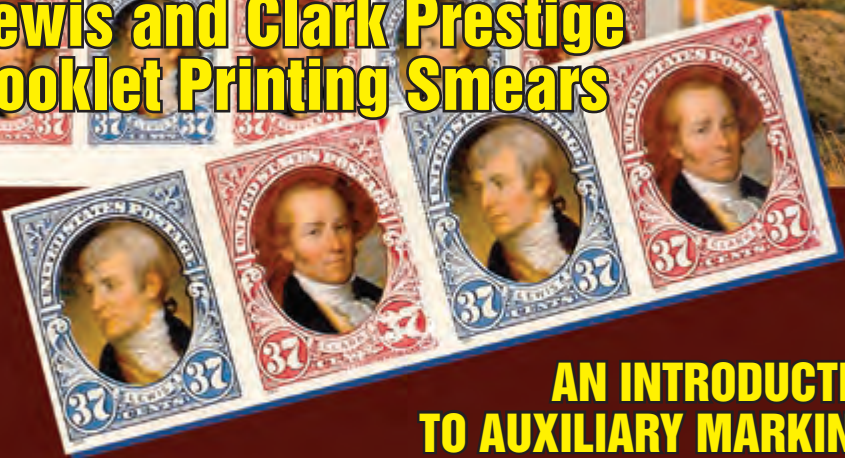
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MAY / JUNE 2006
VOL. 23 NO. 5

STAMP INSIDER

www.nystampclubs.org



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Some copies of the Lewis and Clark prestige booklet display prominent printing smears.

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

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



PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

John J. Nunes
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HOPES FOR BUILDING BRIDGES TO A NEW SHOW

My last column said the reason for cancellation of the 2006 Central New York Show at the Turning Stone Casino was a lack of sufficient volunteers in the sponsoring clubs. I received this information from the previous show chairman and I am sorry to say it was not totally comprehensive in content.

I have since learned that the reason was the loss of money sustained by the sponsoring clubs as they have written a letter in this issue [see *Communications* page 34]. I was unaware of this at the time I wrote my call for action and apologize.

I retroactively offer the Federation's resources to the clubs to offset any show-related losses sustained in 2005 and request the Fort Stanwix and Utica clubs to consider organizing a 2007 event with financial and manpower assistance from the Federation.

A 2006 show cannot be held at the Casino as it is booked through the end of the year. A 2006 show is out of the question unless I am able to find a suitable location despite my desire to see it occur. I still have a commitment from the New England American Stamp Dealers Association (NEASDA) dealers to participate in a bourse this year or next. I am trying to book a show on Oct. 6 and 7, 2007 at a workable price.

I already have received an offer of assistance from Jim Darnell of the Finger Lakes Stamp Club. Finger Lakes has never participated in such an event and I hope other clubs see this an opportunity to get involved.

PRINTING IN COLOR

We are now in color. This accomplishment is due 100 percent to Norman Cohen, owner of Adventure Graphics in Dallas, Texas, our new printer. He has subsidized the cost differential from black and white to color.

He is a renowned philatelist and is graciously printing the *STAMP INSIDER* and the *Texas Philatelist*, published by the Texas Philatelic Association, in color. We could not have afforded the change without raising subscription and advertising prices, being able to maintain the current rates.

In addition to Norman's generosity, we have been able to control costs through an influx of new advertising.

Feel free to share your thoughts on these or any other subjects with me and let me know what you can do to help. E-mail me at nunesnook@aol.com or call 518-399-8395.

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EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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THE STAMP INSIDER GOES COLOR!

Welcome to the *STAMP INSIDER* in color. The journal has grown phenomenally since I became editor in September 2003 — both in content and the physical size. When the publication grew to its current size, we encountered printing difficulties and faced increased costs for having the finishing steps of folding and saddle stitching (stapling) done as a separate step, instead of part of the printing process.

The Docutech process being used to print the *SI* since May 2004, while being much improved over the output of our former printer, was far from ideal. Faced with the binding problems and other issues, including the inability to print color, the only logical alternative was to seek a new printer. Luckily, Norman Cohen of Adventure Graphics in Dallas, TX, a noted philatelist in his own right, stepped up and will print the journal at no increased cost to the *FEDERATION*.

EASIER TO READ. The improved printing and better-quality paper should make the publication much easier to read. Readers will also notice that page edges are trimmed for uniformity.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOMED. E-mail or write *FEDERATION* President John J. Nunes, Associate Editor Heather Sweeting, or me with your comments and suggestions. And — as always — we welcome your articles. This is your publication and it depends on your help to keep it vital.

OUR COMMITMENT. One thing remains unchanged — our commitment to the philately, including *FEDERATION OF NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETIES* and its member organizations. We will continue to strive for the highest level of excellence.

WELCOMING A NEW FEDERATION MEMBER

We welcome the Valley of Buffalo Family Life Stamp Club into the *FEDERATION*, thanks to the efforts of its driving force, John L. Leszak. The club is part of the Valley of Buffalo Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, a Masonic organization — WWW.VALLEYOFBUFFALO.ORG. The club's first column appears on page 56.

The club sponsors the annual *VALLEYPLEX* a stamp show that raises money for the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexia in Rochester. This year's *VALLEYPLEX* is scheduled for June 17–18. Please plan to attend.

As I noted last year, all *FEDERATION* members should consider giving of themselves to help their communities. Such help could come either as donations to charitable organizations through philanthropic gifts and/or volunteerism.

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GETTING WIRED WITH WASHINGTON 2006

WASHINGTON 2006, the U.S. philatelic event of the decade from May 27–June 3, is *wired*. Its Web site is WWW.WASHINGTON-2006.ORG. If you miss the show, you must wait until 2016 for the next decennial international exhibition in the U.S., scheduled for New York City. Computers and the Internet are increasingly important for creating/maintaining want lists, buying/selling material, preparing exhibits, and a host of other things too numerous to list here. Attendees will have ample opportunity to learn how these tools are used and to see the output generated by them. A sample of what one can expect at *W2006*:

EDUCATION: Clark Frazier will present *How to Spot Fakes & Forgeries on the Internet*, sponsored by APS. *Using a Scanner as an Expertizing Tool*, sponsored by the Philatelic Foundation, will be presented by Scott R. Trepel, president of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. *New e-Book: First Postmaster — The Story of Benjamin Franklin as Told on Stamps* is a workshop geared to teachers of grades 3–8 and easily adaptable to high school or college courses.

RESOURCES: Librarian Gini Horn of the APS American Philatelic Research Library will discuss the library's services. The library's card catalogue may be accessed online at WWW.STAMPS.ORG/THELIBRARY/LIB_CARDCATALOG.HTM. A panel discussion on *ARAGO: The Smithsonian New Online Philatelic Research Center* will be hosted by the National Postal Museum. *ARAGO* can be found at WWW.POSTALMUSEUM.SI.EDU/ARAGO.

COMMERCE: Renee Gardner, APS Internet Sales Director, will present an *APS Stamp Store* seminar providing the information needed to buy and sell philatelic material through APS via the Internet. Many of the more than 100 worldwide postal administrations and their agents represented have an Internet presence. Live auctions will be held by official show auctioneers Matthew Bennett, John Bull, H. R. Harmer Inc., Ivy & Manning, Nutmeg, Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, and Spink (England). All of their offerings may be previewed online.

CLUBS: APS' Young Stamp Collectors of America — WWW.STAMPS.ORG/YSCA/INTRO.HTM — is a virtual stamp club. Janet Houser, YSCA coordinator, will host a member meeting at which parents are welcome. The Virtual Stamp Club — WWW.VIRTUALSTAMPCLUB.COM, the foremost English-language philatelic news, information, and discussion site on the Internet, will have a booth at *W2006*. VSC plans on showing the many ways that computers aid stamp collecting. One side of the VSC booth will have Internet *drops* where patrons may plug in their laptops and get updated on their e-mail, auction lots, and the VSC message board.

Gotta go – surf's up!

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TOPICALS CAN KEEP YOUR INTERESTS ALIVE

In the recent past I have mentioned more than once the joys of topical collecting. Collecting according to one's interests is a key element for success and enjoyment. Topical collectors collect what they like. They do not have to collect every issue because they are not tied to the idea of completeness. If you are someone or know someone who has been discouraged recently by the number of new issues and the related cost to keep up, allow me to suggest a topical collection.

The topic itself, of course, is all up to you. What do you enjoy? What sport do you like? What historical figure do you admire? What is your career? How about a place you have visited, or would like to visit? Do you play a musical instrument, enjoy a period in history, or enjoy trains?

Lincoln, Ike, the Statue of Liberty, medicine, golf, Vikings, costumes, tools, pets, plants ... the list is really endless.



STAMPS ON STAMPS

What about stamps on stamps? This offers an opportunity to collect rarities of the world at a fraction of the cost. For example, you could accumulate a stunning collection of the first postage stamp without ever owning a Great Britain number one. Not to long ago, marking the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill, many countries marked the date with several issues depicting the penny black. Along with Cinderellas, philatelic exhibition souvenirs and covers, and other related items, your search would be fun and the rewards would be enjoyment.

Albert W. Starkweather collection cover

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U.S. FIRST DAY COVERS: WHAT'S A DUAL?

First day covers can stimulate lots of creativity; you don't have to just collect what Artcraft or some other FDC producer wants to sell. You can make your own cachets, which can be lots of fun. You can collect cachets by other people that appeal to you. You can service your own covers with extra added stamps that relate to the new stamp, creating *combos*. Another way you can get creative is to find older FDCs and add new stamps to enhance them. A FDC with separate first day cancels from more than one issue is called a *dual*.

