

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>

November 2023

Volume 11, Issue 10

NEXT MEETING

November 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 The W 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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AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER!



The Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club newsletter is now an award-winning newsletter!

In the American Philatelic Society's (APS) 2023 newsletter and website competition named the "[Star Route Awards](#)," the GPSCC newsletter was awarded **Gold**. Of the 31 newsletters entered, one was named Grand Champion and only five were awarded a Gold medal. Our website, which was one of 35 entered in the competition, grabbed a **Vermeil**. The awards were announced November 2, 2023.

According to the APS, "Since the mid-1800s, the Star Routes were the most challenging routes in the country to deliver U.S. mail. Legislation was established by Congress in 1845 calling for contractors to carry the mail with 'celerity, certainty, and security,' but postal clerks weary of repeatedly writing these words in ledgers substituted three asterisks— * * * —and the phrase 'Star Route' was born. Star Routes were renamed 'Highway Contract Routes' in 1970, though they are still commonly known by their original name today. If you're curious about this history, this [Smithsonian Institution Postal Museum video](#) on YouTube is a good place to start."

Congratulations to us! Sorry Paul for bumping your "President's Message" to page 2, but this news warranted page 1 coverage!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – NOVEMBER 2023

Paul F. Miller

October was National Stamp Collecting Month. I hope you all enjoyed it by celebrating the hobby. Maybe you spent some time going through your collection. Maybe you attended a stamp club meeting or a stamp show.

No matter how you personally enjoyed the stamp collecting hobby during October, remember that one month is not enough to really reap the benefits of the hobby. Stamp collecting is a year-round, all-year-long pleasure. Life is full of great options where you can spend your time. Make sure you allocate enough time for your stamp collecting hobby – it will bring you years of enjoyment.

Although a part of the hobby is built around the solitary aspect of you and your collection interests, don't forget that a fuller experience can be had by including other collectors in your shared interests. Memberships in societies and clubs can add a dimension to the social aspect of the hobby.

Your involvement in social stamp collecting activities not only can make you feel good about the stamp topics you like, but it can have an equal effect on those with whom you interact.

Think about the last stamp show you attended, the last stamp club meeting you attended, or even the last stamp newsletter you read. You probably came away from it feeling good about who you met, who you talked to, what you learned, and the camaraderie of the hobby. If you can feel that good about a hobby, why not try to get others involved so that they can experience it too?

When I attended BALPEX 2023, I sat in on a presentation by Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS). He noted two remarkably interesting facts about our hobby and its membership. First, using age 50 as a line of demarcation, the APS membership is 90% above that age and 10% below that age. Second, although stamp clubs are a wonderful way to get involved with the hobby, only 40% of APS members are stamp club members, meaning that 60% are not members of any clubs!

If you agree with me that you can have good feelings from the social aspects of stamp collecting, then we should all try to enhance and develop the hobby for people of all ages. The APS membership represents an aging community, but if our efforts are well-placed, we can help to expand that membership to the next generation of liked minded individuals.

Likewise, if we focus our attention on bringing current and future APS members into stamp clubs, we can all benefit from the diversity in personalities and stamp collecting interests.

Stamp collecting is great. But it can be made even greater if we share it with others. Shameless plug: Remember that we currently have an offer for free membership in the GPSCC. If you know someone who can benefit from our great group of members, please invite them to join!

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2023: "JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES" BY MAC SARREAL



Mac Sarreal

Macario "Mac" Sarreal will present "Japanese Occupation of the Philippines" at the November 21 meeting. Mac has made this presentation at other stamp clubs in the area and his award-winning exhibit on the topic was featured in an [article](#) published in the International Philippine Philatelic Society's second quarter 2019 publication.

At SPRINGPEX 2019, his four-frame exhibit "Philippines – Japanese Occupation" netted four awards: Large Gold, APS Certificate Award, the International Philippine Philatelic Society's Eugene A Garrett Exhibit Award, and the SPRINGPEX Grand Award.

It's a real treat to have Mac join us on November 21. Let's give him a hearty GPSCC welcome!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Jaume Balsells collects Spain and Colonies and Greenland Parcel Post. He resides in North Wales. He connected with our club when he attended BALPEX 2023. Welcome Jaume!

DUES ARE NOW DUE!

