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## EDITOR

ALBERT W. STARKWEATHER

5520 GUNN HWY. APT. 1406, TAMPA, FL 33624-2847  
813-962-7964; [ASTARKWEATHER@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG](mailto:ASTARKWEATHER@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG)  
[WWW.STARKWEATHERDESIGN.COM](http://WWW.STARKWEATHERDESIGN.COM)

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HEATHER SWEETING

14329 VICTORY ST., STERLING NY 13156-3172  
315-947-6761; [HSWEETING@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG](mailto:HSWEETING@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG)

## CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

DANIEL A. PIAZZA

753 JAMES ST., APT. 1126, SYRACUSE, NY 13203-2413  
315-476-8052; [DPIAZZA@TWCNY.RR.COM](mailto:DPIAZZA@TWCNY.RR.COM)

## ADVERTISING MANAGER

GEORGE MCGOWAN

P.O. BOX 482, EAST SCHODACK, NY 12063-0483  
518-479-4396; [GEOLOTUS2003@NYCAP.RR.COM](mailto:GEOLOTUS2003@NYCAP.RR.COM)

## WEBMASTER

THOMAS M. FORTUNATO

28 AMBERWOOD PLACE, ROCHESTER, NY 14626-4166  
585-225-6822; [STAMPTRMF@FRONTIERNET.NET](mailto:STAMPTRMF@FRONTIERNET.NET)

## FINANCIAL

JOHN J. NUNES

80 FREDERICKS ROAD, SCOTIA, NY 12302-5727  
518-399-8395; [NUNESNOOK@AOL.COM](mailto:NUNESNOOK@AOL.COM)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

JOHN A. CALL, C/O STAMP INSIDER

P.O. BOX 401, FULTON, NY 13069-0401  
315-592-4441; [ROCKET@DREAMSCAPE.COM](mailto:ROCKET@DREAMSCAPE.COM)

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## PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

John J. Nunes

80 Fredericks Road, Scotia, NY 12302-5727  
518-399-8395 — e-mail [nunesnook@aol.com](mailto:nunesnook@aol.com)

### NEW ENGLAND ASDA HELPING HOST SHOW

Although we were unable to hold a *FEDERATION* show at the Turning Stone Casino this year, we have another opportunity for a fall show. The New England American Stamp Dealers Association (NEASDA), which contributed \$500 to the *FEDERATION* in support of its efforts to improve communications with the clubs through the *STAMP INSIDER*, is offering to help host a show in Albany on Oct. 21 and 22 — *NEASDA MANIA*.

The Schenectady, Fort Orange, and the Uncle Sam stamp clubs are being asked to support this endeavor with two volunteers each to assist NEASDA in show setup, operation, and educational displays and forums. *FEDERATION* member dealers are invited to attend as dealers even though they may not be ASDA members.

*FEDERATION* club members are encouraged to attend as each will be given a 20 percent discount on all purchases. They will be given a special pass to use to get their discounts. The show will be at the Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave., at Exit 5 of I-90, just 4 miles from Exit 24 of the New York State Thruway. There is not sufficient time to obtain exhibits for competition, but educational displays are requested. The bourse dealers will offer stamps, postal history, postcards, ephemera, and numismatic collectibles. Contact me for any detail, to sign up as a dealer, or to get on the mailing list. Contact me at [NUNESNOOK@AOL.COM](mailto:NUNESNOOK@AOL.COM).

#### ACTION AND REACTION

The *atta-boys* continue to roll in on the *STAMP INSIDER*'s transformation to color and interesting copy in the last two issues. I have received more than a dozen letters complimenting us on the transformation that has occurred.

George McGowen has become our Advertising Manager. He is getting timely funding from our advertisers and this helps me to pay the bills. He is also becoming a *Johnny on the spot reporter* with his camera and is sporting a new nickname, *Edward R.*

On the other hand, I am disappointed by the lack of turnout at our meetings, true they are boring, but they need to happen to air grievances and to obtain suggestions for improvement in what the *FEDERATION* can offer. We are relying on e-mails to get the business of the *FEDERATION* accomplished.

I am still compiling a list of speakers and topics for the Fort Orange, Schenectady, and Uncle stamp clubs for the coming year. It appears to be a changing agenda with turnover of our membership. Since the list was not ready for this issue of the *STAMP INSIDER*, we will e-mail it to the club representatives and place it on the *FEDERATION* Web site.

The euphoria of *WASHINGTON 2006* has not abated and has helped bring people to the last three bourses I have attended. It is hoped that all members will continue to support and attend the bourses and shows given by our member clubs.



# Get Ready for NEASDA Mania!

10 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday, October 21

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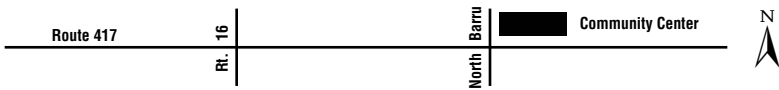
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## EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Albert W. Starkweather  
5520 Gunn Hwy 1406, Tampa, FL 33624-2847  
e-mail [astarkweather@nystampclubs.org](mailto:astarkweather@nystampclubs.org)

### SHOULD WE MOURN THE LATE SCHOLARLY ARTICLE?

I recently had an interesting e-mail dialogue with Francis E. Kiddle about the direction a great many philatelic journals are taking these days. Kiddle, a resident of the United Kingdom and chairman of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Literature Commission, was reacting to the fact that most journals submitted to the *WASHINGTON 2006* literature competition were awarded only low silver to bronze awards.

"Philatelic journals have become far more linked to the social side of philately rather than the more serious learned article," he wrote. "I am not saying that this is wrong, because market forces (i.e., members) dictate what is published."

I have viewed the *dumbing down* of many publications — specialty and commercial alike — with dismay, but have come to the realization that this may be what is keeping the hobby alive as newer collectors join our ranks. In fact, this approach may be one of the factors in attracting them. To fulfill the *FEDERATION'S* educational goals, I try to carry a mix of articles for those with different interests and varying skill levels. This includes columns for newcomers and youngsters, as well as content that will appeal to more advanced philatelists.

I have one correspondent who complains that I am running *too much fluff*, while others claim that the *STAMP INSIDER'S* content is too dense. Many club columnists wish for more space which is always at a premium.

This issue is a perfect example of having the right space at the wrong time. The feature material in the front of the book before the club pages usually is typeset long before the club columns begin to drift in, as are all ads. Nearly all of the club correspondents send their concise reports in a timely manner, but it is the few who file very long columns at the 11th hour or after the deadline who cause many problems. I usually try to accommodate them by jumping their excess copy to an open page, although these are scarce after the balance of the book is completed. Nor can I hold open space on the odds that something may be to be jumped.

I simply cannot handle a great volume of routine copy at deadline, when the remaining pages must be proofread and prepared for printing. It is late and long copy that does not fit the allotted space that delays getting the journal to the printer as early as possible.

Because of the summer holidays, many club pages ran short, which allowed us to fill the balance with interesting short items. At deadline I was missing three club reports, one of which came in right on deadline, another which was filed in the wee hours of the morning after the deadline, and one that never did arrive — meaning my associate editor had to come up with suitable content, also in the wee hours. And to compound matters, I learned of the death of Arnie Leiter on the last afternoon before we went to press — leaving me to scramble to assemble a proper obituary and to find a suitable photograph.

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## SITE SEEING

George T. Fekete

111 Dale Road, Rochester NY 14625-2009

e-mail: [gfekete@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gfekete@rochester.rr.com)

## A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO PHILATELY

During the Age of Reason philosopher Francis Bacon concluded, “Knowledge is power.” Three centuries later, Bertrand Russell mused, “There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge.” Nobel laureate Ernest Rutherford posited, “All science is either physics or stamp collecting.”

These pearls of wisdom segue to this month’s column: philatelic information online. Some of my favorite online information sources:

Specialty sites abound. My favorite, [www.1847USA.COM](http://www.1847USA.COM), covers U.S. stamps through the 1970s, with a strong section on the Washington–Franklins. The Smithsonian Institution’s National Postal Museum maintains [www.ARAGO.SI.EDU](http://www.ARAGO.SI.EDU), a site dedicated to the study of philately, primarily U.S., and U.S. postal operations. If you like philatelic exhibits — and are multilingual — EXPONET ([www.JAPHILA.CZ/HOF](http://www.JAPHILA.CZ/HOF)) is your personal cornucopia.

Although I often visit many of the scores of club sites, I’ll mention only a few. A great place to find information on worldwide philately is [www.VIRTUALSTAMPCLUB.COM](http://www.VIRTUALSTAMPCLUB.COM). The American Philatelic Society ([www.STAMPS.ORG](http://www.STAMPS.ORG)) provides a great deal of useful information and is also a portal to other informative sites, including its sister organization, the American Philatelic Research Library ([www.STAMPLIBRARY.ORG/THELIBRARY/LIB\\_ABOUTTHEAPRL.HTM](http://www.STAMPLIBRARY.ORG/THELIBRARY/LIB_ABOUTTHEAPRL.HTM)). A popular site sponsored by the Collectors Club of Chicago is [www.ASKPHIL.ORG](http://www.ASKPHIL.ORG), where you can find answers to general questions about philately. Last, but not least, don’t forget local club and federation sites, like the *FEDERATION* ([www.NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG](http://www.NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG)).

Dealer sites and auction sites often contain more information than a listing of lots and prices. My January / February 2006 column, *Scratching the Philatelic Itch Online*, addressed dealer sites in detail. A word of caution: We cannot vet the business behind each referenced link in the *STAMP INSIDER*, so be sure to do your homework before making a purchase!

Message boards, chat rooms, and news groups include Frajola’s Board for Philatelists ([www.KBNET.COM/BOOK/HTML/FRAJOLABOARD.HTML](http://www.KBNET.COM/BOOK/HTML/FRAJOLABOARD.HTML)). You may want to check out the eBay Chat Room ([CHATBOARDS.EBAY.COM/CHAT.JSP?FORUM=1&THREAD=28](http://CHATBOARDS.EBAY.COM/CHAT.JSP?FORUM=1&THREAD=28)). With a newsgroup reader, such as the one in Outlook Express, you can subscribe to the Recreational Collecting Stamps Discussion ([REC.COLLECTING.STAMPS.DISSCUSS](http://REC.COLLECTING.STAMPS.DISSCUSS)) which is devoted to worldwide stamp and postal history discussions. There is no fee and you will receive no unwanted e-mails.

Postal administrations around the world maintain Web sites, primarily for commerce; many contain supplementary information. For example, you can view postal rates and new issues at the USPS site ([www.USPS.COM](http://www.USPS.COM)). Links to other postal administrations can be found on the Universal Postal Union site ([www.UPU.INT](http://www.UPU.INT)).

Gotta go — surf’s up!



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Major Reuben Fleet on the left briefs airmail pilot Lt. George Boyle before he begins his flight on May 15, 1918. It didn't help. Boyle still got lost,

## INSPIRED BY THE 'GREATEST GENERATION'

It is so interesting to see how many different ways people collect stamps and covers. If you talk to enough collectors you will discover a multitude of subjects, topics, locations, individuals, and areas — some common, some esoteric.

Many of my philatelic friends know that I collect Consolidated's flying boat, the PB-Y, or *Catalina* as the British named her. Why the PB-Y? It wasn't fast. It wasn't good looking. It wasn't even very famous. However, it was the plane that my dad flew on. He was a radioman on one for 12 months of his more than three years in the Navy during World War II.

