



# THE PHILLY PHILATELIST

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

Founded 1904

American Philatelic Society – Chapter 18

June 2025

[www.GPSCC.org](http://www.GPSCC.org)

Volume 13, Issue 6

## NEXT MEETING

June 17, 2025 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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul F. Miller

The United States Postal Service (USPS) will celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 26, 2025. That is one year older than the United States itself. Congratulations to the USPS for being a unique institution that is woven into the fabric of American history.

It all started on July 26, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress established "a line of posts" from Maine to Georgia to create a network of communications that kept rebellious messages from falling into the British Crown's hands. This postal system later became the Post Office Department and then the United States Postal Service.

The USPS has announced two new stamp releases to celebrate their 250th anniversary. They are pictured on the next page.

The first is a stamp featuring Benjamin Franklin, the nation's first postmaster general. The stamp is based

on an 1875 reproduction of a 5-cent stamp from 1847. The stamp will be released in two panes of 10 stamps and will be included within a prestige booklet titled "Putting a Stamp on the American Experience." The 32-page booklet celebrates the cultural significance of U.S. stamps, highlighting popular stamp series and subjects that have defined the nation's postal history.

The second release is a pane of 20 stamps titled "250 Years of Delivering." It depicts a letter carrier on their rounds through all four seasons in cartoon form. The vibrant designs are illustrated by renowned cartoonist Chris Ware.

Both the booklet and pane are scheduled to be released in July and will be available at post offices and <https://store.usps.com/store/stamps>.

*(Continued next page)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC is also celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USPS. The current museum was opened in 1993, but it has recognized the importance of the postal system in American history for many, many years.

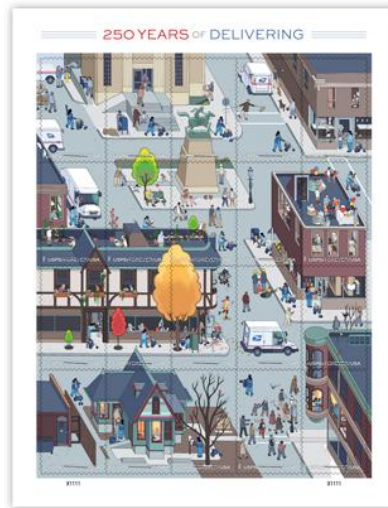
The museum wants to celebrate the noteworthy occasion with a family-friendly “[Postal Party](#)” on

Saturday, July 26, 2025. The event will include games, activities, giveaways, and presentations commemorating this milestone.

Make sure you take full advantage of this important event in American history and celebrate with the USPS. Buy some stamps and attend the National Postal Museum celebration, if you can.



*Stamp and stamp pane to be issued in July to celebrate 250 years of the USPS*



*“Eagle in Flight” logo to be used by the USPS in 2025*

## PROGRAM FOR JUNE 17, 2025: APS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SCOTT ENGLISH

This month the GPSCC welcomes Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS). Scott will share with us his thoughts on the future of the stamp collecting hobby.

Scott has been the executive director of the APS for almost ten years. He has crossed paths with and met many, many great members of the APS. He has done great things for the hobby and the APS during his tenure.

Scott announced on November 1, 2024, that he would be stepping down as executive director sometime in 2025. This is a prime opportunity to meet Scott up close and personal before he moves on to other exciting ventures in his life.



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**UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS FOR 2025**

Aug. 19 – Sep. 16 – Oct. 21 – Nov. 18 – Dec. 16 (Holiday Dinner)

**UPCOMING EVENTS****June 21** – [Philatelic Gathering](#), 10:00 a.m.-noon, Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester PA.**June 21-22** – [SCOPEX](#), American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte PA.**July 14-18** – [APS Volunteer Work Week](#), American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte PA**July 19** – [Philatelic Gathering](#), 10:00 a.m.-noon, Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester PA.**August 14-17** – [Great American Stamp Show](#) American Philatelic Society, American Topical Association, & American First Day Cover Society, Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 Thoreau Dr. N, Schaumburg, IL.**September 5-7** – [BALPEX](#), BWI Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Rd., Linthicum Heights, MD.**September 26-28** – [NOJEX](#), Hilton Hasbrouck, 650 Terrace Ave, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.**HAVE SOMETHING PHILATELIC YOU WANT TO SHARE?***The Philly Philatelist* is always interested in publishing articles by our members or other collectors.Articles of any length are welcome. An article that is 750 words long with two or three images will fill two pages. Just email the text in a Word file and the images as separate files to Michael Wilson at [newsletter@gpscc.org](mailto:newsletter@gpscc.org).

