



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

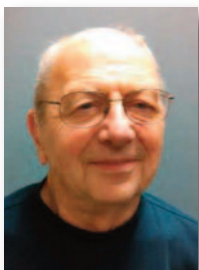
January, 2020 Newsletter - Volume 8, Issue 1

Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 21, 2020

## Our Featured Topic

for January

### French 1938 Marie Curie Omnibus Issue by France and its 21 Colonies



This issue was proposed by France to raise money for research to fight cancer and to honor the Curies on the 40th anniversary of the discovery of Radium.

Quote by Justin Godard, President of the I'UICC, the French cancer research organization and approved by the PTT, the French Postal Authorities, "We envision the creation of a special postage stamp, with a surcharge, to be issued by every country that is a member of the UPU. We hope to initiate this in France and to be at the forefront of all nations engaging in this battle against one of the



worst scourges of humanity."

France issued the first of the stamps on September 1, 1938 and the rest of the story will be the program.

Ronald Hill

## President's Message



Happy New Year!

I won't be able to attend the meeting this month or the next, so I sent a card to the club P.O. Box from the Falkland Islands, where our ship spent New Years Eve.

It was strange sending a postcard, something we used to do every time we visited a new place. The cards our parents and grandparents sent formed the basis for many philatelic collections. I still have my three shoeboxes of Madeira postcards, overwhelmingly from the 1900-1920 period, and wonder whether the jpegs and videos we send now will survive 100 years until 2120!

Enjoy the meeting on the 21st.

Steve

## Up Coming Shows & Times

- Jan. 24-25 **York County Stamp Show**, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, Pa.
- Feb. 1, **Merchantville Stamp Bourse**, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.
- March 14, **Westfield Stamp Show**, Municipal Building, 425 Broad St., Westfield, N.J.
- March 21-22 **SPRINGPEX** show, Robert E. Lee High School Cafeteria, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, Va.
- April 18, **DELPEX** show, Nur Shrine Temple, 198 South DuPont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40), New Castle, Del.

### OFFICERS

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### Stamp Club Meeting Address

#### GPS and CC

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

### Stamp Club Address

#### GPS and CC

PO Box 446,  
Willow Grove, PA  
19090-0446

## Minutes From November's Meeting

Our program speaker was one of our members, **Bob Rufe**, who spoke on the 1928 Special Booklet Paper Varieties" and showed us his exhibit on the subject. There are now eleven newly listed paper varieties for well-known US stamps in the 2020 Scott Specialized Catalog. Bob demonstrated some simple methods for determining some of the differences.



**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** We currently have 50 members.

The APS reports that Clubs could request Sales Circuit Books to share at meetings if we were interested. They also wanted us to know that APS gift cards are available for purchase which can be redeemed at their specialty shops, for educational courses and for dues payment.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Vince** volunteered to organize our Dec. 17th Holiday Dinner this year. The cost will be \$19, with the Club picking up the tip. If members have paid their dues by Nov. 30th, their \$10 dues will be returned at the dinner. The buffet dinner was discussed along with the dessert, reservations, payments and door prizes. Because we need 20 people to attend, an informal head count was taken and everyone present said that they were going. The invitation with complete details will be emailed out in early Dec.

There was no New Business.

### SHOW & TELL:

**Steve Washburne** brought in a paperbound book of the New Jersey Turnpike dating from 1951.

**Ron Hill** showed us the 5¢ non-profit "Sea Coast" stamp which was introduced in Oct. 2002. Within the next 2 years (2002-2004) there existed 17 variations including 3 different printers, errors in using coated paper, etc.

Respectfully submitted by *Letty Moon*

## Awards & Recognition



**Mark Schwartz** served as a judge at Nojex in November, and also had an exhibit in the Court of Honor, "Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue." **Bob Rufe** won a gold and the APS research award with his "Special' Booklet Paper Printing of 1928." At Chicagopex in Itasca, Ill. in November, **Vernon Morris** had a Court of Honor exhibit, "Philadelphia Local Posts 1843-1861." At the Florex show in Orlando in December, **Paul Schumacher** received a large silver for his exhibit "1874a."

## Centenary Of First Air Mail Service In U.S.

On May 15, 1918 a group of Army pilots delivered mail along the route Washington – Philadelphia – New York. The 100th anniversary of the event was observed in 2018. Two Forever stamps depicting the Curtiss JN-4H biplane were released that year. The blue one was issued May 1 and the red one August 11, 2018.



On May 19, 2018 a special ceremony was held near the former Bustleton Field with Philadelphia Postmaster Michael Hernandez participating. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Northeast Philadelphia History. A historical marker was unveiled at noon that day at 2100 Red Lion Road.

This cover was cancelled on May 15, 2018 as part of the celebration. The cover was designed by cachet maker Peter McClure.

