



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, 2019 Newsletter - Volume 68, Issue 1

Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Our Featured Topic

for January

THE GREAT AMERICANS

Definitives of 1980 -1999

I will discuss this set, in detail, following the Scott US specialized catalogue and a few Linn's articles for guidance. With only two or three exceptions, all of the stamps were obtained from the post office. The aim is to show a series of inexpensive, modern stamps which may be challenging to complete, when a collector includes shade, perforation and tagging variations.

by David

Message from the Pres.

Well here we are in a New Year, and I look forward to making as many GPS&CC meeting as possible - more than in 2018 surely. It was sad to miss the Holiday party but our cruise couldn't be postponed. And I did have some philatelic activity. I was outside the Perot Post Office, source of the famous 1845 postmaster provisionals, current catalog 125k £ or \$, take your pick. (Missing in my collection, but on my wish list for next Xmas.) The Post Office was closed for renovations until March but the kind lady in the adjacent museum offered to sell me a book about them. There were pan-handlers and similar on the streets of Hamilton which wouldn't have been tolerated 20 years ago. What happened to Bermuda's squeaky clean reputation? See you on the 15th!



Steve

Up Coming Shows & Times

- January 25-26 **York County Stamp Show**, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave York, PA.
- March 2, **Westfield Stamp Show**, Municipal Bld 425 East Broad St., Westfield, N.J.
- March 23-24 **SPRINGPEX**, Robert E. Lee High Sch 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, VA.
- April 13 **DELPEX**, Nur Shrine Center Temple, 198 S. DuPont Highway, New Castle, Del.
- April 26-27 **LANCOPEX**, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster PA
- May 31-June 2 **ASDA StampShow**, The Watson Hotel, West 57th Street, New York, N.Y.
- June 7-9 **NAPEX**, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA.



The GPS & CC appreciates the donations made by members as we collected the 2019 dues. Thanks go to: **Bernard Newman, Vern Morris, Barry Elkins, Miguel Fiel, Ron Majors and Bill Schultz.**

If You Want To Advertise An Item For Sale or Donate a Philatelic Item To Our Club, Let Mr. Ed Know

Collection for Sale

13 albums plus 7 Certified stamps: #1, 2, 28, 28A, 116, 122, and 150.
Call (908) 220-1504.



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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,
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19090-0446



Awards & Recognition

Bill Schultz served as chief judge at the NOJEX show in October. In addition to the normal jury he was also responsible for mentoring a new chief judge as well as an apprentice judge.



Mark Schwartz had two articles published in the October and November issues of The London Philatelist, published by the Royal Philatelic Society London. The 2-part series described the postal history of the New York Postmaster Provisional issue.



Steve Washburne received a gold at Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose, Cal., in October with his "Portugal – Uses of the 'Mouchon' Issue 1895 to 1910."



Ron Majors, a director of the British North America Philatelic Society, was elected First Vice-President of BNAPS. He is also stepping down as a co-editor of the society's journal, BNA Topics, a position he held for five years.



Minutes From November's Meeting

The meeting began at 7:30.

The program was a DVD from our library entitled "The Story of the Penny Black". It explored many of the qualities of the first stamp showing pre-payment of postage in Great Britain in 1840, and measures taken to foil reuse or counterfeiting of the stamp.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Most of our members have already paid their dues to renew for 2019.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Vince** has made a deposit of dues and we now have \$4327.05.

OLD BUSINESS: Elections were held for the 2019-20 terms of office. The slate of officers nominated was: **Steve Washburne** for President, **Phil Russell** for Vice President, **Vince Costello** for Treasurer, **Letty Moon** for Secretary. Those present voted and the slate of officers was approved.

More details of our Holiday Dinner were announced and reviewed. The dinner will be at the Willow Inn on Dec. 18th with a social hour at 6:00 and a buffet dinner at 6:30. A flyer with full details will be sent to all members by email by the end of Nov. Reservations must be made by Dec. 14th with your payment of \$19/person received in advance. Most of those present indicated that they were coming, some with spouses, and they paid the treasurer. Payment by check can be made to GPS & CC and sent to our P.O. Box 446.

A motion was made and passed to spend \$50 on door prizes for the dinner.

NEW BUSINESS: The Club received a \$5 check from the APS for sponsoring a new member, **Tom Geiger**. The check will be deposited into our account.

Vince Costello described in more detail the extent of the generous donation to our library given by **Mark Schuman** recently. Many thanks to Mark.