When the stamp for the Presidential Libraries was issued last year, I sought out previously issued FDCs that related to individual presidents and used them to make duals for the new stamps.

Although most duals you see are FDCs, not all duals have two first day cancels. One or both can be an event cancel or other pictorial or even an ordinary town cancel with some tie-in to the other stamp and cancel. The combinations are limited only by your creativity.

Some collectors dislike duals because they find them cluttered. Others think they destroy the integrity of the original FDC. I wouldn't dual a rare hand-painted FDC, but I see no harm in adding some new interest to relatively common covers. Collect what you like; it's your collection.



Pair of Duals

A Franklin Delano Roosevelt FDC, top, had a Presidential Libraries stamp with a Hyde Park FDC cancel added to create a dual. A Minneapolis FDC had a second day St. Paul cancel added for a stamp in the same set. The cachet depicts former Governor Wendell Anderson, who was an Olympian.

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P22 Mail Art

A correspondence between Daniel Farrell and Richard Kegler:
Buffalo NY 14213 – Albany NY 12202

By Richard Kegler

Between 1990 and 1996, more than 200 pieces of art were sent to and from P22, a type foundry in Buffalo. From altered junk mail to minimally cryptic addressing, each piece had some purpose to both test the post office and also keep an artistic discourse going between its collaborators, myself and a friend, Daniel Farrell, who was then living in Albany.

The U.S. Postal Service almost always came through. Several pieces have arrived in a plastic bag. Some actually were damaged. Some were exactly as they were mailed. Now, because of the desire to completely automate, even the slightest variations from standard Postal Rules gets the piece either returned or lost forever.

Mail art has no commercial value. To our knowledge, none of our mail art has ever sold. Since postal regulations have become stricter, postal rates have increased, and Dan has moved back to Buffalo, this project is now officially ended.

SOME NOTEWORTHY PIECES

HANDLE WITH CARE. This 4 × 5-inch work is a sheet of glass sandwiched between a piece of copper screen and a piece of mylar. Fully expecting a shattered piece at the end, the Post Office gingerly delivered this fragile specimen intact. As with most of the P22 mail art pieces, the stamps are thematically relevant.

THE BOMB SCARE. In the dormant days of the Unabomber, the post office was diligent. A quart paint can with a couple of inches of dried white paint and assorted radio parts stuck inside the bottom was enough reason to receive a call from a USPS bomb inspector, who in turn hand delivered the piece.



Clockwise, from upper left, *Handle With Care*, *The Bomb Scare*, *The Head*, and *Toast Card*.

Continued on Page 16

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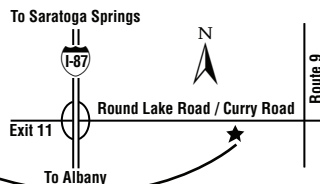
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Mail Art — Continued from Page 14

Perhaps the large red menacing letters: “NOW”, wrapped around the can added to the questionability of good natured mail. Humor was not part of this man’s job! We promised never to do this again.

THE HEAD. Still talked about by postal employees since its arrival at the West Side station in Buffalo, this fragile, life-size paper cast of an entire human head arrived completely intact. Each stamp was canceled, and the nostrils were mysteriously colored in with a black marker. The deathlike head cast is of a living man named David Roode, whereabouts unknown.

THE TOAST CARD. This was going to be the thing that put us on the map! A piece of polyurethane impregnated toast with a stamp and an address. Everyone would want one except for the fact that we couldn’t get it under one ounce. So, for economical reasons, you cannot buy one of these at your local stationery store.



Other examples, clockwise, from upper left, *Slugs, Box 1*, *Keep Smiling*, *Robot Indian*, and *Gold Cheese*.

More about this project may be found at www.P22.COM/PROJECTS/MAIL.HTML.

Richard Kegler is the senior partner and founder of P22 type foundry. For years before P22 became a 'real' type designing entity, Mr. Kegler had been involved in various aspects of the book arts ranging from hand-binding and hand printing to hypertext. His varied interest in the history and processes of art and design initially seemed to have little in common with interests in up-and-coming technologies, but more and more there seemed to be much common ground that could be found.

This meeting of old and new has become the premise of P22's collection of fonts. With so much history overlooked and so much potential for new technologies, Mr. Kegler sees no limit to future projects.

The main titling font for this article is set in P22 Morris Troy, while the subtitle is set in P22 Morris Golden. The Washington 2006 promo at the top of the cover is set in P22 da Vinci.



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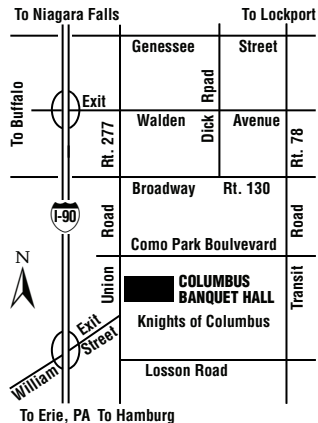
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— THE ROAD TO WASHINGTON 2006 —
***Celebrating an Anniversary
with a W2006 Agenda***

By Judy Routson / Staff Writer

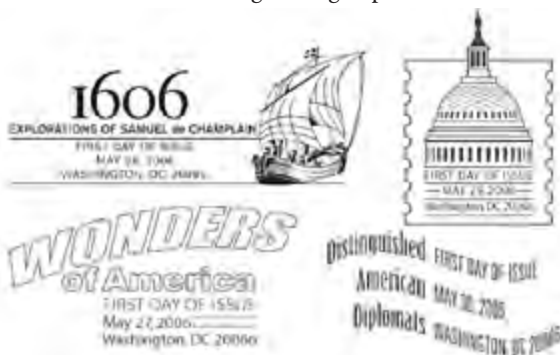
My husband and I recently celebrated a wedding anniversary. Well, we didn't actually celebrate yet. We're celebrating with a weekend trip to *WASHINGTON 2006* (*W2006*), the once-a-decade worldwide philatelic extravaganza at the Washington, DC, Convention Center. Celebrating an anniversary by traveling to an international stamp show may not be everyone's idea of fun, but visiting the largest philatelic exhibition ever held in the U.S. sounds exciting to me. We're both looking forward to it, even though my husband is a rather recent philatelist.

Since this will be my first international show, I'm sure — as Media Chair Tom Fortunato says — it will be “overwhelming.” But I've decided to follow his advice:

“Try to set an agenda.” That's good advice for everyone planning to attend the exposition, whether for two or three days, as in my case, or for the entire show, May 26–June 3. With just a few weeks to go, planning my agenda is mind-boggling.

Although admission is free, registration is required. I've already done that online, so our badges should be waiting for us. Number one on my agenda: Saturday morning's 9:30 opening ceremony. A first day ceremony for *Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives*, issued by the USPS, will also take place. Postal administrations from around the world will release several other philatelic issues during the show, and there will be special theme cancels each day.

But should I visit a Court of Honor exhibit, either the *Royal Philatelic Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*, or the *Collection of His Serene Highness The Prince of Monaco, Albert II*? The prince's exhibit honors the 50th anniversary of his parents, the late Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace, and focuses on philatelic issues of the royal couple and their children. There are many other items on the long list of invited exhibits that sound fascinating. I plan to see John Lennon's boyhood stamp album, displayed by the National Postal Museum, and the inverted Jenny plate block at Mystic Stamp Co.'s booth. But will there be time to visit selections from the *Postmaster General's Collection*?



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Washington 2006 — Continued Page 20

Since the brand new Convention Center spans six city blocks, I'll need numerous breaks. W2006 officials promise there will be plenty of seating for visitors on the show floor, as well as at dealer booths. Lunch will be late on Sunday, while I attend a noontime first day ceremony with a New York State connection. The U.S. and Canada will jointly



release the 400th Anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's Survey of America stamp. Speaking of lunch, we won't even have to leave the Convention Center, according to show officials. Besides special food carts, seven different dining experiences are available in the food court.

How could I not view some of the 640 competitive exhibits from around the world? Perhaps I'll take advantage of a tour provided by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE). But when will I visit the dealers I've selected from the 217-dealer, 18-nation international bourse? So many choices, so little time! On my agenda for sure: Celebrating after show hours at nearby eateries. We also hope to explore local tourist attractions, including the World War II Memorial. Before we leave the show Monday I hope to catch the first day ceremony for the WASHINGTON 2006 souvenir pane, but I'll miss the Distinguished American Diplomats release, also with an upstate connection. Jefferson County native Charles E. "Chip" Bohlen will be among six diplomats honored on this block of stamps. The first day ceremony for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's migratory duck stamps is another one I'll miss.

There are many other activities that won't be on my agenda. Noted CBS journalist and philatelist Lloyd de Vries heads the Computers in Philately booth. Various presentations and a film, *The Adventure of the Letter*, will run at the Eagle Theater. Five show dealers will hold auctions. Youth and beginner programs are offered, with more advanced courses and seminars. Numerous national and international philatelic societies will hold meetings and conventions. A Cachet Makers Bourse is also scheduled.

Perhaps you've been contemplating attending this exhibition. There's still time, if you hurry. Although most discounted hotel rooms reserved for the show have been booked, more rooms are available at the Hotel Washington near the White House. A list of other DC hotels is available on the W2006 Web site, www.WASHINGTON-2006.ORG. More information and a complete schedule of events are also on the Web site. Maybe I'll see you at W2006 on Memorial Day weekend, where there will be "Stamps — and so much more."

