

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

November 2017

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Club Website

www.sanjosestampclub.com

Club Blog

www.sjscblog.net

Filatellic Fiesta Website

www.filatelicfiesta.com

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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Season for Giving

We are again in the fall of the year, the season for giving. For me, this reminds me of all the people who are less fortunate and of several charities that can always use philatelic help. The charities that come to mind are Stamps for the wounded and the ARIE Foundation. These charities have outreach programs to thousands of injured soldiers and veterans of all the wars the United States has been involved in since World War II.

Stamps for the wounded is a service activity of Lions Clubs. Every United States President, since the organization was founded in 1942 has supported the work of Stamps for the Wounded. Stamps for the wounded is a 100% volunteer program. The program uses donations of all types of philatelic material. This includes used stamps on paper, philatelic supplies (hinges, tongs, etc.), albums, catalogues later than 2000, other philatelic literature, covers and postcards. Other collectables such as sports cards are also needed. Cash donations are used to offset the mailing costs of getting these donations to hospitals and convalescent centers all across the country.

The ARIE Foundation has a similar program for veteran's hospitals, but in addition the foundation has a program for children in hospitals. Not as old as Stamps for the Wounded, the ARIE Foundation program was started in 1992.

Both organizations are 501(c3) and can provide receipts for tax deductions.

If you find yourself with philatelic materials you no longer need or want, consider donating to one of these charities. If you have ever been in a hospital, you know the experience is both boring and depressing. What better activity than philately to pass the time. All the information you need is on the club website page "Giving Back/Charities". If you are not online, contact Jim Steinwinder. After all, it is the Season for Giving.

APS Donates 500,000 Stamps to Holocaust Art Project



One of the framed versions of artwork that was created.

The American Philatelic Society donated 500,000 used stamps earlier this month to help a school in its Holocaust remembrance project.

The Foxborough Regional Charter School of Massachusetts started the project in 2009 with the goal of creating artwork dedicated to the 11 million people who died during the Holocaust.

Charlotte Sheer, a retired teacher from the charter school and founder of the stamps project, told a reporter at the *Wicked Foxborough* website that the stamp tally was at 9,422,168. APS Executive Director Scott English delivered 16 boxes of stamps to the school, raising the total to close to 10 million.

[Wicked Foxborough](#) reported that Sheer started the Holocaust Stamps Project in 2009 to educate children about the Holocaust. The goal is to collect 11 million stamps to represent the all the victims whose lives were lost.

Collected stamps are being turned into pieces of art reflecting the history of the Holocaust.

“Countless lessons in history, tolerance, acceptance and the importance of respecting differences evolve from the project,” Sheer said.

“We took advantage of the proximity of the school to the Philatelic Show in Foxborough to deliver stamps on behalf of the APS membership who have donated so generously over the years for youth education,” English said.

To date, the project has received donations from 43 of the 50 U.S. states. States yet to send donations are: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

**** Note:** The Holocaust Stamp project is one of the programs promoted by the club on the club website. Brian has received a very nice email from Charlotte Sheer thanking the club for promoting the program on the website. The email can be viewed on the “SJSC in print” page of the website.

SJSC Member Profile - Jim Steinwinder



As with most stamp collectors, I was inspired by a family member (my father) to collect stamps. I was about 8 years old and saw him working on his collection. I became interested in what he was doing with all these used postage stamps. He explained that he was cataloging and mounting the stamps. Then he showed me some of his finished pages. Everything was so organized and colorful. I was hooked and wanted to start my own collection.

Before long I had one of the common "Stamps of the World" type album. I would get one of those assorted stamps of the world packet you could get at any drugstore. Woolworths comes to mind. These packets usually had 500 or a 1000 common used stamps from around the world. At this point I had no idea of cataloging. I was just matching stamps to the little pictures in the album. My father had taught me how to mount stamps using hinges. As I remember these were Dennison brand hinges. Can't find those anymore. I also had a pair of tongs. This held my interest for a few years.