Like all kids of the 1950s and 1960s I would ask, "What did you do in the war daddy?" and he would just say that he was a radioman on a PB-Y on submarine patrol off the South American coast. It wasn't until after he died that my aunt told me that he was responsible for rescuing two crew mates after a forced landing. Like so many of his *Greatest Generation*, they did their job, came home, built the greatest country in the world, and rarely talked about it.

While going through some of dad's things, I found a book on flying boats that I had given him years before. It had a chapter on the PB-Y, and after reading it, I began further research and found a philatelic connection. Many countries have issued stamps honoring the PB-Y for its war record and its years of commercial service after the war. Shown here is a FDC from Wallis and Futuna commemorating a first flight in 1947, and a recent 37-cent U.S. issue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The amphibious patrol bomber severely limited German submarine activities in the Atlantic. More than 4,000 PB-Ys were built and more than 30 are still flying. Consolidated Aircraft Corp. was founded in Buffalo by Reuben H. Fleet who established the first U.S. government air mail from Washington to New York on May 15, 1918.

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### WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

Take a look at the stamp shown. Is there one of these in your collection? What kind of collector wants this particular stamp? This stamp would fit nicely into several collections, including:

- Belgium,
- semipostal (charity) stamps of Europe (or the world),
- statues on stamps,
- horses on stamps,
- weaponry on stamps,
- saints / religious figures on stamps,
- carmine (or red) stamps,
- stamps issued in 1941, and
- stamps issued during World War II.



This stamp could also fit into a collection of folk festivals — St. Martin's Day is celebrated on November 11 in parts of Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, and eastern Europe with children's parades featuring homemade lanterns. Other countries all over Europe from Portugal to Estonia celebrate the festival in some manner.

Or maybe you would rather celebrate charitable giving; St. Martin cut his cloak in two to give half to a freezing beggar.

Or music: There are special songs for children to sing on St. Martin's Day.

Or the history of Sint Maarten / St. Martin, the dual Dutch–French Caribbean island in the West Indies Leeward Islands group.

Or some other aspect of this stamp that I haven't spotted.

What is the right way to collect this (or any other) stamp? Whatever way satisfies you is the right way to collect. It's your collection — do your own thing!

### ABOUT ST. MARTIN AND ST. MARTIN'S DAY

St. Martin of Tours started out as a Roman soldier. He was baptized as an adult, became a monk, and eventually was elevated to Bishop of Tours.

Like many other Christian celebrations, St. Martin's Day coincides with pagan rituals from the pre-Christian era. It falls at the same time as the early winter festivities of light and fertility celebrated by the pagans. In England the day was called Martinmas. It was immediately followed by the beginning of Advent, 40 days of reflection and penance in preparation for Christmas.

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# Elmira Prisoners' Mail Brings History Alive

By Albert W. Starkweather

When visitors are overcome by the serenity and solitude of Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, they may find it difficult to recall that one of the most infamous prison camps of the Civil War once stood nearby. The Elmira prison camp, nicknamed *Hellmira*, is often likened to Andersonville, the southern death camp.

In a year thousands of Confederate prisoners passed through the camp, which received its first 399 POWs on July 6, 1864 and reached its maximum population of 9,480 by September 1 of the same year. Despite Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865, the final group of prisoners did not leave Elmira until July 11.

Thousands of Confederate prisoners perished in the camp from dysentery, smallpox, starvation, and other camp- and prison-related illnesses. Nearly 3,000 are buried on a two and a half-acre section of Woodlawn. The souls of the living and dead were tended by the prison chaplain, the Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, a pro-slavery advocate whose sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, was the abolitionist who penned *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Of interest to postal historians are examples of prisoners' mail, which was routinely handled through the Elmira post office after being censored by examiners at the camp. Cleared letters received an oval handstamp: *Prisoner's Letter / Examined / Elmira, N.Y.* A total of 93 covers have been recorded by Galen D. Harrison, author of *Prisoners' Mail from the American Civil War* published in 1997.



## Final Resting Place

A scene of a guard post at Elmira prison camp forms a backdrop for, clockwise, a view of Confederation graves at Woodlawn National Cemetery, an individual grave, and a monument to the Confederate fallen.

Continued on Page 16

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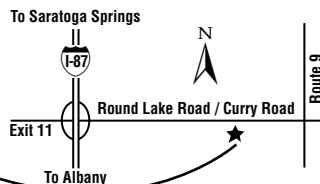
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## Elmira Prisoners' Mail — Continued from Page 14

While many lack contents and offer little more than a record that a particular cover was mailed from the prison to somebody at a particular address, some offer great insight into the prison, the fate of letter writer, if a name is attached, and sometimes into the addressee. Fairly comprehensive lists of prisoners at the camp and burials at Woodlawn can be found online. At first, the dead were buried in mass unmarked graves, but John W. Jones, the cemetery's sexton, began to insist that the Confederate dead be interred in individual graves marked with headstones. Jones, who was born a slave in Loudon County, Virginia, kept meticulous records of each death, and supervised each burial personally.

**POSTHUMOUS LETTER:** Israel D. Chapman, a Confederate prisoner of war imprisoned in Elmira, New York, wrote a letter to William Chapman at the Harrisonville, Maryland Post Office in Baltimore County. The cover received the examiner's oval handstamp. An Elmira circular date stamp was applied on December 5, 1864



to Scott No. 65. A pen date of Dec. 4, 1864 was added, along with *From I. D. Chapman*. The address, pen date, and from line are all in different handwriting. The contents are missing, but the implication is that the prisoner had begun a letter that was not mailed until more than a month after his death when it may have turned up in his belongings.

Chapman enlisted in the 23rd Virginia Infantry Company H at Wytheville on April 1, 1863 and was captured at Harpers Ferry on July 8, 1864. He was sent to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC, and later transferred to Elmira where he died of diarrhea on Oct. 24, 1864. He is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery grave No. 858.

**SOUTHERN LEANINGS:** The addressee of a second letter was not Edwin Thomas Booth, the actor brother of John Wilkes Booth, President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, but rather Edwin Gilliam Booth (1810–1866), a well-known Philadelphia lawyer and a former Virginian with southern leanings. This letter from Elmira was possibly a plea for help with a parole. His son, Dr. Edwin Gilliam Booth, a Confederate surgeon, was a Union prisoner in the state of Florida at the same time.



Top courtesy of Robert Markovits; bottom courtesy of Alan Parsons





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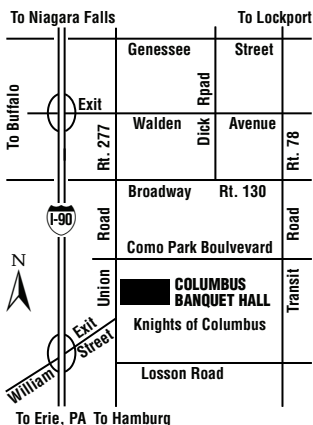
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### **An Adventure in Lisbon**

Clockwise from upper left: the front entrance; the Lisbon Post Office next door; Cohen's grandson examines a postal display; Clara Carona helps Cohen find some covers.

## **A VISIT TO AFINSA PORTUGAL**

*By Norman A. Cohen*

Yes Virginia, there still is an Afinsa Portugal! While on vacation in Lisbon, Portugal in July, I asked for directions to the nearest post office because I wanted to buy some stamps to mail cards and letters to Dallas.

I was following the directions: "down the street two blocks and on the right side," when lo and behold the store before the post office was the Afinsa Portugal stamp store.

Some years ago, I ordered a few key Portugal stamps from this shop and had been treated very courteously. On seeing the store, I eagerly went in with my grandson, Sloan, to purchase some covers.

Next time you are in Lisbon, drop in and say *hi* to Manager Clara Carona at Rua de Santa Justa, No. 25, Lisbon, Portugal. Afinsa is still alive and well in Lisbon!



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# NPM A BOON FOR RESEARCHERS

By Alan Warren

Whether you are researching information for your own interests, for an exhibit, or to obtain facts for an article or monograph, do not overlook the tremendous font of information that is available in our nation's icon of philately, the National Postal Museum. Under the leadership of Director Allen Kane and Chief Curator Wilson Hulme, the museum has been brought into the public eye. Collectors and philatelic writers need to be aware of the wealth of information to be found at NPM.

In recent years, using specialists, consultants, the Council of Philatelists volunteer group, and an ever-increasing staff, the museum's holdings are being evaluated, organized, and made available to the public using 21st century technology. Much research can be done online but it sometimes is necessary to actually visit the NPM, which is across the street from Union Station in Washington, DC.

The NPM library is one of the 19 branches of the Smithsonian library system. It houses more than 5,000 books, 6,000 serial titles, and extensive files of manuscripts, photographs, stamps and auction catalogs. Some specialized collections include files of the USPOD, the Highway Post Office, the Aerial Mail Service, the Railway Mail Service, and the Panama Canal Zone Post Office. To examine the library's extensive materials in person, it is necessary to make an appointment and to indicate the subjects and the kinds of information

sought. To make an appointment or seek information, contact NPM Librarian Paul McCutcheon at 202-633-5544, or by e-mail at MCCUTCHEONP@SI.EDU.

In an effort to make the collections even more accessible the NPM has introduced its latest whiz-bang project, *Arago*, which made its debut during the recent *WASHINGTON 2006* exhibition. Specialist volunteers have been called on to contribute their expertise in preparing or expanding many areas of this knowledge database. Actual items in the NPM collection can be examined close up in full color. If you would like to help in this major undertaking, you can volunteer by contacting the museum.

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# AVOID COSTLY MISTAKES: *Know Your Material!*

By Frank Braithwaite

I'd like to tell you a story about a stamp collector I know — let's call him Bob. Many years ago he saw an auction listing for a cover with a Stoney Brook RR (railroad) cancel. He had only recently started collecting Long Island postal history and was not familiar with all of the post offices and cancels. He pounced on this cover and was thrilled to win it for a mere 20 bucks. A few days later, he received it in the mail, and proceeded to do a little research. Bob found out (the hard way) that although there was a Stoney (Stony) Brook post office on Long Island, there never was a Stoney Brook RR cancel. Had he done the most casual research prior to bidding, he would have found out that this railroad was in Connecticut.

I'm sure I fooled no one with the *Bob* name; I am not embarrassed about this feat of laziness, rather, I am glad it happened. The sting of paying for something that had no place in my collection caused me to make immediate changes in the way I was going to pursue material; hence the title of our discussion: Know Your Material!



**Stoney Brook: What a difference an “e” makes.**

First and foremost, every collector should own as much research material on his / her subject as the pocketbook allows. Much too often I hear, “I would rather spend my money on stamps.” My response to this can be summed up in three words: Stoney Brook RR. For the beginner or someone on a fixed income, there are many free or inexpensive resources. The American Philatelic Research Library, and a host of other philatelic libraries too numerous to mention here, have programs in place to loan books for a small fee. Some have photocopy service and some are getting involved with compiling data on CDs. The drawback, of course, is the waiting period for this material to arrive. If it is a time sensitive purchase, such as an auction, it is advantageous to have the book at your fingertips.

As far as *free* goes, there is a method that I have been successfully cultivating for years — acquiring as many philatelic friends as possible. Many times I have seen material that intrigues me, but if I do not know enough about it, I'll shoot off a brief e-mail to a fellow collector who specializes in that material, and usually get a detailed response. Most collectors are thrilled to share their knowledge with others. Remember, constant education is the key to successful and enjoyable collecting.

