

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

May 2018

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Filatelice Fiesta Website

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the San Jose Stamp
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A busy time ahead

The old saying “April showers bring May flowers” does not apply to philately in the bay area. The biggest philatelic event of the year just completed, WESTPEX, and nothing is scheduled for May. While there are no shows over the next month, there is plenty to plan for and think about.

More than ever, we need members to help work on the donations piling up at Brian’s house. These donations are the source of stamps for the club’s youth programs. We also find items for the club’s sales area at Filatelice Fiesta. One of the big jobs that needs to be done is soaking stamps that are still on paper. This can be done in our own homes. Think about spending some time helping out as Brian is almost out of room at his house.

The annual Scout-O-Rama is on May 12th this year. This is the largest *Scouting* event of the year with over 7,000 participants, held on the Saturday before Mother’s Day at History Park. Brian can always use help dealing with all the scouts that participate in the activities he plans. This is not only a lot of fun but a great way to introduce the boys to the hobby.

The club’s annual summer picnic is just around the corner. Brian can always use help in organizing the picnic. This picnic is always a fun time since this is a joint event with the San Jose Post Card Club.

Have you thought about giving a presentation? They don’t have to be elaborate. Any subject is fine and you, in turn, improve your knowledge on the subject matter just by researching and preparing the presentation.

The newsletter can use more members to volunteer a “member profile”. It can be as little or as much as you feel like. How you started collecting and what and why you collect is the desired subject matter. These profiles help all the members get to know each other and in turn provide the knowledge necessary for individuals to share information and help each other.

Filatelic Fiesta will be in October this year. It’s not too early to start thinking about how you can help. There is a job for everyone, no matter what your experience. Areas include promotion, setup, takedown, sales area, youth area, and the Boy Scout Merit Badge workshop. Talk to Brian about the Boy Scout program or Jessica about any of the other areas. Now is the time to get involved. Let’s get started now and make this the best Filatelice Fiesta ever.

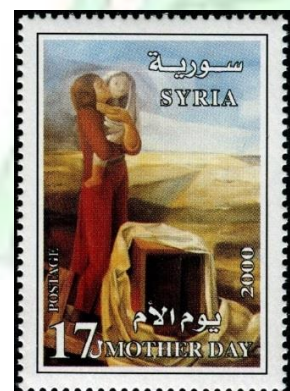
Mother's day

The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed that they were "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the US Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all US states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday, the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day, and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.

In 1912 Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "Second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day", and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world." This is also the spelling used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in his 1914 presidential proclamation, by the U.S. Congress in relevant bills, and by various U.S. presidents in their proclamations concerning Mother's Day.



Some background on the world of essays and proofs By James E. Lee

Here's a question I get every so often---and it's a good one. "Where do essays and proofs come from?" I will do my best to convey to you the history of how these fascinating bits and pieces of paper reached us and have traveled through the philatelic mainstream. The source of all essay and proof material was either the portfolios of bank note engravers or the actual files of the bank note companies. How this material reached the philatelic marketplace is the subject of this column.



It was customary for bank note engravers to retain examples of their work. They were, first and foremost, artists and artisans. Just as their sketch books were a depository for their artistic thoughts and ideas, their portfolios contained examples of their works-in-progress and finished creations. These portfolios were a great source of pride for the early engravers. Rarely would a portfolio leave the family upon their death. They would be passed on to the next generation, which in many cases would also be engravers. It was not until the early 1930s that many of these portfolios entered the philatelic marketplace. The man who pursued the work of these men of the 19th century was Dr. Clarence W. Brazer.

Clarence Brazer was an artist himself, a practicing architect, with many building designs to his credit when the Great Depression struck in 1929. Brazer soon found that his commissions were drying up and he needed to support himself until the economy rebounded. He soon found himself dealing in stamps and pursuing essays and proofs. Postage stamp design and production intrigued him and he started to collect as well as deal in them almost exclusively. By studying the Post Office Department archives in Washington, D.C., he was able to learn the government's side of the story about the evolution of the various series of postage stamp issued during the 19th century.

