



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

January, 2017 Newsletter - Volume 5, Issue 1

Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Our Featured Topic

for January

WE will be showing a DVD
FROM our library.

ALSO

SHOW and TELL

Everyone should bring one or more items for discussion that illustrate their collecting interests. Your talk should be about 5 minutes long.

In follow-up of an item in the September newsletter, member Ron Majors and his co-author C.R. McGuire present the second part of their article. The 1860 royal visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada and the United States, in the October-December issue of BNA Topics, quarterly journal of the British North America Philatelic Society. In this installment the Prince and his entourage took a ferry from Windsor, Canada, to Detroit and went on to exuberant receptions in Chicago, New York, and finally the White House in Washington where they dined with President Buchanan. After visiting 17 cities in the United States the Royal party sailed from Portland, Maine, and returned to England. The authors enhance the text with historic photos and examples of mail related to the visit.

If you are interested in coming to a meeting, or finding out more about Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club, contact our secretary, Letty Moon.

Message from the Pres.

I would like to say thank you to the members of GPS & CC for electing me as president.

It's hard to believe that I have been a member for 20 years. I've seen people come and go in those years, but they taught me a lot about the hobby of collecting stamps (postal history), and now, hopefully, about management of the GPS & CC and the duties of the President.



At this time I would like to give some background about me. I was drafted in 1968 and served 3 years in Viet Nam. When it was time to get out in '71, the outside world did not look hopeful, so I stayed in the service for another 22 years, with tours of duty in the Far East, Germany, Panama, and 5 tours in the US. Upon my retirement from the US Army, I joined the Comcast team and spent another 22 years working. During my tours in Germany (5) I collected stamps from Germany and Mexico, along with US. Over the years the German and US interests were replaced by Spain and Vatican City. I now dabble in Mexico, Spain, Vatican City, and Christmas Seals with a heavy interest in the Mexican Revolution.

Richard K. Majerick

Future 2017 meeting dates

All Tuesdays - All start at 7:30 pm - All at the Giant

JAN. 17th, FEB. 21st, MAR. 21st, APR. 18th
MAY 23rd, JUN. 20th, JULY 18th, AUG. 22nd

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Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC
Giant Supermarket
Community Rm,
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090.

Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC
PO Box 446,
Willow Grove, PA
19090-0446

Minutes From November's Meeting

The president started the meeting at 7:30 with seven members present and two guests, our program speaker **Russ Eggert** and **Tom Geiger**, who became a member tonight. (See new member article.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: 31 members have paid dues by tonight's meeting.

Scott English sent us a nice note thanking us for our warm welcome and a chance to update us on the APS and the state of stamp collecting today.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$4,413.14 in our account.

PROGRAM: **Russ Eggert**, the owner of Dutch Country Auctions – The Stamp Center, entertained us with many amazing stories about how he got into the auction business, the world of buying and selling stamps and the state of the hobby.

He grew up in the Poconos where he said there was not much to do, so you created your own fun. In his case, he got involved in stamp collecting at the age of 7 or 8. As a young man he was able to go to the Stamp Center in Wilmington, opened by Keith Marsh, never dreaming that someday many years down the road, he'd own it! In the interim he became a minister and spent time traveling and doing missionary work in several locations, including Africa. He had a long, amusing story about convincing Keith that he wanted to buy his business, and to this day, he still has Keith as auctioneer for him.

Russ said that for him, the business is all about relationships. He shared his observations about the changes that he has seen in who buys, what they buy, and where they are from. He reported that the strongest market is in Asia. As countries become more economically strong, the collectors buy back their own histories.

Russ made an important point that collectors need to plan ahead and leave information and instructions for their families about their collections: what they are worth, whom to contact, where to sell them. He had several stories of families putting collections of value

out in dumpsters and trash bags after the collector passed on. He and others agreed that when collections fall into the hands of family members, if they don't want to keep the collection themselves, they should:

Sell to a trustworthy dealer.

Take it to a stamp auction house.

Consult a local stamp club for advice.

It was also pointed out that the APS's journal, The American Philatelist, ran an article to help families of deceased collectors if they are unsure of what to do with their collections. Help can be found at <http://www.stamps.org/Estate-Advice>.

Russ noted how the internet has changed collecting. He also said that it has leveled out the playing field for all auction houses, small or large. People no longer have to sell their most valuable or exotic stamps through auction companies in New York only to get top prices. The internet allows access to worldwide markets for everyone.

Russ's business appraises collections for free, unless it is for insurance or estate purposes, which involves more time and paperwork. It's always best to call ahead to make an appointment so that they have time to sit down with you. When they sell for you, they take a 12%-15% commission.

OLD BUSINESS: Elections were held for officers for the 2017-18 term. No more new nominations from the floor were made. All nominees were approved by a vote. Officers for the new term will be:

President: Rich Majerick

Vice President: Phil Russell

Treasurer: Vince Costello

Secretary: Letty Moon

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and passed to make a donation of \$100 to the APS in memory of our former member, Tom Kensey.