Thanks!

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2025, GPSCC MEETING

President Paul Miller opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by introducing Dr. Yamil Kouri, President of Boston 2026 who joined the meeting via Zoom.

Dr. Kouri began by noting that Boston 2026 is only a year and three days away from tonight's meeting. It will be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in the Seaport District, close to Logan Airport and Amtrak's South Street Station. Show partners include the USPS, APS, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, and the Spellman Museum.

Boston 2026 will have 4,000 exhibit frames encompassing several competitions including the APS's annual "Champion of Champions." In addition, there will be Cinderella, ephemera and museum exhibits; FDC ceremonies; 150 dealers and auction houses; 135 societies and organizations; 50 postal administrations; and hundreds of meetings, seminars and events. Free meeting rooms will be available to philatelic organizations that reserve them. There also will be a chance to witness the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. There will be social activities planned for every night of the event, and on the Friday before the show opens, there will be an opening reception for all attendees.

At the same time as Boston 2026, the United States will be celebrating its semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary. Consequently, there will be many events for non-philatelists to enjoy like Lego displays, iconic baseball memorabilia, and papermaking, printing and engraving.

If you wish to stay a few days in Boston for the expo, now is the time to reserve rooms. Go to [boston2026.org](https://boston2026.org) and click on hotels. According to Dr. Kouri, rooms are selling fast, so reservations should be made sooner rather than later.

Dr. Kouri concluded his presentation by stating that there are many ways we can help at the event. For example, there will be a need for at least 500 volunteers. Steve Kennedy, a member of GPSCC, is the volunteer chair.

Dr. Kouri responded to questions and comments from members, after which Paul Miller thanked him for his time. Dr. Kouri then signed off.

Paul Miller next introduced new member Thomas McFarland who collects U.S. stamps.

Club member Thom Almerini, who is the Executive Director of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors, said that any club can become an affiliate as long as five members join.

Secretary Robert Cohen discussed an email from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum introducing "Stamp Camp." Children ages 6-12 with adult support will receive five free hands-on activities by email throughout June, July and August all designed to be completed at one's own pace. These activities will encompass science, technology, art, math and problem-solving and engineering.

Robert noted that the APS Weekly Newsletter announced "The Hub @ Stamp School." The platform allows you to poll your peers, host online events, and curate resources. It's free to sign-up. Robert also reminded everyone of the first "Match Factory Open House" on June 21 from 10 am to 5 pm in Bellefonte. There will be stamp, coin and small antique evaluations from local experts. Also on hand will be stamp dealers, exhibits, presentations, building tours and kids stamp activities.

Paul heard that the National Postal Museum Gala will be held the evening of Saturday, November 8, 2025. The gala will celebrate philately and postal history.

A discussion was held about exhibiting and what is involved. It was suggested that maybe we could have someone like member Bill Schultz give a presentation on exhibiting.

After a reminder that Scott English, Executive Director of APS will be our guest on June 17, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Cohen*

## A WWII GERMAN-AMERICAN INTERNEE POSTAL CARD

Michael L. Wilson

The 1-cent postal card shown in Figure 1 was issued in 1914 and was used for years (Scott UX27). It is very common, and dealers will sell you one for a buck or two. What is unusual about this item is that one of the earliest German-American internees of World War II mailed it from Camp McCoy in west central Wisconsin. That makes for a very interesting story. On top of that, he was probably a stamp collector.

The internment of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans under orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt is well known. Less understood is that at least 11,000 persons of German ancestry and about 1,900 of Italian descent were also interned.

Camp McCoy's role as a concentration camp started in January 1942, and it would eventually hold about 170 Japanese and 120 German and Italian Americans thought to be dangerous "enemy aliens." Most of the internees came from the Honolulu area. One of those individuals was Alfred Bruno Max Smith, a U.S. citizen of German descent. He arrived at Camp McCoy on March 9, 1942, and about a month later, sent the postal card shown in Figure 1 to a friend.

Smith was born in Germany as "Alfred Schmidt" in 1893 and arrived in New York City in 1923. He moved to the Chicago area in the late 1920s and to Honolulu

in 1935. He became a naturalized citizen in 1940, which is when he changed his last name from "Schmidt" to "Smith."

