

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>

August 2023

Volume 11, Issue 7

NEXT MEETING

August 15, 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 – AUGUST 2023

Paul F. Miller

I attended the NAPEX Stamp Show in McLean, Virginia in early May 2023. It really is a fantastic show – one of the premier events in the country.

Whenever I attend NAPEX, I try to carve out some time to visit something in the Washington, DC area. This year, as I have done in the past, I chose to visit the Smithsonian [National Postal Museum](#). It is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002 (just across the street from Union Station) and is open every day from 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Admission is free!

In my opinion, this is a “hidden gem” within the many Smithsonian museums in Washington, DC. Not many people know about the National Postal Museum, but if you are a stamp collector, this is a “do not miss” location. If you love stamps, postcards, and anything to do with the mail and our postal service, then this museum will have something of interest for you. I have visited this museum on several occasions and have found both stamp collectors and non-collectors visiting just because there is such a wealth of information about our country's postal history.

(Continued on page 4)

AUGUST 15, 2023, PROGRAM – ENCLOSED 5-CENT RATE U.S. STAMPLESS COVERS

Bill Schultz, a long-time philatelist, recipient of the 2021 Ernest A. Kehr Award from the American Philatelic Society for "enduring contributions that help guarantee the future of the hobby, " and GPSCC member, will be our presenter.

His topic will be "Enclosed 5-cent Rate U.S. Stampless Covers." His talk will cover the fascinating postal history subject of enclosed rates on stampless covers using the 5-cent rate as the key example for discussion purposes. He will provide handouts and items for all to handle up close.



Bill Schultz

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

1. Thou shalt not at any time criticize what thy fellow collector collects.
2. Thou shalt be ready at all times to help any collector who seeks aid of thee.
3. Thou shalt study thy stamps, for full enjoyment comes only with knowing them thoroughly.
4. Thou shalt at every opportunity boost the advantage of stamp collecting, never missing a chance to bring a new collector into the fold.
5. Thou shalt seek the companionship of other collectors for thine own as well as their benefit.
6. Thou shalt work with other collectors for the advancement of the hobby.
7. Thou shalt at all times do all within thy power to keep the hobby clean and free of anything that may reflect badly on it.
8. In thy dealing with other collectors thou shalt act so as to be free of all disparagement at all times.
9. Thou shalt not be ashamed of thy hobby.
10. Thou shalt be ready at any time to ask any questions that may puzzle thee, not hiding behind a mask of assumed knowledge.

[Shared by Club member **Alan Warren**. These were first written by Al Burns and appeared in 1929 in the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* magazine.]

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.

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UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS 2023

Sept. 19 – Oct. 17 – Nov. 21 – Dec.19 (Holiday Dinner)

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10-13 – [Great American Stamp Show](#), Cleveland, OH

September 2 – [Merchantville Stamp Club](#), Bourse Only, Martin Luther Chapel School Gym, 4100 Terrance Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109

September 2-4 – [BALPEX](#), Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., I-83 Exit 20 East, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030

September 9 – [Clifton Fall 2023 Stamp Cover Postcard Collectables Show](#), Bourse Only, Clifton Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Avenue @ Washington Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07011

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – AUGUST 2023 (CONTINUED)

You can wander through the museum's many galleries and exhibits that are spread out over two floors of the building. If you need a quick overview of the museum, an introductory tour is offered to walk-in visitors at 11:30 a.m. each day (based on docent availability). They start at the information desk and last approximately 45 minutes. If you have the urge to spend some money, you cannot buy a stamp rarity, but there is a gift shop and a USPS Philatelic sales window.

