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THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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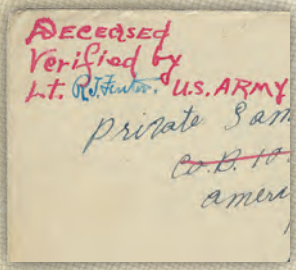
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CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER
Martin Kent Miller, ext. 221
martin@stamps.org • aparticle@stamps.org

EDITORIAL CONTENT SPECIALIST
Fred Baumann, ext. 222 • fbaumann@stamps.org

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
Doris Wilson, ext. 223 • doris@stamps.org

DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGIST Mara Hartzell, ext. 207 • mhartzell@stamps.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT MANAGER
Helen Bruno, ext. 224
hlbruno@stamps.org • adsales@stamps.org

American Philatelic Society
American Philatelic Research Library
100 Match Factory Place • Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-933-3803 • 814-933-6128 (Fax)
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Scott English, ext. 219
scott@stamps.org

CHIEF MEMBERSHIP OFFICER
Ken Martin, ext. 218 • kpmartin@stamps.org

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Rick Banks, ext. 216 • rbanks@stamps.org

GENERAL INFORMATION apsinfo@stamps.org

ADDRESS CHANGES requests@stamps.org, ext. 201

EDUCATION/YOUTH Cathy Brachbill, ext. 239
cbrachbill@stamps.org

EXPERTIZING/QUICK ID Thomas W. Horn, ext. 205 • twhorn@stamps.org

LIBRARY/INFO. SERVICES Scott Tiffney, ext. 246
stiffney@stamps.org

MEMBERSHIP Judy Johnson, ext. 210
judy@stamps.org

SALES UNIT Wendy Masorti, ext. 270
stampstore@stamps.org

SHOWS/EXHIBITIONS Kathleen Edwards, ext. 217
stampshow@stamps.org

SHOW TIME LISTINGS
showtime@stamps.org

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BY ROBERT ZEIGLER president
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The Long and the Short and the Tall

Wartime Mail Memorializes America's Veterans





So many of us are either service veterans or have fathers, mothers, grandparents or close friends or relatives who served, whether in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East or elsewhere. We owe our "Greatest Generation" (as Tom Brokaw put it) our freedom and our continued way of life. But, as collectors, we also enjoy and even treasure some of the mail those who served overseas sent back home.

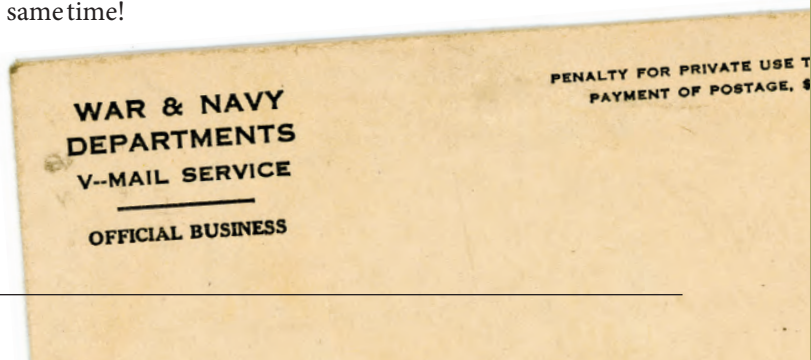
My mother, Elizabeth Robertson, is just one of those sent overseas during World War II who happened to generate interesting mail. She was working in 1943 as a young aide to an Illinois congressman in Washington, D.C., but wanted something more interesting. Through a friend she interviewed for, and got, a job with the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. By the spring of 1944 she found herself in the OSS office in London.

Though far from the front lines, London was a scary place in 1944, with blackout restrictions, barrage balloons and most of the children evacuated to the countryside for safety. That summer, hundreds of German V-1 flying bombs and V-2 supersonic rockets fell in and around the city. V-1s were particularly nasty from a psychological standpoint. They were launched from ramps in France and Holland and pointed in the direction of London. Their ramjet engines were calibrated to shut down over London. The distinctive drone of the engine stopped, followed by a brief, tense silence during which the weapon would plummet to earth, then a loud boom as the warhead detonated with enough force to wipe out a good part of a city block.

My mother was an American liaison to X-2, (British "double-cross") which was part of counterintelligence, assigned, among other things, to trying to find agents who were feeding information to the Germans. In between her duties in London, she wrote her own mother V-mail, some of which survives, with an interesting return address:

Eliz. Robertson, Civ.
OSS Det., A.P.O. 413
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

I am not sure how many letters survive with " OSS" as part of their return address. Probably not many. Most had a return address under embassy cover, or appeared to come from innocuous military units. But this is one small example of the correspondence that can be found that reflects the involvement of so many of our relatives, parents and grandparents in saving the world from Hitler's Third Reich. — a mammoth, globe-spanning effort that created interesting mail at the same time!



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BY MARTIN KENT MILLER editor
martin@stamps.org

Where Honor is Due

Remembering Those Who Serve



You would be hard-pressed to find a group of people possessed of a greater understanding and appreciation of history than philatelists. The very objects of our obsession are reminders of those things that are either making modern history or commemorating the past in some way. As I have mentioned before, one of the greatest aspects of the philatelic experience is the ability to explore long-past cultures and events through stamps and covers. For many of us, this is especially true as we consider those who have served in the various uniforms of the military service.

November marks a time set aside in the U.S. to remember those who have served and who are currently sacrificing for our nation through such service. I use the word "sacrifice" knowing full well that there are men and women who have and will make the ultimate sacrifice. I also know that even those not called to that end will give up comforts and advantages to wear our nation's uniforms. Those are due our honor and appreciation.

As philatelists, our pursuits bring us into close contact with the details of world and national history. We understand the conflicts of the past and see their influence on the politics of our current day. Whether we experienced first-hand the patriotic spirit of the 1940s or suffered through the treatment of our Vietnam veterans, we hold tokens of those times and those attitudes in our individual collections.

And yet, I fear, we often miss the common thread woven through history and through the hobby. We tend to polarize ourselves based on our perception of just and unjust – we establish ourselves firmly as liberal or conservative and we evaluate the world from that confined perspective. I have promised to avoid bringing politics into the hobby and I preserve that commitment by reminding us all of the common thread in life and philately – the human thread. Regardless of our position on the politics of the day, we owe great gratitude for those willing to serve and sacrifice in our stead.

In the pages to follow, you will find more history presented in the context of philately. You will see the portrait of an old country's father and read the letter of a soldier lost just as many others learned they were going home. We present the tributes that two nation's offer their first responders and we consider an American era of turbulence and passion. And as we reflect on these accounts and honors, we find constant reminders of the challenges of life. The human experience gives way to the myriad other experiences of life – both kind and cruel. Let those experiences instill in us a greater appreciation for those who have served, those who are serving and those who will follow in their stead. In the end equation, we all share that human experience.

Editor,
The American Philatelist

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
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STAMP THEFT COMMITTEE
Nicholas A. Lombardi
P.O. Box 1005, Mountainside, NJ 07092
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Hugh Wood Inc.,
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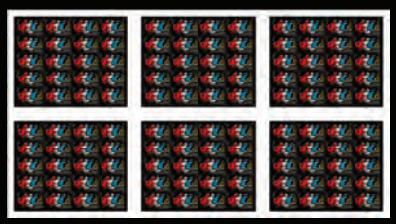
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A Whale of a Tale

I remain inspired by your articles in *American Philatelist*! Keep on the great work.

I have some questions regarding your Falkland Islands feature in the September issue. I am just trying to get good information about the whales mentioned. As this is my thematic interest. I have tried over the years to tease out details for the whales portrayed on various Falkland Islands and South Georgia stamps but have obtained no satisfactory answers.

Figure 5 shows a 2½ stamp with "a whale and penguin." - It was my understanding that these were intended to represent a fin whale and a gentoo penguin, both of which were captured and rendered to oil. Your text indicates "scientific criticism over the inaccurate image of a spouting sperm whale." I am curious about this, for the image clearly does not show a sperm whale head or back, and looks more like fin whale than other whales, and the fin whale was a major prey whale at this time.

The leaping whale in the 1933 6p Centennial stamp in Figure 6 is definitively a fin whale, with its distinctive white right lower jaw and prominent fin.

What is your citation in knowing that the 1½p "Whale Catcher" in Figure 6 is *Bransfield*?

In Figure 7, you describe the 1938 ½p stamp as "constructed from four blue whale jaw bones." I have asked and asked, and looked and looked to no avail to find any statement that these mandibles are in fact from blue whales. Please enlighten me.

The blue whale of South Georgia's 1963 ultra £1 stamp is a splendid portrait of the biggest of the biggest. Note that its fin is relatively smaller and farther back than that of the fin whale, and that it is a far larger beast.

I trust you'll take kindly to my query and I look forward to learning more from you about these magnificent whales on wee bits of sticky paper.

Alastair Watson

Christchurch, New Zealand

Noel Davenhill replied to Mr. Watson's letter:

"Thank you for your email, I am pleased you like my article. You are correct about the whale on the whale and penguin stamps. It is indeed a fin whale.

"Regarding the ship on the 1½p Centennial stamp, it is definitely the *Bransfield*, as identified in B.S.H. Grant's well-known *Postage Stamps of the Falkland Islands & Dependencies*, published in 1952. That ship name also is confirmed in the 1992 *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, which names all ships listed on British Empire stamps.

"Concerning the Whale Bone Arch in Port Stanley, in the *Handbook of British Colonial stamps in current use, September 1949 ; comprising historical, geographical and general information obtained from official and other reliable sources and compiled* by R. Courtney Cade, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office in 1950, 'The arch is composed of four blue whales' jaw bones from the South Shetland...' "



"Magnificent whales on wee bits of sticky paper" like this are the topical specialty of a reader with questions about September's column on the Falkland Islands.

Collecting Modern Plate Blocks

For over 40 years I collected United States stamps. I started with singles and eventually ended with plate blocks on first day covers. I collected blocks from all four corners of the pane, and set up my stamp pages showing a mint stamp, a used version, the FDC and then the four corner blocks on the second page with a description of the stamp and all of its philatelic information that applied.

In 1989, the USPS started self-adhesive stamps and now all of its stamps are self-adhesive. My entire way of collecting came to a screeching halt, so to speak. The die cut stamps came in singles, panes of 20 and booklets with stamps on both sides of the backing. To give you an example of my dilemma, I would have to buy the entire pane to have a complete and accurate example of the stamp issue. The "selvage," if you will, contains specific information and photos directly associated with the stamp. In my way of collecting you could not separate the selvage from the 20 stamps in the pane to maintain an accurate representation of that particular issue. Of course you could remove a single stamp but you would destroy the integrity of the entire pane. From my perspective regarding FDCs you would have to have the entire pane on the envelope to accurately portray the stamp issued.

I've turned to other countries that still have moisture-activated "lick-and-stick" stamps, and for the most parts am happy with the results as it allowed me to continue to collect stamps as outlined above although it does appear more and more countries are going to the self-adhesive stamps.

Now someone out there might say "hey, you didn't have to stop collecting U.S. stamps, and this is what you need to do to keep collecting as you did." Well, if there was a way to do it, I'd really like to know how other APS members collect U.S. self-adhesive stamps — singles mint and used, plate blocks, and what about all four corners?

Do people still collect plate blocks? How are they legitimately able to take die-cut stamps and create a plate block



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when you have to disassemble the block and then reassemble it on some type of backing, or try and get all of the stamps accurately aligned on the first day cover? To me, this is no longer a real plate block. And as far as FDCs with plate blocks are concerned it makes the situation even more dubious.

I know a lot of people probably think I'm crazy and making this harder than it should be, but I believe these are all legitimate questions regarding self-adhesives. Maybe I should accept the way things are and just say "forget it," but I am sure there are a lot of other U.S. plate block collectors just like myself who are not happy about the situation.

The U.S. Postal Service says that self-adhesive stamps are more convenient, and besides, the paper to print "lick-and-stick" stamps is not available and more costly. If this is true, how is Canada able to print its stamps? They seem to be able to find the paper. And as far as convenience goes, is it really a convenience to use a self-adhesive stamp instead of liking and sticking a stamp and placing it on an envelope? How lazy have we really become?

To all of my fellow APS members out there, please let me know how you are collecting self-adhesive stamps? If this has been addressed in an article in *The American Philatelist*, please let me know.

Some of you might be thinking "What took you so long?" to address an issue that dates back nearly 30 years. The answer is that I've been rethinking of a way to enjoy collecting U.S. stamps again, and wanted to know how other people are doing it.

Bill Wilson
Seattle, Washington

Editor's Note: One of the most contentious ongoing issues in modern philately is the transition by the USPS to self-adhesive stamps. The change presented numerous challenges for collectors and continues to present issues today. While we encourage feedback on Mr. Wilson's questions, let us also recommend some of the materials we have published in past *AP* articles & columns:

"Collecting Coast to Coast - Creating Seat Belts for Stamps" by Wayne Youngblood. Published in the March 2016 issue of *The American Philatelist*, p. 264.

"Sales Talk - The Challenges of Selling Self-Adhesives" by Tom Horn. Published in the March 2016 issue of *The American Philatelist*, p. 330.

"Self-Adhesives" by William Aiello. Published in the November 2013 issue of *The American Philatelist*, p. 992.

"U.S. Self-Adhesives Come of Age" by George R. Wren. Published in the May 1997 issue of *The American Philatelist*, p. 434.

"Unsoakables" by Peter Mastrangelo. Published in the March 2008 issue of *The American Philatelist*, p. 246.

Members can access each of these articles in the online archives of *The American Philatelist* at aps.buzz/aparchive.

No Strawberries Here

I read with interest Dr. Steven J. Berlin's feature "What's Eating Our Mail?" in the September *American Philatelist*. Having spent two years in the Peace Corps in Cameroon, I'd like to point out the text in the postmarks on the cover in Figure 7 (page 853), mailed from Djibouti, Somalia, to Lihue, Hawaii, was not accurately described.



The postmarks on a bookworm-riddled cover from Djibouti in "What's Eating Our Mail" have an abbreviation of the inscription on this 5-franc Somali Coast stamp of 1938 (Scott 176).

"Djibouti/Cote F[rais]se," as it was rendered in the article, would mean "Djibouti/Strawberry Coast." I believe the author meant "[Djibouti / Cote F(rançai)se des Somalis]" — literally "French Coast of Somalis" — as inscribed on the stamps.

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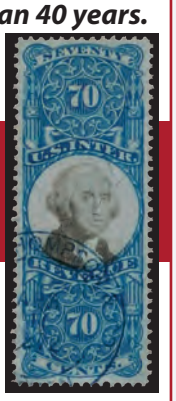
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Please Come Back Again

Dear Collectors,

Recently the American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association held a joint show in our fair city. It was a resounding success.

We would like to thank all who took part on a job well done. The two societies and their staffs, the dealers and their helpers, the exhibitors, the volunteers, the attendees and the United States Postal Service joined forces to make StampShow/NTSS 2018 a truly memorable show. It has shown to us and to all in our city the vibrancy and joy of our great hobby.

Whether advanced collector or rank beginner there was something for each attendee to enjoy. It was and is our pleasure to host this meeting. Please come back again ... and again.

Sincerely,

The local stamp clubs of Columbus

President Charles Deeb
Worthington Stamp Club

President Van Siegling
Columbus Philatelic Club

'Modern Mistake' Follow-Up

The 'Letters' column in the September *American Philatelist* (pages 828-29) notified readers of a recent discovery by Manuel Morales of San Diego, California, among some recent purchases at the post office. The image, reproduced here, showed a detail from the 12-stamp side of a 'USA Forever' Flag stamp booklet (Scott 5160b) on which the lower row of stamps had been miscut, with the horizontal cut running well into the top of the stamp.



This modern mistake was introduced in the September *American Philatelist* on page 829.

Manuel mentioned finding more than one booklet like this and asked if we had seen any before. The conversation here seemed to indicate that there are quite a few of these in the market, and potentially still in post offices as well. We invited readers to take part in a "quick, informal census" and "let us know if you have any of these booklets."

The only report we received was from Tom Zick from Curtis, a small cottage-country town in Michigan's Upper



About Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed provided that the content is specifically related to philately and/or the business of the Society. The purpose of this section of the journal is to promote healty debate about the hobby, to correct errors and omissions and to provide a forum for comments and suggestions.

The current editorial policy regarding letters to the editor can be found online at https://aps.buzz/2LRKK8o. This policy is subject to revision as necessary to enhance the value of the material published in *The American Philatelist*.

Send a letter to the editor by e-mailing lettertotheeditor@stamps.org or faxing (814) 933-6128. You may also mail your letter to: Letter to the Editor, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823.

Peninsula. On September 5, Tom told us that three such booklets had been found in his post office, and these were judiciously offered to and bought by Tom and the two other collectors that the postal clerk knew.

d *versus* p

When I read Noel Davenhill's article on the Falkland Islands in the September issue of *The American Philatelist*, it grated to find denominations expressed as "2 1/2p" or "2sh6p." The stamps themselves express their value in "d," for *denarius*. That is because the stamps were valued in sterling, which is properly written 6d or 2s6d, properly expressed in the Gibbons catalogs. In sterling, there are 120 pennies to the pound. When the currency changed on February 15, 1971, ("Decimal Day"), there were 100 new pence to the pound. Therefore 1d does not equal 1p.

To my further dismay, I found that Scott catalogs also express values as "6p" and "2sh6p." Shame on them.

It is a small thing, but why not do it correctly?

Thomas P. Myers
Gordonsville, Virginia

Our Stories Buttress the Hobby

I'd like to thank Martin K. Miller for the terrific work he and his APS colleagues do to make philately come alive.

I cringed, however, when I read his "Philatelic Experience" column in the September *American Philatelist* ("Another Take on Our Story," page 822) with the use of the same word 17 times on one page – perhaps a record.

As a writer, I try not to use the same word over and over on a page. Maybe "that's just me," but I take the liberty to bring it to your attention. Certainly the word "story" has numerous synonyms and substitutes.

But I am thankful that at least you did not use the word I truly despise — "support." I now refuse to use it. Instead, I pause to conjure up suitable substitutes, of which I have to date found at least 26, from "agree with" to "sustain."

Despite this diatribe I did enjoy your column, and agree 100 percent with your premise that stamps are a great vehicle to help us promote our sagas.

Eli Goodman
Springfield, Illinois

Editor's Note: Outside of some highly-specialized writing types, most authors would agree that word choice is highly personal and a critical component in the challenge of communicating specific messages. The word selection in "The Philatelic Experience," while clearly redundant, was also intentional. Throughout history, writers have deployed repetition (both of message and specific words) in order to emphasize points of special importance. The intention was to impress upon even the most causal reader the correlation between the possible implications of the word "story." Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the column. Feedback is always welcome ... and watch for a more diverse array of abetting synonyms in the future.

Zeppelin Mail 'Received Too Late'

I'm not sure of the sequence of events, but it appears that this beautiful cover was to be carried to Los Angeles on the *Graf Zeppelin*, but according to the three-line violet handstamp, it was "RECEIVED TOO LATE / TO CONNECT WITH / GRAF ZEPPELIN FLIGHT." It was canceled on Aug. 27, 1929, then mailed back to Mr. Rayner here in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

I'll leave the rest to you to figure out.

Bob Cancilla
Pittsfield, Massachusetts



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Sincerely,

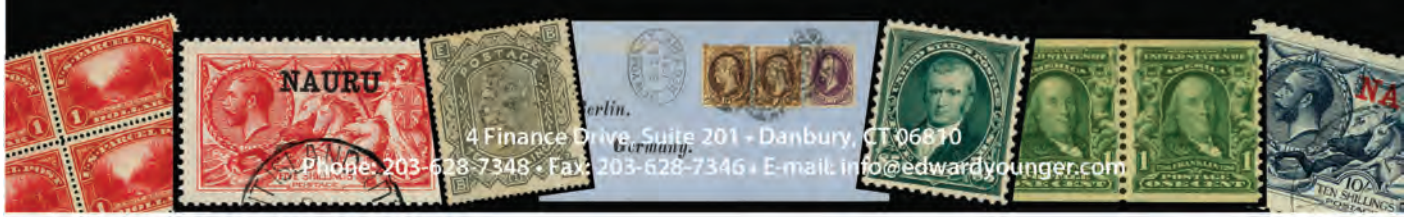
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Editor's Note: According to the 2001 edition of the *Sieger Zeppelinpost Spezial-Katalog*, covers that arrived in time, received a special "First Round-the-World Flight" pictorial handstamp and were carried on the Graf Zeppelin from Los Angeles to Lakehurst and delivered (Sieger 29 A) and have a catalog value of €75 (approximately $87 U.S.)

However the Sieger catalog also notes that, "letters received too late were given a two-line handstamp from the U.S. Post Office Department: 'TOO LATE FOR / GRAF ZEPPELIN DESPATCH'," which is accorded a catalog value of €50 (about $58 U.S.). This is not the same as the three-line handstamp on your cover, which may be scarcer or more common than the one Sieger lists.

In fact, there may have been a good reason why so much U.S. mail meant for the widely publicized flight ended up "late." American collectors sent mail with the understanding that the flight would begin August 27, and it did – at 15 minutes past midnight. That intentionally early departure was what enabled the giant German airship to confidently cross the country and land at Lakehurst just two days later at 7:12 in the morning.

Whoever opened the envelope containing this cover in Los Angeles on August 27 treated it appropriately. Since it no longer needed to pay a premium for transcontinental carriage on a Zeppelin, the mail clerk applied the three-line late handstamp and canceled only the 5-cent airmail envelope to pay for its return to the sender in Pittsfield. The 5-cent Beacon airmail stamp and 50-cent Arlington Amphitheater definitive were never postmarked.

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455 ** XF Pr	90	516 ** XF w/cert	135
455 ** VF Line Pr w/cert	75	516 ** XF	85
455 ** VF Line Pr	60	516 ** VF	42
457 ** VF Line Pr w/cert	375	516 * XF/S	70
458 ** XF Line Pr w/cert	350	516 **/* VF Pl. Blk	480
458 ** VF Pr	85	517 ** VF/XF	95
458 * XF/S Line Pr w/cert	375	517 ** XF	125
463a * VF PN Bklt Pane	89	517 * VF/XF	29
464 ** X F w/cert	300	518 ** S	1,325
464 ** VF	95	518**/* VF Pl. Blk	925
464 * X F	95	524 ** XF w/cert	340
466 ** XF w/cert	175	524 ** VF w/cert	200
466 *VF/XF	95	524 **/* XF Center Line 4-Blk	895
472 * S	500	526 **/* VF/XF 4-Blk	105
472 * VF/XF	95	526 ** VF Pl. Blk	295
481 ** VF PL. Blk	29	527 ** VF	23
483 * VF Pl. Blk	63	527 ** VF/XF Pl. Blk	250
484 **/* XF Pl. Blk	110	527 **/* VF Pl. Blk	115
487 ** VF Pr w/cert	90	528 ** XF Pl. Blk	125
488 ** VF Line Pr	55	528 * VF Pl. Blk	55
489 ** VF Line Pr	44	528 **/* VF PN 12-Blk	95
493 ** VF Line Pr w/cert	140	528A ** VF Pl. Blk	525
495 ** XF Line Pr w/cert	330	528B ** VF Pl. Blk	245
495 ** VF Pr	30	531 **/* VF 4-Blk	45
495 ** XF Pr	95	532 ** XF/S Pr	195
496 ** XF Pr	24	534 ** XF Pr	37
496 * VF Line Pr	16	535 **/* VF Arrow 4-Blk	75
497 ** VF Line Pr	165	535 **/* VF 4-Blk	45
497 ** VF Pr	70	535 ** VF Pl. Blk	45
498b ** VF	750	536 ** XF	42
501b **/* VF Bklt Pane	39	536 ⊙ VF	19
502 * S	45	536 **/* VF Pl. Blk	145
502b ** VF Bklt Pane	55	538 ⊙ VF Pl. Blk	100
503 ⊙ VF Pl. Blk	55	538 **/* VF PN 8-Blk	100
503 * XF	30	538a * VF Pr Imp. Between	33
504 * XF	24	540 ** VF 8-Blk	120
506 ** XF/S	70	547 * XF	90
506 * XF	75	547 ** VF 4-Blk w/cert	575
507 * XF	25	548-50 ** VF	60
508 ** VF	15	548-50 ** VF 4-Blks	275
509 ** XF	39	550 * VF	16
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513 ** VF	14		

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BY SCOTT ENGLISH executive director
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On the Road Again

A Look Back Over the Busy Summer Months

In the midst of all the improvements we're making within the APS at Bellefonte, I don't always highlight getting out and meeting APS members on the road. Traveling to where you live and collect is one of the perks of my job, and one of the best tools I have to learn what matters to you, which is why it is important to me to share what I learn out "on the road."

In September, I had a chance to visit two World Series of Philately shows in Omaha, Nebraska, and Seattle, Washington.

Omaha Stamp Show

I started off at the Omaha Stamp Show, a two-day show held at the South Campus of the Metropolitan Community College. The location has great free parking and the traffic of students was also a nice pitch to draw in non-collectors. We kicked off the show with a town hall meeting of members from the region to get started on APS StampShow / National Topical Stamp Show 2019, which will be held next August 1-4 in Omaha.

APS members from Denver, Minnesota, Kansas City, Chicago, Iowa, and Texas would like me to remind their counterparts elsewhere in North America that Omaha is centrally located, easily accessible and that they're looking forward to showing off how great the city is. U.S. Representative Don Bacon, a retired Air Force Brigadier General, also pledged his commitment to working with us to make the show a memorable event. [Figure 1]

While I was in Omaha, [Figure 2] I also met with representatives from Union Pacific, which has already committed $30,000 as a show sponsor and donated a "Brass Lantern Award" for a special exhibiting competition highlighting trains and the rail in philately.

We also received a special invitation to Boys Town, [Figure 3] home of the world's largest stamp ball, weighing in at 615 pounds and more than 4.6 million stamps. We're working out the details of a partnership with Boys Town so we can bring more sights to the show.

We will be making announcements on different special events with our major partner, the American Topical Association, which has once again agreed to co-host our annual summer event. For those who attended our first show together in Columbus, Ohio, the partnership definitely brought some great energy to the event. We've received very positive feedback on that joint effort and encouragement to keep working with the ATA and other national affiliates to high-



Figure 1. U.S. Representative Don Bacon, Scott English, Omaha Philatelic Society President Herb Eveland and Edgar Hicks at the Omaha Stamp Show.



Figure 2. APS Director-at-Large Rich Drews, Brenda Manwaring of Union Pacific and Director-at-Large Peter McCann with the Union Pacific's "Brass Lantern Award," photographed at the Greater Houston Stamp Show.

light the best the hobby has to offer at the annual summer show. ATA President Dale Smith also was with me in Omaha. Dale has pledged their full support and is already working with ATA leadership to make the 2019 sequel an even more memorable event. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us next year. Follow news of the show on our website at www.stamps.org.

