



# THE PHILLY PHILATELIST

Award-Winning Newsletter of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club

Founded 1904

American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18

May 2026

www.GPSCC.org

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## NEXT MEETING

May 19, 2026 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 The W 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

Paul F. Miller

Calling all stamp collectors – part 3!

For the past two months, I have been highlighting exciting details related to Boston 2026 World Expo.

As you read this now, the big event will be mere days away. I hope that many of our GPSCC members will have the opportunity to visit the Expo and enjoy all that the event has to offer. If you can attend, please remember to proudly display any GPSCC swag you own.

Great news continues to be released about the Expo. I wanted to provide you with some additional information that I have not discussed before.



### Boston 2026 World Expo Show Medals

The official Boston 2026 World Expo show medal was unveiled earlier this year. The medal is sponsored by [The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History](#), located in Weston, Massachusetts.

Each medal (see image on next page) is three-inches square and weighs 4.5 ounces. It features the show's logo on one side and a recognizable image of Paul Revere on horseback on his famous midnight ride on the other side.

Several themes were considered to best represent Boston and its environs, while considering the show's overall theme celebrating the 250th anniversary of

*(Continued next page)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the founding of the United States. In the end, it was decided that Paul Revere was the most representative of that period with the story of his famous midnight ride known by Americans and non-Americans alike.

The Monterey Company, Inc. of Bend, Oregon, received the contract to produce each medal. Monterey was the only firm contacted that could overcome the technical challenge of replicating perforations along the medal's edges. The die-cast base metal was poured into molds, buffed, overlaid with precious metal and antiqued to allow the design to fully flourish. Monterey was asked to produce a total of 1,300 medals.

These medals are magnificent! Even the boxes they come in are fancy. The Spellman logo will be on the outside of each red presentation box. Inside, the boxes are lined in blue velvet. I read that all exhibits will receive a Boston 2026 World Expo medal. What a nice gift for the exhibitors.

### Coins – American Numismatic Association

The American Numismatic Association has confirmed their participation in Boston 2026 World Expo by hosting a booth and organizing a Scouting coin collecting merit badge workshop during the show.

Coins and banknotes are natural additions to a number of related collectibles that will be present at the show. By broadening the scope of the show, the hope is that it will appeal to collectors who delve into multiple areas of collecting interests.

### Livestream

If you cannot attend Boston 2026 World Expo in person, then maybe you can see some of the show via livestream and video postings.

The American Helvetia Philatelic Society (AHPs) recently announced that it is livestreaming all of the society's presentations plus a special "Floor Walkthrough" on Monday, May 25, 2026. Information concerning the AHPs's livestreaming can be found

online at the American Philatelic Society's "Hub," under the "Events" page. If you are not a member of the Hub, you can join [here](#).

*Exploring Stamps*, the popular YouTube channel dedicated to philately and postal history, will host an on-site content studio on the show floor during Boston 2026. Creator Graham Beck will produce video coverage throughout the event, offering a dynamic and modern look at one of the world's premier stamp exhibitions.

The hope is that some other livestream events may still be announced during the run-up to the Expo. Keep your eyes and ears open for those announcements.

### Go-and-Tell (like Show-and-Tell!)

If you do attend Boston 2026 World Expo, make it memorable and tell us all about your experiences! At one of our next GPSCC meetings, I would like to hear personal feedback from members who attended the show. If you attend the show but cannot get to a GPSCC meeting in the future, then please drop me a note at [president@gpsc.org](mailto:president@gpsc.org) and tell me about your visit. I will share your stories with GPSCC members and possibly create a write-up in a future edition of *The Philly Philatelist*.



*Boston 2026 Medal for Exhibitors*

## PROGRAM FOR MAY 19, 2026: "ALL SHOW-AND-TELL"

Our presenter at the May meeting is **YOU!**

Bring something from your collection to share with the entire group. It could be something you think no one has seen before or something that just brings you joy. This is your opportunity to share your passion with other collectors.

Plan on having five minutes to present. It could be more or less depending on attendance. You might even consider bringing a couple of items in case we have the time.



*Have an unusual item that was mailed? How about an odd shaped stamp? A great rarity?  
A topical collection on something like cats? Then show it off on May 19!*

## VOLUNTEER WORK WEEK AT THE APS

The annual Volunteer Work Week at the American Philatelic Society (APS) is scheduled for July 13-17.

There are many tasks at the American Philatelic Center that go above and beyond what the APS staff can do, whether it's supporting donation organization, working in the Reference Collection, indexing library materials, or much more.

Make this year the year that you join us! Follow this [link](#) to learn more.



## SHARE YOUR FAVORITE STAMP OR COVER!

Little help here please?

