



THE PHILLY PHILATELIST

Award-Winning Newsletter of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club

Founded 1904

American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18

February 2024

www.GPSCC.org

Volume 12, Issue 2

NEXT MEETING

February 20, 2024 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

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
President's Message	1
February 16, 2024 Program	2
Stamp Art by Sandra Margolies	2
Upcoming Events	3
Club Secretary Needed	4
Did You Know?	5
Penny Black: A Stamp Collecting Game	5
Valentine's Day and the U.S. Love Stamps	6
Schuyler Rumsey February 14 Auction	7
Philatelic Gathering	8
Letters and Post Cards Exhibit	8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul F. Miller

We had a hiccup in January 2024. Bad weather prevented us from having our regularly scheduled GPSCC meeting. The Club officers all agreed that the safety of our members was of utmost importance, and we did not want anyone to take on any risk while trying to get to the meeting. Additionally, the Community Room at the Giant Supermarket (our meeting location) was closed that evening due to the weather. So, that pretty much solidified our decision!

Thankfully, we have *The Philly Philatelist* to fill in every month when the unexpected occurs. Although we could not meet, the newsletter was available to everyone to provide updates and information. Our in-person meetings are wonderful and should not be missed (if possible), but having the newsletter is a nice alternative. They each have their own purpose, so we will always strive to maintain both for the Club.

I have said this before, but I am very proud of our newsletter. I am thankful that it is such an important tool that we have to keep all of our Club members informed on GPSCC matters. Don't forget, it is an "award winning" newsletter.

Each month, as we work on the final draft version of the newsletter, I get excited about its release. Why? Because I am excited to hand it off to our members for them to read and enjoy! We feel a sense of satisfaction of having produced something that I think (and I hope) is a nice reading diversion in your day.

Would you like to feel that sense of satisfaction, too? I have mentioned several times that Mike and I are always looking for good content to put in the newsletter.

(Continued on p. 4)

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024: NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK - A BIG DEAL IN 1938

The February program is "National Air Mail Week - A Big Deal in 1938." Michael L. Wilson will discuss the plans leading up to NAMW that took place from May 15-21, 1938, and he will present a sampling of the more than 10,000 cachets that one can affordably collect from that event.



Michael L. Wilson



STAMP ART BY SANDRA MARGOLIES

GPSCC member Sandra Margolies is not only a stamp collector but an artist.



Sandra Margolies

For the past ten years, Sandra has been "playing" with postage stamps. What started as a one-time project has blossomed into a passion (or obsession, depending on who you ask). Sandra has created stamp art of animals, airplanes, automobiles, sports themes, just to name a few.

She has an exhibit at [The Little Gallery](#) at Jamey's House of Music located at 32 S. Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne PA 19050 the entire month of February. Sandra's opening reception will be held on Sunday,

February 11 from noon to 3pm during the free admission Sunday Blues Brunch and Jam.

*Gramophone
by Sandra Margolies*



In all her art, each mat is hand cut, and the stamps (that aren't damaged) are individually chosen and researched to complement the themes.

She is always open to donations of old stamp collections. Her philosophy is that stamps are priceless works of art.

To see more photos, feel free to email her at ohwell61@gmail.com.

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WEB SITEwww.gpscc.org**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**[@gpscc19090](https://www.instagram.com/gpscc19090)**UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 – [NEPPEX](#) Northeastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show, Bernardine Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 14 Hudson Rd., Plains PA 18705 (sponsored by Wyoming Valley Stamp Club, bourse only)

March 15-17 – [Garfield-Perry March Party](#), Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville OH 44136

April 6 – [NEPPEX](#) Northeastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show, Bernardine Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 14 Hudson Rd., Plains PA 18705 (bourse only)

April 6-7 – [Springpex 2024](#), Springfield Stamp Club, John R. Lewis High School, 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield VA

April 12-14 – [Philatelic Show 2024](#), Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough, MA 01719

June 1 – [NEPPEX Northeastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show](#), Bernardine Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 14 Hudson Rd., Plains PA 18705 (bourse only)

June 7-9 – [NAPEX](#), McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr, McLean VA

June 22-23 – [SCOPEX](#), Mount Nittany Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte PA

August 15-18 – [Great American Stamp Show '24](#), Connecticut Convention Center, Hall AB, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103

FREE DUES FOR 2024 OFFERED FOR NEW MEMBERS!