SEAPEX

SEAPEX is a three-day WSP show held at the Tukwila Community Center in a suburban city of about 20,000 that borders on Seattle at its northern edge. Aside from free parking, the show hotel features a free shuttle for visitors to and from the show. There were more than 30 dealers from around the country and a very busy bourse throughout the weekend. APS President Bob Zeigler and Vice President Jeff Shapiro served on the jury and APS Treasurer Bruce Marsden exhibited with the American Helvetian Society, while also visiting with dealers and APS members.

The show has an enthusiastic committee that covered the floor to make sure everyone in attendance felt at home. We had a great town hall meeting originally scheduled for 60 minutes, but the members who attended wanted to keep going, so we added an another hour.

As for recruitment at the show, we brought back eight new applications, including three members under the age of 40. The chief reason for our success came from Doug Weisz, an APS Dealer Member from New Orleans, seen in the nearby photo with his wife Miriam and an unnamed biplane.[Figure 4].



Figure 4. Pictured here in 2016 at World Stamp Show NY, Doug and Miriam Weisz went above and beyond to help APS make new friends and members at SEAPEX.



On the first day of the show, Doug generously offered to pay for the membership for the first five new applications we picked up. Just as we were closing the fifth new member, Miriam brought over a 23-year-old collector interested in joining. Without hesitation, Doug offered to pick one more to make sure the young lady was able to sign up.

Dealers are among our most effective recruiters, but Doug went above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to his contribution and the great recruiting efforts by him and Miriam during the show!

Looking to the Road Ahead

By the time you read this, I will have traveled to Ontario, California, for SESCAL in October, and Bill Dixon of Circuit Sales will have represented the APS at the joint NOJEX / ASDA show in New Jersey.

APRL Librarian Scott Tiffney and I will be traveling to Chicagopex at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois, November 16-18, 2018. I will be hosting a Town Hall meeting Friday, November 16 at 4 pm with our members to discuss the APS and looking ahead to our international StampShow 2021 in Chicago. I hope to see you there!

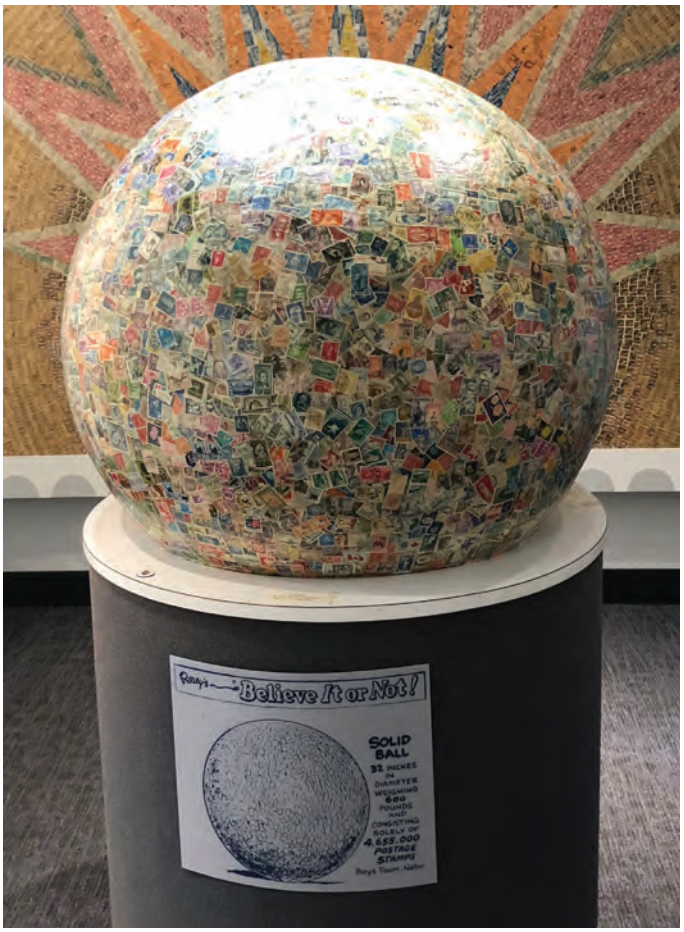


Figure 3 . Boy's Town greets visitors with the world's largest stamp ball, a 615 pound juggernaut composed of more than 4.6 million stamps.

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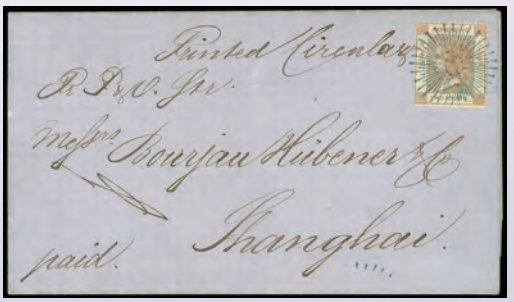














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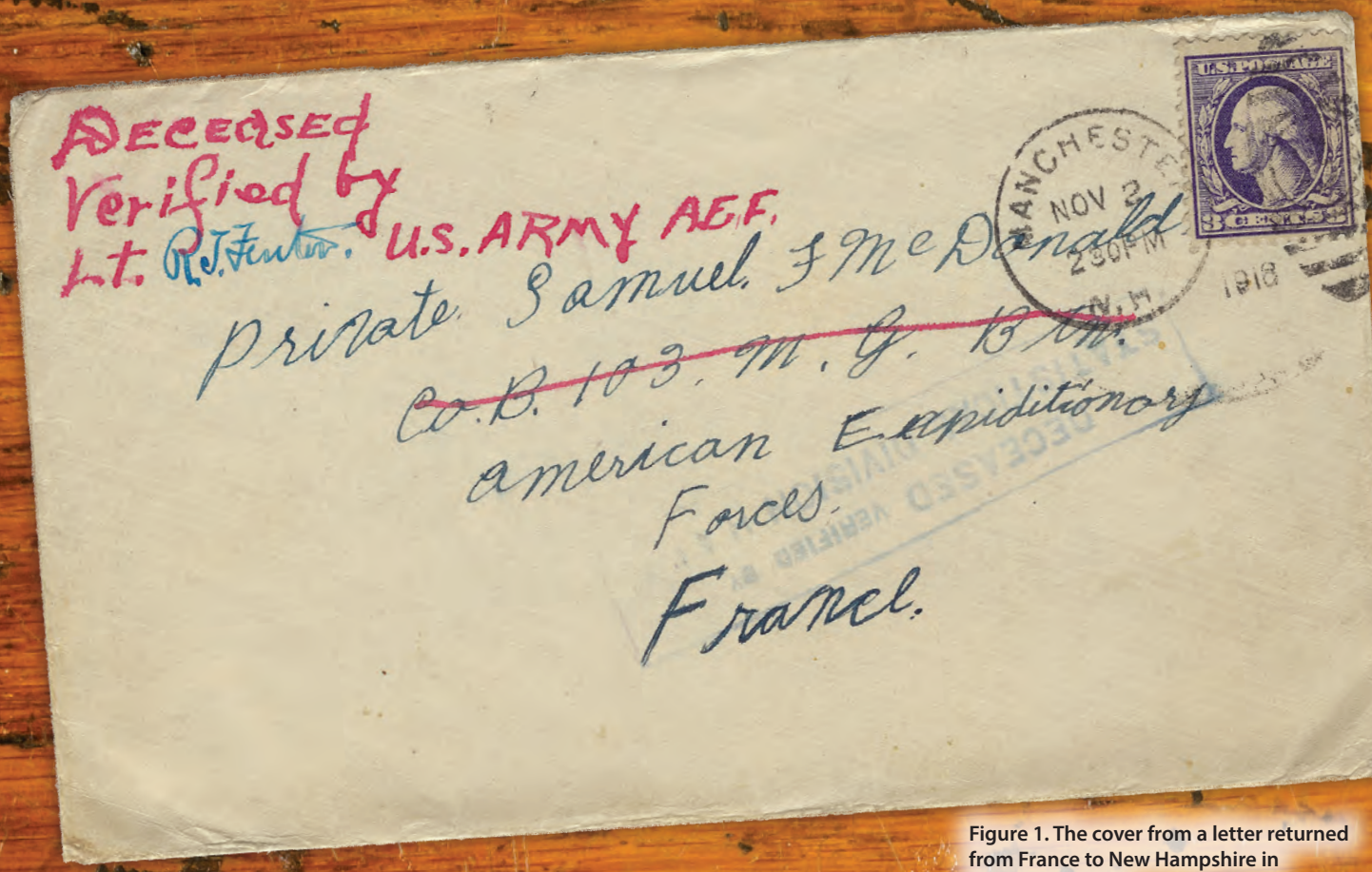


Figure 1. The cover from a letter returned from France to New Hampshire in November 1918.

'What few fellows there is left here is always asking for you.'

A Veteran's Day Tribute from a Philatelist

BY VINCENT CENTONZE

Joy, contentment, peace of mind, a sense of accomplishment... these are among the things I feel when I engage in my favorite endeavor — whether I'm writing an article, working on an exhibit, filling spaces in my album, or leafing through its pages enjoying the stamps.

However, while looking through a box of covers at the dealer's booth at APS StampShow this past August, I came across one that evoked very different feelings: both sadness, and profound gratitude.

This Veteran's Day — Sunday, November 11, 2018 — is the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended hostilities in World War I. I might not have reflected on this momentous occasion were it not for the cover I found and its contents you see on these pages.

At a glance, there is nothing particularly special about a cover to a soldier serving with the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France during World War I. This one is addressed to Pvt. (Private) Samuel F. McDonald, Co. (Company) B. 103(rd) M.G. Btn. (Machine Gun Battalion), American Expeditionary Forces, France. The cover was mailed by Daniel L. McDonald, 1607 Brown Ave., Manchester, New Hampshire, R.F.D. #6 – the return address as written on the back flap.

As is typical for AEF covers from home, it is franked with a 3¢ purple Washington (Scott 530) paying the first-class letter war rate from the U.S., which was in effect from November 2, 1917 to July 1, 1919. The rate to the AEF in France was 3¢ per ounce, the same as the domestic first-class rate. The cover is postmarked with a November 2, 1918, Manchester, New Hampshire, duplex cancel.

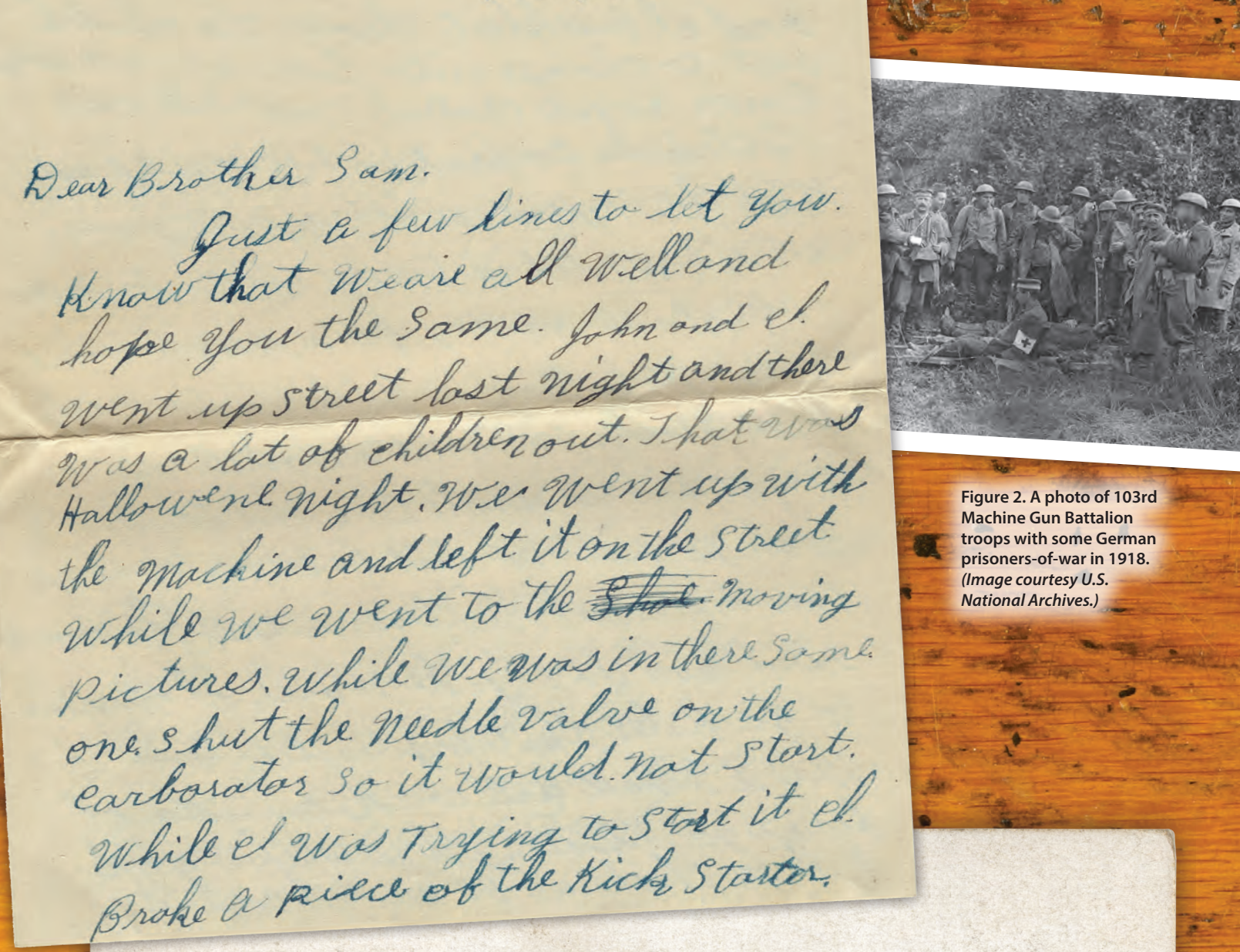


Figure 2. A photo of 103rd Machine Gun Battalion troops with some German prisoners-of-war in 1918. ***(Image courtesy U.S. National Archives.)***

Covers to and from the AEF are quite common, even with numerous auxiliary markings showing that they have been forwarded many times or returned to the sender. However, in this case, there is a red line through the address, and an incomplete gray boxed marking: "DECEASED VERIFIED BY / STATISTICAL DIVISION H.A.E.F." A red ink manuscript notation in the upper left indicates that the addressee has been confirmed as "DECEASED" and signed to that effect by an officer: "Verified by Lt. R.J. Fenton U.S. ARMY AEF."

That addressee, Samuel Franklin McDonald, came into this world on February 8, 1898, in Candia, New Hampshire, one of four siblings born to Leroy and Catherine McDonald. His brothers were Jim, Daniel, and John, and he had a sister, Lottie. Sam grew up in Candia and Manchester. The letter to Pvt. McDonald was sent by his brother, Daniel, to whom it was likely returned.

As it turned out, Sam died of his wounds on November 12, 1918 — the day after the Armistice took effect, and probably shortly before the letter ever could have reached him.

I have other AEF covers in my collection that were returned to the sender because the addressee was deceased, but none with enclosures. I never stopped to ponder the consequences that those old and torn envelopes brought to so many lives, so long ago.

As I casually browsed through the dealer's stock on that quiet Saturday afternoon after the morning stamp crowds had thinned out, a hard rain battered the roof of the convention center. I find rain very soothing, so this made for a particularly relaxing moment to look for hidden gems to add to my collection. In some strange way, however, it also set the mood to get emotionally involved with the brittle letter that I removed from the sleeve and carefully unfolded.

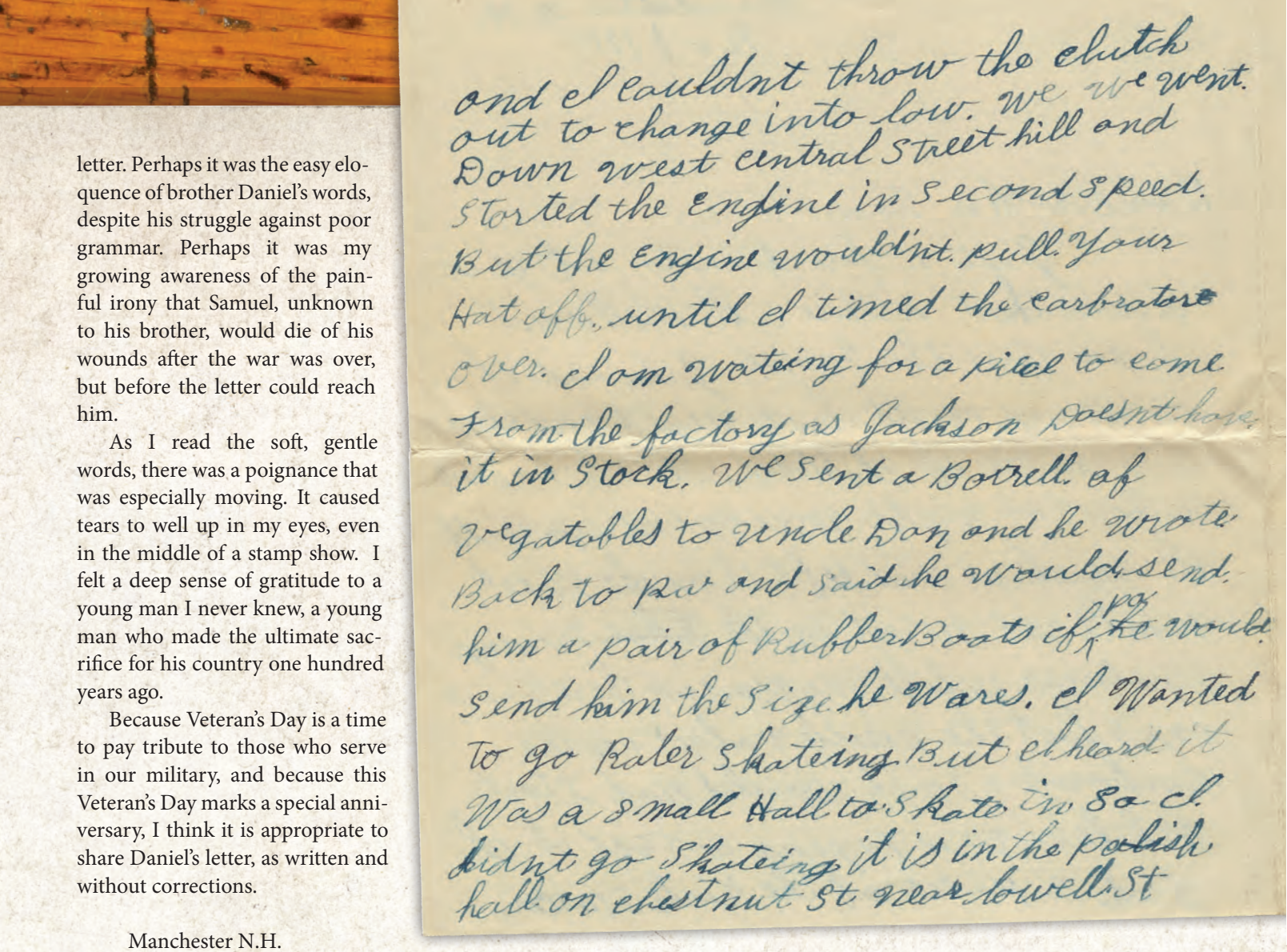
The letter to Samuel was simple and mundane; it appears Daniel was not well-schooled in the art of composition. He discussed everyday life typical of small-town America a century ago.

I don't know what touched me so much about this

letter. Perhaps it was the easy eloquence of brother Daniel's words, despite his struggle against poor grammar. Perhaps it was my growing awareness of the painful irony that Samuel, unknown to his brother, would die of his wounds after the war was over, but before the letter could reach him.

As I read the soft, gentle words, there was a poignance that was especially moving. It caused tears to well up in my eyes, even in the middle of a stamp show. I felt a deep sense of gratitude to a young man I never knew, a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country one hundred years ago.

Because Veteran's Day is a time to pay tribute to those who serve in our military, and because this Veteran's Day marks a special anniversary, I think it is appropriate to share Daniel's letter, as written and without corrections.


and I cauldnt throw the clutch
out to change into low. We we went.
Down west central Street hill and
Started the engine in second speed.
But the engine wouldnt pull Your
Hat off. until I timed the carbrator
over. I am wateing for a piece to come
From the factory as Jackson Doesnt have
it in Stock. We Sent a Barrell of
Vegatables to Uncle Dan and he wrote
Back to Pa and said he Would send
him a pair of Rubber Boots if Pa would
Send him the Size he Wares. I Wanted
to go Rolar Skateing But I heard it
Was a Small Hall to Skate in So I
didnt go Skateing it is in the polish
hall on chestnut St near lowell St

Manchester N.H.
Nov 1. 1918
Dear Brother Sam,

Just a few words to let you know that we are all well and hope you the same. John and I went up street last night and there was a lot of children out. That was Hallowene night.

We went up with the machine and left it on the street while we went to the moving pictures. While we was in there some one shut the needle valve on the carborator so it would not start. While I was trying to start it I broke a piece of the kick starter and I couldnt throw the clutch out to change into low. We went down west central street hill and started the engine in second speed. But the engine wouldn't pull your Hat off until I timed the carbrator over. I am wating for a piece to come from the factory as Jackson doesnt have it in stock.

We sent a Barrell of vegatables to Uncle Dan and he wrote Back to Pa and said he would send him a pair of Rubber Boots if Pa would send him the size he wares. I wanted to go Rolar Skateing But I heard it was a small Hall to skate in so I didnt go Skateing it is in the polish hall on Chestnut St near lowell St.

We have had a good autumn this year. it hasnt been very cold. Nor very raney here. Lillian Boisvert wants you to write to her. She is a sister to the fellow you put the Black grease on in the shop. What few fellows there is left here is always asking for you. We have a service flag in the welt department and your name is the first name on the flag.

Will close with love and good Health and good Luck.
As ever
Dan


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First In News — Circulation Greatest

VOL. XXXIV, NO. 42. PORTSMOUTH, N. H., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918. PRICE TWO CENTS

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Figure 3. The front page of New Hampshire's Portsmouth Herald, on November 11, 1918.

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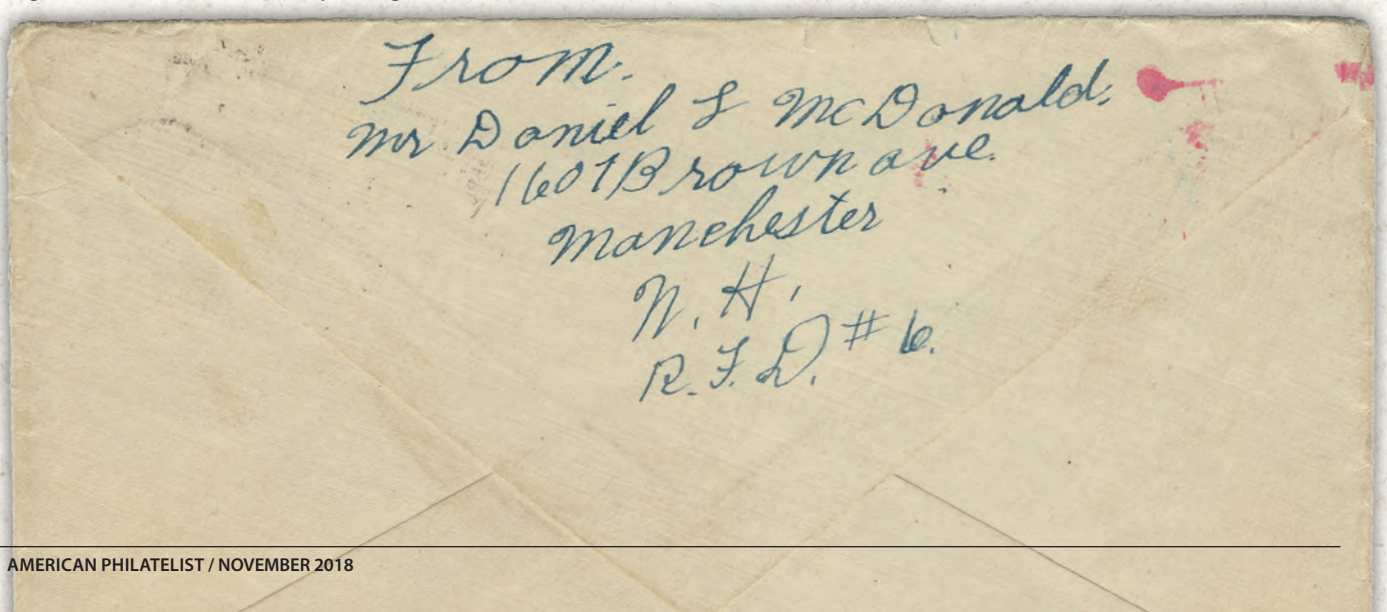
Figure 4. The grave marker of "SAMUEL F. McDONALD / NEW HAMPSHIRE / PVT. 103 M.G. BATT'N / 26 DIV. / NOVEMBER 12, 1918." ***(Image courtesy Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester, N.H.)***

Samuel is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester. It's a shame he never had the chance to see his brother's letter, the opportunity we now have had.

Philately usually brings me a tremendous amount of joy; I'm sure it does for you as well. Indeed, that's a big reason why we love the hobby. It connects us with events, places, people, and our past. I've also learned that it helps us know what we owe, and to whom we owe it.

To all veterans, whether you are separated from the service, retired, still serving in uniform, living or long deceased... including Private Sam McDonald... thank you for your service.

Figure 5. The back of the envelope in Figure 1, with the address of the brother who mailed it to Private Sam McDonald.


From.
Mr Daniel J McDonald.
1601 Brown ave.
Manchester
N. H.
R. F. D. #6.

C.G.
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Am_Philatelist 2018-10

About the Author

Vince Centonze grew up on Long Island, New York, where he started collecting stamps more than 50 years ago. He and his brother would scour the pages of dad's American Legion magazines looking for ads offering 100 stamps for a quarter. While his brother eventually lost interest, his fascination with stamps deepened through college and his first career in the Air Force. Centonze belongs to over a dozen philatelic organizations, including the American Philatelic Society, United States Stamp Society, Egypt Study Circle, China Stamp Society, International Society for Japanese Philately, Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society, Haiti Philatelic Society, Yugoslavia Study Group, Perfins Club, Precancel Stamp Society, the Florida Precancel Club, United Postal Stationery Society, the Carriers and Locals Society, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and two local stamp clubs, and Vince has written for several of their publications.

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JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI

Father of Poland's Second Republic | By Dr. Edwin J. Andrews



Figure 1. This map shows both the vast extent of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – the First Polish Republic – and its ruthless 1772-95 dismantling by neighboring empires in Russia, Prussia and Austria. ***(Map created by and used with permission of Krzysztof Machocki.)***

During the first half of the 17th century, the 200-year-old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth covered an area of about 390,000 square miles, more than triple Poland's current size — a large nation spanning the breadth of Eastern Europe from the Baltic Sea to the depths of Western Russia. This era is today identified as the First Polish Republic.

