

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>

April 2023

Volume 11, Issue 4

NEXT MEETING

April 18, 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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Miller

I received mine in the mail recently. Have you received yours?

What am I talking about?

Well, if you are a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS), you should have received your annual mailer for supporting the APS and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) through "The Mighty Buck Club."

The Mighty Buck Club enables you to support the services of the APS and the APRL in a meaningful way for just a few bucks a year – or more if you like. It is an annual campaign that has been a great success for the APS.

To learn more about this program, I had the pleasure of speaking to Amy Larimer at the APS. She informed me that The Mighty Buck Club started in 2011 as a way for APS members to make a small donation each year to allow the APS to deliver better services for fellow APS members.

(Continued on page 4)

APRIL PROGRAM

Bruce Marsden

**“Collecting the 1949
Engineering and Landscape
Issue of Switzerland”**



Switzerland Scott 328-33

This presentation is an invitation to collectors who are interested in developing a comprehensive collection of a single set of 20th century stamps to consider the definitive issues of Switzerland, using the 1949 Engineering and Landscapes Issue (Scott 328-39) as an example. Getting started is very accessible as a mint never hinged set can be acquired for under \$10. The presentation explores the many types of varieties that can be identified and collected, the various postal rates and services that can be explored through the use of the stamps, as well as some of the tougher items to find such as mail for the blind and air- and train-crash mail and mail to remote destinations. It is easy to get started and hard to stop.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rev. Harold Hand who collects US mint singles, US FDCs, Presidentials, United Nations, Vatican City and American History.

Terri Kelly who collects Early US Stamps and Airmails, Fancy Cancels, Cut Squares, Perfins, US Revolution, Politics and History, US Possessions, Revenues, Postal Cards, Canal Zone, Perfins, Presidentials, Holy Land, Mexico, Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, United Kingdom and Royal Family

Barbara M. Weiss who has inherited some stamps and is new to stamp collecting.

Welcome to the Club!

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>.

Recent changes include the addition of a “What’s New” section to the home page and another philatelic link has been included, this one to digitized US Postal Bulletins.

Spread the news – and the link!

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.

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UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAMP SHOWS

April 22 – DELPEX Show, Nur Temple Shrine, 198 S. DuPont Rd (Rte. 13), New Castle, DE

April 28-29 – Lancaster Stamp Show (bourse only, no exhibits), Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, PA

April 29 – Westfield Stamp Show, Municipal Building, 425 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ

June 2-4 – NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA

June 10-11 – SCOPEX, Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, APS Headquarters, Bellefonte, PA

Make travel plans now!

June 12-16 – [APS Summer Seminar](#), Bellefonte PA (see p. 8 of this newsletter)

July 17-22 – [APS Volunteer Work Week](#), Bellefonte PA

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The concept is simple. If many, many people can make small contributions, they all add up to substantial amounts (The Mighty Buck!) that allows the APS to expand and enhance many of its programs. Stamp collectors win and the hobby prospers!

In The Mighty Buck Club mailer, you can read that the APS has recently put our funds to good use:

- Completion of the Holocaust Stamp Project;
- Continued development of the online learning platform, named C3a;
- Ongoing efforts to digitize the library;
- Computer/technology upgrades for the APS staff.

Amy told me that there are multiple ways that you can contribute to The Mighty Buck Club. First and foremost, you can use the mailer card enclosed with the literature sent to you in the mail. Just drop that back in the mail to the APS with your donation amount by check or credit card.

You did not get a mailer? Do you want to do something online? Try this link to the APS website: <https://stamps.org/donate/mighty-buck-club>. As an APS member, you can log in and make your donation. If you are not a current APS member, you can use the link to access a duplicate of the mailer card for your donation.

To participate, the APS asks for at least \$1.00 per month for a whole year. That's a minimum of \$12.00. Amy told me that while many collectors donate the minimum, there are many others who donate much more because they believe that the contribution is that important to the success of the APS and APRL.