Images Courtesy Mystic Stamp Company

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Getting Familiar With Auxiliary Markings

By Alfred Carroccia

At first glance it is the stamp or cancellation that draws most collectors to postal history, particularly when it comes to rates and usage. Collectors are now looking more closely at the markings on covers, especially auxiliary markings, which simply can be defined as any marking designed to explain and assist the movement of mail. They can be handstamps or manuscript, and no two are the same as there is no defined or uniform standard. Postmasters were given the authority to design a marking they needed for a particular situation and at their discretion. As a result, there are literally thousands of markings that have been found and countless more yet to be discovered in many shapes and sizes and in different colors of ink.

Yet auxiliary markings are not restricted to handstamps. A myriad of labels emerged in the late 1980s to offset the handstamps which wore out over time. Labels typically incorporated the pointing finger with the boxed *multi-reason* check list.

The most common auxiliary marking is the familiar *pointing finger* which comes in dozens of shapes and sizes. The purpose of this marking was to direct clerks to return the envelope to the sender. Hence the position of most markings were with the finger pointing to the upper left corner of the envelope.

The finger was accompanied by the two most common

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Meet Syracuse's Philatelic Expertisers

By Daniel A. Piazza

For nearly as long as there have been postage stamps, there have been fakes. According to Herbert Bloch, the Philatelic Foundation Expert Committee's longtime chairman, the first stamp to be forged was Spain No. 1 in 1850. Twenty years later, the practice had become so prevalent that the Rev. Robert Earee of Australia coined a phrase to describe them: album weeds. Nor has the practice abated — it may even be on the rise, owing to the ready availability of laser printers and digital imaging software. The proliferation of online stamp auction sites with their caveat emptor philosophy further encourages unscrupulous (or merely unknowledgeable) sellers to offload bogus material.



Sergio Sismondo

For more than 25 years, Sergio and Liane Sismondo of Syracuse have been pulling weeds from the philatelic garden. As a young man in Pisa, Italy, Sergio received a gift the 1870s Dragon and Cherry Blossom issues of Japan and undertook his own research into their plating and authenticity. His mentor in this enterprise was the late Alberto Diena, scion of the great Diena dynasty of philatelic experts. Liane began a mail-order stamp business in the late 1960s as a way to stay at home with her children. Today the Sismondos are well-known philatelic experts and consultants who maintain a research laboratory in Syracuse, a staff of five clerical assistants, and one of the largest private philatelic libraries in the country.

I met the Sismondos over dinner in January before they addressed a meeting of the Syracuse Stamp Club. After poring over the restaurant's wine list — the Sismondos are oenophiles — the conversation naturally turned to stamps. "The way that some people can remember faces, I can remember stamps," Sergio said. An expertiser's memory is one of his most valuable assets. By handling thousands of stamps — and remembering them — the expertiser develops a *feel* for forgeries and repairs, a sort of sixth sense that something isn't just right. This feel can also be literally tactile, as when a stamp is weaker and thinner or crisper and stiffer than it should be. "This feeling is the crucial first step in the process," Sergio says, because it "sets the questions that are to be answered through analysis."

For those occasions when mere memory is not enough, the Sismondos maintain an extensive reference library of 20,000 philatelic books and journals. "We need a purchasing budget of \$10,000 per year just to keep up with new scholarship," says Liane. Their printed reference works are supplemented by 65,000 digital images of stamps, cancellations, and covers — all scanned at four times actual size and organized into binders by country, as well as more than one million actual stamps. To aid in authenticating covers, they have amassed hundreds of paper samples from five centuries. The oldest cover in their reference collection dates to 1450.

Continued on Page 26

Daniel A. Piazza Photo



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Expertisers — Continued from Page 24

These traditional resources exist side-by-side in the Sismondos' Syracuse laboratory with ultra-modern forensic equipment. Crucial to the authentication of stamps and covers is a scientific process called spectroscopy, in which the stamp or cover under examination — the *patient* — is exposed to high-intensity, ultraviolet light. The molecules that make up various elements of the specimen are thus excited and begin to fluoresce. By observing which portions of the light spectrum are reflected or absorbed, the Sismondos can determine the chemical structure of inks or gums and whether they are genuine. They can also detect altered or cleaned cancellations and even *see through* a stamp on piece to determine whether it is watermarked or has writing on the reverse.

Microscopy is also indispensable for detecting alterations and repairs, especially regumming and reperforating. The mint never hinged craze of the last 20 years has given great incentive for the former practice; the latter is usually performed to eliminate an undesirable straight edge or improve a stamp's centering. The Sismondos' high-powered microscopes can reveal gum trapped in the tips of perforations or on the face of a stamp, both dead giveaways of regumming. The presence or absence of certain microscopic fibers can also yield clues as to whether a stamp has been reperforated.

All of this experience and equipment means the Sismondos are much in demand. They are special editorial consultants to Scott Publishing Company's standard, specialized, and classic catalogues and consultants to the Philatelic Foundation. During the busy spring and fall auction seasons, they spend much of their time on the road or in the air to inspect and certify lots for numerous firms in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Italy.

Many expertisers' certificates bear little more than a date, catalogue number, and an opinion such as *genuine* or *genuine but altered*. Sismondo's certificates, however, are miniature works of philatelic literature that sometimes run to multiple paragraphs and always include historical and geographical information. They betray the depth and breadth of his philatelic knowl-

edge and his almost limitless capacity for detail. "Every time an expertiser signs a certificate," Sergio notes, "he stakes his entire reputation that everything is perfect."

Some of the world's great rarities have Sismondo certificates, including the 1851 three pence New Carlisle postmaster's provisional envelope (ex-Count Phillippe

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Lewis and Clark Prestige Booklet Printing Smears

By Albert W. Starkweather

Ronald K. Ratchford of Schenectady Stamp Club has discovered several copies of the 2004 Lewis and Clark bicentennial prestige booklet with prominent printing smears on the red borders of the 37-cent Clark stamps. Apparently the blue-bordered Lewis stamp did not experience similar problems. Although errors, freaks, and oddities specialist Jacques C. Schiff, Jr. calls this a minor oddity, it provides a good case study for the budding EFO collector.

The booklets containing 20 self-adhesive stamps in panes of 10 sold for \$8.95 — a \$1.55

premium over face value. The frames are printed by intaglio in red and blue; the full-color portraits are printed by offset lithography. Ashton Potter Ltd. in Williamsville, NY, printed the approximately one million booklets.

The primary cause of the problem was one sheet being slid across another sheet while the ink was still wet.

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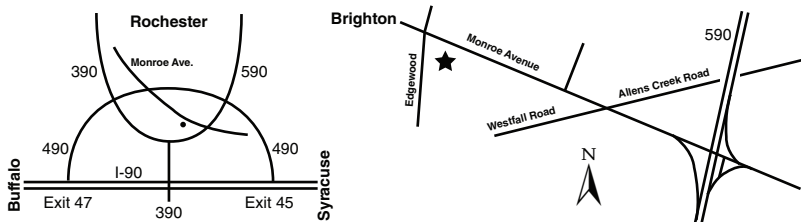
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I like to have one or two meetings a year where the children utilize the *Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps*. Years ago a postmaster who had unsold copies of a past guide was generous enough to send me 24 copies. I am still using a copy from about 10 years ago. I teach my students how to use the guide to determine a Scott number, the year a particular stamp was issued, the number of copies printed as well as the values of the stamps in various conditions. It is a good way to encourage the boys and girls to venture into “research materials” in general. Simply adhere images of stamps to a piece of paper followed by specific questions. Provide each student or pair of students a copy of the *Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps*. Of course, provide correct answers with some free stamps as a prize.



Stamp Camp USA May–June Events

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- May 18 — Senior Corps of Pennsylvania Senior of the Year Judging Competition
- May 27–June 3 — Washington 2006 International Stamp Show
- June 19–23 — Mansfield University Summer Stamp Camp



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1. What year was stamp 7 issued?
2. How many copies of stamp 2 were issued?
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4. What year was stamp 3 issued?
5. What is the value of an unused (mint) issue for stamp 6?

THE STORY BEHIND THE STAMP BY DANIEL A. PIAZZA *United States, 1945, Scott No. 928*

In early 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed a commemorative stamp to mark the United Nations organizational conference in San Francisco. The five cent denomination, the international surface rate, would maximize its use overseas. Postmaster General Frank Walker sent several designs to FDR, who rejected them all. On April 3, the president suggested the phrase TOWARD UNITED NATIONS, the opening date of the conference, April 25, 1945, in gothic lettering and a sole illustration — a single, small sprig of bay laurel, the ancient symbol of victory. Walker ordered a proof prepared and rushed to the president for his approval.



Executed by Victor S. McCloskey, Jr. of the BEP, the proof was sent to the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA, on April 12; FDR approved it and sent a message to the San Francisco postmaster that he would purchase the first sheet when he arrived to address the conference.

He continued working until about 1:15 p.m., when he dropped his pen, slumped in his chair and muttered, "I have a terrific headache." These were his last words; the president slipped into unconsciousness and two hours later was dead at 63 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

As a memorial, Walker ordered quotation marks added around the stamp's three lines of text, and FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT inscribed in small letters. The resulting stamp went on sale April 25, as scheduled, only 13 days after the president's death.



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e-mail astarkweather@nystampclubs.org

CLUBS WISH TO SET THE RECORD 'STRAIGHT'

John J. Nunes' statement ["President's Viewpoint," March/April] that "the Central New York Show held at the Turning Stone Casino will not be held due to lack of sufficient volunteers in the sponsoring [Greater Utica and Fort Stanwix] clubs" is inaccurate. In 2002 and 2004, committee members from both small clubs put in many hours to produce these regional shows. Other members volunteered to set up and tear down, load/unload, sell raffle tickets, and even sleep overnight on the show premises for security purposes. With an average of 15 individuals in each club, we had nearly 100 percent participation, resulting in first-rate shows.

