

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>

October 2023

Volume 11, Issue 9

NEXT MEETING

October 17, 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 – OCTOBER 2023

Paul F. Miller

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022. That is a little more than a year ago. You might find it interesting to note that although she was a great woman, beloved by millions of people around the world, she was very much like you and me. How so, you may ask? She was a stamp collector!

We all know that Queen Elizabeth II had a fondness for Corgis and breeding racehorses, but she also enjoyed spending some of her free time collecting stamps. As a stamp enthusiast, the Queen's collection has become known as one of the best in the world.

The Queen's stamp collection, known as the Royal Philatelic Collection, has been passed down through generations in the British royal family. Initially started by Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh in 1864, King George V picked up the hobby and grew the collection. The collection was then passed to King George VI and then to Queen Elizabeth II.

Once in the hands of the Queen, she proved to be an avid collector. Rather than letting her collection sit unappreciated, Elizabeth loved showing it off to dignitaries visiting Buckingham Place.

(Continued on page 4)

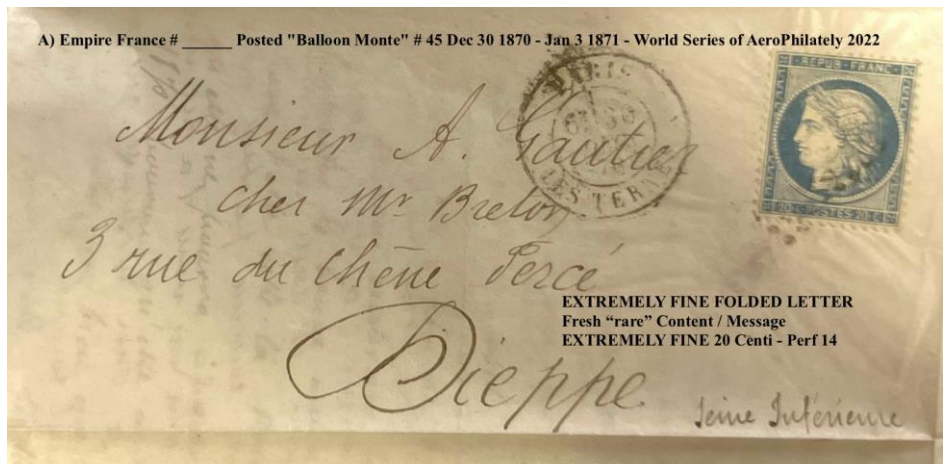
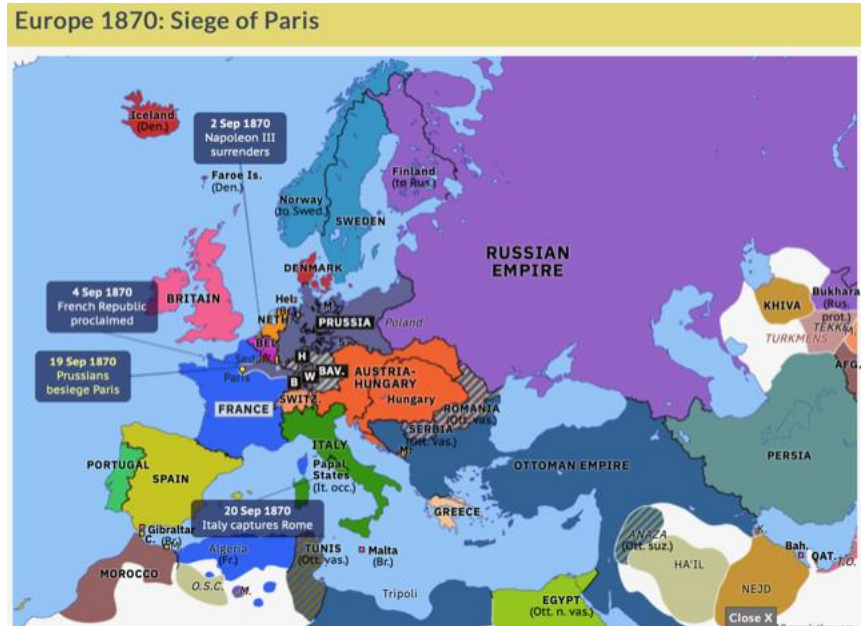
PROGRAM OCTOBER 17, 2023:

“NAPOLEON III NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SYSTEM” BY CHARLES L. FULFORTH IV

The presenter at the October 17 meeting is **Charles L. Fulforth IV**, a member of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp and Collectors Club. Charles’s topic is **“Napoleon III National and International Postal System.”** His presentation will include postally used stamps and covers from roughly 1852 through 1870. He will drill down on a cover that traveled by camel to a seaport then by boat across the sea to the coast of France then by post to Marseille. His presentation will conclude with the end of Napoleon III’s reign, a “Balloon monte” cover sent during the siege and surrender of Paris and the introduction of a new era in French postal history.



French Stamps Issued Between 1853 and 1860



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.

OFFICERS

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UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023-24

2023: Nov. 21 – Dec. 19 (Holiday Dinner)

2024: Jan. 16 – Feb. 20 – Mar. 19 – Apr. 16 – May 21 – Jun. 18

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20-21 – [UNEXPO 2023](#), American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte PA

October 21 – **Philatelic Gathering**, Chester County History Center, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, 10 AM to Noon.

October 28 – [Eastern PA Stamp Show](#) (EPASS), bourse only, Schnecksville Fire Company, 4550 Old Packhouse Rd. Schnecksville PA (sponsored by Allentown Philatelic Society)

November 4 – [Reading Stamp Show](#) (bourse only), Leesport Farmers Market, 312 Gernants Church Rd., Leesport PA

November 18 – **Philatelic Gathering**, Chester County History Center, 225 N. High Street, West Chester PA, 10 AM to Noon

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – OCTOBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

She actively managed and grew the collection. She sold duplicates in her collection to pay for new additions. Can you imagine if you were lucky enough to buy a stamp from the Queen?!

At one point, she acquired a one-of-a-kind block of ten [Penny Blacks](#) postmarked May 6, 1840, for £250,000 (about \$311,000). During her lifetime, the Queen continuously added to her collection and made it better. She even shared her collection from time to time through exhibits. From April 6, 2004, to January 11, 2005, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in the United States had the distinct pleasure of presenting a selection of extraordinary materials from the Queen's personal philatelic holdings.

Today, the Queen's collection of Great Britain and Commonwealth stamps is the most comprehensive in the world. It is valued at £100 million (about \$125 million) and includes some of the world's most rare and valuable stamps.

Presumably, the collection will now be handed off to King Charles III. His hobby interests differ from the Queen's. Let's hope that her wonderful collection will be well taken care of.

One other fun fact. The Queen not only collected stamps – she appeared on them throughout her 70-year reign. Britain's tradition is to omit the country name. Instead, an image of the reigning monarch appears on all its postage stamps. Since 1967, that image was a sculpture of Queen Elizabeth II in profile by Arnold Machin. This portrait has been printed on stamps of Great Britain and its kingdom over 200 billion times!

If you want to know more about the Royal Philatelic Collection, please see my article about it in this very same Newsletter. It is quite interesting!



Queen Elizabeth II Enjoying Her Stamp Collection

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, GPSCC MEETING

Secretary's Report: President Paul Miller repeated that we are looking for a volunteer to take over the position of Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: The generous donor who offered to pay the first year's dues for new members in the past, is again offering to pay the first year's dues for the first ten new members who join the Club. The offer has been defined as covering the remainder of the present year and all of 2024. We have gained four new members so far this year.

Old Business: We reviewed what our policy is regarding a gratuity for speakers who are not also Club members. Gratuities are only given to speakers from outside the Club. They are offered a free dinner at the W Tavern with those who dine there each month before the meeting, and they are also given a check of \$25 towards their travel expenses.

New Business: Following up on a suggestion by Alan Warren via email, Paul Miller suggested that we consider giving our newsletter a name, much like other stamp clubs do. An article will be in next month's newsletter about this topic. The winning submission will receive a piece of Club swag with the newsletter's name. We would start using the chosen name on the January 2024 issue.