**Continued on Page 24**



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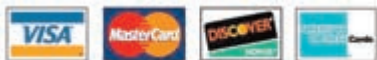
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## **Know Your Material — Continued from Page 22**

Sometimes there is material in your collecting area that can be difficult to identify or expertly faked. For instance, any collector of Washington / Franklins knows there are many perforation, watermark, and printing varieties of these stamps. I recently submitted a W / F stamp for expertisation and got a negative opinion; the stamp had been re-perforated. In this case, I did not *know my material*, but I knew enough to send it to an expert. The dealer I bought it from was surprised, but refunded my money. Whether you are buying from a dealer or auction house, make sure they have a policy for returning improperly described material.

Knowing your material is especially important when purchasing on eBay. While I believe that most sellers are trying their best to describe material correctly, some are noncollectors dumping grandpa's collection and a few are thieves trying for a quick buck. Without the ability to examine the stamp or cover, you are armed only with the knowledge of your collecting interests. Most dealers will respond to an e-mailed question about the item and some have return policies, but most do not.

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**YOU ALSO NEED TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE PRICE YOU EXPECT TO RECEIVE; KNOW WHAT YOUR MATERIAL IS GOING FOR ON THE OPEN MARKET. SOME COLLECTORS HAVE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS.**

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When that day finally comes to sell your beloved collection, knowing your material is equally as important as when you are buying it. Dealers are not experts in every field of philately and frequently I find that I know more about my specialized area than they do. This is not a knock on the dealers; they need to have a broad knowledge of our hobby, and cannot retain all the minutiae that a specialist in his field can. Your job is to properly describe your material to the dealer, so they can price it accordingly.

You will also need to be realistic about the price you expect to receive; know what your material is going for on the open market. Some collectors have unrealistic expectations. If you collected *seconds* at 10–20 percent of catalog value, you will be lucky to receive 5–10 percent from a dealer, if you can even find one interested in that type of stuff. On the flip side, if you paid 900 times catalog for a superb National Parks stamp, I am pretty sure you won't be getting a return anywhere near that, even if you live another 50 years.

Please don't misinterpret what I am saying; I think we should all collect what makes us happy. If you know what a stamp is worth and still want to pay 900 times catalog, knock yourself out! No matter what you collect or how much you pay for it, you will always view your collection with a smile if you take the time to know your material.

---

*Frank Braithwaite is a member of the Empire State Postal History Society. He is also Long Island Vice President of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, Inc.*

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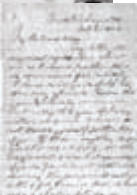
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## ACCUMULATION, COLLECTION, SPECIALTY: *Why Do We Collect?*

By Bill Howden / Olean Stamp Club

Much has been written about the human propensity to collect, and why. One does not need an income in order to collect. One can collect string, newspapers, marbles, fine art, books, animals, shoes, cars, or stamps.

One person's trash is another's treasure and anything is collectible, although there is a hierarchy in place which relegates many collections to a lowly status, ranks others as more important, or worthy, and elevates an exclusive few that are beyond the financial and intellectual reach of most people. Stamp collecting was called the *hobby of kings*, but part of the attraction for the masses was that even the poorest of people could collect stamps, and they did.

Distinctions have been made between an accumulation, merely a *pile* of something; a collection, which is an orderly and specific accumulation; and a specialty, a researched and written up specific collection which may develop into a *fly-speck* specialty where a specific object is collected and studied for minute differences.

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### COLLECTING MAKES US FEEL GOOD. IT IS A DIVERSION FROM EVERYDAY EXERTIONS OF HAVING TO WORK FOR A LIVING.

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One generally begins by accumulating a large number of items of interest before deciding a particular section of the accumulation is more interesting or more important and then begins to study and learn more about the object of interest. If a specific object is of interest and is studied to its eventual end, one then must spread out to more general areas in order to find another area of interest.

Why collect? For profit? One can often find something for a song and eventually find someone with a like interest to perhaps buy it for a few dollars more. Chances are one would not get rich doing this.

Gold, diamonds, stocks and bonds can be good items to collect for investment — just remember that someone tried that with silver — but collecting stamps for investment is not a really good idea. Someone tried that too! One would have to live for a really long time before most stamp investments would produce as much interest as putting the same amount of money into a savings account.

As for *ownership*, there is actually very little that people actually *own*. We may buy and collect cars, land, buildings, and even stamps, but we do not really own them. We are mere stewards, or caretakers, who tend the items until we either dispose of them or we die. Then someone else has the responsibility of caring for them.

The ultimate reason for collecting has to be for fun! Collecting is something people do, first of all, for enjoyment, the thrill of the hunt, and the excitement of finally achieving a goal of possessing some elusive *gem* for one's collection.

*Continued on Page 28*

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## Senate Confirms New Yorker To USPS Board

The U.S. Senate has confirmed four nominees to the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, including Katherine C. Tobin of Hartsdale, NY, for a term ending Dec. 8, 2012. She has more than 15 years of market research experience with Hewlett-Packard Co.; Catalyst, a nonprofit research and advisory organization dedicated to women's advancement in business; and as a consultant to IBM Corp. The other nominees are from Kentucky, New Mexico, and Nevada.

The board is comparable to that of a private corporation. It includes nine governors who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The nine governors select the Postmaster General, who becomes a member of the board, and those 10 select the Deputy Postmaster General, who also serves on the board. The Postmaster General serves at the pleasure of the governors for an indefinite term. The Deputy Postmaster General serves at the pleasure of the governors and the Postmaster General.

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### Opinion — Continued from Page 26

Collecting makes us feel good. It is a diversion from everyday exertions of having to work for a living. It is something we do because we want to, not because we have to. We can start a collection, forget it for 20 years, then get back into it with nothing lost, and still have the same fun. Or one can collect for 60 years and still maintain the same enthusiasm as when one first started.

What gives value to the act of collecting is the effort, time, and research committed to the collection: To learn as much as possible so one has a sense of fulfillment and meaning for an enjoyable pastime.

Learning never ends, and knowledge is power. Long live collecting!

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# Review: Exploring Vermont's DPOs

By Heather Sweeting

*VERMONT DPO GUIDE 2006* EDITED BY BILL LIZOTTE. 8½ × 11 INCHES, 28 PAGES, SOFT COVER, SADDLE STITCHED ©2006 VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY. ALL COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS. AVAILABLE FROM GLENN A. ESTUS, P. O. BOX 451, WESTPORT, NY 12993. \$17 POSTPAID.

This year the Vermont Philatelic Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As part of the special occasion it recently has published the *Vermont DPO Guide 2006*. The compilation of information for this publication is the result of more than 30 years of research by member Mike McMorrow and others.

The 28-page guide is a comprehensive listing of all the discontinued post offices within the state, accompanied by a rarity valuation. It is printed on heavy bright folded paper with a stronger ivory card stock cover. The entire publication is done in color, and the color illustrations of postmarks and covers are all clear and readable. The booklet is an update of previous DPO rating guides published by the VPS in 1982 and 1996.

The first six pages illustrate numerous examples of scarce covers from some of the shortest lived / rarest known postal hamlets, including the only known example from the Huntville Post Office. Elaborate descriptions of postal markings, stamps, and rarity of usage accompany these illustrations.

It is fascinating to note that some of the rarest cancels originate after the year 1960 in short-lived rural offices.

The following section begins with an explanation of the scarcity rating system. The scale is from 1 to 10, with 1 being common (valued at \$3–\$5) and 9 being extremely rare (valued at up to \$2,000). A rating of 10 means that there are no known examples from that post office.

Also included in this edition are separate price and rarity listings for each period of service for a post office. It was not uncommon for offices to open and close repeatedly, with a slightly different name, or even the same name in the early days of service.

Occasionally two separate offices existed at various time periods with the same name. The listings of urban branches, rural stations, and closures of more modern offices that have been recently discontinued are also included.

Pages 13–28 list each of the DPOs with their ratings, years of service, and, in some cases, a township name in parentheses after the post office name to aid with its location. Interspersed throughout this section are small color examples of the postmarks.

If you are a fan of postal history or someone who collects postal markings from Vermont this publication would be highly beneficial to you. It is clear and concise and easily slipped into a briefcase to take to a stamp or postcard show for handy reference.





# NEW UNITED NATIONS COIN AND FLAG SERIES

Join UNPA for a first day of issue ceremony at the Postage Stamp Mega-Event in New York on 5 October 2006 commemorating the launch of its new Coin and Flag Series.

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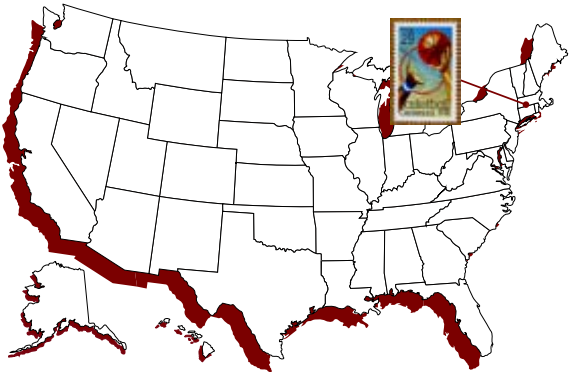
### MAPPING OUT U.S. STAMP ISSUES

Being a teacher and stamp enthusiast, I try to encourage my stamp club members to become proficient map readers. Since I work with students in third, fourth and fifth grades, I find that many of them are not well-versed in using a United States map.

To key our stamps with our 50 states we mount a map in the room we use for our club meetings. We browse through our collection of U.S. stamps and try to adhere them to particular states with hinges. We then explain why a particular stamp warrants being placed on a particular state.

This is a great means to enhance an understanding

of where each of the 50 states is located and why a stamp has a particular significance. A good example is the 29-cent issue of 1991, commemorating the basketball centennial. While the game is played in all 50 states, the Basketball Hall of Fame is in Springfield, MA.



A student with this stamp could then mount it on the state of Massachusetts.

By year's end, it is our goal to have all 50 states covered with 50 different stamps. Imagine all the learning that will take place in the process.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Free outline maps of the entire U.S. and single states may be found at [WWW.50STATES.COM/MAPS](http://www.50STATES.COM/MAPS).

### Stamp Camp USA September–October Events

September 23 — Scranton, PA, Public Library  
October 2 — Adult Leader Workshop, Macon, GA  
October 5 — Naples, FL (tentative — call for details)



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Knoxville, PA 16928-0377

Phone: (814) 326-0810

Fax: (814) 326-0815

[stampcampusa@intergate.com](mailto:stampcampusa@intergate.com)



## THE STORY BEHIND THE STAMP BY DANIEL A. PIAZZA

### U.S. 2005 Lunar New Year Double Sided Pane of 24

In 1988, the Organization of Chinese Americans began lobbying the USPS to promote their cultural heritage. Clarence Lee was commissioned to design the 1992 Chinese New Year stamp (Scott 2720). His cut-paper rooster and Chinese calligraphy on a red background was popular not only here, but also in China where 2 million were reportedly sold. The USPS decided to continue the series, and Lee created a stamp featuring a different animal of the Chinese zodiac for the next 11 years, culminating with the 37-cent Year of the Monkey (Scott 3832) in 2004. USPS planned to end the series in 2005 with a miniature sheet of all 12 stamps redenominated with the first-class rate, 37 cents.



