



The Greater

Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club

Founded 1935

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, 2017 Newsletter - Volume 5, Issue 5

Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Our Featured Topic

for May

Portugal's 1940 Postage Centenary Issue

This eight stamp issue is the world's first to picture Rowland Hill, the father of the stamp. The presentation will discuss color and paper proofs, corner blocks and marginal markings, the accompanying souvenir sheet, as well as usage, including early, solo, multiple, and air.



by Steve Washburne

Message from the Pres.

"Out of the country. See you in a couple of months"

Richard



Minutes From April's Meeting

VP Phil Russell started the meeting at 7:35 with 10 members present.

PROGRAM: We viewed two interesting videos about security measures used on stamps since 1847, "The Elements of Postal Security, Parts 1 & 2". The videos were available through the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Some of the measures taken over the past 170 years have been changes in inks, paper, perforations, secret images, grills, overprints, holograms, watermarks and more. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that mapmakers and authors sometimes included intentional mistakes in their works to identify them as their own. Ed Weisberg also told us about some of the finer points of papermaking and producing watermarks.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Our Club received thank you notes from the APS and from the family of **Charles Fricke** for the donations the Club made in memory of both **Charles Fricke** and **Irving Weinberg**.

Mention was made to those present about the passing of our member, **John Frekot**.

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

Future 2017 meeting dates

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

**MAY 16TH, JUN. 20TH, JULY 18TH,
AUG. 15TH, SEPT 19TH, OCT. 17TH NOV 21ST
DEC 19TH - OUR 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.

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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

Reminders were made about two upcoming local shows: Delpex and Lancopex. (See Calendar.)

Since **Vince Costello** was absent, there was no Treasurer's Report.

There was no Old Business or New Business.

THE 50-50 was won by **Letty Moon** who kept her expense and donated the winnings, \$11, back to the Club treasury.

Steve Washburne tentatively volunteered to present the May program.

SHOW & TELL:

Ed Weisberg brought in a collection of envelopes that were opened and inspected by censors. These included letters from Germany, Cuba, China and India. He also brought in an example of "Tin Can Mail" from Samoa. Because ships could not dock, mail was put in water-proof cans and tossed from ships to be retrieved by Samoans in canoes.

Joe Gudonis brought in dried, flattened breadfruit leaves which were used as letters, with stamps and First Day Canceleds from 1965. They were from the Pitcairn Islands.

Phil Russell showed a letter sent from William Stead in London dated 10 April 1761 to William Vernon,

merchant in Newport, RI, requesting "remittance for the balance of my account". The letter was damaged by water and/or biological deterioration caused by insect attack and/or fungal growth. Originally the letter also contained Prices Current and Present Premiums of Insurance info. The postal rate would have been in pennyweights and pence. Only a partial rate is shown because of the damage: "Sh" followed by what looks like a "6".

Letty Moon brought in an illustrated advertising cover from 1882 with a letter inside written to her great grandfather, a nurseryman. The contents of the letter spoke of trading nursery stock with the Philadelphia office of the publishers of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* for a new set of the encyclopedia for his family.

Roger Coleman showed us a folded letter mailed from Marseilles to Malta in 1690. The paper is of high quality, still being clean and crisp after more than 300 years. He also showed us a selection of US Consular Service Fee stamps, a seldom seen category of revenue stamps (Scott RK).

Steve Washburne brought in a 2¢ postcard folded with a Sesquicentennial cancel and with 20 illustrations of Historic Philadelphia. He also showed a Betsy Ross house postcard with a 1923 Media cancel.

by *Letty Moon*

Up Coming Shows & Times

May 19-20	ROPEX , Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, Canandaigua, N.Y.	July 17-21	APS Volunteer Work Week , Bellefonte, Pa.
June 9-11	NAPEX , Hilton at Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Va.	August 3-6	APS StampShow , Richmond, Va
June 16-17	COLOPEX , Rhodes Center Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio.	August 4-5	MERPEX , Merchantville Show, Marlton
June 24	EPASS , Eastern Pennsylvania Stamp Show, Jordan United Church of Christ, Allentown, Pa.	Sept. 1-3	BALPEX , Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Md.
June 24-25	SCOPEX , American Philatelic Centre, Bellefonte, PA.	Sept. 8-10	NOJEX , Best Western Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark, N.J.
June 25-30	APS Summer Seminar , Bellefonte, Pa.	October 5-8	ASDA Fall Postage Stamp Show , Hilton Midtown, New York, N.Y.
		Oct. 27-28	UNEXPO , United Nations Exhibition, APS Headquarters, Bellefonte, Pa.



