

THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA STAMP & COLLECTORS CLUB

Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club
and The Collectors Club of Philadelphia, Founded 1885
American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18



<https://www.gpscc.org>

February 2023

Volume 11, Issue 2

NEXT MEETING

February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Community Rooms
GIANT Supermarket
315 N. York Rd., Willow Grove, PA

Dinner:

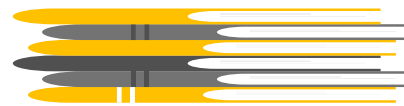
For those who would like to join us for dinner beforehand, we will meet at Willow Tavern, about a block from GIANT, at 5:00 p.m. for cocktails followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m.

210 York Rd., Willow Grove, PA

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



GPS&CC president Paul Miller will talk about his "Collection of Collections." It will include examples of stamp album types and a bit of background on the collections and album manufacturers.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Miller

As many of you may have already been aware, there was a recent proposal concerning a merger of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA).

Scott English, the Executive Director of the APS, initially proposed the merger idea to the ASDA Board of Directors in August 2022. There were subsequent discussions during October 2022 and the ASDA formed a subcommittee to evaluate the proposal.

As it turns out, there will be no merger between the APS and the ASDA. On January 6, 2023, Scott posted an announcement on the APS website. You can read his announcement [here](#).

Although the merger will not occur, he stated that "... the proposed merger... sparked a conversation that's been long overdue." In light of these conversations and the desire of the APS to take care of its members and collectors, Scott will present a new plan to the APS Board of Directors during the Board's spring meeting March 23, 2023, in St. Louis, the day before the March 24-26, 2023, St. Louis Stamp Expo.

Although I do not want to take sides either "for" or "against" the merger, I do want to point out that both organizations are exceptional resources for us collectors. You should take every opportunity to enjoy the benefits offered by both groups.

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FREE DUES FOR 2023 OFFERED FOR NEW MEMBERS!

We will continue to offer free membership to new members through 2023 thanks to the idea that came up last year from one of our members to encourage new stamp collectors to join the Club!

So now is a good time to spread the word to friends to try out a membership in an active local stamp club!

Contact any officer for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

If you haven't already done so, check out our new website! You can find it at <https://www.gpscc.org>.

Spread the news – and the link!

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023

Mar 21 – Apr 18 – May 16 – Jun 20 – Aug. 15 – Sept. 19 – Oct. 17 – Nov. 21 – Dec.19 (Holiday Dinner)

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAMP SHOWS

March 4 - Merchantville Monthly Bourse, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

March 17-19 – Garfield-Perry March Party, Best Western Plus Hotel, 15471 Royalton Ave., Strongsville, Oh.

April 1-2 – Springpex, John R. Lewis High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, Va.

Make travel plans now!

June 12-16 – [APS Summer Seminar](#), Bellefonte PA

July 17-22 – APS Volunteer Work Week, Bellefonte PA

August 10-13 – [Great American Stamp Show](#), Cleveland, OH

OFFICERS

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Paul Miller

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VP & Programs

Phil Russell

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Treasurer

Bruce Marsden

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Acting Secretary

Letty Moon

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Newsletter

Mike Wilson

mwilson34407@gmail.com

Shows & Events

Alan Warren

alanwar@comcast.net

AWARDS AND HONORS

In the philatelic articles competition at the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition in January, Vern Morris won a gold for “Military Ft. Meyers from 1850” that appeared in the *Florida Postal History Journal*. At the same show co-authors Mark Schwartz and Bill Schultz received a bronze for “The Real Epilogue” that was in the *American Stamp Collector & Dealer*.

At the Southeastern Stamp Expo held in Atlanta in January, Paul Schumacher won a large silver for his exhibit of “1874a,” a variety of the Everett Dirksen commemorative.

Bill Schultz had an article in *The American Philatelist* in January on “Research as a Key Element of Philatelic Exhibiting.” As a retired APS judge, he knows whereof he writes.



