



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

November, 2017 Newsletter - Volume 5, Issue 11 Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Our Featured Topic

for November



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

SHOW and TELL

Everyone should bring one or more items for discussion that illustrate their collecting interests. Your talk should be about 5 minutes long.



and

Alan Warren and Vince Costello will show videos from the APS and/or the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

Message from the Pres.

SEE You at THE MEETING.

Richard



It's Party Time



Let's Party Together!

Annual Holiday Dinner

Come out and enjoy the good food and good company. **Once again** you will have choice of menu which is self pay. **And once again** the club will pick up your gratuities. **And once again** all members who have paid their 2018 dues by November 30th **AND** attend the Holiday Dinner will have their 2018 dues refunded to them at the party. Family members are welcome.

So Join us At The Willow Inn



Since we are having our Holiday dinner in December, there will be no regular meeting. Also, there will be no Newsletter for December.

OFFICERS

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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,
Willow Grove, PA
19090-0446

Minutes From October's Meeting

President **Rich Majerick** started the meeting at 7:30 with nine members present and two visitors. Our first visitor was Linda Weisberg, wife of our speaker, Ed Weisberg. Chuck DiRaimondi of Horsham, was our other visitor. Chuck said that it has been many years since he collected, but he would like to get back into it. He has US FDCs and Commemoratives now, but would like to learn more about stamps.

Program: **Ed Weisberg** presented Part II of his program on How Stamps Are Produced. He showed a video on engraving and then covered many aspects of offset printing, the most common modern printing method, how a mixture of colors is achieved, many special effects and how perforations are cut. Ed had numerous hands-on examples to pass around.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dues are being collected, \$12 for 2018, or \$10 if paid before Nov. 30th, 2017. Announcements about local shows in Allentown and Reading were made. We received another small donation of stamps from Diane Wybranski.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$4036.96 in our account.

NEW BUSINESS: We need someone to organize our Holiday Dinner, which will be on Dec. 19th. It was suggested that Steve Washburne be appointed to do this, as he has done it for the last two years. It has already been decided that we will again refund the \$10 dues for 2018 to members who are paid up paid, when they attend the Holiday Dinner.

Rich Majerick announced that he isn't sure that he will be able continue to act as our president through the second of his two year term due to health problems, but with our encouragement, he agreed to try.

Rich also asked the Club if we wanted to buy a complete set of Scott Catalogs for the library, since what we have is an incomplete group of old, donated collections. Discussion followed questioning how much our library is even used, and noting that basic information on old issues doesn't change, while current values can be found on the internet. A suggestion was made for possibly selling our library collection at the Stamp Auction.

Rich suggested that we put an ad in the newsletter finding someone else to house our philatelic library.

THE 50-50 was won by **Norm Shachat** who kept his expense and donated his winnings. The Club made \$13.

SHOW & TELL: **Tom Geiger** brought in two albums:

1. USA 1940-44. The WWII era album that also had some patriotic covers and war time slogan cancels.
2. USA 1893-1929 Commemoratives - He said this album is still in its raw sorted state. It still needs to have pages made for it. He brought it to show the mint \$1 Columbian issue that he recently acquired

Ed Weisberg showed us a set of six souvenir sheets from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Letty

Future 2017 & 2018 meeting dates

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

Nov. 21ST

DEC. 19TH - OUR HOLIDAY DINNER

2018 MEETING DATES:

JAN. 16TH FEB. 20TH MAR. 20TH
APR. 17TH MAY 15TH JUN. 19TH

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



Dues are \$12 if paid by the end of Dec., but are discounted to \$10 if paid by the end of Nov! Best deal of the year: Attend the Holiday Dinner in December and your \$10 dues will be refunded at the party!!

Dues can be paid at a meeting or sent to the Club P.O. Box.



Awards & Recognition

Alan Warren served on the jury for the 4th International Polar Philatelic Exhibition held in Denmark in October. The show was part of the annual Nordia exhibition. During the show he also presented a program describing polar philately.



Stamp Collections Being Liquidated

Bill Birely is in the process of liquidating his stamp collection that consists primarily of US stamps in mint very fine, never hinged condition. He lives at

Shannondell Retirement Community in Audubon. He currently has the following posted on Craigslist.com with photos:

4000 US Stamp Collection 1972-2002

150 San Marino Stamps 1960-1972

Guinea Space Stamps 1965

81 Major League Baseball Stamps from Grenada.

For the links to the Craig's List photos, email Bill Birely at: wcbirely@verizon.net or call: 610-908-3898.