The bank note company letters to the Post Office Department, found in the archives, provided a source for the names of the men who had been involved in the physical creation of the designs and engraving of the stamps. Brazer used genealogical skills to track, in some cases, the actual retired engravers or their heirs. Being an artist of sorts himself he was able to meet these people on their turf and communicate on their plane as artists. Since he was one of them he was able to persuade and cajole many an engraver or heir to part with some or all of their portfolios. Because of his love of the subject and postage stamp design, the marketplace today has been provided with many rare and unique examples of the bank note engravers work.

This practice of acquisition was not unique to Brazer. In fact it has continued on other levels since his death in 1956. As an example, the portfolio of Charles Brooks, who worked as a vignette engraver for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was sold by the firm of Jacques C. Schiff, Jr.

Continued on next page

Essays and Proofs continued...

The Brooks portfolio was brought to the Schiff firm by an engraver who Brooks had mentored and to whom he left his portfolio. It is the source for many of the large die proofs of U.S. commemorative stamps issued in the late 40s and early 50s. Most all of these items are unique. As an interesting aside, this man found my website earlier this past year, we met at the Plymouth Stamp Show and he sold me the non-philatelic portion of the Brooks portfolio. When I asked him why he was selling the Brooks portfolio he told me that the consolidation in the bank note industry and the technological developments in printing were forcing out the engravers and, thus, the art was dying out. His tragic story points to the fact that this craft will probably pass from existence, at least in this country, in our lifetimes.

A second example occurred just a few years ago when the grandson of J. C. Benzing, a vignette engraver at the Bureau, sold his late grandfather's portfolio at auction through the firm of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. The Benzing portfolio contained many proofs from the 1920s and 1930s including a set of Graf Zeppelin die proofs. I believe that there are still many portfolios lurking in the woods waiting to be found. Based on the fact that this art form is fading, and these portfolios are separated from the original engraver by anywhere from two to five generations, you will see more of them reach the marketplace.

In the next issue of this magazine I will finish this story. Both the raid and the release of the files of the bank note companies comprise a compelling and interesting story and will undoubtedly mean a much larger column than normal. As a closing note, I would be remiss were I not to comment on a longstanding and rather puzzling dichotomy in our philatelic hobby: although essays and proofs are clearly the most beautiful products of stamp production, they have never achieved their rightful popularity in our hobby. What's your idea on why this is?

What Stamp Collecting Can Teach Your Child

You remember stamps – those little squares of paper you affix to letters and postcards? Believe it or not, July 1st marks the anniversary of the first U.S. Postage Stamp ever issued, in 1847. And, while you may think that postage stamps are going the way of the dodo in the age of email, text-messaging, and video communication, you might be surprised to learn that stamps are more variegated, coveted, and collected than ever before!

What's it to you? For starters, stamp collecting is one of the most popular, family-friendly, and inexpensive hobbies around. "Stamp collecting is very easy," says Gretchen Moody, Director of Education at the American Philatelic Society ("philatelic" indicates the collection and study of postage stamps). "It's just opening your mail box."

The best thing about stamp collecting, however, is that it's a great opportunity to learn about new countries, cultures, currencies and landmarks. "Stamp collecting is great as a teaching tool because it is a discovery-based method," says Moody. "They don't realize that they're learning, but they might discover a stamp that they like that has a name of a country that they don't recognize or know. Their natural curiosity is going to kick in, and they are going to find the answer." And that means researching, discovering and learning –all outside of school walls!

What else can stamp collecting teach? Here's a sampling of the many lessons to be learned from stamps:

History

Who's that on that five-cent stamp from 1929? You'll have to know a little bit of history and politics to figure it out – not to mention research skills. Because political figures, such as George Washington, and royalty, like Queen Elizabeth II, are usually featured

Continued on next page

Your Child continued...

on stamps as well as currency, stamp collecting can be a lesson in prominent figures in different countries, and over different periods of history.

