



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

May 2016 Newsletter - Volume 4, Issue 5

Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Our Featured Topic

for May

Spanish-American War Era Taxation of Proprietary Medicines and Perfumes.



Ron Leshner will present a program on the taxation of proprietary medicines and perfumes during the Spanish-American War Era, highlighting companies that initially used the general proprietary battle-ship stamps and later their own private die proprietary stamps. Printed cancels galore and some products that were household names, Johnson & Johnson, Bromo-Seltzer, and Fletcher's Castoria.

Special attention will be paid to a number of Philadelphia area companies, including the J. Elwood Lee firm of Conshohocken, who ordered private die stamps at the urging of one of their salesmen, who just happened to also be a stamp dealer on the side.



Join Us For Dinner

Join us every month for dinner at the Willow Inn before the meeting! A group of us gather around the bar at 5:30 to socialize and then move on to the dining room at 6:00. There is a nice selection of American and Italian food, and Early Bird specials are offered. The Willow Inn is at 210 York Rd., where York Rd. and Easton Rd. merge, and is just a few hundred feet from the Giant Super Market.

If You Want To Advertise or Donate a Philatelic Item, Let Mr. Ed Know

Message from the Acting Pres.

Greetings to all GPS&CC members. I've been away two of the last three meetings and look forward to seeing everyone on the 17th. I was favored with the minutes of April's meeting, which included the story of the cover Norm didn't buy. Which reminded me that show-and-tell is an important way we share information and gain philatelic knowledge.

Attending exhibitions is another way to gain knowledge, particularly by looking at exhibits and sharing. While manning the Portugal Society's table at Westpex (San Francisco - last weekend of April) a collector



showed me the attached, principally because he'd seen my one frame exhibit Portuguese Boas Festas Cards -

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OFFICERS

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Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC

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Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC

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Message From The Acting Pres.

the Beginning Years, and thought it another of the same species. (Boas Festas is Portuguese for Happy Holidays.)

Well it isn't, and if not for the Christmas seal on the reverse you wouldn't think it was. Boas Festas cards and the related PAX cards for Easter, of which Portugal & Brazil are two of the many countries having them, are government issued postal stationery with a holiday related picture and message, sold with either stamp imprint or postage stamp affixed. (Purists deem the latter a formula card.) The only holiday related item on the present card is the seal showing the three kings, whose Dia dos Tres Reyes (twelfth day of Christmas to us) are paramount in Latin countries. The item certainly could fit in a Christmas thematic exhibit, or better in a collection of Brazilian postal stationery. To me it's an attractive item, apparently prepaid government issued priority mail, from the backstamp used February 1951.

If you know more about this sort of item please contact me. Or better, come to the meeting, and/or supper at the Willow Inn on the 17th.

Until then,
Steve

CALL FOR SHOW ADMISSIONS VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Stamp Show NY 2016,

The show opens in less than 1 months! Your assistance is needed with show admissions immediately before and during the show! Complete information on volunteering can be found on the NY2016 website. To sign-up, just click on the link to the Volunteer Application Form and fill in your information.

Then hit the submit button.

The NY 2016 Volunteer Committee will take care of the rest. Other positions are open too.

for sale

Mr. Ed has for sale MNH US stamps and other US items. Please contact him with your Scott # list of what is missing from your collection. Maybe he can fill in a few holes in your collection.

Minutes From April's Meeting

Filling in during the absence of Acting President **Steve Washburne**, VP **Phil Russell** started the meeting at 7:30.

PROGRAM: Our speaker was **Dave Hunt** who presented a program on German History and Culture Shown in Postage Stamps. The program covered a period of time from Franz von Taxis, Postmaster to the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I in the 16th century, to modern Germany.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Membership stands at 48. Announcements were made about the upcoming Delpex, Lancopex and Clifton Spring Shows.

OLD BUSINESS: **Robert Cohen** reported back to us about his class at the Boy Scout Merit Badge College held at Valley Forge Military Academy. He reported that the turnout of students for his class was poor. Thirty seats were available, but only five students showed up. Of these, three did well. The class might not be offered next year. He will use the same materials with 2 classes of a stamp collecting club for 6th graders at the school in Phila. where he formerly taught. He is also interested in trying to get some local Boy Scout Troops interested.

NEW BUSINESS: The APS elections are coming up and members are reminded that their individual ballots will arrive in their AP Journal. The Club, however, as Chapter #18 of the APS, also gets one vote. Since ballots are not due until noon on June 4th, we will take up voting for candidates at the May meeting.