By now you should have received your invoice in the mail for renewing your annual GPSCC membership. Dues are \$12 per year but be sure to take advantage of the "Early Bird Special" by paying \$10 before November 30. Make any changes to your membership information and either send your dues to the GPSCC P.O. Box listed on page 4 or bring your invoice and dues to the November meeting. Memberships renewed after December 31 cost \$15 for reinstatement.

Members who were new in 2023 will not get an invoice in the mail! Thanks to a generous donation made to the GPSCC, they get their first FULL year, 2024, FREE! A great deal! Which is a perfect segue to the next story...



FREE DUES FOR 2023 AND 2024 OFFERED FOR NEW MEMBERS!

We will continue to offer free membership to new members who join during the balance of 2023 or anytime in 2024. We are able to do this because of a generous donation by a GPSCC member to encourage stamp collectors to join the GPSCC.

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.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

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

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023-24

2023: Dec. 19 (Holiday Dinner)

2024: Jan. 16 – Feb. 20 – Mar. 19 – Apr. 16 –
May 21 – Jun. 18 – Aug. 20 – Sep. 17 – Oct. 15
– Nov. 19 – Dec. 17 (Holiday Dinner)

OFFICERS

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Acting Secretary

Letty Moon

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Newsletter

Mike Wilson

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Shows & Events

Alan Warren

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 18 – [Philatelic Gathering](#), Chester County History Center, 225 N. High Street, West Chester PA, 10 AM to Noon

December 2 - [MSC Monthly Bourse](#), Merchantville Stamp Club, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrace Ave, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08109

December 30 – [Gettypex Stamp Show](#), Gettysburg Fire Company, 35 North Stratton St., Gettysburg PA



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!

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!

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2023, GPSCC MEETING

President Paul Miller started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming everyone and wishing everyone a Happy National Stamp Collecting Month.

There were two new faces in the group at the meeting: First, **Jaume Balsells**, who became interested in the club based on a GPSCC information flyer that he picked up while attending BALPEX 2023. He attended the meeting on a preliminary basis to experience the club meeting environment and became our newest club member a few days later. Welcome, Jaume! Second, "Ed," who attended simply as a friend in support of our October 2023 speaker, Charles Fulforth.

Secretary's Report: Letty Moon was not in attendance, so Paul Miller reported on Letty's prepared items. We are happy to report that our membership currently stands at 56 members. Letty is in the process of gathering information for the mass mailings for membership renewals for 2024. She is looking to recruit a volunteer to assist her with the mailings this year. Paul Miller stated that he would contact her directly to offer help. Keep your eyes open for the renewals in the mail soon. Remember, dues can be paid in person at an upcoming meeting or mailed in.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Marsden reported that there has not been much activity with club funds in the past month. However, the club's bank has begun charging a monthly service fee for maintaining the bank account. Bruce is quickly working on implementing changes to save fees in the future.

Old Business: The "Newsletter Naming Contest" is in full swing. Based on a suggestion by Alan Warren, we are asking for creative suggestions to name our newsletter.

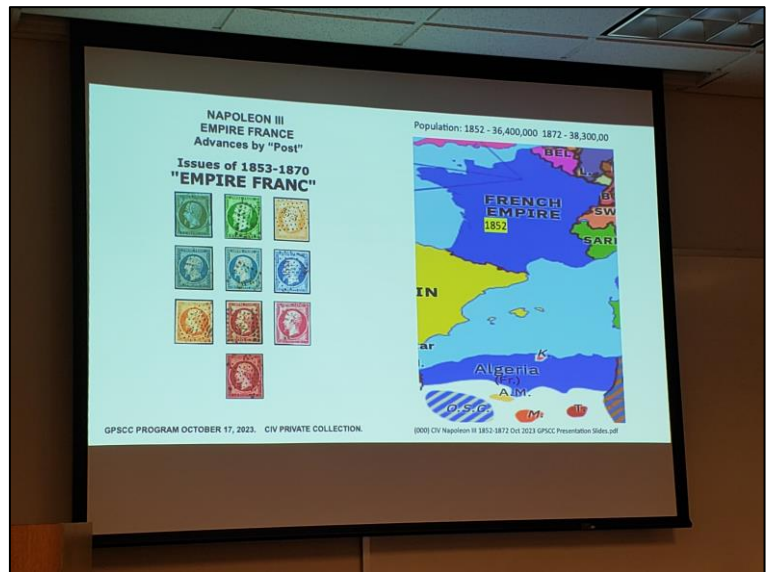
As a reminder, you can enter as many names as you wish. Suggested names can be emailed to Mike Wilson. The winner will be selected on a no-name basis, so that there is no bias in the process. The winner will receive some club swag. Get your ideas in soon!