As Figure 1 shows, however, that land was dismembered by three partitions, the last occurring in 1795. Poland no longer existed on maps, and its citizens lived under the rule of three powerful foreign empires: Imperial Prussia in the northwest; the Austro-Hapsburg Empire in the southwest; and Imperial Russia to the east.



The years of tripartite occupation and rule ended with World War I in November 1918. But the thirst for freedom among ethnic Poles had never died, and for 123 years they would resist, revolt and die to achieve independence. It was into this crucible that Jozef Pilsudski was born on December 5, 1867. He would be molded into the man to finally bring independence to Poland's Second Republic.

November 2018 is the 100th anniversary of Polish independence. It is fitting that we should better understand how that independence was achieved, and at what cost. This article provides an overview of Pilsudski's life, his dogged determination, seminal achievements, the controversy of his dictatorial rule, and the legacy he left for a nation that arguably is one of the most powerful in Europe today.



Modern photo of Zalavas in the Švenčionys district of Lithuania. ***(Photo used with permission of Vilensija.)***

Early Life and Influences

Jozef Klemens Pilsudski was born of noble roots in Zalavas, northwest of Vilnius, in the Lithuania-Vilnius Governorate of the Russian Empire [Figure 1]. His father, Jozef Wincenty Pilsudski (1833-1902) was a descendant of Lithuanian upper nobility dating back to 1413. The Pilsudski family name was taken in 1539 from the western Lithuanian village of Pilsudai between Klaipeda (formerly Memel) and Kaunas.

Pilsudski's father was a Polish-Lithuanian Army officer who had been involved in the failed 1863-64 uprising in which young Poles had resisted Imperial Russian Army conscription. Pilsudski's mother, Maria Billewicz (1842-84), also descended from Lithuanian nobility, a late 14th-century Lithuanian Prince.

In 1874, the family moved to Vilnius following a fire that destroyed the Zalavas manor, barns and stables. Pilsudski was soon introduced to Russian secondary education, where Polish-Lithuanian patriotism was ridiculed, speaking Polish forbidden, and all textbooks were in Russian. During his 11 years in Vilnius, his hatred for Russian authority intensified. At age 18, in 1885, he entered the medical school at Kharkov University in northeast Ukraine.

Insurrection and Radicalization

In 1887 Pilsudski got his first taste of terrorist activity. A group of Russian revolutionaries planned the assassination of Tsar Alexander III. One of this group was Pilsudski's older brother Bronislaw. Pilsudski assisted the plot by obtaining chemicals for making bombs.

The assassination attempt failed and the conspirators were arrested and tried. Bronislaw was sentenced to hard labor on Russia's Sakhalin Island north of Japan. Jozef was considered to be a dangerous Polish Nationalist, and was sentenced to five years of exile in Siberia. There he became increasingly radicalized by exiled political activists and by reading works including *Das Kapital* by Karl Marx.

In 1892, Pilsudski returned from exile and joined the Polish Socialist Party (*Polska Partia Socjalistyczna,* or PPS). He helped organize its Lithuanian branch, and edited its newspaper, *Robotnik* ("*The Worker*"). The printing press was kept in his apartments, first in Vilnius and later in Lodz. By 1895, Pilsudski was leading the PPS.

In 1900, Russian authorities in Lodz found the *Robotnik* press in Pilsudski's apartment. He was imprisoned at the Warsaw Citadel, but feigned mental illness and was sent to a hospital in St. Petersburg. There he escaped, fleeing to Austrian Galicia. In 1904 he organized the first PPS underground militia (the Combat Organization of the Polish Socialist Party, or *Bojowki*). The PPS held demonstrations, mainly in Warsaw, and in October 1904 Russian Cossacks attacked and killed many demonstrators. In reprisal, the *Bojowki* began attacking Russian police and military units, and assassinating Russian police, especially spies and informers.

In September 1908, the *Bojowki* robbed a Russian mail train carrying tax revenues from Warsaw to St. Petersburg. Pilsudski personally led the raid near the Lithuanian town of Bezdonys. The raid yielded 200,812 rubles, a fortune at that time, equal to over $6.6 million today. The money funded PPS propaganda and militancy during Pilsudski's leadership up to World War I.

A Student of History

Pilsudski had long been a student of military history, having read volumes on the Napoleonic Wars. He learned from these historical battles various tactics, as well as the importance of maintaining the morale of his troops.

He was particularly impressed with Japanese military strategy and tactical preparedness that defeated Imperial Russia decisively in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. He also studied the Second Boer War for its similarity to Poland as a war that pitted local partisans against another imperial power. Later, Pilsudski clearly understood the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, and how the loss of influence of the Ottoman Empire helped set the stage for World War I.



Figure 2. A Field Post 118 cancel dates this free-franked August 19, 1916, cover to Vienna bearing the red handstamp of the 5th Regiment, Command Company Machine Gun detachment of the 1st Brigade of the Polish Legion, commanded by Jozef Pilsudski.

The Polish Legions

As early as 1906, Pilsudski was thinking of a Polish Army and, with Austrian military backing, founded a paramilitary school in Krakow. By 1908, its trainees, now 2,000 strong, became the "Union for Active Struggle" (*Związek Walki Czynnej*) led by Pilsudski's most trusted associates including Wladyslaw Sikorski (1881-1943) and Kazimierz Sosnkowski (1885-1969), both of whom would later become distinguished Polish generals.[Figure 2]

In 1912 Pilsudski founded and commanded "The Union of Riflemen" (*Związek Strzelecki*). By 1914, the group comprised 12,000 men and became the foundation

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Figure 3. General Pilsudski with his troops at the Battle of Kostiuchnówka in July 1916 appears on a 1939 15-grozy picture postal card for the 25th anniversary of the Polish Legion. Below, the matching 25g commemorative issued at the same time, Scott 340.



of the Polish Legions, named in reference to those that Napoleon created for his 1812 invasion of Russia, including the Polish Legion of the Vistula. There were three brigades of the Polish Legions, all of which were initially units of the Austro-Hungarian Army. The 1st Brigade was personally led by Pilsudski. [Figure 3]

To augment the effectiveness of the Legions, Pilsudski created and commanded a secret intelligence and sabotage organization, the Polish Military Organization (*Polska Organizacja Wojskowa,* or *P.O.W.*) Its membership rose from a few hundred to more than 30,000 by 1918. The P.O.W. was primarily active in the Russian-held Kingdom of Poland.

During World War I nearly two million Poles were conscripted into the Russian, German and Austrian Armies, and often fought one another. With Austrian Emperor Karl's attempt to exit the war, Germany quickly assumed command of the entire region, seizing Warsaw in 1915. By 1916, the Germans occupied much of Eastern Poland.

In the spring of 1917 the Germans required the Polish Legions to take an oath of loyalty to the German and Austrian armies. Pilsudski's 1st Brigade and the 3rd Brigade refused, and on July 9, 1917, were sent to German prison camps. Pilsudski however, was imprisoned in the fortress of Magdenburg. In retaliation for his arrest and incarceration, the P.O.W immediately began attacking German targets.

Chief of State

The November 1918 Armistice might have ended major European conflict, but it provided little clarity as to who was actually in charge of Poland. In this interim period, before the January 1919 Versailles Peace Conference, different would-be Polish governments jockeyed for control.

These included an interim Lwow government in Western Ukraine, and the Lubin government in Poland led by the Ignacy Daszyński, a socialist and confidant of Pilsudski. However, on Pilsudski's release from prison, Daszyński joined his effort to form a new government. Pilsudski arrived in Warsaw November 10, 1918, and assumed all powers as Provisional Chief of State.

On November 16, Poland declared its independence, and Articles 87-93 of the Versailles Treaty formally recognized Poland as an independent and sovereign state. On February 20, 1919, Pilsudski ceded his provisional powers to the newly elected Polish Parliament. However, they reinstated him as Chief of State, striking the word "Provisional". [Figure 4]

Various Polish paramilitary organizations and local governments recognized Pilsudski and his new coalition government. The government was largely socialist,



Figure 4. The first Polish stamp to depict Pilsudski was as Chief of State on this 1919 25-fenigow olive green stamp from the First National Assembly issue, Scott 137. Unfortunately, the designer failed to leave room for the Chief of State's surname.

declaring an eight-hour work day, free education and woman's suffrage. An extensive social security system was put in place, including a new Ministry of Food to control and distribute supplies.

Pilsudski met with his old revolutionary colleagues who still addressed him as "Comrade." He answered, "Comrades, I took the red streetcar of Socialism to the stop called Independence, and that's where I got off. …from now on let's address each other as 'Mister' ".

The Border Wars

The country needed to be unified as there were disparate systems of law, banking, economics and administration in the former German, Austrian and Russian occupied regions. However, Pilsudski envisioned Poland as a multicultural "home of nations" respecting all ethnic and religious cultures, and existing in a strong alliance with the independent states of Lithuania and Ukraine. He saw the strengthening of his borders and alliances with others as a necessary buffer to future German and Russian aggression.

A consolidated Polish Army combined Legionnaires with Polish conscripts from the former Russian, German and Austrian armies. As Commander-in-Chief, Pilsudski had three fronts to cover: Northern; Central; and Southern. The overall organization consisted of seven armies of 32 divisions, consisting of 46,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 730 machine guns, 192 artillery batteries, and, miscellaneous armored units.



Figure 5. Pilsudski's profile and the Polish Eagle on a 3.50zl stamp on this 2005 souvenir sheet, Scott 3790, mark the 85th Anniversary of the "Miracle on the Vistula," whereby Poland repulsed a Bolshevik counter-offensive in 1920. He is shown with the War Order of *Virtuti Militari* on this 1995 45gr stamp marking the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw, Scott 3253.

From 1919 through 1921, a series of wars were fought to establish Poland's borders, which had not yet been agreed upon by the Allied Powers. These Border Wars engaged the Ruthenians in the south, Russian Bolsheviks in the northeast, and the White, Green and Black Russians throughout the eastern front.

Pilsudski aided the new leader of the Ukrainian Peoples Republic, Simeon Petliura (1879-1926), by fighting the Bolsheviks and finally occupying Kiev in May 1920. He then proclaimed a commonwealth, thus taking control of western Ukraine. Lwow was once again Polish.

The Polish-Czechoslovak War was fought over the territory of southeastern Silesia in 1919. The importance of the region was the coal basin around Karvina and the Kosice-Bohumín railway line to Slovakia.

The Polish-Lithuanian War was secretly orchestrated by Pilsudski to drive the Russians from North and Central Lithuania. That operation was carried out in October 1920 by General Lucjan Żeligowski (1865-1947). The Republic of Central Lithuania was recognized internationally in 1923 as Polish territory, with Vilnius as its capital.

The largest, longest and most important Border War was the one Poland fought against Bolshevik Russia. Vladimir Lenin saw Poland as a bridge to carry Communism to Central and Western Europe. The conflict began with the Polish-Ukraine Alliance in 1920, but the most famous battle of the Polish-Soviet War was fought in August 1920 as Soviet units confidently approached Warsaw. Pilsudski's victory — the Battle of Warsaw, popularly referred to as "the Miracle on the Vistula," — turned the tide of Soviet advances at last. [Figure 5]

During the Border Wars, Pilsudski was given the unprecedented honor of being named First Marshal of Poland. On the first anniversary of independence, he was presented with a marshal's baton. [Figure 6]





Figure 6. Pilsudski carries a Marshal's baton – the first Polish military leader ever accorded that honor – on this 3,000zl stamp of 1992, Scott 3091.

A Parade of Prime Ministers

From 1918 through 1922, Pilsudski oversaw nine different coalition governments. The turnover was indicative of the political atmosphere in Poland, with more than 400 elected members of the Parliament. Since Pilsudski was Chief of State, there was no need for a president. His first Prime Minister was Jędrzej



Figure 7. On Poland's 1988 600zl National Leaders souvenir sheet, Scott 2880a, Pilsudski is flanked to the left by Ignacy Paderewski, who had served briefly as prime minister and foreign minister, and to the right by Gabriel Narutowicz, favored by Pilsudski to serve as Poland's first president, but assassinated just two days after he was elected. His murder soured Pilsudski permanently on Polish politics.

Moraczewski. However, to deal with the Polish National Committee in Paris, Pilsudski asked Ignacy Paderewski (1860-1941) to join him as Prime Minister in January 1919. Paderewski, a gifted Polish pianist and composer as well as a politician and spokesman for Polish independence, served briefly as both prime minister and foreign minister.

In 1922, the Parliament decided to elect its first president. Pilsudski declined the post, favoring his friend Gabriel Narutowicz (1865-1922), who was elected on December 9, 1922. Two days later Narutowicz was assassinated. [Figure 7]

Narutowicz's loss greatly affected Pilsudski, who became increasing distrustful of politicians. In 1923 Pilsudski retired from politics to his manor, Milusin, in the Sulejowek suburb of Warsaw. There he wrote books, enjoyed family life, and frequently met with military leaders and former legionnaires. [Figure 8]



Figure 8. Scott 4320, a 2017 10zl stamp depicting Pilsudski on horseback, franks this first day cover with a cachet depicting him with his wife and children at their family home, Milusin. It was there that Pilsudski withdrew to consider his options in 1922.

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Our List Price $1,195
Special Ad Price
$995



Q2. 2¢ Parcel Post, Mint Never Hinged, Wide Margins and Essentially Perfect Centering, Lovely Shade, Extremely Fine Gem with a PSE Cert (Superb 98).
SMQ $650
Our Price $550



#403. 5¢ Panama-Pacific Perf 10, Mint Never Hinged, Deep Shade and Proof-Like Impression, Unusually Wide and Balanced Margins, Extremely Fine-Superb Gem with 2017 PSE Cert (XF-Superb 95).
SMQ $1,350
Our Price $1,250



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Figure 9. The designer of the 1927 20gr stamp (above), Scott 242, showed the profile of a decisive commander beneath the wings of brooding birds of prey. Just one year later, when he was regarded as a dictator, Pilsudski is pictured as a wily Marshal and wise Prime Minister – he was both, simultaneously – on the 50gr bluish slate stamp (below), Scott 253.





Figure 10. Despite the excesses of his dictatorship, Pilsudski continued to be lionized by his countrymen for his invaluable contribution to independence. These 1934 stamps, Scott 282-83, recall the 20th Anniversary of his Polish Legions and his role in their creation.



"...I stand in opposition...to the greatest evil in the country: the rule of unrestrained and undisciplined political parties over Poland...with an eye only to profits and monetary gain." - Jozef Pilsudski, May 10, 1926

Dictatorship

By May 1926, Pilsudski had decided that the Parliament and their governments were corrupt and inefficient. He left his retirement and executed a *coup d'etat*, May 12-14, overthrowing the government of President Stanislaw Wojciechowski and Prime Minister Wincenty Witos.

In replacing the government he nominated his friend and former socialist colleague, Ignacy Mościcki (1867-1946) as president. Mościcki in turn appointed Pilsudski Minister of Military Affairs from May 1926 to May 1935. Pilsudski also was appointed to other positions, including Prime Minister twice (October 1926 to June 1928 and August to December 1930), and General Inspector of the Armed Forces (from August 1926 to May 1935). [Figure 9]

As dictator, Pilsudski imposed draconian limits on the Parliament by use of his Sanation (*Sanacja*) Regime, to "restore public life to moral health." Sanation advocated authoritarian rule, national interest in governance, and was against parliamentary democracy. It was not Fascist, but it did control "politics as usual." [Figure 10]

In September 1931, without warning and on Pilsudski's orders, leaders of the anti-Sanation opposition movement, were arrested and held for trial in the 19th-century Brest Fortress in what is now Belarus. The notorious Brest Trials were held at the Warsaw Regional Court from October 1931 to January 1932, and ended with 10 of the accused receiving sentences. The trials and treatment of his political opponents resulted in the censure of Poland and Pilsudski by the international community.

An Untimely Death

Pilsudski had always been a chain smoker and drank copious quantities of strong tea. He frequently suffered from influenza and colds, had a weak heart, and often sought respite at spas throughout Eastern Europe "for the cure." Unbeknownst to the public, his health had declined for years and by 1935 he had advanced liver cancer. On May 12, 1935, he died at Warsaw's Belweder Palace.

The celebration of Pilsudski's life began within hours of his death announcement, and would last for several years. [Figure 11] His state funeral on May 17 in Warsaw was attended by multitudes. Political partners and opponents alike came together to honor the man. The outpouring of grief and condolences covered the gamut of citizens, politicians, military leaders, former legionnaires and religious and national leaders globally, including Pope Pius XI, Stalin and Hitler.

Polish President Mościcki eulogized the Marshal: "He was the king of our hearts and the sovereign of our will. During a half-century of his life's travails, he captured heart after heart, soul after soul, until he had drawn the whole of Poland within the purple of his royal spirit ... He gave Poland freedom, boundaries, power and respect."

After a funeral train toured Poland, his coffin was temporarily placed at St. Leonard's Crypt in Krakow's Wawel Cathedral for two years of public viewing. His body was finally interred in the Wawel Cathedral, but his heart had been removed per his wishes. It was taken to his mother's grave in Rasos Cemetery in Vilnius, where it remains today. The inscription on the gravestone simply reads: *Matka I Serce Syna* ("Mother and Heart of the Son").

Pilsudski's recognitions are too numerous to recount. Throughout his life, he received medals, awards and decorations from many countries, and earned all of Poland's highest honors, foremost among these the War Order of *Virtuti Militari*.



Figure 11. This set of five Pilsudski Mourning stamps, from 5gr to 1zl, Scott 287-91, was released May 17, 1935 – just four days following his unexpected death.

As Marshal of Poland, Pilsudski was the only living Pole eligible to be awarded that Order's Grand Cross with Star.

Universities granted him degrees. Streets, squares, bridges and buildings were named for him. [Figure 12] A cruise ship and a gunboat had been christened in his honor, as had a transatlantic airplane. Two research institutes still bear his name, one in London, the other in New York City.

One of his richest legacies is philatelic. Pilsudski's image and references to him



Figure 12. A 1935 cover with a cachet for the maiden voyage of the *M.S.* Pilsudski, franked with a 25gr mourning stamp and vertical pair of 15gr stamps depicting the ship itself, Scott 296.

appear on more Polish philatelic items than anyone else. They begin with the Assembly issue of 1919 through to the 2018 release of stamps and postal cards in his honor nearly a century later. In addition, numerous coins, banknotes, medals and medallions and a myriad of artifacts from watches to cigarette cases carry his likeness.

On May 12, 1995, the 60th anniversary of his death, Poland's Parliament adopted a resolution:

"Jozef Pilsudski will remain, in our nation's memory, the founder of its independence and the victorious leader who fended off a foreign assault that threatened the whole of Europe and its civilization. Jozef Pilsudski served his country well and has entered our history forever." [Figure 13]



Figure 13. Since his death and to this very day, Jozef Pilsudski has remained a fixture in Polish philately, as on this 3zl top value, Scott 332, from a 13-stamp 1938 set depicting famous Poles through history. Here Pilsudski marks the end of World War I with a Eagle banner and cannons to successfully lead his nation back to independence.

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About the Author:

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews is a lifelong member of the APS, and is a philatelic author, exhibitor and accredited Chief Philatelic Judge. His current display-format exhibit on Pilsudski is being shown at selected WSP shows across the country. Dr. Andrews is currently the President of the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society and invites interest in Polish philately and its rich history. For additional information, visit www.polonus.org.



U.S. Navy photo of the attack on Pearl Harbor. (National Archives)

Figure 1. You probably became familiar with these U.S. stamps of World War II as a young stamp collector. Do young people today – and do you – still see these the same way in 2018? From left, Scott 900, 929 and 905.

Indispensable Issues Anchored a Turbulent Decade

BY FRED BAUMANN

No single volume is more pertinent to stamps related to World War II than *United States Commemorative Stamps of the 20th Century Volume 2: 1935-1947* by Max Johl. That is where I began, and where I urge anyone interested in philatelic matters in that eventful era to turn. Johl provides both a depth of detail and concurrent perspective on stamp creation in F.D.R.'s America with great skill, creating text that remains readable seven decades later. It is wonderful writing, and is the source of the quotations in this article unless otherwise noted.

I want to try to look at the those issues with fresh eyes, consider how it was hoped they would influence the American public of the day, and ponder some related questions as well: Can a young adult or a concerned mother in 2018 look at the stamps shown in Figure 1 and see the same thing that their counterparts did three generations ago? Are they still valid as national calls to arms, or are they just historical ephemera?

What of the Army and Navy issues, with their admirable admirals, commanding commanders and historical tableaux? Studded with portraits of Revolutionary, Civil and Spanish-American war heroes, when those stamps appeared at U.S. post offices in 1936-37 did a generation with a very different conflict in its memory — World War I — hear a clarion call to defend their nation, or a hollow clatter of exhausted clichés?

How and why were these historic stamps issued? What messages did they send? And do the unforgettable stamps of this fascinating, terrible decade perhaps still remain relevant today?



Figure 2. How well do you know the soldiers, sailors and sights on these 1- and 2-cent Army and Navy stamps of 1936-37? From left, 1936 1-cent Army (Scott 785), 1937 2-cent Army (Scott 786), 1936 1-cent Navy (Scott 790) and 1937 2-cent Navy (Scott 791)]

1936-37 Army-Navy Series

Johl tells us this ten-stamp series was foreshadowed as far back as World War I by ex-President Theodore Roosevelt's idea "that a series of stamps be issued to commemorate the American Army and Navy heroes." Nearly two decades later, the idea was revived as an initiative of another President Roosevelt, who felt "…the Post Office can help in the work of educating the masses to understand the traditions of the armed service" to enhance public patriotism.

Shown nearby, the stamps display sights and historical figures that were certainly recognizable to more Americans when they were issued during the Depression than they are now.

Figure 2 shows the 1-cent and 2-cent Army and Navy stamps. I imagine or hope that most people still know what Mount Vernon, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, John Paul Jones, Annapolis and West Point are. I was born in Chicago, of American parents, but I grew up in Canada. Even though these stamps were familiar to me from my childhood album on, I never heard the stories of Nathaniel Green, John Barry, or Stephen Decatur and his former shipmate Thomas MacDonough. Did you know them?

Two stamps in the series chafed wounds still unhealed seven decades after the end of the Civil War are shown nearby in Figure 3. ***[Editor's Note:*** APS President Mick Zais examined these stamps in "Civil War Controversies in Iconic Issues" in the April 2018 *AP*, pg 300-303.]



Figure 3. According to where your family history begins, at least one or more of these celebrated Union and Confederate leaders delighted or incensed you or your forebears when they appeared on these 3-cent and 4-cent Army stamps. (Scott 787 - 788).

I knew a good deal about Grant and Sherman from the books by Bruce Catton that I had read, but I failed to recognize the elderly portrait on the right on the 3-cent Army stamp as that of Major General Philip Sheridan, who blocked the Confederate line of withdrawal at Appomattox and thus forced Lee to surrender. It was Sherman who many Southerners hated most for marching the horrors of war into their own cities and backyards, although all three leaders played crucial roles in the final Union victory.

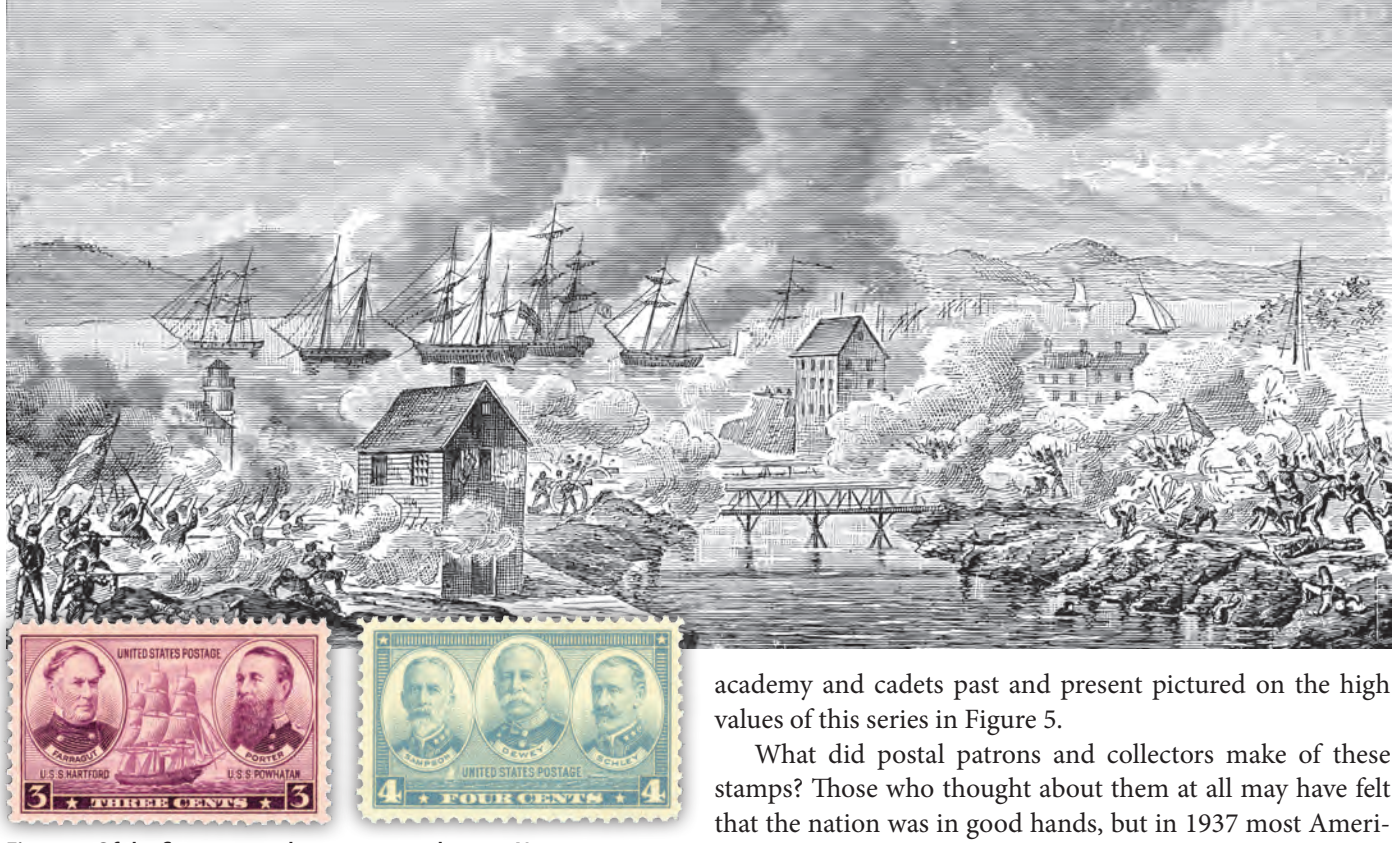


Figure 4. Of the five men on these 3-cent and 4-cent Navy stamps, how many can you identify, and what do you know about them? Did our grandfathers know who they were when the stamps were issued in 1937? (Scott 792 - 793).