Joe Gudonis mentioned that **Bill Schultz** is working on forming a philatelic study-group to be affiliated with the Chester Co. Historical Society and to meet

continued on pg. 3

Postal Rate Increase Jan. 27th

First Class mail rates for 2019 will go up on Jan. 27th. The rate for a 1 oz. letter will increase to 55¢, and additional ounces will increase to 21¢ ea. oz. The postcard rate will remain the same.

2018-19 Meeting Dates

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

2019

JAN. 15TH	FEB. 19TH	MAR. 19TH	APR. 16TH
	MAY 21ST	JUN. 18TH	

Minutes From October's Meeting

multiple times per year in West Chester. Topics will examine philatelic and postal history with an emphasis on Chester Co, Philadelphia and surrounding counties. Details will be forthcoming.

SHOW AND TELL:

Letty Moon brought in several vintage publications with famous headlines. One was the July 21st, 1969 Phila. Inquirer with the headline, "MAN WALKS ON MOON". Another was the Evening Bulletin from Aug. 8th 1945 with the headline, "The War Is Over! Japan Surrenders". The third was a copy of Life magazine with its name backed in black, from Nov. 29th, 1963 with the portrait of John F. Kennedy as a memorial just after he was assassinated.

Steve Washburne showed three Disabled American Veteran charity pitches from the 1950-1970s, some with stamps affixed to the return envelopes. One still had the tiny license plates which guaranteed return of

lost keys.

Phil Russell showed a clear s/l EASTON.PA.FEB.10 on a SFL written in 1831 by Dr. Joseph K. Swift in response to a letter by W. W. Mather, Asst. Prof. of Chemistry & Minerals at West Point in regards to the exchange of minerals for his collection. In the letter, Dr. Swift mentions that his collection is first rate and that he desired to receive "only 1/2 dozen first rate specimens (rather) than a whole box of indifferent ones". When he died in 1871, a "Memoriam" in the EASTERN EXPRESS April 10, 1871 mentioned that his mineral collection is "now in Lafayette College". **Ed Weisberg** brought in his One Penny Black that he showed at the end of the featured topic at this month's DVD showing. He also presented several magnetic display stamps that you see at the post office window. Ed addressed how they were printed.

Respectfully submitted by *Letty Moon*.

Some Highlights of Our Holiday Dinner

This year's Holiday Dinner was well attended and a good time was had by all. After the social hour we had a buffet with an Italian theme. Ed once again brought us a delicious cake with a photographic image on it of our Club logo. Door prizes were donated by **Alan Warren, Ed Weisberg, Letty Moon and Alan Faden**. Members who attended got their dues reimbursed and the Club picked up the tip!

Ed & Linda Weisberg - Alan Warren



Roger Coleman



Janet & Norm Shachat



Phil & Cyndi Russell - Joe Gudonis



Bill Schultz - Mark Schwartz

Katie & Vince Costello



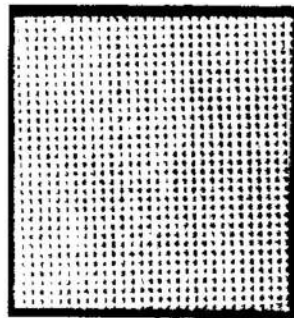


I hope you all enjoyed this part of our newsletter. Starting this month, and continuing with the months that follow, the "Learning Experience" will highlight a complete area of US Stamp information.

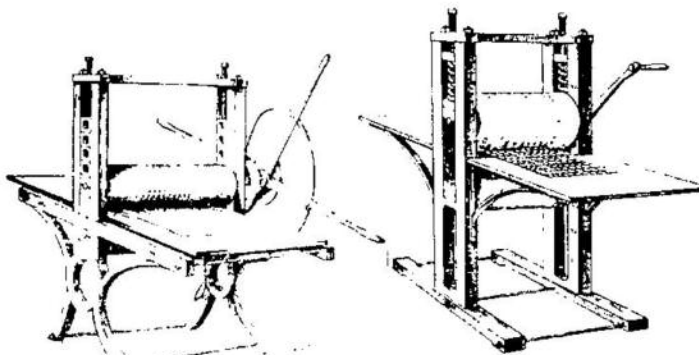
The Classic Collector

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

Grills — Learning to Know Them — Part 1



What a grill looks like: in this case an essay of the "A" grill.



From the Brookman book: two possible versions of a grilling device with which a "female" roller could apply its grillwork to a sheet of stamps on a flat bed.

It seems tome that once collectors of United States postage stamps get back to the earlier issues they become frustrated.

One area of consternation is that of identifying the various types. There are many useful references to aid the aspiring philatelist in establishing the identity of classic United States stamps. Hopefully this column has been of assistance along the way.