On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Smith and his wife, Auguste Suzanne, were arrested. At his hearing, five community members vouched for Smith's loyalty, but the military authorities forced him to sign a paper saying that he was an alien enemy. His wife's hearing lasted a mere five minutes after which Smith and she were separated and detained. Prior to arriving at Camp McCoy, Smith was held on Sand Island at the entrance of Honolulu Harbor and in San Francisco.

Smith actively worked for his release. He teamed up with 12 other German-American internees from Hawaii who felt that the War Department had committed a grave injustice by detaining them. Each of these men had become naturalized citizens and believed their rights as citizens had been compromised. In a letter to Representative Samuel W. King, the Congressional delegate from Hawaii, Smith wrote that "just as another American citizen," he demanded to know where his wife was and how long his detention would last.

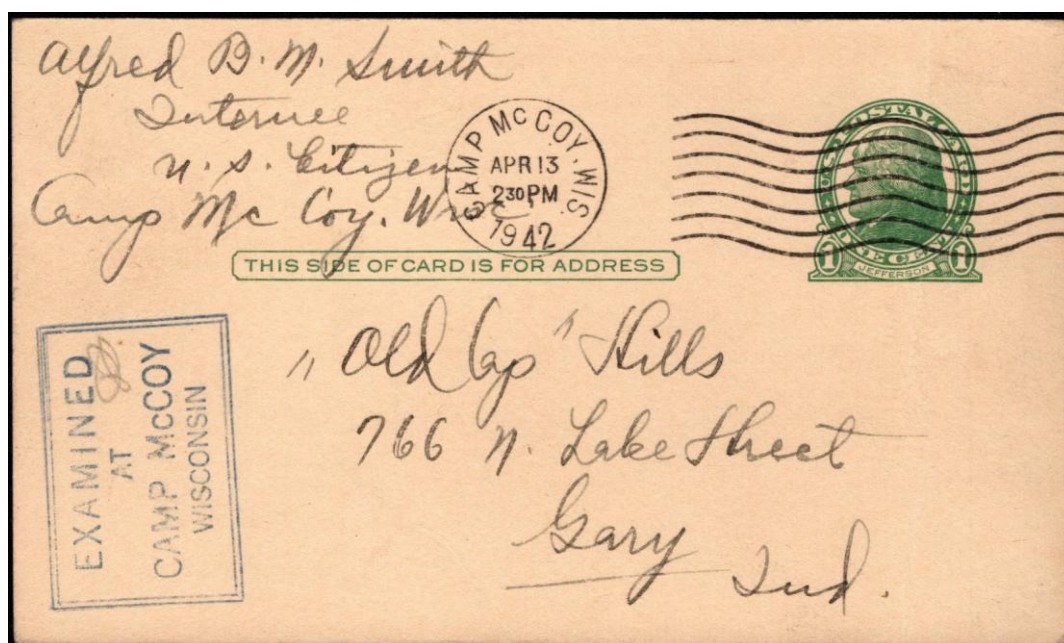


Figure 1- Address side of postal card sent by Alfred Bruno Max Smith from Camp McCoy April 13, 1942. Source: Author's collection.