Lee and Jackson were easy to recognize and remember on the 4-cent Army stamp, provocatively printed 72 years after the war ended in gray as worn by Confederate troops. Nine months before it was issued, a still more incendiary rumor had it that this stamp would include Confederate President Jefferson Davis as well, a spurious issue "denounced by 38 aging veterans of the Civil War, attending the Seventieth Annual Encampment of the…Grand Army of the Republic."

Figure 4 shows the 3- and 4-cent Navy stamps. On the former, many may recall Admiral David G. Farragut's immortal, profane and probably misquoted command at the 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay: "Damn the torpedoes! [as naval mines were then called] Full speed ahead!" By contrast, I'd be surprised if anyone today other than historians would recognize the Spanish-American War commanders on the 4-cent Navy stamp: William T. Simpson and Winfred S. Schley, who took turns pounding the Spanish squadron to splinters at Cuba's Santiago Harbor; and Commodore George Dewey, who annihilated Spain's Philippine fleet and helped capture the capital in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Of course, none of the fire, carnage and loss represented by these warriors and their storied careers is evident in any way on these stamps. Framed locket-like in oval portraits, they are well-coiffed, impeccably attired and look wise and determined, as though waiting for a meeting in Washington. Only President Grant is understandably out of uniform, wearing as befits him the Commander-in-Chief's attire. The ships glide on tranquil seas, the buildings are pastoral palaces, and none are more orderly looking than the military academy and cadets past and present pictured on the high values of this series in Figure 5.

What did postal patrons and collectors make of these stamps? Those who thought about them at all may have felt that the nation was in good hands, but in 1937 most Americans had more on their minds than defense and whether their nation had enough heroes. Depression unemployment had eased a bit, but a new recession was just getting under way. Midwestern flooding added to the despair, as millions lost farmsteads, homes, everything they had in Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky.



Figure 5. What might these 5-cent Army-Navy issues suggest to Depression-era Americans about a life in military service? (Scott 789, 794).

The day after the 5-cent stamps that ended the Army-Navy series were issued on May 26, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge opened, surely a glorious achievement. But abroad that same week, a newspaper in Milan warned Italian Jews to stop criticizing Germany, the Gestapo shut down 200 German Catholic publications to punish them for articles condemning Nazi institutions, and Neville Chamberlain became Prime Minister of Great Britain. In Europe, World War II was a scant 28 months away – and Pearl Harbor only four and a half years in the future.

National Defense Issue of 1940

Definitives are stamps printed and kept in stock to pay postage, unlike commemoratives, typically issued for brief periods to highlight a person, place or thing of broad public interest as well as sending your mail. Max Johl prefaced his chapter on the National Defense Issue by considering their

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My 23rd Lesson in Buying Stamps & Coins

[This is part of a series of lessons I have learned over the years in how to conduct myself when working with the fine people who wish to sell some or all of their stamp and/or coin holdings.]

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Postcard with a photograph of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the subject of the 1937 5-cent Army issue (Scott 789).

frankly unparalleled status in the U.S. album:

"It is questionable whether or not these stamps can truly be considered commemoratives as they really were issued as propaganda for National Defense. As such, they were really used to advertise an event and are therefore similar to stamps issued to advertise expositions. Although they largely replaced the ordinary stamps for quite some time, they were not part of the regular series and as such [are] entitled to be included among 'Commemorative' stamps."

To me, it is the broad public interest in what these stamps represented – preparations for global conflict – that places them among the indispensable American stamps of World War II.

By late 1940, the Third Reich was ascendant, controlling, forcing alliances with or simply terrifying neutral nations in Europe from central Poland to Calais. The Japanese Empire had tripled or quadrupled its size with a decade of invasions in Manchuria, Korea, Tonkin and a broad swath of eastern China from Inner Mongolia south to Ningpo, which the Japanese were then fiendishly bombing using ceramic jars packed with plague-carrying fleas.

Between these horrifying extremes waited the Americas, in a peace that seemed less likely to last with each new sunset. But the United States wasn't willing to wait.

"In August [1940] it was rumored that the [Post Office] Department was considering a set of National Defense stamps…" Johl wrote. "These would be purely for propaganda purposes and have the same franking value as other postage stamps."

One of the first acts of new Postmaster General Frank C. Walker on September 12 was to approve the final designs of the stamps — each one "adapted from a pencil sketch by President Roosevelt," each turned into a submitted model initialed "O.K. F.D.R." — and to announce October 12 as their date of issue.

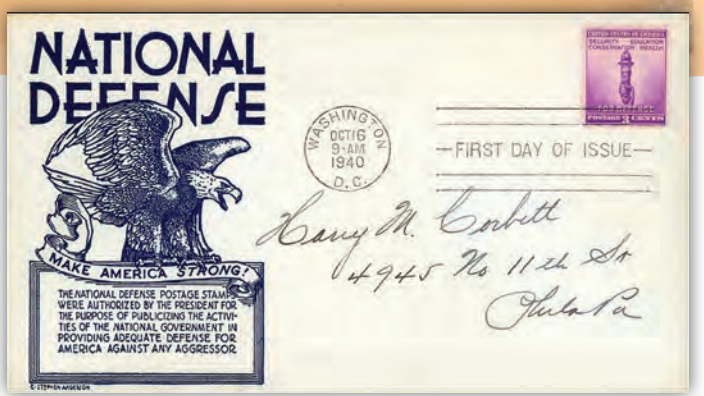


Figure 6. An Anderson cachet first day cover of the 3-cent National Defense issue (Scott 901). October 16, 1940, the date of issue for the National Defense series was also the beginning date of the first peacetime draft in American history.



Figure 7. The 1940 National Defense stamps declared that America's complete assets were being mobilized "FOR DEFENSE." (Scott 899 - 901)

As the 3-cent cover in Figure 6 shows, the first day of issue was revised a week later to October 16, a change "…made at the request of President Roosevelt as a tribute to those who on October 16 would be required to register under the Selective Service Act." It is no exaggeration to say that this was a date that would change millions of lives.

Figure 7 shows the 1-cent National Defense stamp on the left, depicting the iconic Statue of Liberty, her torch held high. All three stamps read "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

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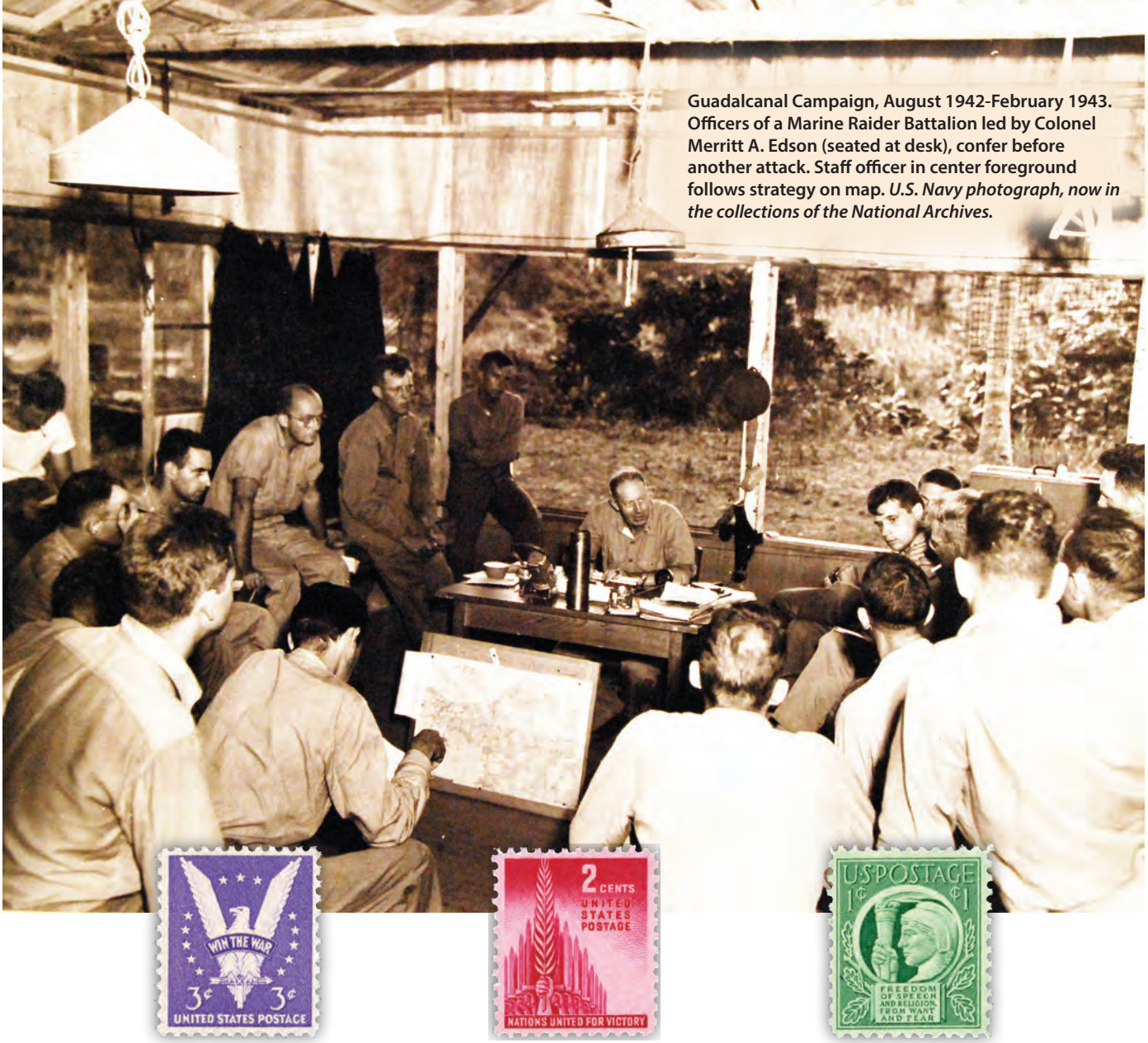
1929, 20fr. Pont du Gard, perforation 11, imperforated on one side, only five examples recorded, this being the only multiple known.

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Guadalcanal Campaign, August 1942-February 1943. Officers of a Marine Raider Battalion led by Colonel Merritt A. Edson (seated at desk), confer before another attack. Staff officer in center foreground follows strategy on map. *U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.*

Figure 8. This trio of common stamps (Scott 905, 907, 908) with a combined face value of 6 cents is so common that few U.S. collectors would give it a second glance. But the stamps were selected by President Roosevelt, and express a good deal of the strategy he and his allies used to defeat the Axis powers in World War II.

across the top, with a larger inscription nearest the statue announcing the 1-cent stamp's theme as "INDUSTRY • AGRICULTURE / FOR DEFENSE."

The 2-cent stamp, also seen in Figure 1, pictured a new 9½-ton 90-millimeter U.S. anti-aircraft gun capable of shooting down high-altitude bombers, and hence exclusively a defensive weapon. It represented "ARMY AND NAVY / FOR DEFENSE." The 3-cent value on the right in Figure 7 shows what the USPOD called "the Torch of Enlightenment," highlighting all-in commitment to national "SECURITY EDUCATION / CONSERVATION HEALTH / FOR DEFENSE."

The paired-down, bold-caps inscriptions and minimal graphics stripped of ornamentation on these stamps contrast markedly with the Army-Navy issue of three years earlier.

And these 1940 National Defense stamps were printed in mind-boggling numbers, too: over 6 billion 1-cent stamps, 5.2 billion 2-cent stamps and, for the most used denomination, a total of 8.4 billion 3-cent stamps. They virtually replaced regular-issue definitives in daily use for the remainder of 1940 up to 1942, after which wartime stamps were phased in to replace them.

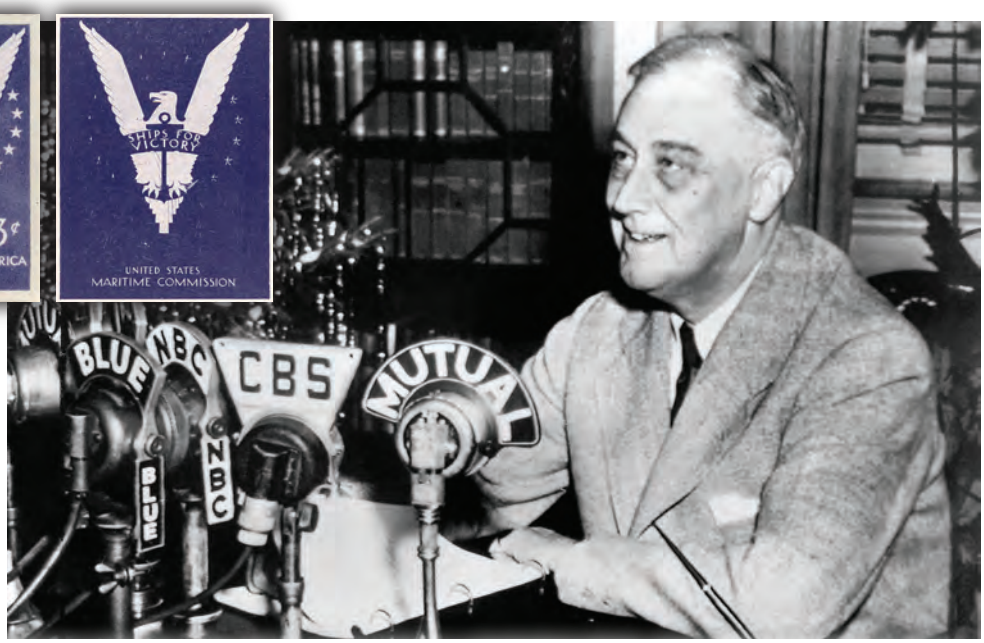
1942-43 Win the War Series

"Postage stamps having served to publicize the Defense program," Johl observed, "it was natural that they be used to further the war effort." After Pearl Harbor, many letters from the public urged the release of new stamps for precisely that purpose.

The two years after December 7, 1941, galvanized America into action against the Axis powers, a period during which the United States issued what I believe may be accurately called the "Win the War" stamps of 1942-43. I use the term not only to call out the key 3-cent denomination,



Early essays for the 3-cent Win The War issue (Scott 905).



Photograph of Franklin D. Roosevelt at his home in Hyde Park, New York, delivering his December 24, 1943 national radio address. ***(National Archives)***

which was issued in numbers previously unimagined in U.S. stamp production, but because the other two stamps in this trio were both foreshadowed by F.D.R. himself, and were impossible without the unconditional surrender of the enemy.

Figure 8 illustrates the three stamps together in the order in which they were issued: the 3-cent Win the War stamp issued July 4, 1942, on the left; the 2-cent Nations United for Victory stamp released January 14, 1943; and the 1-cent Four Freedoms stamp placed on sale February 12, 1943. All three remained on sale until December 6, 1945. Total quantities printed were 1.2 billion of the 1-cent, 1.7 billion of the 2-cent, and an unprecedented 20.6 billion for the 3-cent.

The connection between all three of these stamps runs directly through the mind of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In his address to Congress on December 8, 1941, F.D.R. stated, "…the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. … With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God."

Our nation must "WIN THE WAR." Thus began this series with the iconic stylized 3-cent purple American eagle with its wings folded into a "V" for "Victory," an adaptation of the Maritime Eagle inscribed "Ships For Victory" designed by the director of public relations for the U.S. Maritime Commission.

What would make that triumph inevitable, however, was stated on the 2-cent stamp: "NATIONS UNITED FOR VICTORY." Adapted from Leon Helguera's original design, it is no accident that the branch held high in the foreground has characteristics of both the laurel bough of honor and victory and the olive branch of peace.

But that victory and peace could only be brought about by the effort of millions of citizens, not only of the United States, but of the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the British Commonwealth of Nations including Canada and Australia, China, and any other nation and people willing to turn back the totalitarian tide — that sea of upraised swords backing the branch of peaceful victory.

President Roosevelt coined the term "United Nations," and was a key proponent of the "Declaration by United Nations" signed by representatives of 26 nations on January 1, 1942. As a synopsis by the United Nations itself now declares, "This important document pledged the signatory governments to the maximum war effort and bound them against making a separate peace."

But why do so? Why should American treasure, toil and tears be expended in bloodshed to bring about the fall of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis?

The answer is to secure Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, as spelled out on the 1-cent stamp, goals he articulated in an address to Congress on January 6, 1941. After reviewing history, war production and much more, near the end of his address he turned to postwar prospects, when "we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms." As the 1-cent stamp states, these are "FREEDOM / OF SPEECH / AND RELIGION / FROM WANT / AND FEAR."

The Post Office Department declared the design of this 1-cent stamp to show "Liberty Holding the Torch of Freedom and Enlightenment." It was based on a bas relief by Paul Manship.



How fitting that America's best-known stamp collector set out on stamps the principles he made use of to guide us through the darkest hours of the 20th century, using catchwords he coined and designs he approved.

Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech concluded, "This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women, and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights and keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose.

"To that high concept there can be no end save victory."

BY NOEL DAVENHILL

Nigeria

Nigerian Stamps Combine Complex Origins, Outstanding Images



The stamps of Southern Nigeria were withdrawn and replaced in 1914. From top, Scott 2, 11, 22, 33 and 46

Prior to the designation of Nigeria as a Crown colony in 1914, the stamp-issuing territories of Lagos Colony (1859-1906) and Niger Coast Protectorate (1893-99, which had previously been Oil Rivers Colony (1892-93), were administered by the British Royal Niger Company until merging to become Southern Nigeria in 1900.

Stamps issued for the territories of Lagos and Niger Coast (formerly Oil Rivers Colony), were replaced with those inscribed Southern Nigeria in 1900. All were printed by De La Rue on either chalk-surfaced or ordinary paper. In 1901, ½-pence to 10-shilling stamps portrayed Queen Victoria in a design closely resembling contemporary stamps of British India.

During 1903-05, the frame was unaltered when the queen's portrait was changed to that of King Edward VII, and new 2½p, 2sh6p and £1 denominations were added. Watermarks were changed from Single Crown to Multiple Crown CA from 1904-08, along with a 3p stamp introduced in 1907. Also during this period most higher denominations were reprinted in revised colors with minor paper variations, while low values of ½p-2½p were issued in monochrome A slightly amended 1p (Scott 44) also was placed on sale. The final series in 1912 was adapted to portray the new monarch, King George V. Southern Nigeria stamps were withdrawn in 1914 and replaced with a unified issue inscribed "Nigeria."

The first stamps of Northern Nigeria also were issued in 1900, printed from classic De La Rue Victorian key and duty plates in nine denominations from ½-penny to 10 shillings with Crown CA watermarks. Following the death of Queen Victoria, key plates were adapted in 1902 to portray King Edward VII. An unprecedented £25 revenue stamp was placed on sale in 1904 to pay licence fees on liquor imports. Although the plate was captioned 'postage', the stamp had no postal function, but is nevertheless listed by the Scott and Stanley Gibbons catalogs.

Color changes were implemented for new printings of all denominations with Multiple Crown CA watermarks in 1910. Separate 'duty and title' panel plates were not required for new monochrome 'pence' denominations. Additional 3p, 5sh and 10sh stamps were introduced in 1911. In 1912 new 4p, 9p and £1 values were added when the series was modified for the accession of King George V. The stamps were withdrawn and replaced with a similar design captioned Nigeria when the new colony was proclaimed in 1914.

Twelve ½p - £1 denominations with Multiple Crown CA watermarks were printed by De La Rue from the classic KGV key and duty plates used for several British colonies. Non-specialist collectors may be challenged by the two different dies and several shades of both chalky and surfaced-colored paper on 4p to £1 denominations, some with white backs. (For clarification of this perplexing series refer to Scott or Gibbons catalogs.) Marginally less complex 1921-23 printings to 10sh only are readily identified by Script CA watermarks. An additional 1½p stamp, preceded by color changes to the 2p and 3p stamps, were placed on sale in 1931.

A quartet of Omnibus Silver Jubilee stamps in 1935 were followed in February 1936, just days after the King's death, with engraved pictorial stamps from ½p to £1. Local industries are featured on the 1p, 1½p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 1sh and 5sh denominations. The aptly named Oil Rivers Protectorate was the centre of a lucrative palm oil industry, represented on the 5sh stamp. Maritime enthusiasts will appreciate the cargo vessel berthed at Apapa wharf in Lagos (½p). It was there that the Elder Dempster Line operated regular passenger and freight service between Liverpool and West Africa. In addition to regular 11½ by 13 perforations, a small quantity of 1½p and 3p stamps were perforated 12½x13½ (Scott 40a, 42a), which sell at desirable premiums. A second Omnibus series in 1937 marked the coro-

nation of King GeorgeVI.

Only two designs from the short-lived pictorial series — the 2sh6p Victoria-Buea Road and 10sh Jebba Rail Bridge over the Niger River — were retained for reuse as KGVI definitives. These diverse designs might have been better than Bradbury Wilkinson's prosaic smaller format ½p to 1sh KGVI definitives that were used until 1951. Surprisingly the top value was only 5 shillings despite population increases from the integration of Northern and Southern Nigeria in 1914. Less populated Gambia and Gold Coast apparently needed 10sh stamps. Sierra Leone went a step further with a £1 denomination.

A turquoise blue 1sh3p Profile was added in 1940 for airmail postage, and a 4p orange was withdrawn in 1941 and replaced with a 2½p stamp in the same color. Unhinged mint copies of the original 4p (Scott 59) are quite scarce. Revised postal rates in 1944 led to 1p, 2p and 3p color changes and the re-introduction of a blue 4p stamp. In 1950-51, perforation changes from 12 to 11½ were made for lower denominations excluding 2½p, 3p and 4p stamps. Similar perforation adjustments were made to 2sh6p and 5sh stamps from 1942-51, yielding eight collectible varieties. Single error sheets of both the 3p blue and 1sh3p stamps with sideways watermarks are likely to have been sold unrecognized over post office counters for ordinary use. Only a few used copies are known, priced by Gibbons at £5,500 ($7,020 U.S.) and £5,000 ($6,385 U.S.), respectively.



Victory in World War II issue of 1946, Scott 71 and 72.



The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Scott 79.

Apart from the 1937 Coronation issue, the only commemorative KGVI issues were Omnibus stamps marking Victory in World War II (1946), the Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary (1948) and the 75th Anniversary of Universal Postal Union (1949).

The 1½p Queen Elizabeth II Coronation stamp in 1953 preceded what was for me one of the most ground-breaking series from any British Colony. Their distinctive images prompt me to provide additional coverage of each stamp.

Inspired artwork by Maurice Fievet includes matchstick-like figures reminiscent of L.S. Lowry's paintings of men and women in scenes of Northern England. The twelve stamps [Figures 2 and 3] from ½p to £1 were engraved by Waterlow & Sons.

The central motif on five stamps focuses on busy workers engaged in vital commercial occupations. In addition to a detailed presentation of peanut production, the 1½p stamp offers a splendid close-up on the left of nut clusters prior to harvesting. The image of the Kano Mosque in the background on the right signifies that city's role as the center of this important industry.

The 2p features alluvial tin mining in the Jos Plateau of central Nigeria. Old and new extraction methods are effectively represented. The foreground depicts hand-panning to separate the ore from the gravel, alongside modern miners pushing laden ore carts. These contrast markedly with heavy machinery used for cutting into a terraced hill in the background.

Images of the vital cocoa industry lift the design on the 4p stamp to one of most intricate of any British colonial stamps I have come across. Teams of workers are shown extracting cocoa beans from pods and piling them into mounds before cut-



Figure 2. Artwork by Maurice Fievet was featured on 12 stamps depicting Nigerian industry in 1953. Shown above are Scott 80-86, and Scott 87-91 are shown on the following page.



Figure 3. Five of the twelve stamps by Maurice Fievet. Shown above are Scott 87 - 91 depicting commercial interests including: timber, Victoria Harbour, palm oil, hideas and skins, and new and old Lagos.

A"ROYAL VISIT 1956" Overprint of the 2p Tin stamp commemorated the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Nigeria in January - February 1956, Scott 92.

ting, separating out the cacao beans, and filling sacks for shipment. Overhanging branches laden with ripe pods and full sacks effectively frame the activity on the ground.

Even more activity is evident on the 1sh timber industry design with more matchstick men busily engaged in forestry. Trees are felled before the logs are sawn into appropriate lengths prior to transportation onto huge rafts skilfully guided through waterways to an awaiting ship.

Palm-oil production dominates the 5sh stamp, with tiny figures rolling barrels of oil to small boats waiting to be ferried out to a ship in the harbor. The busy scene is complemented with the border image of a fruiting palm tree.

Picturesque Victoria Harbour in the Cameroons is showcased on the 2sh6p denomination. Small boats are used in the prawn trade for which the region is renowned. The frame features an unusual combination of large prawns and bananas, some growing in fronds alongside others already harvested and awaiting sale in local markets.

Splendid artwork on the 10sh focuses on "Hides & Skins," with an amply adorned shepherdess surveying her flock of goats and big-horned cattle in a landscape made memorable by magnificent Baobab trees. Tightly stretched hides around wooden frames enhance the overall image.

Themes for lower denomination ½p, 1p, 3p and 6p stamps are all very different. The ½p stamp recalls manilla currency, a name used in West Africa for coiled copper made into armlets brought in by Portuguese traders to sell as arm bracelets. Bornu Horsemen galloping onto the 1p stamp are ridden by the warlike nomadic tribesmen from the northern Hausa region, who still entertain at ceremonial occasions. On the 3p stamp, a steam locomotive crossing the Jebba Bridge provides an appropriate foreground to an aerial view of the Niger River.

The single vertical design on the 6p stamp depicts the ancient Ife Head, one of Nigeria's greatest art treasures, discovered in 1938. It is now in the British Museum.

The design of the £1 stamp, the largest in the set, is separated by coastal images of old and modern Lagos, Nigeria's capital city until 1976. The opposing views are flanked by an old sailing vessel and a present-day ship.

Whereas replacing the Queen's portrait with a Tudor crown on some stamps seems irregular, this in no way detracts from the unity of the artwork in this fine set of stamps.

During 1956-58, the transfer of responsibility for the new printings of 1p, 2p and 3p stamps to Waterlow's subsidiary company in Brussels, *Imprimerie Belge de Securitié,* for rotary printing was said to enable speedier delivery of more stamps in higher-use denominations. The 1½p also was included, but never placed on sale because of postal rate changes. The new printing equipment resulted in subtle differences in 1p and 3p stamps. Due to high postal demand, the 2p was changed from a bicolored design to blue gray, allowing faster production from a single printing plate. Fourteen shades of ink are reported to have been used in the many printings required to maintain stocks. All sheets of the final 2p printing were sent directly from Belgium to Lagos in August 1957.