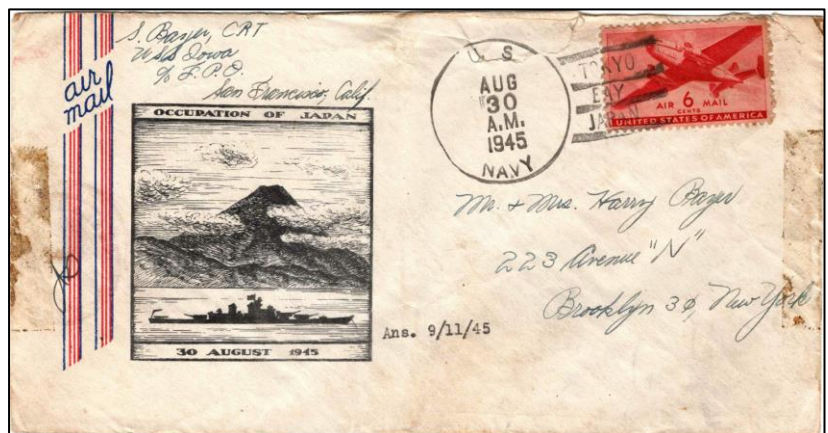
So, consider a donation today. Remember, the APS and the APRL are non-profit tax-exempt organizations under IRS Section 501(c)3. That means the contribution is tax deductible. Beyond that, it will make you feel good knowing that you participated to a worthy cause!

COVER SENT FROM THE USS IOWA ANCHORED IN TOKYO BAY AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II

I acquired this item in a box full of covers. After learning about the sender, I donated the cover to the Pacific Battleship Center in San Pedro, California. You can read about the item here: <https://www.mypostalhistory.com/post/cover-sent-from-the-uss-iowa-anchored-in-tokyo-bay-at-the-end-of-world-war-ii>.

Does anyone know the cachet designer?

Mike Wilson



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2023, GPS & CC MEETING

President Paul Miller called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Letty Moon was unable to attend the meeting, so no Secretary's Report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Marsden was unable to attend, but he reported via email that we have \$4,467.03 in our account. That balance reflects the completion of our donation of \$250.00 to the Boston2026 World Expo approved at our February meeting.

Paul Miller noted that our donation will be recognized on the Boston2026's website and will include a link to our Club's website.

Old Business: Paul opened a discussion on phishing emails to the Club's officers emanating from bots scraping officer email addresses from our website. Possible responses include the status quo, removing all personal email addresses from the website, or using alias emails. Paul said he would canvass the officers for their opinions.

Mike Wilson reported that he had been contacted by the Upper Dublin Public Library about scheduling programs to introduce people to the hobby of stamp collecting. Anne Gibby suggested this outreach at the February meeting. Mike will reach out to members of the Club for assistance once dates have been scheduled. Anne was thanked for her suggestion.

New business: Prospective member Barbara Weiss was welcomed to the meeting. Barbara inherited some stamps and is new to collecting.

It was noted that the Merchantville (New Jersey) Stamp Club will not hold its bourse in April

Program: Club member Mike Wilson presented "Advertising Covers with Interesting Philatelic Features." His presentation included covers with embossed ads from the 1850s; an encased postage stamp from the Civil War; a Wells Fargo cover from 1865; samples of covers with US Scott #210, a workhouse stamp of the late 19th century; a couple of examples of privately perforated stamps from the early 20th century; covers with cancellations from different types of machines; and airmail and special delivery examples.

After seeing the Graf Zeppelin cover in Mike's presentation, Paul mentioned the recent Collectors Club of New York's (CCNY) webinar on air ships and air ship covers by Cheryl Ganz. Members in attendance then talked about how to view future CCNY webinars.

Show & Tell & Discuss: Joe Gudonis passed around an album of cut squares of various German cancellations from the late 1800s to the early 1900s that he acquired from a curio shop in Philadelphia in the 1950s. Richard Brent shared a US stamp catalog from 1972.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Wilson

SENDING YOUR CHILD TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE FOR A VISIT USING THE POSTAL SERVICE!

by Paul Miller

On January 1, 1913, the Post Office Department initiated its Parcel Post service for fourth-class mail. Farm families were especially anxious to welcome the new service because it gave them an economical and safe way to ship many of their commodities, like eggs, butter, and fruits and vegetables. Only items that could be dangerous to handle could not be sent through Parcel Post.

The Parcel Post service could be used to send items weighing 16 ounces or more through the mail. Initially, the limits were for items weighing 16 ounces up to 11 pounds. But the service was so successful, within a year the weight limits rose from 11 pounds to 20 pounds, then again from 20 pounds to 50 pounds.