THE 50-50 was won by **Alan Warren**, who kept his expense and donated his winnings. The Club made \$17.

SHOW & TELL: **Tom Geiger** showed us a US Air-mail cover, with a pair of C2s, that was mailed to

continued on pg. 3

Minutes From November's Meeting

continued from page 2

Covel MFG Company. A. W. Filstrup was the general manager and a big stamp collector. He was responsible for an unlisted private perforation on Scott #314 that is often misidentified as a counterfeit Scot#316 which is worth thousands of dollars.

Tom also told us about his attempt to complete some areas of his New Jersey postmark collection, set a route of 26 post offices in South Jersey, all in one day. These days all the mail is cancelled at large distribution centers, and not small, local P.O.s so it's difficult to obtain local cancellations.

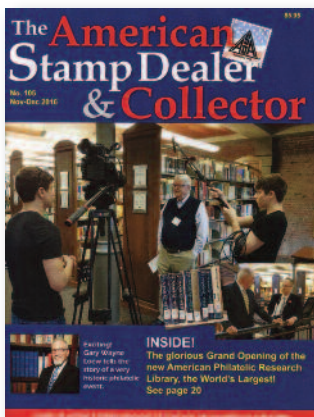
He plotted out a route through the area using Google and his GPS program. He started out, and soon got varying reactions from the postal clerks he encountered. Many thought it was against regulations, that he had illegal motives for wanting a hand cancel on an unaddressed envelope. Some claimed that they had to check with their supervisors before they could do that. He also found some postal employees who were happy to comply and provided excellent strikes on his covers. At the end of the day, since many post offices took a half hour or more, he had only 14 hand canceled covers.

Ed Weisberg passed around an issue of StateCollege.com, a State College community newsletter of local events and businesses, which featured a nice article on the new AP Research Library.

Respectfully submitted by *Letty Moon*

FYI

Past president **Steve Washburne** was interviewed during the American Philatelic Research Library grand opening. He was standing in front of a section of shelving bearing his name as donor of the unit storing Portuguese area philatelic literature. The photo landed on the front page of the ASDA magazine *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*.



Alan

Meet Our Newest Members

Tom Geiger, who claims that he was an "Army brat", grew up mainly in central Jersey, near the shore area, but also spent some of those years in Turkey and Germany.



When he was 8 years old, he was reading the book, "Johnny Appleseed", his father showed him a package with Johnny Appleseed 5c (Scott #1317) stamps on it. That got him interested enough to start collecting US and Worldwide stamps. Between ages 13 and 19 he was pretty serious about collecting, and became one of the founding members of the Hazlet Stamp Club in 1973.

In his mid-teens he started a serious collection of the 1cent Ben Franklin stamp from the Series of 1902 (Scott #300, 314) and designed an exhibit that won Silver Awards in APS competition. He lost interest in stamps in his 20s, up until eBay started up in the late 1990s. eBay made it easier for him to find the key items which he needed for his Ben Franklin collection that he had been having no luck finding any other way. He has obtained all the key items such as booklet panes, private perforations and all types of postal usage.

From 1976 to 1978 Tom was involved in printing first day covers. He produced the "ODDITY" line of cachets and



still finds them for sale on eBay today. He collected off and on until 1998 when EBay started up. Two years ago Tom had some time available to sort over the stamps and covers that he had, and to put his collections in albums. Besides US, WW and the 1902 Ben Franklin 1c, he also had a collection of postmarks from all over NJ.

Tom also enjoys old cars and building model cars.

Tom has worked in engineering for pharmaceutical companies for the past 30 years. He and his wife live in Chester Co. now, and they have two adult daughters.

John and Carol Rush joined our club recently and

continued on pg. 4

Meet Our Newest Members continued from page 3

are anxious to learn more about stamp collecting and what to do with their accumulation of US and world-wide stamps.

When John was a 9-10 yr. old, living in the Mayfair section of Philadelphia, a friend passed stamps on to him from Germany, which he saved. Soon others were funneling stamps to him and he was on his way to collecting. When he was in 8th grade, another friend stopped collecting and gave his collection to John. His mother, who worked for a firm with international correspondence, was also able to save stamps for John. By the time he was in 11th grade he stopped collecting.

Carol accumulated worldwide stamps when she left Wyoming to be an exchange student in Rhodesia. She saved the stamps from her letters as souvenirs. Then friends in foreign countries sent her FDCs from those countries. Stamps from old family letters added to this mix.

When John and Carol married, they realized that they had this interest in common and they enjoyed it together. But after having children, they put this interest aside for 30 years. Five years ago another collection came their way from the elderly relative of a friend. Their four children are grown now, so John and Carol have room to spread out their accumulation again and to inventory, identify and begin to put what they have into albums. They hope to eventually decide what direction they want to go in all of this.