The original bister and black 2p was overprinted "ROYAL VISIT 1956" to mark the arrival of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to begin an extended tour. Waterlow & Sons printed three final commemoratives with identical frames prior to Nigeria's independence. In 1958, a 3p stamp in purple and black marked the Centenary of Victoria with a busy harbor scene previously depicted on the 2sh6p pictorial. A bicolored March 14, 1959, issue marking self-government for Northern Nigeria comprised 3p and 1sh stamps with images of Lugard Hall in Kaduna on the 3p and the iconic Kano Mosque on the 1sh.

Only four stamps were issued for Independence in October 1960, enabling current definitives to remain on sale until January 1, 1961, when they were replaced with a less than impressive new series. All was not lost however with the release in 1965 of definitives featuring stunning images of animals and birds



Figure 4. "CAMEROONS U.K.T.T." overprint of the Nigeria 2p Tin definitive. Scott 69.

created once again by the inimitable artistic skills of Maurice Fievet.

Following a plebiscite in February 1960 the region of Southern Cameroon opted to join the Cameroun Republic in October 1961. In the meantime, the area was administered as a United Kingdom Trust Territory and provided with outgoing Nigerian definitives overprinted "CAMEROONS U.K.T.T." [Figure 4].

Whereas most of the De La Rue overprints were applied to stocks held by the Crown Agents, an unknown number of sheets of the monochrome 2p were returned from Lagos to be overprinted. Responsibility for new printings of urgently needed 1p, 2p and 6p denominations was transferred to De La Rue, which had just acquired Waterlow's stamp operation. The new overprints were placed on sale just days before the stamps were withdrawn on September 30, 1961.

Although there are no discernible differences from the original 1p and 6p stamps except for a 6p perforation change, the entire consignment of 2p sheets, printed in a distinctive shade of pale gray, was dispatched to Africa. Scott shows only one overprinted 2p, whereas Gibbons lists four, including two very scarce variations.

My grateful thanks to Ray Harris of the West Africa Study Circle for assisting with this article.



APS Reference Collection

Several of the stamp images used in this article are courtesy of the American Philatelic Society's Reference Collection. Some images from the collection can be viewed at stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour.

APS Reference Collection images are also being added to the online collecting site, Snupps.com. The issues added can be viewed at: aps.buzz/Snupps.



CANADA'S FIRST OFFICIAL OVERPRINTS

SPECIAL #295



Early Canada official stamps were perforated 'OHMS'. In 1949 however, the first set of overprinted officials was released (SG #O162-O170). Each stamp is overprinted 'O.H.M.S.' in black. The four low values are from the War Issue depicting King George VI in military uniform. The five high values are from the Peace Issue which portrays scenes from across the country.

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BY TOM HORN authentication department director
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If the stamp has more than one catalog number for its design and you are having trouble determining which catalog number represents your stamp, you might check the catalog values. With large differences in values, it might be worthwhile having an expert review it. Even if the differences in value are relatively minor, the satisfaction that comes from knowing precisely what it is may still be enough to persuade you to have a stamp reviewed by an expert who can be relied upon to identify it accurately.



Figure 1. These three used blue 1-cent Franklin stamps catalog from $80 to $800 dollars. Can you tell them apart? (See the text to learn which is which.)

Other considerations in deciding whether or not to expertize involve such complex subjects as missing color varieties, obscure or unusual postal markings, earliest known usages on cover and the vast field of errors, freaks and philatelic oddities.

Let's look at a few practical examples from the reference collections maintained by the APS and APEX of stamps that it can be wise to expertize.

Figure 1 shows three of the seven different 1-cent blue Franklin imperforates of 1851-57 that the Scott catalog lists (Scott 5-9). (In fact, the 2018 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* lists and prices a total of 179 varieties, recuts, errors, multiples and postal markings on these seven stamps alone, roughly 25 per stamp.)

These three used 1-cent blue stamps are collected according their type, which is judged by the completeness and configuration of the elaborate frame surrounding Franklin's profile. Type is determined by the plate from which each stamp was printed. The more distinct, definite and intact the different frames and their components appear, the higher the value of the stamp.

Shown from top to bottom are Franklin type II (Scott 7), Franklin type IIIa (Scott 8A) and Franklin type IV (Scott 9). To most collectors the three are almost indistinguishable, but their respective used catalogue values are $125, $800 and $80. For original gum stamps, the differences are even more jarring: $1,000, $6,000 and $725. But if you want to sell these stamps not merely "as is," but for what they truly are worth, you'll need an expert's certificate to confirm their identification.



Figure 2. It's easy to see the difference between these two shades of the 24-cent Washington printed by the National Bank Note Co. and issued in 1861-62, but could you tell all five shades apart (Scott 70-70d)?

Figure 2 shows two of the five different shades of the 24-cent Washington printed by the National Bank Note Co. and issued in 1861-62. If I tell you that one is steel blue (Scott 70b), and the other lilac brown (Scott 70a), you will probably correctly guess which is which. But if I were to

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Figure 3. Even in the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, not everything that matters gets a number or a letter. The "pink back" on one of these two 1917 10-cent Special Delivery stamps gets a footnote following the listing for Scott E11, explaining that it is accidental consequence of the aniline ink used to print some of the stamps, and can increase the value of the stamp fivefold.

take that lilac brown and put it next to used copies of the three other shades — red lilac (Scott 70), violet (Scott 70c) and pale gray violet (Scott 70d) — you might have a harder time coming up with an accurate answer, unless you already had stamps like these to check against. (That's why it's called a "reference" collection!)

Again, used copies can vary from $300 to $3,000, so it can pay to be sure what you're buying and selling.

Even in the Scott Specialized catalogue, not all things that are valuable are listed and priced formally. Take the two 1917 10-cent ultramarine Special Delivery stamps (Scott E11) shown in Figure 3. Neither is particularly well-centered, and the one at top is rather grubby. But when you study the backs of the stamps, you discover that the one on the top has a back that is white (though by no means immaculate), whereas the one on the bottom has a definite color cast.

But read the footnote following Scott E11 in the catalogue: "The aniline ink used on some printings of No. E11 permeated the paper causing a pink tinge to appear on the back. Such stamps are called 'pink backs.' They are scarce and valued at approximately five times the value of ordinary stamps." That gives this "pink back" a book value of about $100.

The fees APEX charges for its expert service are based on catalog values of the stamps submitted, regardless of their condition.

Catalog Value Range	APS Member Fee	Non-Member Fee
$200 or less	$20	$40
$200.01 - $500	$25	$45
$500.01 - $1,000	$30	$50
More than $1,000	3%	5%

Don't forget to factor into your consideration the condition of the stamp you plan to submit. If it has a nominal

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catalog value of $1,000, but with serious faults that reduce its market value to $100 or less, is it still worth your while to pay $30 for a certificate? Will that certificate raise the stamp's market value by more than $30? These may be the relevant questions to ask yourself.

Faults you might notice yourself could include creases, pulled, short or clipped perforations, thins, scuffs, tears and notations recorded on the back of the stamp by a former owner.

Other flaws may take an expert to recognize them. These include such defects as perforations trimmed off to simulate an earlier imperforate stamp, cleaned and removed cancels, photochemical color changelings, shaved proofs, regummed stamps, reperforation or fake perforations, bogus overprints or surcharges, design added, and difficult-to-detect repairs such as sealed internal tears. The mention of these faults on a certificate is appreciated by anyone who is thinking about buying such a stamp, and the certificate preserves the integrity of the stamp as it travels from collection to collection.

Decision-making parameters are specific to the collector. Verifying a new acquisition, getting a stamp ready for selling, and identifying a stamp accurately for a collection or exhibit are all great reasons for using the APS Expertizing Service and its more than 140 experts.

If you have an item to submit to APEX for expertizing, print and complete the online form available at https://stamps.org/Stamp-Authentication.

If you have more than one item to submit, please request forms by contacting us at 814-933-3803, extension 206, during regular business hours.

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What makes these sheets so desirable is they were produced just for stamp collectors. Printed by the same agency that issues official China stamps, these souvenir sheets were given out at philatelic exhibitions. Not valid for postage, they honor the world's greatest hobby and are a great way to start or add to your China stamp collection.

Explore Exotic Culture & History

One of the stamps you'll get with this set pictures Tienanmen, a gate of Beijing's Forbidden City. Hanging on Tienanmen, or "The Gate of Heavenly Peace," is a portrait of Mao Zedong and two signs reading "Long Live the People's Republic of China" and "Long Live the Great Unity of the World's Peoples."

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BY WENDY MASORTI sales director
wendy@stamps.org

APS Advice: Self-grading is not recommended

Not as easy as you think, it's best left to the pros

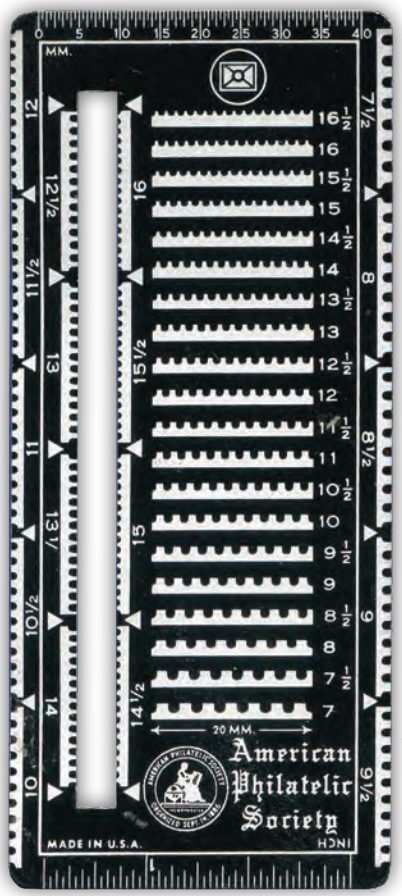
Self-graded stamps continue to be a subject of concern for items available for sale on StampStore and in circuit books. Many buyers become confused when a seller's description and/or pricing declare a higher grade for a stamp, but no graded certificate is provided.

The APS StampStore recommends that sellers competitively price their material to fall within the 40%-60% of the catalog value for a grade of **very fine** unless a certificate is provided to confirm grading superior to that level. As stated in our Terms of Sale "If a grade is placed on an item in the description (Avg., F, F-VF, XF) it must have a certificate indicating the grade, otherwise this information is not included in the description."

That same rule applies to listing an item at a graded, premium price – if you price it as XF, a certificate so stating by a recognized firm should be included.

Grading stamps is complex and many factors are taken into consideration – not just the centering. The professionals grade stamps using a special grading system; reviewing soundness, centering, eye appeal, gum condition, and more. You may have a stamp that is perfectly centered, but if it has other issues such as a flaw, disturbed gum, poor coloring, a heavy cancel – the grade and its market value would be much less than that of a flawless XF stamp.

What it boils down to is that self-grading is basically your opinion, which others may or may not agree with. Your grade will most likely differ from that of a professional grader. Self-graded stamps will not sell for any more than what the buyer feels their grade is, and may sell for much less than if it had a certified grade.



Our recommendation is to leave the grading to the experts. If you feel you have a stamp that warrants a much higher selling price because you feel strongly that the item is "Superb", send it off to Professional Stamp Experts (PSE) and have it officially graded. Having a certificate accompany the item you are selling confirms its value. Listing a stamp with a catalog value of $1.40 and a selling price of $140.00, describing it as having "perfect centering" will cause unease with potential buyers, who will obviously want it graded by a professional before agreeing to pay so much.

For those sellers who list prices substantially higher than the very fine value, their listings will now carry a disclaimer that reads "APS NOTE: item selling price reflects self grading by seller, you may consider submitting to a grading service upon purchase (be sure to request a return extension as noted in return procedures with filled order – cost of grading service is non-refundable)."

Circuit Book Sales Categories Needed

We continually monitor categories that are in particular short supply for the Circuit books (not StampStore). To see our full list of stamps needed for circuits (as well as those not currently in need) visit www.stamps.org/Stamps-Needed.

If you have material in these areas you are interested in selling, consider using circuit sales. For those new to selling, information is available at stamps.org/userfiles/file/stampstore/terms.pdf or can be requested by contacting our staff at 814-933-3803 ext. 231.

TOP SELLER



TOP U.S. SELLER

Issued in 1903, this United States 1-cent blue green Benjamin Franklin stamp (Scott 300) was a top-selling U.S. item in August on StampStore.

Overall monthly sales reports are posted each month online at stamps.org/Stampstore-Sales-Report. You can view sales records and see what is hot for the month.

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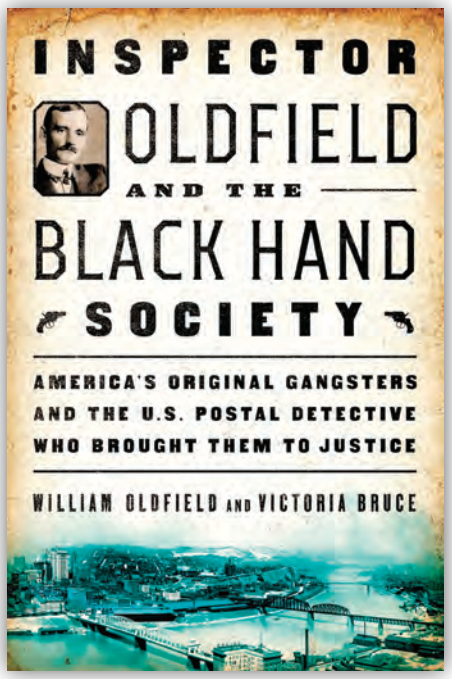


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BY FRED BAUMANN editorial content specialist
fbaumann@stamps.org



Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society, by William Oldfield and Victoria Bruce

At the dawn of the 20th century, "The Black Hand" was the scourge of six million recently arrived Italians who flocked to U.S. cities and industrial regions seeking a better life. Local police lacked the language skills and, more critically, the trust of the immigrant community. Black Hand victims were terrified that any words they had with an American policeman would bring lethal retribution from gangsters.

Although the term had yet to be coined, organized crime was already doing a booming business in America. The F.B.I. was just coming into being, and did not yet have the manpower and tools to take on criminal conspiracies. That left only one law enforcement agency that could put "the Black Hand" in cuffs: the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Any intrusion upon the people, property or monopoly of the U.S. Post Office Department could be enough to bring down the full wrath of the inspectors.

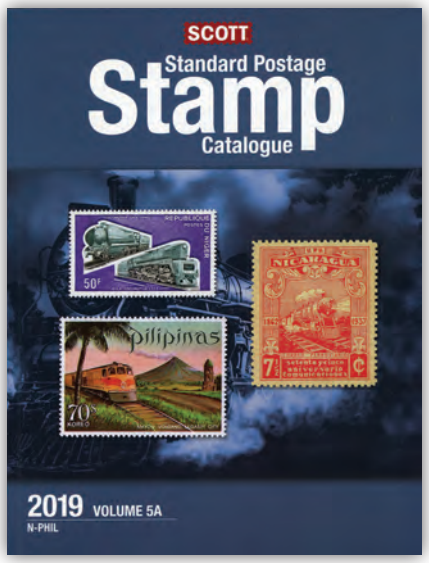
The book is essentially the tale of one of these men, his associates in law enforcement and his criminal enemies. That man was Frank Oldfield, who became U.S. Post Office Inspector 156 in 1899. A fearless lawman, Oldfield cheerfully ignored the training manual's counsel that "an inspector should go quietly about his business..." In his first decade, Inspector Oldfield rounded up train robbers, safe-crackers and embezzlers in four states, making a name for himself.

But his greatest triumph against crime lay ahead, delivered when a pair of letters signed "the Black Hand" convinced Ohio police to invite Oldfield to investigate the brutal murder of a fruit seller in 1907. (As the book notes, "… the police hoped that the letters might lead to a break in the case. It also meant that the investigation was out of their hands. Anything having to do with the U.S. mails went straight to the Post Office Inspection Service.")

Most of the book's 74 black and white images including 32 plates depict outlaws and lawmen, but a few show Black Hand letters, translations, a marked stamp and other items of postal history interest, including an "undercover letter:" "The addressee is meant to open the first letter, finding an [envelope containing an] extortion letter within with instructions to forward this extortion letter to a victim (hence the term, 'undercover')."

The co-authors of this book — including the great-great grandson of the protagonist in a family with a lot of long memories — have done a fine job of turning a gritty saga of organized crime nearly a century old into a gripping read, where the stakes and the characters are real, and so are the risks and rewards.

Published by Touchstone in August 2018. Hardbound, 6¼ inches by 9¼ inches, 326 pages; $26 plus shipping on Amazon; $13.99 for Kindle.



2019 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume 5 in two books; countries N to PHIL in Vol. 5A; PIT to SAM countries in Volume 5B

Volumes 5A and 5B of the 2019 *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* are now available. Like all volumes of the catalog this year, Vol. 5 is bisected to make it easier to carry and handle. Had the two halves been published together in a single binding, the weight would have been nearly 7 pounds.

Aside from stamps showing trains on the covers like the other Scott Standards this year, each of the two parts have in common the invaluable 56 page Introduction, with explanations to answer the vast majority of collector questions. You'll find contact info for societies, study groups and expertizing services, plus an illustrated guide to grading, catalog listing policy, a guide to the listings and color and general abbreviations. A section covers basic stamp information, from paper and watermarks to printing processing, inks, luminescence, gum, fakes and forgeries, common design types (illustrated) and currency conversion. Commonwealth collectors will appreciate a listing of Commonwealth nations and guides to dies and watermarks of British colonial stamps.

Vol. 5A of the *2019 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* has 920 pages of listings for stamps of 23 stamp-issuing entities from Namibia to Philippines. All catalog number additions, deletions and changes are listed on page 3A in both parts of Vol. 5.

"Select Editorial Enhancements" highlighted by Scott include the addition to Nepal of the 1898 1/2-anna black Siva's Bow and Kukris stamp with blurry impressions, now added as major Scott number 12B. Netherlands listings footnotes have been expanded and updated, including noteworthy newly added footnotes for coil stamps that were made from sheet stamps

For many years, Scott reserved numbers for a set of six Nicaraguan stamps overprinted in red or silver for the Year of Liberation and the 1980 Olympic Games. Stamps with the red overprint are now listed as Scott 1102 and 1102A-1102E. The stamps with silver overprints are assigned minor numbers 1102f-1102k, and these latter were not issued without the overprints.

Philippines listings feature 188 editorial changes, including minor number listings for a watermark variety that has been added to the catalog.

The second-greatest number of changes in 5A are the 158 new numbers for New Zealand affecting some of the islands' most popular stamps, from an imperforate pair of the 1864 1-shilling yellow green Victoria to the avidly collected 1935-42 Pictorials. Curiously, neither new numbers nor value changes nor editorial enhancements for New Zealand are mentioned in Donna Houseman's Letter from the Editor, although that may be because they are simply too complicated to summarize meaningfully.

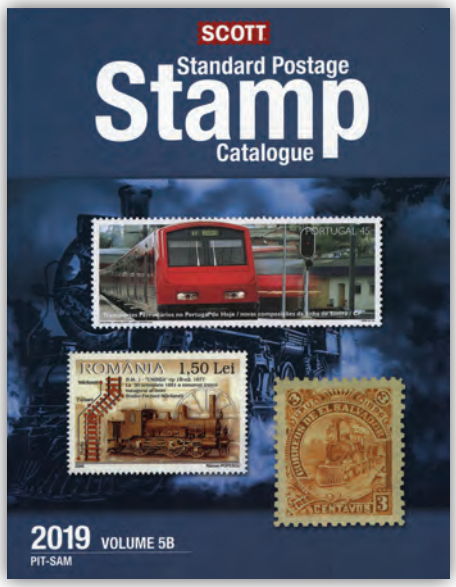
Reviewing value changes elsewhere in 5A, Houseman notes "A thorough review of the Netherlands resulted in more than 2,750 value changes," most of which "resulted in increases in value." Also of interest were 3,100 value changes in Netherlands Antilles, 1,060 for Netherlands Indies, and a complete review of Netherlands New Guinea "resulting in more than 100 value changes; most are increases, with scattered decreases throughout."

"Values for Nepal increase significantly," Houseman observes, and "a review of early Palestine resulted in almost 90 value changes."

Vol. 5B of the *2019 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* has 896 pages of listings for stamps of 19 stamp-issuing entities from Pitcairn Island to Samoa. "Select Editorial Enhancements" commented on by Scott include renumbering several recent issues of Poland.

Relatively few changes are listed for 5B, other than the 40 new numbers added to listings for Portugal. New overprint varieties have been added to the listings for surcharged Vasco da Gama stamps of 1911 (Scott 185-192 and 199-206). Minor numbers have been assigned for year dates among the Buildings definitive stamps of 1972-73 and 1974. Five inverted overprint errors of the 1910 postage due set enter the 2019 catalog as Scott J14a, J15a, and J17a-J19a.

Vol. 5 published in two parts in August 2018 Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio. Softcover, 8 ¼ inches by 10 ¾ inches. Retail price $134.99, discounted to $99.99 via Amos Advantage (Linn's Stamp News subscribers); Online version, $75. To order, visit your favorite dealer, call 1-800-488-5349 or visit online at www.amosadvantage.com.



Review our recently updated Cut Square listings for 1920-25 Revalued Issues
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PHILATELIC HAPPENINGS



BY KEN MARTIN chief operating officer
*kpmartin@stamps.org • Share your photos of your stamp show, club, or affiliate activities with us via e-mail at **aparticle@stamps.org** for possible use online and in print.*

This column frequently mentions members who have been recognized for their service to our great hobby. Many of us have benefitted tremendously directly from mentors or indirectly by others who have provided long time service. Now is your opportunity to help say thanks by nominating one or more individuals for APS awards. **The Luff Award** is the most prestigious annual award presented by the American Philatelic Society to a living philatelist for his or her distinguished contributions – to Philately, to Research, and to the Society.

The Carter Volunteer Awards recognize outstanding efforts of our volunteers at national and local levels, and recognizes our younger members as well, whose outstanding leadership and creativity are crucial to our future. Up to ten awards are given annually for local efforts, and five are available at the national level. **The Kehr Award** is bestowed annually upon an individual for making philately attractive to newcomers and other enduring contributions that help to guarantee the future of the hobby. And the **Charles Peterson Award** recognizes those who have furthered philatelic knowledge through philatelic literature.

If you read the preceding award descriptions, and the name or the face of a collector you know came readily to mind, the time to act is now. Nominations for all of these awards are due by December 15. Instructions and forms are easy to find at the APS website.

Congratulations to the Collectors Club of Akron, which celebrated its 1,000th meeting on Tuesday, September 18, with a dinner attended by 44 members and guests. The club was founded by **Walter T. Poppenger**, along with 14 fellow philatelists, in April 1935 with their first meeting on April 23. Poppenger founded the club "…to further philately and make possible that round-the-table good fellowship among its members that is only possible in a small group."

At the event, past *American Philatelist* and current *Linn's Stamp News* editor **Jay Bigalke** spoke about some of his many experiences attending first day ceremonies. Congratulations also to Jay himself, who five days later completed his bucket-list goal of attending a U.S. first day ceremony in each of the 50 states.

A new literature competition will be inaugurated at the February Sarasota, Florida National Stamp Exhibition. The competition will be different from the literature events currently held at CHICAGOPEX and StampShow. The Sarasota exhibit will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. This "articles-only" show is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers.

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than December 1, 2018. A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the show's web site, http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html

K. Joe Youssefi of Phoenix, Arizona passed away in late August while working on his stamp collection. Joe focused on the philately of his home country, Iran, with at least nine exhibits, two of which had won national Grand Awards and participated in the multi-frame Champion of Champions competitions, and another two of which had qualified to participate in the Single Frame Championship.

The last APS winter show, AmeriStamp Expo will be held in conjunction with ARIPEX, next February in Joe's "backyard." A popular winter destination, attendees can ride the



Gregory Shoults (left) and Ray Beer (center) enjoy a beverage with former American Philatelist and current Linn's Stamp News Editor Jay Bigalke, the engaging guest speaker for the 1,000th Meeting of the Collectors Club of Akron.



The Collectors Club of Akron, which held its 1,000th meeting September 18, was founded in 1935 "…to further philately and make possible that round-the-table good fellowship among its members that is only possible in a small group." That fine tradition continues.

Thirty Years Later, 'A Promise Kept'

ESPER is an international stamp society promoting stamp collecting and philatelic material depicting people and events related to the African diaspora. The latter term refers to the forced removal from their native homelands of as many as 10 million Africans kidnapped, enslaved and transported to Europe and the Americas between the 15th and 19th centuries through the transatlantic slave trade.



The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER) was founded by Esper G. Hayes of Charlotte, North Carolina. She started the society based on a promise she made to Olympic track star Jesse Owens, whom she met at a stamp show in the 1970s.

Hayes patiently waited in line for hours to get Owens' autograph, but when she got to the table, it was Owens who stood up to shake her hand. She and Jesse were the only African Americans at the stamp show that day. During their conversation, Jesse mentioned that maybe Esper could do something to help black people recognize the many stamps depicting them and honoring their achievements. Collecting and studying these stamps and covers could help more people to take pride in themselves and their history.

Esper enthusiastically agreed. After Owens died in 1980, Esper turned her promise to Owens into an enduring commitment to her community.

The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, whose initials spell out its founder's name, was organized in 1988 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit international organization to encourage and support the interest and participation of black people in all aspects of the stamp hobby. ESPER currently has almost 300 members throughout the United States and in other countries.

Reflections, the society's award-winning quarterly newsletter, contains information and commentary about people of the African Diaspora on philatelic material from around the world. Many members spend time visiting schools to share their knowledge with children. Others give presentations at stamp shows, local libraries, and civic centers to spread the hobby of philately and the history of African Americans.

To mark its 30th anniversary. ESPER is offering a nice selection of attractive and practical merchandise emblazoned with their 30th anniversary logo, including long-sleeve T-shirts, short-sleeve polo shirts, tote bags and back packs. Ordering details are available at the ESPER website at www.esperstamps.org . The ESPER website itself achieved a landmark this year, with a "three-peat" — its third straight year as a Gold Award recipient in the annual APS Web Awards to recognize website excellence,



ESPER members (left to right) Felix Perez-Folch, Ricky Johnson and Reflections editor Don Neal.

Congratulations to ESPER, to its members old and new, and our heartiest wishes that the next 30 years will bring more fresh adherents to enjoy the cordial camaraderie of the stamp hobby.

ESPER's logo marks its 30th anniversary and recalls the promise its founder made to Jesse Owens.

Pictured on several U.S. stamps, Jesse Owens overcame Hitler's bigotry to win four Gold Medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Four decades later, Owens challenged a college professor to use stamps to help African Americans take pride in themselves.



Share the Hobby

When you finish with this copy of *The American Philatelist*, why not leave it in a waiting room? Doctor's offices, auto service waiting areas and any place where people have to sit and wait offer an audience who might discover an interested in collecting. You can also print an APS application to include at https://aps.buzz/apjoin.