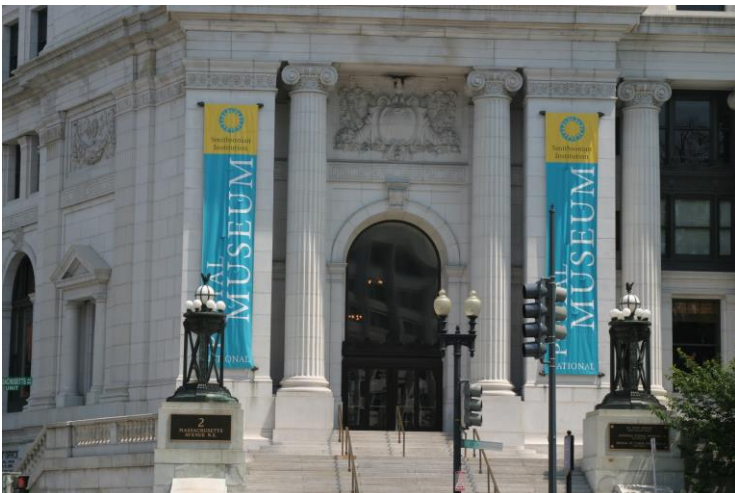
The museum holds the National Philatelic Collection, which is a collection of nearly six million postage stamps, revenue stamps, and related items, owned by the United States Government and managed by the Smithsonian Institution. A portion of the collection is on display in the museum's National Stamp Salon, one of the best sections in the museum, in my opinion. The National Philatelic Collection is among the world's largest and most valuable stamp collections and, along with the Postmaster General's Philatelic Collection, is one of two stamp collections owned by the United States.

Within the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, there is a section with "Stamps Around the Globe." From June 2015 until December 2019, this section proudly displayed the 1856 [British Guiana 1c Magenta](#), the world's most valuable stamp. It had been loaned to the museum for display by then owner, Stuart Weitzman. I was lucky enough to see the display on one of my prior visits to the museum. (Stanley Gibbons purchased the stamp at auction in June 2021 for \$8.3 million and has now moved it to an exhibit at their London Headquarters' location.)

I could go on and on about the wonderful attributes of this great museum. Suffice it to say, however, that it is well worth your time and effort to visit if you have not done so before. If you have seen it before, go back! There is always something else that you may not have seen before, and the museum does have exhibits that rotate and change over time.

If you are interested in keeping tabs on what's happening at the National Postal Museum, put your name on their [mailing list](#).

The National Postal Museum has a host of online virtual [exhibits](#) in the event that a trip to Washington, DC is not doable anytime soon.



Smithsonian
National Postal Museum

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2023, GPS & CC MEETING

Paul Miller began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 13 members present.

Secretary's Report: We have 55 members. Remember that we have no meeting in July and will meet again on August 15.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$4,587.03 in our account and had little activity last month. Bruce is negotiating with our bank, which wants to raise the fee for our account.

Old Business: Mike Wilson said that the sale of our Club "swag" has come to \$150 so far and he had several items to deliver to the members present at the meeting. If he gets several more requests, he will put in another order. See our website for descriptions.

There was no **New Business**.

Program: Yamil H. Kouri Jr., president of BOSTON 2026, was our speaker by way of a Zoom link. Yamil is a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and received the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award in 2020 for Exceptional Contributions to Philately. The date of BOSTON 2026 is May 23-30 and admission will be free. Yamil gave us many of the particulars for the show. There is still room for dealers as well as for member clubs to have booths at the show. Clubs can have rooms available for their meetings and events at no cost during the show. Booths can also be rented for "half-show" periods of only 4 days. Efforts will be made to reach out to other groups who are not APS members but have similar areas of interest.



Screen shot of June 20 Zoom meeting – clockwise from the upper left: Club Member Robert Cohen; Giant Community Meeting Room; BOSTON 2026 Executive Director Mark Butterline; BOSTON 2026 President Yamil Kouri.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2023, GPS & CC MEETING (CONTINUED)

Show & Tell & Discuss: It was reported that NOJEX is taking a bye for 2023 and is committed to return for 2024.

Bruce Marsden told us of his experiences at the APS Summer Seminar this month. He took a class given by Bill Schultz on how to prepare your exhibit and hopes to exhibit at BOSTON 2026. A prospective exhibitor has to “qualify” before being allowed to exhibit at BOSTON 2026. Bruce also gave us the details of a thriving stamp show that he attended in Germany.