Steve Sherman of Bensalem is interested in selling his stamp collection. It mainly consists of:

US numbered plate blocks, 1945-mid 1970s,
Unused early 20th century single stamps,
Revenue stamps from late 19th century and later.

For further information, call him at 215-752-1962 after five.

Our Philatelic Library Needs A New Home

We are looking for someone who is willing to house our philatelic library collection. Would you have room to store it for us? It presently takes up about 13' of shelf space. It includes books, catalogs, DVD's and magazines. Contact President Rich Majerick, or Secretary Letty Moon if interested.

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong.

Rodney Dangerfield

More Things You Probably Didn't Know

"Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time, 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

You've Got Mail...

An upcoming exhibit at Chester County Historical Society will feature an important century of postal history. Between 1790 and 1890 stamps and payment methods changed, and the cost of postage went down. These developments created fascinating postal memorabilia that will be on view from November 24th through April 14th, 2018.

Guest curated by noted philatelist and postal historian Bill Schultz. Includes selections from the Robert Brinton Collection and private award-winning philatelic exhibits.



Lecture series with noted collectors will be held on selected Saturday afternoons throughout the exhibit from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Chester County Historical Society. Free admission for lecture attendees.

December 16th,	Robert Rufe: You've Got...A Package!
January 13th,	Mark Schwartz: Colonial Postal History
January 20th,	Tim O'Conner: Postal History as a Primary Source: America Begins, 1675-1782
February 17th,	Alan Warren: Postal Markings Prior to Adhesive Postage
February 24th,	Robert Swed: Delaware Postal History 1790-1865
March 17th,	Ron Majors: Canada/British North America (BNA) – Union and Confederate Postal Cross-Border Correspondence during the U.S. Civil War
March 24th,	Robert Rose: United States Mail: Its First 80 Years without Stamps
April 14th,	John Barwis: The Rise and Fall of Philadelphia Area's Pre-eminence as a Postal Communication Center

The Chester Co. Historical Society is located at 225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380.
Ph: 610-692-4800. ChesterCoHistorical.org

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

Up Coming Shows & Times

MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse

Marlton Elementary School

190 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton NJ 08053

Bourse Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

December 2, 2017

DELPEX 2018

STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 • 10 AM - 5 PM

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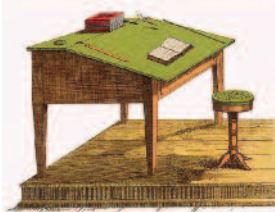
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Introduction -

The Columbian issue of 1893 was the last effort of the American Bank Note Company to monopolize postage stamp production in the United States. It was inferior to the 1890 issue in virtually all aspects relative to selection of ink colorants and paper stock. Most of the stamps were too complicated in design and all were considered too large. These factors, coupled with what was then an exorbitant face value for most collectors, resulted in general criticism of the issue and poor sales.⁽¹⁾

The few good designs, notably the 3¢ and 4¢, and perhaps the 1¢ and 50¢ for color selection, are probably the best of the issue in most respects.

The 4¢ stamp, printed in bright ultramarine is one of our most attractive commemoratives. Unfortunately, the selection of ultramarine pigment for the printing ink yielded a wide and broad spectrum of shades, some of which are almost unattractive—the pale, weakly pigmented shades being the poorest.

The ultramarine pigment used in stamp printing inks, dating from the 90¢ 1860 issue, was synthetically produced by a process developed in France during the 1830's. Though the naturally occurring mineral *lapis lazuli* had been mined in Asia centuries

before, it is most improbable that the ground mineral was used for stamp inks because of cost.

The Blue 4 Cent Error -

Two philatelic writers of some repute, Brookman and Sloane, had indecisive opinions on the nature and cause of the blue color. Brookman stated:

"...One of the most valuable 19th Century stamps is this 4 cent stamp in blue...I agree that it is worth the high price it commands, but often wonder what the price would be if it were recognized only as a fine shade variation. Error or shade?"

The shade is very different from the normal ultramarine...it is much more like the 1 cent than it is the normal 4 cent but the color seems to be...more lively...than that of the 1 cent..."⁽²⁾

Now, there's a bit of equivocation: Brookman's "error shade" comment suggests a lack of understanding of the ink pigments. Sloane, writing a bit earlier, seemed to recognize that two colorants were involved when he said...

