

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

April 2023

2023 Club Officers*

President

*Brian Jones 408 300 3377
bfj39@yahoo.com

Vice President

*David Occhipinti 408 723 0122

Secretary

*Dave Gilman 408 264 1953
Sanjosegilman@gmail.com

Treasure

*Andy Hilton 408 3771442
Papa_hilton@yahoo.com

Webmaster/Newsletter

Jim Steinwinder 408 644 4090
callcps@aol.com

SJSC Blog

Ron Biell 408 323 8702
Rbiell-dsl@sbcglobal.net

Filatellic Fiesta 2022

Chairman

Brian Jones 408 300 3377
bfj39@yahoo.com

Bourse Chairman

Andy Hilton 408 377 1442
papa_hilton@yahoo.com

Awards Chairman

Open

Club Website

www.sanjosesc.com

Club Blog

www.sjscblog.net

Filatellic Fiesta Website

www.filatellicfiesta.com

Correspondence:

San Jose Stamp Club
981 Shadow Brook Dr.
San Jose, CA 95120



the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook



WESTPEX 2023 April 28-30, 2023

Friday 10AM - 6PM
Saturday 10AM - 6PM
Sunday 10AM - 4PM

**\$5 Admission good for all three days
Children under 15 free with adult**

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	
5	What's UPcoming ??
6	WESTPEX Press Release
7	Treaty of Bern
8	APS PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

March 2023 Newsletter uploaded

Presidents Message

“Scouting Merit Badge”

A wonderful opportunity to get young people interested in stamp collecting is through the Scouting stamp collecting merit badge. It is an especially good opportunity now that both young men and women are welcome in Scouting – notice I’m not calling it “Boy Scouts”.



It is worth mentioning that there have been several significant changes in Scouting over the past 10 years. First, and most important is implementing a series of procedural changes to protect young people from the abuse that has occurred in the past. While no organization that involves young people can be perfect, but the incidents of inappropriate behavior are GREATLY reduced.



Most of what you hear in the news are things that happened 30-40 years ago (not that it makes it ok). Also, all the troops that were part of Mormon Church have left to form their own youth program. They wanted to push too much of their faith on everybody, so they pulled out all their troops into a program they run themselves. In response to many young women wanting to participate in the many outdoor activities that every Scout troop does, Boy Scouts is now “Scouting”.

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

April 2023

Why am I writing all this in a stamp club newsletter? Because we should be proud of the work this club has done to teach stamp collecting merit badge. Scouting is safe for young people, free of excessive religious overtones and open to all young people. Over the years, over 500 Scouts have earned their merit badge with our support. Bottom line is that Scouting is focused on the outdoors, safe, fun, educational, and open to all young people.

Like any good organization, Scouting is always reviewing its programs to keep them fresh and appropriate. Rank requirements and merit badges are regularly updated to keep them relevant and achievable. There are a total of 137 merit badges including ones for “Coin Collecting” and “Collecting”. These other collecting badges regularly get approximately 5,000 Scouts earning them each year. Their popularity puts them in the middle of the pack. However, for several years, Stamp Collecting merit badge has only had about 1,000 Scouts earning it. This puts it near the very bottom of popularity (132 of 137 in 2022).



Therefore, if the hobby doesn't do anything there is a very strong possibility that stamp collecting could become an option in the Collecting merit badge. This could happen with little or insufficient notice to do anything about it. Consequently, the time for the hobby to start an action plan is NOW. When I write “the hobby”, I mean ALL elements of philately. There needs to be a coordinated plan between the APS, ASDA, major businesses like Amos & Mystic, local clubs and show hosts.

The fundamental problem is that there are way too few opportunities across the country for Scouts to earn this badge. There needs to be proactive programs all over the country so that any Scout who is interested in trying it, can register for a class. Most Scout councils have an email that goes to families about various camping, hiking, and merit badges. When a young person sees this, they will give it a try.

The challenge is knowing and completing what it takes to get a program listed in this email. It starts with having a leader who is a registered merit badge counselor. This person needs to complete counselor training and “Youth Protection Training”.

One key decision is what and how to provide the stamps necessary to complete the collection requirement. I encourage scouts to collect a country important in their family heritage. This is most popular with 1st or 2nd generation to live here in the US. Topical collecting is very popular but it can be challenging to be able to provide the 75 different stamps required for the badge. Therefore, it is necessary to have them define their topic in a broadly enough to be able to get 75. For example, they collect “animals” instead of just elephants; or “Transportation” instead of cars;

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

April 2023

or “Art”, not just one artist or style. Our hobby has veritable plethora of minimum value stamps, so here is a chance to take advantage of this. Many of the donations this club receives are because the donor has a connection to Scouting or just likes the idea of young people getting started collecting through the merit badge. Other groups could follow this model or find another way.

Exactly how other clubs and shows will acquire the stamps necessary is not clear to me, but this is a solvable problem.

It’s high time the leaders in the philatelic community stop worrying about the minutia details of what exhibit gets what ribbon and take up the challenge to keep the merit badge alive. Our favorite hobby desperately needs every new collector we can get. Permanently locking this door would be a huge mistake. With a commitment to saving this badge, we can widen this door into the hobby. With the right training and encouragement many more clubs and show committees can host a merit badge program.