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light rail from the Phoenix Airport to a couple blocks from the Mesa Convention Center and Marriott hotel. The show will include about 60 dealers along with the annual Single Frame and Most Popular Exhibit Championships. Early hotel bookings are highly recommended if you want to take advantage of the APS show rate for the headquarters hotel.

Congratulations to the major award winners at the four World Series of Philately shows held since I wrote last month's column:

BALPEX 2018 — Aug. 31- Sept. 2 — Baltimore , Maryland

Multiframe Grand: *Establishing the United States' Transcontinental Air Mail Service: May15, 1918 –June 30, 1924*, A.D. Jones

Multiframe Reserve Grand: *The Columbian Envelopes of 1893*, Marvin and Judith R. Platt,

Single Frame Grand: *Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue*, Mark Schwartz

Youth Grand: *A Dialogue with the Flying Jewels*, Ramprasad Mahurkar

OMAHA STAMP SHOW — Sept. 8-9 — Omaha, Nebraska

Multiframe Grand: *The Essays and Proofs of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue*, Bill Dugan

Multiframe Reserve Grand: *The Prexie Coils*, Bill DiPaolo

Single Frame Grand: *Uses of the 1908 U.S. Coils*, Mick Hadley

Most Popular: *The Essays and Proofs of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue*, Bill Dugan

MILCOPEX 2018 — Sept. 14-16 — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Multiframe Grand: *The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue*, Nicholas A. Lombardi

Multiframe Reserve Grand: *The Magical World of Harry Potter*, Van Siegling

Single Frame Grand: *The Special Booklet Paper Printings of 1928*, Robert G. Rufe

Most Popular: *The Magical World of Harry Potter*, Van Siegling

SEAPEX 2018 — Sept. 14-16 —Tukwila, Washington

Multiframe Grand: *Postal History of the Thirteen Colonies, 1675–1782*, Timothy P. O'Connor

Multiframe Reserve Grand: *SCADTA Mail to and from Switzerland*, George Struble

Single Frame Grand: *The Stones of a Swiss Classic – The Light Blue Rayon I*, Michael Peter

Youth Grand: *Black Heritage*, Jasminne Batista

People's Choice Award: *Women of the Black Heritage Series: From the Fields of Slavery to the Halls of Congress*, Mark Thompson

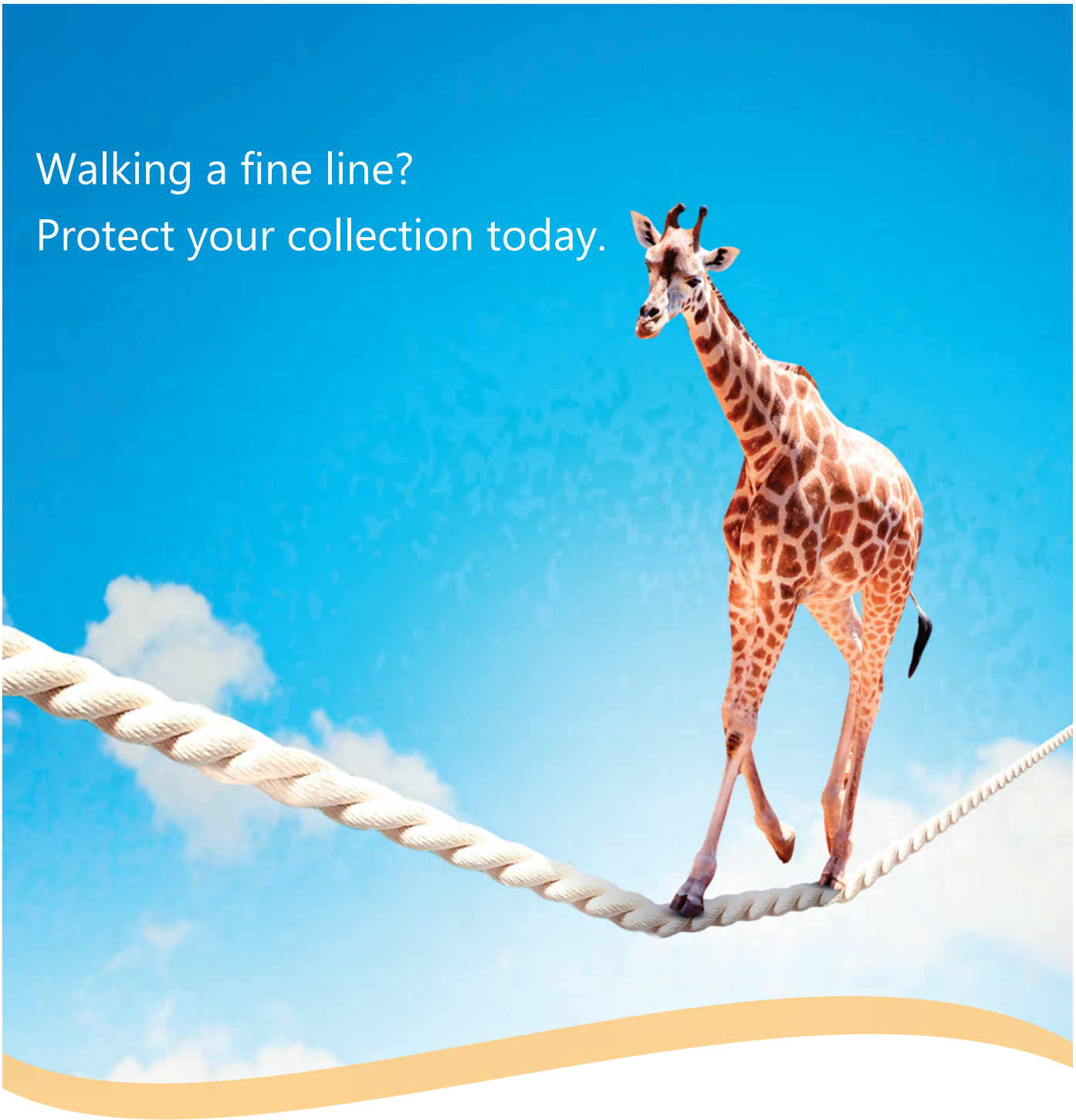
About the same time you receive this issue of *The American Philatelist,* you should also be receiving your annual dues notices from the APS. As the mailing includes our latest publication brochure it is sent to all APS members, including Life Members who do not owe any dues payment. The APS currently offers 84 different publications for sale, some of these are being sold on behalf of APS affiliates and not all could be listed on the brochure, but most represent the lifetime work of one or more collectors.

APS members receive a discount on nearly all items, and several are being offered for the first time. Many collectors may prefer to spend their limited funds on the usual stamps and covers, but the knowledge that can be learned from these publications could pay back the modest investment of purchasing them many times over.

A book might also make an excellent club door prize or holiday gift for a fellow collector.



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Make Plans Now for Your February Getaway

AmeriStamp Expo Heads to Mesa, Arizona



The smart stamp collector's plan to avoid cabin fever in 2019 is to make their escape to AmeriStamp Expo/Aripex – the annual APS Winter Convention – February 15 to 17 at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona. The host hotel is but a short stroll away at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201, offering a show rate of $159 plus tax.

Dealers are signing up now, and choice booth positions still are available. Stamp clubs, philatelic organizations and collectors who plan to schedule a meeting, hold a seminar or make a presentation can likewise make reservations for a room for their get-togethers today. And to make the show run smoothly, the APS also is looking for volunteers to help at the show.

Here's a fun fact for frigid philatelists: daily February high temperatures in Mesa average 73°F, rarely falling below 59°F or exceeding 82°F. So leave your parka and shovel at home, and save yourself from the Mid-February Blizzard Blues. We look forward to seeing you in Arizona!

The "Show Time" Calendar features a list of upcoming shows and APS events (shown in green). To obtain a listing, please submit a "Show Time" form, available online at www.stamps.org/Show-Calendar or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time.

The listings are free to World Series of Philately and other shows that are sponsored by an APS chapter or affiliate. Other shows/bourses may purchase listings for the month of the show/bourse and the month prior ***only***. The listing fee is $25 per show per issue. Shows designated ***B*** are bourse only.

Grand award winners from ***WSP*** shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition. Visit www.stamps.org/Show-Calendar for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

New Jersey **November 3**
MSC Monthly Bourse Merchantville Stamp Club, Martin Luther Chapel School gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken. ***B***
Contact: Carol Anne Visalli, 856-562-1389
Email: cavisalli@gmail.com
Website: www.merchantvillestampclub.org

Pennsylvania **November 3**
Annual Reading Stamp Club Show Reading Stamp Club, Leesport Auction Pavilion, 312 Gernant's Church Rd, Leesport. ***B***
Contact: Kent Weaver, 610-779-0175
Email: kewsr78@yahoo.com

California **November 3-4**
SACAPEX 2018 Sacramento Philatelic Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento.
Contact: Joanne Berkowitz, 916-455-3659
Email: joannebe@pacbell.net
Website: www.sacramentophilatelicsociety.org

Michigan **November 3-4**
AAPEX 2018 Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.
Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859
Email: harwin@umich.edu
Website: www.annarborstampclub.org

Pennsylvania **November 3-4**
PITTPEX 2018 Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville.
Contact: Bryan Gross, 412 352-1317
Email: maxaugust@aol.com
Website: www.pittsburghstampclub.org

Texas **November 9-10**
31st Annual Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO Mid-Cities Stamp Club, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine.
Contact: Ralph Poore, 817-235-8472
Email: rspoore@ralph-s-poore.com
Website: www.mid-citiesstampclub.com/stampshow.htm

Ohio **November 10**
Rubber City Stamp Club 99th Annual Stamp Show Rubber City Stamp Club, Akron General Health and Wellness Center, 4125 Medina Rd (Rte. 18 at Crystal Lake Road), Akron.
Contact: Tom Hirschinger, 330-336-8227

Pennsylvania **November 10**
2018 Johnstown Stamp Show Johnstown Stamp Club, St. John Gualbert Activity Center, 110 Adams St., Johnstown.
Contact: Charles D. Holtzman, Jr., 814-532-0199
Email: chazhjr@msn.com

Ohio **November 10-11**
MSDA Fall Cincinnati Area Stamp Show Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Four Points by Sheraton Cincinnati North, 7500

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Tylers Place Boulevard, West Chester. ***B***
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676
Email: jfb7437@aol.com
Website: www.msdastamp.com

Illinois **November 15**
Postal History of World War II in the Pacific Ocean On the Road Course, Prior to CHICAGOPEX- Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd, Itasca. ***APS***
Contact: Ross Jones
Email: education@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses

Illinois **November 16-18**
CHICAGOPEX Chicago Philatelic Society, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca. ***WSP***
Contact: Charles Berg, 773-775-2100
Email: stampkingchicago@hotmail.com
Website: www.chicagopex.org

New York **November 17**
Autumn Stamp Festival Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. ***B***
Contact: George H. Gates, 716-633-8358
Email: gghg53@aol.com

Ohio **November 17**
Black River Stamp Club Annual Show Black River Stamp Club, St. Judes School, 590 Poplar St., Elyria.
Contact: Dennis Sadowski, 440-937-0069
Email: blackriver.stampclub@gmail.com

Illinois **November 24**
SUPEX 2018 Suburban Collector's Club of Chicago, Union of Operating Engineers Hall, 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside. ***B***
Contact: Scott Mitchell, 630-929-5761
Email: scott.mitchell@advocatehealth.com

Connecticut **November 25**
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
Email: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.nhps1914.org

Bangkok, Thailand **November 28-December 3**
Thailand World Stamp ExhibitionFIP World Stamp Exhibition and Congress, Bangkok.
Exhibit Contact: Contact: Commissioner Mr. Sandeep Jaiswal sj722@aol.com
Address: PO Box 8689, Cranston, RI 02920,

Florida **November 30 to December 2**
FLOREX--The Florida State Stamp Show FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Osceola Heritage Park, Events Center, Hall B, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee. ***WSP***
Contact: Francis Ferguson, 407-493-0956-Cell
Email: show@florexstampshow.com
Website: www.florexstampshow.com

Michigan **December 1**
Fernpex 18 Birmingham/Ferndale Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Hall, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn. ***B***
Contact: Fred Como, 586-863-7934
Email: karate1dad@netscape.net

New Jersey **December 1**
MSC Monthly Bourse Merchantville Stamp Club, Martin Luther Chapel School gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken. ***B***
Contact: Carol Anne Visalli, 856-562-1389
Email: cavisalli@gmail.com
Website: www.merchantvillestampclub.org

California **December 1-2**
PENPEX Sequoia Stamp Club, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City.
Contact: Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643
Email: penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com
Website: www.penpex.org

Wisconsin **December 1-2**
MSDA Holiday Milwaukee Stamp Show Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee. ***B***
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676
Email: jfb7437@aol.com
Website: www.msdastamp.com

Illinois **December 8-9**
MSDA Fall Show West Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Holiday Inn Chicago Oak Brook, 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oak Brook Terrace. ***B***
Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676
Email: jfb7437@aol.com
Website: www.msdastamp.com

Connecticut **December 23**
Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B***
Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874
Email: hukeda@comcast.net
Website: www.nhps1914.org

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New Jersey **January 3-5**
Garden State Stamp and Cover Show New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association, The Bethwood, 38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa. ***B***
Contact: Tom Jacks, 908-419-9751
Email: tjacks@verizon.net
Website: www.mountainsidestamps.com

Michigan **January 5-6**
BIRPEX 2019 Birmingham Stamp Club / Ferndale Stamp Club, Birmingham Masonic Temple, 37357 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. ***B***
Contact: Fred Como, 586-863-7934
Email: karate1dad@netscape.net

Louisiana **January 18-19**
NOLAPEX Stamp & Postcard Show Crescent City Stamp Club, Doubletree New Orleans Airport, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner.
Contact: Doug Weisz, 773-914-4332
Email: weiszcovers@yahoo.com
Website: www.ccscno.org

Georgia **January 25-27**
Southeastern Stamp Expo Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross. ***WSP***
Contact: Scott Mark
Email: sestampexpo@gmail.com
Website: www.sefsc.org

South Carolina **February 9-10**
Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show Myrtle Beach Stamp Club, Waccamaw Shoppes At Fantasy Harbor, 2999 Waccamaw Blvd., Myrtle Beach. ***B***
Contact: Donn M. Ebert, 843-347-0087
Email: lilfort@sccoast.net
Website: sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/

Arizona **February 15-17**
AmeriStamp Expo/ARIPEX Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., Building "C", Mesa. ***WSP***
Contact: Kathleen Edwards, 814-933-3803 ext 217
Email: stampshow@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/AmeriStampExpo-ASE

Florida **February 16**
Annual Stamp Show West Volusia Stamp Club, Sons of Italy, 1270 Doyle Rd., Deltona. ***B***
Contact: Mike Daley, 407-417-7818
Email: miked129e@gmail.com
Website: floridacsp.com/wvstamp/

Ohio **February 22-23**
Toledo Stamp Expo 2019 Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland.
Contact: Charles Habilitzel, 419-297-7604
Email: president@toledostampclub.org
Website: www.toledostampclub.org

Nebraska **February 23-24**
LINPEX 2019 Lincoln Stamp Club, Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N. 27th St., Lincoln.
Contact: Dale Niebuhr, 402-423-7108
Email: dale.niebuhr@gmail.com
Website: www.lincolnstampclub.org

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Florida **March 2**
15th Annual Stamp and Coin Show Flagler County Stamp and Coin Club, Elk's Lodge, 47 Old Kings Road North, Palm Coast. ***B***
Contact: David Rosenthal, 386-437-0368
Email: stampandcoin@hotmail.com
Website: www.stampandcoinclub.com

New Jersey **March 2**
Westfield StampShow Westfield Stamp Club, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield.
Contact: Ed Grabowski, 908-233-9318
Email: info@westfieldstampclub.org
Website: www.westfieldstampclub.org

Ohio **March 2-3**
McKinley Stamp Club Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton.
Contact: Dave Pool, 330-832-5992
Email: lincolnway@sssnet.com
Website: mksc.webs.com

California **March 9-10**
Frespex 2019 Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis. ***B***
Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-472-8445
Email: starstamps@thegrid.net

Illinois **March 9-10**
Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo Rockford Stamp Club, Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd., Loves Park.
Contact: Tim Wait, 815-670-5869
Email: t.wait@comcast.net
Website: www.rockfordstampclub.org

Michigan **March 9-10**
Michipex 2019 Michigan Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 West Warren, Dearborn Heights. ***B***
Contact: John Bendzick, 313-277-2298

New York **March 9-10**
BUFPEX 2019 The Buffalo Stamp Club, VFW Hall, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga.
Contact: George Gates, 716-633-8358
Email: gghg53@aol.com

Ohio **March 15-17**
Garfield-Perry March Party Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Holiday Inn Strongsville, 15471 Royalton Road, Strongsville. ***WSP***
Contact: Roger Rhoads
Email: rrrhoads@aol.com
Website: www.garfieldperry.org

Oregon **March 16**
STAMPFEST Greater Eugene Stamp Society, Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, a two-day show in cooperation with Salem Stamp Society on March 17; see website for more information; contact George Struble, 503-364-3929 or gstruble@willamette.edu, St. Jude's Catholic Church, 43rd and Willamette, Eugene.
Contact: Clarin Lewis/ George Struble, 541-461-3574/503-364-3929
Email: clarin44@comcast.net / gstruble@willamette.edu
Website: www.greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com

Oregon **March 17**
STAMPEX Salem Stamp Society, Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition, a two-day show in cooperation with Greater Eugene Stamp Society on March 16; see website for more information., Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem.
Contact: George Struble, 503-364-3929
Email: gstruble@willamette.edu
Website: www.salemstampsociety.org

Illinois **March 22-24**
ASDA Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, Holiday Inn Chicago Oakbrook, 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oakbrook Terrace. ***B***
Contact: Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207
Email: dana@americanstampdealer.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Virginia **March 23-24**
SPRINGPEX 2019 Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd. (VA Rte. 644E), Springfield.
Contact: Gerry Frazier
Email: frazierg@cox.net
Website: www.springfieldstampclub.org

Missouri **March 29-31**
St. Louis Stamp Expo Area Clubs, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. ***WSP***
Contact: Mike Peter
Website: www.stlstampexpo.org

Florida **March 30-31**
TALPEX 2019 Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee. ***B***
Contact: Gerard York, 850-284-4712
Email: gerard_york@msn.com
Website: www.tsandcc.info

Delaware **April 13**
DELPEX 2019 Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy (US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle.
Contact: John Howker, 302-635-7016
Email: johnhowker@aol.com
Website: www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com

Michigan **April 13-14**
Plymouth Show West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. ***WSP***
Contact: Tim Strzalkowski, 313-533-7737
Email: showchair@plymouthshow.com
Website: www.plymouthshow.com

Washington **April 20-21**
Evergreen Stamp Club Spring Stamps Show Evergreen Stamp Club, Kent Commons Recreation Center, 525 4th Ave., N., Kent.
Contact: William Geijsbeek, 425-883-9390
Email: billgphil@gmail.com
Website: www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club

California **April 26-28**
WESTPEX WESTPEX, Inc., San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. ***WSP***
Contact: Edward Jarvis, 415-387-1016
Email: ejarvis@westpex.com
Website: www.westpex.com

Ohio **April 27**
TUSCOPEX 2019 Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park, 161 Tuscora Avenue, NW, New Philadelphia. ***B***
Contact: Jim Shamel, 740-922-4610
Email: jimhelenshamel@hotmail.com

Massachusetts **May 3-5**
Philatelic Show Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs, Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. ***WSP***
Contact: Jeff Shapiro
Email: coverlover@gmail.com
Website: www.nefed.org

Wisconsin **May 4-5**
WISCOPEX 2019 Badger Stamp Club, Radisson Hotel Madison, 200 Viking Dr., Madison.
Contact: Karen Weigt, 608-609-6173
Email: klweigt@gmail.com
Website: www.wfscstamps.org

Pennsylvania **May 10-11**
BUTLERPEX 2019 Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Ave., Lyndora.
Contact: Tom Sivak, 724-287-1931
Email: tomsstamps@zoominternet.net
Website: www.butlercountyphilatelicsociety.com

Oregon **May 10-12**
PIPEX Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, Red Lion Hotel on the River - Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland. ***WSP***
Contact: Mark Loomis, 503-709-6591
Email: mmloomis1@gmail.com
Website: www.pipexstampshow.org

New York **May 17-18**
ROPEX Rochester Phil. Assoc., The Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua. ***WSP***

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Stockholm, Sweden **May 29-June 2**
STOCKHOLMIA2019 Royal Philatelic Society Invitational, Stockholm.
Contact: Royal Philatelic Society, London

New York **May 31-June 2**
ASDA Stamp Show American Stamp Dealers Association, NEW LOCATION: The Watson Hotel, West 57th Street, New York. ***B***
Contact: Dana Guyer, 800-369-8207
Email: dana@americanstampdealer.com
Website: www.americanstampdealer.com

Virginia **June 7-9**
NAPEX National Phil. Exhibitions of Washington D.C., McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean. ***WSP***
Contact: Darrell Ertzberger, 703-548-3366
Email: mteton@aol.com
Website: www.napex.org

Oklahoma **June 28-29**
OKPEX Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City. ***WSP***
Contact: Joe Crosby, 405-749-0939
Email: joecrosby@cox.net
Website: www.okcsc.org

Minnesota **July 19-21**
Minnesota Stamp Expo Twin City Philatelic Society and Various Local Clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis. ***WSP***
Contact: Randy A. Smith, 952-431-3273
Email: rasmary4@frontiernet.net
Website: www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm

Washington **July 20-21**
Evergreen Stamp Club Summer Exhibition Evergreen Stamp Club, Kent Commons Recreation Center, 525 4th Ave., N., Kent.
Contact: William Geijsbeek, 425-883-9390
Email: billgphil@gmail.com
Website: www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club

Missouri **July 26-28**
AMERICOVER 2019 American First Day Cover Society, Renaissance St. Louis Airport, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd, St. Louis. ***WSP***
Contact: Chris Lazaroff
Email: showinfo@afdcs.org
Website: www.afdcs.org/show

Nevada **July 27-28**
Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Nevada Stamp Study Society, National Bowling Stadium Museum, 300 N. Center St., Reno.
Contact: Erik Fields, 775-232-4760
Email: show@renostamp.org
Website: www.renostamp.org

North Carolina **July 27-28**
CHARPEX 2019 Charlotte Philatelic Society, Worrell Bldg, Central Piedmont Community College, 1228 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte.
Contact: Gene Zhiss, 704-553-8110
Email: signup@charpex.info
Website: www.charpex.info/

Nebraska **August 1-4**
APS STAMPSHOW American Philatelic Society, CenturyLink Center, 1001 Farnam Street, Omaha. ***WSP***
Contact: Kathleen Edwards, 814-933-3803 ext 217
Email: stampshow@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/STAMPSHOW-SS

Sarpsborg, Norway **August 23-25**
NORDIA2019 Sarpsborg.

Maryland **August 30-September 1**
BALPEX Baltimore Phil. Soc., Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 E., Hunt Valley. ***WSP***
Contact: Michael Carski, 410-465-5712
Email: vgnrr@hotmail.com
Website: www.balpex.org

Washington **September 13-15**
SEAPEX Seattle Philatelic Exhibition, Tukwila Convention Center, 12424 42nd Ave., S., Tukwila. ***WSP***
Contact: Jack Congrove
Email: seapex@comcast.net
Website: seapexshow.org

Wisconsin **September 19-22**
MILCOPEX Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 South 13th St., Milwaukee. ***WSP***
Contact: Dona Fagan, 262-251-0617
Email: maryann15b@mac.com
Website: www.milcopex.org

Indiana **October 4-6**
INDYPEX Indiana Stamp Club, Hamilton County Fairgrounds and Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville. ***WSP***
Contact: Bob Zeigler, 317-844-5200
Email: indianastampclub.org
Website: www.indianastampclub.org

Washington DC **October 18-19**
Royal Philatelic Society London National Postal Museum and Philaterians, Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington DC. Exhibit Only;
Contact: Cheryl Ganz
Email: cherylganz@yahoo.com

Michigan **November 2-3**
AAPEX 2019 Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris J. Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.
Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859
Email: harwin@umich.edu
Website: www.annarborstampclub.org

California **November 9-10**
Filatelic Fiesta 2019 San Jose Stamp Club, Elks Lodge, 444 W. Alma Ave, San Jose. ***WSP***
Contact: Jessica Rodriguex, 408-656-0623
Email: filatelicfiesta@gmail.com
Website: www.filatelicfiesta.com

Illinois **November 22-24**
CHICAGOPEX Chicago Philatelic Society, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca. ***WSP***
Contact: Charles Berg, 773-775-2100
Email: stampkingchicago@hotmail.com
Website: www.chicagopex.org

Florida **December 6-8**
FLOREX--The Florida State Stamp Show FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Osceola Heritage Park, Events Center, Hall B, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee. ***WSP***
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Every month we'll identify some examples of Online Outposts that can help you connect and collect with the rapidly growing online philatelic community. If you have a suggestion for a future featured Online Outpost please email (mhartzell@stamps.org) or call extension 207.

The online philatelic community has something great for everyone. We find that Instagram is a great place to start and we've been paying particular attention to these accounts:

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No. 9, September 30, 2018

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during September 2018. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to November 30, 2018 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the December 31, 2018 issue.

