

THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA STAMP & COLLECTORS CLUB

Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club
and The Collectors Club of Philadelphia, Founded 1885
American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18



<https://www.gpscc.org>

May 2023

Volume 11, Issue 5

NEXT MEETING

May 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Community Rooms
GIANT Supermarket
315 N. York Rd., Willow Grove, PA

Dinner:

For those who would like to join us for dinner beforehand, we will meet at Willow Tavern, about a block from GIANT, at 5:00 p.m. for cocktails followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m.

210 York Rd., Willow Grove, PA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MAY 2023

Paul F. Miller

The life of a stamp collector can be great!

Stamp collecting is one of the world's oldest hobbies. Because there is so much variety in the hobby, you can choose your own path of collecting whatever interests you the most. Your collecting interests can be as narrow or as far reaching as your imagination.

In 2020, Stanley Gibbons, the well-known rare stamp merchant located in London, England, estimated that there are 60 million stamp collectors globally. Although many people think of stamp collecting as a solitary hobby, the fact of the matter is that with so many collectors worldwide, you never have to go at it alone! There are always great opportunities to meet other stamp collectors at shows, events, and clubs – even online.

The unfortunate reality of the life of a stamp collector is that we must all face our own mortality. After you have spent a good part of your life growing and enjoying your collection, what should be done with it once you have passed? (Sorry, I am not trying to be morbid – just practical.)

(Continued on page 5)

MAY 16, 2023, PROGRAM

Joe Gudonis on “German Inflation Covers 1922 to 1923”



Joe Gudonis with a drawing of the tall ship “Gazela”



An excerpt from Joe's presentation showing some high value German stamps from 1923.

GPSCC member (and model boat enthusiast!) Joe Gudonis will discuss "German Inflation Covers 1922 to 1923," showing all the variable rate increases during this hyperinflation period in post-World War I Germany. To give a sense of the magnitude of inflation during that period, a loaf of bread that cost 160 Marks at the end of 1922 cost 200 billion Marks by late 1923!

“POSTCARD FROM TUNIS: THE PHILATELIST PUTTING HIS STAMP ON HISTORY,” *THE NATIONAL*, APRIL 28, 2023

Here's a neat little news story from Tunis, the capital of Tunisia. It's about Mounir Smiri, a dealer who has been selling stamps in Tunis for more than five decades.

“Stamps educate us in more ways than we could ever Imagine...both the visual and written stories of our past,” he said. “A stamp is the living memory of human beings,” he says in the story's closing line.



Check out the full story here: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/weekend/2023/04/28/postcard-from-tunis-the-philatelist-putting-his-stamp-on-history/>.

FREE DUES FOR 2023 OFFERED FOR NEW MEMBERS!

We will continue to offer free membership to new members through 2023 thanks to the idea that came up last year from one of our members to encourage new stamp collectors to join the Club!

So now is a good time to spread the word to friends to try out a membership in an active local stamp club!

Contact any officer for more information.

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UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023

Jun 20 – Aug. 15 – Sept. 19 – Oct. 17 – Nov. 21
– Dec.19 (Holiday Dinner)

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAMP SHOWS

June 2-4 – NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA

June 10-11 – SCOPEX, Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, APS Headquarters, Bellefonte, PA

Make travel plans now!

June 12-16 – [APS Summer Seminar](#), Bellefonte PA

July 17-22 – [APS Volunteer Work Week](#), Bellefonte PA

August 10-13 – [Great American Stamp Show](#), Cleveland, OH



AWARDS AND HONORS

Member **Bill Schultz** is writing a new series of articles for *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer* magazine. The series appears on the last page of each issue and is entitled "The Last Word." His first article appeared in the April issue and bears the title "Pastrami Special on Rye – Tasty Postal History." After mentioning many of the country's outstanding delicatessens, he shows a 1959 cover with the corner card of Corky & Lenny's at their first location in South Euclid, Ohio. Today the firm's primary sandwich palace is in Woodmere, near Cleveland. Bill assures readers that to this day the deli ranks at the top of his list.

At the WESTPEX show in San Francisco in April, **Mark Schwartz** won a large gold, the U.S. Cancellation Club award, and the show's single frame exhibit Grand Award with his "The Use of Boston's 'PAID in Grid' Cancels 1851-1859." He took another large gold, the United States Stamp Society's Statue of Freedom award, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' award of excellence for treatment, and the show's multiframe Grand Award for his "The New York Postmaster Provisional." A rarity for the same person to win both single and multiframe grand awards at the same show!