[optional if we include this ranking; I’m already long winded and mentioned the key numbers in the text]

2022 Rank	Merit Badge
128	Veterinary Medicine
129	Composite Materials
130	Truck Transportation
131	Dentistry
132	Stamp Collecting
133	American Labor
134	Journalism
135	Surveying
136	Drafting
137	Bugling

Coin Collecting mb is ranked #92

Brian

Continued on next page

What's Upcoming?

April 28-30th: WESTPEX is coming up fast! It's one of the countries top shows. This years guest societies include: Poland Philatelic Society, Scandinavian Collectors Club, and the US Philatelic Classics Society. Also, Peter Adams will be giving the talk he gave in our March meeting, "Tagging Errors" on US stamps.

Club member Gary Morris will have a booth at the show. Come visit to shop for that Hawaiian stamp you've been wanting. He'll also have a stock of Vario stock pages.

May 3rd: Larry Rosenblum will do a presentation on his article in the February 20th issue of Linn's Stamp News. His article is titled "Famous scientist Louis Pasteur was first honored on stamps during financial times." You are encouraged to read this article before the meeting.

June and forward: What are you going to present and what month? Everyone can present. It's time step up to do a presentation.

Summer: Now that the pandemic has wound down, lets have a summer picnic again. Any volunteers to help organize it?

Trips? Last year I proposed we take some weekend day trips out, but the pandemic prevented us from being able to do them. Shall we try again this summer?

WESTPEX® 2023 Stamp Show

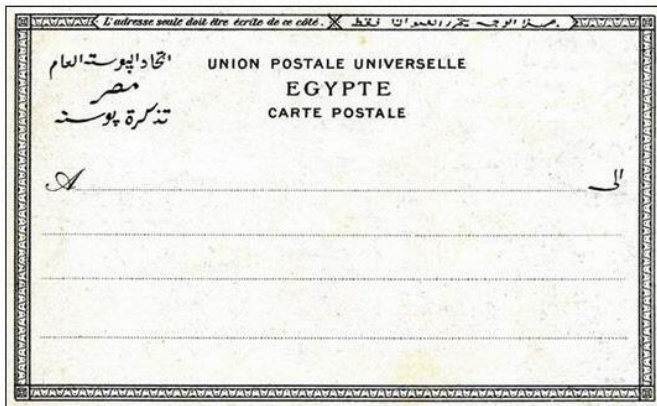
Media Contacts Robert Pope, 916-583-3027, thepope66@hotmail.com

WESTPEX® 2023 Stamp Show

- The sixty-third annual WESTPEX show will be held April 28 – 30, 2023 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA, just a mile south of the San Francisco International Airport.
- This open exhibition will feature over 250+ frames of exhibits, and participation by the United States Philatelic Classics Society, the Scandinavian Collectors Club, Polonus Polish Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Society – Town Hall Meeting. This is a World Series of Philately exhibition with the Grand Award winner eligible at the next Champion of Champions competition.
- The shows bourse will include 60+ national and international dealers in stamps, postal history and stationery and supplies, filling the bourse with items desired by general collectors, specialists and exhibitors. The show will once again have a large four day auction by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions with a large number of lots ranging from single items to large collections which will be available for pre-auction viewing.
- Numerous specialty societies, clubs, and study groups will hold a variety of meetings and seminars during the three-day event.
- There is a WESTPEX sponsored Youth Area with free stamps and supplies for young collectors. On Sunday, April 30th, a Boy Scout Merit Badge program is scheduled.
- Continuing the tradition of a local show theme, WESTPEX 2023 will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Cable Car. WESTPEX will offer a special Cinderella souvenir sheet as well as cachet covers.
- You will not want to miss this 63rd annual WESTPEX Stamp Show. It will officially open at 10 AM, Friday April 28th. Complete show details, reservations, schedules, and theme story will be available at www.westpex.org.

The Treaty of Bern

An international treaty signed at Bern, Switzerland, in 1874 was the culmination of decades of work done by postal authorities in nearly two dozen countries. To greater appreciate the Treaty of Bern, the postcard collector needs to draw from personal experience. If you have examined an early foreign postcard you have likely found some with backs similar to the one you see here. It would be easy to assume this to be a French postcard, but it is not. It is a card from a nation that is a member of the Universal Postal Union. French however was the official language of the Union Postale Universelle.



On this card it's easy to identify the country of origin, as the word "Egypt" is printed in capital letters under the words "Union Postale Universelle."

From the mid-1670s through to the end of the 1790s, most mail delivery between countries was a process administered through bilateral agreements, but by the mid-1850s the network of mutual agreements became so clumsy that it was actually impeding the development of international commerce.

The first noteworthy postal reform took place in England in the mid-19th century when Sir Rowland Hill introduced a system of prepaid postage based on the weight of the item being mailed.

Then in 1863, in the United States, President Abraham Lincoln's Postmaster General Montgomery Blair called for all postal representatives from around the world to Paris for a conference. Blair's intention was to create agreement that would smooth the way for delivery of mail in countries where political conflicts interfered with their citizens' receipt of mail from outside their own national borders. Delegates from 15 European countries and the United States attended.