Math

Sure, 1,000 lira sounds like a lot. But you can use a little math to convert the former Italian currency into dollars and cents, and learn about inflation into the bargain. The value of currencies can fluctuate wildly in relation to other world monies, and the economic circumstances in the year in which the stamp was issued. For instance, in 1847, it cost 3 cents to mail a letter. Now, it costs 42 cents. What does that say about the value of our currency? What is the percent increase in U.S. currency since stamps were first issued? Stamp collecting presents an opportunity for any child to practice math and economics concepts – without even realizing it!

Culture

Stamps don't always just feature an image of a prominent political figure: they can show scenes of daily life, or “pastorals,” commemorate an important event, or just showcase artists and cultural icons dear to a country's heart. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service's Literary Arts commemorative stamp series features such notable American writers as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Zora Neale Hurston, while recent philatelic releases have included a pastoral featuring alpine animals, a retrospective of mahogany speedboats, and a compilation of comic book heroes. Just think what the stamps of other countries can tell about the arts and culture of faraway lands!

Remember the Dates!

May 2 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

May 16 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

StampStore or eBay?

Original column by Wendy Masorti, APS Director of Sales, republished from [The American Philatelist](#), February 2018

New sellers will often contact the [American Philatelic Society](#) with the question, “Should I sell on eBay or [StampStore](#)?” Both services provide a way to sell online and charge minimal fees and commissions. Therefore, in order to answer the question, it is important to understand how StampStore differs from eBay.

With emerging technology in the late 1990s, the APS realized the importance of branching out our mail sales program to offer members a way to sell their philatelic material online. Specifically, we wanted to tailor a program to provide members with a hassle-free selling experience. After researching other online services and knowing our clientele, in September of 2000, we launched [StampStore](#) with a specific goal in mind – to offer an easy, affordable way for members to sell online without needing internet experience or special equipment.

On eBay, a seller is responsible to upload each listing with a description and has an option to add images (practically a must for philatelic material), which the seller must provide. The seller can choose methods of payment, which can include everything from checks to the electronic PayPal system. The seller must handle all shipping and returns. Sellers on eBay can set their own fees for shipping, which range from free to several dollars per item.

[StampStore](#), on the other hand, does much of the work for you. You complete a submission sheet for each item (mounting the item along with description, prices, etc.) and mail them to the APS. We take care of scanning images and uploading item descriptions to the online store, as well as advertising, answering buyer questions, payment processing, shipping, and handling returns/refunds.

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StampStore or ebay continued...

All communication with the buyer is handled by the APS; the seller remains anonymous and is identified only through a seller ID number. Sellers can view reports, change prices, and receive monthly payments for items that sell.

APS STAMPSTORE SUBMISSION FORM



APPS StampStore Submission Form

Quantity: 2762 lot of 10 stamps, Address book, 1.00

Year Range:
 Pre-1900
 1900-1949
 After 1950

Condition: Please mark with one in each column:
 Excellent
 Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

Other Catalogs (optional):
Name: _____
Number: _____

Categories:
 Country
 Complete Sets
 Special Issues
 SIFSA
 Special Day Issues
 Local Collections
 Multiple
 Paper Stock
 Special History
 Special Postmarks
 Single
 Souvenir Sheet

Catalogue Value (US Dollars): \$100.00
Purchase Price (US Dollars): \$100.00

Complete this form in black ink and send to: APS-USA, 100 March Street, Plains, NJ 07068
Phone: (844) 333-3803 ext. 276 • Fax: (844) 333-4238
Website: www.stampstore.org • Email: StampStore@stampstore.org

Also, unlike eBay where the seller or a representative must have online access, many StampStore sellers do not even own a computer; they rely on our sales staff to help them change prices or check on statuses of items.