We will continue to offer free membership to anyone who joins during 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!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

You, too, can generate that sense of satisfaction by submitting a short item or article for the newsletter. Pick something that interests you. Just like our meeting presentations, something that interests you can be fun and new information for our members to enjoy.

I would like to make an offer to help generate the literary juices flow out from your minds and on to the newsletter pages. Here it is: Any Club member (excluding Club officers) who writes and has published two (2) articles in the newsletter during 2024 will have free membership in the Club next year! That's right, I will keep track of who submits articles that Mike can incorporate into the Newsletter during this year. If you qualify, then I will pay your membership dues for 2025 when they come due.

This is a win-win-win (a three-way win). You become a recognized contributor to an "award winning" newsletter; you enjoy a sense of satisfaction seeing

your article in print; and you can have a free membership year!

So, pick up those pens and pencils and help us create great content for our newsletter. In the end, you will feel good about what you did.

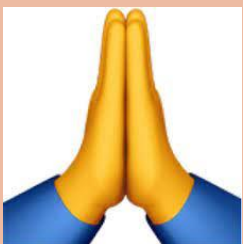


CLUB SECRETARY NEEDED

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 write up 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.

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



Editor's plea: I'm getting tired of including this in every newsletter! Someone please volunteer! The other officers will be more than happy to lend a hand to help you get up to speed.

CALL FOR AUTHORS!

To pick up on Paul Miller's message, if you have something philatelic that you would like to share or know of an article from another publication that you think others would like to read, send me a note at newsletter@gpscc.org,

As for submitting an article, I'll take any format, but the optimal would be a Word document with images embedded in that document or sent separately.

As for length, 750 words with two or three images will fill up two pages of the newsletter. Shorter pieces are fine, as are longer ones. The latter could be spread over a couple of issues, or I could lengthen an issue.

Give it a thought. You can tell all your friends you're a published author. In fact, if you take up Paul's offer of free membership for a year, you can say you're a paid author!

- Mike Wilson

DID YOU KNOW?

Michael L. Wilson

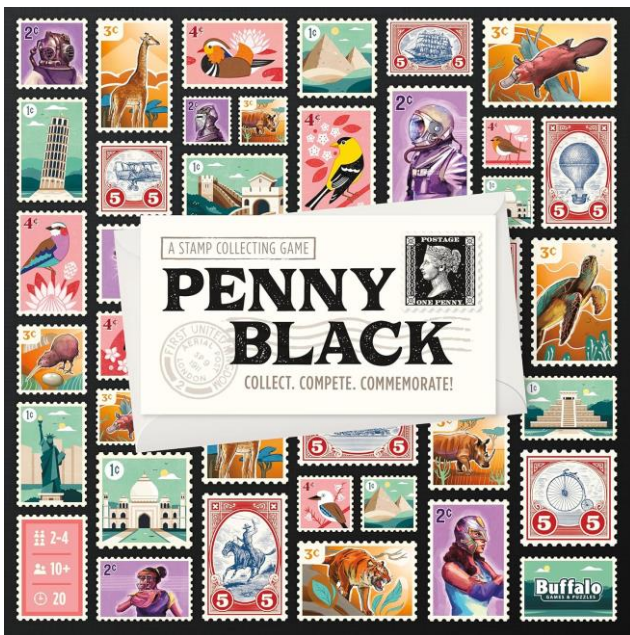
According to the Guinness Book of World Records, “The largest special stamp measures 5.95 m² (64 ft² 7 in²) and was achieved by Saudi Post - SPL (KSA), in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 14 February 2022.” The stamp modeled the Riyadh Season, which is a winter entertainment event.

Note the qualifier “special.” This is a one-of-a-kind stamp issue that really isn’t valid for postage. It’s basically a billboard.

But who am I to argue with the Guinness Book of World Records?



PENNY BLACK: A STAMP COLLECTING GAME



Review posted on Amazon: “This is a great puzzle of a game. You must place stamps following certain rules, but your choice of stamps is determined by what’s pulled from the bag, and if you are not first player, your choice of stamps becomes even more limited, so you must be smart in your placement. Each person has their own secret goals, but someone else might have a similar goal, so you are vying for the same stamps! The first time we played, we were in love, and had to play again immediately! I took it to game night and my friend fell in love with it too! It is surprisingly fast (30 minutes or less, once you understand it), so a second or third play in one evening is quite doable. I highly recommend this game to those who love puzzly games.”