My father never used commercial albums. He would always design his own pages and draw the little boxes using a template. He would then add any commentary using a typewriter. I was about 10 when I decided that I wanted to make my own pages. I also realized that I needed to tone down the scope of my collecting. The whole world was a bit too much. So I decided to concentrate on the United States.

After looking at a Scott catalogue and realizing that a lot of the regular issue prior to 1900 was too

expensive, I further narrowed my focus to commemoratives. I had learned how to use the Scott Catalogue and how to check watermarks. The one thing about commemoratives is that I did not have to worry about watermarks or a lot of varieties.

This held my interest for a few years. I focused on commemoratives, and made my own pages. I loved the commemoratives for the variety of subjects and the skill of the engravers. What I did not like was cancels. The cancels always seem to obscure some important part of the design on the stamp. When I was 14 or 15 I decided to go in a new direction.

I decided I would start over and collect mint commemoratives. I also discovered White Ace Album pages at this time. White Ace used 80# card stock and lots of color on their pages along with nice commentary about each stamp. It took me until my late forties to complete my collection. I had every U.S. commemorative from 1893 to 2000, all mint. I also switched to Showgard stamp mounts from hinges.

I felt lost having completed the singles collection so I started a commemorative plate block collection that ran from 1932 to 2000. White Ace did not have pages prior to 1932. I then moved on to airmail stamps, both singles and plate blocks. These 2 collections ran from 1918-2000. The singles collection is complete. The plate block collection is missing 9 issues (C1-C6 and C13-C15). I have since started a definitive collection along with back of the book. This is where most of my focus is these days. I have also been working backwards from 1931 with my commemorative plate blocks. I am pretty complete back to 1919. I have also extended the commemorative and airmail collections beyond 2000. I will never complete all these collections but I keep at it one stamp or plate block at a time. By my guess I am missing a little over 200 definitive and back of the book stamps. Many of the remaining stamps are very expensive or cannot be had at all because of rarity. It's OK because I know I will always have a goal.

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SJSC Member Profile continued...

In all these years I have never lost any of the love and passion I have for these little pieces of art that most other people take for granted. I believe the most important thing we older collectors can do is be mentors to a new generation of collectors and keep this hobby growing well into the future.

Outside of stamp collecting, along with my first wife, we raised 4 children, 3 boys and a girl.

My career is in data processing, as a software designer/computer programmer. I've worked for IBM, Memorex, Stanford University and a number of other smaller companies. In 1981 I left corporate America and started a consulting firm which grew into a data processing and laser printing service bureau. I got into data processing for political campaigns in the mid 80's. This is the only data processing I do now.

I migrated all my software from the big mainframes down to laptop computers. Compared with the old mainframes the modern laptop computer is faster and much more cost effective. This way I can get more work done and work from home.

Sadly I lost one son in 2000 and a second son in 2017. I also lost my first wife in 2010. But with my political work, the stamp club, grand-daughters (7 of them), and my wife Jenny (since 2014), I keep very busy.

The grand-daughters range in age from 2 to 16, with 4 in America and 3 in China. My Chinese grand-daughters visit every summer. I also have a brother who lives in China and visits every year. He is a teacher/conductor of a youth symphony orchestra at a college prep school in Nanning China. He brings his orchestra to America for a tour and competition with other musical groups every year.

Between the stamp club, work and family, I have a full and happy life.

Filatelic Fiesta - Final Countdown



Filatelic Fiesta starts in less than 2 weeks. Are you ready?

Have you signed up to work one of the areas at the show, got your club tee shirt cleaned and ready to go, got your schedule worked out so you have time to shop for additions to your collection, bought your banquet ticket(s)? Are you ready with some donations for the raffle boxes or some treats for the Hospitality area? If your answer is no to any of these questions, you're running out of time. Don't miss this opportunity to make the club and our show really stand out.

A good show could mean

1. Increased recognition for the club.
2. The possibility of some new members.
3. An event that attracts more dealers and additional associations.
4. Increased revenue from sales and the auction.