Vern Morris



Mark Schwartz



Paul Schumacher



Bill Schultz

ALBUM CLOSED

[Ned Case](#), December 24, 2022, age 76.

[Robert Damerjian](#), March 13, 2022, age 87.



Ned Case



Bob Damerjian

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

There are no members to introduce this month. Please introduce the Club to your friends and family, share out website (<https://www.gpscc.org/>), and let a Club officer know of a place that would like to learn more about “The King of Hobbies” and the GPS&CC (e.g., schools, libraries, senior centers, etc.).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

If you are not a member of the APS, consider joining and becoming familiar with their resources, many of which you can access online. In fact, joining the APS will allow you to get access to their monthly journal, *The American Philatelist*. Did you know *The American Philatelist* is the oldest continuously published philatelic journal in the world, the first issue having appeared in January 1887?

Please also make every effort to buy from and use the resources of the members of the ASDA. The ASDA is a professional organization serving philately since 1914. They are dedicated to promoting integrity, honesty, and reliability in our hobby. Their slogan is "We Are the Hobby Builders!"

You can always find many of their members at stamp shows and online – look for them. And if you love reading about the hobby, the ASDA has a publication, too. It is called *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer*.

So, merger or not, the collector comes out the winner because of these two great organizations.

SAMUEL WEST, STAMP COLLECTOR

Samuel West is a British actor who appears in "All Creatures Great and Small" and "Slow Horses."

The New York Times of January 23, 2023, ran excerpts of an interview with him in which he mentioned his passion for stamp collecting: "At a party 20 years ago, a woman was trying to pretend to be interested in the fact that I collect stamps and asked me how many I had. It's not a question that anybody who collects stamps would ask somebody else. I realized that what she was asking about was an accumulation. And I thought, What's the difference between an accumulation and a collection? I suddenly realized that a collection is defined by what it leaves out. That was incredibly enabling."



CALL FOR AUTHORS!

Have something philatelic that you would like to share? Know of an article from another publication that you think others would like to read? Send Mike Wilson a note at mwilson34407@gmail.com, and he'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023, GPS & CC MEETING

President Paul Miller started the business meeting first.

Secretary's Report: We have 57 members. Letty is still waiting for dues to be returned by several members. After getting information from almost all members for 2023, records show that:

- Four members are not renewing at this time as they no longer collect, are ill, or can no longer be reached at any of their contact info.
- One member, Mark Schuman, has moved away to Williamsport.
- Two members have passed away.

Of the 11 new members who joined us in 2022:

- Three joined thanks to Paul Miller's delivery of membership information to BALPEX and NOJEX.
- Three or more joined thanks to Alan's recruitment of new APS members who live locally.
- Three or more joined thanks to our mass mailing last April to existing APS members who live locally.

Some were also encouraged to join thanks to our offer of free dues for the first year.

We had 14 people at our Holiday Dinner held at the Willow Tavern in December and a good time was had by all.

We are still looking for someone to volunteer to take over as Secretary for the Club. Paul Miller and Mike Wilson have helped to do some of the job at this time.

The APS has announced that the Summer Seminar will be held from June 12th -16th in Bellefonte.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$4,869.03 in our account. The majority of income was from dues paid. Expenses were for stamps, and a year's rental of our P.O. Box.

The was no **Old Business**.

New Business: Paul reported on the offer of a stamp collection from the daughter of a deceased collector. Much discussion followed as to what action to take. However, within 24 hours the offer was withdrawn.

Mike Wilson proposed that the Club have its own website with basic information about the Club, meeting dates and program information. He offered to create the website and to update it regularly. Discussion followed about the cost per year for a website, what it should contain and possible links. All agreed enthusiastically that website is needed to spread information about attract new members. Thank you, Mike!

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“RETURN TO SENDER, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, NO SUCH NUMBER, NO SUCH ZONE”

by Paul F Miller

Do you know why January 8, 2023, was an important day in United States philatelic history?