But there is another area of frustration, one that seemingly is the major difference between becoming an accomplished philatelist and throwing one's hands up in despair. It is that of the Grills. Don't allow your Mekeel's subscription to lapse because we'll be talking about them over the next few months. Rather, stay with us while we bring these fascinating stamps into clearer focus.

We alluded to reference material earlier and one that is indispensable is "Notes on the Grilled Issues of the United States" by Lester G. Brookman. Triad Publications, by the way, reissued this work several years ago. This nifty softcover volume, which also contains "United States Grills," by noted authority William L. Stevens, can usually be found on dealers' shelves for about \$20 and, when comparing this relatively modest expenditure to some of the other inflated expenses of the day, it's a wonder why this work isn't in every philatelist's library. From time to time I will use information from this publication but there is so much more to study and to learn. Enough of a sales pitch though. Let's begin talking about the stamps themselves.

Prior to learning how to

identify the various grills I think it is best to see how they originated and to get a feel for how they were produced.

In the years between 1860 and 1870 the U.S. Government became very concerned about the possible cleaning of cancels and subsequent reuse of postage stamps. During this period the Government failed to provide the smaller post offices with canceling devices; thus, it was common practice for these postmasters to pen-cancel the stamps. This made the cleaning of such stamps for reuse to defraud the Government quite easy with a bit of ink eradiator. Some enterprising souls even found ways to effectively remove the grid cancels. An end to this chicanery had to be introduced.

Many clever devices were introduced in an effort to combat this fraud and among them was the device that we today refer to as the "Grill". Back then it was known as embossing.

Grills are basically nothing more than just that, an embossing applied to a paper item by means of a roller which is pitted with the necessary depressions that will create this embossed image. This embossing, "female," roller itself receives its pitted impression from a "knurl," or series of small raised pyramids (referred to as "points") on the "male" roller. When the "female" roller is then brought into contact with a sheet of stamps, the resultant impression (embossing) is made.

Look For Part Two Of Ten In
February's Newsletter

This article is about something that happened to me. I decided to publish it in the hopes that you, my fellow club members and philatelists, avoid this happening to you.

On September 24, 2018 I purchased, through a dealer, what I thought was a pair of US 387 Franklin Mint VF-XF OG H stamps, as listed on ebay. The dealer is:

**US Stamp Shop
PO Box 71213
Phoenix, AZ 85050**

Since I paid several hundred dollars for the stamps, I decided to get them expertized. So on October 2nd, I sent them to American Philatelic Expertizing Service. After two phone calls to APS trying to find out when I would receive my stamps, I finally received them on November 29, 2018.

IT TOOK ALMOST TWO MONTHS TO GET THE STAMPS EXPERTIZED

I was surprised to learn that the stamps I purchased were not US 387, but US 383 (worth a lot less) along with the following notation from APS Expert Committee:

**“United States Scott No. 383, pair, unused, previously hinged,
original gum, genuine, fake perforations left, middle and right.”**

After the shock that the stamps I thought were US 387, were counterfeit US 383 made to look like No. 387, I contacted ebay. Ebay informed me that since their guarantee is *only for 30 days*, I should contact Paypal. Paypal lets you file a dispute for 180 days after purchase. *If only I received the expertizing report in a timely fashion.*

I filed with Paypal and after several emails and calls to Paypal, my claim was upheld after I returned the stamps to US Stamp Shop. I got credited back to my card the price I paid US Stamp Shop. I tried to get a refund for my expenses. US Stamp Shop has refused to reimburse me for postage to APS and the expertizing fees. Also for postage to send the counterfeit stamps back to US Stamp Shop.

I have purchased stamps from them before, but I will never deal with US Stamp Shop again. They sell counterfeit stamps. I learned my lesson.

I think it's a little suspicious that US Stamp Shop did not want the expertizing report to prove that the stamps were counterfeit so they could get their money back from their supplier. Which leads me to believe they knew they were counterfeit.

I believe that both Ebay and Paypal have red flagged US Stamp Shop about this complaint.

**My advise... Know who you buy from and always get costly items expertized.
Don't buy from US Stamp Shop.**

American Philatelic Society

Expert Committee Report

Members of the American Philatelic Expertizing Service have examined the item submitted and it is their opinion that it is:

United States Scott No. 383, pair, unused, previously hinged, original gum, genuine, fake perforations left, middle and right.



[Signature] No. **227328**
(APEX Authorized Signature)

[Signature] Date: **11/26/2018**
(Administrator Signature)

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A Service to Philately Since 1903
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A cooperative service offered by the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA).

Written by Mr. Ed