All of this is good for the club and the members.

Don't forget the open forum hosted by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. If you ever plan to exhibit, what better way to start than a chance to interact with the experts.

Take time to view the exhibits. As the only club show in northern California that is a WSP show, these exhibits are exceptional. They are competing for prizes awarded by APS judges and a chance to win national recognition. There are always some real treasures to see and a lot of philatelic history to learn.

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Filatelic Fiesta continued...

The United States Philatelic Classics Society has a regional meeting which is open to non-members. If you are like me, with a love of the U.S. classics, this is a must attend.

If you have young grand-children, nieces or nephews, there will be activities for them. The youth table will have Christmas albums to fill with stamps available at the table. There is an album for Madonna stamps and one for Santa Claus stamps.

Don't forget to post the show flyers. It's an important way to get the word out.

Don't forget the banquet! There will be an awards presentation to club members who went above and beyond this past year. We need lots of members at the banquet to show our honored members that we appreciate their extra effort. Have you giving Brian your choice of club member(s) to honor?

If you don't have a club tee shirt, check with David Occhipinti or Jim Sauer. David has a stock of tee shirts and Jim has a source for Polo's.

Call Jessica for anything to do with the raffle(s) or treats for hospitality.

If you've got suggestions or ideas for improvements for the show, now is the time to speak up. Less than 2 weeks are left until the show starts. Now is the time to step up and help make sure this is the best Filatelic Fiesta ever.

Remember the Dates!

Nov 1 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

Nov 4-5 SACAPEX

Nov 10-12 Filatelic Fiesta

Nov 15 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

President's Message

Our club show is in less than 2 weeks! The plans are coming together thanks to everyone's hard work. George has done a fantastic job of lining up the dealers for the bourse which is the backbone of the show. Nester has wonderful assortment of exhibits lined up and Steve Schumann has arranged for the judges. A unique trademark of Filatelic Fiesta is our hospitality. The Rodriquex family has taken this to a new level and is something we can be really be proud of. It has become a distinctive reason for local collectors to come to the show.

There are a few volunteer positions still open. A couple of you have already taken many time slots to help keep the various activities covered. However, there are still a few gaps or people who are deeply committed. Please seriously consider signing up for another time slot. Please show your team spirit and take one more assignment. You can use the SignUpGenius or call me at 408-300-3377 and I'll review what is needed with you.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their club t-shirt to Fiesta. It not only promotes the club, but also shows anyone who might have theft in mind that there are eyes everywhere. We should keep an eye on things as our hired security people can only cover so much ground. If you do see something, speak to Michael Pacciortetti or one of the Police Cadets.

Hospitality is a two-part activity. The free coffee, water, and food is just the beginning. We're all "hosts" with regards to our show guests and easily identified by our club t-shirts. Everyone is asked to welcome guests, ask about where they' from and invite them to consider visiting their local stamp club and the APS. There is a table with information about the SJSC, other local clubs, societies, and the APS.

Be friendly, it is just that simple.

While I'm pushing everyone to *work* at Filatelic Fiesta, we should also think of this as FUN. This is our club show and we now fully own it.

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President's message continued...

The club benefited greatly from the years it was run by Stephen, Wayne, Ed, and others and the club had a minimal contribution to the show. Now, WE own it and have put our imprint on it. Let's have fun with it and enjoy the experience. It also shows in how our guests see the show. If the gang wearing dark blue club t-shirts are happy and enjoying the show, they will also feel good about being there. There is still time to get your ticket to the banquet, but act fast as time is running out. I will be giving out two awards Saturday night, so come and see if you're one of the winners.

Our annual Christmas party is on Wednesday December 13th with our friends the Postcard Club. Please plan to attend and bring a salad or dessert. The clubs will supply a main course and drinks. This is always a LOT of fun. Spouses are very encouraged to attend.

Regards,
Brian

Club Blog & Website

Website Updates

October Newsletter added to the "Newsletters/Blog" page.

