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## EDITING PHILATELY

By Susanna Mills  
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## Editing Philately: All's "Fair" in Philately

6/30/2023

At the time of my writing, the American Philatelic Society is neck deep in Summer Seminar and the building is full of students and instructors attending courses in person for the first time since 2019. This is an exciting moment for us — this is the final event that had been on hold during the pandemic that we can now bring back to life. It also represents an important question, one that's also being asked by many shows and clubs around the country: are in-person only events still viable? Is digital-only the future, or hybrid? I hope you'll share your thoughts, as these are questions that we are still debating every day among staff members and on the APS Board.

The highlight of every annual show issue is of course the Great American Stamp Show. Here are the facts — this is going to be one of our most successful shows in years. We have dealers and societies on hold on our waiting list. There are going to be eight first day ceremonies, two of which are for new U.S. issues. The energy is high and it is infectious. I can't wait to see you Cleveland at the show — and for those who are still on the fence, let our show section, page 602, convince you.

We also have some special show highlights to share with you. We're proud to host an extensive exhibit from the Royal Philatelic Society London, which is described by RPSL president Peter Cockburn on page 610. The show will also play host to stamp engraver Martin Mörck, who is celebrating a special career highlight at the show. Armağan Özdiñç shares more information on page 612.

What's better to complement the best show of the year than taking a tour of the great fairs? The World's Fairs and Expositions are famous for showcasing technological feats and cultural achievements — but more importantly for collectors, they are treasure troves of stamps, ephemera and other collectibles. We start with the Chicago World's Fair of 1933, as described by APS President Cheryl Ganz; then an article by Alex Gill on the great Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909.

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## Club Blog & Website

**Blog Updates** No Activity

**Website Updates**

June 2023 newsletter uploaded

## Remember the dates!

## President's Message

What do you collect? Yes, we're all here because we have at least one collection. For me, my primary collection is a good old fashioned US collection mounted in a good old fashioned old Scott National Album. I enjoy doing what I can to compliment it, but I don't have a lot of funds to spend on it as so much of what I now need is a little spendy.

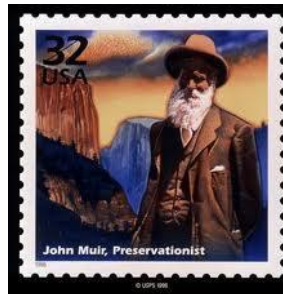
However, what I want to write about this month isn't being "stuck" but breaking out into new directions. For example, one big branch on my



collecting tree is accumulating the real photo postcards (RPPC) of Lisbon, NY – that small town in upstate in upstate

New York that my dad's family has lived in for the past 150 years. These cards make a

wonderful addition to my family's history in this town and greatly help tell the story. The next step is to integrate the stamps from upstate NY into the genealogy story. Integrating one's genealogy with stamps and postcards has the potential to be major portal into a next wave of philatelists.



Many of us collect stamps because we LOVE history. I'm one of those and when the USPS issued the "Celebrate the Century" sheet series, it really appealed to me. I also enjoyed acquiring the ephemera for fun and overload the shelves in my office bookcase with fun collectables. I have several other small accumulations based on items I've accumulated over the years.

I suspect that many reading this have fun collecting beyond their central collection. It would be fun and interesting to learn what others in the club collect. Therefore, everyone is challenged to either present one of your collections at a future meeting or do a write-up for the newsletter (or both!). Come on, this is fun, easy, and interesting. Please accept this challenge and show what you collect for fun.

*Brian*

## Club Treasurer Needed

After several years of wonderful service to the club, Andy Hilton needs to hand-off club Treasurer responsibility. So, the club needs someone to volunteer to take this job. All that is needed to do this job is basic math skills and attention to details. It is nice if you're experienced at using Quicken, but this is not required.

Let's all thank Andy for his service to the club in this important responsibility. Perhaps a club member who has financial expertise or one of the dealers could pick-up this responsibility as you'd know what to do from running your own business. We maintain separate accounts for the club and show.

## Buying Caution:



Be careful when buying a collection that has been mounted using Crystal Mounts. They were made by HE Harris but can ruin the stamps mounted in them. Over time, they shrink causing damaging the stamps perforations. If the stamps are mint, these mounts damage the gum making it look shining and cracked. Even if the stamps are not damaged, the mounts design make it difficult to extract the stamps. Consequently, a collection mounted in these will likely be damaged or at least time consuming to extract them. It is suggested that one ask if these

mounts are used before bidding or buying.

The club is fortunate to receive generous donations, but the mint stamps in it had to go in the Postage box as they are unfit to put into a collection. When found in a donation, Crystal Mounts are one thing that goes right in the garbage

## Club Inventory

The club has amassed a significant inventory of stamps and collecting supplies. While we don't have the exotic and more valuable stamps issues of countries, we do have some that are hard to find, but who's catalog value doesn't reflect how difficult it is to find. Everyone is welcome to come take a look at what we have in stock. I ask that you make a contribution of approximately 25% of catalog value for any stamps you'd like to add to your own collection. It is also a nice favor if you compliment the inventory by adding any level of appropriate organization to our accumulations. There are deep accumulations of United Nations and Israel.

The club also has the following:

- Stamps: Literally millions of stamps from just about every country of the world.
- Mounts: Huge inventory of mounts (mostly Showguard with black back). Especially the larger sizes. Check the club inventory before ordering on-line.
- Album Supplies: a modest supply of album repair materials, mostly Scott.
- Miscellaneous Collecting Supplies: watermark trays, perf gauges, hinges, glassines, miscellaneous stock books, and reference books.