Intending it as an honor for Lee, the USPS was surprised when some Chinese were horrified. The problem:  $12 \times 37 \text{ cents} = \$4.44$ , and many Chinese have an almost pathological fear of the number four, unlucky because when spoken in Cantonese it sounds like the word for *death*. The fear is apparently deadly for some: a study in the December 22, 2001 issue of the *British Medical Journal* suggested that Chinese patients were 13 percent more likely to die of a heart attack on the fourth of the month. When the number must be written, it is often enclosed in a circle to isolate its harmful powers. Tetrophobia is widespread in Asia. Japan's All Nippon Airways has no seats or rows numbered four on any of its aircraft. USPS redesigned the sheet as a double-sided pane of 24 (Scott 3895) — the first issue of its kind; all previous double-sided panes were sold in booklet form only. The new face value, \$8.88, was much more acceptable; the Chinese word for eight sounds similar to that for *prosperity*, so it is considered lucky. The panes were released January 6, 2005 in Honolulu. The set was reissued this year as a sheet of 12 reflecting the new 39-cent rate.

**SOURCES:** Jay Bigalke, "New 39¢ New Year Stamps", in *Linn's Stamp News*, December 5, 2005, and Vicki Viotti, "Chinese New Year stamps to be celebrated" in the *Honolulu Advertiser*, December 12, 2004.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

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e-mail [astarkweather@nystampclubs.org](mailto:astarkweather@nystampclubs.org)

## THE STAMP INSIDER AS A TRAVEL COMPANION

I brought along the July / August 2006 issue of the *STAMP INSIDER* to read while accompanying my son, Kevin, on a more than 2,400-mile journey from Berrien Springs, MI to Auburn, WA, southeast of Seattle, where he has accepted a teaching position.

The new issue of the *STAMP INSIDER* is outstanding, and what a difference full color has made. Congratulations on the Gold Medal in the APS Chapter Activities Committee competition for 2006. You are now in a class of your own.

Your transformation of *THE PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR* is also quite newsworthy — another outstanding job in philatelic journalism.

*Reuben A. Ramkissoon, Oak Brook, IL*



### WASHINGTON 2006 PHOTOS PRAISED

To Thomas M. Fortunato:

I thought the photo of the kids on the floor was particularly good as were you in the Press Room, Mr. Zip, the first day ceremony crowd, and the overhead bourse shot. (*STAMP INSIDER*, May / June)

*Gordon C. Morison, Potomac, MD*

*Executive Director Washington 2006*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Credit for the great photographs of *WASHINGTON 2006* is shared by John S. Babbitt, Daniel A. Piazza, and Keith and Judy Routson. Journal readers will be seeing much more of John Babbitt's work in future issues.

### ENJOYED UNCLE SAM

I particularly enjoyed the Uncle Sam article in the latest issue of the *STAMP INSIDER*.

*Hans Niedermair, News Editor, Canadian Stamp News*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers may expect more articles on deltiology as it relates to philately from Ruth Sabo. Her husband, Al, is preparing an article on World War II patriotic covers for the November / December issue.

### EXCELLENT

I just received a copy of the *STAMP INSIDER*. Excellent! The staff of the *INSIDER* should be very proud of the magazine. All the hard work really produced a first rate publication.

*Wayne Turkowski, Recording Secretary, Utica Stamp Club*

## 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. W. R. Hanson, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801-2721  
drhanson@localnet.com, 518-798-9592

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



## SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES CHANGED

Due to Labor Day and a scheduling conflict for a guest speaker, the members voted to change our meeting dates to the second and fourth Fridays in September. We revert to our regular schedule in October. Our late summer and fall schedule includes:

Sept. 8 — *Show & Tell and Trading* to show off *goodies* and offer items for sale or trade. Doc Hanson and Conrad Novick will show their recent cachets.

Sept. 22 — *FEDERATION* President John Nunes, will speak on the World War II stamps and postal history of non-German Nazi Legions.

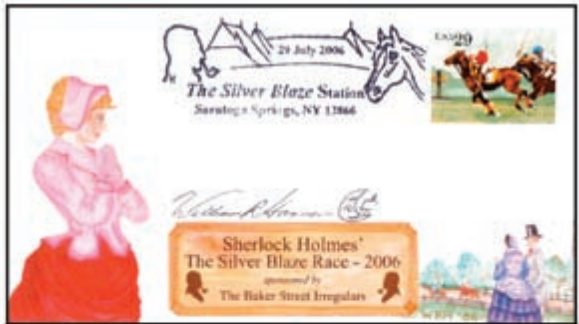
Oct. 6 — Club President Doc Hanson, MD, will speak on collecting possessions, trust territories, administered areas, and other material not listed in the *U.S. Specialized Catalog*.

Oct. 20 — TBA; some surprises are promised. It will be time to plan the Christmas party.

On July 29 the Baker Street Irregulars, the international organization of Sherlock Holmes aficionados, met at Saratoga Race Track for the Silver Blaze Race in remembrance of the Conan Doyle story. Doc Hanson designed a pictorial cancel and cacheted card with various horse stamps that is available from William R. Hanson, MD, 78 W. Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801 for \$4.50 postpaid.

Conrad Novick displayed his medal-winning seven-frame exhibit, *Space-the Final Frontier* as told in U.S. first day covers at our Aug. 18 meeting.

His first day covers from the Disney Romance quartet, one of which is shown here, are \$13.99 plus \$1 shipping from Conrad Novick, 96 Feeder Dam Road, South Glens Falls, NY 12803.





## APS CHAPTER 37

Meets at 7:30 p.m. twice monthly on Fridays at VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, except June, July, and August  
Alfred Carroccia, 152 Windmill Road, West Seneca, NY 14218-3776  
fuzzy9600@verizon.net, 716-674-0302

### CLUB ENJOYS SUMMER PICNIC AND AUCTION

The club ceases its activities for the summer except for the annual picnic. This year's event was held on August 19 at *Meegan Manor*, the home of member Bob Meegan. Besides food, drink, and fun, an impromptu auction was held under the trees. Past auctions have seen quality material go at bargain prices. A more complete report will appear later.

**DIRECTORS ELECT NEW OFFICERS** —The Board of Directors met July 8 to elect officers and set the 2006–2007 calendar. Any member in good standing may run for a board seat which has a term of three years; only a board member can hold office. Board members, any office they hold, and the year their term expires are: Bob Meegan, president 2008; Alan Davis, vice president 2009; Alfred Carroccia, secretary 2007; Bill Witschard, treasurer 2007; Casey Kielbasa, membership chairman 2009; Tim Carey, 2009; George Gates, 2008; Jim Littell, 2008; Benito Passentino, 2009; Dan Sherwood, 2007; Floyd Silliman, 2007; and Kevin Suckow, 2008.

#### CALENDAR

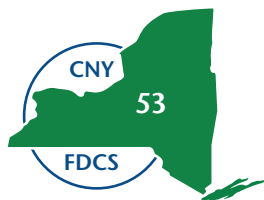
- Sept. 8 — Auction
- Sept. 22 — Ann Triggie (tentative)
- Oct. 6 — Auction
- Oct. 20 — Directors Choice — open
- Nov. 3 — Auction
- Nov. 17 — Set up for Bourse
- Nov. 18 — *Autumn Stamp Festival*
- Dec. 1 — Auction / Holiday Party

#### 2007

- Jan. 5 — Auction
- Jan. 19 — Exhibition Program by Bob Meegan
- Feb. 2 — Auction
- Feb. 16 — *Fundamentals of Stamps* by Alfred Carroccia
- March 2 — *BUFPEX* setup
- March 3, 4 — *BUFPEX*
- March 16 — Auction
- April 6 — Auction
- April 20 — Casey Kielbasa surprise presentation
- May 4 — Auction
- May 18 — *Buffalo Postal History* by Irv Tesmer
- June 1 — Auction

# CENTRAL NEW YORK FDC SOCIETY AFDCS CHAPTER 53

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rocket@dreamscape.com, 315-592-4441



## WHITE PLAINS COMMEMORATED LOSING BATTLE

*By Heather Sweeting*

The Battle of White Plains, on October 28, 1776, pitted the British Army against American troops led by Gen. George Washington. The British forced the Americans to retreat northward from White Plains, New York, and were the victors of this skirmish. The two-cent stamp (Scott No. 629) was issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the battle. It was somewhat unusual that a stamp was issued in honor of a battle which the U.S. did not win.

The design of the stamp was modeled after a painting by E. F. Ward showing four soldiers in continental uniform and a cannon. There are two flags in the lower corners of the stamp, the Continental flag (left side) and the "Liberty or Death" flag, first used in the White Plains battle. Dr. Jason Parker of White Plains submitted the design to the BEP for review.

The stamp was first placed on sale October 18, 1926, at the White Plains post office. A corresponding souvenir sheet, the first ever issued by the U.S. (Scott No. 630), was issued at the International Philatelic Exhibition held at Grand Central Palace, New York City, from October 16 to 23.

The souvenir sheet, of which only a little more than 100,000 were printed, had 25 stamps and bore the marginal inscription "International Philatelic Exhibition, October 16 to 23, 1926, New York, N.Y., U.S.A." Regular sheets of this issue contained 100 stamps.

The first day covers of this stamp, which primarily bear the date October 18, were among the first to be largely distributed with corresponding artwork on the envelope. The concept of cachets on envelopes owes much of its lineage to this event.





## 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 13346-2259  
bhouston@mail.colgate.edu, 315-824-2237



### **Mystic Tour Takers**

From left: Chenango Valley Club President Braden Houston, Robert Betz, Frank Lee, and Bob Holcomb.

## CLUB VISITS MYSTIC STAMP COMPANY

Four members of the CVCS made a June visit to the Mystic Stamp Company in Camden. Our guided tour was most informative and the Mystic employees were very accommodating during our hour-long excursion.

**MEETINGS RESUMING:** Don't forget that our club meetings will resume at 7:45 p.m. on September 4 at Hamilton Public Library.

### **BOB BETZ' CORNER**

Through the 1930s air mail was available from Europe to North and South America with the German airship *Hindenburg*. Although most was philatelically generated, this cover was used for family-to-family correspondence. It was given the red zeppelin cachet either at the departure point — Frankfurt am Main's Rhine-Main Flughafen (airport) or aboard the airship which worked mail enroute to its destinations. The cover was carried on flight 129-20 on August 5–8, 1936 to the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, NJ, which handled lighter-than-air flights of both the *Hindenburg* and its predecessor, the *Graf Zeppelin*. Zeppelin flights were met by U.S. domestic airlines for passengers traveling to and from other destinations.



1936 image of DC-3 and Hindenburg courtesy NAVAIR



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## 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 CONSIDERING A FALL SHOW

The regular meeting of the Dansville Area Coin & Stamp Club was called to order in June, with 18 members present. This was the last meeting for the summer; we have July and August off. The secretary's minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted and the treasurer's report was read and accepted.

We discussed how well the Coin-O-Rama show went. Some of the dealers at the show were interested in having a fall show. We will write up a proposal and then we will talk more about it. At next year's Coin-O-Rama we will have a stamp prize.

We had another new member join the club in June — Todd Stauring.

We picked our raffle and door prizes and the pill drawing name, but the winner was not present.

---

### Piazza Named Communicator Associate Editor

Daniel A. Piazza has been named associate editor of the *Philatelic Communicator* by Editor Albert W. Starkweather. His duties will include sharing editing and proofreading chores, along with writing. Piazza also will be reviewing electronic media, including CDs, DVDs, and Web sites.

A Ph.D. candidate in history at Syracuse University, Piazza is also contributing editor and columnist for the *Stamp Insider*; governor-at-large of the Vatican Philatelic Society (VPS) and associate editor of its journal, *Vatican Notes*; and Webmaster for the VPS and Syracuse Stamp Club, as well as a vice president of Syracuse Stamp Club. He is to become editor of *Vatican Notes* in July 2007.