The Fort Stanwix Club, from which the joint shows idea originated, voted against holding the show again as (a) it was too expensive to produce; (b) the club lost money as a result; (c) it did not want to hold the show at Turning Stone due to the expense and could not decide on another venue; and (d) it decided to spend what funds are in its treasury to promote stamp collecting to young people. The Utica Club also lost money on both shows. Although members had no objections to another show at Turning Stone, they could not do it without the Fort Stanwix Club. While they agree that a Federation-sponsored show is a good idea, members took exception to Nunes' remarks, stating: "None of the officers or members were contacted directly or indirectly pertaining to this matter."

Nunes did not approach officers of either group for input or assistance. It appears that he went behind our backs in his haste to promote a Federation show. Our members are offended by his remark, and as the Utica Club secretary has reported in the latest newsletter, "The club felt that this statement reflected poorly on the club as a whole." Fort Stanwix members concur. To set the record straight, many of our members are long-time volunteers who have devoted much of their time and talent to promote philately.

Judy Routson, for the Fort Stanwix and Utica stamp clubs

GREAT EGGSPECTATIONS

"USPS To Issue Healthy Stamp" [March/April] really caught my attention since I used to work for the Postal Service. I could not believe this was happening especially with all the sanitary references to postage in the USPS. My first reaction was that I was going to take this article to my post office and ask if they were aware of this. After reading it a couple of more times I finally noticed the Washington, April 1 deadline. Kudos to whoever dreamed this up.

I gave it to our local newspaper for April Fools Day since they always print some off-the-wall things that are happening or about to happen.

Ron Yeager, Olean

APS CHAPTER 1276

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Fridays most months at
Glens Falls National Bank Community Room, 13 South St.

Dr. William R. Hanson, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801
drhanson@localnet.com, 518-798-9592

Directions — Call Joe Kopczak before 9 p.m. at 518-761-0020



VACATIONERS WELCOME TO ATTEND MEETINGS

With the wide distribution of the Stamp Insider, copies fall into the hands of collectors who may live a long way from Glens Falls but might like to mix a little philately into their vacation at beautiful Lake George or the Saratoga track this summer. Our enthusiasm makes up for our limited numbers, please join us.

TALK POSTPONED

Virtually all members had previous commitments on April 7, so Doc Hanson's talk on duck stamps was postponed, being rescheduled to May 19. He will display his collection of federal and state duck hunting stamps and will discuss unsettling events in recent years which have led to his decision to discontinue collecting first the state and now the federal stamps (and prints).

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES

On April 21, member Conrad Novick brought his revolutionary single-frame exhibit, *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* to the meeting and told of his experiences as a first-time exhibitor, to the delight of all those attending. Conrad garnered a bronze medal at Toronto's Ameristamp Expo in the Single-Frame Class and a Special Award for Originality, for which we all congratulated him.

SILVER BLAZE PICTORIAL CANCEL

Doc Hanson has received approval from the U.S. Postal Service for a special pictorial cancel to be used at the Saratoga Race Track on July 29 to commemorate the running of the Silver Blaze Race. The Adventure of Silver Blaze is a Sherlock Holmes story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle concerning the kidnapping of a famous racehorse, Silver Blaze. Beginning in 1952, races in his honor have been run on courses throughout America and since 2000 at Saratoga. Doc will design the cancel and accompanying cachet.

PROGRAMS

A full schedule awaits meeting attendees this spring:

May 5 — *Washington County Postal History and Ephemera* by member Steven Matte

May 19 — *Duck Hunting Revenues* by Club President Doc Hanson

June 2 — *Stamps and Postal History of the Non-German Legions of the Nazis During World War II* by Federation President John J. Nunes

June 16 — *Selling and Trading Night*; non-member visitors may participate



APS CHAPTER 37

Meets at 7:30 p.m. twice monthly on Fridays at VFW Leonard Post,
2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga

Alfred Carroccia, 152 Windmill Road, West Seneca, NY 14218
fuzzy9600@aol.com, 716-674-0302

BUFPEX 2006 A HUGE SUCCESS

BUFPEX 2006 is history. The two-day exhibition and bourse took place on March 4 and 5 at the VFW Leonard Post. The annual showcase event of the Buffalo Stamp Club was a huge success. Thirteen dealers took part in the bourse despite several not participating on Sunday. The U.S. Postal Service also had a table. Attendance was strong Saturday with a brisk crowd on Sunday and all dealers were happy and promised to return next year. The show cover commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Leonard Post. It is available for \$1.50 and a #10 SASE from Marge Schleining, 260 Tampa Drive, Buffalo, NY 14220.



EXHIBIT AWARDS: Twelve exhibits spanning 40 frames were shown. *Regular Issues American Bank Notes, 1879-1893* by Tim Carey took gold together with the Founder's award for best exhibit and also the Romito award for best exhibit of U.S. stamps usage. Tim also won silver and the Schuster award for best transportation exhibit with *Speeding Up the Mail, Special Delivery and Express Mail*. Best single-frame award went to Bob Meegan's *Ungrilled Banknote Issues, 1870-1890*. Theresa Meegan, Bob's daughter, won gold and the Emil Auer award for best first time exhibit. Leonard Empric won the Topical award for *Scribes and their Manuscripts*, which also took a gold. Also taking gold was Paul Baker's *Postal Stationary of Trieste A' 1947-1954*; his exhibit also won the Bredl award for best exhibit of covers.

Special thanks to Fred Laufer, Bob Meegan and Bill Witschard for organizing the show and to all the members who helped set up and tear down the tables and frames. Last, but not least, thanks to the Leonard Post for allowing use of the hall.

ATA HONORS ANN TRIGGLE

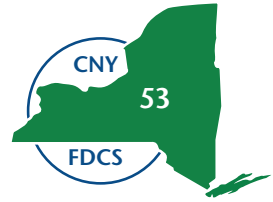
The American Topical Association has selected club member Ann Triggles as the recipient of the 2006 *Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award*. She will receive the award at the ATA meeting during *WASHINGTON 2006*. She will be recognized for her service to our hobby at all levels.

MEETINGS

There are two club meetings left on the 2005-2006 calendar, the first and third Fridays of May. Elections for Board of Directors will be held in May and any member interested should contact Club Secretary Alfred Carroccia to be included on the ballot.

CENTRAL NEW YORK FDC SOCIETY AFDCS CHAPTER 53

John A. Cali, 613 W. 4th St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104
rocket@dreamscape.com, 315-592-4441



SEAWAY STAMP FIRST JOINT ISSUE WITH CANADA

The four-cent St. Lawrence Seaway stamp (Scott 1131), issued on June 26, 1959 was the first jointly issued stamp between the United States and Canada (five-cent Scott 387). On a small number of the Canadian Seaway stamps (Scott 387a), the center portion was inadvertently printed upside down, creating one of the rare errors of modern Canadian postal history.



Mint Seaway invert courtesy Shrews Philatelic Galleries; cover courtesy Christies of London

In 1954, The U.S. and Canada agreed to jointly develop the Seaway, a feat which took more than five years, and a billion dollars to accomplish. The Seaway, and its series of locks and canals, is one of the longest inland man-made navigational areas ever created.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth II formally opened the Seaway on April 25, 1959. When the Seaway opened, many northern cities including Toronto, Cleveland, and Chicago, were linked to a direct shipping route to the Atlantic Ocean. On average, 50 million tons of cargo travel the seaway each year, including grain, ore, coal, and steel.

A second jointly issued stamp honoring the 25th anniversary of the Seaway was issued on June 26, 1984, (Scott 2091 U.S. 20 cent and Scott 1015 Canada).



APS CHAPTER 781

Meets at 7:45 p.m. on the 1st Monday September–June
at Hamilton Public Library on the Green, 13 Broad St.

Braden Houston, President, 2063 Spring St. Hamilton, NY 13346
bhouston@mail.colgate.edu, 315-824-2237

PIXLEY PRESENTS NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM

In February, member Shib Pixley presented *Hobby Crossover: Native Americans on U.S. Postage Stamps and Native American License Plates*. He showed and discussed every U.S. stamp connected with the topic from the 1893 World Columbian Exposition 10-cent depicting *Columbus Presenting Indians at the Court of Queen Isabella* to the modern-day artifacts and Indian arts issues. There were 18 in all, ranging from famous Indian chiefs to scenes from paintings by such artists as Frederic Remington.



About a dozen states authorize issuance of special license plates to sovereign Indian nations. Pixley's collection covers Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Washington, and Wisconsin. The Florida plates reflect the times before and after the Seminoles signed a formal peace treaty with the Federal government in the 1950s.

REVISITING THE COLUMBIAN 10-CENT STAMP

The Columbian Exposition issue, printed by the American Bank Note Company, was issued on Jan. 2, 1893, except for the eight-cent issued on March 2. A total of 16,516,950 of the 10-cent denomination was issued.

At the time the set was unpopular and was withdrawn at the end of the year, a far cry from when it was reproduced for the 1992 World's Columbian Stamp Expo.



APS CHAPTER 1196

Meets at 2 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday at Dansville Town Hall, 14 Clara Barton St., September through June

Susan Edwards, P.O. Box 574, Dansville, NY 14437-0574
see10@frontiernet.net, 585-335-8663



CLUB DISCUSSES SHOW AND AUCTION PLANS

On Feb. 18, the club's monthly meeting was conducted by President Ed Perry with 24 members present. We discussed the upcoming Coin-O-Rama, where two stamp dealers had booked tables. — two more than we had last year. Gerry Freeman Jr. was to have a table for his baseball cards. One of our new members proposed making a sandwich board advertisement to put in front of Town Hall where we meet to invite people on the street to join us.