## A WWII GERMAN-AMERICAN INTERNEE POSTAL CARD (CONTINUED)

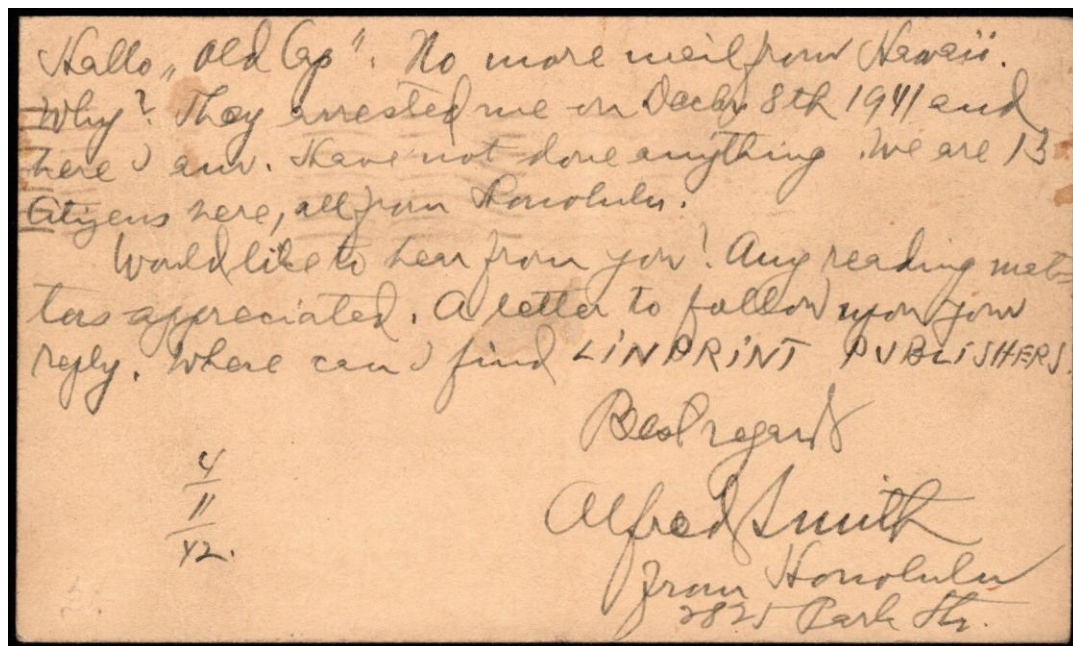


Figure 2- Message side of postal card sent by Alfred Bruno Max Smith from Camp McCoy April 13, 1942. Source: Author's collection.

Smith would learn that his wife remained on Sand Island, but he would not get any other answers. However, in May 1942, he was transferred back to Sand Island. The military feared the courts would order his release because he had never been brought before a judge to decide if his detention was legal. Such legal niceties would not be an obstacle in Hawaii since the territory was under martial law.

Smith was finally released on July 31, 1943, after being imprisoned for almost 20 months, according to the March 12, 1946, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. That same news story reported that Smith filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against the military officers who detained him arguing he “suffered great distress, humiliation, shame and agony” and incurred financial losses because he was unable to run his business. He pointed out that he had never been “brought before any court or tribunal or charged with any offense.” Smith did not win his lawsuit.

Otherwise, Smith's life returned to normal after the war. He continued to live in Honolulu, run his roofing and painting company, and take the occasional trip back to the mainland. Smith would pass away in California in 1990 at age 97.

In his message to “Old Cap” Hills (Figure 2), Smith confirms the date he was detained and professes his innocence. His reference to “13 citizens” must be the group that pushed for information on their detention and release.

And what about Smith writing, “Where can I find LINPRINT PUBLISHERS.” Linprint was a well-known producer of first day cover cachets and even stamp albums. Could he have been a stamp collector?

He very likely was since “Old Cap” Hills was Frank K. Hills of Gary, Indiana. Hills was known in philatelic, bowling, and baseball circles as “Old Cap.” Born in Pennsylvania in 1882, “Old Cap” started to collect stamps in the early 1900s, and in the mid-1920s, he was editor of the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* that had a national circulation. He lived in Racine, Wisconsin in the early 1930s where he managed Arcade Bowling Alleys. Smith was in the Chicago area around this time, and the two might have met then. Later in life, “Old Cap” managed Kekionga Stamp Company in Fort Wayne before “closing his album” for the last time in 1954.

Indeed, this is a very common postal card, but with a fascinating backstory.

## U.S. SHANGHAI OVERPRINT STAMPS

Paul F. Miller

On May 24, 1919, the United States issued stamps for use in Shanghai, China. These are often referred to as “Back of the Book” stamps, or BOB for short.

The term BOB refers to stamp issues that appear in the back of the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues. These stamps also have one or more letters appearing before their catalog number, such as “C” for airmail stamps. In the case of the Shanghai Overprint stamps, their identification starts with the letter “K.”



*Scott K1. Per Scott's 355.000 of this stamp were shipped to Shanghai and to Philatelic Agency in Washington, DC..*

Although there are some U.S. stamps with overprints, they are not seen very often. The best known may be the Kansas-Nebraska Overprints that were issued in 1929 to prevent losses from post office burglaries. The Shanghai Overprint stamps, however, are historically interesting and show how the United States accommodated postal needs.