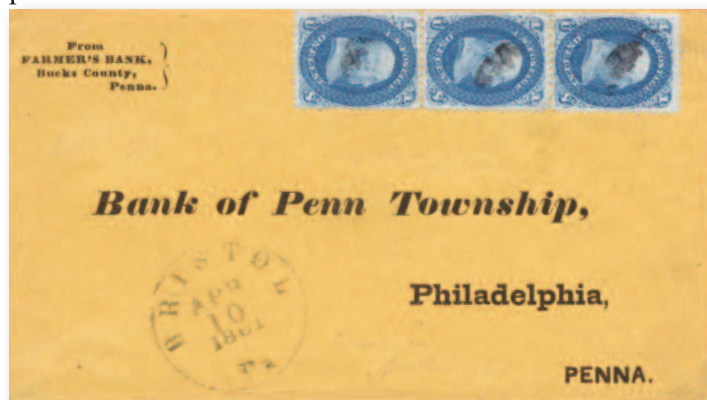
THE 50-50 was won by **Norm Shachat**, who kept his expense and donated his winnings to the Club. The Club made \$12.

SHOW & TELL: **Norm Shachat** showed us a scan of a cover that he found for sale on eBay. He chose NOT to buy it and he challenged us to figure out why he would not recommend anyone buying it. The cover had a strip of three 1861 blue Franklin 1c stamps, Sc #63, and the Bristol postmark was dated Apr 10, 1861. No one figured out what the problem was until Norm told us that this stamps, none of which were tied to the cover was not issued until Aug. 17, 1861 and therefore

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Minutes From April's Meeting

must have been added to this cover with an earlier postmark.



Vince Costello brought in a cover which he bought for its auxiliary marking, "Missing in Action". The cover was addressed to S/SGT Hester by his wife in Sept., 1944. After researching S/SGT Hester through the Internet, Vince learned that Hester saw duty in a bomber squadron during WWII. He was "Missing in Action" because his plane was shot down. Five onboard died in the crash and four, including Hester, survived and were captured by the Germans. The cover contained a letter from his wife and mother saying that they were worried about him because they had not heard from him for a week. Hester remained a prisoner until the end of the war.

Up Coming Shows & Times

May 20-22	ROPEX Show , Canandaigua, NY
May 28- June 4	World Stamp Show New York 2016 , Jacob Javits Center, New York, N.Y.
June 4	MSC Saturday Bourse , Marlton Elementary School, Tomlinson Mill Rd., Marlton, N.J.
June 10-11	COLOPEX Show , Columbus, Ohio.
June 18-19	SCOPEX Show , APS headquarters, Bellefonte, Pa.
June 19-24	APS Summer Seminar , Bellefonte, Pa.
July 18-22	APS Volunteer Week , Bellefonte, Pa.
August 4-7	APS StampShow , Portland, Oregon.

Future 2016 meeting dates

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

MAY 17th, JUNE 21st, July 19th, Aug. 16th
SEPT. 20th, OCT. 18th, Nov. 15th,
DEC. 20th - Holiday DINNER

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



Awards & Recognition

Bill Schultz served on the jury at the Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland in March, and **Mark Schwartz** served his first judging apprenticeship at the same show. All reports indicate that Mark was one of the best prepared apprentice judges ever. Congratulations Mark—one down, three to go!

At the Nordia 2016 exhibition held in Jyväskylä, Finland in April, **Alan Warren** won a vermeil for his exhibit of "Denmark Birth Certificates: Commemorative First Day Covers 1920-1949."

Steve Washburne received a gold and the Portugal area best multiframe exhibit award at Westpex in San Francisco with his "Portuguese Postal Cards of the Empire." He also took a silver for "Portuguese Boas Festas Cards: The Beginning Years."

From Mr Ed - 'Thoughts On Eating'

*MY goal FOR 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds. Only 15 to go.

*ATE salad FOR dinner! Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And CHEESE. Okay, FINE, I ate a Pizza.

*How to PREPARE toFu: 1. THROW it in the TRASH. 2. GRILL SOME MEAT.

*I don't mean to brag but ... I FINISHED MY 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

*A RECENT study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.



The 5¢ 1847 Issue

Designer: James Parsons Manor.