We also discussed our monthly auction, which we are going to top off at 150 coins a month. We will be using new auction sheets starting in September, which will save on hours of typing. Fill out a sheet and send it to Susan Edwards who will make copies and send them out; there will be no typing involved. At the March meeting we had a member suggest we charge only \$1 per sheet instead of \$3. The charge would help pay for paper and postage for our monthly newsletter. We will be discussing this more before September.

Stepex Exhibitor Information/Entry Form Available

Elmira Stamp Club will conduct its 31st annual *STEPEX* show on Oct. 6 and 7 at its usual location — the Arnot Mall, exit 51 off I-86 in Horseheads. First-time or experienced exhibitors, traditionalists, topicalists, postal historians, first day cover enthusiasts, revenueers, aerophilatelists, etc., are all welcomed.

A combined 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, or at club meetings. Exhibit frames hold 16 vertical album pages, 8½ × 11 to 9 × 11½ inches. Fees of \$4 per frame are waived for Elmira Stamp Club members and junior exhibitors. No more than five frames may be used for any exhibit, except for entries received prior to June 30, which may be allowed up to eight frames. No individual may enter more than two exhibits, unless the frames have not been fully subscribed by Sept. 28.

Gold, silver, and bronze awards will be made to both adult and junior exhibits based on point scores from a jury of *FEDERATION*-accredited judges. There also 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 purpose of the show is to bring stamp collecting to the general public through exhibits by, and contacts with, collectors and dealers. Often those contacts bring forth interesting comments on the ballots cast for the most popular exhibit.



ELMIRA STAMP CLUB

APS CHAPTER 237

Meets at 7 p.m. the 3rd Tuesday at Five Star Bank Community Room, 351 North Main St. (rear entrance)

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

MEMBERS PREPARE STAMP CAMP PACKETS

Club members Neal Walker and Jules Hojnowski helped prepare packets for Stamp Camp USA to use at *WASHINGTON 2006*. After soaking the stamps off paper, Neal created 29 packets of 100 different U.S. each, plus additional packets of duplicates and miscellaneous foreign. Jules took a box of stamps off paper, largely sorted, and anticipates at least 100 packets of 70 different U.S. commemoratives and 30 different U.S. definitives.

STEPEX 2006 DATES CHANGED

For many years our annual show at the Arnot Mall was on the third Friday and Saturday of October. At the mall's request, we have changed this to the first Friday-Saturday, Oct. 6-7. Before we agreed to the change, we contacted the dealers who support *STEPEX*. All were agreed; some even preferred the earlier date. This year's Exhibit Information and Entry Form is available at meetings or from Alan Parsons (see article on page 39). *STEPEX 2006* show cards for distribution throughout the area are also available at meetings.

PROGRAMS

May 16 —One-page exhibits and auction

June 20 —APS slide program: *A History of Hawaii as Told Through Stamps*

ONE-PAGE EXHIBITS: Our May meeting will feature members' one-page exhibits. If you would like to do an exhibit for *STEPEX*, this is a way to get started. The pages are hung on a line for easy viewing. Share your collecting interests with other members and get ideas for expanding into 16 pages or more. Exhibits are always needed for *STEPEX* and it is never too early to start.



Stamp Camp USA Packets

Neal Walker shows Stamp Camp USA packets he prepared to **FEDERATION** Vice President Howard Schlieder and the club's two youngest members, Autumn Rose Lester and Erin Erway, far right. The packets will be distributed at the *WASHINGTON 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition.

Continued on Page 44

Alan Parsons Photo



**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

APS UNIT 28

www.esphs.org

Meets the 1st Sunday May & October

Membership information: Maris Tirums
P.O. Box 5475, Albany NY 12205-0475
mxtirums@hotmail.com, 518-438-1657



THE M.O.B. AND THE MAIL

By Frank Braithwaite

The U.S. Post Office Department, via the Act of May 17, 1864, authorized establishment of the money order system to provide a safe means of sending money through the mail. Money orders were set at \$1 minimum and \$30 maximum, which was raised to \$50 in 1866.

The procedure was simple — a Postal Money Order form would be filled out without the payee's information on it, stamped with a M.O.B. (money order business) marking and sent to the person or business the sender wished to pay. Concurrently, an *Advice* or *Advice of Money Order* would be forwarded under separate cover, with the payee's information on it, to the post office where it would be cashed. This was done to prevent the money order from being cashed by anyone but the payee. If the money order was stolen, the thief would not have identification that matched the advice form that was sent separately and would be unable to redeem it.

The use of the M.O.B. handstamp was originally for marking the money orders and advices, but there are examples of its use on cover. There are a few plausible explanations — the sender may have had a pre-addressed envelope and enclosed the money order in the presence of the postmaster; still having the device in his hand from marking the advice, the postmaster simply postmarked the cover. Perhaps the postmaster wanted the cover to be differentiated from regular mail, although no such instructions exist in the postal manuals.

Collecting M.O.B. cancels can be fun and challenging. Advice forms are common and can be very ornate or very plain, and early covers are scarce, but are found with increasing frequency as they approach 1940. Money orders themselves are extremely rare, as they should only exist if they were never cashed; postal regulations required their destruction after redemption. These cancels can also be found on coupons (a tear-off receipt kept by the paying post office) and on Postal Notes, but that is a subject for a future column.

I am interested in any information or photocopies of New York M.O.B. cancels for further research. Please send them to me at 56 Morewood Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787.



APS CHAPTER 428

Meets at 8 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Sawdust Cafe, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

James Darnell, 136 Lock St., Clyde, NY 14433
jdarnell@novocon.net, 315-923-7355

CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP GROWING STEADILY

Our membership has increased steadily in the past year, having shown 20 percent growth. In March we added three new members —Gerald Harris, Shirley Stowell, and Harry Wilkins, all of Newark.

POKER NIGHT DRAWS A CROWD

Our second meeting in March saw the best attendance of 2006. Maybe the *draw* was a new program we tried for the first time — *Poker Night*, where members played draw poker for philatelic prizes. There's a little gambler in all of us it seems.

YOUTH CLUB PLANS SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

The Newark All-Star Stamp Club, our youth affiliate, has plans under way to have two special cancellations this summer dealing with local history. One is the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern *Travelectric* which began interurban trolley service in Newark in 1906. The other will commemorate the Mora automobile that was manufactured in Newark in the early part of the 20th century.

FIRST FDC OF YEAR

Our first 2006 FDC cachet honored the conquerors of polio, Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin. A limited number are still available. Send a check or money order payable to the Finger Lakes Stamp Club for \$3.50 and a #10 SASE to Gil Lewis, 502 Rt. 88 S., Newark, NY 14513.



NEW STAMP CIRCUIT MANAGER

After several years as the club's United Stamp Societies circuits manager, Gary Chicoine has passed the torch to Jim Darnell. From all the members, we send a special thank you to Gary for all his time and efforts in making the circuits program work so well during his tenure.

PROGRAMS

May 10 — *Trivia & Puzzles Night*

May 24 — *Dish-to-Pass Social Evening*

June 14 — *Two-Member Display of Favorite Stamp Collections*

June 28 — Annual picnic and *Anything Auction*

APS CHAPTER 138

Incorporating Women's Seal and Stamp Club

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

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



PRIGOZY PRESENTS TELEGRAPH PROGRAM

On March 14 we had the pleasure of hosting Steve Prigozy whose knowledge of the history of the telegraph and associated philately is impressive and very informative.

It is interesting to note that there were almost 60 different telegraph companies during the antebellum, while after the Civil War one major player rose above all others — Western Union Telegraphy Company. Steve will be writing a feature article on the topic for the *STAMP INSIDER* in the near future.



Wired Presentation

Steve Prigozy used a computer to enhance his program.

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB TURNS 80

On March 24 we were treated to a wonderful program put together a few years ago by Ray Coco, who had researched the history of the club for the 75th anniversary and dusted it off for the evening.

Fifteen prominent men met in Albany on April 9, 1926 to form the club. This organizational meeting was held in the Lavender Book Shop on Washington Avenue. Two weeks later, the first official meeting took place, and the first president was Chester Moore. During that first year, the meetings were held in the YMCA. In 1929, the club extended a membership invitation to Franklin D. Roosevelt and he graciously accepted soon after. Also in 1929, the club newsletter, *The Fort Orange Philatelist* first appeared.

In 1935 Fort Orange became APS Chapter 138. In 1951, the club's 25th anniversary was observed with a two-day Silver Jubilee exhibit at the Hotel Ten Eyck. More than 900 people attended. Over the years, the club has met at several locations and now calls the Bethany Reformed Church home.



APS CHAPTER 1227

Incorporating Community Stamp Club

Meets at 7 p.m. on the 4th Thursday except
July and August at Rome Municipal Building, Second Floor

Joe Christofaro, 201 Maple St., Rome, NY 13440
yon1@verizon.net, 315-337-9608

CLUB CHANGES MEETING SCHEDULE

Instead of meeting twice monthly, the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club will now meet only once a month, on the third Thursday.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic will be held in July, at a date to be determined, at the home of Joseph O. and Yon Christofaro. There will be no meeting in August, but the regular schedule will resume in September.

HOME SCHOOL PRESENTATION POSTPONED

A planned presentation led by Lavinia Tilton to a home-school organization was cancelled due to a March snowstorm. Several members now plan to visit the group in April to explain how stamp collecting can help children better understand history.

SPECIAL CANCELS COMING

The club is planning a special cancel and cover for Rome's Honor America Day on July 29. Plans are also progressing for the annual August 3 Fort Stanwix Day cancel and cover. Further information will be available in the July–August *STAMP INSIDER*.

