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APRL New Resources - March 2023

4/30/2023

The **APRL** has one of the world's largest and most accessible collections of philatelic literature. Its nearly four miles of shelving contains more than 23,000 book titles and 5,700 journal titles. Below is a list of new materials that have just arrived and are now available in the APRL collection. The location in the APRL collection of each listed item is denoted in the square parentheses [] following each citation.

Items listed below are available to be borrowed either in-person or remotely, but only by **APS members**. If you are not already a member, consider **joining the the APS** for this one-of-a-kind member benefit. To inquire more about borrowing items from the APRL collection, contact the library at **library@stamps.org**.

BOOKS

Alones, V.W.; Matuzas, C.; Barbatavichus, P.; Norton, W.E.; Doniela, V.; Zygas, J. **Postage Stamps of Lithuania Price list supplement 1985** (New York, NY: Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York, 1985). [G7050.L766p Suppl. 1985]



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- 4 Counterfeit Postage
- 5 HOLOCUST Exhibit Dedicated

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

May 2023 newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

Presidents Message

Wow! We have a lot of potential in front of us. Youth & senior programs, social engagements, as well as our regular meetings. Let's each do what we can to contribute to making these things happen. A summary of the programs follows.

<u>Youth Activities</u>: You'll find a write-up on the program at Scout-O-Rama in this newsletter. We had a full or nearly full table all day. Kids of a wide range (and a few adults) enjoyed doing a stamp project. I want to add, that I've learned to add a box with coloring projects and crayons for our younger guests as they want to do something but handling the stamps is a little more what they want to do. It's fun to see kids get excited about looking for the stamps they need and helping each other. I get the biggest smile when I hear a kid their parent, that they don't want to leave until they complete their project.

Next is a youth program at the library where we meet. My plan is to give a brief introduction to stamp collecting and then have do a simple project – some of the same ones done at Scout-O-Rama. I'm having a hard time finding a good presentation to use as the ones the APS has are terrible. Sorry Scott, but there is nothing appropriate from the APS for a young audience that focuses on the fun of the hobby. While the obvious is true that we hope to create some new young collectors, these kids will have their parents with them, and my goal is for them to hear how much fun it is for all ages; a great learning experience; and is that elusive activity that can be done as a family. A significant financial benefit to hosting this program is that helps secure our use of the Community Room at no cost to the club.

Senior Program: Something new that is just getting started are programs for senior citizens. The program that I'm starting with is to loan albums of covers to the Alzheimer's / dementia unit (known as the "Grove"). These are the albums of commemorative covers like: "Celebrating the Bicentennial", "Visiting our National Parks", "State Birds and Flowers", and "Honoring Princess Diana". True philatelists shun these covers as they made for non-collectors and they can bring some joyous memories to those with serious challenges. My plan is to loan 3-4 albums to them for a few months and then rotate in some different ones and rotate the original ones to the Assisted Living area. If spending time looking through these albums brings some joy to people who are in a tough way, then I would consider it a success. Sorry, no, there is little chance of getting new members out of this, but a small sign near the shelf with the albums will let people know where they came from. Perhaps that will spark someone to start. It also helps substantiate our status as a charity.

<u>Social Programs</u>: A social club should have "social" events, so what I have in mind for this year is a joint meeting with the Parajo Valley and Monterey Stamp Clubs in September. I am coordinating this with William Horne, the President of the Parajo Club. It will be good to get to know other local clubs better. It can only help the philatelic organizations in the region to get to know each other.

I'd love for us to have a summer picnic, but I need help to organize this. Anybody willing to volunteer? We can do this at the pool club near my home if that is what we want.

<u>Stamps:</u> First and foremost, we're a STAMP club, so where are the stamps in this litany of activities? There in my living and dining room. There is some wonderful material in there. You might be surprised by what you'll find. I would like to ask you to contribute some time helping to sort and organize this material. I cannot do all this by myself. Everyone has different skills and experiences that can contribute to organizing the many donations we've received. One option is work in my home or take material home and work on it there. Last month I asked everyone to let me know what you collect, so I can watch for it in the donations, but I only heard from 3 club members.