The APS's Star Route Awards competition is underway, with hopes that our club's newsletter and website entries will garner some well-deserved recognition. Alan Warren reported that he heard the final decision will come down soon and will be announced via the APS's YouTube channel.

An open call for new members is still available! Free memberships are offered to those who join now. Dues will be waived for the remainder of 2023 and all of 2024. If you know of someone who could benefit from our club, please let them know.

New Business: Holidays are just around the corner, so it is never too early to plan for our club's "Holiday Dinner." This year, the club's Holiday Dinner will coincide with the club meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The current plan is to have our Holiday Dinner at The W Tavern (previously known as The Willow Inn). This is the same location as last year. Phil Russell will organize things with the folks at W Tavern as the date draws near. Plan on being there for a great time. Contact Phil Russell, Mike Wilson, or Paul Miller if you are interested in attending.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2023, GPSCC MEETING (CONTINUED)



October Presenter Charles Fulforth IV and the Title Slide of His Presentation

Program: Our member, Charles Fulforth IV, presented “Napoleon III National and International Postal System.” It was a terrific presentation of France’s postal system as it developed under Napoleon’s Reign through the years 1853 – 1870. Charles had 25 slides full of stamps, maps, philatelic covers, and unique cancellations. Everyone was involved in the discussions about some of the unique cancellations and the numbering system cancellations that France used at the time. Jaime Balsells, our guest and newest member, jumped right into the participation because he had some very good knowledge about postal routes in that part of the world during that time frame.

Show & Tell & Discussion: Our member, Louis Gotlib, recently travelled to London, England. He was visiting London at the same

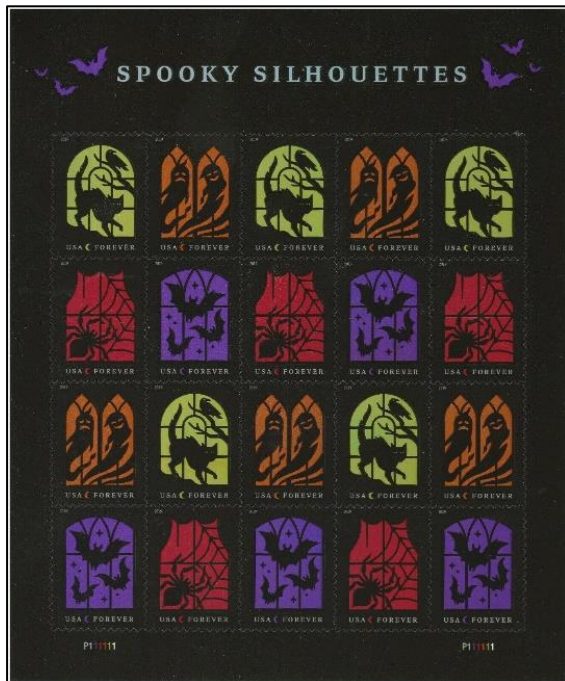
time as the STAMPEX International 2023 show was underway. He told us of his visit to the show, as well as his stop at the offices of Stanley Gibbons PLC, the current owner of the British Guiana 1c Magenta. That stamp was on display at STAMPEX, and Louis had his picture taken with the stamp by a security guard at the show. (Note: See p. 7 for two pictures of Louis’s trip to London.)

Next Month: Our speaker for the November 21, 2023, meeting will be Mac Sarreal, the Chairman of the Merchantville Stamp Club’s Outreach Program. He will present selected philatelic materials and true stories about the Japanese occupation of the Philippines.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Miller

STAMP HISTORY: USPS SPOOKY SILHOUETTES STAMPS FROM 2019

Paul F. Miller



Do you remember the Spooky Silhouettes stamps from 2019 (Scott #5423a)? In 2019, the United States Postal Service (USPS) released four Forever stamps featuring some of the most popular symbols of Halloween. These issues pictured black silhouettes of a cat and raven, a pair of ghosts, a large spider, and a trio of bats. Each Spooky Silhouette stamp also had a background color classically associated with Halloween: yellow, orange, red, and purple.