In September 2023, Buffalo Games released a board game named “[Penny Black: A Stamp Collecting Game](#).” Here’s the description provided by the game designers:

“Seek out prestigious stamps and compete to build the most lucrative collection in this family-friendly strategy game for two to four players! In each round choose which three stamps to add to your collection. Then strategically place them in your stamp album to score the most points based on your collection criteria. Each player’s criteria varies and there’s no telling which stamps will be available next. Be wary, your competitors may acquire the stamps you need. Keep an eye out for the Penny Black. It is the world’s first adhesive postage stamp that ushered in the art of stamp collecting – and is highly sought after prize in this game. If it appears it can enhance the value of your album. The player with the most valuable collection after 10 rounds, wins!”

It has received amazingly good reviews, including from a prominent “table media critic” who called it “Delightful.”

It sells for \$29.99 on Amazon, Target, etc.

VALENTINE'S DAY AND THE U.S. LOVE STAMPS

Paul F. Miller

When you turn the calendar page to February, what is the most popular day that jumps right out at you? Valentine's Day – of course! Who does not love LOVE?

This year, the United States Postal Service (USPS) continued its celebration of the joys of love with the latest stamp in the popular LOVE stamp series. The issue date for the 2024 LOVE stamp - January 12, 2024 - was set to allow customers to take advantage of a beautiful stamp for their Valentine's Day messages. The stamp was issued in Romance, Arkansas (Figure 1).



Figure 1
2024 LOVE Stamp

The USPS is an independent agency of the executive branch of the U. S. federal government responsible for providing postal service in the U.S. How did it ever get into the business of Love? The answer is that it actually stumbled its way in.

In 1973 the USPS issued its first postage stamp with the LOVE image created by Robert Indiana (Figure 2). It was released in Philadelphia, "The City of Brotherly Love." At that time, the USPS did not sell it as a LOVE stamp (just an image of a LOVE sculpture) and probably did not even think of it as the beginning of a new series. However, since it was issued in advance of Valentine's Day, the general public associated it with that celebratory holiday. Therefore, it became popular for the mailing of letters and greeting cards for Valentine's Day.



Figure 2
Scott #1475

The stamp was described as "a Special Stamp for Someone Special." It was so popular that the USPS printed over 320 million stamps. But the stamp design was conceived only as a one-off, without any thought to establishing a stamp series. In fact, the LOVE sculpture was not created for Valentine's Day. Rather, it was a tribute to Robert Indiana's father who passed away in 1965. The red and green color scheme for the LOVE sculpture came from a Phillips 66 sign (the gasoline company) in Indianapolis where Indiana's father worked. The blue represented the sky of his home state, Indiana.

Nevertheless, the popularity of the LOVE image grew and in response to public demand for a new LOVE stamp, another issue was designed in 1982 by artist Mary Faulconer of New York City. For this design, she used flowers to give greater feeling to the love theme. (Figure 3).



Figure 3
Scott #1951

It took another nine years, but what followed has been a tradition of a new design of LOVE stamps issued by the USPS almost every year.

VALENTINE'S DAY AND THE U.S. LOVE STAMPS (CONTINUED)

According to the Linn's *U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1984*, the establishment of the LOVE stamp series was prompted by public requests. One, in particular, was from an Oklahoma man to the Postmaster General in which he wrote, "When one writes a love letter, there is nothing that distinguishes it from regular, everyday business mail. Why not have a stamp designed for lovers? As one lover to another, I ask that you arrange to have a stamp made for lovers, so our letters may stand out among all others."

The LOVE stamp series carry a sentimentality that few other government-issued products can compete with!



Technology has reduced our reliance on physical mail for communication. But research has shown that sending and getting mail can be good for people. Studies have found that sending letters of gratitude can increase happiness and life satisfaction, and research from the USPS in the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic found that 65% of U.S. adults said receiving mail lifted their spirits.

Sending a little love can go a long way – especially if it includes a LOVE series stamp.