Unfortunately, there are no stamp shows anywhere in the greater Bay Area until the fall, so we'll have to work with each other. Let's have a great summer working with and supporting each other. Our monthly meetings need speakers/programs. What month are you volunteering for?

Brían

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Scout-O-Rama 2023

Written by Brian Jones

One of the charitable activities our club supports is hosting a stamp collecting booth at Scout-O-Rama (SOR). This activity is done in close collaboration with Scout Troop 290. They meet at Bret Harte Middle School in the Almaden Valley of San Jose. SOR is a really fun event for kids of all ages and is filled with a wide variety of wonderful activities including axe throwing, building a rope bridge, knot tying, outdoor cooking demonstrations. It is held annually on the Saturday before Mother's Day in History Park.





The stamp projects are created around popular stamp sets like the Prexies, Liberty, Champions of Liberty, 50 State Birds & Flowers, Famous American's and others. The first page of each project includes "Fun Facts" giving the history and fun information about the stamp subjects. The following page(s) have images of the stamps and guests match up bins of that stamp series and mount them on the page. A device that dispenses a patch of acid-free temporary gum is used to then hold the stamps in place. These are much easier than using hinges and don't damage the stamps. When the project is completed, it is then placed in a sheet protector so it isn't easily damaged as they do other activities. The youngest guests enjoyed one of the coloring projects that are also available.

It's wonderful to hear young people having fun finding the stamps to complete their project and asking for more time when a parent says it's time to go do other things. Lots of young people come back after having done a project in a previous year and wanting to do a different one this year. About 75-100 people did a project and it is hoped this might spark an interest in becoming a stamp collector or at to earn the stamp collecting merit badge.







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Warning! Counterfeit Postage

Anybody who uses just about any on-line website where things are bought and sold has seen what appears to be USPS new postage for deep discounts. Some sites are offering discounts as deep as 50% to 60% off face value. However, there is an old adage "That a deal that appears to be too good to be true, it probably is." Yes, these stamps are counterfeit. If you've already bought some and think these look so good, they must but real, sorry there fake. Foreign printers do an exceptional job of faking our stamps including the markings in the selvage and UV tagging. The best "tell" if the stamps are real is the price paid. The USPS never EVER sells their stamps at deep discounts. If you get caught using fake postage, your mail does not get delivered and is disposed of. Please read the message below from the USPS for more details. Some of the sites selling fake stamps go to great lengths to appear to be the USPS, but again, if their selling at a deep discount, the stamps are fake.

USPS Warns the Public About Surge In Use of Counterfeit Postage

Postal Service Files Federal Register Notice to Address Issue

WASHINGTON — In recent years, a surge in the use of counterfeit postage has been found in the mail stream. The intentional use, or sale, of counterfeit postage is a crime because it seeks to obtain services without payment. This activity reflects an intentional effort to defraud the Postal Service of the funds it needs to provide services to the public.

In response to this problem, the Postal Service is filing a federal register notice about changes to the *Mailing Standards* of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®), that will allow the Postal Service to treat items found in the mail stream bearing counterfeit postage as abandoned. "As the most trusted government agency in the nation, we will continue to work together with other law enforcement and government agencies to protect the sanctity of the mail," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale.

The Postal Service's proposed changes will provide the public notice of the handling of items bearing counterfeit postage. Under the revision to DMM 604.8.4, articles found in the mails with counterfeit postage will be considered abandoned and may be opened and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. The mission of the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service is to ensure the safety, security, and integrity of the U.S. Mail. The implementation of these new regulations will continue to support and enhance this mission.

Counterfeit postage is any marking or indicia that has been made, printed, or otherwise created without authorization from the Postal Service that is printed or applied, or otherwise affixed, on an article placed in the mails that indicates or represents that valid postage has been paid to mail the article. Consumers purchasing online items may be surprised to find out that the vendor mailed their goods using counterfeit postage. Under the new regulations, such items will be considered abandoned and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. When this occurs, consumers will have to seek recourse from the vendor.