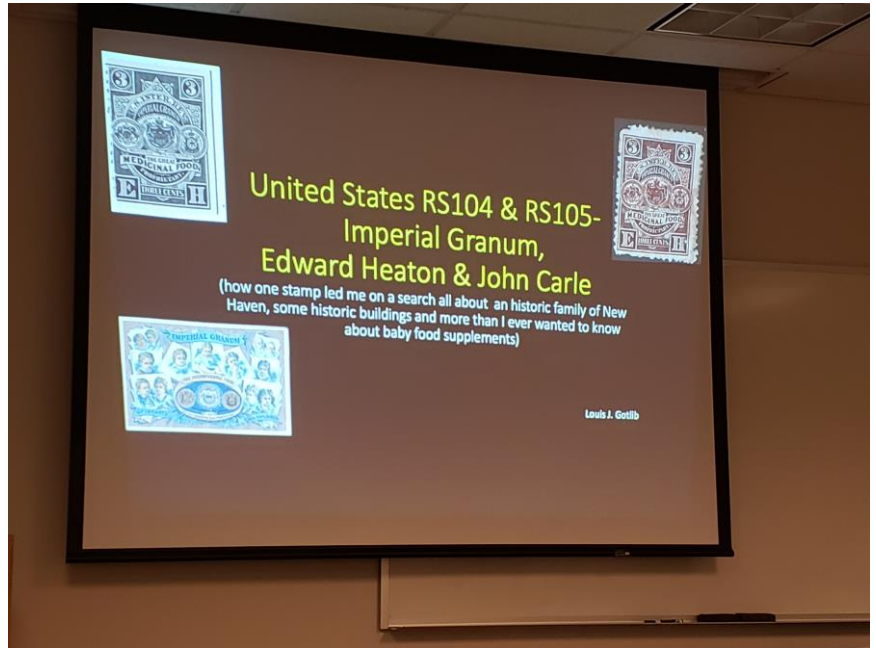
Letty Moon questioned our membership renewal methods as the end of the year approaches. Questioned were the method of contacting members to renew, do we need a P.O. box anymore and the cost of dues. We decided that dues would remain the same including the Early Bird Special; we would continue to mailout hardcopy invoices rather than emailing them; and that we would keep the P.O. box for one more year before possibly phasing it out. The rental of a P.O. box has gone up significantly and we get little mail.

Both Paul and newsletter editor Mike Wilson entered our newsletter and website in the APS's Star Route Awards competition.

Our speaker for October will be our member Charles Fulforth, and for November, it will be Mac Sarreal, the Chairman of the Merchantville Stamp Club's Outreach Program.

Program: Our member, Louis Gotlib presented "United States RS104 & RS105 – Imperial Granum, Edward Heaton & John Carle." In the Scott catalog, RS stamps are private die medicine stamps, a type of revenue stamp used during the second half of the 19th century. His pursuit of one stamp led him on a search all about an historic family of New Haven, historic buildings and an unexpected amount of information about baby food supplements. He passed around a box and can which once held Imperial Granum, a supplement about which medicinal claims were made, therefore requiring it to carry a tax stamp.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, GPSCC MEETING (CONTINUED)



September Presenter Louis Gotlib and the Title Slide of His Presentation

Discussion: Richard Brent brought items that might be used in a future display at a public library or for a program designed for youth collectors.

A member brought up his future trip to Great Britain and asked for suggestions of things to see related to philately. Many suggestions were given.

Respectfully submitted by Letty Moon.



NOTED IN PASSING

Although he was not a Club member, we just learned that a collector in the greater Philadelphia area died October 24, 2020 – **Stanley R. Sandler**, at age 85. A member of the Havertown Stamp Club for over 30 years, Stan served as its president 1988-1992 and again from 2002 until he died. Unfortunately, the club also closed down.