U.S. merchants began trading with China in 1784 when the *Empress of China* arrived in Canton (today's Guangzhou) after an 18,000-mile journey from New York City. The U.S. presence in China, specifically in Shanghai, greatly expanded when the United States and China signed the Treaty of Wangxia in 1844. That treaty gave the United States the same trading rights as Great Britain – rights which Great Britain secured as a result of defeating China in the First Opium War fought between 1839 and 1842 – and it permitted Americans to buy land and build hospitals and churches. In fact, U.S. settlements in China were much like at home, with U.S. laws and amenities. The United States maintained its own courts, police and armed forces.

Initially, American mail had to pass through the British post office in Hong Kong. (China ceded Hong Kong to Great Britain in the Treaty of Nanking that ended the First Opium War.) That process was expensive and unreliable. In 1865, the U.S. Post Office Department was authorized to provide its own mail service to China. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company built four ships to carry mail from San Francisco, through Japan, to Shanghai.

When mail service first began, it cost 10¢ to send a letter to China. This was later lowered to 5¢ with the establishment of the Universal Postal Union, which regulated how mail was sent between countries. Starting in June 1903, U.S. domestic postage rates were applied to Shanghai mail.

From the start of its postal services, the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai accepted payment in U.S. currency only, which was inconvenient for many customers. By not accepting Chinese currency, the U.S. Postal Agency was also hurting its revenue. During 1919, the rules were changed to accept Chinese currency. At that time, the value of the Chinese currency was equal to half a U.S. dollar. So, new stamps were overprinted with that exchange rate, which was double the stamp's face value. So, the 1¢ stamp was overprinted 2¢, the 2¢ stamp was overprinted 4¢, and so on.

The first of these stamps, overprinted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, were issued on May 24, 1919. Two of the stamps, K17 and K18, issued in July 1922, were actually overprinted in Shanghai. They were the result of a shortage created when stamps from the U.S. failed to arrive. The U.S. stamps overprinted were Scott 498-99, 502-04, 506-10, 512, and 514-18.

U.S. stamps were also available without overprints in Shanghai. It was all a matter of how the customer was paying. If they bought a stamp with U.S. currency, they received a normal U.S. stamp, but if they purchased a stamp with Chinese currency, they received an overprint stamp.

## U.S. SHANGHAI OVERPRINT STAMPS (CONTINUED)

The Shanghai Overprint stamps were issued in very limited quantities, making them hard to find today. Mint copies are quite expensive, but used copies with legible cancels showing Chinese origin are priced even higher. They were also short-lived - only available for sale in Shanghai until December 1922. They were placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C. after that, but only for a brief time.

As for the U.S. presence in Shanghai, that came to an end in 1950, 104 years after the first U.S. Consulate was established in the city. The cause, of course, was the Chinese Communist takeover of China in 1949. Normalized relations between the United States and China were not established until 1979.

*There were 18 stamps selected for the Shanghai Overprints. They are identified as Scott K1 – K18. Due to a shortage of overprinted stamps in the 1-cent and 2-cents denominations, Scott K17 and K18 were overprinted locally in Shanghai rather than by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. In the image of the overprint stamps, you can see the difference in printing for these two stamps. Most notable is the use of “Cts.” rather than the “¢” symbol.*



## DID YOU KNOW?

Michael L. Wilson

Canada has a fascinating postal history. Until the confederation in 1867, the colonies of the Province of Canada, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Vancouver Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia each issued their own postage stamps.

Newfoundland did not join the confederation until the late 1940s, and it issued its own stamps for 90 years!

### CANADA 1851-PRESENT



*Page from M. Wilson's "A Stamp for Every Country Album."*

#### Precedent Countries:

NEWFOUNDLAND  
1857-1947



VANCOUVER ISLAND  
1860-1865



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
1861-1872



NEW BRUNSWICK  
1851-1863



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
1865-1869



NOVA SCOTIA  
1851-1863



## AWARDS AND HONORS

Alan Warren

In the May issue of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, **Bill Schultz** describes a stampless cover sent from California in 1839 to Meadville in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. The unusual cover was manuscript postmarked at Fort Miller, which was located about 150 miles above Stockton. The postage was also written in manuscript, "Paid (\$)1.12 1/2."

Bill studied the recipient, Harm Jan Huidekoper – a businessman, essayist, and lay theologian. He was employed by the Holland Land Company and was sent to Meadville to look after the business records of the firm's land holdings in western Pennsylvania. He later acquired much of Holland company's landholdings in Pennsylvania and thus became one of the largest landowners in the country.

