

# 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

January 2023

Volume 11, Issue 1

## NEXT MEETING

January 17, 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

## JANUARY PROGRAM

### A Prize Agent, A Naturalist, and A Navy Captain: A Penny Black Story

Our member, Mike Wilson, will present his research on an 1840 folded letter posted with a Penny Black.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our members and friends! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to kick off another year – even if it means getting through the winter doldrums first.

Hello! My name is Paul Miller. I am the new President of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club (“GPS&CC” or “Club”). I am happy to be part of this great group and am excited to have been selected to lead the club for the next few years.

One focus area for the Club will be to increase and enhance membership levels. I have already started to do this during this past fall as I attended several larger stamps shows and brought along our membership literature for show attendees to pick up, read, enjoy, and even join the Club. Several of our newest members have resulted from these efforts. If you know of someone who is interested in our Club, please let them know that it is easy and inexpensive to join – membership dues are only \$12 a year. That is a true bargain in today's world! In the near future, I will be working with Letty Moon, our Acting Secretary, to transition some of the membership responsibilities to me. So, if you have membership questions, please direct them to me. I am happy to help.

Another focus area for the Club will be to increase participation and enjoyment by the members. If possible, please attend our monthly meetings. It is a great way to meet some of the members who regularly attend, make new friends, and participate in the camaraderie that the Club has to offer.

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## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP LAPSED?

If so, send a check for \$15 to cover your 2023 dues to PO Box 446, Willow Grove, PA 19002, or pay at a meeting!

## UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

### 2023

Feb 21 – Mar 21 – Apr 18 – May 16 – Jun 20

## OFFICERS

### *President*

Paul Miller

[pfmill@pfmill.digitalspacemail8.net](mailto:pfmill@pfmill.digitalspacemail8.net)

### *VP & Programs*

Phil Russell

[russell516@comcast.net](mailto:russell516@comcast.net)

### *Treasurer*

Bruce Marsden

[bmarsden@verizon.net](mailto:bmarsden@verizon.net)

### *Acting Secretary*

Letty Moon

[lettymoon@comcast.net](mailto:lettymoon@comcast.net)

### *Newsletter*

Mike Wilson

[mwilson34407@gmail.com](mailto:mwilson34407@gmail.com)

### *Shows & Events*

Alan Warren

[alanwar@comcast.net](mailto:alanwar@comcast.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STAMP SHOWS

**February 4** – Merchantville Monthly Bourse, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

**March 4** - Merchantville Monthly Bourse, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

**March 17-19** – Garfield-Perry March Party, Best Western Plus Hotel, 15471 Royalton Ave., Strongsville, Oh.

**April 1-2** – Springpex, John R. Lewis High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, Va.

### Make travel plans now!

**August 10-13** – Great American Stamp Show, Cleveland, OH

## AWARDS AND HONORS

At Chicagopex held in Itasca, Illinois, in November, three Club members had exhibits in the Single Frame champion-of-champions competition:

- Vernon Morris. "World's Third Producer of Stamps: Philadelphia Local Post Fee Reduction 1842-1861"
- Bob Rufe. "U.S. 'Special' Booklet Paper Printings of 1928"
- Mark Schwartz. "The Use of Boston's 'Paid in Grid' Cancels 1851-1859"

At Florex in Deland, Florida in December, Vern Morris won a large gold, the United States Stamp Society's statue of freedom award, and the show grand award with his "Evolution and Impact of Bloods Local Post 1842 to 1862." In the single frame competition Vern also won a large gold for his "1776."



Vernon Morris



Bob Rufe



Mark Schwartz

## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Maggie Ammons** lives in Philadelphia and has many philatelic interests. She collects WW stamps and US Singles, airmails, postal cards and postal stationery, cut squares, American history, US possessions, many types of covers, Federal Hand stamps, Perfins, Worlds Fairs and Expositions, revenue stamps, and miscellaneous BoB.

**Jim Margolies** also lives in Philadelphia and has been interested in our Club for a long time, making contact with us when we were limited to meetings on Zoom. He collects US Mint Singles, US FDCs and stamps of the Holy Land.

**Louis Gotlib** lives in West Chester and attended several of our meetings. He has been given a large collection of assorted worldwide stamps and other philatelic material, which he is enjoying going through and learning about. He hopes to learn a lot from our members.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)**

If you have an interest in “showing off” parts of your collection, we would be happy to have you present at a meeting. Phil Russel, our VP and Programs officer, can help by getting you on the program calendar for our meetings. You can contact Phil directly.