Also at WESTPEX, **Vern Morris** received a large gold and the Collectors Club award of merit for "World's Third Producer of Stamps: Philadelphia Local Post Fee Reduction 1842-1861." He also took a gold with his "Evolution & Development of the USPO, 1685 to 1799."

Recrossing the continent, **Mark** showed three more exhibits the following weekend in May at Philatelic Show in Boxboro, Mass., where he took another large gold for "Independent Mail and Express Company Operations at Boston: 1843-1845." He took one more large gold with his "Essex County Packet Mail: 1840 up to UPU," and a gold for "The Introduction of the First Standardized Federal CDS." **Alan Warren** chaired the jury at the show.



Mark Schwartz (L) receives WESTPEX Single Frame Grand Award from Scott English, APS Executive Director.



Mark's jaw drops when he also accepts the Multiframe Grand Award at WESTPEX from Scott English

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has some wonderful information on their website that can help you address this question. Their main webpage on this topic can be found at "Estate Advice" - <https://stamps.org/services/estate-advice>.

As you will see, this APS webpage can help you with protecting the future of your own collection and/or getting help if you have inherited a collection.

From the standpoint of protecting the future of your own collection, the APS highlights some very important topics to consider:

1. Plan ahead and leave instructions for your heirs. That may be the best little piece of advice that can help protect your collection and get it into the hands of someone who can enjoy and perpetuate what you have enjoyed during your life.
2. Create an inventory. You know what you have, but others might not. An inventory helps educate your heirs about the important aspects of your collection.
3. Provide an honest evaluation of your collection. Don't let your heirs think they have stumbled upon a million-dollar collection! Be honest about what has real value in the philatelic world and what has value to you because you choose to collect it in a certain manner.
4. Plan for a distribution. Do you want your heirs to keep your collection alive within the family? Is there someone who you know would enjoy having your collection? Or should you indicate your desire for a sale or donation of your collection?
5. Select an Administrator who has some philatelic knowledge. Although that might not always be possible when dealing with who in your family will help settle your affairs, you could still suggest to the Administrator to get someone involved who has these skills and can provide a helping hand.

I certainly want all of us to live a long and happy life – sprinkled in with the enjoyment of a great stamp collection. But please consider who and how your collection may be handled after you are gone.



"Day of the Dead" Stamps Issued by the USPS on September 30, 2021. Scott 5640-5643

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2023, GPS & CC MEETING

President Paul Miller began the meeting with Officer's reports.

Secretary's Report: We have 54 members. One of our newest members, Terri Kelly, was present tonight. Thanks were given to Mike Wilson for taking the minutes at the March meeting in Letty's absence.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$4,587.03 in our account. The last activity in the account was the Club's donation to the Boston Expo '26 show.

Old Business: The scam problem brought up at last month's meeting has been rectified. The personal emails of officers and committee heads have been removed from our website by Mike Wilson so that they won't be used by scammers. Instead, there is a single email address available that all correspondence will go through and those emails received will be filtered by Mike before being sent onto the appropriate person.

New Business: Mike Wilson and Anne Gibby will work with Upper Dublin Library to create displays related to philately in their showcases. Paul Miller mentioned things that he could do to help make displays of interest to the public.

Program: Bruce Marsden gave a program entitled Collecting the 1949 Engineering & Landscape Issue of Switzerland (Scott 328-39). The presentation explored the many varieties of Swiss stamps of that period that can be identified and collected, the various postal rates and services that can be explored through the use of the stamps. He also talked about some of the tougher items to find such as mail for the blind, air-and train-crash mail and mail to remote destinations.

Bruce's talk can be reviewed on the Club website at: <https://www.gpscc.org/presentations-exhibits>.

Show & Tell and Discuss: Mike Wilson brought in a copy of a nicely illustrated children's book called *Mailing May* by Michael O. Tunnell. It tells the 1914 story of how a set of parents were able to legally "mail" their daughter by parcel post to visit her grandparents 75 miles away.

Anne Gibby showed us four postcards dating from 1906 sent by a woman traveling by cruise ship in the region of Tasmania. The postcards were sent from the town of Butterworth, which was settled by convicts who had served their time and stayed on in Tasmania.

Terri Kelly brought in her Swiss stamps to have our speaker, Bruce, examine and determine whether they were the rare or the common versions. They turned out to be the common versions.

Phil Russell may contact Joe Gudonis as our speaker for next month.