I would like to highlight your favorite stamps or covers in *The Philly Philatelist*. All you need to do is send me a picture of the item and a sentence or two about why it's your favorite.

If your favorite item is a stamp and you don't have a way to scan an image, just give me the country, year and a description, and I'll track it down.

If it's a cover, bring it to a meeting, and I'll take a picture of it or send it to me via regular mail, and I'll scan and return it to you. My mailing address is 19 Brookdale Dr., Doylestown PA 18901. Thanks!

Mike W. ([newsletter@gpscc.org](mailto:newsletter@gpscc.org).)

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## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@gpscc19090

## MEMBER NEWS

### Closed Album

We are sad to report that GPSCC member **John Rush** passed away in February after a 2 1/2-year battle with skin cancer. His wife, **Carol Rush**, is also a member of the club. We extend our condolences to Carol and her family and friends on John's passing.

### New Members

We welcome the following who have recently joined the GPSCC:

- **William (Bill) duBell** – Zeppelins, Stamps & Mail Through 1933, & Railroad Stamps
- **Ivan Jurin** – U.S. Stamps from the 1840s through the 1970s
- **David Newman** – Stamps
- **Lionel Wiley** – Stamps, Books, & Vinyl Records

## UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

May 19 – June 16 – Aug. 18 – Sep. 15 – Oct. 20 – **Nov. 14**

Note: Nov. 14 is a Saturday, and the meeting that day will start at 10:00 a.m. All the other meetings are on Tuesdays and begin at 7:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 23-30, 2026** – [Boston 2026 International Philatelic Exhibition](#), Boston Convention & Exposition Center, Boston, MA

**June 20-21, 2026** – **SCOPEX 2026**, American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA

**June 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m.-Noon** – [Philatelic Gathering](#), Chester County History Society, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA



## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2026, GPSCC MEETING

Paul Miller called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 p.m. The first order of business before tonight's presentation was an introduction of our new member **William (Bill) duBell**. Bill is currently a member of the North Penn Stamp Club and collects Zeppelins, stamps and mail through 1933, and railroad stamps. There are also two additional new members not in attendance tonight. **Lionel Wiley** was gifted a stamp collection and wants to follow through on what he has received. He also collects books and vinyl records. **Ivan Jurin** collects U.S. stamps from the 1840s through the 1970s. We hope to see everyone at our future meetings.

Tonight, GPSCC member **Jaume Balsells** is giving a presentation entitled "Greenland Parcel Post Stamps, 1905-1938." We are aware that Jaume collects stamps from Spain from his prior presentations. However, during the COVID-19 shutdown, he was looking for something different to get his daughter interested in philately. This presentation is part of a three-frame exhibit that he presented at BALPEX that won a Large Vermeil. He brought with him tonight a few binders with stamps, parcel cards, full sheets of 25 stamps, and savings books.

Jaume first gave us some background on Greenland. Greenland is the largest island in the world, which is mostly covered in ice. The current population is over 56,000 but was only 13,000 in 1905. Most of the settlements are along the southwestern coast. Its resources are fishing and mining. Greenland is a region of Denmark and has been under Danish control since 1814. Trade was under a strict monopoly with Denmark until 1950.

Jaume spoke about differences in the parcel post stamps from 1905 through 1938. There were differences in value, perforations, size of sheets, paper, gum, and color. The vast majority of postal uses were for parcels sent from Denmark to Greenland. A lot of these parcels were newspapers. Beginning in 1915 stamps were sold to collectors. More money was made from selling to collectors than from parcels. Jaume showed us examples of wrappers,

postal cards, savings books and cancels. This was a thoroughly informative and enjoyable presentation.

In our latest issue of *The Philly Philatelist*, President Paul Miller highlighted the Boston 2026 World Expo, which will be occurring May 23-30, 2026. Many of our members will be attending, and several will have exhibits, including Bruce Marsden, Vernon Morris, Mark Schwartz, and Mike Wilson. In addition, Alan Warren has been selected as an international judge for the Polar Salon exhibits. The Boston 2026 World Expo App is up and running. It lists featured sessions, floor plan, the agenda, etc. You can even make your own schedule. There is a link to the app on the Boston 2026 World Expo site and a QR code in the newsletter.

In other news, on April 14, 2026, Typhoon Sinlaku hit Saipan where GPSCC member Michael White resides. President Miller was able to contact Michael, and he indicated that he was fine, but Saipan was "flattened."

On May 1, 2026, the GPSCC has been invited to the Science History Institute's open house titled, "First-Class Flora: A Stamp Collection of Medicinal Plants." We are going to bring some of our own stamps to exhibit and brochures about the GPSCC. We are hoping to attract some new members at the open house.