Alan Faden gave us an overview of the changes in the stamp selling business over his lifetime. When he started collecting and selling, there were many stamp stores and now not only are there very few stores, but most of them are dealing primarily in other collectibles and not stamps. He finds that sports cards and coins are the largest part of his business. There is activity in video game related items, online sales and ephemera also.

Stamps as Art came up for discussion also. Some museums are exhibiting enlarged stamps for their beauty.

Respectfully submitted by Letty Moon

AWARDS AND HONORS

Mark Schwartz won a large gold and the single frame grand award at NAPEX in Virginia in June with his “The ‘Special Arrangement’ between Liverpool and the U.S. – 1843-1848.” His exhibit of “The New York Postmaster Provisional” was in the show’s Court of Honor.



Mark Schwartz

Club member **Bob Rufe** has stepped into a big volunteer job for the United States Stamp Society. He was named its new Executive Secretary.



Robert “Bob” Rufe as pictured in the August 2023 issue of “The United States Specialist”

OWNEY, UNOFFICIAL MASCOT OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

Paul Miller

In my President's Message, I commented that the Smithsonian National Postal Museum is a great place to visit, not only for the stamps, but for postal history, too.

The museum has some wonderful historical exhibits, including one about a dog named Owney, who became pretty famous during his time. His fame continues into our modern days and has been commemorated by the United States Postal Service with the issuance of a stamp in 2011! The stamp pictured to the right is US #4547, issued July 27, 2011, in honor of Owney.



The exhibit at the Museum is very interesting. You must see it if you visit. Owney's preserved body (thanks to skillful taxidermists) is on display at the exhibit. In case you don't get to visit anytime soon, but want to know about Owney, I will give you some brief information about him.

Owney was a terrier mix puppy who, in 1888, belonged to a clerk who worked at the Albany, New York post office. He would often come to work with his owner. Owney seemed to love the smell of the mail bags and would sleep on the bags. When the clerk quit his Albany post office job, he allowed Owney to stay at the post office because he knew Owney was happier there with the mail bags and his other mail clerk friends.

Owney usually slept on the mail bags, and when they were moved, Owney went with them. At first, he followed them onto mail wagons and then onto mail trains. He was considered to be good luck by postal railway clerks, since no train he rode on was ever in a wreck. He was a welcome addition in every railway post office. He was a faithful guardian of railway mail and the bags it was carried in and would not allow anyone other than mail clerks to touch the bags.

Owney's journeys took him across the United States, into Canada, and possibly Mexico. On August 19, 1895, as part of a publicity stunt for the town of Tacoma, Washington, Owney left that city on a mail steamer and spent the next few months traveling around the world. He docked back in at New York City harbor in late December, returning by train to Tacoma on December 29, 1895.

As Owney's trips grew longer, the postal clerks at Albany became concerned that Owney should be identified, and, if necessary, returned to them. They bought a dog collar with a metal tag that read: "Owney, Post Office, Albany, New York". Owney received additional tags from other railway post offices for his collar everywhere he went. It was said that as he moved, the tags jingled like sleigh bells.

Before long Owney was carrying so many tags on his collar that he could barely keep his head upright. His mail clerk friends began shipping excess tags back to the Albany post office, where the postmaster put them on public display. Postmaster General John Wanamaker (our Philadelphia connection!) had a special harness built for Owney to wear, so his tags could be spread out evenly all over his body. Still, there were so many tags that it was heavy for Owney as he aged.

OWNEY, UNOFFICIAL MASCOT OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE (CONTINUED)

One source estimated that Owney received 1,017 medals and tokens during his lifetime. Some of these tags did not survive, however. The National Postal Museum currently has 372 Owney tags in its collections.

By the spring of 1897 Owney was in poor health. He had been “retired” from traveling and was living with a postal worker in St. Louis, Missouri. By that time in his life, he had traveled more than 143,000 miles doing his “job”. He still liked to travel and occasionally did shorter trips. Unfortunately, Owney died on June 11, 1897, while in Toledo, Ohio on a short trip.

Newspapers reports indicated that Owney had been ill and had become aggressive in his old age. While at the Toledo, Ohio post office on June 11, 1897, he allegedly attacked a postal clerk and a U.S. Marshal. Owney was shot and killed on the orders of the local postmaster.