...The stamp was an error to the extent that it was printed in a blue rather than an ultramarine ...but the blue in my opinion was never the color of the 1 cent stamp, as it

The Four Cent Blue Columbian - A True Color Error

By R. H. White

was for so many years erroneously described."⁽³⁾

Then, backing away from controversy, he suggested that there is an ultramarine shade that could be mistaken for a blue:

"the standard ultramarine runs to shades, but there is one that is sometimes mistaken for the blue error, until compared with the blue variety..."⁽⁴⁾

Color Characteristics Of The 4 ¢ Ultramarine -

There are many examples of a bright, yet deep, ultramarine referred to by Sloane, all of which exhibit a distinct pink cast when viewed under an incandescent light source or a fluorescent yellow or off-white illumination. It is the red light reflecting property of the pigment that distinguishes it from the pigment in the blue error. This is particularly true of those printed with more intense ultramarine ink formulation with a high sulfur component.

All ultramarine ink mixes are composed of the same basic pigment, brightened or made whiter by addition of white filler compounds to improve opacity. At least four or five distinct shades can be found in a selection of average collections. None should be mistaken for the blue error.

Color Characteristics Of The 4 ¢ Blue -

The few blue error panes of 50 from the 100 subject plate #D17 were printed with an ink containing an iron compound. An adequate

sample of the printed design from a certified specimen has never been available for a qualitative analysis to positively identify the blue pigment. We do know that the 5¢ and the S2 stamp of the 1902 issue and subsequent blue stamps in the Franklin-Washington series contained a complex iron cyanide. That blue pigment can be found in combination with ultramarine in "blue" stamps dating from the 1861-62 1¢ issue. It is variously referred to as Chinese Blue, Prussian Blue, Milori Blue, etc.

How Did The 4 Cent Blue Error Occur?

More than 19 million 4¢ Columbians were printed, and except for the few panes mentioned above, were one of numerous shades of ultramarine. A fairly detailed review of the working environment and attendant production routines is presented in an earlier publication, *Color in Philately*; an article on the blue color error is excerpted here:

"...A photograph of a printing floor at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (probably taken during the Spanish-American War) graphically illustrates the distribution of flat-bed hand operated presses. Under such conditions it is not inconceivable that incorrect mixtures might have been inadvertently applied under similarly crowded circumstances at the American Bank Note

Continued on next page

233a...

Company facilities....It is a matter of conjecture as to the total number of 100-subject sheets which were actually printed before the inadvertent selection of the blue ink was first noticed. The scarcity of the 4 cent-blue printing suggests that the color error must have been noticed very shortly after the first sheet was printed. However, even after the ultramarine ink was substituted for the blue, there is the possibility that not all of the blue ink was thoroughly cleaned from the inking rollers, the ink palettes, the wiping rags, or the printer hands and polishing cloths..."⁽⁵⁾

Having noticed that a blue rather than ultramarine ink had been used, the printer presumably took steps to remove all the blue ink from rollers, palette, and plate and

substituted clean polishing cloths. It requires that only a few waste impressions be made to eliminate traces of blue ink which may still remain in the engraved lines. Nonetheless, ultramarine specimens have been tested which exhibit small concentrations of iron blue in the ink. These are identified by x-ray analysis and they are usually duller and darker than those showing no iron blue, but basically ultramarine in color.

It should be noted that iron compounds, sometimes only in trace amounts can be found in thousands of natural and man-made substances and/or products. Iron, in the form of oxides and other minerals constitutes 25% or more of the earth's crust. Therefore, it can be expected to be found in paper pulp,

mill water, finished paper which has been run through mill machinery, etc.

Conclusions -

- it is estimated that between 100 and 200 blue color errors, identified as Scott 233a, exist.

- iron blue pigment is the principal ingredient of the ink used for the 4¢ error.

- there are numerous shades of the ultramarine printings, largely due to varying amounts of white filler and/or whiteners in the ink, e.g., zinc oxide and barium sulfate.

- the ultramarine shades can be chemically treated to darken the pigment. Subsequent exposure to other chemicals will mask the red reflectance characteristics. Such stamps will resemble the color error but are not convincing enough to escape

detection.

References -

1. John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, Scott Stamp and Coin Company, Ltd., New York, N.Y. 1902

2. Lester G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century, Volume III*, H.L. Linquist Publications, New York, N.Y. 1967.

3. George B. Sloane, "Sloane's Column," *Stamps*, January 28, 1958, H.L. Lindquist Publications, New York, N.Y.

4. Ibid.

5. *Color in Philately* (R. H. White, ed.), "The Four Cent Columbian Blue Error", The Philatelic Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1978.

Puns of Fun

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical aleutian .

She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.

A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

.No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blown apart.

Two silk worms had a race, they ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist-camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

sAtheism is a non-prophet organization.