--- Minutes from the October 18, 2017 club meeting uploaded on the "Meetings/Minutes" page.

Updates to the "Meetings/Presentations" page.

Minutes from the October 4, 2017 club meeting uploaded on the "Meetings/Minutes" page.

Auction items and rules added to the Filatelic Fiesta website.

New link to a site for philatelic reference books added to the "Links" page.

New link to the American Philatelic Society Blog site added to the "Links" page.

New article added on the "SJSC in Print" page.

Minutes from the September 20, 2017 club meeting uploaded on the "Meetings/Minutes" page.

Blog Posts

Disposing of a Stamp Collection

BY GEORGE LESLIE

This is a subject people are always asking members of the San Jose Stamp Club about.

So, I am starting this discussion with the expectation that members more knowledgeable than myself will contribute their insight.

When it comes to disposing of a stamp collection, questions open to lively debate are:

- * Try to sell your collection?...Or donate it to a worthy organization? (like SJSC)
- * If selling, sell to a dealer?...Or try to find individual collectors to buy at higher prices?
- * Etc.

First, however, let's start the discussion with a bit of perspective. We don't often articulate this, but by perspective I mean "What is my emotional involvement with this collection?"

I can hear people saying, Huh?, but emotional attachment is a determining factor in how you dispose of your collection. Here is a simple ranking:

1) High emotional attachment: You've collected for a long time and the hobby has brought you a lot of satisfaction. Unfortunately your kids and grandkids are not interested, so one day you'll have to face liquidating the collection to bequeath to them something they can use—money.

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Blog Post continued...

2) Medium emotional attachment: You enjoyed collecting as a kid, but then college, career, mortgages, family (maybe even grandkids) came along and, as pleasant as those memories of childhood collecting are, you recognize you'll probably not go back to collecting.

3) Zero emotional attachment: Uncle Bob died and left you his collection. You are a modern digitally-oriented guy or gal and have no interest in stamps, but you don't want to get ripped off in disposing of it.

If you fall into category 1), you know the top auction houses and the dealers who seek your kind of collection. And that knowledge will enable you to do what is hard for everyone else.

You will be able to get top dollar for your collection without spending a lot of time. So I won't presume to offer you advice.

If you are in category 3) stay tuned. In subsequent postings we will share info that will be valuable to you.

Today, I want to say a few words to those in category 2. I am quite attached to my childhood collection and not because it is worth anything. But rather because it provided me, as a kid in rural America in the late '50s and early 60s, a window on the world.

We didn't have TV or subscribe to magazines, so I learned about the world through reading. Then once a week when the envelop of "stamps on approval" arrived in the mailbox, I'd spent hours studying those little pictures—so those are the animals that live in Angola...so that's what Robespierre looked like...so that's how coffee grows...and on and on. Of course I kept an atlas nearby to find out where Bessarabia, Brunei, Danzig, and other exotic countries were.

Today, if I know the answer to some obscure question on Jeopardy and my grandkids are

impressed, I always say, "Well, I learned that collecting stamps."

So before we get into the nuts and bolts of donation vs sale, etc., here are some tips for sharing the pleasure of stamp collecting with your kids or grandkids who have shown little interest in the hobby. With that accomplished, you'll feel better about letting your collection go.

Think of what each child /grandkid is interested in and make an attractive tiny album covering that subject. (Another topic for our blog should be "how to make your own custom stamp album")

I have 3 granddaughters and this is what I did:

Alanna is interested in butterflies. So I bought a loose-leaf binder and found a lady on line who makes gorgeous handmade binder covers on various themes, and, yes, one of those was butterflies. So when Alanna, a modern kid who loves her I-phone aps, comes over to play I always have some butterfly stamps from a few specific countries ready. We get out globe, figure out where Guinea Bissau is, and hinge them on a page in her album. She stays interested for about 15 minutes. But I keep her album ready for the next visit.