Postal clerks were devastated by this turn of events and refused to bury Owney, instead demanding that he be preserved and sent to the Post Office’s Washington headquarters. So, he was preserved.

In 1911, Owney was sent to the Smithsonian Museum, where he was featured in an exhibit. His remains suffered from deterioration over the years, but in 2011 he was given a makeover and proudly stands in the current National Postal Museum exhibit.

Finally, on July 27, 2011, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring Owney, rendered, according to artist Bill Bond, in “a spirited and lively presentation” inspired by the mounted remains.



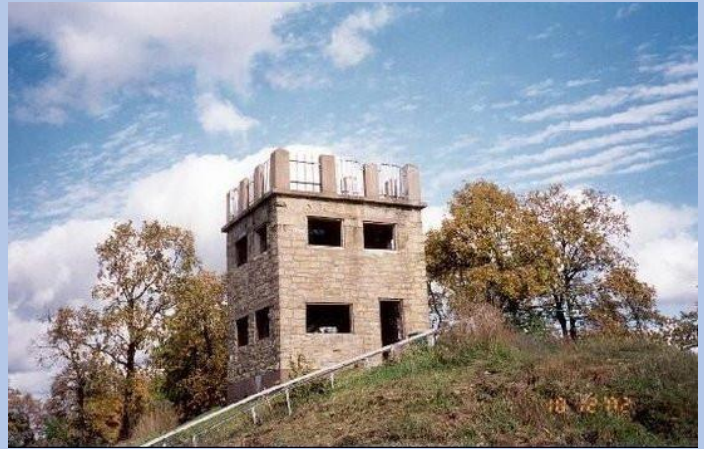
Owney as displayed at the National Postal Museum.



Owney, Circa 1895. Source: National Postal Museum.

DID YOU KNOW?*Mike Wilson*

Elk Mound, Wisconsin, in the northwest part of the state near Eau Claire, is home to “Dead Mailman Castle.” It is dedicated “in memoriam of the deceased rural letter carriers of Dunn County.” I’m not sure how many rural carriers perished on their rounds, but the views from this castle, which was built in 1906, are spectacular.



But be forewarned if you visit: The castle is haunted! It is rumored that a young man fell to his death here in the 1980s, and visitors have reportedly felt sick, heard strange screams and laughter or felt like they were being pushed down the stairs. Mists and odd lights have also been reported.

Then again, Wisconsinites are known for their drinking. 😊

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 JULY 15, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

We convened the Gathering promptly at 10:00 AM in the CCHC auditorium on N. High St., West Chester, PA, 19380. There were 20 attendees (+/- 2). Coffee & donuts were provided by Bill Schultz.

The first speaker of the two scheduled was Robert Myers of Spring City PA. Bob spoke for about 45 minutes on one of his favorite subjects: The late Queen Elizabeth. He gave a thorough understanding of her life and its relationship to postage stamps of the U.K. and the Commonwealth of Nations under her guidance for over 70 years. [Enjoy his Three-Frame Exhibit entitled Honoring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, April 21, 1926 – September 8, 2022.](#)

Our second speaker was the award-winning exhibitor Mark Schwartz of Philadelphia. Mark spoke for over one hour on the N.Y. Postmaster Provisional Issue and enthralled everyone with his breadth of knowledge on the subject. He shared with the Gathering an amazing display of one great example after example of one of the finest collections ever assembled on the subject. [Enjoy his presentation entitled The New York Postmaster Provisional Stamp of 1845.](#)

Both speakers handled a number of questions from the attendees with aplomb. The Gathering adjourned at @11:55 AM for a tasty luncheon at the Iron Hill Brewery nearby in West Chester.

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

AUGUST 19, 2023, PHILATELIC GATHERING

10:00 am - Noon

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

Speakers:

John Howker, Stamped Envelopes AND

Bill Schultz, Collecting and Exhibiting
Postcards



Queen Elizabeth II



*New York
Postmaster
Provisional Stamp of
1845*