Respectfully submitted by Letty Moon

"HOW MANY HIDES HAS A COW?" A DUPONT AD COVER FROM 1918

Mike Wilson

Not many American companies can trace back their roots more than 200 years. DuPont is one of those. Organized in 1802 in Delaware - where it is still headquartered - DuPont is a multinational chemical company. Its first product was gunpowder, and that was its primary product until its expanded in the early 20th century into dynamite and smokeless powder and later into a multitude of chemical products that we all use day in and day out.

One of DuPont's products in the early 20th century was Fabrikoid, a brand of artificial leather that was heavily used in the 1920s to upholster car seat covers and the tops of convertibles. The production of Fabrikoid was a nice complement, I'm sure, to DuPont's significant investment in General Motors that lasted from 1914 to 1957.

DuPont had a clever way of promoting Fabrikoid and that was to ask, "How Many Hides Has a Cow?" The slogan is stamped on the back of this ad cover (Figure 2). DuPont ran full-page ads extolling the virtues of Fabrikoid, such as the one from a 1915 issue of *Collier's* shown in Figure 3.

Of interest from a postal history perspective is that this cover (Figure 1) is an example of 3rd class mail. Two items of note mark it as 3rd class mail: (1) the "dumb" postmark with no month or day only the year of 1918 and (2) 1-cent worth of postage, which was the 3rd class rate in 1918. The stamp that is affixed is US Scott #490, a very common stamp from that era.

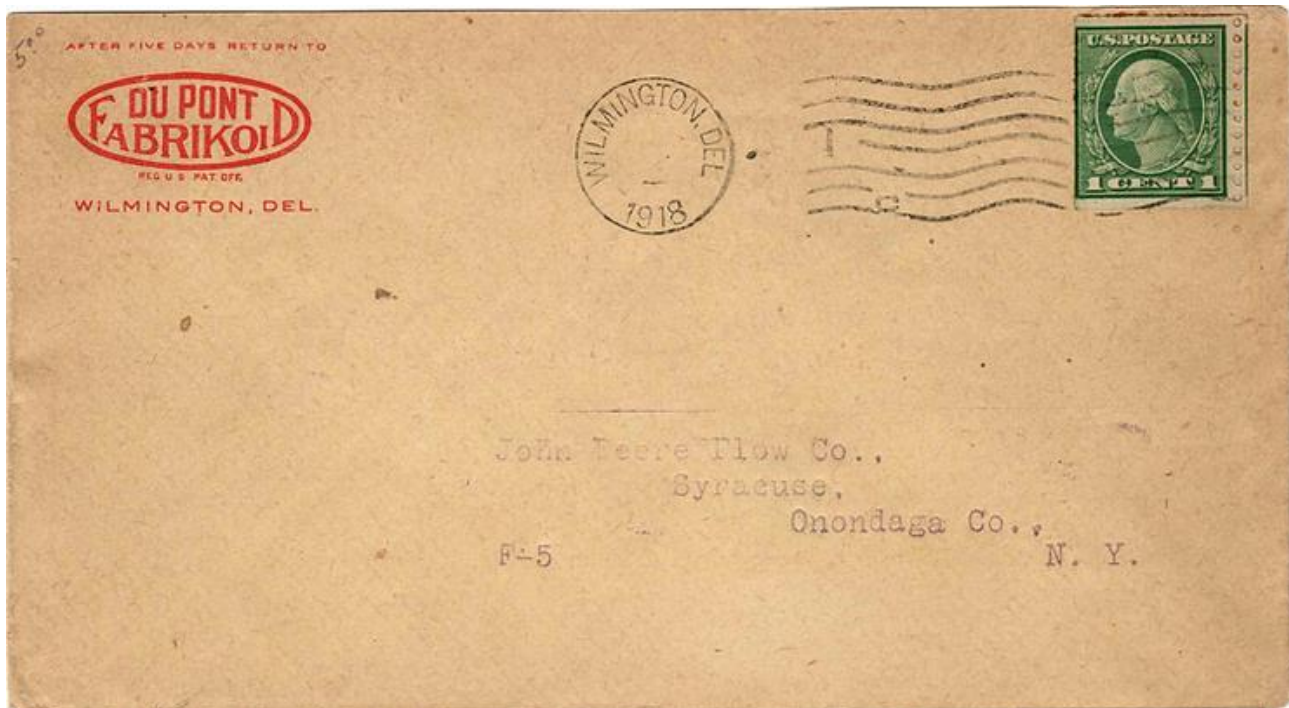


Figure 1 – Front of Cover

"HOW MANY HIDES HAS A COW?" A DUPONT AD COVER FROM 1918 (CONTINUED)

According to Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, in their excellent resource *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011*, 3rd Edition, the reason for the dumb postmark was so no one could track how long it took the Post Office to deliver a 3rd class letter.