Elmira Stamp Club — Continued from Page 40

LONGTIME MEMBERS DIE: Dr. Otto Lederer, 96, of Big Flats died Feb. 16 and Russell Catron, 84, of Elmira Heights died March 11. We offer our condolences to their families.

OCTAGON FAIR: The club again has been invited to participate in Elmira College's Octagon Fair, an annual community outreach event on its campus. This year's fair will be Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club members willing to help at our table should see to Judy Stewart at meetings or call her at 732-7075.

ATTENDANCE UP: Meeting attendance for the first three months was excellent, with 26 recorded in January, 25 in February, and 27 in March. Our bimonthly auctions do not always benefit from good attendance. In January auctioneers Don Dolan and Mike Breed had only nine lots to call, but all the were sold and grossed \$21.50. In March, the number of lots quadrupled and the auctioneers, again assisted by Judy Stewart and Alex McLeod, sold 30 of the 36 lots for \$101.75. Two club lots sold for \$15 and this, plus our commission on the consignor lots, brought the Club treasury \$23.70. Net to the consignors was \$78.05. Thanks to Clayton Spangenberg for his contribution of the two club lots.

APS CHAPTER 1193

Meets at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday.
Contact John A. Cali for location.

John A. Cali, 613 W. 4th St., Fulton, NY 13069
rocket@dreamscape.com, 315-592-4441



CLUB PROVIDES HELP ON PICTORIAL CANCELS

The club was asked for assistance on two projects by the U.S. Postal Service. We participated in the Town of Volney bicentennial by helping create a pictorial cancel for the March 25 anniversary. The same design will be used on July 22 for the town's historical celebration. We will continue to assist our neighboring communities whenever possible.



CLUB STILL SEEKING NEW HOME

Our meetings will be mobile as we search for a permanent home. The loss of our meeting place in the Hughes Building was mentioned in the last issue. Our dues remain \$6 and will continue to be collected until we stabilize ourselves. We continue our meetings on the third Wednesday of the month except July and August at 7:30 p.m. Those interested may contact John A. Cali, secretary at 315-592-4441 or e-mail rocket@dreamscape.com for directions.

Plattsburgh Area Philatelists Forming New Club

Plattsburgh area philatelists are forming a new group — the North Country Stamp Club, according to Glenn A. Estus, editor of the *Empire State Postal History Society Bulletin* and Vermont Philatelic Society president. At the group's April 8 organizational meeting, it was decided to meet at 1 p.m. monthly on the second Saturday at Plattsburgh Public Library, 19 Oak St.

The initial meeting attracted 13 potential members, including four from the former Plattsburgh Stamp Club, which disbanded in 2000. That club was founded in March 1947. Estus noted that the other nine potential members were previously unaffiliated with any organized philatelic group. One of these is a 90-year-old lifelong philatelist from Upper Jay, who made the 35-mile trip to Plattsburgh so he could learn more about stamps.

He also emphasized that the new club would have no connection with the former club, adding that the name North Country Stamp Club was chosen to make it inclusive for anyone living within the area.

More information is available from Estus at P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451, phone 518-962-4558, e-mail gestus@westelcom.com.



APS CHAPTER 210

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

Yoram B. Szekeley, 104 Kline Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
yszekely@twcny.rr.com, 607-257-5346

CLUB LEAVING PRESIDENCY VACANT

The club has decided to leave its presidency vacant for the present. Treasurer Yoram B. Szekeley will preside over meetings. The club's other officer is Secretary Howard Schlieder, who is also the *FEDERATION'S* Southern Finger Lakes vice president.

The presidency has been vacant since the death of Annie (Ans) van Tienhoven on Nov. 12, 2005. She had held the position since the late 1980s.

CLUB RETAINS MEETING SCHEDULE

The club has voted to retain its twice-monthly meeting schedule in order to accommodate the kiloware and APS sales box sales at the first and an auction on the second. It had been suggested that the first meeting be dropped because of lower attendance, but this was offset by the fact that both programs could not be combined in one evening because of their length.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The club welcomes new members. More information about the club may be obtained from Szekeley or Schlieder at 607-277-3192.

Champlain Stamp Also Being Issued in Ticonderoga

The 39-cent Champlain stamp joint issue with Canada will be issued on May 28 at Ticonderoga, NY, as well as at *WASHINGTON 2006*, the World Philatelic Exhibition. The Ticonderoga event will be held on the grounds of Fort Ticonderoga near the site where Champlain came ashore off the lake in July 1606.

The U.S. will issue a 39-cent single and a souvenir sheet of four stamps — two U.S. designs and two Canada issues. The Canada first day ceremony will be in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

Covers for U.S. servicing may be sent to Postmaster, 169 Champlain Ave., Ticonderoga NY 12883-9998 and 900 Brentwood Drive NE, Washington, DC 20066-9998.



APS CHAPTER 1334

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

Ellen Tillapaugh, 28 Pioneer St., Cooperstown, NY 13326
kuchtill@verizon.net, 607-547-5646

Leatherstocking
Stamp
Club



ALBERT KECK TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON TAGGING

Club member Albert Keck will present a program at the May 2 club meeting on tagging, which is a luminescent component added to stamps, postal stationery, or the paper used to print them so the stamp or stationery will activate face-canceller machinery. The club's season will conclude on June 6, when Ellen Tillapaugh will speak on *The History of Mr. Zip*. The club does not meet during July and August, meeting again on Sept. 5.

Expertisers — Continued from Page 26

von Ferrary and Maurice Burrus) and an 1852 cover franked with the first two postage stamps of Réunion (ex-Alfred H. Caspary). Not everything is this glamorous. The Sismondos also expertise hundreds of stamps mailed to them each year by ordinary collectors. Not all stamps submitted for expertisation are suspected forgeries, of course. A collector might need help distinguishing between slightly different shades of color, for example, or want to know if a stamp has any hidden faults that could detract from its value.



New Carlisle postmaster's provisional

In the 1970s and 1980s, some predicted the death of philatelic expertising for all but the most valuable items. Varro Tyler's monographs and long-running "Focus on Forgeries" column in *Linn's*, combined with the translation of *The Serrane Guide* into English, promised to make every man his own expert. In some cases, this has come to pass, particularly where the cost of expertisation would be much greater than the cost of the item. The explosion of philatelic knowledge since then, however, combined with new and ingenious ways to create fakes and forgeries — both attributable to the rise of the personal computer — have made the profession more necessary now than ever. The Sismondos have a backlog of anywhere from three weeks' worth of work to more than three months during auction season.

What keeps them at *pulling weeds* after all these years? "It is the perfect marriage of science and art in search of the truth," Sergio says.

Sergio and Liane Sismondo may be reached via their Web site, The Classic Collector, at WWW.SISMONDOSTAMPS.COM or at 10035 Carousel Center Drive, Syracuse, 13290.



APS CHAPTER 1442

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

Jack Searles, 733 Front St., Olean, NY 14760
searles@adelphia.net, 716-392-1072

CLUB PLANNING OLEPEX 2006

The club is planning its annual show — *OLEPEX 2006*, which again will be held at the John Ash Community Center at 112 N. Barry St., in Olean. The Sept. 9 show will feature open competition exhibits having a 48-page limit per entry and seven regional dealers. As usual the show will be open to the public, offering free admission and parking. There will be no raffle this year, as it was determined that all tickets were sold to club members last year.

AUCTION REVENUE: The February auction generated \$44.50 in sales and \$4.45 for the club; March generated \$89.50 in sales and \$8.95 for the club; and April generated \$87.50 in sales and \$8.75 for the club.

PROGRAMS

May 1 — *Allegany County Revisited* by Bill Howden

June 5 — APS slide program: *Rotary*

Utica Group Seeks Amber Alert First Day Ceremony

The Mohawk Valley Missing Children Stamp Committee is seeking the support of the philatelic community to have the Amber Alert stamp first day of issue ceremony in Utica. The stamp is to be issued on May 25 in Washington, DC, two days before the opening of the *WASHINGTON 2006* World Philatelic Exhibition. The MVMCSC was formed when a local child was abducted. The MVMCSC and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's local chapter worked for more than 10 years to urge the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to issue a stamp.



The group asks philatelists to contact RONALD ROBINSON, CSAC chairperson, USPS, 1735 N. Lynn St., Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209; U.S. REP. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, Alexander Pirnie Federal Bldg., 10 Broad St., Utica, NY 13501; fax 315-798-4099; and U.S. SEN. HILLARY R. CLINTON, James M. Hanley Federal Bldg., 100 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 7378, Syracuse, NY 13261-7378; phone 315-448-0470, fax 315-448-0476, e-mail info@friendsofhillary.com. MVMCSC may be contacted at ocnorb@gmail.com.

APS CHAPTER 728

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

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



MEMBERS SHARE COLLECTIONS AT MEETINGS

Various club members shared parts of their collections in informal presentations at recent club meetings. In February, our newest member, Sewall Oertling, gave an interesting talk on postal stationery collecting.

He showed examples of the hard-to-distinguish color variations on postal entires and envelopes, talked about cut squares, and discussed the printing differences found on early postal cards. He also showed the club several reference books on stationery and how various envelopes can be identified by knowing how they were cut and constructed.

In March, President Leigh LeClair showed the club some beautiful Swiss semipostals, and Nick Todaro shared postal and historical material related to the numerous railroads that ran throughout Oswego County.

PICNIC: The club is planning to hold its annual picnic in Breitbeck Park in June and resume meetings in September.