Not only was it Elvis Presley's birthday (he would have been 88), but it was also the 30th anniversary of the issuance of the popular 29c U.S. Elvis Presley Commemorative stamp (US Scott #2721).

On January 8, 1993, the United States Postal Service (USPS) held a special midnight first-day ceremony (officially 12:01am, Central Standard Time), for the long-awaited Elvis Presley stamp.

Fittingly, the special ceremony and party-like atmosphere occurred at Graceland! Thousands of people lined up nearly 18 hours earlier, just so that they could be part of the memorable event.

When Elvis died in 1977, fans around the nation immediately wanted a stamp honoring him. After ten years, he was eligible to appear on a US stamp, and requests for it poured in.

While many people liked the idea of an Elvis stamp, he was also a controversial subject due to his history of drug use. However, after long debate, where the focus was on his achievements in music, Elvis was chosen for the first stamp in the Legends of American Music Series.

Eight artists produced about 60 sketches as possibilities for the Elvis stamp. Ultimately, all of the drawings were whittled down to two – a younger Elvis and an older Elvis. The Postmaster General then allowed the public to

select which stamp would be the winner by using a postcard mail-in ballot. More than 1 million votes were cast, and the younger Elvis won with about 75 percent of the vote.

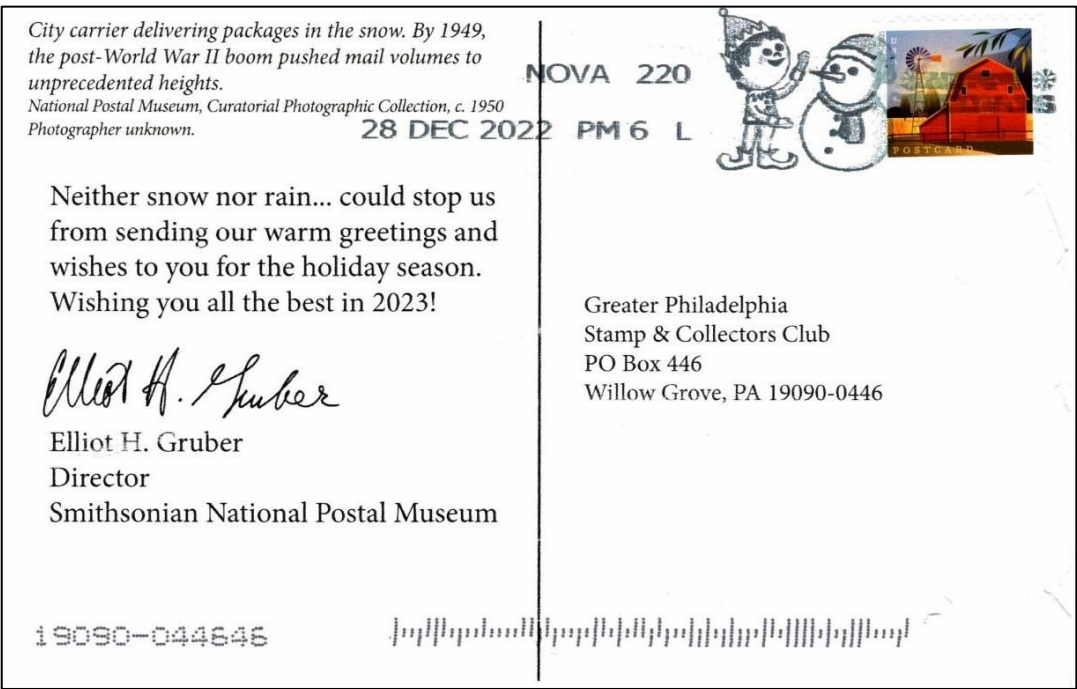
The USPS reported that ultimately 517 million Elvis stamps were printed! That is three times the usual print run for a commemorative. It's the most widely publicized and bestselling US commemorative of all time. It has been estimated that more than 120 million Elvis stamps have been saved by fans and collectors.