A unique feature associated with these stamps was that they were printed by flexology using a rainbow foil. A description in the Fall 2019 issue of *USA Philatelic*, the Postal Service's mail order catalog, adds, "Beneath the ink of each image lies a layer of iridescent pigment."

This printing technique causes the stamps to have a reflection under light as you slowly tip the stamps back and forth – a spooky effect!

The USPS printed 40 million of these stamps. Adding them to your US modern stamp collection should be easy.

LOUIS GOTLIB'S TRIP TO LONDON



Penny Black Printing Press



Louis pictured with the British Guiana 1c Magenta

FUNDING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Mike Wilson

Between April and August 1898, the U.S. and Spain fought a war that Spain lost and that resulted in the U.S. taking over Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. Contrary to popular belief, the explosion on the U.S. battleship *Maine* in the Havana harbor in February 1898 was not the true cause of the Spanish-American War. Although the *New York Journal* and the *New York World* both sensationalized the sinking of the *Maine* and blamed the Spanish, the sinking and the death of 261 sailors and Marines was the result of a terrible accident, not a Spanish attack or sabotage. That said, tensions between the U.S. and Spain were already high, and the sinking of the *Maine* was certainly a catalyst for subsequent events. Consequently, "Remember the *Maine*! To hell with Spain!" became a rallying cry for action.

To fund the Spanish-American War, the War Revenue Act of 1898 was signed into law on

June 13, 1898. The act authorized taxes on a wide range of goods and services including various legal and business transactions such as stock certificates, futures contracts, bills of lading, manifests, and marine insurance. Evidence that the taxes were paid was to be provided by affixing stamps of the appropriate amount on the document.

The taxes became effective on July 1, 1898, which gave the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) scant time to produce revenue stamps. The BEP initially overprinted standard postage stamps with the initials "I.R." for "Internal Revenue," but in relatively short order, it issued a series of 12 documentary stamps with denominations from 1/2-cent to 80-cents. The stamps featured a vignette of the *Maine* and were perforated two ways -- roulette and hyphen-hole. These stamps are readily available today both on and off document.



Figure 1 –
Futures
Contract,
October 10,
1899

FUNDING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (CONTINUED)

The document in Figure 1 is an example of how these stamps were used. The document is dated October 10, 1899, and is a memorandum of sale between two brokers at the Chicago Board of Trade. The Richardson Company promised to deliver one contract of wheat (equal to 1,000 bushels) in December 1899 to the Weare Company. The Weare Company, in turn, promised to pay The Richardson Company 72-1/4 cents per bushel for a total of \$722.50.

Per the War Revenue Act of 1898, the tax on futures transactions was imposed at a rate of one basis point (0.01 percent) of the notional amount. In plain English, for each \$100 in value or fraction thereof, a tax of 1-cent was owed. That helpful hint was printed in the upper right-hand corner of the memorandum.

Thus, this transaction was subject to a tax of 8-cents, payment of which was indicated by affixing two of the battleship documentary stamps: a 3-cent version (#R165 in the U.S. Scott Catalog) and a 5-cent version (#R167). Both stamps have roulette perforations.

As shown in Figure 2, the stamps are cancelled with the date and the name of the firm that paid the tax, in this case "THE R. CO.," or The Richardson Company.

For more information on 1898 revenue stamps, check out the website "1898 Revenues: United States Revenue Stamps that Financed the Spanish-American War" (<http://1898revenues.blogspot.com/>).



"Remember the Main" commemorative stamp issued February 15, 1998, Key West, FL. Scott #3192.

Figure 2 – Close-up of stamps from Figure 1

AWARDS AND HONORS

Mark Schwartz, who has previously served on the American Philatelic Society's (APS) board of directors, has been appointed to serve on the joint finance and auditing committee of the APS and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). Mark's appointment was among the actions taken at the joint board meeting of the APS and the APRL on October 19, 2023, as reported in the November 13 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

Bill Schultz is the guest curator of an exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) titled, "Postal History from West Chester." The exhibit will run from December 1, 2023, to May 4, 2024. The CCHS is located at 225 N. High Street in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Mike Wilson had an article published in the November 2023 issue of *Airpost Journal*. The article is about a crash cover from 1929 and is titled, "Farmer Saves Flyer: A Crash Cover from 1929."