Alan Warren



A large supply of almost mint condition, (some never used,) black pages Stock Books, Leatherette covers in various COLORS. No slip cases, but a couple of different brands and available in various sizes. Offered at \$6.00 each (a real bargain!) Most have 30 large double sided pages. I think retail price exceeds \$30 ea. Contact Bill Schultz at: [bill@patriciaschultz.com](mailto:bill@patriciaschultz.com).





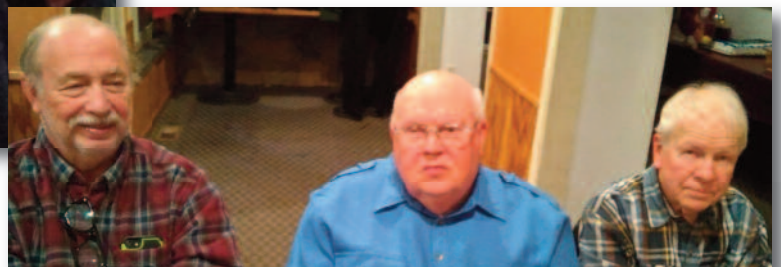
Many thanks to the following members who made donations to the Club when paying their 2020 dues:

Bernard Newman, Bill Schultz, Tom Timey, Michael Epstein, Ned Case, Robert Damerjian, Barry Getzoff and Miguel Fiel.

## Holiday Dinner - 2019

Many of our Club members enjoyed the 2019 Holiday Dinner at the Willow Inn last month. After the social hour we enjoyed a scrumptious Italian buffet. **Ed Weisberg** brought us a delicious cake for dessert with the Club logo right on the icing.

Many thanks go to the members who donated door prizes; to Dutch County Auctions (The Stamp Store) for their donation of philatelic item; and to our club for it's many donated items. Just another way to add to the fun. And thanks go to **Vince** who arranged the event and managed all the finances! A good time was had by all!



# DELPEX 2020

## STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020 • 10 AM - 5 PM**

**NUR SHRINE CENTER, 198 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY  
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720**

US, Foreign & Topical Exhibits • Show Cancel • USPS Substation  
21 Dealer Bourse • Free Appraisals

400-Lot Bid Board Auction  
Closes at 3:30 PM (On-line  
Catalog 3 Weeks Before Show)

**BRING THIS CARD FOR  
OUR DOOR PRIZE  
DRAWINGS**



**FREE  
ADMISSION**

NUR SHRINE CENTER:  
DuPont Hwy (US 13 & 40N,  
0.1 mile north of US 13/40  
Junction, 0.9 miles south of  
Hare's Corner (Del 273)

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### 2020 Meeting Dates

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

### For 2020

JAN. 21<sup>ST</sup>   Feb. 18<sup>TH</sup>   MAR. 17<sup>TH</sup>   APR. 21<sup>ST</sup>   MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>   JUN. 16<sup>TH</sup>   NO MEETING IN JULY  
AUG. 18<sup>TH</sup>   SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup>   OCT. 20<sup>TH</sup>   NOV. 17<sup>TH</sup>   DEC. 22<sup>ND</sup> - HOLIDAY DINNER

#### *Steve Jobs Died a billionaire ( \$10.2b ) at age 56. This is his final essay:*

"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In some others' eyes, my life is the epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death.

You can employ someone to drive the car for you or make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for you. Material things lost can be found or replaced. But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost - Life. Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends. Treat yourself well and cherish others. As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realize that a \$300 or a \$30 watch both tell the same time. You will realize that your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down - you go down with it.

Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true happiness! Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So when they grow up they will know the value of things and not the price. Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

The six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life."





## Ink Colorants, Shade Variations, and the 1938 Presidential Issue

By R. H. White

### Introduction

Postage stamp ink manufacture had been limited to seven or eight basic mineral pigments and a few dyes of some slight modification therefrom. The standard postage stamp colors were blue, green, brown, orange, yellow, vermillion, black, ultramarine, and carmine (red), violet and purple.

The inorganic minerals and carbon black, either singly or in combination, and the few dyes required for the carmines, pinks, violets and purples had been in use from the earliest issues. Repetitive use of orange, brown, black, blue and green colorants dominated U.S. postage stamp production for the period 1847-1868, with an occasional resort to a violet or carmine dye color.

Even the bi-color designs of the 1869 issue, and the subsequent Bank Note issues required little change in printing ink formulation. Naturally, there was always the option of mixing two or more basic mineral colors, or adding a white filler such as zinc oxide to produce an "off shade" or tint.

Occasionally, to relieve the monotony a vermillion pigment made an appearance, typified by the 30¢ stamp of 1857-60 issue.

