



The Greater

Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club

Founded 1935

American Philatelic Society - Chapter 18 ■ American Air Mail Society - Chapter 18
Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club and The Collector's Club of Philadelphia

August, 2019 Newsletter - Volume 7, Issue 8

Next Meeting - Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Our Featured Topic

for August

Boston Postal History to 1851



A window into the development and operation of the early post office in America, from the earliest letter sent in the original thirteen colonies through the simplification of Postal Rates in 1845 and the introduction of the first U.S. adhesives.

Mark

FLYING BRITISH AIRWAYS

Shortly after a British Airways Flight had reached its Cruising Altitude, the Captain Announced,

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your Captain. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York. The weather ahead is good, so we should have an uneventful flight. So sit back, relax, and.....OH, ...MY GOD!"

Silence followed.....Complete Silence.....

Some moments later the Captain came back on the intercom.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled, "For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back of mine!"

President's Message



Hope your summer has been as fine as mine. The heat kept me inside most of the time, although I did make two philatelic trips. I was the chief judge at Okpex in Midwest City, Oklahoma June 28-29. It's a two day show which features a good group of national level dealers, and the last show for exhibitors to qualify for the Champion of Champions at Stampshow, taking place as I write in Omaha. Nebraska.

A couple of weeks later I made a brief trip to Portugal to deliver stamps for auction. I enjoy travelling the 200 miles from Lisbon to Porto on the first class all reserved seat (classe conforto) train for 20 euros - about \$23; think about what Amtrak would charge. Back home, Betsy and I spent a week on a road trip to Toronto, Ottawa & Montreal. Surprisingly, despite the warnings, there were no delays at customs going or coming back. The National Museum in Ottawa - Canada's Smithsonian - had a stamp room with all Canadian stamps ever issued in display panels. I had a completely solo visit there, but at least it is there. Now back to the albums. Looking forward to seeing you on the 20th.

Steve

2018-19 Meeting Dates

All Tuesdays - All start at 7:30 pm - All at the Giant
Aug. 20th Sept. 17th Oct. 15th Nov. 19th
Dec 19 - Holiday DINNER

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Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC
Giant Supermarket
Community Rm,
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Willow Grove, PA

Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC
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19090-0446

APS Corner

Stamp Album Pages

Did you know the American Philatelic Society offers downloadable stamp albums that you may print for personal use or distribute free of charge?

The albums range from as few as four to more than 30 pages and include background information on the illustrated stamps. Albums are not necessarily comprehensive. They focus on face different stamps that the average collector has a reasonable chance to acquire often excluding expensive items and varieties. Album categories include Countries, States/Cities, and Thematic/Topical.

APS Estate Advice

If the individual who owned the collection was an APS member who passed away within the past year, the APS may be able to connect the heirs with one or more of the 200 member volunteers who could come and view the collection and provide advice. You may contact the APS Estate Advisory Service by calling (814)933-3803 ext. 205. Please remember that this service is for heirs of APS members only!

Learning Resource

Have you checked out the APS learning portal C3a Collecting & Connecting Central ? Go online to: stamps.org/Learn/C3a-Online-Learning.

Minutes From June's Meeting

Our program speaker was **Vince Costello** who showed us a vast variety of US 19th Century fancy cancels, both on and off cover.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Our Chapter dues report has been sent in to the APS.

Letty will apply in July for the use of the Community Room at the Giant Market for our 2020 meetings. We might also ask to always be assigned to the Alps room since the technology equipment there works more reliably.

A reminder was given that there will be no meeting in July and no newsletter.

Alan Warren briefly reported to us about his trip to Stockholm where he received recognition as an outstanding philatelist.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$3989.57 in our account.

There was no Old Business or New Business.

SHOW AND TELL: Ed Weisberg showed us a rotating International stamp identifier chart. He offered to give it away to anyone for a donation to the Club. There was curiosity, but no takers.

Respectfully submitted by *Letty Moon*

Did You Know...

An elderly couple were attending church services. About halfway through the sermon the husband leaned over and said, "I just let out a silent fart, what should I do?" The wife replied, "Put a new battery in your hearing aid."

Library Additions

Our philatelic librarian, **Vince**, reports that we have a new addition to our library:

BIA (Bureau Issues Association) Vol. 1 through 78, bound, years 1930 through 2007.

Contact Vince Costello to borrow anything from our library.

Up Coming Shows & Times



BALPEX 2019 August 30 & 31 & September 1, 2019 81st Annual Stamp Exhibition & Bourse

Delta Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd, Hunt Valley MD 21031
Show Hours: Friday & Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-3:00
Free Admission / Free Parking



An APS World Series of Philately Show

Convening Societies:
The China Stamp Society
The Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society



40 Dealers / 150 Frames of Exhibits / Beginner & Youth Programs / First Official ATA Hot Spot Show / New 'Open' Exhibit Category / and much, much more!