The cover probably contained a DuPont promotion or perhaps even a sample of Fabrikoid that could be requested for free from DuPont (see the bottom of the ad).

The recipient of this letter was another household name: John Deere, specifically an office in Syracuse, New York of what was then known as the John Deere Plow Company. John Deere can trace its origins back to 1837.



Figure 2 – Stamp on Back of Cover

COLLIER'S FOR JANUARY 9, 1915

How Many Hides Has a Cow?

For shoe soles, one—so thick . . .

For bookbinding and upholstery, four as follows:

- A thin, top sheet, with natural grain, for bookbinding
- A thicker second sheet with natural grain for upholstery of first-class furniture and automobiles
- A still thicker "split" with no natural grain
- A very thick, pulpy "split" with no natural grain

Only the most expensive furniture and automobiles are upholstered with B, which is known in the trade as No. 1 leather. Most "leather" upholstery is done with C and D, coated and embossed to look like B. C and D are known in the trade as "coated splits". They are really artificial leather of a quality inferior to the material sold as artificial leather for upholstery of automobiles, furniture and buggies.

DU PONT FABRIKOID
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

MOTOR QUALITY
For Automobiles
CRAFTSMAN QUALITY
For Furniture

Is Guaranteed Superior to Coated Splits

Its base is a specially woven, very strong cotton cloth. The base of coated splits is a thick, pulpy piece of flesh, much weaker than the cloth. Both are coated with practically the same materials. Both are embossed or grained in the same way.

Fabrikoid is fully guaranteed.
Coated splits are never guaranteed.

If you doubt which is better, compare the "split" upholstery of a low-priced automobile with the Fabrikoid upholstery of another, after six months wear.

Several of America's largest makers of automobiles have been upholstering with Du Pont Fabrikoid for two years, with entire satisfaction to the trade and consumers. All makers of low and medium priced cars will soon go to artificial leather. They await public knowledge and consent to discard coated splits for superior Fabrikoid.

Consumers and the trade will best serve their interests by preferring Du Pont Fabrikoid, Motor Quality, over coated splits or other artificial leathers. We were the first to perfect a grade suitable for automobile upholstery, and have at all times since maintained our leadership in this field.

Small Sample Free. Large Sample 18 x 25 inches, 50c.

Please mention Collier's.

DU PONT FABRIKOID COMPANY
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Canadian Branch, Toronto, Ontario

Figure 3 – DuPont Fabrikoid Ad in Collier's 1915

THE FIRST PREPAID POSTAGE STAMP IN HISTORY

Paul F. Miller

This event may have largely contributed to our stamp collecting hobby today!

On May 1, 1840, the “Penny Black” stamp went into circulation in Great Britain, becoming the first prepaid postage stamp in history. It was also the first self-adhesive stamp. That was 183 years ago this month.

The postage stamp featured the profile of Queen Victoria set on a black background. Before this contemporary postage stamp was adopted, when parcels or envelopes were delivered, fees were collected from the recipient upon arrival.

With the Penny Black stamp, the sender could purchase prepaid postage for items up to a specific weight at a flat rate, simplifying the billing and delivery systems of the time.

The inaugural Penny Black design lasted only one circulation year. Postal authorities applied a red cancellation mark across the stamp design but felt that the cancellation was hard to see because of the black background. The following year the “Penny Red” was introduced, after which black cancellations were used in an effort to increase visibility.

To this day, every postage stamp in the United Kingdom features a silhouette of the Monarch, and it is the only country in the world to not explicitly feature the country name in writing. Developers felt the silhouette of the Monarch signaled the origin sufficiently.



*Great Britain #1 Used VF+ Pair W/ Red Cancel
Gary Posner, Inc. \$900.00
Image from HipStamp, 4/30/2023*

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club
P.O. Box 446
Willow Grove, PA 19090-0446

CALL FOR AUTHORS!

Have something philatelic that you would like to share? Know of an article from another publication that you think others would like to read? Send Mike Wilson a note at mwilson34407@gmail.com, and he'll **include** it in an upcoming newsletter.