### New Pigments, Mixed Dyes, and Lakes Of The Late 19th Century Issues

A few of the late Bank Note printings, the Columbian issue, and the first Bureau issue introduced some new colors: indigo, chocolate, brown-red, crimson-lake among others. These ink colorants were merely combinations of two or more of the early mineral colors, or the newly introduced lake colors, e.g., the 6¢ stamp of the small Bank Notes of 1890, and the \$2 red-brown of

the Columbian issue. Such mixtures of mineral pigments and laked dyes appeared in the Bureau Issues of 1894, 1895 and 1902.

Early 20th Century stamp production witnessed a return to the convention ink formulas. The trend continued up to the definitive issue of 1926, to be followed by the "carmine and violet, green and blue era" of the 1926-1936 issues wherein most United States stamps were 1¢ to 5¢ denominations. Only the Washington Bi-Centennial stamps broke that pattern.

### The 1938 Presidentials

In March 1935 a Presidential issue was proposed to supplant the Fourth Bureau issue which had been current for 13 years. Though it has been suggested that the Administration had considered a new regular issue to stimulate collector interest, it wasn't until 1937 that the Treasury Department announced a national competition for the design of the first stamp in the series.<sup>1</sup>

There has never been a definitive analysis of the problems associated with the selection of ink pigments for the Presidential issue. The choice of ink colorants was a challenge for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. As an example, the One Dollar value has been listed in various catalogs and official documents as ranging from lavender and black (Post Office Department) to purple or red violet and black (Scott).

G. W. Brett, in a 1978 article published in *The United States Specialist*, lists some shades for the vignette: blue, lavender, violet, lilac, purple, mauve. He references the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key.<sup>3</sup> C. B. Durland tabulated the shades and hues of

the two Presidential series in a 1946 Bureau Specialist article.<sup>4</sup>

### Manipulation of Colors

There are thirty-two denominations in the 1938 issue and each is represented by a distinctive ink formulation. A few values show repetitive use of closely related pigment/dye mixtures, e.g., the pinks and carmines, and several of the blue and violet hues.

It is beyond the scope of this article to present a thorough analysis of each of the ink compositions. However it may suffice to examine two or three to demonstrate the potential for color manipulation against which collectors must protect themselves.

**Collectors should not purchase the following varieties unless a recognized expertizing authority has established without question their genuineness:**

- The 30¢ ultramarine has been found in a **deep blue**. The case for a deep blue 30¢ stamp is reminiscent of the 4¢ blue error in the 1893 Columbian issue. Mixtures of iron blue and ultramarine blue are not uncommon in "blue" ink formulas, whether intentional or accidental. Hence, a fairly broad spectrum of shade differences can be expected in blue stamps.

- The 10¢ stamp, normally found in a brown-red color has been reported in a **bright pink shade**. This is a typical case of color alteration by chemical stress.

- The \$5 carmine and black stamp with the carmine **frame altered to a red-brown or brown** color is one of the most notorious examples of fraudulent color manipulation to enhance the value of a philatelic item. The fact that several specimens were certified as being of the red-brown variety as early as December 1953 does not lessen the onus on this stamp as being one of the easiest to fake.

Data from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing confirms that the colorant in the

frame ink is one of several carmine dyes which is susceptible to modification to a red-brown or brown by gases containing a sulfur compound. Though the laboratory technique is somewhat complicated if a convincing product is to result, excellent fakes can be manufactured from the normal stamp.

Faked color varieties of the \$5 are fairly easy to detect by x-ray analysis.<sup>5</sup>

### Summary

There are many shade varieties of a number of the 1938 Presidential series denominations. For the most part they are innocuous color manipulations done more for amusement than as attempts at faking for monetary reasons.

A few, however, have the potential for being deceptive counterfeits, notably the \$1 and \$5 values, although the \$1 in a pink or rose and black has not been considered a bonafide production error. (In contrast, it is considered likely that a genuine red-brown shade of the carmine and black \$5 stamp could have resulted from a residual sulfur compound retained in improperly prepared chemical pulp.)

### References:

1. L. A. Myers, "The Fifth Bureau Issue (1938-1943): The Presidential Series," *U.S. Specialist*, Vol. 51, November, 1980, pp. 545-549.
2. An extensive review of the sequence of events leading up to a finalization of all 32 denominations was published in the Bureau Issue Association's *United States Specialist* in December 1980, pp. 621-624.
3. George W. Brett, "Shades of the U.S. \$1 Presidential," *U.S. Specialist*, Vol. 49, July 1978, pp. 312-315.
4. C. B. Durland, "Shades and Hues, the Presidential Series," *The U.S. Specialist*, Vol. 9, pp. 152-153.
5. R. H. White, Unpublished Report to the Philatelic Foundation for the PF Quarterly, scheduled for late Fall 1992.