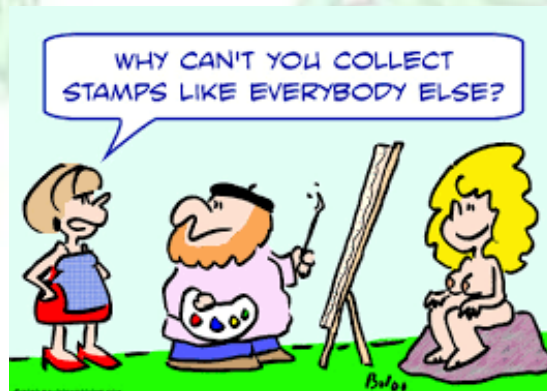
StampStore can provide one-package shipping from several sellers to a single buyer. Since all items are housed at our facility, a buyer can purchase from multiple sellers when placing an order and receive all items in one package. Standard shipping for an order less than \$100 is \$2.95 plus 2 percent of the sales cost for handling and insurance. If an order is more than \$100, the shipping is free of charge. We also offer a 30-day money back guarantee on all items.

We are not saying that you should not sell on eBay, but rather that you ask yourself these questions:

“How involved do you want to be with the actual sale? Do you have the equipment and knowledge necessary to upload and maintain the listings? Do you have the time to package and ship sold items promptly? Are you prepared to handle unhappy customers and process returns?” Considering that many of our sellers mail in hundreds of submissions to StampStore at a time, you can only imagine the potential volume of questions and shipments they could be dealing with. Also, buyers who purchase multiple items from several different sellers would receive multiple shipments and shipping charges.

It is also important to point out that all members selling on StampStore are APS members and abide by our Code of Ethics. While the APS provides this selling/buying service, the APS does not own the material being sold and does not guarantee the accuracy of members’ content in the listings. While members price and describe their material, they may unknowingly misdescribe the quality or authenticity of the items being sold. Therefore, we offer a 30-day money-back guarantee and sellers may be charged fines for their misdescriptions. Seller privileges may be revoked for repeat offenders.

So, only you can answer the question, “eBay or StampStore?” If you are interested in selling with us, request a free seller packet or visit



Postmaster General Calls on Congress to Enact Postal Reform



WASHINGTON—Postmaster General Megan Brennan called for sweeping postal reform at the U.S. Postal Service’s Temporary Emergency Committee meeting Friday morning, as the Postal Service faces another year of financial losses.

“Despite our best efforts, under the current legal framework we will not be able to stem the tide of our ongoing losses and return to financial stability without legislative change,” she said.

Brennan called on Congress to pass the Postal Reform Act of 2017 and to confirm President Trump’s nominees to the currently-vacant Postal Service Board of Governors.

According to the Postal Service’s website, the board is responsible for implementing an array of postal policies, including the company’s budget and long-term planning.

President Trump made three nominations to the board in October, but the Senate has yet to confirm them.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which oversees postal policy and is responsible for initial confirmation of the Board nominees, did not respond to our emails asking when nominee confirmations might occur.

Nonetheless, Brennan was hopeful that the nominees would be confirmed soon.

“We’re encouraged, in talking with some of our key public officials, that they understand the urgency of this,” she said in a web conference. “As we’ve said from the outset...we are best served, as is the American public, by having a fully constituted board, so I’m optimistic we’ll have them confirmed and on board by our next scheduled meeting.”

As for the Postal Reform Act of 2017, former Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, introduced the bill in January of last year, but Congress has made no recent move to approve the bill.

If passed, the bill would amend the Postal Service’s employee and retiree health benefits and revise rules surrounding postal rate changes. The bill would also allow the Postal Service to work with state and local authorities to provide government goods and services and would encourage the use of centralized delivery, through which customers can opt to pick up their mail at a centralized location instead of at their front door.

The bill establishes a Postal Service “Chief Innovation Officer” to focus on innovation within the company and would reduce the number of seats on the Board of Governors to five, which has historically consisted of nine governors, who serve seven-year terms.

At Friday’s meeting, Chief Financial Officer Joe Corbett outlined the Postal Service’s financial results in quarter one of fiscal year 2018. The Postal Service faced a net loss of \$540 million, as first class mail revenues declined about four percent and marketing mail revenues declined about five percent. With the holiday season, package revenues increased around nine percent and international mail revenues increased around the same amount. However, this was not enough to offset the losses.

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Postmaster General continued...

Brennan attributed the Postal Service's financial troubles to the high cost of employee benefit programs and to the Congressional mandate to deliver to every American home and business. She suggested that the price cap on stamps and mail services prevents the Postal Service from earning enough revenue to cover costs. She also noted that current regulations limit the Postal service's "ability to pursue new sources of revenue."