He collected Poland, Danzig, chemistry on stamps, air mail, space, U.S. fancy cancels, and worldwide fakes and forgeries. Stan exhibited at his club's HAVEX show as well as SEPAD. He wrote several articles in the *Bulletin of the Polonus Philatelic Society* as well as the *American Philatelist*.

Stan was a research chemist for 14 years with Borden Chemical Co. and then spent 28 years with Pennwalt Corporation, now Arkema, Inc., retiring in 2001. He authored or co-authored over a dozen books, primarily in polymer synthesis, and held over 100 patents. After retiring from industry, he taught chemistry at the Delaware County Community College.

NAME THAT NEWSLETTER!

Put those creative thinking caps on and suggest a name for the newsletter of your Greater Philadelphia Stamp and Collectors Club!

Not only do you get bragging rights, but you'll be featured in the January 2024 newsletter. But wait – there's more! You'll also receive a special prize – a club mug emblazoned with your winning submission.

You can enter as many submissions as you would like. The more the merrier! Each submission should be short – two, maybe three words at most – and catchy – something that will not only make people sit up and pay attention but that captures the joy of this “king of hobbies.”

Send an email with your suggestions to Mike Wilson at newsletter@gpscc.org by November 15.

MOTHERWELL COUPLE TAKE OVER WORLD'S OLDEST POST OFFICE

Glasgow Times, September 18, 2023

Barry Ford and his wife Mary had been living and working in Florida for the last 20 years - until they heard of the opportunity to purchase Sanquhar Post Office in Dumfries and Galloway three years ago.

The couple returned to Motherwell looking for a business to take on and decided to become the 17th-ever operators of the Post Office, which has been officially accredited by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the oldest. Established in 1712, the previous 16 operators have kept it running continuously for 311 years.

As well as serving as a vital community asset, Sanquhar Post Office is a popular attraction for postal and philatelic enthusiasts from across the world. Many have travelled from afar to have their letters marked with a special handstamp bearing “The World's Oldest Post Office.”

Read the rest of the story [here](#).



Sanquhar Post Office



Nazra Alam, the Retiring Operator of Sanquhar PO

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION – ONE OF A KIND

Paul F. Miller

The Royal Philatelic Collection is the postage stamp collection of the British Royal Family. It is the most comprehensive collection of items related to the philately of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth, with many unique pieces. In 2020, the value of the collection was estimated by *The Daily Telegraph* to be £100 million.

The collection began as the hobby of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh in 1864. He sold his collection to his older brother King Edward VII who, in turn, gave it to his son, George. George would later become King George V.

George V poured his heart and soul into his collection. He was one of the most notable philatelists of his day. His fascination with stamps was no secret. In 1893, as the Duke of York, he was elected honorary vice-president of what became [The Royal Philatelic Society London](#). At his wedding, he received a stamp album with 1,500 stamps. This album was added to his collection, which he had managed to expand in no time. George V bought rare stamps whenever he could and at one point even paid £1,450 for a blue Mauritius two pence stamp. His purchase of this stamp in 1904 set a new world record for a price paid for a single stamp. The inflation adjusted price for this stamp in 2021 was £177,000. Its value today is estimated to be more than £2 million!

The collection benefited from two things: passion and money — and George V had plenty of both. He once told his philatelic advisor that he wanted to own “the best” collection, not “one of the best” collections, in all of England. Under his supervision, the collection grew in such a way that when George V died in 1936 it comprised 328 stamp albums, each with about 60 pages. These so-called “Red Albums” still contain all the stamps that George V managed to get his hands on. The Royal Philatelic Collection was born as a result of his collecting passion and continued to grow in size. After George V's Red Albums, the “Blue Albums” of his son King George VI followed and the “Green Albums” of Queen Elizabeth II followed into the present day.

Queen Elizabeth made her own contributions to the Collection, but not just by expanding it. She mainly succeeded in making the Royal Philatelic Collection famous by putting it on exhibit, making it available for loan and using it for charities. The Royal Philatelic Collection is still the largest, most complete collection of stamps from Great Britain and the Commonwealth. A selection of these stamps can be viewed at the National Postal Museum in England.