DID YOU KNOW?

Mike Wilson

The U.S. Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Service facility resides in a limestone cave 150 feet beneath the ground.

It's in a place called "SubTropolis," a 55-million square foot artificial cave in the bluffs above the Missouri River in Kansas City, Missouri. I've actually had the opportunity to visit SubTropolis when I was working in the Midwest. It's an amazing facility.

The Stamp Fulfillment Service is the USPS's only operation located underground. The consistent, year-round temperatures and humidity levels in the caves allow the stamps to be maintained in mint-quality condition. The underground facility also keeps the inventory and employees safe from snow, flooding, winds and tornadic activity common in the Midwest.



Left: Exterior of SubTropolis.

Right: Interior of SubTropolis.



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 newsletter@gpscc.org, and he'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.

REPORT OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

Lou Glasgow led off with his in-depth look at “Zeppelins as Propaganda Tools.” He began with the fact that Ferdinand von Zeppelin was an observer with the Union Army during the American Civil War. He described the early use of Zeppelins to carry mail and passengers. The first mail carried was by the LZ-4 in 1908. Lou went on to discuss the first Zeppelin trans-Atlantic flight; a profile of Hugo Eckener, manager of the firm that designed and built the famous airships; the Zeppelin at the Chicago Century of Progress Fair; and the LZ-129 at the 1936 Olympics, among many other fascinating subjects.

Ron Majors then explored “The Difficulty of Mail Correspondence between Pre-Confederation Canada and the Southern States during the Civil War.” He began with the fact that John Brown, of Harper’s Ferry fame, was instrumental in helping slaves escape to Canada. During the Civil War, mail to and from Canadian soldiers and their families serving in the Union Army was handled by the Union Post Office. However, Canadians serving in the Confederacy had great difficulty in sending and receiving correspondence that required Flag of Truce Mail, blockade runners, or hand-carried and private express methods. Ron showed some extremely rare pieces of such mail.

Provided by Alan Warren

NOVEMBER 18, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

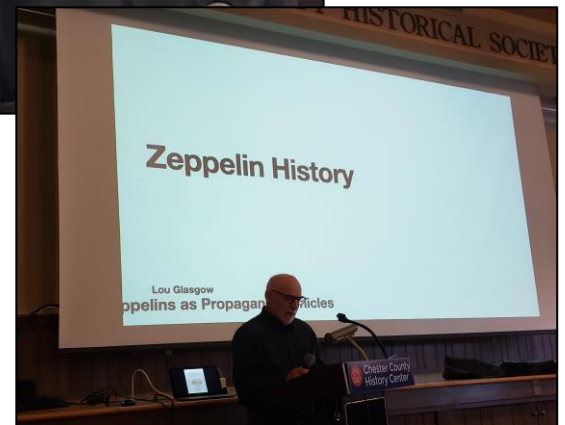
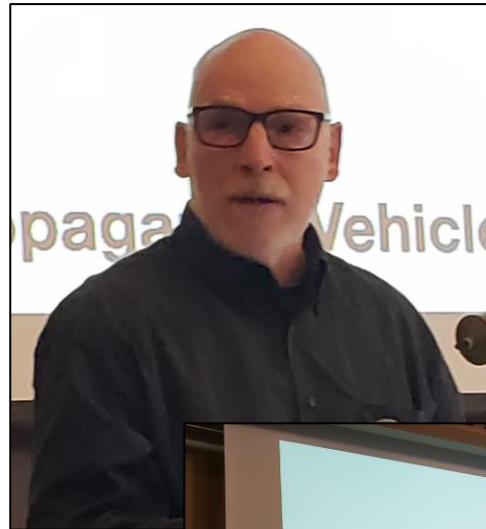
10:00 am - Noon

Chester County Historical Society
225 N. High Street, West Chester PA 19380

Speakers:

Vince Costello, Bellefonte PA, “Santa Claus, His Story on Post Cards”

Kean Spencer, West Chester, “An Historical Look at the Postage Stamp Box”



*Top two slides: Lou Glasgow and his title slide.
Bottom two slides: Ron Majors and a slide from his presentation.*