Eggs were a mainstay of Parcel Post. Six eggs were the first objects sent by Parcel Post from St. Louis, Missouri. Mailed to Edwardsville, Illinois, from the main city post office at 12:05 a.m., the eggs came back to St. Louis, Missouri in the form of a freshly baked cake, which was delivered at 7:00 p.m. – the same day!

It wasn't long after the new service began that parents found an interesting loophole. None of the regulations concerning Parcel Post prohibited the mailing of people, as other living beings were being mailed that way – like day-old chicks and honeybees.

So, on February 19, 1914, Mr. & Mrs. Pierstorff, of Grangeville, Idaho, decided to "mail" their daughter for a visit with her grandparents, who lived in Lewiston, Idaho about 73 miles away. The little girl, named May Pierstorff, was three months short of six years old and weighed 48-½ pounds. She was just under the 50-pound limit!

The Pierstorff's were reluctant to pay the train fare, which was probably much more expensive than the Parcel Post cost. So, they paid 53 cents in Parcel Post stamps, and attached the stamps to May's coat. The little girl traveled the entire distance to Lewiston, Idaho in the train's mail compartment and was delivered to her grandmother's home by the mail clerk on duty, Leonard Mochel! The story is that Leonard Mochel happened to be a family relative, so he made sure May was safe on her journey.

*A Stages Photo of a U.S. Postman Carrying a Baby Boy Along with His Letters, Circa 1900s.
Credit: Vintage Images/Getty Images.*



SENDING YOUR CHILD TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE FOR A VISIT USING THE POSTAL SERVICE! (CONTINUED)



US Parcel Post Stamps Scott Q1-Q12

May's story has become so legendary that it was even made into a children's book, [Mailing May](#), by Michael O. Tunnell. You can buy the paperback book on Amazon for about \$7.99.

Despite her safe delivery to her grandmother's doorstep, once Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson heard her story, he officially prohibited postal workers from accepting humans to be mailed.

In spite of this, parents still attempted to send their small children using the Parcel Post system but were generally denied delivery by the Post Office. Postmasters reported that they rejected certain parents' mail applications for their children, claiming the child couldn't be classified as a "harmless live animal."

The last known instance of a child being mailed came in August 1915, when three-year-old Maud Smith was mailed from her grandparents to her sick mother in Kentucky. The specifics of the story are not known, but it may have been a special set of circumstances related to her sick mother.

Luckily, there are more travel options for children these days than pinning some postage to their shirts and sending them off with the mailman.

GIRL SCOUT USES STAMPS TO EDUCATE LIBRARY'S PATRONS

By Tricia Kline For *The Daily Item*, April 6, 2023

The American Philatelic Society is promoting "Young Stamp Collectors of America: A Virtual Stamp Club for Young Collectors." It's a great initiative for the hobby, and you can read more about the program and learn how you can support it at this link: <https://stamps.org/learn/youth-in-philately>. The GPSCC hopes to do a program for young collectors this coming fall at the Upper Dublin Library. More on that to come! In the meantime, read this wonderful article on a young collector that appeared in the April 6, 2023, issue of The Daily Item from Union County, Pennsylvania.

LEWISBURG — Sixteen-year-old Erin DeSantis credits her grandmother for instilling in her an interest in stamp collecting. Working for a company that runs promotional sweepstakes for television and magazines, her grandmother began collecting the variety of stamps that would be mailed in with contest entries and surveys from all over the country. She began sending them to DeSantis.

"We sometimes joke that people think they have a better chance of winning the drawing if they make their envelope 'stand out,'" DeSantis said. "That may not be true, but I'm not complaining." Several years ago, when DeSantis found some of the stamps in a drawer, she said it "piqued my interest in collecting and displaying more seriously."

"I value sharing my collection with others in public displays and online, so that I can help to spread the knowledge I have gained and help others feel confident in their unique hobbies."

A sophomore at Lewisburg Area High School, DeSantis created a display of her stamp collection and has planned activities at the Public Library for Union County, all as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. In addition, she set up a website to share more content regarding her collection and the hobby of stamp collecting, called philately. She began working on the project in January 2022 and said she spent more than 130 hours on it.