He is also a member of the American Philatelic Society, APS Writers Unit 30, and VPS New York Chapter.

Piazza's traditional collecting interests include: U.S. stamps, BEP period (1894–1979), margin singles and blocks; Vatican City stamps, all years, margin singles and blocks; Italy stamps, all years, used singles; and Roman States stamps, 1852-1868, used singles.

His topical collecting interests include: Illuminated manuscripts on stamps, and Dante Alighieri on stamps.



**Daniel A. Piazza**



## APS CHAPTER 237

Meets at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7) the 3rd Tuesday at Five Star Bank Community Room, 351 N. Main St. (rear entrance)  
Stamp circuit available

Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Road, Elmira, NY 14901-1212  
alatholleyrd@aol.com, 607-732-0181

### **STEPEX 2006 Celebrating Centennial of Watkins Glen State Park**

**S**TEPEX 2006, Elmira Stamp Club's 31st annual show, will be October 6 and 7 at the Arnot Mall, Interstate 86 exit 51, Horseheads. The centennial of the creation of Watkins Glen State Park, a *Wonder of the Finger Lakes*, in 1906 is the theme of the show.

Show hours are Friday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be commemorative cover, pictorial cancel, and program relating to the creation of the park. It will depict the park and will be franked with a Wonders of America stamp.

There will be up to 60 exhibits and space is still available. The bourse will have 12 to 15 dealers primarily from New York and Pennsylvania. The USPS will offer current philatelic products and provide the pictorial cancel. The commemorative cover and cancel may be purchased at club meetings after the show or by mail for \$2 each and #10 SASE from Robert Barron, 147 Gray St., Apt. 812, Elmira, NY 14901.

Adult and junior exhibits will be judged separately and awards will be made in both categories by a *FEDERATION OF NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETIES* jury. Show visitors will vote for the most popular exhibit. The judges will hold a critique Saturday afternoon for the benefit of exhibitors and anyone else interested in exhibiting.

Those wishing to exhibit may contact Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, 607-732-0181, ALATHOLLEYRD@AOL.COM, for an entry form. Frames are free to our club members and juniors; \$4 per frame to others.

Help is needed Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. to set up exhibit frames, on Oct. 6 at 7:30 a.m. to mount exhibits, and on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m., to take down the show. We need two members at all times. Please sign up at the September meeting.

**NOVEMBER SUPER AUCTION:** Manager Don Dolan needs lots no later than the September meeting so he can display them at STEPEX.

**ELMIRA COLLEGE OCTAGON FAIR:** Judy Stewart is coordinating our participation in this event on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the campus. She needs volunteers to set-up from 7 and 9 a.m., tear down after 4 p.m., and to run the club table during the fair. Contact her at 607-732-7075, MARJURETIRED@AOL.COM, 330 Washington Ave, Elmira 14901.

**OTHER NEWS:** We extend condolences to the family of long-time member Francis Jelliff, who died June 26 at 84. The club has paid the final installment of its \$1,750 APS pledge.

#### **PROGRAMS**

Sept. 19 — Auction

Oct. 17 — Slide program TBA

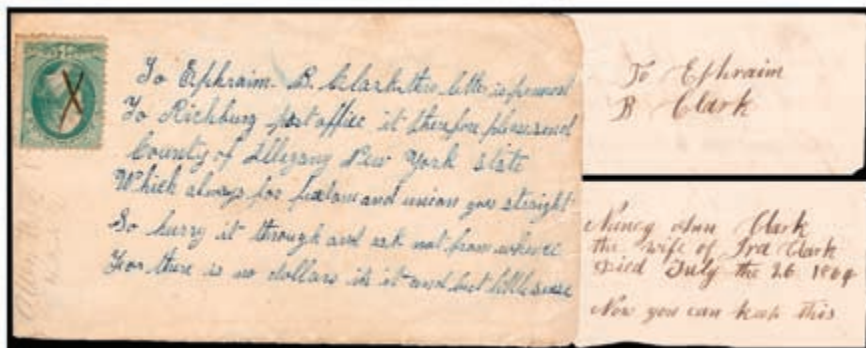


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## A PUZZLING LETTER FROM LONG AGO

By Heather Sweeting

In today's world a letter without a ZIP code or proper address will be rejected by computer sorting machines rather quickly. Not so 100 years ago, when a letter's address could be merely a name and a town. How did the mail get delivered? Not quite as rapidly as it does now, but often in a unique manner. This sender of this letter from Allen in Allegany County on April 5, 1882, which bears an untied manuscript pen cancel on a three-cent bank note stamp, used a bit of creativity for the address which is written almost as a limerick.

*To Ephraim B. Clark this letter is penned / To Richburg post office it therefore please send / County of Allegany New York State / Which always for freedom and union goes straight / So hurry it through and ask not from whence / For there is no dollars in it and but little sense*

The contents are even more cryptic. A small piece of paper is inscribed on one side *To Ephraim B. Clark*. The reverse says *Nancy Ann Clark the wife of Ira Clark Died July the 26th 1864. Now you can keep this*. Was this a letter from Ira to his brother Ephraim with family genealogical information? Was something else enclosed as well, perhaps a picture? We will never know. One would assume that even in 1882 someone spending three cents to mail a letter would have tried to get their money's worth and include more than a fragment of paper.

The 1880 state census lists an Ephraim B. Clark, farmer, born in 1825 and living in Elliottville, Cattaraugus County, New York with a wife and two sons, but it is unlikely that it is the same person. The birth of an Ira Clark at Allen in 1817 is listed in the International Genealogical Index ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)), which is a fantastic research tool if you are searching your family tree, or any person who might have written a letter long ago.



## 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 14433-1117  
jdarnell@novocon.net, 315-923-7355

## TWO NEW COVERS NOW AVAILABLE

Galen Historical Society and we produced a double 37- and 39-cent Ronald Reagan commemorative FDC. Send \$3 each and a #10 SASE to Galen Historical Society, c/o Jim Darnell, 136 Lock St., Clyde, NY 14433-1117. We also issued *A Celebration of the Mora Automobile* cachet and pictorial cancellation at a pre-1915 auto show in Newark on August 13. The Newark-built Mora *Brownie* is featured on the cover's photo stamp. Send \$3 each (\$5.50 for two) and a #10 SASE to Gil Lewis, 502 Rt. 88 S., Newark, NY 14513-9015.

**TREASURER GARY CHICOINE** resigned at the June 14 meet-

ing after serving for 20 years and was voted a life member. Shirley Stowell of Newark is his successor. At our July 26 meeting we learned of the death of former member and past president Robert Grier in Allison Park, PA, at 77. He loved to design and produce commemorative cachets, especially sports-related themes. Our program was a club history trivia quiz gleaned from the records by Secretary Jim Darnell. Three teams with our three longest members — Sam Braverman, Bill Scheetz, and Gary Chicoine — as captains, competed on the 30-question quiz. Among many other things our newer members learned that:

- The club's first meeting was at the Civic Center in Geneva on January 26, 1950.
- The club had 10 charter members with Wolfgang Fritzsche, who produced several APS slide shows, as its first president.
- Original club dues were \$2 per year and did not increase until 1977.

Sam Braverman's team, which included Les Morse and Shirley Stowell, won the quiz.



## 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



## WELCOMING BACK OUR CLUB MEMBERS

By the time you are reading this we will be into our fall season, and this year's program schedule looks to be a good mix of interesting and educational topics. On September 12, our opening night, we have Bob Markovits speaking on Carrier Stamps, (Scott No. LO1-LO6), and Bob's talks are always a treat.

We welcome back Bob Borden from Eastern Massachusetts on September 26. He will entertain us with *Cheap Covers from Exotic Places* and also bring a bit of philatelic humor.

### SUMMER AUCTION

Fort Orange joined in the fun at the Tri-Club summer picnic and auction on July 30. There were about 100 lots with a wide range of material. Traveling some distance to join us was Glenn Estus from the new North Country Stamp Club in Plattsburgh. However the prize for traveling the furthest went to Vicki Miller's niece, Becky, who joined us from Israel.

### PROGRAMS

Oct. 10 — *Tonga, the Friendly Islands* by Steve Gray

Oct. 24 — *The First Irish Overprints* by Tom Hanley



### Fort Orange Picnickers

Among those attending the Tri-Club summer picnic and auction were, from left, John Adamac, Glenn Estus, John McCoy, John J. Nunes, Vicki Miller, Maris Tirums, Don VanHosen, and Don Nolett (standing).

George McCowan photo



## 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

Lavinia A. Tilton, 8081 Passer Road, Blossvale, NY 13308-2232

315-337-8841

## FORT STANWIX COVERS A TRADITION SINCE 1958

The Fort Stanwix Stamp Club was started around 1920 as the Copper City Stamp Club. The name was changed in 1977. The club began preparing cachets for Fort Stanwix in 1958, the bicentennial of the fort that was built in 1758 by the British. Fort Stanwix was restored and garrisoned by American forces in 1776. The fort guarded the overland route from the Mohawk River to Wood Creek and the west. On August 3, 1777, which is now celebrated as Fort Stanwix Day, the Stars and Stripes was first flown in the face of the enemy. The club has issued a cachet yearly since 1958 to honor this day.

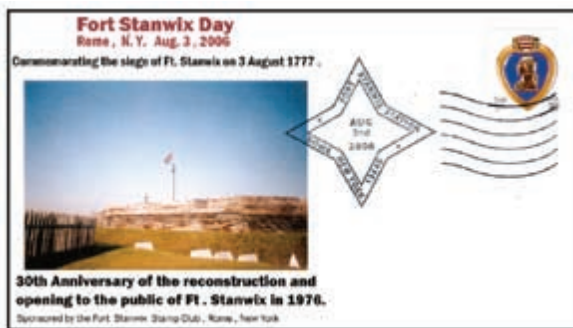
Each of our club members specializes in different forms of stamp collecting. My specialty is Fort Stanwix Day cachets and I have all but one. In 2000 the club used the Stars and Stripes sheet of 20 stamps. I purchased a full set, but later discovered an error. I received two cachets with 29-star flags and failed to receive the 33-star Fort Sumter flag of 1861. I would like to exhibit my collection, but feel I cannot until I acquire the missing cover. I will exchange my duplicate 29-star flag cover for the 33-star flag cover.

Fort Stanwix National Monument is administered by the National Park Service and is an accurate reconstruction of the fort on its original location based on old plans and archeological excavations. It was named for its builder, Gen. John Stanwix. The fort was square with corner bastions surrounded by a ditch 10 feet deep. Behind the walls were casements, or bunkers, to house and protect the men from small arms fire. There were 700 defenders of the fort, including a few women, during the August 1777 siege. Gen. Nicholas Herkimer brought a relief force to help the garrison, which was under the command of Col. Peter Gansevoort., but was ambushed about six miles east of the fort at Oriskany. Both sides took heavy losses during the battle.

— Lavinia A. Tilton

### CACHET AVAILABLE

This year's Fort Stanwix Day cover is still available. It is franked with either the first class Liberty and Flag or the Purple Heart stamp. They are \$3 each or two for \$5 plus a SASE from Lavinia A. Tilton, 8018 Passer Road, Blossvale, NY 13308.



## APS CHAPTER 1193

Meets at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday except July and August;  
contact John A. Cali for location

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



## CLUB MARKING 25TH YEAR AS APS CHAPTER

One of our most prominent events this year is Fulton Stamp Club's 25th year as a chapter of the American Philatelic Society. We hope to mark the anniversary with something special that members can remember.