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6/4/2023

by Nora Bryson

The American Philatelic Society is proud to share that "A Philatelic Memorial of the Holocaust," an exhibit born of the **Holocaust Stamps Project**, was formally dedicated on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA.

The ceremony included remarks from **Rabbi David Ostrich** of **Congregation Brit Shalom** in State College; award-winning filmmaker and director of Penn State's Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative, **Boaz Dvir**; President Elect of Congregation Brit Shalom **Deena Ultman** and former Penn State Hillel board member **James Ultman**; APS Executive Director **Scott English**; and educator **Charlotte Sheer**, who initiated the Holocaust Stamps Project with her students at Foxborough Regional Charter School in Massachusetts. Also present were representatives of local and state government, including State Representative **Paul Takac**; **Mark Long**, representative of State Representative **Kerry Benninghoff**; **Mykhala Richner**, representative of State Senator **Cris Dush**; Centre County Commissioners **Amber Concepcion**, **Steven Dershem**, and **Mark Higgins** (chair); **Ezra Nanes**, Mayor of State College Borough; Bellefonte Borough Council members **Randy Brachbill**, **Joanne Tosti-Vasey**, and **Johanna Sedgwick**; and Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber of Commerce board member **Susan Munnell**. **Katherine Nugent** and **Cora Seigworth** of Bellefonte Area High School performed "Somewhere" by Leonard Bernstein and "Schindler's List Theme" by John Williams, arranged by **Caleb Rebarchak**.



The Centre County Board of Commissioners was one of several state and local groups who issued proclamations denouncing antisemitism and promoting Holocaust education in honor of the dedication of the exhibit. L-R: Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner (chair) Mark Higgins, APS Executive Director Scott English, and Commissioner Steven Dershem. Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

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15 Years in the Making

"A Philatelic Memorial of the Holocaust" originated with the Holocaust Stamps Project, which began in the fifth-grade classroom of Charlotte Sheer as an activity to accompany the reading of Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars*. The historical fiction book follows the escape of a Jewish family from Copenhagen during WWII through the eyes of a ten-year-old Danish girl.

"The children raised questions that plucked at my Jewish heartstrings," Sheer said at the ceremony. Her students wanted to know why the Nazis were so cruel to the Jewish people – and when Sheer shared that she was Jewish and had relatives who had been killed during the Holocaust, their interest in and empathy with the subject grew.



In addition to collecting 11 million stamps over nine years, students at Foxborough Regional Charter School also created 18 collages of stamps to tell stories of Holocaust victims and survivors. Each features a white dove of peace.

"A student asked, 'Could we collect 11 million of something?" Sheer said. "They wanted everyone in the school to really understand."

Though a variety of ideas for what to collect were advanced, Sheer and the students eventually settled on stamps – often considered of little value and easily discarded, they were symbolic of Hitler's view of the Jewish people. Sheer's classes began collecting in 2009, and with the help of the generous donors (including countless APS members) from 29 countries, 48 U.S. states, and Washington D.C., they reached their goal of 11 million stamps in 2017 and officially completed the project in 2018.

All that remained was to find the project a home – but no one that Sheer and her colleague **Jamie Droste** contacted had the space to display the collection, or any idea of how to do so appropriately. After two years, they reached out to the APS, which eagerly agreed to assume stewardship of the collection, beginning the four-year process of creating an exhibit to honor the 11 million victims of the Holocaust and the Nazi regime through philately.