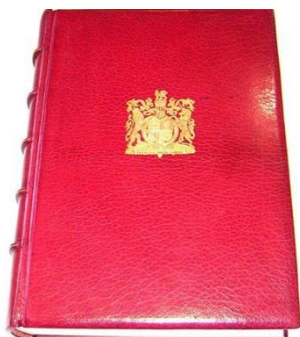
Over the years, the collection has been kept at either Buckingham Palace or St James's Palace. The Privy Purse and Treasurer's Office has overall responsibility for the Collection, as a department of the Royal Household.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION – ONE OF A KIND (CONTINUED)

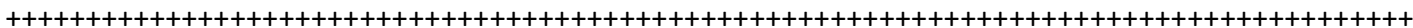
Since the 1890s, successive monarchs have employed curators to assist with the management of the collection. The first curator was John Tilleard, who managed the Collection for 23 years. He was officially known as the “Philatelist to the King.” Subsequent curators were simply known as the “curator” or the “official keeper.” In total there have been six men who have been responsible for the Collection. Currently, there has been no official keeper since 2019, when the Collection was moved back to Buckingham Palace.

As amazing as the Royal Philatelic Collection is, it has been pointed out that it lacks one famous and major philatelic item – the [British Guiana 1c Magenta](#). The British Guiana 1c Magenta is regarded by many philatelists as the world's most famous rare stamp. It was issued in 1856, and only one stamp is now known to exist. It is currently owned by London stamp dealer and publishing company Stanley Gibbons PLC, who purchased it at auction on June 8, 2021, for \$8,307,000.

Nevertheless, to this day, the Royal Philatelic Collection remains an incredible archive of historical stamps and a reminder of the passion for collecting stamps.



Royal Philatelic Collection - Red Album



SPECIAL OFFER IF YOU JOIN THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURING OCTOBER – CLICK THE IMAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

A promotional banner for October National Stamp Collecting Month. The background is orange with a spiderweb pattern. On the left, there are three postage stamps: one featuring Bela Lugosi as Dracula, one featuring Boris Karloff as Frankenstein, and one featuring Anton Opera. The text reads: "OCTOBER is National Stamp Collecting Month! New members receive a FREE book! \$40 value". Below this, it says "U.S. applicants only" and "Canada and Foreign applicants save \$10". On the right, there is a blue book titled "Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting, Second Edition" by Rodney A. Hill, Lynn B. Harding & Steven A. Red, Editors. The book cover features several stamps.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mike Wilson

The development of Rome from a small city-state into a vast empire embracing most of the known world brought with it the necessity for reliable and speedy communications with the governors of distant provinces. This need was met by the ***cursus publicus***, the most highly developed postal system of the ancient world. The relay stages of the *cursus publicus*, established at convenient intervals along the great roads of the empire, formed an integral part of its complex military and administrative system. The speed with which messengers were able to travel during the peak of the administration was not to be rivaled in Europe until the 19th century: it has been claimed that more than 170 miles could be covered in a day and a night. The maintenance of the *cursus publicus* required a high degree of organization; an inspectorial system existed to control its operation and prevent abuse for private ends.

A stamp issued by Spain in 1983 depicts the wagon and horse rig that transported mail along the *cursus publicus*.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica



Spain Scott #2344 Issued 1983 for Stamp Day and ESPANA '84

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. 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!

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

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

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.

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!