If it is not possible to attend (or even attend on a regular basis), you can still participate through me! I can be your voice to the group at meetings. If you have ideas that you think will enhance the Club experience, please send them to me and I can report on them during our regularly schedule meetings. If you have ideas for the newsletter or want to get “published” with an article or topic, contact Mike Wilson, our newest newsletter officer, directly and he can help you, too.

So, the start of a new year is a great time to think about your collections and what you would like to accomplish with them during the coming year. Likewise, it is a great time to think about how you can participate and enjoy the activities of our Club. Please participate when you can; it will make your time spent more enjoyable and it will be appreciated by your Club members.

I hope to see (and hear) from you soon! Have a happy and healthy 2023!

## **CLUB SECRETARY NEEDED**

After our elections in November, all Board positions were filled except that of Secretary for the Club.

Letty Moon is stepping down after ten years of service.

We are looking for a volunteer who could writeup minutes for our meetings and handle some communications with our members.

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

## **NEW APS POSITION AVAILABLE: WEB AND APPLICATION MANAGER**

The American Philatelic Society, the world's largest membership organization for stamp collectors, seeks a Web and Application Manager. Their digital work is growing annually, and they are looking for someone to grow with them.

This is an onsite position with some flexibility for telecommuting hours, but the successful candidate will be able to report to their headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Go to [Stamps.org](https://www.stamps.org) to learn more about the role.

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022, GPS & CC MEETING

VP Phil Russell started the meeting at 7:05.

**Secretary's Report:** We currently have 56 members. Louis Gotlib reported that he also has joined and his application is presently in the mail. Since contact information for our 9 new members is not on our old membership lists, the updated information has been sent to Club officers and committee heads.

We are also looking for recent contact information for our member, Bernard Newman. If anyone knows how to contact him, please let Letty Moon know.

**Newsletter:** A big "Thank You" was given to Mike Wilson after producing his first newsletter for us in November.

Those who have information for future newsletters, such as the Program descriptions, Show Calendar, Awards, etc. are asked to send your information electronically directly to Mike Wilson at [mwilson34407@gmail.com](mailto:mwilson34407@gmail.com) during the first week of each month, rather than sending it to Letty.

We were reminded that there will be no newsletter in December, as we have no business meeting or program.

**Dues & Membership Renewal:** There were 16 renewals before the meeting and several more during the meeting. After November 30, the "Early Bird" special ends and renewing costs \$12. After December 31, reinstatement costs \$15.

### Old Business

**Elections:** Letty Moon made the announcement that she was withdrawing her name as Secretary from the slate of officers running for the 2023-24 term. She felt that after 10 years, someone else should volunteer for the job. She did offer to fill in as Acting Secretary until the position can be filled but did not want to make another 2-year commitment.

The proposed slate of officers for the 2023-24 term were: President - Paul Miller; Vice President – Phil Russell; Treasurer - Bruce Marsden; Secretary – vacant. Those present at the meeting voted to accept this slate of officers as presented.

Our new President Paul Miller will write up a President's Message for the January newsletter introducing himself and indicating his openness to new ideas and requests.

**Holiday Dinner:** As a group we agreed on a simple outline of the event which we used to hold annually at the Willow Inn: December 20, 2022, at the Willow Tavern (the renamed Willow Inn), with cocktails at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. We will each order from the menu and pay individually for our meals.

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## A COVER FROM THE GHOST OF PHILATELIST GUSTAVE B. CALMAN, 1901

by Mike Wilson

As a stamp collector, it's fun to come upon correspondence between renown philatelists of the past. This cover is one example:



Gustave B. Calman 1860-1898

The return address is "G.B. Calman, 42 E. 23d Street, New York." That would be Gustave B. Calman, a noted wholesale stamp dealer in the late 19th century. Gustave was born in 1860 in New York City and took an interest in stamps from boyhood. He had quite a career as a stamp dealer.

It's estimated he held more than 20 million stamps in stock that he sold to dealers throughout the world.

In 1886, he and his brother Henry L. Calman purchased the stock, rights, title, and goodwill of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company from John W. Scott. Just three years later, Scott reopened his stamp business and was promptly sued by the Calman's. The Calman's lost their suit in a case that made it all the way to the US Supreme Court.

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It was sent from New York City on February 26, 1901, and arrived in Berlin, Germany on March 8, 1901. It is franked with a 5-cent stamp, which was the Universal Postal Union (UPU) letter rate for international mail in 1901. In the US Scott Catalog, it is number 234 and depicts Christopher Columbus soliciting aid from Queen Isabella.

While unused Columbians today are highly valued, they were considered surplus postage in the early 1900s and were used by stamp dealers to mail correspondence into the 1920s. Hence, it is not unusual to find them used on covers well after their issue date in 1893.