SCOPEX, presented by Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, will occur June 20-21 at the American Philatelic Society (APS) Center in Bellefonte. There will be an APS open house on June 20.

Joe Gudonis brought in some German Inflationary Covers from 1922-23 for show-and-tell. It was easy to see the progression of German postage rates during the hyperinflation period on the same piece of mail.

Finally, Anne Gibby will be having a booth at the Allentown Paper Show this coming Saturday and Sunday. She informed us that it has all kinds of ephemera.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Cohen*



Jaume Balsells during his April 21 presentation, "Greenland Parcel Post Stamps, 1905-1938"



## AWARDS AND HONORS

Alan Warren

Club member **Vernon Morris** has an article in the April 2026 issue of *The American Philatelist* in which he illustrates and describes a 1774 stampless cover sent to "Colonel" George Washington in Philadelphia. It was sent from Alexandria, Virginia but there is no content. It arrived in Philadelphia about the time that Washington did also, where he was about to attend the First Continental Congress in September.

Vern also authored an 80-page monograph published by the Collectors Club of New York in April entitled *The Postal Crisis of 1775*. He describes the evolution of the British colonial mail, or Royal Post system, to the burgeoning United Colonies post created by the Continental Congress. The material he uses is an assemblage of dozens of 1775 covers. He explores the rates and the postal markings that occurred during this period of political unrest.

Two members have articles in the May 2026 issue of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*.

**Bill Schultz** writes about Doane cancel postmarks of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Doane cancels were one of the Post Office Department's first attempts to improve the legibility of postmarks by issuing rubber-stamp handstamps. They are named after Edith R. Doane, a postal historian who became interested in these early 20<sup>th</sup> century handstamps. Bill describes this as an active collecting area with opportunities to discover new Pennsylvania Doane cancels.

**Michael L. Wilson's** article concerns an advertising cover of an early stamp dealer in Philadelphia by the name of Mason & Company. The company was founded by Ebenezer Locke Mason, Jr. in the late 1860s and published *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine* into the early 1870s.

## RARE AND VALUABLE STAMPS OF THE WORLD

Paul F. Miller

The start of the Boston 2026 World Expo is now just a few days away. Excitement continues to build for what is expected to be a fantastic international stamp show. The number of exhibits that will be on display is almost mind-boggling.

A special exhibit area not to be missed is the Court of Honor. This separate exhibit area will have about 114 frames of outstanding philatelic material. Yamil Kouri, President of Boston 2026, stated that some of the items on display have not been seen in public in decades.

While the Court of Honor will undoubtedly be a “must see,” would it not be great if an exhibit could be assembled that contained some of the world’s famous, rare, and valuable stamps – all in one place?

Here is a sample (incomplete, of course) of the stamps that I think could qualify for this imaginary exhibit.

### British Guiana 1c Magenta, 1856



The British Guiana 1c Magenta is the most valuable stamp in the world. In 1856, the British Guiana (now the independent nation of Guyana) post office issued the initial run of 1c magenta stamps for use in newspaper circulation. When an expected shipment of the stamps went missing, an emergency run was produced as a stop-gap measure. The printers of this emergency run added a small boat, which can be seen faintly on the face of the stamp underneath the initials of postal clerk E.D. Wright (EDW),

distinguishing it from the official stamp run. Only one copy of this emergency print run is known to exist.

In June 2014, Stuart Weitzman paid \$9,480,000 to own this stamp. That price made it the most expensive single stamp sale in the world—the fourth time the British Guiana 1c Magenta had broken that record. The stamp was next sold in June 2021 to London stamp dealer and publishing company Stanley Gibbons PLC for \$8,307,000 – a bargain!

### Treskillings Yellow, 1855



The 1855 Treskillings Yellow is a color error of one of the very first stamps issued in Sweden. The three-skilling stamp was usually printed in a blue green, but an unknown printing error led to a batch of yellow stamps briefly being circulated in the 1850s. Only one Treskillings Yellow is known to have survived, although these stamps were printed in sheets of one hundred, leaving many to speculate that there are more waiting to be found.

This stamp has been sold multiple times in the last forty years, with the value continuously increasing. The exact price paid has not been disclosed in recent years, but it is believed to be at least \$2,300,000 or more – the value paid for a sale in 1996. In May 2013, the stamp was acquired in a private sale by Count Gustaf Douglas, a Swedish nobleman and politician.

## RARE AND VALUABLE STAMPS OF THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### The Sicilian Error of Color, 1859



The most remarkable thing about the Sicilian Error of Color stamp is how incredibly well preserved it is. Most stamps from the 1800s are naturally worn down from years hiding in boxes waiting to be discovered. However, this stamp featuring the side profile of King Ferdinand II looks as if it was just printed. The stamp was originally printed in yellow but misprinted in a stark blue.