REPORT FROM THE APRIL 15 PHILATELIC GATHERING

GPSCC member Alan Warren submitted the following report on the April 15 "Philatelic Gathering." Alan's report appeared originally on the Philatelic Gathering's website, which can be viewed at this link: <https://lcps-stamps.org/study-groups/>.

"You've Never Seen This Before!"

Nineteen members attended our Gathering, including three new ones. Members were invited to discuss an unusual item that was not likely to have been seen before, and to share it by passing the item around. These items included: New York Provisional covers; a way cover from Bahia, Brazil to Portugal; old printed matter examples from Canada; a photo postcard of Brown's Tennessee Rats baseball club; local stamps of Morocco; genuine and forged postal stationery of the 1876 Centennial; a 1941 "lost" letter from Spanish Morocco needed for a friend and for which there is a reward.

Other material included rarities related to the U.S. special handling stamps; Danish West Indies postal stationery; the Danish bicolor oval issue flaws; an 1833 stampless cover and a cover related to Joseph Steinmetz of Philadelphia; a South Carolina cover with Sc. #2; a Zeppelin around-the-world card; hand-painted cachets of Halvorsen; a 1748 free frank cover; and a "unique" cover showing a 6½ cent rate.

Still more unusual items included a 1766 bill of lading; progressive color proofs of foreign Christmas seals; UPU specimen stamps of the British Commonwealth; a piece of balloon mail from the 1870 siege of Paris; a zeppelin cover from Rio de Janeiro to England with a special stamp printed by Condor addressed to a family member; and a salvaged cover from the sinking of the S.S. *Tahiti*.

As a gesture to the club meeting at the Chester County History Center, the staff had a special display in their library of postally related items for members to view. Many members then retired to the Iron Hill Brewery for lunch.

MAY 20, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

10:00 am - Noon

**Chester County Historical Society
225 N. High Street
West Chester PA 19380.**

Speakers: (1) Ron Majors – St. Lawrence Seaway Project AND (2) Dr. Charles J. DiComo on "*The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps: 1855-1857*".

Summary: Charles will revisit the events preceding the purchase of the perforating machine by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. (TCC); review the inventors of the rotary perforating machine and the rouletting trial period by TCC with Perkins, Bacon and Bemrose; the conversion to a perforator, and the issuance of perforated 3¢ stamps in Feb. 1857.

CLUB SECRETARY NEEDED

Letty Moon is stepping down after ten years of service. Thank you for your continued service Letty!

We are looking for a volunteer who could writeup minutes for our meetings and handle some communications with our members. The pay is great! Ok, it's zero, but think of the good karma you'll build up. And by the way, you don't need to be a female to apply.

Contact any officer if you could volunteer, and we will give you all the help that you could need!

DID YOU KNOW?

Mike Wilson

When the New Horizons spacecraft launched in 2006, it left with a 29-cent hitchhiker: a 1991 stamp that read “Pluto: Not Yet Explored” (Figure 1). In 2016, the USPS issued two new Forever-47-cent stamps commemorating the voyage (Figure 2).

Now in its 17th year, the spacecraft is about 5.2 billion miles from Earth and is traveling at a speed relative to the Sun of about 31,000 miles per hour. Traveling at the speed of light, a signal from New Horizons takes about 8-1/4 hours to reach Earth.

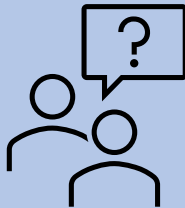
Source: New York Times, May 31, 2016, and
The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory



Figure 1 - US Scott #2577.
Issued Oct. 1, 1991.



Figure 2 - US Scott #5077-
5078. Issued May 31, 2016.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

If you haven't already done so, check out our new website! You can find it at <https://www.gpscc.org>.

Spread the news – and the link!

GPSCC SWAG! LIMITED TIME OFFER!



11-ounce Coffee Mug - \$13.00



Black Pen - \$3.00



T-Shirt - \$17.00 (Specify S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)



Stamp Collecting Visor, aka
Baseball Cap - \$9.00

Interested in showing your pride in the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club? Looking for a Christmas gift? Then look no further! We have you covered!

Submit your order to Mike Wilson (newsletter@gpscc.org or 360-434-6527) by **May 31, 2023**. Prices include sales tax and shipping (or delivery at the June meeting).

Buy now, pay later! Prices shown are the cost of the item. This is not a GPSCC fundraiser.

Don't delay! This is a limited time offer!