Oswego County Fair Pictorial Cancel

Plans are underway for a pictorial cancel at the 149th annual Oswego County Fair in Sandy Creek. The cancellation, designed by Heather Sweeting, will be available starting on July 3 in the Heritage building, where many of the local town historians have elaborate displays of many historical materials.

The displays, spearheaded and organized by newly elected Oswego County Legislator Shawn Doyle and historian Charlene Cole manage to turn the building into a temporary museum and genealogical hotspot for the five days of the fair.

Last year, for example, I met a 95 year-old-woman from Florida who was visiting her relatives. Coincidentally, she had known my grandmother and taught school with my neighbor for many years. Many local history books, documents, photographs, etc are on sale as well.

— Heather Sweeting





APS CHAPTER 207

www.geocities.com/rpastamps

Meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Thursday

at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Road

Joseph Doles, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Sta., Rochester, NY 14610-0206

jdoles@rochester.rr.com, 585-621-3012

MAY—JUNE ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

ART COVER EXCHANGE: On May 11, Joseph Doles will give a PowerPoint presentation on the *Art Cover Exchange* — a club for cover makers. Doles, an ACE member since 1988 and a club officer for many years, will discuss art, event, and first day covers.

PAPER AND GUM VARIETIES: On May 25, John Kellas, McLeod Stamps & Coin Co. will present his program on *Identifying Paper and Gum Varieties*.

AUTOGRAPHED FDCs: On June 8, RPA Vice President Jim Bell will talk about his *Autographed First Day Covers*.

A MEETING NOT TO MISS: Shortcake from the famous strawberry patch of John Kellas will be served at the June 22 meeting. This is the last meeting before the summer recess.

Triggle ATA'S 2006 Distinguished Topical Philatelist

Ann M. Triggle, a member of the Buffalo Stamp Club and the RPA, is the recipient of the American Topical Association's 2006 Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award, its most prestigious honor. Formal presentation will be made at the ATA's 9 a.m. business meeting June 2 at the Washington Convention Center during *WASHINGTON 2006*. Triggle has organized a symposium, *Thematic Exhibits: Aspects of Their Evaluation*, to be conducted at 10 a.m. on June 2 in Room 151A of the Washington Convention Center.



Triggle's service to philately has been at all levels where she has held offices in local, regional, and national philatelic organizations. She is an accredited judge of both the ATA and the APS. Besides her activities in the ATA and APS, she has served as a director of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), a council member of the American Philatelic Congress (APC), a council member of the APS Writers Unit 30, and director of the Great Britain Collectors Club. She is currently Awards Chairman for *W2006*.

For information on the topical organization, contact the ATA Central Office, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057; phone 817-274-1181; e-mail americantopical@msn.com; Web site www.americantopicalassn.org.

APS CHAPTER 153

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Monday
at Union Presbyterian Church, 1068 Park Ave.

Ronald K. Ratchford, 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308
ronaldratchford@yahoo.com, 518-374-3776



FLEDGLING CLUB HELD FIRST SHOW IN 1931

Less than six months after its organizational meeting of Dec. 10, 1930, the newly formed Schenectady Stamp Club had its First Annual Exhibit. A special philatelic cover — apparently with a rubber stamped cachet — was issued and an impressive program was printed. The location for this initial exhibit was the Schenectady County Historical Society on lower Union Street — not very far from that society’s current headquarters and museum on Washington Avenue. Interestingly, the club’s 75th anniversary special postal station was at this newer historical society facility on Dec. 10, 2005 and a special postmark was applied there. I’m not sure how many such annual exhibits would follow that first one of May 1931.

UPCOMING TOPIC: The club’s Aug. 9, 1931 printed cachet for the Mohawk and Hudson Rail Road centennial will be the subject for an upcoming column in the *STAMP INSIDER*.

PROGRAMS

- May and June — No meetings
- July 9 — Tri-Club picnic and auction

The Good Old Days

Schenectady Evening Star, Dec. 8, 1893 —

CLIPPINGS AND COMMENT.

Few of those who are smitten with the mania for collecting postage stamps realize what a task and what an expense it would be to make their collection complete. The world now uses thirteen thousand kinds of stamps, to say nothing of the many that have gone out of use and have become rare and costly.





APS CHAPTER 1357

Meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday, except July, August, October,
at Kanestio Historical Society Building, 23 Main St., Canisteo
President Sue Babbitt, 1990 Square Woods Drive, Canisteo, NY 14823
babbitts@stny.rr.com, 607-698-2062

THE STEUBEN CONNECTION

Steuben County derives its name from Baron Frederick William Augustus von Steuben, a Prussian military officer who came to the United States in 1777. The former Prussian army captain became popular as a U.S. Army instructor of in the Revolutionary War. The baron never lived in the county. In 1790, Congress granted him an annual pension of \$2,400, while New York State gave him a 16,000-acre land grant near Utica. He named it Steubenville and died there on Nov, 28, 1794, at 64. Our club, formed in 1987, took its name after the county.

Steuben is the seventh largest of the state's 57 counties, ranking 21st in population. It lies along the divide between the St. Lawrence and Susquehanna rivers basins and has a moderate continental climate. The land ranges from 2,400 feet above sea level in the southwest part of the county down to 714 feet at Keuka Lake. The landscape is one of rolling uplands cut by numerous, steep-sided stream valleys, some as much as 600 feet deep. The Canisteo and Cohocton (or Conhocton) rivers are the major streams, flowing southeastward across the county to Painted Post where they merge to form the Chemung River. The landscape is dominated by farms and woodlands and has great scenic charm, with a rich abundance of wildlife.



The U.S. first honored von Steuben on a two-cent red (Scott 689) and later on a souvenir sheet of Cornwallis' surrender (Scott 1686). The 1994 German stamp commemorates the bicentennial of his death. A former LaFayette class submarine was named in his honor.

Impert block courtesy Shreves Philatelic Galleries

APS CHAPTER 50

www.syracusestampclub.org

Meets at 8 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Friday at the Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Ave.

Allen Swift, P.O. Box 3436, Syracuse, NY 13220
agsses@aol.com, 315-457-3201



CLUB TAKES FIELD TRIP TO MYSTIC

The club toured the facilities of the Mystic Stamp Company in Camden on April 11, being shown the research, graphics, and approvals departments and allowed to inspect Mystic's plate block of the CIA invert as well as the "H" hat stamp yellow variety.



Welcome Guests

Syracuse Stamp Club members visiting Mystic Stamp Company from left, seated: Dianne Juchimek, Rachel Netzband, Lisa Steele; standing Dick Netzband, Mike Ammann, Vince Juchimek, Jim Steele, Gil Strausman, Bin Liu, Rick Erat, Dan Piazza, and Bob Davison.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: President Mike Ammann appointed Richard Nuhn of Jordan to the club's board of directors on March 17. Richard joined the club in 2004 and is a worldwide collector. He will finish out the term of Paul Davis, who has resigned from the club.

PROGRAMS

May 5 — *God's Mail: The Philately of Vatican City* by Dan Piazza; pizza, drinks, and door prizes

May 19 — Auction

June 2 — *Philatelic Items You Haven't Seen Before* by Dave Proulx

June 16 — *Washington 2006 Wrap-Up* with Tom Fortunato, Media Chairman, and club members who attended the show

June 30 — Auction

There will be mini-auctions at 7:45 p.m. on May 5, and June 2, if material allows.



APS CHAPTER 292

Meets at 7 p.m. except July and August on the 3rd Monday
at Sidney Civic Center, 21 Liberty St.

Robert Finnegan, 10 O'Neill Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820
rfinnegan@stny.rr.com, 607-432-8141

CLUB GAINS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The club welcomes two new members — Richard Klingman and Mary Bartsch. Mary Bartsch, who resides in Deposit, is a former member when she lived in the Sidney area.

CLUB HOSTING YOUTH GROUP

The club will be hosting the Sidney Elementary School youth stamp club as Robert Finnegan and Tri-County members engage the group of third, fourth and fifth graders at the May meeting. The club didn't host the youngsters for the past two years as the school wouldn't support a club at the school site. The students will be participating in four or five youth-oriented activities and games while accumulating more stamps for their respective collections.

DINNER WILL COMPLETE SEASON: The June 19 meeting will serve as the end of the year meeting. A location for the dinner has yet to be determined.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: The club is still in need of those interested in becoming new members. Anyone in the areas from Oneonta to Afton along the Route 88 corridor are certainly invited and those residing from Deposit to New Berlin along the Route 8 corridor are encouraged to join us as well.

Auxiliary Markings — Continued from Page 22

markings: *return to sender* and *postage due*. The incredible range of these common markings is so diverse that one can specialize in these markings alone.

Auxiliary markings that point out why an envelope's journey was interrupted while in the mail stream include *missent*, *forwarded*, *stamp lost*, *insufficient address*, and many others. These served to inform the recipient as to the reason for the delay. Hence the concern of the post office whose duty, at least in the past, was the expeditious and timely delivery of the mail.

Collecting auxiliary markings does not have to be restricted to U.S. covers. There are plenty of foreign covers with markings that only add to the world of auxiliary markings. Foreign markings are interesting in that not only are the markings in language of the postal authority the mail traveled through but also in French which is the language of the Universal Postal Union.

It is impossible to cover all the auxiliary markings that are out there. Any attempt to catalogue markings will only scratch the surface, although a comprehensive survey will set parameters for this emerging and exciting area.

APS CHAPTER 240

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday
at Holmes & Watson Ltd., 450 Broadway

Terrill S. Miller, P.O. Box 335, Troy, NY 12181-0335
unclesamty@aol.com, 518-869-6872



IRELAND, SODA BREAD, AND STAMP COLLECTING

On Feb. 1, member Tom Hanley gave us his annual presentation on Irish stamp collecting. This year's talk was on *Irish Booklets*. In 1988 Ireland began issuing some commemoratives in booklet form and with their definitive partners combine to make an impressive collection. Tom lamented demonetization of his collection with the coming of the Euro, but all agreed that it is still a wonderful collection. As always, Tom provided homemade Irish soda bread to go along with his program.