The conference was successful to the extent that the delegates were able to formulate a set of general principles for future discussions, but they were unable to settle on an international postal agreement.

Eleven years later a senior postal official from the North German Confederation, Heinrich von Stephan, created a plan for an international postal union. He suggested that the Swiss

government call for an international conference on postal reform to be held in Bern. The Swiss agreed and a conference convened on September 15, 1874, which attracted representatives from 22 nations.

On October 9th a treaty establishing the General Postal Union, was signed. Membership grew so quickly in the years following that the name "General Union" needed to be changed. In 1878, the General Union became the Universal Union.

The Treaty of Bern succeeded in unifying the very confusing international maze of postal services, rates and regulations into a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letters. The representatives agreed that membership privileges commenced on July 1, 1875. The barriers and frontiers that had impeded the free flow and growth of international mail had finally been pulled down.

Signatories of the Treaty of Bern

- German Empire
- Austria-Hungary
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Spain
- United States of America
- France
- The United Kingdom
- Greece
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Portugal
- Romania
- The Russian Empire
- Serbia
- The United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway
- Switzerland
- The Ottoman Empire

Throughout the 145-year history of the UPU, postcards have been a recognized form of international communication since 1894. However, as content that conflicted with Islamic practice began to appear, issues were raised among some signatories, most notably in the Ottoman Empire. The questionable content that was most problematic included seaside humor, sexual innuendo, and nudity as in images of classical statuary or paintings, *although they were happy to produce untold numbers of objectionable stamps for collectors!* Editors comment.

From the internet with no changes. It should be noted that the cards described herein are *Postal Cards*, not postcards. The dates for their appearance is also in question and 1894 is definitely long after their first appearance. Today the collecting of UPU material is popular, especially the anniversaries; in particular the 75 and 100 years. There are some 192 member states presently, however, that changes as countries combine, split, and new countries emerge.—Jim Sauer

Contribution from Jim Sauer

APS President Steps Down APS Board to Select New Leader



Bob Zeigler (left) and Steve Reinhard (right)

APS President Bob Zeigler announced his intention to step down as President of the American Philatelic Society, effective March 31, 2023. Zeigler will remain on the **APS Board of Directors** as Immediate Past President.

Following Section 5.7(a) of the APS Bylaws, the APS Board of Vice Presidents has called a meeting for Monday, April 3, 2023, at 7:30 pm Eastern to fill the vacancy “by election by the Board of Directors from among its own membership.”

Bob Zeigler was elected Vice President to the APS Board of Directors in 2016. In May 2018, the APS Board of Directors elected Zeigler to fill the remaining term of APS President Mick Zais, who resigned to become Deputy Secretary of Education. Zeigler was re-elected by the APS membership in 2019 and again in 2022. During Zeigler’s tenure as President, the APS met the response of closure during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped retire the debt of the Match Factory in Bellefonte.

Stephen Reinhard will leave the Board as Immediate Past President. Reinhard was elected to the APS Board in 2011 as Vice President. In 2013, the APS membership elected Reinhard as President of the APS Board, and he served until 2016. Since 2016, Reinhard has served as the Immediate Past President of the APS Board.

The meeting to elect a new President will be held via Zoom and is open to the public.

Club Member/Dealers

Richard Clever

Asia Philatelics, P.O. Box 730993, San Jose, CA 95173-0993
Phone: (408) 238-0893 Fax: (408) 238-2539 Email: richard@asiaphilatelics.com
Web Site: www.asiaphilatelics.com
(China, Asia, Ireland, Japan)

Ron Biell

Euro-Asian Stamps, P.O. Box 20562, San Jose, CA 95160
Phone: (408) 323-8702 Fax: (408) 323-8702 Email: rbiell-dsl@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: www.eurasiastamps.com
(China, Japan, Baltics, Russia, W. Europe, Covers Worldwide)

Doug Gary

Douglas Gary, P.O. Box 457, Campbell, CA 95009
Phone: (408) 274-3939 Email: doug_gary@hotmail.com
(USA & Worldwide Postal History, Stamps, Autographs, Postcards)

Deepak Jaiswal

Stampbay, Inc, PO Box 50848, Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: (650) 387-3885 Fax: (650) 561-4044 Email: info@stampbay.com
Web site: www.stampbay.com
(India including India used abroad)

Walt Kransky

Walts Postcards
Web Site: www.thepostcard.com Email: wrsky@att.net
(philatelic material, covers, postcards)

Gary Morris

Pacific Midwest Co., PO Box 730818, San Jose, CA 95173
Phone: (408) 532-7100 Email: garyucb@aol.com
www.ebay.com, Seller Name: garyucb
(Hawaii Stamps & Covers, Other Worldwide Stamps, Linder and Lighthouse Stamp Supplies)

Denis Norrington

Arrow Stamp Company, San Francisco, California.
Phone: [415-425-6683](tel:415-425-6683) Email: denis@arrowstamp.co Web site: www.arrowstamp.com
(Worldwide Stamps and collections)