Her project will be featured in the Philatelist E. Gallery Night (the "E" stands for "Erin") tonight, where visitors can see her collection, ask her questions, and she adds, "spend time with other history-lovers from the area." Light refreshments will be provided.

On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon, DeSantis will host a Philatelist E. Family Day, which will give kids and families an opportunity to learn about history through hands-on activities. The children's activity day will include crafts, puzzles, and a scavenger hunt with prizes, all around the theme of history education and postage stamps, she said. Snacks will be provided.

GIRL SCOUT USES STAMPS TO EDUCATE LIBRARY'S PATRONS (CONTINUED)

DeSantis said she has never had to purchase stamps for her collection, which she estimates to be in the thousands. In addition to those she received from her grandmother, she received stamps as gifts from family and community members.

“I feel honored that people trust me with collections that may have belonged to their parents or friends, and I love learning about the collectors whose stamps I’ve ‘inherited,’” she said.

Much of her display will feature items belonging to the late Adam Warzocha, of Meadville. DeSantis said he was a highly decorated World War II veteran.

“His collection includes United Nations stamps, correspondence from all over the world, and even some foreign money,” she said.

Lindsay Chrisler, teen/adult program coordinator at the library, said DeSantis is a regular face at the library, having attended many teen-related programs in the past. Chrisler said she has also teamed up with DeSantis on other projects for the library, including a book display in October 2021 in which DeSantis, as part of another Girl Scouts project, displayed books about influential and interesting women in history.

“When Erin first presented her Gold Award to me, I immediately was excited,” Chrisler said. “Here at the library we are always looking for ways to teach, entertain and provide new insights to patrons. This is something that I think the public will really enjoy and find fascinating.”

Chrisler encourages people of all ages to participate in DeSantis’s programs, which she thinks offers “a new outlook on history, as well as showing the passion behind someone else’s hobbies and interests.”

“It’s truly inspiring to see how much Erin loves her stamp collection and what it means to her,” she added.

DeSantis said she hopes that those who do come out to experience her project will learn more about history and be encouraged to pursue their own hobbies and interests.

In addition, she said, “a central part of my project is fostering a better sense of inclusion in the world of history research and philately, and to help diversify the hobby’s participants and admirers.”

DeSantis is also a member of the Scouts BSA and said she plans on working on her Eagle Scout project this summer.

GIRL SCOUT USES STAMPS TO EDUCATE LIBRARY'S PATRONS (CONTINUED)



Erin DeSantis, of Lewisburg, stands in front of The Public Library for Union County's display featuring her stamp collection.



The Public Library for Union County is displaying Erin DeSantis' stamp collection as a way to educate patrons about history and stamp collecting.

THEME FOR THE APRIL 15 PHILATELIC GATHERING

The April 15 Philatelic Gathering has an interesting program in store. For the very first time, the organizers are requesting each attendee to present one, two or maybe even three items to the group they feel confident most members of the Gathering (in all probability) have never seen (*or touched!*).

“Speakers” are urged to bring with them the actual philatelic item so the membership can actually see the “real McCoy.” This should be an entertaining endeavor for everyone.

The “best” presentation will be awarded an enjoyable prize.

The Gathering meets at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High Street, West Chester PA, 19380 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. . For more info and to participate, contact Bill Schultz bill@patriciaschultz.com or Dr. Charles J. DiComo (charlesdicomo@gmail.com).

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.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

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

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 think of the good karma you'll build up. And by the way, you don't need to be a female to apply.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Who wouldn't love something tax free? George Herpin did. He was a French stamp fancier back in the 1860s, when stamps were a fairly new invention. Before stamps, the recipient of a letter—not the sender—had to pay the postage. Stamps forced the sender to foot the bill, and created a lot of stamp lovers among folks on the receiving end of the mail—and a mania for stamp collecting.

Timbromania was toyed with as a term to affix to this new hobby—from the French word for stamp, *timbre*. But when Herpin suggested *philatélie* (anglicized to *philately*), combining the Greek root *phil-*, meaning "loving," with Greek *ateleia*, meaning "tax-exemption," stamp lovers everywhere took a fancy to it and the name stuck.

The first recorded usage of the word was circa 1865.

Source: Merriam-Webster.