The National Association of Letter Carriers, the national labor union for city-delivery mail carriers, released a statement on the Postal Service's first quarter results, echoing the Postmaster General's call for action from Congress.

"Congress should address the pre-funding burden it imposed in 2006, which requires USPS — alone among all public and private entities — to prefund future retiree healthcare benefits decades into the future," they wrote. "This produces an onerous annual burden of billions of dollars."

The only current postal legislation being considered by Congress is the renaming of post offices, a common practice to honor community leaders and other important officials.

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates

No Activity

Website Updates

Watermarks History video uploaded.
Filatelic Fiesta / Boy Scout Flyers updated.
Minutes of 04/04/18 club meeting uploaded.
Calendar updated.
Minutes of 03/21/18 club meeting uploaded.
April 2018 Newsletter uploaded.

Postal History vs Advertising By Charles Fricke

The many aspects of postally used 1c postal cards oftentimes raises a question: Is it of more interest because of its postal markings and the handling of it or its potential as an advertising (discount/giveaway) 1c postal card.



Back in the 1880s (and actually, well into the 20th century), commercial firms would offer postal cards to their customers free or at discounted prices—as a promotional gambit. Being very popular, postal cards were widely used and, when a consumer used a postal card with a business ad on the "message" side, the business got some very low-cost advertising.

The address side of the 1c postal card (Scott UX5) shows it was mailed from Lynn, Mass., On Jun. 7 (1880) to Mrs. Grace Oliver at 128 Marlton St., Boston, Mass. With a Boston carrier marking of Jun 7, 4:30PM for delivery to Mrs. Oliver, but she was no longer at that address.

Next it was being FORWARDED and a second Boston marking of Jun 7, 5PM is applied as the address has been corrected to Chestnut Hill (Mass.) in care of Mrs. C.G. Page. So it went from Lynn to Boston to Chestnut Hill.

Then, when the message is considered, there seems to be a possibility the 1c postal card was either discounted (sold for less than 1c but not so indicated) or as a giveaway to customers.

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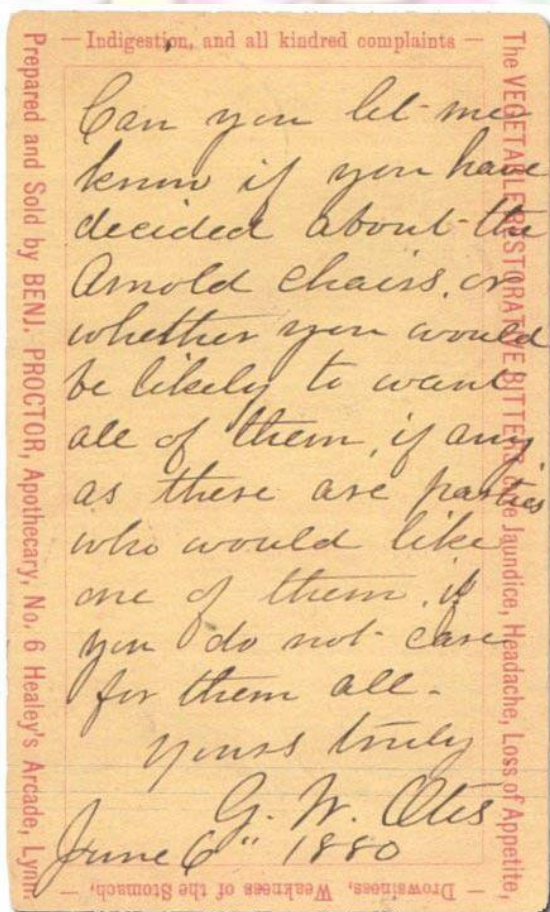
Postal History continued...

The problem stems from the fact that the advertisement around the (4) sides of the 1c postal card and the message are two totally different businesses.