The club participated in a July 22 pictorial cancel for the Volney Bicentennial as was noted in a previous issue of the *STAMP INSIDER*. John A. Cali was invited to the bash and was very pleased at the reception. Everyone present was happy with the results, especially the U.S. Postal Service.

### HANNIBAL BICENTENNIAL

Hannibal's bicentennial events will continue this fall. Celebrations were held in August and are continuing between September and October.

Pictorial cancels have been suggested and are expected to be approved. The proposed pictorial is shown here. Three dates have been submitted to the USPS for possible use at the various events.

### STILL NO MEETING PLACE

We continue our struggle in finding a meeting place. It appears that meetings will be conducted in members' homes until the matter is resolved.



Bicentennial Station

September 16, 2006

Hannibal NY 13074



Bicentennial Station

October 20, 2006

Hannibal NY 13074



Bicentennial Station

October 21, 2006

Hannibal NY 13074



### Another Viewpoint

Daniel A. Piazza, a former Staten Island resident, believes the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge connecting Staten Island and Brooklyn is notable for another reason — its high tolls. Therefore, he created an alternate Wonders of America design. Residents of both boroughs complain the bridge has had a negative impact on their communities, a battle that has raged since it opened in 1964.





## 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 Klinewoods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-2229  
yszekely@twcnycn.rr.com, 607-257-5346

### MEMBERS HAVE VARIED COLLECTING INTERESTS

Our club members have a great variety of collecting interests. One common element is that most primarily are interested in foreign issues, although a few also collect used U.S. new issues. Two collect virtually the entire world, except for *sand dunes* and similar notorious *stamp mills*. Another member collects about 35 countries plus half a dozen topicals including flags, bridges, automobiles, music, stamps-on-stamps, and No. 1 issues of the world.

The remaining members collect only a few countries each, typically three or four. Popular countries are Canada, Australia, Great Britain, other British Empire, Germany including the former East Germany, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Russia, South Africa, France, Italy, China. Our members generally prefer used stamps, but occasionally will accept mint in cases where the used version is considerably more expensive or difficult to find. There is little interest in covers and postal stationery per se, although the former are sometimes bought at our auctions for the sake of the stamps.

We continue to get some very nice batches of kiloware from a Syracuse area dealer, available at some of our first meetings of the month. This has proved to be very popular with our members.

We have learned that the Ithaca Post Office offers guided tours of its facilities and services to civic groups. It has been suggested that the club might be interested in taking such a tour, and we plan to discuss the possibility in the near future.

Our members are greatly enjoying the redesigned *Stamp Insider* and are looking forward to receiving each new issue.

#### ***Fifty Years Ago***

Committee for the 1956 *Federation* exhibition and banquet on April 14–15 at Rome YMCA, was from left, standing, Cleon A. Morey, Anton H. Zahm, Frank Rostkwicz; seated, Frederick L. Scholl, Duane Wheeler, and David C. Morey.



Photo by John Ball



## APS CHAPTER 1334

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

Ellen Tillapaugh, 28 Pioneer St., Cooperstown, NY 13326-1049  
kuchtill@verizon.net, 607-547-5646

Leatherstocking  
Stamp  
Club



## CLUB LOOKS FORWARD TO FALL MEETINGS

The club will resume its regular schedule on September 5 after taking its summer hiatus in July and August. Albert Keck will present a program on *Brooklyn Dodgers Cove*.

### PROGRAMS

Oct. 3 — *What Have You Got?*

Nov. 7 — *History of Mr. Zip* by Ellen Tillapaugh

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## A Short Philatelic Quiz: Historic Figures on Stamps

By Terrill S. Miller

1. Name the Civil War Army officers born in Ohio who became U.S. presidents.
2. The stories of this humorist included *Uncle Remus*, *Brer Rabbit* and *Brer Fox*.
3. This accomplished aviation pioneer invented the aileron, the Jenny, and the first land-sea plane with a retractable landing gear.
4. This president, a War of 1812 hero, fought the British, Spaniards, French, Indians, the U.S. bank, and anyone else who crossed him.
5. A Democratic Congressman from Texas, he was speaker of the House from 1940 until his death in 1961, except for four years of Republican control.
6. After a life of failure, this Civil War Union general was most famous for the Battle of Atlanta and the March to the Sea.
7. A successful but unhappy star, she appeared in many movies, including the *Wizard of Oz*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and the *Andy Hardy* series.
8. After meeting Boy Scouts founder Robert Baden-Powell she organized the Girl Scouts of America in Savannah, GA, in 1912.
9. A *Champion of Liberty*, this Italian leader led his Redshirts in the battle to unify Italy.
10. This Vermont born admiral led his fleet to defeat the Spanish at Manila Bay in 1898.
11. This Georgia-born doctor may have been the first to operate using ether for anesthesia.
12. This New England poet is most famous for *The Village Blacksmith* and *Evangeline*.
13. This Irish-born composer is best known for *Naughty Marietta* and *Babes in Toyland*.
14. A London-born labor leader and cigar maker, he founded the AFL in 1891.
15. Nicknamed for the Kentucky town where he was born, this railroad engineer rode the *Illinois Cannonball* to his death in 1900.
16. This Oklahoma humorist, who *never met a man he didn't like*, died with Wiley Post in an Alaska plane crash in 1935.

Answers on Page 64



## PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

Meets at 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the second floor meeting room of Plattsburgh Public Library, 19 Oak St.

Glenn A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451  
gestus@westelcom.com, 518-962-4558

### MEMORIAL EVENT MAY CANCEL SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next club meeting *should* be on Sept. 9. *However*, it might not happen because the second Saturday of the month is the annual celebration of the Battle of Plattsburgh which took place on Sept. 11, 1814. Both Theodore Roosevelt and Winston Churchill called it the decisive battle of the War of 1812. If the United States had not won, there is a good chance that most of northern New York and New England would have become part of Canada.



Thomas Macdonough, right, and Stephen Decatur are shown on the two-cent 1937 Navy stamp. (Scott No. 791)

Thomas Macdonough, who also designed Plattsburgh City Hall, the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and the Jefferson Memorial.

In 1989, the 175th anniversary of the battle, the former Plattsburgh Stamp Club sponsored a special one-day cancellation and sold more than 500 cacheted covers. Beginning in 1999, a special cancel has been used every year except for 2005, when the post office forgot to have one made. I would expect a special cancellation will be available again this year.

Two area stamp shows coming up: Oct. 7, Crossroads Stamp Show in Quechee, Vermont, and Oct. 21, *CHAMPEX* at Christ the King School in Burlington, Vermont. I have also heard rumors of a new two-day show starting on the South Shore in Quebec, which means you would not have to drive into Montreal itself.



Glenn Estus relaxes before the auction at the Tri-Club picnic in Latham on July 30.

At the time we would be meeting, the celebration parade will be starting. In 2005, the parade ended with a mass gathering of marching and bagpipe bands at the foot of the Macdonough Monument playing of the U.S., Canadian, and United Kingdom national anthems, followed by *Amazing Grace*. Thousands of people will attend the commemoration.

The club logo depicts the Macdonough Monument, which was dedicated in 1926 to the Battle of Plattsburgh and Commodore Thomas Macdonough, commander of the American Fleet. The 135 foot obelisk was designed by John

## 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 14760-2851  
searles@adelphia.net, 716-392-1072



## CLUB GEARING UP FOR OLEPEX 2006

Club members are preparing for their annual show — *OLEPEX 2006*. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 8, at the John Ash Community Center, 112 N. Barry St. in Olean.

Show chair Fred Printz said seven dealers have signed up for the show, which will feature 64 frames of exhibits and a U.S. Postal Service booth. Ronald J. Yeager is bourse chairman.

Our monthly auctions continue to do well, averaging about \$40 per month in June and July. They usually contain around 20 lots.

## Arnold Leiter Dies at 76

Arnold (Arnie) Allen Leiter, 76, of Watervliet, owner of Uncle Sam Stamp & Coin Shop in Watervliet and a long-time member of the Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy, died August 14 in Stratton Veterans Administration Hospital.

He was born November 5, 1929 in Waynesboro, PA, son of the late Lewis Richard and Florence Heptrick Leiter. His wife of 47 years, Pauline Lutz Leiter, died on December 28, 2004.

Leiter served in the U.S. Coast Guard for more than 20 years and was honorably discharged in 1968. He had been keeper of the historic Fire Island Light on Long Island Sound from March 14, 1957 to December 14, 1959.

After retirement from the service he worked briefly at Gurley Precision Instruments in Troy and Montgomery Ward in Menands. He founded Uncle Sam Stamp and Coin Shop in Menands and moved it to its present location in Watervliet after the mall closed. His favorite hobbies were philately and music appreciation. He was a member of the Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy, Fort Orange Stamp Club, and the American Philatelic Society.

Survivors include two children, Veronica (Kevin) Bleakley of Brunswick and Charles Leiter of Troy; two grandchildren, Kevin and Francis Bleakley; four brothers and sisters, Joyce (Donald) Sommer of Maryland, Kenneth (Mildred) Leiter of Virginia, Glenn Leiter of West Virginia and Harold (Mary) Leiter of Florida; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert and Donald, and a sister, Jacqueline.

Burial was in Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 260 Osborne Road, Albany, NY 12211 in Leiter's memory.



Arnie Leiter, right, is shown with Federation President John J. Nunes at the 2005 Uncle Sam Christmas party.



## 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 13126-4032  
pleclair@northnet.org, 315-342-5653

### CLUB RESUMING MEETINGS

The club will resume meetings after its summer hiatus at 6 p.m. on September 25. Several Oswego members attended philatelic bourses over the summer, including the 1000 Islands show at Clayton in July, and Americover in August.

The Oswego County Town of Minetto once again gave away free cachets to any resident attending the annual *Magic in Minetto Celebration*. This was the first pictorial cancellation for the new Minetto postmaster, Debra A. Ketcham.

Ketcham was appointed Officer-In-Charge on April, 28 and was officially appointed postmaster on July 22. She brought a wide variety of philatelic items, including stuffed animals, and the new Disney postcard booklets. Customers had fun picking out their favorite stamp to put on their cachet.

The pictorial cancellation, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Minetto's first settler, Schuyler Worden, known as the creator of the Worden Grape. Two different cachets were made, the first bearing an antique label from a Worden Grape fruit crate, and the second bearing a reproduction of an antique lithograph of the Worden Grape. Residents who live on Worden Drive were especially pleased with the covers.



Heathr Sweeting photo

## APS CHAPTER 207

[www.geocities.com/rpastamps](http://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](mailto:jdoles@rochester.rr.com), 585-621-3012



## FALL SEASON STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 14

Our fall season starts September 14. At the time this column was being written, the schedule of programs had not yet been completed. We hope to see you at the first meeting. If not we meet again on September 28.

### ROPEX 2007 PLANS MOVING ALONG

The ROPEX committee has had several meetings this summer and plans for the 2007 show are well under way. We will be holding the show from May 18 to May 20. The theme has been agreed upon. *Honoring: 50th Anniversary of Sputnik (Friday), Ice Hockey (Saturday), 100th Anniversary of Scout Camp (Sunday)*. We are in the Main Arena (without the ice) at the ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road, on the Monroe Community College campus. It has free wireless Internet access, including in its restaurant, snack bar, and meeting rooms. The facility is air conditioned and handicapped accessible. The lighting is unbelievably good. The arena is south of the city



off I-390 and 10 minutes away from the Thruway and airport. Several moderately-priced hotels and motels and restaurants for every taste and budget are nearby. Marketplace Mall is down the road with more than 125 shops.