LATVIAN POSTAL HISTORY

On Feb 15, Maris Tirums from the Fort Orange Club once again visited us with another very interesting program. Maris collects, among other things, Latvian postal history and treated us to a seminar on the slogan postal markings, which were popular before the outbreak of World War II. These slogans were mostly public service promotions used only on local mail.



Postal History Presentation

Club members listen attentively to Maris Tirums.

WINTER AUCTION.

March 1 saw the club's winter auction. This is always a fun night with lots of material changing hands. One never knows what delights to expect, and thanks to Don Nolett, I was able to add a stamp box to my collection.

U.S. POSTMARK COLLECTION

Member Arnie Leiter provided March 15th's program. Arnie treated us to a display of U.S. postmarks. For many years, Arnie has been working towards the unbelievable task of collecting a postmark from every post office in every town and city in every state in the union. Just imagine the number of binders to house this collection. Arnie collects 2 × 4-inch corners or complete covers if they are more valuable in that condition.



APS CHAPTER 1537

Meets informally at noon Tuesdays at the Masonic Community Center, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga

John L. Leszak, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 142274
coverconnection@aol.com, 716-668-2755

VALLEYPLEX AIDS CENTER FOR DYSLEXIA

The Valley of Buffalo Family Life Stamp Club meets informally on Tuesdays after the weekly Masonic Lunches at the Valley of Buffalo 32nd Degree Masonic Community Center, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga, to discuss Masons on postage stamps.

Each year, the club sponsors *VALLEYPLEX*, a stamp show that raises money for the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexia in Rochester. This year's *VALLEYPLEX* is slated for June 17–18. The theme for Saturday, June 17, will honor Masonic Baseball Players. On Sunday, June 18, Benjamin Franklin will be honored. Both days will feature a special pictorial cancel and show cover, with the proceeds to benefit the Center of Dyslexia.

NOTED MASONS ON STAMPS: THE CLARK CONNECTION

In each of our bimonthly *STAMP INSIDER* club page, we will describe stamps honoring a notable person who was a Mason. **GEORGE ROGERS CLARK:** The noted military leader during the Revolutionary War was a member of Abraham Lodge No. 8 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Clark was honored with a stamp in 1929 (Scott 651) and a postal card in 1979 (Scott UX78). With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, General Clark secured authority from Virginia and crossed the Ohio River with the objective of driving out the British Forces from Illinois, at that time a part of the Province of Quebec. His control of Vincennes enabled the United States to lay claim to the parts of what are now Ohio and Indiana at the Treaty of Paris in 1783 (Scott 2052). The youngest brother of George Rogers Clark was William Clark, who along with fellow Mason Merriwether Lewis, engaged in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Both Lewis and Clark were honored with commemorative stamps in 2004 on the occasion of the Bicentennial of their expedition.



APS CHAPTER 66

Meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at New Hartford Town Library, 2 Library Lane
G. M. Cunningham, P.O. Box 374, Washington Mills, NY 13479
Jerryc50nh@aol.com, 315-736-1965



STAMP KEEPER PROGRAM POSTPONED

The club held its monthly meeting on March at the New Hartford Public Library. Our scheduled speaker, member Dick Drumm, was unable to attend due to illness. He was to provide a presentation on how to use *Stamp Keeper*. This is a software program dedicated specifically to aid and enhance stamp collecting. Dick was to present this program at our April meeting.

NUNES' STATEMENT DISCUSSED

There was a spirited discussion regarding *FEDERATION* President John J. Nunes statements concerning the cancellation of our biannual stamp show ["President's Viewpoint," March/April]. I have discussed this in length with Editor Albert W. Starkweather, so repeating our concerns here will serve no purpose.

Judy Routson, a member of both the Utica Stamp Club and the Fort Stanwix Stamp Club of Rome, has provided a more detailed explanation of our dismay. She has composed a letter to the editor that represents the two stamp clubs' viewpoints (see *Communications*, page 34). It is our desire that a detailed answer to her letter will result in a better understanding of our legitimate concerns, consequently improving our relationship with other clubs and the *FEDERATION*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The information on the show cancellation in President Nunes' March-April column was provided by Fort Stanwix Stamp Club Secretary Joseph O. Christofaro just before that issue went to press. He cited the reason as a lack of sufficient volunteers, saying nothing about the monetary issues raised by the clubs. This topic is further addressed in the *President's Viewpoint* column on page 4.

Piazza Creates Vatican Philatelic Society Web Site

The Vatican Philatelic Society has launched an Internet site created by Daniel A. Piazza of Syracuse at www.vaticanphilately.org. Piazza is one of the Society's three governors-at-large, as well as a member of Syracuse Stamp Club and its Webmaster.

The Vatican Philatelic Society is an international organization that promotes the collection and study of the stamps, covers, and postal history of the Vatican City State and its predecessor, the Pontifical (Roman) States. Its 300 members range from beginners to specialists and their interests encompass every possible branch of Vatican City and Roman States philately.

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18 — Albany

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Prestige Booklet
— **Cont. from Page 28**

Offsetting on the backing of the sheets bears this out.

A contributory cause is the use of ink incompatible with the press and paper setup. Spattering on some sheets points toward the use of *long ink*, which has a tendency to *fly* or *mist* on high-speed presses. Ink length refers to its ability to flow and form filaments — long or short. *Short inks* tend to pile on the rollers, plate, or blanket. Ideal inks are balanced between the two extremes.

Another contributory factor may be the extra drying time necessary for the extremely hard, plastic-like surface of the coated paper. Printers usually do not handle newly printed sheets until the ink has solidified and dried.



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WANTED / EXCHANGE — Sheets and broken sheets, blocks, singles, etc. U.S. Christmas/Easter seals, Canada Christmas/Easter seals, Boys Town seals, U.S. and foreign locals and TB seals. Dave Schue, 680 Latta Road, Rochester, NY 14612-4148.

WANTED — Covers and post cards from Newfoundland, both pre- and post Confederation. George McGowan, e-mail: geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com.

WANTED — On cover singles postally used (not FDC or events) 32¢ American art, jazz musicians, American dolls, American aircraft, composers, endangered species 22¢ presidential, 29¢ wildflowers, Celebrate the Century, 34¢ Greetings from America. E-mail: hsweetin@twcny.rr.com.

WANTED — Sarawak stamps mint or used (Scott #) 153-154. E-mail: hsweetin@twcny.rr.com.

WANTED / EXCHANGE — Vatican City MNH singles and margin blocks. Also philatelic literature and *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*. Member APS, VPS. E-mail: dpiazza@twcny.rr.com.

WANTED — 1945-1946 Roosevelt 1-5¢ blocks of 4 — all four corners and plate numbers. Mike Schneider, P.O. Box 280044, Tampa, FL 33682-0044.

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THE LAST WORDS

Heather Sweeting, Associate Editor
14329 Victory St., Sterling NY 13156-3172
e-mail hsweeting@nystampclubs.org

SOME FUN CURES FOR SPRING FEVER

As a school teacher, it only takes one sunny day after a long wet winter to realize that every pupil has been waiting for months to play outdoors. Recess suddenly becomes in a child's eyes the top priority of the day. So, do stamp collectors have the same yearning? What does Spring Fever mean to the *cooped* up collector? Does it mean it's time to hop in the car and go to a stamp show? *WASHINGTON 2006* perhaps? Do collectors move from their offices, desks, or dining room tables, out onto the porch, or out by the pool? (That could put a whole new meaning into soaking stamps.) Perhaps collectors go on an actual vacation taking a hiatus from their winter of sorting and watermarking etc.? Personally, I confess, I waited for a snow day all winter in the hopes that I would have a day to stay home and sort covers. It was an easy winter and I'm still waiting in vain.

For many New York clubs, spring likely means the return of their *snow bird* members. It's always good to see folks return from their winters in a warmer climate. It's nice to hear of their travels and find out what they added to their collections while they were away.

What can your club do to create its own Spring Fling? What about traveling or car pooling in groups to a show a few hours away? (Can you say road trip?) I've heard that a large contingent of the Syracuse Stamp club is heading to *W2006* as a group. Doesn't that sound like fun? How about arranging a picnic dinner meeting or a barbecue with a neighboring club? After dinner, close the night with a spring flea market, indoors or out. Have everybody contribute one or two philatelic fleas (extra duplicates, bag of soakers, etc.) for a silent auction or a round of philatelic *Let's Make a Deal*. "Does this bag of stamps look good or would you like to trade it for mystery brown bag lot number two?" Throw in a few silly or humorous items such as a Frisbee, tacky knickknacks, or even dessert just for fun. Does your club do anything fun for spring let us know? We are all looking for new ideas for meetings.

You might be reading through the *STAMP INSIDER* and notice that the classified want ad section remains small. We haven't had a large response from readers despite their relatively inexpensive price. Perhaps you are hesitant to place an ad or give out your e-mail address. There are numerous free anonymous e-mail addresses available on the Web at Yahoo etc. if you prefer to keep your home address private. I can happily report that I have had several positive responses to both of my want ads within the last two months. For me, the ads have had a 100 percent success rate. I'm not sure that an ad for upside down airplane stamps on cover would have the same rate but I do think you can reach a lot of collectors/dealers eyes by placing an ad. I have found several elusive items and I have also made a few new philatelic friends. Try one... you just might fill a hole in your collection!

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