



The Greater

Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club

Founded 1835

American Philatelic Society - Chapter 18 • American Air Mail Society - Chapter 18
Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club and The Collector's Club of Philadelphia

May, 2018 Newsletter - Volume 6, Issue 6

Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Our Featured Topic

for May



SHOW and TELL

Everyone should bring one or more items for discussion that illustrate their collecting interests. Your talk should be about 5 minutes long.



and

Alan Warren and Vince Costello will show videos from the APS and/or the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

Meet Our Newest Member

Ray McGrath, our newest member, grew up in Philadelphia and continues to live there today. He retired from working for the Acme Warehouse in '98.

He first collected stamps in 1958 when, as a child when he bought his first stamp book. Like many others, he stopped collecting for an extended period and took it up again after retirement. He has collected US mint, South and Central American, Vatican, UN and New Zealand.

Ray also belongs to the Merchantville, the BuxMont, and the German Stamp Clubs.

Ray has 3 sons and 6 grandchildren. He follows the Phila. sports teams, enjoying basketball most of all.

Message from the Pres.

Still Lookin'



WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER FOR RICH AS PRESIDENT UNTIL THE END OF THE CURRENT YEAR.



Rich Majerick

2018 Meeting Dates

All Tuesdays - All start at 7:30 pm - All at the Giant

MAY 15TH JUN. 19TH ~~JULY 17TH~~ AUG. 21ST
SEPT. 18TH OCT. 16TH NOV. 20TH

DECEMBER 18TH - Holiday Dinner

If you are interested in coming to a meeting, or finding out more about Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club, contact our secretary, Letty Moon.

OFFICERS

President

Rich Majerick
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Alan Warren
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Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC

Giant Supermarket
Community Rm,
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090.

Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC

PO Box 446,
Willow Grove, PA
19090-0446

Minutes From April's Meeting

Rich Majerick opened the meeting at 7:35 with 13 members present and two visitors. **Rabbi Levitt** brought one visitor, **Len Levin**, who has collected US, UN, First Day covers, North Africa and Western Europe. Our other visitor was **Ray McGrath**, who has visited before and join our club tonight. (See New Member article.)

PROGRAM: **David Stevenson** presented his program on Philatelic Curiosities. It included numerous examples of printed flaws and retouches, design errors and over printing mistakes. Examples were mainly from the US, Great Britain, British Colonies and Palestine.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: We had 45 members, and with Ray joining tonight, we now have 46.

Information for the May 19th Centennial Celebration of the Nation's First Regularly Scheduled Air Mail Delivery was made available to all. See story on Pg.3.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have \$4,155.98 in the bank.

OLD BUSINESS: **Rich Majerick** repeated the need to have someone fill in as President for the remaining months of his term. We are looking for a volunteer.

NEW BUSINESS: **Ed Weisberg** made a suggestion

that we eliminate one of our monthly meetings during the summer months, when attendance is lowest. It was agreed to eliminate the July meeting, and to also eliminate the July newsletter. There is less news to report in the summer. Special news worthy information, if available, would be sent out to the club's members even though there will be no meeting in July.

THE 50-50 was won by Ray McGrath (our newest member) who won \$11. The Club also made \$11.

SHOW & TELL: **Joe Gudonis** showed us a cover from 1830 which was apparently tampered with, since the stamp on it was the earliest US stamp, from 1847.

Ed Weisberg brought in 2 US FDCs and stamps of early printing presses that were used to print stamps. He also showed us a cancelled stamp sheet entitled "Comic Strip Classics - SC# 3000" & 3 First Day Covers with those stamps. And the publication from the "International Institute of Comic Art" about the stamps.

Steve Washburne showed:

1. A Portuguese typewriter postcard which allowed businesses to send a private message card at the price of a regular postal card.
2. A Czech postal card with hologram
3. A picture post card with 15 ways to order coffee in Portugal.

Respectfully submitted by *Letty Moon*



Couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember ..

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it

down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'



Up Coming Shows & Times

- May 18-19 **ROPEX**, Civic Center,
Canandaigua, New York
- June 8-10 **NAPEX**, McLean Hilton Hote,
Tyson's Corner, Virginia
- June 23-24 **SCOPEX**, American Philatelic Center,
Bellefonte, Pa.
- June 24-29 **APS Summer Seminar**, American
Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pa.
- June 30 **EPASS**, Eastern PA Stamp Show,
Jordan United Church of Christ,
1837 Church Rd., Allentown, Pa.
- August 9-12 **StampShow**, Greater Columbus
Convention Center, Columbus, Oh.