The next issue of our *Hinges & Tongues* newsletter will contain a registration form for membership, which may be duplicated. Any member recruiting two new candidates will receive next year's dues free. This has been a long-standing way of promoting membership.

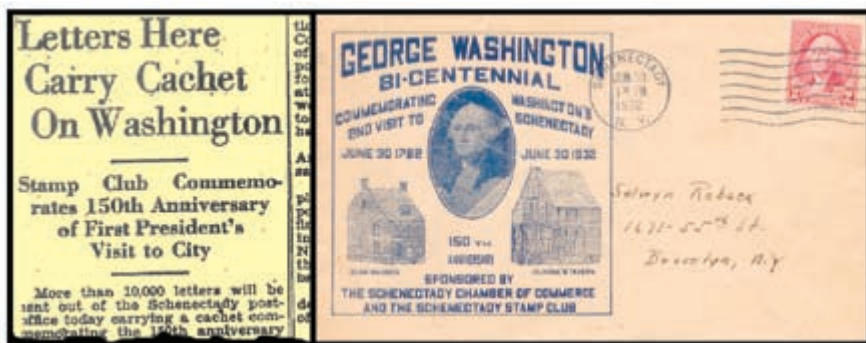
RPA members who either receive the *STAMP INSIDER* as part of the drop shipment to the organization or who do not receive it at all because they are unable to attend meetings, now can have the journal mailed directly to their homes. There will be no additional cost for those already receiving the *STAMP INSIDER* and a nominal charge of \$3.30 a year for those who have not been receiving it. If you wish to receive the Stamp Insider by mail, please send a letter or e-mail to Albert W. Starkweather, Editor, *STAMP INSIDER*, 5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa, FL 33624-2847; [ASTARKWEATHER@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG](mailto:ASTARKWEATHER@NYSTAMPCLUBS.ORG). If you haven't seen the new and improved *STAMP INSIDER*, please request a sample copy.



## 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 12308-2805  
ronaldkratchford@yahoo.com, 518-374-3776



### CLUB PARTICIPATED IN WASHINGTON OBSERVANCES

The bicentennial of George Washington's birth was observed in 1932. On January 1, the U.S. Post Office Department issued a series of 12 stamps — each with a different depiction of Washington. This was followed by numerous other philatelic observances.

One observance involved a cachet sponsored by the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce and the Schenectady Stamp Club to mark the sesquicentennial of the second visit of Washington to Schenectady on June 30, 1932. There was extensive publicity for the printed cachet that would be applied — apparently without charge — to stamped and addressed envelopes submitted by collectors. There was great variability in size, shape, paper quality, and color for the envelopes, as well as in the stamps affixed. The entire set of 12 Washington Bicentennial stamps might have been used on a single cover.

Based upon a newspaper account, it would appear that the destinations for the special cacheted envelopes included every one of the then 48 states, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Poland, South Africa, India, Australia, Japan, China, and the Philippines.

“Those sending for covers with the cachet were asked to leave the envelopes unsealed and those who complied with this request are receiving a copy of an address given recently by Hanford Robison of this city, secretary of the St. George's Lodge, before the Sons of the American Revolution. It has been printed on a sheet of paper of a size to fit on a stamp album page.” (*The Schenectady Gazette*, Thursday, June 30, 1932, page 8)

It appears that 10,094 cacheted items were handled for the event. I believe that a sequential number may have been applied to the reverse side of each. I don't know whether the count may have included any postal cards or postcards. This was at least the third cachet for the club since its founding only slightly more than 18 months earlier.

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## APS CHAPTER 814

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Monday except July and August at the Rev. Paul Kroon Center of Messiah Lutheran Church, 195 Jefferson Blvd., Annandale, Staten Island

Charles R. Carlson, 30 Hopping Ave., Staten Island, NY 10307-1219  
kccarlson@aol.com, 718-984-7880



## KEEPING BUSY DURING THE SUMMER HIATUS

SIPS goes on hiatus every July and August, and as I write this we need it. High temperatures and high humidity are not conducive to philately. I wrote the same to a Costa Rica collector in Florida, and have no idea how philately is actually carried out in that country. How anyone survived before air conditioning is a mystery. I was there last summer and my hotels varied between no air conditioning and meat storage lockers. Unfortunately in the few days I was there I never found a post office or stamp store open, and only stumbled onto the philatelic agency in San Jose on a Sunday afternoon, followed by a Monday morning departure.

The biggest event for our members was *WASHINGTON 2006*. Three of the six members who attended our last meeting at a pizzeria in June had attended the show. I was there for only a day, but one member was there every day, admitting he was broke and tired by the end. The show was staggering, with unbelievable exhibits, and crowded dealers' tables. Exhibits of early Afghanistan and post-war Austria were both fabulous, and enlightening to me. A benefit for me was discovering the Society of Costa Rica Collectors ([www.socorico.org](http://www.socorico.org)) booth, where I was enticed into membership. It was not a hard sell. I tried to sign in at every society to which I belong. I never did sign in at one, at which one member hogged the attention of the booth attendant and the membership sign-in book for more than three hours. The Collectors' Club of New York has already started work on the next U.S. international, scheduled for 2016 in New York City. They will have to work to match the success of the Washington show, but under the command of Wade Saadi, I have every confidence they will surpass it.

I attended a bourse in New Jersey a few weeks ago that had less than half of the usual dealers and only a fraction of the usual buyers. The manager does not expect an upturn until October. On the other hand, I was not crowded as I examined dealers' stocks at leisure and found much of what I wanted at good prices. Another SIPS member was pleased at what he found (and bought). Most of the dealers were less happy, but then, our objectives were different.

We are writing a summer letter to APS members who live on Staten Island but are not club members. APS provides mailing labels to member clubs for \$20 a hundred for the ZIP codes they need. We have found it a useful way of announcing our presence to APS members who do not know about us. We've gotten a few new members through our summer mailings, although the majority of mailings yield only a few responses. There seems to be a vast reluctance to join a local club. We don't bite anyone who shows up, really.

Happy Philately! I'm hoping for a break in this un-philatelic weather soon. Even with my air conditioner on, this weather is hard on my collection, and even harder on me. My opinion may change by January, but I doubt it.



## APS CHAPTER 1357

Meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday, except July, August, October, at Kanestio Historical Society Building, 23 Main St., Canisteo  
*Sue Babbitt, 1990 Square Woods Drive, Canisteo, NY 14823-1250*  
*babbitts@stny.rr.com, 607-698-2062*



### Chain Saw Art

Chain saw artist Joe Gerych, upper left, carves breast feathers on the eagle. Steuben Stamp Club member John S. Babbitt, above, displays a Kanona cover franked with a photo stamp and having the eagle pictorial cancellation.

## THE EAGLE STANDS PROUD IN KANONA

The eagle has been a proud symbol of the U.S. Postal Service since August 12, 1970, the day President Richard M. Nixon signed into law the Postal Reorganization Act converting the Post Office Department into an independent establishment of the executive branch.

It was at this time the USPS announced the adoption of a new seal. It featured a bald eagle poised for flight on a white field, above red and blue bars framing the words *U.S. Mail* and surrounded by a square border with the words *United States Postal Service* on three sides and nine five pointed stars at the base.

In 1869 the eagle appeared for the first time on U.S. stamps and has been a familiar sight ever since. So when a large dead spruce tree in front of the Kanona Post Office needed to come down, Postmaster Cathy Harvey made special arrangements for the tree to live on in another way. Through creative chain saw artist Joe Gerych, the tree trunk was transformed into a visible symbol of the United States — the eagle.

To spotlight the event, the Kanona Post Office offered a special pictorial one day cancel to commemorate the tree's transformation. To add a special touch to a handful of covers Ms. Harvey used a photo stamp that featured a picture of the post office. Kanona, New York, is a small village in Steuben County. Its post office was established on February 9, 1825.

John S. Babbitt photos



## APS CHAPTER 50

[www.syracusestampclub.org](http://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 593, East Syracuse, NY 13057-0593  
agsses@aol.com, 315-457-3201



**SYRACUSE  
STAMP  
CLUB**

## DATES SET FOR SYRAPEX 2007

The club has set the dates for its biennial show. *SYRAPEX 2007* is scheduled for November 10 and 11. Please watch this column for further details.

### PROGRAMS

Sept. 1 — *Everyone a Dealer Night*

Sept. 15 — *It Started With a Lick* by Vince Juchimek

Sept. 29 — Auction featuring catalogues

Oct. 6 — Annual Open House

Oct. 20 — Auction

Nov. 1 — *Syracusiana*: bring a Syracuse-related philatelic item to show and tell



*Picnic  
Time in  
Syracuse*

Daniel A. Piazza photos

The club picnic was July 29 at Richard Nuhn's home on Cross Lake, Jordan. Clockwise from upper left: Nuhn steams up mahogany littlenecks; Vince and Dianne Juchimek on deck; Bin and Jinwen Liu relax with Ralph Lind; and the Steele family: Lisa, Jim, and Jeremy.



## 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 13820-1154  
rfinnegan@stny.rr.com, 607-432-8141

## MEETINGS RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 18

The club will begin its philatelic year with its first meeting on September 18. The Program Committee of William Bauer, Spike Paranya, and Robert Finnegan have put together the year's program.

### PROGRAMS

#### 2006

Sept. 18 — APS slide program *Around the World in 80 Stamps*

Oct. 16 — APS slide program *The Doctoring of Postage Stamps — Philatelists Beware*

Nov. 20 — *Penny Sale*: Bring in stamps to be sold for one-cent each. Proceeds to treasury.

Dec. 18 — APS slide program *Life Through the Ages*

#### 2007

Jan. 8 — *Linn's Stamp Poll* and *Member Show and Tell*

Feb. 12 — To be determined

March 19 — Annual *Philatelic Game Night*

April 16 — APS slide program *August Dietz Collection of Confederate Stamps*

May 21 — *Kid's Night*

June 18 — Dinner at Sidney Country Club

### ANNUAL DUES

Bob Finnegan reminds all members that their annual dues are to be paid. Individual memberships are \$8, while family memberships are \$10. Those wishing to get the *STAMP INSIDER* should pay \$12. The *STAMP INSIDER* is our *FEDERATION's* monthly publication and is now done in full color. It provides advertisements, interesting articles and also the news of member clubs within the *FEDERATION*. It would be sent directly to your home.

### Jeb Maybe?

This cover's main point of interest is the corner card. How many covers with names identical to a famous person may lurk in dealer's boxes? Submitted by Norman Cohen.



## APS CHAPTER 240

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
Meeting place to be determined

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



### **Picnic Fun**

John J. Nunes, left, displays his Competition Night award. John McCoy, above left, and Don Nolett poke through a box of catalogues, seeking treasures

## SUMMER PICNIC AND AUCTION A SUCCESS

The club held its annual summer picnic in conjunction with the Tri Club Picnic and Auction at Lanthiers Grove in Latham on July 30. Favors were provided by Peg Kosinski and John J. Nunes was presented his award for the best exhibit at last spring's Competition Night.

On a sad note, we learned of the death of long-time member and owner of Uncle Sam Stamp & Coin, Arnie Leiter. He will be sorely missed. *See obituary on Page 51.*

### **BREAKING NEWS**

Holmes & Watson Ltd. has decided to end our relationship and we are presently looking for another meeting place. As we get closer to our first meeting, members should be hearing from President Terrill S. Miller.