John and Carol live in Fort Washington and work as real estate appraisers and consultants at different firms. John is also interested in Civil War history. Carol is active in the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, which administers Stenton, the colonial home of James Logan, in Germantown.

The Rushes consider themselves beginners. They seek advice on the best ways to acquire stamps, sell or trade their variety of material, on focusing their collection, and on what NOT to do. They plan to be active members of the club.

FREE OFFER... FREE OFFER... FREE OFFER...
Twelve issues of American Philatelist, 2015
Email: lettymoon@comcast.net.

Up Coming Shows & Times

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Jan 20-21, | York County Stamp Show , York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, Pa. |
| March 4 | Westfield Stamp Show , 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, N.J. |
| March 18-19 | SPRINGPEX , Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, Va. |
| April 13-15 | ASDA Stamp Show , Hilton Hotel, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. |
| April 22 | DELPEX show, Nur Shrine Center Temple, 198 S. DuPont Highway, New Castle, Del. |
| June 2-4 | NOJEX , Empire Meadowlands Hotel, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, N.J. |
| June 9-11 | NAPEX , Hilton at Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Va. |



ARIPEX 2017

59th Annual Arizona Philatelic Exhibition

February 17th – 19th

Mesa Convention Center

Mesa, Arizona

APS On-the-Road Course prior to the show

Thur., Feb. 16th

“Detecting damaged, altered, and Repaired Stamps”

by Michael Ball and Scott Murphy

Humor from Mr. Ed

WARNING

When you drink Vodka over ice, it can give you kidney failure.

When you drink Rum over ice, it can give you liver failure.

When you drink Whisky over ice, it can give you heart problems.

When you drink Gin over ice, it can give you brain problems.

Apparently, ice is really bad for you;

warn all your friends!!!





The Classic Collector

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

The 1869 Issue The Ninety-Cent Stamp (Scott 122)

Top, Scott 132, the Re-Issue of the 1869 90¢ Pictorial.

Bottom, the long-missing only-known example of the 90¢ 1869, Scott 122, on cover. The 90¢ was removed, repaired and replaced, the 10¢ Bank Note did not originate, and the cover also was repaired...but if it could be found it would be worth a fortune.



From time to time I conduct reader polls in my other philatelic columns as to the collector's choices for best stamp design and favorite stamp design of all time. I cannot remember the last time that this stamp failed to finish in the top five.

Unfortunately, it is a stamp that not every collector can place in his or her album, regardless of the ability to afford one. Frame Plate 22 and Vignette Plate 22 produced just 47,460 examples, and it is generally accepted that far fewer than this amount were actually issued.

The reason for this thinking is that the 1869 Issue was in the process of being withdrawn from post offices and replaced with the previous grill issues of 1868, including that of the ninety-cent denomination (Scott 101). This issue had been routinely shipped to post offices while the 1869s were current.

Carmine and black and carmine rose and black are the shades in which this stamp is found. The earliest recorded known use is May 10, 1869.

One would think that this denomination would be the toughest to locate in used blocks of four, but I am of the opinion

that the fifteen-cent Type I is decidedly scarcer as a used block.

A word to the wise is in order here. Fakes of this and other desirable stamps can be found in the form of India Proofs that have been "backed", gummed, grilled and perforated. Some of these are cleverly done. The old adage, if in doubt have it expertized, applies here. Buyer beware.

Cancellations, in ascending order of scarcity, are black, blue and red. The only cancellation variety that you'll find is the black town variety.

Cork cancellations are the most common type of cancel that you'll see on the 1869 Issue. When you come across any other type (other than a pen cancellation), you have found a premium item.

Collectible varieties include the split grill and the variety without grill and with original gum.

And so ends our discussion of the beautiful and fascinating 1869 Pictorials. Their unpopularity shortly after their issuance was most unfortunate, but so popular are these stamps in today's collecting environment that there is a group devoted entirely to their study and pursuit, the 1869 Pictorial Research Associates.

Besides the Special Printings,

or re-issues without grill, there are Essays and Die and Plate Proofs to keep one occupied. I also have the feeling that there are still new discoveries out there just waiting to be unearthed. Happy hunting.

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Highlights From Our Holidayr Dinner

The Holiday Dinner was lots of fun this year with a nice turnout of 18. The weather was with us this year. We started with cocktails and for dinner this year we ordered from the menu, so everyone had exactly what they wanted. Those who attended got back their dues and the Club picked up the tip for the our dinners.

Ed W. got a cake composed of 30 vanilla and chocolate cupcake covered with icing on which a photographic image of our GPS & CC logo had been applied.



Ed also ran a game of knowledge after dinner giving out prizes to the winning team. Then the all-important drawings for the door prizes.

Thank you's for the donated game and door prizes go to **Alan Faden, Ed Weisberg, Alan Warren, Letty Moon and Russ Eggert of Dutch Country Auctions.**