## Plea for Help:

Your club needs you. We are at a crossroads as we have in front of us the opportunity to be a club busy with lots of philatelic and fun activities. However, we need more members to volunteer to lead. A half dozen members are dealing with serious personal health or family issues that require them to set aside club activities. I know we all want to support these members and let them handle these issues with privacy. Coupled with many club members are at a point in their lives where volunteering is more of their past than their future, we have a serious need for the rest to step-up. Call Brian about how you can contribute in a way that fits your schedule, ability, and interests.

## Switzerland

In the thirteenth century the Gotthard Pass, lying in the heart of the Alps, became negotiable and rapidly developed into an economically important North-South crossing point. As a result the valleys of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden became unintentionally involved in European power politics. With a pact of mutual assistance, the members of this core group founded what was to become Switzerland. In 1291, on the "Rutli" meadow above the Lake of Lucerne, they were said to have secretly pledged their allegiance. Today, it is known that that Latin document, which they inscribed and which still exists, was in reality the confirmation of an earlier pact. This alliance of 1291 is celebrated in Switzerland as a national holiday on August 1st and the "Rutli" has become a national symbol of the founding of the confederation.



### Swiss Confederation 700th Anniversary with the Swiss Parliament and U.S. Capitol.

Switzerland, whose capital is Berne, is a federal state in the center of Europe. Switzerland's official title "Confoederatio Helvetica" (CH), or Swiss Confederation, denotes a union of individual allies. The Latin designation (Helvetic community of allies) is an historical reference and shows that Switzerland is not a uniform linguistic and cultural community. The country brings together in its 26 cantons four languages and cultures - German, French, Italian and Romansch. The national name in German, French, Italian and Romansch (Schweiz, Suisse, Svizzera, Svizra) has its origin in one of the three founding members of the thirteenth century - Schwyz and its

partisans, the Schwizer or Schweizer. The Helvetii on the other hand belonged to the Celtic tribes who inhabited the region of present day Switzerland in Roman times. It was with them that Switzerland entered written history. Numerous names of mountains, rivers and places still remind us today of the Helvetic and Roman cultures in Switzerland.

Since the 18th century the United States has been a favorite country for Swiss emigration. Some such as Gallitan, Sutter, Guggenheim and Chevrolet, greatly contributed to the building of their new homeland. Today many Swiss colonies are founded throughout the United States, hundreds of American towns and villages bear Swiss names and regular exchanges take place



### U.S. stamp commemorating Switzerland's 700th Anniversary as a joint issue in 1991.

between the two countries. Perhaps even more significant are the common values - democracy, freedom and federalism - shared by the U. S. and the Swiss Confederation. When drafting the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Founding Fathers, especially John Adams, James Monroe and George Mason, were inspired by the social and political organization of 18th century Switzerland, one of the only republican regimes of the time. Fifty years later, in 1848, the Swiss, in turn, adopted in their new Constitution many of the American features, such as the two-chamber system and representative democracy. It's only fitting that two nations that share so much came together with joint issue stamps to commemorate Switzerland's 700th anniversary.

Finally, we have our regular columnists: Ron Leshner with "The Collector of Revenue," Charles Epting with the new column "The Letter Opener" and Matt Liebson with the even-newer column "The Marketplace." Our regular columns are intended to respond to your collecting needs and burning questions. Our authors are happy for feedback, to hear your specific questions, and to address larger topics of concern. So if you have a question on revenues, U.S. postal history, or the world of buying and selling, please reach out at [editor@stamps.org](mailto:editor@stamps.org).

## Awards season

"I'd like to thank the Academy..." The annual APS and APRL awards season isn't nearly so televised, but as always we're thrilled to recognize and celebrate the best and brightest of the hobby. Meet the Luff, Kehr, Carter Volunteer, Barbara Mueller, John Walter Scott Dealer, Hall of Fame, Allen, and Peterson award winners on page 638. They'll also be honored in person at the Great American Stamp Show.

## Final Thoughts

In 2019, the American Philatelic Society received 11 million stamps, 18 stamp collage artworks, and various ephemera from the students at Foxborough Regional Charter School. These kindergarten through 12th grade students collected these stamps over the course of a decade as part of the massively ambitious Holocaust Stamps Project, which commemorated the victims of the Nazi regime with a stamp for each victim. After the project's completion, the American Philatelic Society took on the task of displaying them, and developed the exhibit "A Philatelic Memorial of the Holocaust." You've certainly read about this exhibit before, in the April 2020 issue, or the June 2022 issue, or perhaps on our website as we've shared news of our progress.



I am so excited to share that we officially dedicated the exhibit in a ceremony on May 31 with the support of Holocaust Stamps Project founder Charlotte Sheer; Penn State's Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative; Penn State Hillel, a Jewish student organization; the Centre County Commissioners; the Bellefonte Borough Council and Chamber of Commerce; the State College and Bellefonte mayors; and state Representative Paul Takac. We were also honored to receive proclamations honoring the exhibit from state Representative Kerry Benninghoff, state Senator Cris Dush, the Centre County Commissioners, and Bellefonte Mayor Johnson.

On a personal note, officially dedicating the exhibit was very meaningful to me. It represents nearly five years of hard work, dedicated research, and swear by APS staff and volunteers. Not only that, but the exhibit is our small shout into the universe, a repudiation of hatred and oppression in the world as represented by the Holocaust.

**Any page reference is for the July 2023 issue of "The American Philatelist".**

# San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

July 2023

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