Aiken, Warwick (229422) **Gastonia, NC** US-ISRAEL; 67; Physician

Andersen-Richey, Kirsten R. (229415) **Riverside, CA;** 59

Arnold, Walter (229398) **Dallas, TX** US-WORLDWIDE; 81; Retired

Arnoult, Phillip (229367) **Baltimore, MD** US AIRMAILS-BRITISH AFRICA-GERMANY-GERMAN 3RD REICH/OCCUPATIONS; 77; Theatre Producer

Asaro, James M. (229391) **Gore, VA** US; 65; Truck Driver

Ayotte, Randy (229420) **Fraser, MI** US DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING; 59

Ball, Daniel (229423) **San Marcos, TX** WORLDWIDE; Retired

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Barrow, Henry C. (229437) **Oak Grove, KY** US, CANCELS, CLASSICS, AIRMAILS, USED-WORLDWIDE USED; 20; Student

Belinsky, Heidi (229413) **Seattle, WA;** Deltiologist

Blair, Jeff (229443) **Washington, IL**

Brown, Jesse (229421) **Sperry, OK** US; 78; Retired

Burns, Owen J. (229361) **Stratford, CT** 1840-1965 WORLDWIDE USED; 67; Retired

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Chapco, Jane (229448) **Saskatchewan, SK**; 39

Christophersen, Karen (229411) **Puyallup, WA** HORSES; 32; Insurance

Crane, Robert L. (229392) **Bellefonte, PA;** 54; Chief Financial Officer

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Kiernan, Gerard (229451) **Gulf Breeze, FL**

Kowalik, Andrew J. (229394) **Cheektowaga, NY** US; 71; Retired

Lamana, Peter (229414) **Hellertown, PA** US, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, FDC, OFFICIAL POST OFFICE SEALS, BUREAU ISSUES, USED; 51; Consultant

Lamorey, Daniel H. (229426) **Williston, VT** BRITISH EMPIRE-WESTERN EUROPE; 70; Retired

Larson, James L. (229410) **Sedro Woolley, WA;** 61

Lassila, Jim (229358) **Virginia, MN** US-FINLAND-WORLDWIDE; 68; Retired

Li, Yingshuang (229449) **Calgary, AB** CHINA-JAPAN-ANIMALS-WORLDWIDE USED

Light, Nicole E. (229412) **Gresham, OR** PHILIPPINES-JAPAN-TOPICAL; 24; Graphic Designer

Lingenfelter, Waneta E. (229427) **Philipsburg, PA** FDI; 76; Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 229086 through 229092 and 229094 through 229200 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership, August 31, 2018		28,340
New Members	114	
Reinstated	59	173
Deceased	18	
Resignations	3	21
Total Membership, September 30, 2018		28,492

(Total Membership, September 30, 2017 was 29,267 a difference of -775)

Matsunaga, Valerie (229364) **Kahului, HI** US, FDC, BOOKLETS/PANES, COMMEMORATIVES, SHEETS/SMALL PANES, COILS; Retired

Maxwell, James P. (229441) **Norwood, MA** US COMMEMORATIVE PANELS, COMMEMORATIVES, PLATE BLOCKS; 81; Retired

May, Sarah K. (229399) **West Hartford, CT** US POSTAL HISTORY-PA POSTAL HISTORY; 72; Retired

McConihe, William (229419) **Walnut Creek, CA** US 20TH CENTURY-UN FORERUNNERS-GERMANY; 59

McKoy, Rondell S. (229368) **Pittsboro, NC** US CLASSICS, CHRISTMAS SEALS, BUREAU ISSUES, ADVERTISING COVERS, AIRMAILS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS; 42

McNeese, John (229409) **Lake Oswego, OR**

Mead, Edward (229432) **Omaha, NE** US; 78; Retired

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Miranda, Mark J. (229428) **Newport, OR** FDC-NEW ISSUES; Retired

Moyer, Matthew (229416) **Riverside, IL** US, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL), POSTAGE DUE; 55

Munro, Robert (229433) **Clemson, SC** US-BRITAIN-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH-CHINA; 70; Law Professor

Murphy, Tom (229370) **Mount Juliet, TN** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, COVERS-CANADA-CANADIAN AIRMAILS; 64

Nagel, Dennis M. (229373) **Flat Rock, NC** US 19TH CENTURY; 78; Retired

Ng, Jim (229406) **Portland, OR** MINT-POSTCARDS; 41; Clerk

Orazi, Anthony (229386) **Spring Valley, CA** US COMMEMORATIVES; 48

Owens, Kenneth G. (229407) **Loon Lake, WA** GERMANY, REVENUES; 66; Retired

Paff, Marc (229444) **Santa Fe, NM** GERMANY-US-NEW ZEALAND; 29; Engineer

Patterson, Lance K. (229400) **Boston, MA** US, PLATE BLOCKS, STATIONERY; 74; Shop Instructor

Peters, Jean F. (229440) **Hollywood, FL** US 19TH CENTURY, AIRMAILS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS; 74

Pettesch, Adam (229362) **Saint Petersburg, FL;** 39; Sales

Pochan, Paul D. (229372) **Maricopa, AZ**

Pompei, John A. (229378) **Bristol, CT** PRE-1980 US; 79; Retired

Poole, Roger (229359) **Spartanburg, SC** 1840-1950 WORLDWIDE & US; 66; Lawyer

Powell, Paul L. (229388) **Burlington, WA** US, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, COMMEMORATIVES, BUREAU ISSUES, AIR MAIL, DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING; 69; Retired

Purdy, Chad (229436) **Webster, MA** US, CIVIL WAR COVERS, BLOCKS/GUIDELINE BLOCKS, MA POSTAL HISTORY, BULLS EYE/SON CANCELS; 40

Richardson, Jeanette B. (229445) **Bedford, VA** US-WORLDWIDE; 75; Retired

Rodriguez, Maria C. (229379) **Fort Worth, TX** PRESIDENTS-EUA-FLAGS; 50

Romano, Russell (229371) **New York, NY** US SHEETS/SMALL PANES; 58

Ross, Christopher J. (229396) **Sanford, ME;** 55

Sauby, Kristen (229403) **Gainesville, FL** AUSTRALASIA-GREAT BRITAIN-BRITISH EMPIRE-SCANDINAVIA; 38

Serriere, Emmanuel G.P. (229385) **Inverness, CA** US USED-FRANCE-FRENCH COLONIES-ROTARY INTERNATIONAL; Retired

Smith, Thomas D. (229434) **Little Egg Harbor, NJ** US NEW ISSUES; 71; Retired

Sontha, Praveen K. (229402) **Simi Valley, CA** US-INDIA, ERROR POSTAL STATIONERY-WORLDWIDE USED-FDC (FOREIGN)-MINIATURE SHEETS; 59; Retired

Spikes, Adam L. (229376) **Kingwood, TX** US COMMEMORATIVES, TX POSTAL HISTORY, LIBERTY SERIES, PHILATELIC/NUMISMATIC COVERS, BUREAU ISSUES-ISRAEL; 39

Stamp Show Here Today, The Podcast (1606-229430) **Las Vegas, NV**

Starr, Theodore (229435) **Saint Petersburg, FL** EARLY US SINGLES; 65; Retired

Stimmel, Eric (229374) **Yardley, PA**

Strusinski, Bill (229442) **Saint Paul, MN;** 71

Stumbo, Benny J. (229363) **Brooklyn, NY** US COMMEMORATIVES, AIRMAILS, YEAR SETS; 66; Retired

Susai, Michel (229397) **San Jose, CA** INDIA-INDIAN STATES-BRITISH COLONIES-GREAT BRITAIN-ITALY-BRITISH EMPIRE; CEO

Tighe, James H. (229395) **Missoula, MT** BAHAMAS-BARBADOS-ANTARCTIC TERRITORIES-IRELAND-SAUDI ARABIA-VATICAN CITY

Timbrell, Jay (229438) **Tuolumne, CA;** 72

Torti, David (229439) **Windsor, ON**

Varga, Geneva (J-229446) **North Bend, OR** BIRDS-ANIMALS-LUNAR NEW YEAR-INSECTS-CHINA-FUNGI-GEOLOGY; 16; Student

Vosburg, N. E. (229380) **Reno, NV** PRE-1975 US; Retired

Welty, Richard P. (229390) **Averill Park, NY** US COMMEMORATIVES, DEFINITIVES, POSTAL STATIONERY-AUSTRIA-GERMANY-SWITZERLAND; 59; Software Engineer

West, Cynthia (229405) **Westwood, MA** US DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES, FDC, 19TH CENTURY-CANADA, POSTAL HISTORY

Woodard, Orland (229389) **Denton, TX** US DUCK/HUNTING/FISHING, AIRMAILS, ERRORS/FREAKS/ODDITIES-GOLF-SHIPS/BOATS; 51

Woods, Margaret M. (229429) **Matthews, NC**

Yoder, Paul E. (229453) **Spartanburg, SC** STAMP ANNIVERSARIES-SOS; 86; Retired

Zerby, Jack G. (229365) **Hanover, PA** PRE-1939 US; Retired

DECEASED

Blizzard, C. Robert (199259), Clearwater, FL

Cade, Charles (218174), Sparta, WI

Campbell, Robert M. (076311), Sunnyvale, CA

Clark, David (154292), Simpsonville, SC

Emrick, Michael, E. (136411), Nashville, TN

Greco, Alfred (106461), Macedon, NY

Healy, Victor (207560), Arlington Heights, IL

Kimber, Lucia, B. (167604), Fairfield, CT

Larson, John, L. (104998), Champaign, IL

Litle, William, A. (8462-056566), Garden Grove, CA

Moss, Robert, A. (129501), Metuchen, NJ

Philips, John, R. (11479-039183), Springfield, IL

Rodgers, Gary L. (10768-061671), Parker, CO

Suneson, Richard, E. (5068-152803), Belleview, FL

Wahr, Dwight, A. (125831), Hingham, MA

Watkins, James, C. (8225-058492), Stockton, CA

Woods, C. Wayne (086713), Matthews, NC

Woodhouse, Charles (218462), Grassy Creek, KY

DEALER LISTING

The following has been approved for classification as part-time (P) stamp dealer according to qualifications established by the Board of Vice Presidents.

Ray Dittenhoefer (227153-P), 3330 Kurtz St., San Diego, CA 92110, (619) 692-9663, rharriscompany@gmail.com.

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BY FRED BAUMANN

A Cornucopia of New Fall Issues

Blooming Poinsettias, Music Legends and Iconic Toys Are Just Part of the Story.

The U.S. Postal Service kicks off the latter part of the year with a host of new stamp issues. This month we cover a late August arrival and a full schedule of September releases.



Betsy Pettet took the photo from above of the Blooming Poinsettia on this year's circular Global rate stamp. Greg Breeding designed the stamp, and William J. Gicker was the art designer.

Blooming Poinsettias Now Blossoming Nationwide

On August 26, a new Global Blooming Poinsettia Forever stamp, Scott 5311, was released nationwide to brighten the last quarter of 2018 for seasonal international mailers and businesses. Issued in self-adhesive panes of 10, the stamps are available now at post offices, the USPS Postal Store at usps.com/shop and by calling 800-STAMP-24 (800-782-6724).

As with all Global Forever stamps, this one has postal value at the time of use equivalent to the price of the First-Class Mail International 1-ounce machineable letter (currently $1.15). Although most commonly used to mail letters abroad, these colorful stamps also can be used on domestic mail.

Unveiled by the Postal Service on July 24, the stamp art features a photo of a poinsettia taken from above to capture the beauty of the green leaves, red bracts, and yellow flowers in the center of the plant. Poinsettias are as much a part of the holidays as evergreens and mistletoe, with tens of millions sold during the season.

The art director for this stamp was William J. Gicker. Greg Breeding designed the stamp with an existing photograph by Betsy Pettet.

Poinsettias first blossomed on U.S. postage 54 years ago, with a 5-cent green, carmine and black Christmas stamp in 1964 (Scott 1256). Since then, they have been showcased on a horizontally formatted Season's Greetings stamp in 1985 (Scott 2166), and on a host of Forever-rate (46-cent) booklet stamps released October 10-11, 2013 (Scott 4815-16, 4821).



First seen on Christmas stamps in 1964, Poinsettias brightened this 22c "Season's Greetings" stamp issued in 1985, Scott 2166. ***Image courtesy of StampStore.org***

A domestic Forever rate (49c) Poinsettia No. 10 stamped envelope was issued in 2014, Scott U684, with a stylized poinsettia seal on the backflap.

The 2018 Global Forever stamp is the third distinctive circular stamp with a holiday theme. The first was the 2013 Global Rate ($1.10) Holiday Wreath stamp, Scott 4814, and the 2014 Global Rate ($1.15) Silver Bells Wreath stamp shown nearby, Scott 4936. Customers have 120 days to obtain first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail. They must affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes to themselves or others



Earlier holiday-themed Global Forever rate stamps include the 2013 Global Rate ($1.10) Holiday Wreath stamp, Scott 4814, and the 2014 Global Rate ($1.15) Silver Bells Wreath stamp shown above, Scott 4936. ***Image courtesy of StampStore.org***

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After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for postmarks up to a quantity of 50. For more than 50, customers are charged 5 cents each. All orders must be postmarked by December 26, 2018.

John Lennon Honored with Eighth Music Icon Stamp

On September 7, singer, songwriter and activist John Lennon was honored with the first new USPS Music Icons stamp since 2016, featured during a first-day ceremony in New York City presided over by Postmaster General and Postal Service CEO Megan J. Brennan. Yoko Ono and their son Sean took part in the event along with NYC music and media personalities. No autographing of ceremony programs took place at the ceremony, according to the USPS.

The John Lennon Music Icon Forever stamp features a photo of Lennon taken by noted rock 'n' roll photographer Bob Gruen in August 1974 on the rooftop of Lennon's Manhattan apartment, part of a series taken during a photo session for Lennon's 1974 album *Walls and Bridges*. On the new stamps, the original black-and-white image "has been treated in gradations of color to create the artwork for this stamp."

An inscription in block caps at the top of the pane of 16 self-adhesive Forever stamps reads: "JOHN LENNON / The creative genius behind songs like All You Need Is Love, Strawberry Fields Forever, Imagine and Jealous Guy, John Lennon (1940-1980) was one of the first rock musicians to sing about not only humanitarian causes but also his own deeply felt experiences and insecurities. Still an anchor of Pop radio, Lennon's music remains beloved around the world, continuing to speak for truth, peace and tolerance."



This vertical strip of four digitally cropped from the 16-stamp pane shows the four color varieties of the John Lennon Forever stamps.

Designed to resemble a vintage 45-rpm record sleeve, the back of the stamp pane features a black-and-white photograph of Lennon seated at his white piano, along with Lennon's signature and the Music Icons series logo. Taken by photographer Peter Fordham, the original photograph was used to promote Lennon's landmark 1971 solo album, *Imagine*. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp sheet with designer/typographer Neal Ashby.

In its first-day-of-issue press release, the Postal Service stated that Lennon was "…a rock and pop music icon … world renowned as a founding member of the Beatles and a successful solo artist. The Beatles still hold records for a string of hits released from 1962-1970… Lennon's last studio album was released in 1980. Lennon was posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987 and twice inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: as a member of the Beatles in 1988 and as a solo artist in 1994."

Postmaster General and CEO Megan J. Brennan welcomed Lennon family members, photographer Bob Gruen and other guests at the stamp dedication at the Naumberg Bandshell in Central Park. "It's a privilege to commemorate the life of John Lennon – one of the most celebrated musicians and iconic personalities of the 20th century," said Brennan. "The world was influenced by John Lennon's music and his commitment to the ideals of peace and unity. We continue to be inspired by his memory."

A very brief Associated Press video of first-day ceremony highlights is available for viewing on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypa3zhTFjKg

Previous square-shaped "Forever" stamps in the Postal Service's six-year-old Music Icons series celebrated Lydia Mendoza (Scott 4786), Johnny Cash (4789) and Ray Charles 4807) in


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John Lennon is the first individual member of the Beatles to be honored on a U.S. stamp, although the group was saluted in 1999 with this 33c Yellow Submarine-themed stamp in the 1960s Celebrate the Century sheet, Scott 3188o. *Image courtesy APS StampStore.*

2013; Jimi Hendrix (4880) and Janis Joplin (4916) in 2014; Elvis Presley (5009) in 2015; and Sarah Vaughn (5059) in 2016.

Capitalizing on the current interest in Lennon's life and music, the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., has placed John Lennon's childhood stamp album with handwritten notes on display until February 3, 2019. As a child, Lennon was encouraged by his cousin to collect stamps. The young Lennon also displayed a precocious talent for cartoons and drawings. His art and childhood stamp collection have since been exhibited around the world, and can be viewed on online at postalmuseum.si.edu/lennon.

Customers have until January 7, 2019, to obtain the John Lennon first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. After they purchase the stamps, they must affix them to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope stamped with sufficient postage to mail them to the following sddress:



The approved Postal Service art for the John Lennon first-day pictorial postmark includes a 1960s-era Peace Sign and a 45 rpm single phonographic record.

FDOI – John Lennon Stamps
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to a quantity of 50. There is a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark over 50. Customers may register to receive a free USA Philatelic publication online at usps.com/philatelic.





First Responders Forever Stamps Answer the Call

Firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical service professionals were recognized September 13 by the U.S. Postal Service at a special first-day-of issue ceremony for the Honoring First Responders Forever stamp.



A fireman with his flashlight, a paramedic with her bag, a fireman with his axe, bravely head forward into the unknown on this Forever (50c) stamp Honoring First Responders issued September 13.

"Our nation's first responders rush into life-threatening situations for the benefit of others," said Guy Cottrell, the Postal Inspection Service's Chief Postal Inspector and dedicating official. "The Postal Service is pleased to honor their skill, dedication and unfailing bravery with this stamp."

The ceremony was held at the Aerial Fire Depot and Smokejumper Center in Missoula, Montana, home to the nation's largest training center for firefighters who parachute into remote areas of national forests to combat wildfires. A video of the first-day ceremony is available on the USPS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USPS/videos/264641171048711/

Artist Brian Stauffer worked with art director and designer Antonio Alcalá and designer Ricky Altizer to create this stamp. According to the USPS, "As a contributing artist to … publications worldwide, Stauffer's illustrations are best known for bridging traditional and digital realms to create a conceptual take on social issues."

The digital illustration on this stamp is a symbolic scene that shows three first responders in profile, facing right, as they race into action. From left to right, the first figure is a firefighter carrying an axe. The second figure is an EMS worker, with the EMS Star of Life visible on her cap, upper arm and emergency bag. The third figure is a law-enforcement officer shining a flashlight toward unknown danger ahead.

The dark background and signs of smoke in and around the figures suggest the wide range of perilous situations that demand the attention of first responders. That darkness, not unlike that of the situations in which first responders often find themselves, emphasizes the courage it takes to enter a burning house, an overturned vehicle, or an obscure crime scene to help those in need.

These are not the first U.S. stamps to salute those who serve when tragedy strikes. One of at least seven U.S. commemoratives to hail American nurses and the Red Cross, a 1931 2-cent stamp, Scott 702, may have been the first, with its allegorical nurse popularly known as "the



At least seven U.S. commemoratives have celebrated nursing and the Red Cross, beginning with this 1931 2-cent stamp dubbed "The Greatest Mother," Scott 702.



No event focused public attention on the valor and sacrifice of first responders than the New York World Trade Center attacks that took the lives of 412 firemen, police and EMTs. They were honored in 2002 with this 2001 Heroes semipostal stamp, Scott B2.

Greatest Mother" (and aren't mothers true first responders, who most children call to for help?) But the term "first responder" entered the national vocabulary as never before following the 2001 World Trade Center attacks in New York City, which took the lives of 412 firemen, police and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Their sacrifice was memorialized the following year with Heroes of 2001 semipostal stamps, Scott B2. From the sale price of 45-cents each, 11 cents went to the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Other stamps celebrate firemen, policemen and EMTs, but it can be easy to forget the stamps that portray the distinctive vehicles they use, including the red "Fire Engine 1900s" on the 20.5-cent Transportation coil stamp of 1988, Scott 2264. Other apt Transportation coils include the 1981 20c Fire Pumper 1860s (Scott 1908), 1985 8.3c Ambulance 1860s (Scott 2128) and the 1988 13c black Patrol Wagon 1880s (Scott 2258).



Firemen, police and medical specialists appear on a number of U.S. stamps, as do their distinctive vehicles, including the red "Fire Engine 1900s" on this precanceled 20.5-cent Transportation coil stamp of 1988, Scott 2264.

Customers have until January 13, 2019, to obtain the Honoring First Responders first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase the new stamps and affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope with adequate mint U.S. postage addressed to:

FDOI – Honoring First Responders Stamp
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to a quantity of 50, but there is a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark thereafter.

Social media enthusiasts are encouraged to use #HonoringFirstResponders and #FirstRespondersStamps when sharing news about the new stamp.

Separate Issues Honor Heroes Together

Hometown Heroes Front & Center on Emergency Responder Issues

BY FRED BAUMANN



A fireman, a paramedic and a fireman bravely head into the unknown on this U.S. Forever (50c) stamp Honoring First Responders issued September 13.

Let's start with a fact: the U.S. Postal Service's Honoring First Responders Forever stamp issued September 13 and the set of five Canada Post Emergency Responders stamp released across that country September 10-14 are not and never were intended as a joint issue. Their release during the same week was coincidental.

With that out of the way, simultaneous stamps on similar subjects inevitably invite comparison. This is especially true when they were released on both sides of the world's longest undefended border, by peoples who mostly speak the same language and share similar attitudes on many subjects. Among those subjects is the high esteem Americans and Canadians have for fellow citizens who get up and go in harm's way to help neighbors and communities in times of trouble.

The U.S. stamp is covered on this page. Its northern counterparts – five stamps in all – were issued one per day Monday through Friday at different locations across Canada, from Nova Scotia to Ottawa to western Alberta.

The advantage in this promotional plan wasn't merely to sell more stamps.

When there was a ceremony September 11 at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec, it saluted troops for their vital work the previous year in flood control when rising waters threatened the Gatineau region of Quebec on the Ottawa River. That's why the stamp issued there shows a black-and-white image of a female trooper with beret and binoculars in the foreground, while Army personnel in the background pile sandbags, rescue sodden survivors using



Canadian Armed Forces pictured on one of five Emergency Responders stamps can deploy members and assets from the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy to meet fire, flood or blizzard.



This Canadian Emergency Responders stamp for paramedics shows a detailed image of a female paramedic in the foreground while another pair assists a victim of a medical emergency with an ambulance and a helicopter nearby.



To save lives, search and rescue experts as seen on this Emergency Responders stamp often face many unusually dangerous conditions such as avalanches, steep mountains, foul weather or high seas.



As Emergency Responders, firefighters do much more than douse blazes and save folks from burning buildings, providing medical services, performing difficult rescues and more.



Canada's final Emergency Responders stamp honors police as highly skilled responders who assist when a crime takes place, but also help during accidents and disasters.



In addition to self-adhesive stamps in booklets of 10, Canada's Emergency Responders stamps are available in perforated five-stamp sheets with moisture-activated gum.

a rubber raft, and truck in needed supplies in a large military vehicle.

Each of the five Canadian stamps honored a different emergency responder: paramedics on Monday at Ambulance New Brunswick headquarters in the provincial capital of Fredericton; Canadian Forces on Tuesday; search & rescue experts Wednesday at beautiful Banff in the heart of the Alberta Rockies, a center for Parks Canada's Mountain Safety Program; firefighters Thursday in Halifax at "Canada's oldest firefighting department, established in 1754;" and police on Friday "at the Ottawa Police Association in the nation's capital, home to the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial."

Because they were relevant, and unveiled a new stamp each day, these events were well-covered by the media. The 10-stamp bookets and five-stamp sheetlet with all five designs were not unveiled and placed on sale until the final day of the event – to sustain public interest. Why, it even may have encouraged a few fresh stamp collectors to come out.

As Canada Post put it, "The stamps express the respect and gratitude Canadians have for professional and volunteer emergency responders. As a group, with their skills, and by their sacrifices, they find and rescue the lost; treat

and save the seriously ill and injured; and protect us, our homes, businesses, and communities."

The entire week-long odyssey was designed to say "thank you," and Canada Post had done its homework, too. Thus the text at the foot of the five-stamp sheet offers "Special thanks to the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the Paramedic Association of Canada, the Canadian Police Association and Parks Canada for their expertise."

"You're welcome," say Canada's 170,000 volunteer and professional firefighters, 88,000 regular and reserve Canadian Armed Forces personnel, 60,000 police, 20,000 paramedics, and the uncounted search-and-rescue experts and volunteers who respond whenever someone is in peril.

The U.S. stamp shows a stylized threesome of first responders – a red fireman with his axe, white paramedic with her medical kit, blue policeman with his flashlight. Their faces have no detail, although you can tell their role of each by the uniforms and symbols. They have little if any human identity, but I suppose the stamp does suggest the undeniable importance of teamwork to the difficult jobs they do. No single man or woman can do these jobs alone.

The Canadian stamps share the same reality, but take a different approach. Each stamp shows a situation of urgent emergency, with lives on the line. On the five stamps, a total of 25 responders are represented (assuming that fire trucks and helicopters have a minimum of one responder each). But each of the five stamps focuses on the details of one individual in the foreground, rendered in black and white.

I like that touch, reminding us that these are not automatons serving the state, but flesh-and-blood men and women with mortgages to pay, dentists to visit, children to rear and hopes of coming home safe at the end of a day whose challenges they can't even guess at in advance. I respect that more that the Mod Squad-style portrait on the U.S. stamp..



It's not fair to compare a self-adhesive domestic letter-rate issue with one stamp to an issue with five of them, and a pane of five moisture-activated stamps to boot. On the other hand, the 60 million U.S. stamps will be far more numerous than the 80,000 of each self-adhesive and moisture-activated stamps that Canada Post has produced.

But what do you think about these issues?



Birds of Winter Bring Color to a Chilly Season

They are here all year long, but as veteran birdwatchers know, it is mid-winter, when the boughs are bare, the leaves have left and silent snow makes color stand out, that the song and the sight of birds is a particular delight. With that in mind, the U.S. Postal Service celebrates these charming creatures on its new Birds in Winter Forever stamps. A block of four and the front of a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps are shown nearby.

Stylized yet touching, the stamps feature four welcome winter visitors: the black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus); the northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis); the blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata); and the red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus).

According to a USPS Press Release, "The somber feeling of winter, evoked by the stark white backgrounds, is enlivened by the bold colors of the birds' plumage in the simplified shapes of the digital rendering." An earlier release July 26 stated "A limited palette and simplified shapes give the art a bold, fresh look."

Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamps with original artwork by Nadia Taylor.



The clean, stylized, look of the Birds of Winter has some similarities to the stamps in this Coastal Birds postcard-rate (35c) block of four, Scott 4994a, issued in 2015.

The 2018 Birds in Winter stamps are being issued as Forever stamps in self-adhesive double-sided booklets of 20. Forever stamps pay the basic one-ounce first class mail rate, currently 50 cents.

It's also possible the USPS is hoping to please postal patrons as it did two years ago with its Songbirds in Snow Forever (47c) stamps, Scott 5126-29, another self-adhesive double-sided 20-stamp booklet. The front of the booklet is



The front of a double-sided self-adhesive Birds of Winter Forever booklet of 20

shown below, with representational stamps designed by Derry Noyes depicting golden-crowned kinglets, a male cedar waxwing, a male northern cardinal and red-breasted nuthatches.

The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony for the stamps took place September 22 at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, Vermont, where the colorful quartet was dedicated by U.S. Postal Service Pricing and Costing Vice President Sharon D. Owens, as reported September 24 on the American Philatelic Society blog (blog.stamps.org).

"It's easy to see why Birds in Winter will be enjoyed by the American public," said Owens. "These stamps are a beautiful representation of the resourceful and resilient birds we see flying about woodland areas all winter long."

These 2018 stamps seem to draw a great deal from other recent U.S.stamps picturing birds. The Birds of Winter are more muted in color but perhaps slightly less cartoonish than the Coastal Birds postcard-rate (35c) sheet and coil stamps, Scott 4991-4998, issued June 1, 2015, a block of four of which is shown on the previous page.



How long have Americans enjoyed feathered fixtures on U.S. stamps? The most frequently depicted bird, the bald eagle, first spread its wings on this 10-cent yellow Eagle & Shield design, one of the 1869 Pictorials issued 149 years ago.