If you want to read a great article about this Elvis stamp, you can find it in the August 2022 edition of *The American Philatelist*. The article is titled, "The Election That Shook Up America," by George Pfeffer.



CATCHING UP FROM THE HOLIDAYS!

The Club got a nice postcard for the holidays from the National Postal museum. The stamp is US Scott #5547 issued on January 24, 2021.



We also held our annual holiday dinner on December 20, 2022, at the Willow Tavern. Fourteen members, as well as some spouses, had a wonderful time catching up. Thanks to Phil Russell for making the arrangements and to Letty Moon for sending out the invitations.

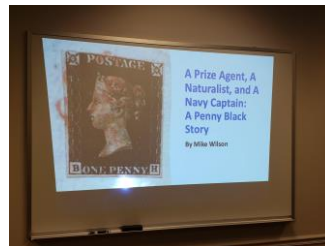
MINUTES (CONTINUED)

As was often done in the past, we decided to send a donation to the APS in memory of two of our members who have passed away in 2022. The Treasurer will send off a check for \$200 in memory of Edward (Ned) Case and Robert Damerjian.

Program: Mike Wilson presented a program entitled, “A Naturalist, A Prize Agent, and A Navy Captain: A Penny Black Story.” He outlined how his research went from studying the Penny Black on an old cover to learning about the interesting contents of the letter, the person who wrote the letter, who received it and the deceased person whose estate was the subject of the letter.



Mike Wilson



“A Penny Black Story”

Show & Tell & Discuss: Alan Warren showed us a cover which he had sent recently to an acquaintance in Russia which was returned with a yellow sticker on it saying, “Postage suspended to Russia”.

Alan also raffled off a mug covered with images of British stamps all over it. The stamps were multi-colored images of Queen Elizabeth II. Anne Gibby was the winner of the mug.

Anne Gibby brought in more postcards and covers from her “Uncle Len’s” collection from 1870-1900. She reported on visiting a postcard club meeting held at the Union Fire Co. in Titusville.

Respectfully submitted by Letty Moon

CLUB SECRETARY NEEDED

Letty Moon is stepping down after ten years of service. Thank you for your continued service Letty!

We are looking for a volunteer who could writeup minutes for our meetings and handle some communications with our members. The pay is great! Ok, it’s zero, but imagine the satisfaction you’ll feel helping this great stamp club.

Contact any officer if you could volunteer, and we will give you all the help that you could need!

PHILATELIC GATHERING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18

Bill Schultz has informed us that the first in-person “Philatelic Gathering” in nearly three years will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10:00 AM at the Chester County Historical Society (CCHC), 225 N. High Street, West Chester PA, 19380.

A web page with speakers, topics, contact information, open dates, etc. has been updated and is available for viewing at this link: <https://lcps-stamps.org/study-groups/>.

The first line-up of presenters is:

1. Gus Spector on “Philadelphia Hotel Markings”;
2. Kean Spencer on “Stamps of Puerto Rico, from Spanish Dominion through U.S. Possession”;
and
3. Dr. Charles J. DiComo on “The Providence, R.I. Pre-Mailing Control Marking on the U.S. 3 Cents 1851-57 Stamp.”

Slots are open throughout the remainder of the year, and they are as follows: May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21 and November 18.

If you would like to add your name and email to the Philatelic Gathering mailing list, contact Bill Schultz at bill@patriciaschultz.com.

CLUB MEETING ADDRESS

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

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club
P.O. Box 446
Willow Grove, PA 19090-0446

APS SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

An exciting mix of courses and instructors continue to be added to this year’s Summer Seminar 2023 catalog every day.

Registration opens Wednesday, February 15! Visit the Summer Seminar page frequently for new information on courses, registration, deals, accommodations, and other news.

Go to [Summer Seminar \(stamps.org\)](https://stamps.org) for more information.