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

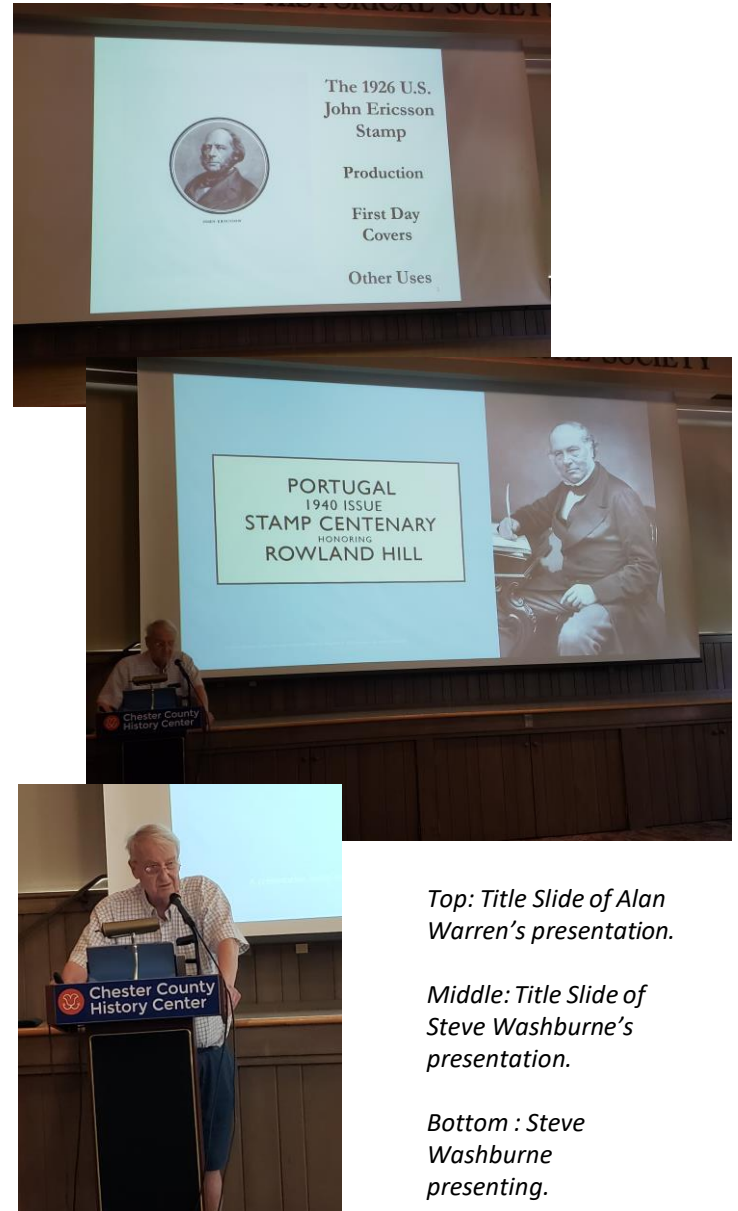
Twelve members assembled to hear two interesting talks. New member Rick Leiby was introduced. Kean Spencer announced that Kevin Kellman and his K2 Collectible Stamps van would be at our next meeting in October. Kevin has thousands of stamps from all over the world. He cannot bring his entire stock, but you can let him know in advance what you are interested in - k2stamps@gmail.com. He also has some supplies such as glassines and stock cards. His van will be parked in the alley next to the Chester County Historical Center and over the course of the program and even beyond 12 noon, 3 or 4 people at a time can take turns visiting the van.

The first speaker in September was Alan Warren who discussed the U.S. 1926 John Ericsson stamp (Scott 628). He showed essay photographs, die proofs, marginal markings including the initials of the siderographers and plate finishers, a wide variety of cachets and other FDCs. He finished up with uses of the stamp by varying mail services and to foreign destinations.

Steve Washburne focused on the 1940 Sir Rowland Hill commemorative set of seven stamps of Portugal marking the centenary of the famous inventor who introduced the concept of prepayment of postage with adhesives. He showed color trial proofs and explained the use of the different denominations for domestic and foreign letters, postcards, and printed matter. Many fascinating airmail uses and foreign destinations were seen including censored mail sent during the early 1940s.

Members then retired to the Iron Hill Brewery for lunch and to celebrate Tom Geiger's birthday.

Source: [Philatelic Society of Lancaster County](#)



Top: Title Slide of Alan Warren's presentation.

Middle: Title Slide of Steve Washburne's presentation.

Bottom : Steve Washburne presenting.

OCTOBER 21, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

10:00 am - Noon

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

Speakers:

Ron Majors, Cross Border Mail to Canada
Lou Glasgow, Zeps Airmail Carriers