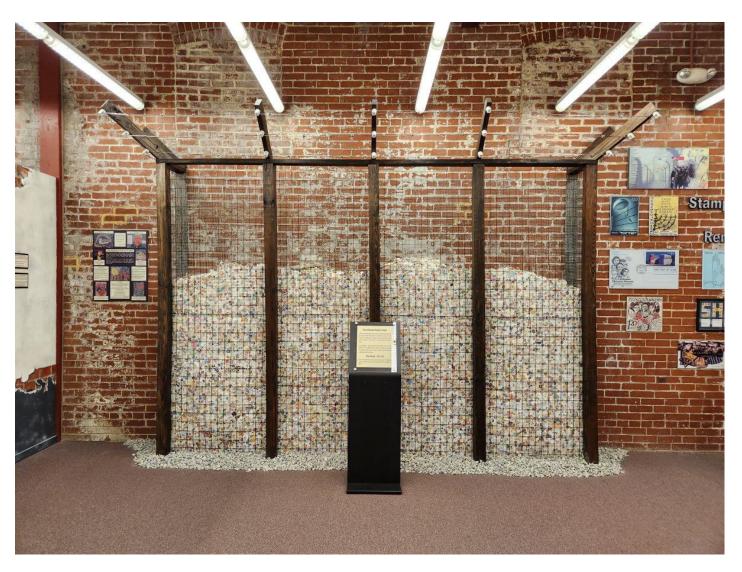
"We know that two in three millennials and Generation Z don't know the story of the Holocaust and, unfortunately, memories are fading," said English, who also shared the poignant story of the late **Morris Rosen**, APS member and Holocaust survivor, at the ceremony. "As collectors, we have a duty to preserve this story for the next generation. We're honored to be part of educating the public on this critical moment in history."

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The 11 million stamps collected by the Holocaust Stamps Project in their new home in the American Philatelic Center. The overall height of the stamps has decreased by about 2 ½ feet since they were added to the enclosure due to the weight of the paper.

Along with the main display of stamps collected by Sheer's class, the exhibit features a historical perspective of the Holocaust, a collection of philatelic materials sent to and from ghettos and concentration camps, a display of Holocaust memorial stamps, and collages of stamps created by Foxborough students that illustrate the stories of Holocaust victims and survivors. Countless examples of Holocaust-era philatelic materials were donated by APS members, giving context to the lives of victims and survivors under the Nazi regime. Members also generously contributed to the exhibit through the **Mighty Buck Club** and the sharing of their own research.

"When the Holocaust Stamps Project's goal of 11 million stamps became national news, APS members answered the call and donated from their collections," said Susanna Mills, editor-in-chief of APS Publications and the exhibit coordinator. "And once the project was given to the APS for safekeeping, APS members donated again, giving of their time, expertise, and money, for us to create a fitting home for the project."

Though many contributed to the evolution of the exhibit, all agree that special thanks are due to **Fred Fox**, artist and APC building supervisor.

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"When they were trying to find a home for the Holocaust Stamps Project, part of what vexed everyone was how to display the stamps," said English when introducing Fox at the ceremony. "This is the man who figured it out." L-R: Fox, English, State Representative Paul Takac, and Centre County Commissioners Mark Higgins, Amber Concepcion, and Steven Dershem.

Fox designed and built the wire cage to hold the stamps, painted the artwork wall, and managed much of the behind-the-scenes work for the exhibit during the height of the pandemic.

"It was an honor to do it," Fox said. "I'm proud of the whole thing, but I'm especially proud of that wall. I painted it four times to get it just right."

Proof of his dedication to his craft? Not to the humble Fox.

"Just means I did it wrong three times."

Awareness Isn't Enough: A Deeper Understanding of the Holocaust Through Philately

In his remarks at the dedication, Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative director Boaz Dvir spoke passionately about the disconnect between awareness and understanding of the Holocaust. He cited an Anti-Defamation League report which tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents in the U.S. in 2022, a 36% increase from 2021 and the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking incidents in 1979. This is the third time in five years that the year-end total was the highest number of incidents ever recorded.

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"Visitors often come and say 'I didn't realize that mail was allowed in and out of concentration camps," says exhibit coordinator and APS editor-in-chief Susanna Mills. "These are real artifacts that you can touch, that represent the lives of Holocaust victims and survivors."

"Is awareness enough?" Dvir asked. "We hope for more – the washing away of hate."

According to Dvir, the Holocaust Stamps Project is something the U.S. needs more of -a hands-on endeavor that creates true understanding of antisemitism so that the horrors of the Nazi regime will never be repeated.