Information: 410-465-5712 or website: www.balpex.org
Presented by the Baltimore Philatelic Society



Free Admission & Free Parking
Numerous Nearby Restaurants
Special Hotel Rate

Sept. 7 **Merchantville Monthly Bourse,**
Martin Luther Chapel School Gym,
4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

Awards & Recognition



In the June issue of the newsletter, we failed to mention that member **Jeff Forster's** exhibit at NAPEX also received the Postal History Society medal.

Our Prez **Steve Washburne** was chief judge at OKPEX in Midwest City, Oklahoma in June. At that show **Alan Warren** received a large vermeil and an AAPE award of honor for his "Denmark: The Christian X Issues of the 1940s on First Day Covers." The same exhibit won a large gold at the Charpex show in Charlotte, North Carolina in July.

Bill Schultz was a busy guy in June. After judging the SCOPEX show in Bellefonte, he gave two 2-day seminars at the APS Summer Seminar there. He was a co-presenter of "Collecting and Exhibiting Picture Postcards." He also presented the course on "Advanced Exhibiting." His fame precedes him. Many of the summer seminar attendees booked his "free time" in advance to go over their exhibits for improvements. He also served as a judge at Charpex in Charlotte, North Carolina in July.

Both Bill and Mark Schwartz served on the jury at APS StampShow in Omaha earlier this month. In the philatelic literature competition at the show, Alan Warren received a gold for his editing of Ice Cap News, journal of the American Society of Polar Philatelists.

proof of global warming





I hope you all enjoyed this part of our newsletter. We now continue with PART 7

The Classic Collector

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

GRILLED STAMPS OF 1867 & 1868

Ten Cent Stamp With "Z" Grill, Scott 85D

Although 2,000 were issued, only five examples are known to have survived. This stamp and the One Cent "Z" grill are the rarest stamps of the 19th century.

The only recorded cancellation is black and there was a double grill in the Miller collection.

Twelve Cent Stamp With "Z" Grill, Scott 85E

I take issue with the 100,000 which are estimated to have been issued due to the fact that this stamp is not as uncommon as that low number would suggest.

Black is the only cancellation encountered and there are no cancellation varieties. The only collectible variety of this stamp happens to be the double transfer on the top frame line.

Fifteen Cent Stamp With "Z" Grill, Scott 85F

Robert A. Siegel discovered the first Fifteen Cents "Z" grill in the Newbury collection where it had reposed for years, not identified for what it was by the many experts who had seen and studied that collection.

Another example has since been given a good cer-

tificate by the Philatelic Foundation. This makes just two known examples.

The "Z" grill stamps were probably printed during the early part of 1868. It is only a conjecture as to how many were released to the post offices, but chances are good that there are a few more out there just waiting to be discovered.

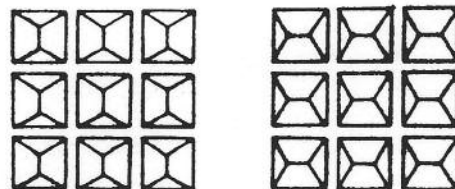
One Cent Stamp With "E" Grill, Scott 86

"E" grill stamps are points down with an approximate 11 x 13mm measurement.

With some 3,000,000 estimated to have been issued, this stamp is not particularly scarce. On the other hand, it is difficult to find well centered. If one were to find an example with four ample margins, one would have a stamp worth at least ten times the Scott valuation in terms of rarity.

Cancels, in ascending order of scarcity, are black, blue, red, and green. This is the first issued grill with a Steamboat cancel.

Shades of the stamp, of



The distinguishing feature of the "Z" Grill is its ridge alignment; counting the rows of points is not enough. The size of the "E" (illustration, left) and "D" grills is similar to that of the "Z" (illustration right). Note, however, that the ridges across the top of the grill points on the "Z" grill are horizontal.

equal value, are blue and dull blue. Double grills and split grills are desirable varieties.

Two Cent Stamp With "E" Grill, Scott 87

With some 25,000,000 originally issued, one would think that this stamp is relatively common. That is true, with one proviso. As with all of the "Black Jacks", this being the fourth overall, well centered stamps with four margins are extremely difficult to find.

At a bourse, I once paid four times Scott for an outstanding example with four wide and equal margins. Before the day was out, I sold

the stamp to another dealer for twice what I had paid, or eight times the Scott Catalogue value.

Shades are black, intense black, and gray black. Cancellations, in ascending order of scarcity, are black, blue, brown, red, purple, and green.

Collectible varieties include the double transfer, split grill, double grill, triple grill, and the rare "grill with points up".

Several cancellation varieties exist, the rarest being the "Japan". One intriguing variety is the bisect, or half used as One Cent.

Note in the photo below that the normal "E" Grill stamp and the bisect (Scott 87, 87a) both have left-side straight edges.