It Happened Here...

FIRST AIRPLANE MAIL CARRIER IN AMERICA LANDS AT BUSTLETON



Lieutenant Torrey Webb, Uncle Sam's first "flying postman," leaped from his plane at Bustleton at 1 o'clock this afternoon, thereby signifying the successful beginning of the new aéro mail service. Lieutenant Webb brought mail from New York.

Friends of Northeast Philadelphia History

Present the

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF THE

NATION'S 1st REGULARLY SCHEDULED

AIR MAIL DELIVERY

Saturday, May 19, 2018

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Red Lion Rd & Haldeman Ave

Near 9999 Roosevelt Blvd, **Phila 19115**

With American forces still fighting in World War I, the famous US Army Air Service Curtiss "Jenny" trainer planes were assigned to a new mission: Deliver the mail on a regular schedule between New York, Philadelphia, and Washington. Army pilots made history when the very first airmail was delivered from New York to Philadelphia and the Washington-bound airmail took off in front of throngs of officials and excited citizens who came in Model T's, farm wagons, and on horseback to Bustleton Airfield, located at today's Red Lion Rd and Haldeman Ave. Air mail instantly became an integral part of communications. Commercial aviation was born. Delivered – in BUSTLETON!



The Classic Collector

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

The 1869 30 Cent - Scott 121

This stamp was engraved by Douglas S. Ronaldson and, if you note any similarity to the ten-cent of this issue, it should come as no surprise that Ronaldson also gets the credit for that one.

The stamp is found in blue and carmine as well as blue and dark carmine. Brookman describes a pale blue and carmine; I am convinced that this is not an issued shade but rather owes its existence to the natural discoloration associated with the passage of time. The deeper shades are the more desirable and are likely to have been from among the first stamps off the presses.

Unused blocks are far rarer than the italicized Scott Catalogue value would have you believe. Used blocks which are nicely centered and unobtrusively cancelled are grossly undervalued as well.

One of my greatest philatelic mistakes was made in selling such a block for far less than I could have obtained. In my earlier professional days I had the good fortune of buying an extremely fine block of four with a perfectly placed, and very light, target cancel. I priced it at an attractive profit and sent it off to an 1869 specialist who had told me to keep my eyes open for any nice blocks that might come my way. Only later did I find out that my fortunate client would have gladly paid twice my asking price, and possibly more.

I have yet to encounter the equal to this piece. As far as I know, it still resides in his collection.

If there is to be one sermon that you will hear repeatedly in this column it will be that, at least as far as classics are concerned, one can never pay too much for superb quality.

The intended use of this stamp was on double letter rates to France. It was also used on heavy domestic mail and on high foreign rates. The earliest recorded use is May 15, 1869.

Frame Plate 21 and Vignette Plate 21 produced 244,110 of



Left, the 30¢ stamp with flags in the correct position; Right, the 30¢ with flags inverted. (In this photo, the eagle can be seen at the top center, above the shield.)

this denomination for delivery to the Stamp Agent.

Collectible varieties include the "Inverted Flags", split grill, double grill and without grill, with original gum. It has also been reported as a double paper without grill and with original gum. I have not personally examined such a piece.

Cancellations, in ascending order of scarcity, are black, blue, red, brown and green.

Cancellation varieties include the black town, "Paid", "Paid All", "Steam", steamship, Supplementary Mail Type A, Japan and China.

The Thirty Cent With Flags Inverted (Scott 121b)

This is the third and last of the inverted 1869 stamps. The flags are the "frame" item on this stamp; the vignette being printed before the frame on the 30¢ sheets.

This is the scarcest of the 1869 Inverts as it is widely assumed that only 100 were ever printed. In my opinion, less than 40 examples survive today, most of them used and flawed in one way or another.

In the Robert A. Siegel 1990 Rarities of the World Sale, an extremely fine used example, flawless in every respect, sold for \$65,000, a price in keeping with the stamp's rarity and condition.

In the 1991 Rarities sale, a similar invert, but with two tiny internal cuts, realized \$29,000.

In his best seller, *Nassau Street*, Pat Herst tells a remarkable story of the used 121b that he found, over 50 years ago, in the stockbook of an uninformed dealer.

The asking price was \$3 and what was even more remarkable than the price was the fact that the "dealer" even gave Pat a receipt for what the stamp was!

NOTE: This 121b is priced at \$125,000.

If You Want To Advertise An Item For Sale or
Donate a Philatelic Item To Our Club, Let Mr. Ed Know