In the same issue Bill offers a profile of the early years of the Oxford, Chester County, Pa., post office, listing the postmasters during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He shows several covers with early postmarks of Oxford.

The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) holds international exhibitions on the continent. The most recent show was EuroPhilEx that took place in May in Birmingham, England. **Vernon Morris** won a large gold and was a candidate for the Grand Prix International with his "Evolution of American Mail 1685 to 1799." He also received a gold and a special prize for material with his "Evolution & Impact of Bloods Local Post: 1842 to 1862."

**Michael Wilson** and his keyboard keep busy with his article in the Winter 2025 edition of the APS's new journal *StampEd*, for "the next generation of stamp collectors." His article on "Cheap Postage" recounts the evolution of the New York Postmaster Provisional stamp in 1845.

**Bruce Marsden** won a large vermeil at the Bernaba Exhibition held in Bern, Switzerland in May with his "Switzerland Engineering & Landscapes 1949-1960."

Finally, Mike Wilson exhibited for the first time at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Aurora, Colorado. He competed against six other novice exhibitors and won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Novice award with his "The Pan American Speed Test of 1946." He also received a show large vermeil and an American Air Mail Society (AAMS) vermeil, as it was the annual convention of the AAMS. He also received the AAMS's Lee Downer Literature Award for the best Contract Air Mail article in *The Airpost Journal* (APJ). His winning article, "The July 1925 Launch of Nighttime Airmail Service: A Centennial Retrospective" appeared in the June/July 2024 issue of the APJ.



Mike Wilson receives his large vermeil medal from RMSS awards chairman Eddie Hackstaff



## PHILATELIC GATHERING, MAY 17, 2025

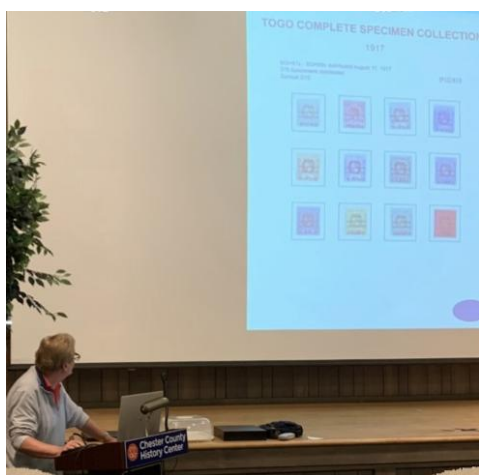
On a glorious Saturday morning following almost a week of heavy rain, a dozen-plus philatelic enthusiasts gathered at the Chester County History Center for a wonderful program featuring Bob Myers, a noted collector of British Empire UPU specimens, and Bud Barker, a relative newcomer to stamp collecting.

Bob kicked off the morning with a presentation titled “West African UPU British Empire Security Protected Specimen Stamps from 1884 to 1948,” which were submitted to the UPU between the late 1800s and the late 1940s. His presentation was based on an article that he wrote for Cameo, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle. Bob discussed the printers, overprint and perforation types, and the number of specimen sets submitted by each country to the UPU. He also discussed the challenges of acquiring specimens, noting that it is best to purchase full sets. While Bob spoke, we had the opportunity to flip

through an album of his West African Study Circle Specimen Stamp Pages.

Bud, who said he had only been collecting for about five years, provided a wonderful overview of the U.S. Presidential Issue of 1938, the so-called “Prexies.” Bud talked about Elaine Rawlinson who won a competition for the design of the series and the fact that the Prexies featured 29 presidents and three non-presidents (Benjamin Franklin, Martha Washington, and the White House). He talked about various ways of collecting Prexies (e.g., mint, used, on cover, precanceled, etc.) and closed with an amusing anecdote about the subject of each stamp.

Before a group adjourned to the Iron Hill Brewery for lunch and further conversation, the gathering had a discussion about Bob Myers’ work on a “Par Balloon Monte” catalog for the American Air Mail Society.



*Bob Myers during his presentation*



*Bud Barker and his title slide*

## PHILATELIC GATHERING MEETS JUNE 21, 2025

The Philatelic Gathering meets at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There is free on street parking and free coffee and donuts. After the meeting, whoever wants to join the group for a Dutch treat luncheon at a nearby restaurant in West Chester is welcome.

Contact Kean Spencer ([keanwspencer1@gmail.com](mailto:keanwspencer1@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend. There is no cost, but donations to the CCHC are appreciated.