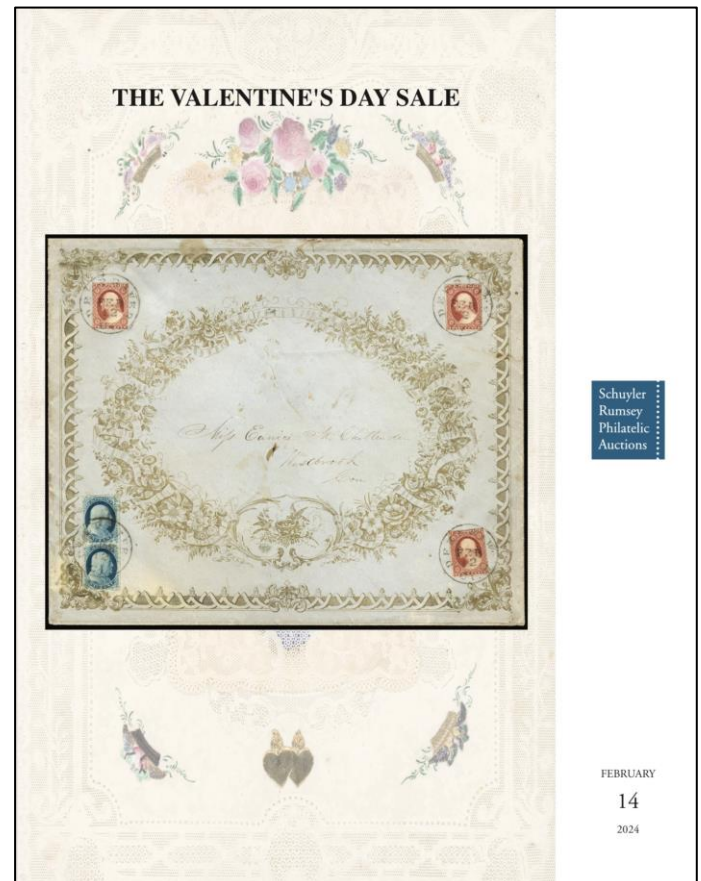
SCHUYLER RUMSEY PHILATELIC AUCTIONS, "THE VALENTINE'S DAY SALE," FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Can't decide what to get that someone special for Valentine's Day? Well, then check out Schuyler Rumsey's [sale](#) on February 14, 2024 – every lot has a Valentine theme.

Granted, if you win an item, it won't get to your loved one until well after Valentine's Day, but just think how impressed they'll be when they find out what you acquired for your collection – I mean for their collection!



Lot 1060 – Scott 1 on cover. VF. Estimate \$3,000-4,000



Cover of Auction Catalog



2024 PHILATELIC GATHERINGS

In January 2019, seventeen stamp and postal history collectors, researchers and historians convened at Bill and Patricia Schultz’s home in West Chester, Pennsylvania to discuss how “To Share our Love of Philately with Others”. Also in attendance, Ellen E. Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator from the Chester County History Center (CCHS). From this initial meeting, “The Philatelic Gathering” was formed to explore and share a myriad of topics and create new philatelic friendships.

Meetings are held the third Saturday of the month (February through December), 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at CCHS. For more information on joining us

or attending, contact Kean Spencer (keanwspencer1@gmail.com) or Dr. Charles J. DiComo (charlesdicomo@gmail.com).

The CCHS is located at 225 N. High Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Free on street parking and free coffee and donuts at the beginning of each gathering. After the meeting, whoever wants to join the group for a Dutch treat luncheon at a nearby restaurant in West Chester is welcome.

The programs for the first three meetings of the year are almost settled. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Kean Spencer.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lead Host</u>	<u>Description</u>
17-Feb	Kean Spencer	“Who Needs a Doctor? This Elixir Will Do! A Primer on U.S. Revenue Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamps and Nostrums,” with an exhibit of private die proprietary revenue stamps used on original packaging (bottles and boxes), by Dr. Charles J. DiComo AND “UPU British Commonwealth and Empire Protected Specimens,” by Bob Myers
16-Mar	Paul Pitcher	“A Tour of U.S. Collecting Possibilities Based on Advertising Covers,” by Michael L. Wilson AND “Danish West Indies Postage and Revenues,” by Kean Spencer
20-Apr	John Howker	“Tibet: Stamps and Postal History,” by Alan Warren

LETTERS AND POST CARDS

December 1, 2023 - June 1, 2024, at CCHS

Guest curator and GPSCC member **Bill Schultz** shares hundreds of examples from his remarkable collection of covers (envelopes) and colorful post cards that illustrate U.S. postal delivery from and to West Chester from 1820 to 1920.

In a rare opportunity, visitors will also be able to view “Domestic Rates – U.S.P.O. Acts of 1792 to 1863,” Schultz’s nationally award-winning postal history exhibit.