Granddaughter Joyce likes locomotives, especially the earliest ones, and knows all their names, so she has a stock book of locomotives and we add to it whenever we meet. And little Mae likes wild animals.

So my point is, before you face the hard issue of disposing of your collection, trick those young ones who are important to you into at least an exposure to the hobby.

Among my grown kids, the running joke whenever I happen to know some arcane fact is, "Don't even tell me, Dad, you learned that from your stamp collecting. Right?"

To be continued (in a serious vein).

It's a Hobby by James E Lee



James E. Lee
Stamp Dealer, Illinois

Several month's ago I promised to pursue a column about the life and times of legendary philatelic auction agent and literature dealer: Louis K. Robbins. A couple of weeks ago I called Lou to set up a time convenient for him to be interviewed. At age 96 he has slowed down a bit. Ever humble and never one boast about his life past, Lou turned down my request. However he did spend ten enjoyable minutes with me on the phone and gave me a few nuggets of truth about the stamp business and our hobby.

After the call ended I was disappointed that I would not be able to tell Lou's story. However, the grains of wisdom that I had gleaned from our conversation will be the bases for several columns. Sometimes taking the wrong fork in the road turns out to be the more interesting route in the long run.

Lou related how he went to work for New York City dealer Herman Toaspern in the summer of 1930. He needed to make money to save for the tuition to study engineering in the fall. "On my very first day of employment, 'Toasty' educated me about the stamp business." He said: "This is a hobby. Most people will lose money when they sell, a few will break even, and a very lucky few will wind up making money."

There you have it in two sentences the unvarnished truth about philately.

The dealer represents the business or supply side of the equation, the person who makes his or her living from stamps. On the hobby or demand side you have the collector who spends years pursuing the goals established for their collection. One does not exist without the other. In the middle you have the difference or spread between the dealer's cost and your purchase price. However for the collector there is much more to be gained above and beyond the purchase price in the "hobby of kings".

For the stamp collector the "spread" is represented by the years of learning and enjoyment that come from this intellectual pursuit. This is the interest you accrue, above your cost, over the years from pursuing your hobby. It is one of the very few hobbies' that gives you the opportunity to recover a fair percentage of what you have spent over the years.

Compare it to years spent playing golf. What will you have in the end: several sets of worn out clubs, shoes, and clothes. All of your green fees from over the years will be long gone. But as with stamp collecting you will still have the memories.

Philately can provide countless hours of relaxation beyond the pressure cooker of today's business world. It can take you to far away places you may not be able to ever physically reach. One can learn, in depth, about past events in ways that have never before been written about in history books. And best of all the overall experience of collecting can be shaped any way that you want it to be.

If you are building a really good stamp collection merely for financial gain, think again. There are far better places to sink one's money for financial rewards. Remember it is a hobby and the rewards gained from the experience are something money alone cannot buy.

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Thanksgiving

Every child learns about the Mayflower, the pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, at school. The United States Postal Service has issued a number of stamps associated with the Pilgrims and the holiday of Thanksgiving.



548

549

550



Top 2840a

Bottom 3546

4417-4420

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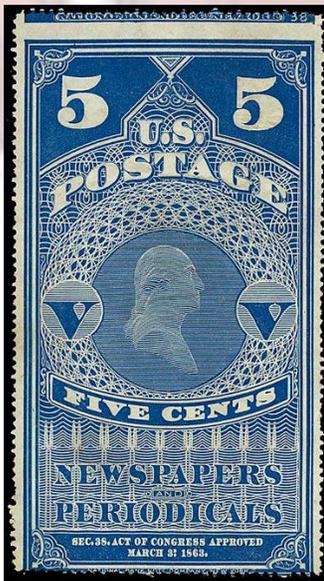
America's 100 Greatest Stamps



100 - Scott #400 1913 Panama-Pacific



#99 – Scott 1552 1974 Dove Weathervane



#98 – Scott PR1 1865 Newspaper Stamp

Club Member/Dealers

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