Customers have until January 22, 2019, to obtain Birds of Winter first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail. They may purchase and affix the new stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope with the required postage addressed to:

FDOI – Birds in Winter Stamps
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the FDCs through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to 50, and a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark.



The 2016 Songbirds in Snow Forever stamps, Scott 5126-29, another self-adhesive double-sided 20-stamp booklet issue, proved popular with collectors and users, with representational images of golden-crowned kinglets, a male cedar waxwing and northern cardinal and red-breasted nuthatches.

Make V-ROOOOM! for New Hot Wheels Stamps

A half-century ago in 1968, a Mattel toy innovator, a General Motors car designer and a rocket scientist combined to custom-create fast and furious fantasy cars that became famous as Hot Wheels. Their purpose: "To create a toy car that was cooler and performed better than anything on the market." To mark the 50th anniversary of their creations, the U.S. Postal Service has unleashed 20 Forever stamps showcasing some of the most outrageous Hot Wheels cars for fans and racers of all ages.

Mattel soon introduced the iconic orange tracks seen in miniature on the stamps, which gave kids endless new ways to test stunts and racing skills, and exhaust the patience of babysitters and adults everywhere. Since their inception a half-century ago, Mattel has produced thousands of dif-



A full pane of 20 of the new Hot Wheels 50th Anniversary stamps, with two copies each of the 10 different designs.

ferent varieties of Hot Wheels, which were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in 2011. Today, children and their parents still love racing these speedy, snazzy miniature cars.

Shown above is a self-adhesive pane of the 20 stamps in staggered diagonal rows showcasing photographer Len Rizzi's images of 10 Hot Wheels cars — two of each design — speeding along their familiar bright orange track. Each shows the name of the vehicle, "USA" and "Forever," with the Hot Wheels logo in the top-right corner of the pane, and the 50th anniversary logo on the back of the pane.

The Hot Wheels depicted are described as follows:

"The aptly named Purple Passion (1990), a super sleek metallic purple and green model. The car remains a favorite of collectors.

"Equipped with a roof-mounted rocket, the Rocket-Bye-Baby (1971) is one of the most aggressive racers in Hot Wheels history.

"Perfect for Halloween, the spooky Rigor Motor (1994) is a coffin-shaped hot rod that is powered by a huge engine adorned with two skulls.

"A spectacularly powerful version of a classic muscle car, the Rodger Dodger (1974) has a giant engine bursting out of its hood.

"With a twin turbo V6 hybrid engine and wide front air intakes built to look like a predatory fish, the Mach Speeder (2018) is a true 21st-century racer.

"The Twin Mill (1969) is one of the most iconic Hot Wheels cars of all-time. The speed machine features dual big-block engines.

"The distinctive Bone Shaker (2006) is a hot rod with a fierce-looking skull for a grille. The car has a massive short-block engine made to rattle your bones.

"The HW40 (2008), a car introduced to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Hot Wheels, features a jet turbine engine. The space-age vehicle features a futuristic glass hood.

"The original surfboard-toting Deora (1968) was included in the first Hot Wheels line. The souped up Deora II, showcased on the stamp, came out in 2000.

"The Sharkruiser (1987) is a carnivore on wheels. The completely unique design features fins, a tail, a sharp-toothed grille, and a roaring V8 engine."

Greg Breeding designed the stamps and was the typographer, and Wil-

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Earlier U.S. stamps with earlier not-quite-so-Hot Wheels: a block of four 1970 6-cent Wheeled Christmas Toys (Scott 1814b), a plate block of four of 1992 29c Victorian Wheeled Christmas Toys (Scott 2714a, photo courtesy of APS StampStore.org) and a "First-Class" (37c) Toy Taxicab booklet stamp, one of four Wheeled Toy stamps released in 2002 (Scott 3626-29).

liam J. Gicker was the project's art director. The Hot Wheels stamps were released at a first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony Saturday, September 29, at the Goodguys 26th Summit Racing Lone Star Nationals at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas. To watch the first day ceremony, visit the U.S. Postal Service Facebook page.

Although images of 10-stamp multiples containing one of each of the Hot Wheels stamps have been widely circulated, the USPS has announced that "the Hot Wheels pane of 20 stamps may not be split and the stamps may not be sold individually."

Customers have until January 29, 2019, to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. To do so, purchase and affix the stamps to envelopes of your choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed with adequate postage to:

FDOI – Hot Wheels Stamps
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the up to 50 postmarked covers, but there is a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark over 50.

Hot Wheels are colorful, entertaining and affordable, although – as with stamps – the most elusive early models in impeccable condition can sell for prices up to six figures. However, wheeled toys are among the oldest known to man. The earliest four-wheeled miniature vehicle, recently excavated in the southeastern province of Mardin, Turkey, dates back about 7,500 years.

Wheeled toys are nothing new on U.S. stamps, either. Shown at the top of this page are a number of these, including a plate block of four of the 1992 29c Victorian Wheeled Christmas Toys (Sc 2714a, photo courtesy of APS StampStore.org), and a 2002 "First-Class" (37c) Toy Taxicab booklet stamp, one of four Wheeled Toys (Scott 3626-29).

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Kathleen Wunderly revisits the role of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania in the second edition of her popular air mail retrospective. Explore the story of a small town's contributions during the period when the government operated the air mail, 1918-1927. Experience history through the tales of daredevil pilots and accounts from contemporary newspapers.

Available exclusively at: www.stamps.org/publications.



GLOBAL FOREVER ($1.15) BLOOMING POINSETTIA STAMP

USPS Item Number: 565900
Format: Pane of 10
Issue Date & City: August 26, 2018, Kansas City, MO 64108
Art Director: William J. Gicker
Designer & Typographer: Greg Breeding
Existing Photo: Betsy Pettet
Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Microprinter: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, NC
Press Type: Alprinta 74
Print Quantity: 100,000,000 stamps
Paper Type: Phosphor, Block Tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive
Processed at: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, NC
Colors: 186 Red, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Orientation: Circular
Stamp Sizes: Image Area: 1.2 inches by 1.2 inches / 30.48 millimeters by 30.48 mm; Overall Size: 1.414 inches by 1.414 inches / 35.916mm by 35.916mm; Full Pane Size (w x h): 8.4 inches by 4.041 inches / 213.36mm by 102.641mm
Plate Numbers: "B" followed by five (5) single digits
Marginal Markings: Front: Header Plate number in four corners of pane. Back: ©2018 USPS • USPS logo • Barcode on each stamp (565900) • Plate Position Diagram • Promotional text



JOHN LENNON FOREVER MUSIC ICON STAMP

USPS Item Number: 565400
Format: pane of 16 (four designs); 96 stamps per revolution
Issue Date & City: September 7, 2018, New York City, NY 10199
Art Director: Antonio Alcala, Alexandria, Virginia
Designer & Typographer: Neal Ashby, Alexandria, Virginia
Existing Photos: Bob Gruen (Forever [50-cent] stamp); Peter Fordham (back of stamp pane)
Modeler: Sandra Lane / Michelle Finn
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer & Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Brown's Summit, North Carolina
Press Type: Alprinta 74
Print Quantity: 40 million
Paper Type: Phosphor, Block Tagged
Adhesive Type: Pressure sensitive
Colors: Cool Gray 7, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Sizes: 1.085 inches by 1.085 inches / 27.559 millimeters by 27.559mm (image area); 1.225 inches by 1.225 inches / 31.115mm by 31.115mm (overall size); 7 inches by 7 inches / 177.8mm by 177.8mm (full pane size)
Plate Numbers: None
Marginal Markings Front - © 2017 USPS / USPS logo /proprietary text / Barcode (565400) in lower right corner of pane / promotional text / brief biography. Back – photograph / "John Lennon" / Music Icons logo



HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS FOREVER STAMP

USPS Item Number: 478100
Format: pane of 20; 240 stamps per revolution
Issue Date & City: September 13, 2018, Missoula, MT 59801
Art Director, Designer & Typographer: Antonio Alcala, Alexandria, Virginia
Designer: Ricky Altizer
Artist: Brian Stauffer, Novato, California
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran
Manufacturing Process: Offset with Microprint
Printer & Processor: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU), Williamsville, New York
Press Type: Muller A76
Print Quantity: 60 million
Paper Type: Nonphosphored Typr III, Block Tagged
Adhesive Type: Pressure sensitive
Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Sizes: 1.42 inches by 0.84 inches / 36.068 millimeters by 21.336mm (image area); 1.56 inches by 0.98 inches / 39.624mm by 24.892mm (overall size); 7.24 inches by 5.92 inches / 183.896mm by 150.368mm (full pane size)
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four digits
Marginal Markings: Front – Plate numbers in four corners of pane. Back - © 2018 USPS / USPS logo / 2 barcodes (478100) / plate position diagram / promotional text

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BIRDS OF WINTER FOREVER STAMPS BOOKLET

USPS Item Number: 681900
Format: booklet of 20 (four designs); 800 stamps per revolution
Issue Date & City: September 22, 2018, Quechee, VT 05059
Art Director, Designer & Typographer: Antonio Alcala, Alexandria, Virginia
Designer: Ricky Altizer
Artist: Nadia Taylor, London
Modeler: Sandra Lane / Michelle Finn
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer & Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, NC
Press Type: Alprinta 74
Print Quantity: 400 million
Paper Type: Phosphor-Tagged Paper, Block Tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure sensitive
Colors: Cool Gray 7, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Sizes: 0.77 inches by 1.05 inches / 19.558 millimeters by 26.67mm (image area) 0.91 inches by 1.19 inches / 23.114mm by 30.226 mm (stamp size) 7 5.743 inches by 2.375 inches / 145.872mm by 60.325 mm (full booklet size)
Plate Numbers: "B" followed by five digits
Marginal Markings: Header: "Birds in Winter Chickadee, Cardinal, Blue Jay, & Woodpecker" 20 First-Class Forever Stamps • USPS logo • Barcode • Plate number in peel strip area • ©2017 USPS in peel strip area • Promotional text in peel strip area



HOT WHEELS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOREVER STAMPS

USPS Item Number: 569000
Format: booklet of 20 (10 designs); 160 stamps per revolution
Issue Date & City: September 29, 2018, Fort Worth, TX 76161
Art Director: William J. Gicker, Washington, DC
Designer & Typographer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, VA
Photographer: Len Rizzi, Bethesda, MD
Modeler: Sandra Lane / Michelle Finn
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer & Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, NC
Press Type: Alprinta 74
Print Quantity: 100 million
Paper Type: Phosphor, Block Tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure sensitive
Colors: Pantone Orange 021, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black
Stamp Sizes: 1.42 inches by 0.84 inches / 36.068 millimeters by 21.336 mm (image area) 1.56 inches by 0.98 inches / 39.624 mm by 24.892 mm (overall size) 9.125 inches by 6.435 inches / 231.775 mm by 163.449 mm (full pane size)
Plate Numbers: "B" followed by five digits
Marginal Markings: Front: Header: Hot Wheels logo • Plate number in bottom two corners of pane. Back: ©2018 USPS • USPS logo • Hot Wheels 50 year logo • 2 barcodes (569000) • Plate position diagram • Promotional text area • ©2017 USPS in peel strip area • Promotional text in peel strip area

NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at new stamps issued in different countries around the world.



FRANCE

ABOUT MICKEY MOUSE – 90 YEARS OF ENTHUSIASM

Combining elements of Piet Mondrian and those little plastic keychain puzzles where you can only move one square at a time to complete the picture comes a portrait of Mickey Mouse as you have never seen him before. Issued September 6, France's 2018 Youth Series stamp was designed by Felix Sikora, an ECV school student and participant in the "Mickey Is Art" contest, organized by Disney for the 90th anniversary of the world-famous cartoon rodent, with the theme of "Mickey, 90 Years of Enthusiasm."



CANADA

ANIMALS IN THE CLOUDS

On September 24 Canada Post issued its annual Community Foundation fundraising semipostal, a special 10-stamp booklet that sells for an extra dollar that "goes directly to support Canadian children and youth..." Designer Matthew Warburton says "This design recreates that feeling of freedom, wonderment and joy [of] a child sitting on a grassy, flower-speckled hilltop, looking up at the sky and seeing animal shapes in the fluffy clouds." The stamp was illustrated by Julie Morstad, one of Canada's top children's books illustrators.



NEW ZEALAND

THE ICONIC ART OF "MAUI AND THE FISH"

Released unknown to us back on June 6, these stamps from New Zealand Post are older than we generally prefer to feature here, but their imagery and artwork are so striking that we're making an exception, one we hope you may enjoy. "Maui and the Fish" is a thrilling tale known throughout Polynesia of how the mischievous and curious demigod Maui fished up the North Island of Aotearoa (New Zealand). Told in six stamps, (in Polynesian and English at a New Zealand Post webpage), it tells how Maui sneaked onto his big brothers' boat in the teeth of an impending storm and eventually did battle with a colossal fish, subduing it in the end. As he pulled in his catch at last, it hardened into the islands of New Zealand. Several of the stamps are shown here; the set of six and a souvenir sheet are available from New Zealand Post.

HUNGARY

DINOSAURS ALONG THE DANUBE

On September 3, Magyar Posta issued a six-stamp miniature sheet that takes us back to the Late Cretaceous epoch in northwestern Hungary. The sheet brings to life the habitat and a few of the dinosaurs and ancient reptiles of that era, including Ajkaceratops kozmai, a four-legged plant eater and three birdlike turkey-sized Pneumatoraptor fodori that probably hunted in packs. Soaring overhead are a pair of Bakonydraco galaczi, "the dragon of the Bakony" — omnivorous flying reptiles with a 13-foot wingspan. A few more of their toothy Cretaceous chums lurk in the Blue Danube undergrowth below, equally eager to take you back in time, and hoping you'll stay!





UNITED KINGDOM

HARRY POTTER & PALS ARE BACK FOR A SPELL

In late September Royal Mail announced a set of 15 "Special Stamps…to celebrate the series of eight Harry Potter films" released 2001-11 would be issued October 16. Shown here are stamps from a se-tenant strip of five, including wand-wielding portraits of key characters Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. Ginny Weasley and Neville Longbottom and their wands appear on two other stamps, and other stamps show the Triwizard Cup and "iconic modes of transport from the films: the Hogwarts Express; Hagrid's enchanted motorbike; the flying Ford Anglia and the Knight Bus." Five more stamps in a separate sheet portray Hogwarts professors Pomona Sprout, Remus Lupin, Horace Slughorn, Sybill Trelawney and Severus Snape set against a background of the Marauder's Map from J.K. Rowling's epic series. The stamps also "include hidden details that are only visible under ultraviolet light." Stamps can be pre-ordered now from www.royalmail.com/harrypotter



AUSTRIA

CIVIL AIRMAIL CENTENNIAL

Austria's first daily commercial aircraft flights between Vienna and Ukraine took off March 31, 1918, followed by twice-daily flights in July between Vienna and Budapest. (Austria Post notes that the service ended in October "…due to numerous complications and accidents.") On October 6, Austria Post issued the single-stamp semipostal souvenir sheet marking 2018 as the centennial of Austrian airmail service. The stamp has a postal value of €0.95 and a surcharge of €0.45 to support the Verband Oesterreichischer Philatelistenvereine (Association of Austrian Philatelic Clubs), and this the first of four issues counting down to their centennial in 2021. The stamp shows a photographic image of an Austro-Hungarian-built Hansa-Brandenburg C1 biplane, the first type of aircraft to carry Austrian airmail a century ago. The C1 also appeared on a 6-schilling+3s Austrian Stamp Day issue in 1989, Scott B355.

NETHERLANDS

"NEW BUILDING" IN CONCRETE, STEEL & GLASS (1916-35)

PostNL's latest architectural stamps issued on September 17 showcase that nation's Nieuwe Bouwen ("New Building") Movement that had its heyday in Europe's interwar years of the 20th century. Its philosophy stressed functionality, lack of decoration, application of modern techniques and use of modern materials such as concrete, steel and glass. The 10 black-and-white stamps of the sheetlet depict five striking buildings: the Hague offices of the De Volharding Co-operative (1928); the Zonnestraal sanatorium in Hilversum (1928); the Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam (1931)l the Rietveld houses of Utrecht (1931); and the Glaspaleis Schunck in Heerlen (1933). Graphic designer Ariënne Boelens from Rotterdam chose this format to highlight the role played by white plaster, and paid homage to 1920s typography on the stamps as well.



New worldwide stamps are presented for information and are not necessarily shown at the correct scale. The quality of images available at the time of release varies widely and we resize to achieve the best possible reproduction.

BY BOB LAMB

NORTH INGERMANLAND

Status: Interim government in the village of Kirjasalo on the Russo-Finnish Border
Population: several hundred (1920)
Area: about 25 sq. miles
Currency: Finnish Markka (100 pennia = 1 markka)



North Ingermanland is represented above by the red patch at the eastern tip of the Gulf of Finland. The map shows modern national boundaries for surrounding territories.

Ingermanland is the Swedish name for the territory arcing around the eastern coast of the Gulf of Finland from Estonia to Finland. According to legend, the Swedes named the area after Princess Ingegerd. In English, it's Ingria; in Finnish, Inkeri. The Swedes controlled Ingria until 1703 when it was taken by Peter the Great in the Great Northern War.

Finnish tribes had lived in Ingria since prehistory, but it was not until the 17th century that they became the ethnic majority due to large-scale immigration from Swedish-ruled Finland. Peter the Great changed this dramatically in the early 18th century when he built St. Petersburg, his new capital, in the heart of Ingria. But the Finnish presence remained strong. In 1918, an estimated 150,000 Finns lived in the St. Petersburg area.



In March 1920, seven stamps were issued by the short-lived Republic of North Ingermanland (Scott 1 - 4).

The Russian Revolution brought independence to Finland and Estonia. The success of their ethnic kinsmen encouraged the Ingrians to pursue greater freedom. Some simply sought more autonomy within Russia. Others wanted complete independence. Ingrian military units fought for the Estonians and with Gen Yudenich's Army of the Northwest in Karelia.

On June 27, 1919, a 580-man North Ingrian Regiment under Lt. Col. George Elfrengren seized about a dozen villages in the northern part of Russia's Vsevolozhsky District near the Finnish border and proclaimed the independent Republic of North Ingermanland. The Bolsheviks forced the rebels to retreat. After the Ingrians lost the village of Kolvosi on Oct 24, they withdrew to the Kirjasalo salient on the Finnish border. The Bolsheviks were not able to dislodge them and for the next year and the small village of Kirjasalo became the "Republic of North Ingermanland."

In January 1920, Ingrian officials sought approval of the Finnish Council of State to issue stamps so they could communicate with relatives in Finland. Communicating with relatives may not have been their only motive – one authority says stamp sales accounted for 65 percent of North Ingermanland's revenue. They intended to open post offices in three villages, but only the office in Kirjasalo was opened. In March, the military situation forced the Ingrians to move the post office to the railroad station in the nearby Finnish village of Rautu, although mail still received a Kirjasalo cancel.

Seven denominations were issued on March 21, 1920. The stamps, lithographed in Viborg, depicted the Ingrian coat of arms in a design similar to the then-current Finnish definitives. The issue was popular with Finnish collectors and soon sold out.

A second issue was ordered from the same printer in June, and seven larger pictorials were placed on sale August 2, 1920. As catalogs note, counterfeits of these pictorials are common.

The Finns, who had won their own independence, concluded the Treaty of Dorpat with Russia on October 14, 1920. Under the treaty, Kirjasalo reverted to Russia and the Ingrian regiment was withdrawn and disbanded. On Dec 5, 1920, the flag of North Ingermanland was lowered and its population packed up and moved *en masse* to the Finnish village of Kekisalmi where they were welcomed with a triumphal arch erected in the town square.

In December 1920, remainders of the pictorial stamp issue were overprinted "*Inkerin Hyväksi*" (For Ingria) and sold without postal validity to aid Ingrian refugees.



The August 1920 pictorial issue from the Republic of North Ingermanland (Scott 8 - 12).

Circuit Selections

U.S. General (Mint & Used)
U.S. Mint Only
U.S. Used Only
U.S. 1900–1940 (Mint & Used)
U.S. 19th Century
U.S. Back of the Book
U.S. Air Mails
U.S. Officials
U.S. Cut Squares
U.S. Revenues
U.S. Possessions
U.S. Ryukyu Islands
U.S. Blocks
U.S. Plate Blocks
U.S. Coils
U.S. Plate No. Singles
U.S. Fancy Cancels
U.S. Precancels
U.S. Covers
U.S. Covers (19th C.)
U.S. Covers 1900–1945
U.S. Picture Postcards
U.S. Postal Stationery
U.S. First Day Covers
British Empire
British Empire-Victorian Era
British Empire Mint only
British Empire Used only
British Pre-Elizabeth
British Atlantic Islands
British Africa
Southern Africa
British America
British West Indies
British West Indies Mint
Bahamas
Bermuda
Br. Caribbean Saints
Jamaica
British North America
Canada General
Canada pre-Elizabeth
Canada Mint Only
Canada Used Only
British Asia
Hong Kong
India & States
Malaysia-Singapore
British Europe
Channel Islands
Great Britain
Great Britain 19th Century
Ireland
British Middle East
British Oceania
British Oceania Mint
Australia
Australia States
New Zealand
Topicals (General)
Animals & Flora
Art and Painting
Europa
Space
Sports
Transportation
Africa
Air Mails Worldwide
Argentina
Asia
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Balkans
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Belgium
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Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Europe
Europe(1840–1940)
Far East
Finland
France
France & Colonies
France 19th Century
French Africa
French Colonies
German Colonies
German Covers
German States
Germany
Germany Pre-1945
Global (1840–1940)
Global Covers
Global General (Mint & Used)
Global Used Only
Greece
Guatemala
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Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Portuguese Colonies
Romania
Russia (USSR)
Saar
Salvador
San Marino
Scandinavia
Siam (Thailand)
South America
Southeast Asia
Southern Europe
Spain
Spanish Colonies
Sweden
Switzerland
Trieste
Turkey
United Nations
Uruguay
Vatican
Venezuela
West Germany
Yugoslavia



SIGN UP TO STAMP SHOP FROM HOME

Circuit Mail Sales is a members' only service offering buyers a hands-on shopping experience through the mail — this allows you to examine the stamps BEFORE you purchase. All material being sold is owned by APS members who have consigned their material to sell to fellow members. Sign up to become one of our satisfied shop at home customers.

First time participants can select up to three categories from the list. Once signed up, you will be placed on a circuit based on geographical location. Names will be added in order of receipt, with up to ten names per circuit. Circuits containing approximately twelve books will be mailed three to five times annually for each requested category. No minimum purchase is required and circuits may be retained up to seven days before forwarding on to the next member. Full instructions are printed with each mailing. Please note that mailing expenses to forward circuits is incurred by each participant — approximately $7.20 per mailing

Specific Circuit Selection Request Form

Enter up to three (3) categories. You may request more after receiving your first mailings.

Send this form to:
APS Circuit Sales, 100 Match Factory Place,
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Your Circuit Selections

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

APS No. _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Telephone No. _____

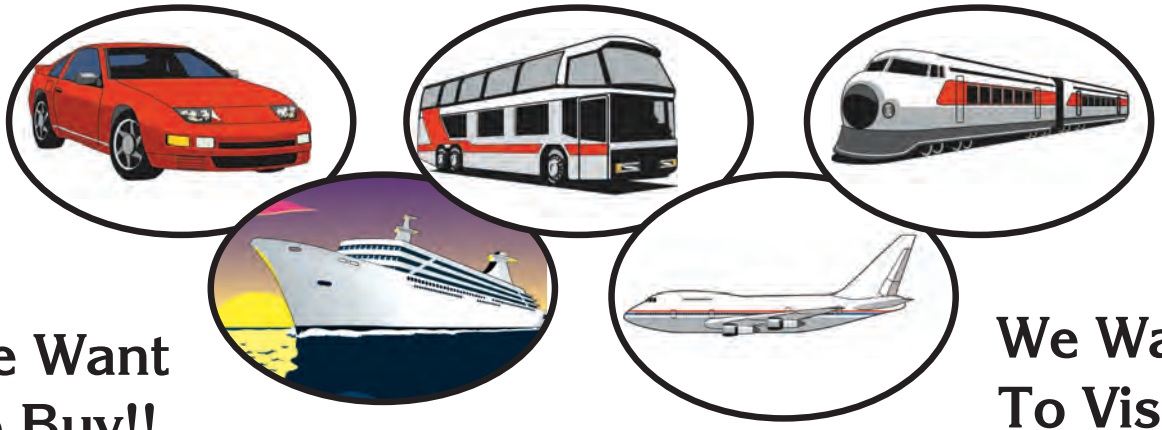
E-mail address: _____

American Philatelic Society
Circuit Sales
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823 • Phone: 814-933-3803
E-mail: circuitsales@stamps.org

AMERICA'S STAMP CLUB

— Paid Advertisement —

• By Car • By Plane • By Bus • • By Train • By Boat •



We Want To Buy!!

We Want To Visit!!

HAVE TONGS, WILL TRAVEL!!

"SELLING A STAMP COLLECTION SHOULD BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE." The "BEST SALE" is when the buyer will personally visit your city and view your collection. The dealers listed will travel to "any city" to view appropriate holdings.

UNFORTUNATELY many collections in the $2,000 to $20,000 range do not economically justify the time and expense for a professional buyer to travel long distances to personally view your collection.

WE OFFER A SOLUTION: Each dealer listed has designated a state, and region, he will make every effort to personally visit. Contact that dealer direct and discuss your collection and options. If your state is not listed, contact the closest dealer, or a dealer of your choice.

YOUR GUARANTEE: While each dealer listed is an independently owned business, all are members of either the ASDA or the APS (most are both), insuring fairness and integrity in purchasing your collection.

IF YOU LIVE IN:	WRITE OR CALL:
Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, or Ontario	**Randy Scholl Stamp Co.** 7460 Jager Court Cincinnati, OH 45230 Phone: 513-624-6800 randyscholl@fuse.net randyschollstampcompany.com
Wisconsin, Northern Florida, Southern Florida, or Texas:	**Dr. Robert Friedman & Sons** Phone: 800-588-8100 Fax: 630-985-1588 drbobstamps@comcast.net www.drbobfriedmanstamps.com Coins also wanted.
California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, or Washington:	**Newport Harbor Stamp Co.** P.O. Box 3364 Newport Beach, CA 92659 Phone: 800-722-1022 (Dave) newportharborstamps@gmail.com
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, or Virginia:	**PRM Enterprises, Inc.** Randall T. Scribner 4110 French Fields Ln. Harrisburg, NC 28075 Phone: (704) 575-2795 scrib1@ctc.net Coins also wanted
Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, South/ North Dakota, Missouri, New Mexico, Arkansas, or Colorado:	**Coins, Stamps 'N Stuff LLC** Jerry & Barb Koepp 8190 Hickman Road Des Moines, IA 50325-4405 Phone: 515-331-4307 Orders: 847-778-5519 Fax: 515-331-2527