The (4) sides of the advertisement in red:

“The VEGETABLE RESTORATIVE BITTERS cure Jaundice, Headache, Loss of Appetite/-Drowsiness, Weakness of the Stomach/-Indigestion, and all kindred complaints – Prepared and Sold by BENJ. PROCTOR, Apothecary, No. 6 Healey’s Arcade, Lynn.”

Undoubtedly the 1c postal card was an advertisement for Vegetable Restorative Bitters, however the message is all about Mrs. Oliver wanting chairs as evident by the request of Mr. Otis.



“Can you let me know if you have decided about the Arnold Chairs or whether you would be likely to want all of them, if any, as there are parties who would like one of them if you does not care for them all.

“Yours truly
“G. W. Otis
“June 6, 1880”

Now we can see there is quite a difference between selling Bitters and selling Chairs one by Proctor and the other by Otis. Now the question becomes whether Proctor sold the cards at a discount (less than 1c) to his customers including Otis or did he offer them as a giveaway to promote Bitters?

No matter which might be the case it is quite apparent that the discounted or giveaway 1c postal card advertising the Bitters was the primary advertisement and the business of selling the chairs being second.

Now taking into account the many discounted 1c postal cards being promoted and distributed by many companies in the area during this period it is an extremely good possibility the Proctor Bitters 1c postal cards were sold at a discount over the counter at his Apothecary in Lynn, Mass. Even though it is not so noted in the advertisement.



Long time club member receives Nicholas G. Carter award

John Drew, who joined the San Jose Stamp Club as a teenager in 1943, was presented with the Nicholas G. Carter award during the APS Town Hall meeting at WESTPEX, Saturday, April 28. He was presented the award as recognition for his many contributions to the Western Cover Society. Scott English, the APS Executive Director, presented the award. Scott is also a member of the club. John's participation with the club has diminished with his age, but is still a valued member of the club. If you do the math, John has been a member for 75 years which is truly remarkable. Club members attending the meeting came wearing their club tee-shirts to let everyone know how happy and proud we are of John's recognition for providing such dedicated service for such an extraordinary period of time. A good day for John and the San Jose Stamp Club.

San Jose Stamp Club recognized

San Jose Stamp Club was recognized for our support of YPLF alum in regards to Filatelic Fiesta. Scott English, APS Executive Director, in his May column, in American Philatelist applauded the club allowing 4 YPLF alum to chair key positions in regards to the show. We all know and appreciate Jessica's contributions as show Chairwoman, but we now have 3 additional YPLF alum. All of them bright stars and part of the future in the philatelic world. They are Ryan Wellmaker as Bourse Chairman, Ian Hunter as Marketing Chairman and Katie Vasicek as Awards Chairwoman. As Scott said in his article, the club is giving our young leaders a home to make a big impact on the hobby. As we interact with our young leaders give them all the support and encouragement that we can. After all, their success is our success as well as a long term benefit to the hobby. Be sure to check out Scott's full article in the May issue of American Philatelist.

President's Message

Outreach should be the top priority for our hobby. We could have a healthy population of new collectors if we get serious about it. The problem is that there is far too little effort put into outreach so too few see the virtues of collecting. If the hobby made a concerted effort to communicate all the good reasons to collect, I firmly believe we'd have a strong growth spurt.

Since our hobby is out of the public spot-light, too few realize the fun and educational opportunities of starting a "stamp" collection. I put the word stamp in quotes as collections today can include so much more than stamps. The key is showing people how to be creative with their collecting. Because the hobby is largely invisible to the general public, most people just have no idea why on earth they would start collecting. This is what we need to change.

One of the great challenges in doing outreach is the numbers. Since only a small percentage of the population will be stamp collectors, we need to cast a broad net. Another significant challenge to get over is the preconceptions people have about stamp collections. Too many think stamp collecting is for only old men who like leaning over dusty albums with obscure scraps of paper.

The great challenge is showing people why they would want to start a collection and then give some direction on what to do. I've been writing and talking about my idea for a "Stamp Fair" to host an event focused on outreach. I still believe this is a good idea and want to try to do this when the club is ready to support it.