Two copies of the Sicilian Error of Color stamp are known to exist. One of them briefly held the title of world's most expensive stamp when it was sold at auction by Dreyfus for approximately \$2,600,000 in 2011, but that title has since been reclaimed by the British Guiana 1c Magenta.

### The Inverted Jenny, 1918



The Inverted Jenny is a 24-cent United States postage stamp first issued on May 10, 1918, in which the image of the Curtiss JN-4 airplane in the center of the design is printed upside-down. It is one of the most famous errors in American philately. Only one pane of 100 of the invert stamps was found, making this error one of the most prized in philately.

The Inverted Jenny's fame is enduring because of the fact that so many fascinating stories are connected to the 100 stamps. That, and of course, the ever increasing values related to many of the stamps.

On November 11, 2023, the Inverted Jenny stamp (position 49) was auctioned by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries for a new record price of \$1,700,000. The 18% buyer's premium raised the total cost to \$2,006,000.

### 1c Benjamin Franklin Z Grill, 1868



The most valuable of all Benjamin Franklin stamps is the 1c Benjamin Franklin Z Grill, sometimes just referred to as the Z-Grill. A grill is an embossed pattern on the surface of a stamp used to prevent the reuse of stamps. The US Post Office Department used several different types of grills in the 1860s – 1870s as they experimented with the best methods to stop fraud. The Z-grill was not widely used, but there are Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln stamps that feature the pattern. The Benjamin Franklin Z-Grill is the rarest, with only two known surviving examples.

One stamp is owned by the New York Public Library as part of the Benjamin Miller Collection. The other stamp was sold for \$935,000 in 1998 to Mystic Stamp Company and its President, Donald Sundman. Interestingly, in late October 2005, Sundman traded his Z-Grill to financier Bill Gross for a block of four Inverted Jenny stamps worth nearly \$3,000,000. In June 2024, the Z-Grill owned by Bill Gross was sold at auction for \$4,400,000. The winning bidder remained anonymous.

## RARE AND VALUABLE STAMPS OF THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### Other Great Additions to the Imaginary Exhibit

Although many other fantastic examples of famous, rare, and valuable stamps could easily qualify for this imaginary exhibit, three more “honorable mentions” are identified below. Space does not allow for an expanded description, but the caption below are linked to online descriptions.



[3c George Washington B Grill, 1867](#)



[Mauritius "Post Office" stamps, 1847](#)



[Hawaiian Missionaries stamps, 1851](#)



## GPSCC AT THE SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE!

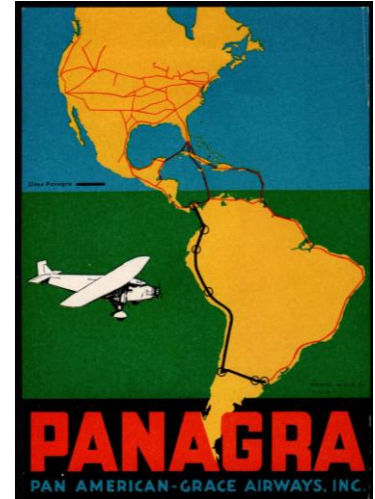


On May 1, Paul Miller, Alan Warren and Michael Wilson (left to right) represented the GPSCC at the Science History Institute’s (SHI) open house that featured botanical stamps from their collection. A sample of the stamps was displayed on the SHI’s façade. We had a great time and talked to many wonderful people!

## EPHEMERA ANYONE?

Ephemera refers to collectible, transient paper originally meant to be discarded after short-term use. Some stamp collectors like to enhance their collections by adding related ephemera. An airmail collector, especially a collector of mail carried on Pan Am flights in 1930s and 1940s, might add baggage labels from the era like those shown below. If anyone would like these, send me a note ([newsletter@gpsc.org](mailto:newsletter@gpsc.org).) They are the free-for-the-taking.

- Michael Wilson



## DID YOU KNOW?

Michael L. Wilson

To fund the Civil War, beginning in 1862, the federal government imposed a tax on legal documents, checks and a host of proprietary items. These duties actually continued well after the war ended. Payment of the tax was indicated by affixing revenue stamps to the item.

An example is this promissory note for \$32,118.76 from 1867. Promissory notes were taxed at 5-cents for every \$100 or fractional part thereof, so this item was subject to a tax of \$16.10 that was paid with four different revenue stamps.

This is a fascinating area to collect. Scott has entire catalogues dedicated to revenue and related stamps.