### **PROGRAMS**

- Sept. 6 — *Stamps and Covers of Lundy Island* by Tom Auletta
- Sept. 10 — Annual Uncle Sam Parade in North Troy
- Sept. 20 — *Drift Mail* by John J. Nunes
- Oct. 4 — *Tonga, the Friendly Islands* by Steve Gray
- Oct. 18 — Members fall Auction



## 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 14227-2234  
coverconnection@aol.com, 716-668-2755



## MOZART: A PROLIFIC COMPOSER FOR MASONS

This year Vienna and all classical musicians are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was 28 years old when he joined a Masonic Lodge in the autumn of 1784. He remained a member until his death in 1791.

Mozart apparently was sponsored in his petition to join Masonry by the Baron Otto Freiherr von Gemmingen-Hornberg, Master of Zur Wohltatigkeit (Charity) Lodge. Mozart had met Gemmingen in Mannheim. His name was put before the Lodge on December 5, 1784, and he appears to have received the Entered Apprentice Degree on December 14. On January 7, 1785, he received the Fellow Craft Degree at Zur wahren Eintracht (True Harmony) Lodge at the request of his home Lodge. On April 22, he received the Master Mason Degree.

He wrote his opera, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*) the same year that he was initiated. Mozart was greatly honored by his induction to the fraternal lodge. In 1785, he composed his *Maurerische Trauermusik* (*Masonic Funeral Music*) for orchestra in C minor and *Opening and Closing Odes* for Lodge Crowned Hope. One of his most beautiful Masonic works, *Gesellenreise* (*Fellow Craft's Journey*) was written for the initiation of his father, Leopold Mozart, on April 16, 1785.

His last great opera, *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*), opened in Vienna on September 30, 1791 and is thought to contain many mystical and secret references to Masonic rituals. The number three had a deep significance for the Masons, and it keeps occurring throughout *Die Zauberflöte*: three ladies, three boys, three temples, etc. The opera's home key of E flat was used by Mozart for his Masonic compositions because the key signature contained three flats.

The Vatican, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Mali, Bosnia, Germany, Portugal, and numerous other countries have released Mozart stamps in this anniversary year.

— By Heather Sweeting

---

## 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

Jerome F. Wagner, 160 Proctor Blvd., Utica, NY 13501-6119  
315-732-0219



### BACK OF BOOK PROGRAM IN THE OFFING

Arthur Baker will present a program on U.S. back of the book materials when we resume our meetings on September 5 in our usual meeting place — the New Hartford Public Town Library. Dr. Baker recently broke his upper right arm and has it in a sling, but has assured us this will not interfere with his presentations.

Plans are being made for programs in the coming months, but are not yet complete.

---

### *Canada 2007 Stamp Program Announced*

Canada Post has announced its program for 2007. It will begin on January 5 with an issue celebrating the Year of the Pig. This is the 11th year a Lunar New Year issue has been released. A second birthday stamp following this year's design will be issued in mid-January. A stamp commemorating the 125th anniversary of the first International Polar Year will come in February.

A March 1 issue will feature lilacs. Other spring issues include the next installment in the Arts Canada set (Mary Pratt), the 100th anniversary of the University of Saskatchewan, and four stamps featuring endangered species. The 150th anniversary of the selection of Ottawa as Canada's capital city will be commemorated on May 3.

The east and west coasts will be showcased in June with stamps honoring the golden anniversary of the founding of Terra Nova National Park, where the North Atlantic touches the boreal forest of eastern Newfoundland, and the 250th birthday of Captain George Vancouver, after whom the city is named.

Coming in July are a stamp honoring the centennial of Jasper National Park, five stamps devoted to French settlement of what became Canada, a stamp honoring Chief Membertou, and one showcasing Canada's hosting duties for the FIFA World Youth Championships. The celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Canada will be recognized with a stamp in August.

Fall issues will celebrate the 100th anniversaries of the Law Societies of Saskatchewan and Alberta and 100 years of higher learning at HEC Montréal. There are more than 10 quintillion insects in the world and in October millions of them will infest post offices across Canada when new low-value definitives featuring insects are issued for Stamp Collecting Month. This activity is celebrated around the world as an opportunity to issue stamps of particular interest to youth.

The 2007 program will close with a stamp honoring the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the Christmas issues, which will feature reindeer and imagery symbolizing Christmas wishes for peace, joy, and hope.

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## SHOWS/BOURSES

### SEPTEMBER

#### 3 — Rochester

RS STAMP SHOW, Eagle's Club, 1200 Buffalo Rd. 10–4. Bourse. John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: [nunesnook@aol.com](mailto:nunesnook@aol.com).

#### 9 — Olean

Olean Stamp Club OLEPEX 2006. John Ash Community Center, 112 N. Barry St. Dealers, exhibits, USPS. Fred Printz, 716-372-1782; e-mail: [printz@netsync.net](mailto:printz@netsync.net).

#### 10 — Syracuse

SYRACUSE STAMP, COIN & COLLECTIBLES SHOW, Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle, Thruway exit 35. 10–4:30. Bourse. Ed Bailey, 315-452-0593.

#### 17 — Albany

CAPITAL DISTRICT STAMP SHOW, Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. 10–4. Bourse. John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: [nunesnook@aol.com](mailto:nunesnook@aol.com).

#### 17 — Cheektowaga

Buffalo Numismatic Assn. MONTHLY BOURSE. 10–5. Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Rd. 716-663-4104.

#### 24 — West Seneca

STAMP, COIN, POSTCARD & COLLECTIBLES SHOW, Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd. 10–4. Bourse. Victor Drajem, 716-656-8080.

### OCTOBER

#### 5–8 — New York City

ASDA POSTAGE STAMP MEGA-EVENT, Madison Square Garden, 34th and 7th Ave. 10–6 Thursday–Saturday, 10–4 Sunday. 516-759-7000; e-mail [asdashows@erols.com](mailto:asdashows@erols.com).

#### 6–7 — Horseheads

Elmira Stamp Club STEPEX 2006, Arnot Mall. 10–9:30

Friday, 10–6 Saturday. Dealers, exhibits, USP, show cancel and cachet. Alan Parsons, e-mail: [alatholleyrd@aol.com](mailto:alatholleyrd@aol.com).

**7–8 — Cheektowaga**

Buffalo Numismatic Assn. FALL CONVENTION. 10–5 Saturday, 10–3 Sunday. Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Rd. 716-663-4104.

**13–15 Toronto**

CSDA TORONTO NATIONAL, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. 11–6 Friday, 10–6 Saturday, 10–4 Sunday. Dealers, Canada Post. Web: [www.csdaonline.com](http://www.csdaonline.com); e-mail: [secretary@csdaonline.com](mailto:secretary@csdaonline.com).

**15 — Albany**

CAPITAL DISTRICT STAMP SHOW, Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. 10–4. Bourse. John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: [nunesnook@aol.com](mailto:nunesnook@aol.com).

**15 — Cheektowaga**

Buffalo Numismatic Assn. MONTHLY BOURSE. 10–5. Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Rd. 716-663-4104.

**21–22 — Albany**

Nunesnook and New England ASDA NEASDA MANIA, Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. 10–6 Saturday, 9–4 Sunday. Bourse, educational exhibits, John J. Nunes, 518-399-8395, e-mail: [nunesnook@aol.com](mailto:nunesnook@aol.com).

**21–22 — Lakewood**

FENTOPEX XL, YWCA Lake Lodge, Terrace Ave., Lakewood, 10–5 Saturday, 10–4 Sunday. Dealers, exhibits. Leslie Davis, 716-386-5885.

**22 — West Seneca**

STAMP, COIN, POSTCARD & COLLECTIBLES SHOW, Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd. 10–4. Bourse. Victor Drajem, 716-656-8080.

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**WANTED** — Covers and post cards from Newfoundland, both pre- and post Confederation. George McGowan, e-mail: [geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:hsweetin@twcny.rr.com).

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

**WANTED** — Commercial usages on cover of U.S. Scott No. 1268 — the Dante Alighieri commemorative of 1965. Also any unusual material related to this issue. E-mail: [dpiazza@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dpiazza@twcny.rr.com).

### Quiz Answers

1. Grant, Hayes, Garfield, B. Harrison, McKinley;
2. Joel Chandler Harris;
3. Glenn Hammond Curtiss;
4. Andrew Jackson;
5. Sam Rayburn;
6. William Tecumseh Sherman;
7. Judy Garland;
8. Juliette Howe;
9. Guiseppe Garibaldi;
10. George Dewey;
11. Crawford Long;
12. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow;
13. Victor Herbert;
14. Samuel Gompers;
15. Casey Jones;
16. Will Rogers.

### Correction

The last line of the Fort Ticonderoga article in the May-June issue was inadvertently deleted by the printer. It should read: "... the border security question?"



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## THE LAST WORDS

*Heather Sweeting, Associate Editor*  
14329 Victory St., Sterling NY 13156-3172  
e-mail [hsweeting@nystampclubs.org](mailto:hsweeting@nystampclubs.org)

### DOES YOUR COLLECTION NEED A 'NOAH'S ARK'?

It has been an extremely unusual summer in upstate New York. Twice during July we had two days in which it rained four to five inches in a single day. The grand total was more than 11 inches. Several communities experienced flash flooding, clogged storm drains, sink holes in roads. An aqueduct on the Erie Canal threatened to crack and flood an entire town. Thankfully, I live on top of a hill and have excellent drains in the cellar. I don't believe the people on the bottom of the hill, or those living near the lake were as lucky.

Sadly, in the first of these rain events a portion of a bridge washed away and two trucks fell into the water below and were dragged a great distance. Both drivers were killed, one of whom was a USPS employee. Several weeks after this accident the USPS disclosed that thousands of pieces of mail destined for the New England area were destroyed after they were found to be full of toxins created by mold and water submersion.

Are you prepared for a unexpected water disaster? Is your collection insured against moisture, excessive humidity, a leaky roof, or a flash flood? Do you have a separate rider on your insurance policy for these? Thinking back, I should have thrown a bag of stamps on the basement floor to soak when it was flooded.

Since Hurricane Katrina, many insurance companies have amended their policies. When I recently checked a policy for a relative, I noticed that it did not cover damage from mildew created by water damage from rain, flood, or a leak. It didn't even provide coverage for a broken plumbing fixture, such as a washing machine hose or hot water heater. In essence, I guess acts of wind and fire are covered, but nothing related to water.

If a tree fell on your roof and caused a big hole in your ceiling and it rained would you be covered? If you had a fire and the fire company tried to put out the fire with water and caused damage to the drywall or other objects in your house, would that be covered?

Take some time to protect and preserve your collection. This can be done in several ways, not just through insurance. Many people rent a safe deposit box to store their valuables. I wonder how those stood up to the test in New Orleans; were they watertight?

Be sure to make scans, photographs, or videos of the most important pieces in your collection. Make several copies and keep them in various places. This could be helpful not only to preserve history, but to have a visual record of your collection in case of theft, fire, etc. Many specialist collections are broken up in estate sales, and years of work in assembling them are lost forever when the items dissipate throughout the country. Once a collection is digitized it makes it really easy to write articles, (hint, hint) or create computer presentations, or even put items on eBay if you have duplicates. So, please, soak your stamps yourself. Don't let Mother Nature do it for you!

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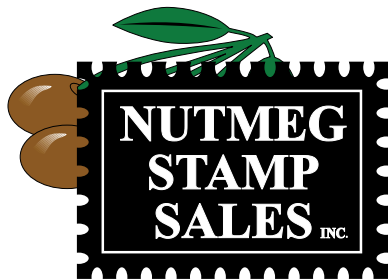


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