



THE PHILLY PHILATELIST

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

Founded 1904

American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18

January 2024

www.GPSCC.org

Volume 12, Issue 1

NEXT MEETING

January 16, 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

This is the first newsletter with a name: The Philly Philatelist. The masthead font is Caslon Antique, Benjamin Franklin's favorite. He actually met William Caslon in London. The Declaration of Independence was printed in Caslon font on the theory that King George III would have no trouble reading the text.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul F. Miller

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024.

Best wishes for a year of good health, good fortune, and lots of stamp collecting enjoyment. I hope everyone had enjoyable and memorable holidays with family and friends.

Many of our Club Members celebrated the year 2023 with a holiday dinner on December 19 at The W Tavern, just down the road from our regular meeting location. The evening was a real success for those who attended. The timing was perfect because it fell during the height of the holiday season. Although it was not a regular meeting, it was fun just to enjoy each other's company for the evening. A picture of the event is on page 4 of this newsletter.

A year ago, I wrote my first President's Message for

the Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club (GPSCC) newsletter. At the time, I was looking forward to being a part of a great group of people who have common interests in the world of philately. I was excited to jump into a new year with great possibilities to expand and enhance the Club. Boy, was I really impressed with the results!

First and foremost, we selected a name for the newsletter. It was reported last month that the name is *The Philly Philatelist*. You can see that new name emblazoned on this month's masthead, right on the first page! We had lots of naming suggestions submitted. Many thanks to those who submitted names and to those who voted in determining the winner.

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PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 16, 2024: NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK - A BIG DEAL IN 1938

The January 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



STANLEY GIBBONS HAS FINANCIAL TROUBLES, BUT WILL CONTINUE

Paul F. Miller

Stanley Gibbons Group plc (aka: Stanley Gibbons), the 167-year-old rare stamp dealer headquartered in London, England, has fallen on hard financial times.

Mounting debt and several years of losses have pushed Stanley Gibbons into bankruptcy. The company had been publicly traded on the London stock market. But, due to its financial struggles, it was removed from the market about a year ago.

Part of its financial problems originated with its purchase of the [British Guiana 1c Magenta](#) rare stamp in June 2021 for ~\$8.3million. Although the debt used to purchase the stamp was initially interest-free, making payments on the debt has been difficult.

Using what is known as a "pre-pack" administration

deal, Stanley Gibbons' current majority owner, Phoenix Asset Management, immediately bought the entire company. All operations, including the sixty-six staff and intellectual property, have been transferred to a new company called Strand Collectibles Group.

Although this is a setback for Stanley Gibbons, the business will continue with hopes of becoming stronger. The CEO for Strand Collectibles Group stated, "Under the ownership of Strand Collectibles Group, Stanley Gibbons will continue to serve the needs of philatelists with catalogues, magazines, albums and accessories, dealing and auctions and will be launching a new digital stamp collecting experience later in the year."

OFFICERS*President*

Paul Miller

president@gpscc.org*VP & Programs*

Phil Russell

vpprograms@gpscc.org*Treasurer*

Bruce Marsden

treasurer@gpscc.org*Acting Secretary*

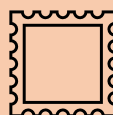
Letty Moon

secretary@gpscc.org*Newsletter*

Michael L. Wilson

newsletter@gpscc.org*Shows & Events*

Alan Warren

showsevents@gpscc.org**UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS**Feb. 20 – Mar. 19 – Apr. 16 – May 21 – Jun. 18 – Aug. 20 – Sep. 17 – Oct. 15 –
Nov. 19 – Dec. 17 (Holiday Dinner)**UPCOMING EVENTS****February 11** – [K2 Lancaster Stamp Show](#), Farm and Home Center, 1383
Arcadia Rd., Lancaster PA 17601**March 2** – Northeastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show, Bernardine Hall at
Saints Peter and Paul Church, 13 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** – NEPEX Northeastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show, Bernardine
Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 13 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**CLUB MAILING
ADDRESS**Greater Philadelphia Stamp &
Collectors Club
P.O. Box 446
Willow Grove, PA 19090-0446**WEB SITE**www.gpscc.org**FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM**[@gpscc19090](https://www.instagram.com/gpscc19090)**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)

In addition to the newsletter name excitement, we won awards in 2023 for excellence in our newsletter and GPSCC website. The newsletter was enhanced in 2023, and the website was brand new in 2023, so receiving award recognitions was truly monumental!

Along with those items in 2023, we had wonderful meetings filled with great speakers across a whole range of interesting topics. All of them were interesting and informative.

These results were possible because of one key ingredient that runs throughout our Club— participation!

Participation is key to having a healthy Club. Participation is also key to getting the most enjoyment out of the Club experience. So, I ask you all to continue (and increase) your level of participation from 2023 into 2024 so that we can

experience another great year together.