An important part of people seeing the fun of collecting is showing them how to be creative in their collecting. Scrapbooking materials can let people create a collection and use a lot of creativity doing it.

Another aspect to communicate is how to integrate modern tools into one's collecting.

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President's Message continued...

Of course, the Internet is an amazing resource of information, digital microscopes can improve on old fashioned magnifiers, computer editing tools allow people to create their own pages, as well other modern tools that can improve one's collecting experience.

Don't be confused that I'm advocating to change traditional collecting. I personally keep up a traditional Scott National album of my US collection and see albums having an important role going forward. The research done by those who exhibit contributes a lot to our understanding of postal history as well as a wide variety of other topics. I'm in favor of keeping all of this unchanged.

Outreach should be an on-going activity across all aspects of the hobby. We'll need to make different attempts to reach lots of people. It may take people hearing the message multiple times to give it a try. To borrow a line from one of my favorite movies, "If we do the outreach, they will come."

Brian

What are Farley's Follies



U.S. #754 Imperforate and without gum as issued

Farley's Follies is one of stamp collecting's most interesting stories.

And since most of the stamps are readily available and inexpensive, it's easy enough to put a specialized collection together. Let's step back in time and discover one of the Postal Service's biggest scandals...

James A. Farley (1888-1976) got his start in politics in 1911 as town clerk of Grassy Point, New York. He moved his way through the political system, forming the Upstate New York Democratic Organization and bringing many upstate voters to the Democratic party. In 1924, he met young Franklin Roosevelt at the Democratic National Convention. Four years later, FDR asked Farley to run his campaign for New York governor. Farley helped FDR win the elections for governor in 1928 and 1930. A driving force in the U.S. political system, Farley helped FDR win the 1932 and 1936 presidential elections. Roosevelt made Farley his Postmaster General. Farley was pivotal in turning around the U.S. Post Office Department. He helped the department finally turn a profit and revolutionized airmail service.

The infamous "Farley's Follies" controversy began in 1933 when Farley removed several stamp sheets from the printing presses before they were gummed or perforated. He autographed these sheets (which were not available to the public) and gave them to colleagues and family, creating precious philatelic rarities. Stamp collectors were outraged when they discovered what had happened. Finally, the Post Office came up with a solution – the reissue in sheet form of all the stamps issued since March 4, 1933, in ungummed condition, all but the first two imperforate and in sufficient numbers to satisfy public demand. Although Farley and FDR had a falling out over Roosevelt's plan to run for a third term, Farley remained a strong force in the political and business worlds. He went on to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation and served as a trusted advisor to several Popes, dignitaries, and Presidents until his death in 1976.

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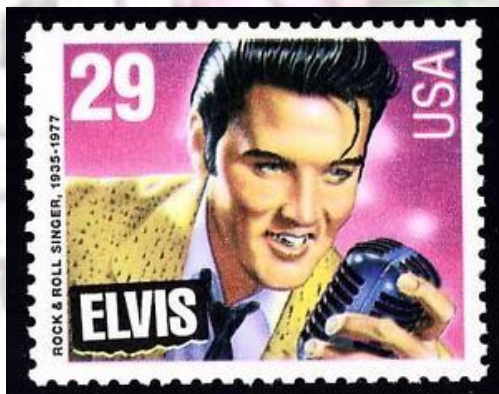
May 2018

America's 100 Greatest Stamps

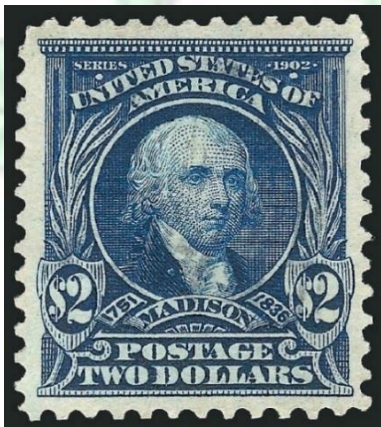
Club Member/Dealers



#82 – Scott 537 1919 Victory Issue



#81 – Scott 2721 1993 Elvis Presley



#80 – Scott 317 1902 James Madison

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