Design (The following description is taken from *United States Postage Stamps*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970):

"A portrait of (Benjamin) Franklin from a drawing by James B. Longacre, three-quarters face looking left, white neckerchief and fur collar to coat, the ground enclosure surrounded by a faintly engraved wreath of leaves, on which are the letters "U" and "S" placed in the left and right upper corners, respectively, and in each of the two lower corners a large figure "5." On a line curved with the upper portion of the medallions are the words "Post Office", and following the lower line of the medallion outside the enclosure the words "Five cents." A border of fine straight lines surrounds the entire stamp. Color, light brown."

Design taken from stock portraits that were used by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson on numerous bank notes. (Note their initials "R, W, H & E" at the bottom of the individual stamp.

Engraver: Asher B. Durand (vignette).

Printer: Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, New York City.

Date of Issue: July 1, 1847.

Earliest Known Use: July 7, 1847, from New York City to Poultney, Vermont.

Demonetized: July 1, 1851 (many

usages exist after that date).

Printing Process: Engraved; One plate was used to print all stamps. Printed in sheets of 200 with a wide vertical gutter; cut and issued in left and right panes of 100 stamps each.

Quantities: Issued, c. 3,700,000. (c. 4,400,000 produced in five print runs; c. 700,000 destroyed at time of demonetization). Surviving, estimates range from 50,000 to 100,000 off cover. Best on cover estimate (from Creighton Hart), 10,000 on cover.

Paper: Thin, wove, bluish.

Colors: Primary listing, Red brown; various listed and unlisted shades ranging from red orange to brown exist.

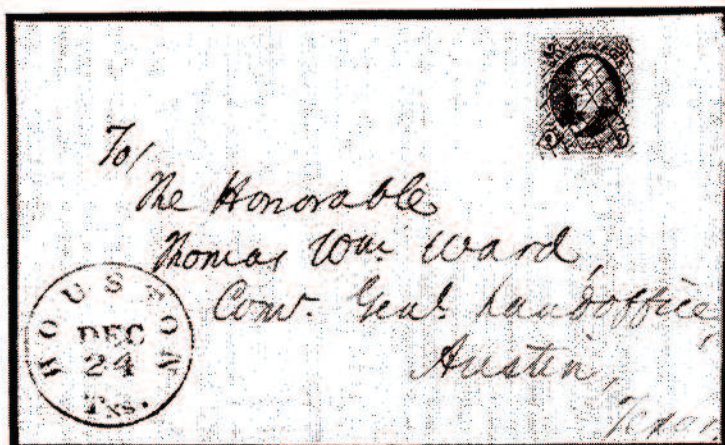
Plate Varieties: Six double transfers (A-F); "Dot in (upper right corner) S";

Cancellations: Collectable cancellations can be categorized by color (green scarcest, red most common); usage (Paid, Railroad, Way, etc.); design (e.g., Herringbone); Manuscript cancels are valued at approximately 50% of common hand stamp markings.

Potential Problems: Cancels, especially pen cancels, removed by bleaching or otherwise; Proofs and Special Printings doctored to appear as unused stamps.

Addition of gum to present as o.g. or to cover thins.

Used stamps placed on stampless or other covers, usually with cancellations faked in whole or in part.



An earliest known usage of the 5¢ 1847 from Texas—and one of only six known usages from Texas. With HOUSTON Txs DEC 24 circular date stamp.

Important References:

Brookman book; Baker book; *Postal Markings of the United States 1847-1851*, Mannel Hahn; *Classics Chronicle 1847 Period*, especially as edited by Creighton Hart; *Collectors Club Philatelist*, May-October 1986, 5¢ 1847 color study by Calvet M. Hahn. American Philatelic Research Library, including the "Piper File."

Purpose: To prepay the single letter rate, defined in The Act of March 3, 1847 (which took effect July 1, 1847), as follows: "For every single letter in manuscript or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be added or communicated in writing or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail, for any distance under three hundred miles, five cents; and for any distance over three hundred miles, ten cents..."

"Single letter" was defined as any letter or parcel weighing up to one-half ounce; every additional half-ounce was assessed an additional "single" rate (5¢ under 300 miles; 10¢ over 300 miles).

The March 3 act did not require the prepayment of postage; it enabled prepayment to be made and evidenced by a postage stamp. (Prepayment was made compulsory by the Act of March 3, 1855, effective April 1, 1855.) It did, however, bar the use of postage stamps other than those authorized by the Postmaster General.

Recent Prices (Singles):

	Unused	Used
Average	850.	160.
Fine	1750.	300.
FVF	3750.	400.
VF	(o.g.) 6000.	800.
XF	(o.g.) 9000.	1,000.

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