Deena and James Ultman echoed this sentiment, expressing their satisfaction that the project would have a permanent home with the APS, allowing people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about the Holocaust.

"I hope that this exhibit will impact not just the Jewish community," Deena said, "but the larger community of Centre County."

** SJSC had promoted this project from the time the club website first started in October 2015. Brian received a Thank you letter from Charlotte Sheer. Founder of the Holocaust project in March 2017.

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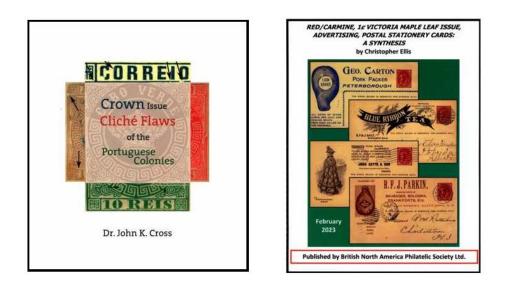
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Continued from Page 1

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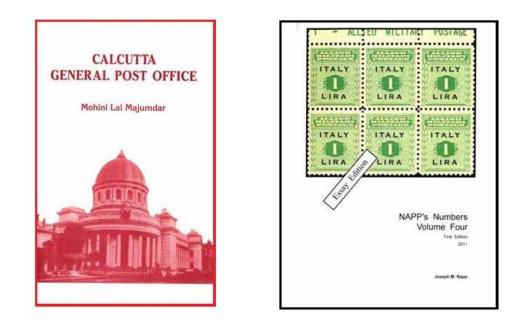
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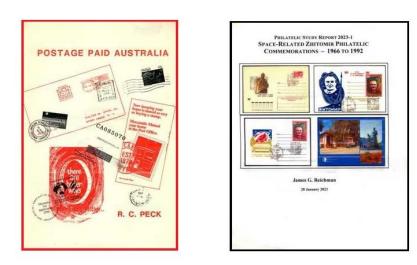
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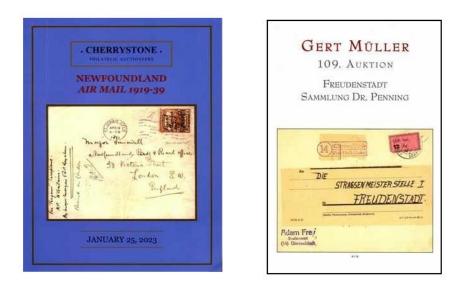
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Heinrich Köhler. Bayern ab 1849, die sammlung Eliahu Weber (Teil 4) 24 March 2023 (Wiesbaden: Heinrich Köhler, 2023). [NS Weber, Eliahu - part 4]

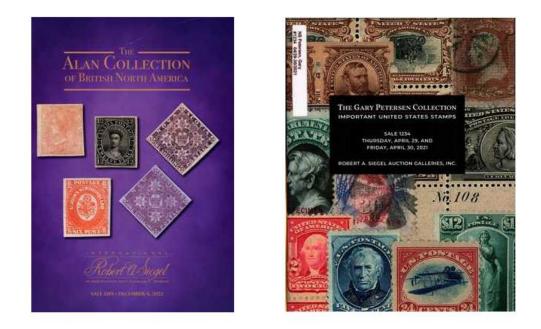
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Heinrich Köhler. Deutschland 1849-2000, Altdeutsche Staaten und Deutsche Kolonien mit Besetzungsausgaben (G.R.I. und MAFIA), die Sammlung Erik B. Nagel (Teil I) 23 March 2023 (Wiesbaden: Heinrich Köhler, 2023). [NS Nagel, Erik B. - pt.1]

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San Jose Stamp Club

June 2023

Club Member/Dealers

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

Doug Gary

Douglas Gary, P.O. Box 457, Campbell, CA 95009 Phone: (408) 274-3939 Email: <u>doug_gary@hotmail.com</u> (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: <u>www.thepostcard.com</u> Email: <u>wrsky@att.net</u> (philatelic material, covers, postcards)

Gary Morris

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

Denis Norrington

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