## A COVER FROM THE GHOST OF PHILATELIST GUSTAVE B. CALMAN, 1901 (CONTINUED)

His reputation was tarnished a bit when he was slammed in the philatelic press for peddling stamps printed by Nicolas F. Seebeck. Seebeck printed stamps for several Central American countries, and under the contracts he had with those countries, he was permitted to produce as many stamps as he wished to supply philatelists.

In his defense, Gustave claimed that Seebecks represented less than 10% of his business, but he promised that the contract he had with Seebeck would not be renewed when it expired in 1899.

But Gustave never made it to 1899. He died at age 37 on January 25, 1898, in New York City. He is buried at Salem Fields Cemetery in Brooklyn.

His brother Henry continued in the stamp business after Gustave's death. That may explain why an envelope bearing Gustave's name and address entered the postal system three years after his passing. You can find other covers with Gustave's name and return address posted after his death. The cover to the right is one example. That cover, which contains an entire set of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue, was sent by registered mail to Germany on July 18, 1898, about six months after Gustave's death. By the way, that cover sold for \$40,000!



I could not find much information on the recipient, Alfred Krolik. He is listed on page 56 in the 1898 edition of the *International Philatelic Collectors Directory* with the same address as on the cover. You can also find him listed in the Berlin city directory as late as 1926 with the occupation of Briefmarkenhandlung, or "Stamp Shop."

This cover was acquired in a group of 60 covers at a July 16, 2022, Sterling Stamps auction. The cost for all 60 covers was \$170.00 plus a 15% buyers' premium, which works out to about \$3.25 per cover.

## MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Phil Russell volunteered to work with the restaurant on reservations, head count and finding a more private section of the establishment for our event. A deadline for making reservations is unknown at this time.

Letty will contact the non-email members of our group to let them know about the event and will send out an electronic invitation at a later date to all members.

**New Business:** Our program to offer new members their first year of membership free, has been extended through 2023 thanks to our anonymous donor who would like to see our increase in membership continue.

**Program:** Richard Brent presented Animals on Stamps in Space Programs. Living creatures such as dogs, cats, chimps, butterflies and spiders have been sent into space since 1961 as experiments to see what effects space travel has on them. Dogs were most often used by government space programs. Although most of these experiments were carried out by the US and by Russia, many countries from around the world printed stamps reflecting the events. Richard had many stories about the results, some humorous and some tragic for the creatures.

**Show & Tell & Discuss:** Lous Gotlib, who brought in four albums last month to show the Club, brought in more albums given to him by the same acquaintance. The collection is huge. If all the albums are lined up, it would fill more than 45 feet of shelf space. His goal right now is to learn from others about what he has, and he will decide later what to do with it all.

Paul Miller showed us a mint block of 12 from 1917 with the two middle stamps being US Scott #505. That is a 5-cent stamp mistakenly printed with 2-cent stamps, meaning it received the wrong color ink (rose instead of blue). This is a famous error in US history. Paul provided photocopies of sheets showing how the error came about and went undetected.

Our January program will be presented by Mike Wilson.

*Respectfully submitted by Letty Moon.*

### 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](mailto:mwilson34407@gmail.com), and he'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.



## PHILATELIC GATHERINGS TO START UP AGAIN

Bill Schultz has let us know that the wonderful "Philatelic Gathering" Group, which meets March through November is starting up after a hiatus due to COVID.

The group generally meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, usually with two wonderful speakers. Afterwards the group adjourns for a lunch at a nearby restaurant in West Chester. All the meetings have been and will continue to be held at the Chester County Historical Center (CCHC) at 225 N. High Street in West Chester. The phone at CCHC is (610) 692-4800.

The group has more than 40 members, charges no dues, but does appreciate donations to the CCHC.

Coffee and donuts are provided free at the "Gatherings." The first two years have been extremely successful, and the group would welcome and enjoy your participation! Speakers have come from as far away as Boston, Northern NJ, and Michigan, as well as Philadelphia, Delaware, and Lancaster County, PA.

If you would like to add your name and email to their mailing list to be notified of the next "Gathering", contact Bill Schultz at [bill@patriciaschultz.com](mailto:bill@patriciaschultz.com).

### CLUB MEETING ADDRESS

Giant Supermarket  
Community Room  
315 York Rd.  
Willow Grove, PA

### CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

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

### REBRAND THE GPS&CC?!

My daughter, who lives in Hatboro, refers to the Club as the "Fancy Sticker Club." Should we adopt that as our new name?

Not sure what the world of philately would say about that!

*Mike Wilson*