Participation comes in all forms...

- attend our Club meetings if you can - you won't be disappointed;
- plan a presentation based on a topic you know and love - we are all very supportive and interested in new subjects;
- submit a written item or article for our newsletter – Mike and I are always looking for good content to share with the members.

Thanks for your participation in 2023. Let's keep the momentum going with strong participation in 2024.

You can feel good about your contributions to the Club and everyone benefits!



Club members enjoy a holiday dinner at The W Tavern on December 19, 2023.

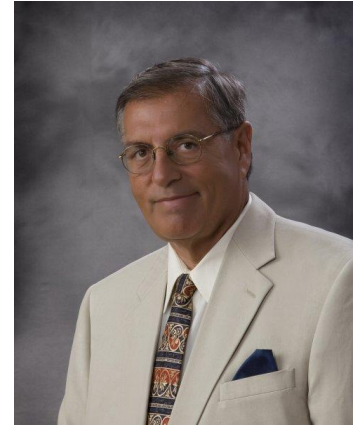
Left side: Richard Brent, Charles Fulforth, Cyndi Russell, Phil Russell, Mike Wilson, Terri Kelly.

Right side: Paul Miller, Anne Gibby, Bruce Marsden, Leslie Marsden, Letty Moon.

Not pictured: Alan Warren, photographer par excellence.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Vern Morris won a gold at the Thailand 2023 Specialized World Stamp Championship in Bangkok in November for his “Evolution of American Colonial Systems to the Modern Post Office.”



Vernon Morris

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Michael L. Wilson

Between 1934 and 1943, the U.S. Department of the Treasury commissioned artists to paint murals in U.S. Post Offices. This program provided artists a source of income during the Great Depression, and it also lifted the spirits of the American public. Almost 1,400 murals were painted by some 850 artists across the U.S.

Many of these murals can still be seen including the one below at the post office in Sellersville, Pennsylvania.



“Susquehanna Trail,” by Harry Sternberg. Tempera-on-canvas. Installed in 1937.

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!

REGISTERED COVER TO GERMANY FROM 1893

Michael L. Wilson

To streamline the complex maze of postal services for international mail, 22 countries met in 1874 to establish the General Postal Union, which changed its name to the Universal Postal Union, or UPU, in 1878. The UPU remains in operation to this day, simplifying the exchange of mail among 192 member countries.

It was posted in Philadelphia on February 13, 1893, with 18-cents of postage. That amount would have satisfied the 8-cent registry fee then in effect plus twice the UPU letter rate, which was 5-cents per half ounce in 1893. Presumably, this letter weighed between 1/2-ounce and 1-ounce

The registered cover from 1893 shown in Figures 1 and 2 was sent in accordance with U.S. Post Office and UPU regulations in effect at that time.

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Figure 1



Figure 2

REGISTERED COVER TO GERMANY FROM 1893 (CONTINUED)

That amount of postage was made up by affixing 16-cents worth of stamps on a 2-cent stamped envelope (Figure 3). The two stamps are from the Columbian Exposition Issue of 1893: the 1-cent depicting Columbus in sight of land (Scott 230) and the 15-cent showing Columbus announcing his discovery (Scott 238). These stamps were issued January 1-2, 1893. First day covers from January 1, 1893, with Scott 230 exist, but the earliest documented use of Scott 238 is January 26, 1893. Thus, this is a relatively early example of the usage of both, especially of Scott 238. The stamp envelope is most likely Scott U311.

The stamps are cancelled with Philadelphia double oval cancels. Those are best seen in Figure 3 on the 1-cent stamp and the envelope embossment.

The front of the envelope includes the registry label shown in Figure 4. Scott catalogs those labels; this particular one is Scott FX-NY1b(ii). Beginning In 1882, the UPU required that all registered mail bear a label or impression with a capital "R." The U.S. Post Office opted for a label. There were a couple of dozen postal facilities around the U.S. that handled international registered mail, with the one in New York being by far the largest. That was the office through which this letter traveled.

The back of the envelope has four auxiliary markings highlighted in Figure 5:

- A February 13, 1893, Philadelphia registry mark;
- Two February 14, 1893, marks applied in New York: a registry mark and an encircled "B" that I assume was the postal clerk's mark; and
- A circular date stamp dated February 25, 1893, from Frankfurt, Germany, the cover's final destination.

Despite having the sender's name and address in Philadelphia, I can find no information on that individual. The recipient's name was the same as the sender, so they must have been related, or it is even possible that the letter was self-addressed.



Figure 5



Figure 3



Figure 4



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](#) or [Dr. Charles J. DiComo](#).

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 two 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 Mike Wilson AND TBD

LETTERS AND POST CARDS

December 1, 2023 - June 1, 2024 at CCHS

Before social media and telephones, handwritten letters were one of the very few ways to communicate across town, across the country, and around the world.

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.