Awards & Recognition

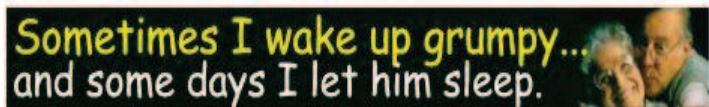
Alan Warren received a large vermeil for his "Early Mail and Stampless Letter Markings of Sweden" at the WESTPEX show in San Francisco in April. He also presented a program on Tibet at the meeting of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle.



At Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts this month, **Mark Schwartz** won a large gold and the single frame grand award for his "Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue." Mark received another large gold and the United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom award for "The New York Postmaster Provisional."

Bill Schultz won a large silver and a Postal History Society bronze for "5-Cent Domestic Rates: U.S.P.O. Acts of 1845 and 1851, Stampless Era."

More Of MR. Ed's BUMPER STICKERS



Things you should know!!! by Mr. Ed

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song Auld Lang Syne is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent. Drinking a glass of water before you eat may help digestion and curb appetite.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.



The Expert's Opinion: U. S. Scott 205C: A #205 Without Gum?

By R. H. White

Introduction -

William E. Mooz in an article published in the *Classics Chronicle* in February 1992 presented the convoluted story of the 1882 printing of the 5 Cent Garfield. Much supposition surrounds the distribution of the two lots of 5,000 each which were purportedly delivered to either the Post Office Department or to the Stamp Agents for distribution to the various Post Offices. Mooz references the records of the Stamp Division to establish the sequence of dates for those allocations.

However, there is much speculation and conjecture on a precise scenario, particularly since the record books do not differentiate between the designs of the 5 Cent stamps (Garfield or Taylor) which were available at the time. Mooz concludes the initial part of his presentation with the following observation:

"...What we do know is that the regular stamp was not available at Post Offices until April 10, 1882, and that 5,000 copies of the 'special printing' were paid for, and presumably delivered sometime in February 1882..."

The essence of all the above is ambiguity as to what distinguishes a "regular" printing from a "special" printing, particularly when, as Mooz states: "We have no specific record of when the 'regular printing' of the stamp was delivered to the Post Office Department..."

Further, there is no evidence in Post Office Department records of any published announcement of a "Special Printing" without gum.

It has long been our personal opinion that the whole business of a Special Printing of 205 would be academic if it could be shown that there is absolutely no difference between the ink or paper of the two stamps. Only the presence or absence of gum, the weakest of criteria, would remain for differentiation between the two.

On the subject of color differences, this business of a red-brown shade or other shade variation is so much nonsense. Most any yellow-brown or "reddish" shade can be faked by one or more chemical agents.

Philatelic Foundation Record Relating to 205C

The earliest certification (PFC #158) of

a "205C" is dated March 7, 1946; the last specimen authenticated as genuine was a reconsideration of a stamp taken from an earlier certified block.

Signatories to that document relied on earlier studies of the records of the American Bank Note Company, the Post Office Department, and the Stamp Agent. Apparently, little consideration was given to analytical evaluation using such technology as was available in the period between 1946 and 1952. The members of the Expert Committee of the PF who were signatories to Certificate #158 were five well-known philatelists: Theodore Steinway, John Hall, Sr., A. Lightenstein, George Ewing and F. R. Harrison.

What criteria was used to distinguish between the so-called Special Printing and the normal 5 Cent Garfield are unknown to us. Such vague and unconvincing descriptors as "proof-like impression" appear on some PF work-sheets for specimens purported to be 205C's. It is hard to envision why the first printing of 5,000 should be proof-like, or in any way different from the second group of 5,000 stamps.

Certain subjective factors such as "old-time" collectors' holdings, hearsay relating to past ownership, origin and provenance are not proof of anything. As with a number of so-called philatelic rarities, real or imaginary, facts belie fantasy, and most fairy tales remain unsubstantiated in the absence of valid documentation.

Technological Studies Show No Difference Between Certified 205C's And Normal 5 Cent Garfields Without Gum

For years, experience in viewing and a vague dependence on qualifying statements such as "...I've seen a 205C before..." were purported to be enough to justify issuance of validating certificates. Fortunately we now have the analytical equipment to determine the precise composition of inks, paper and gum, enabling us to compare specimens of the same issue for differences no matter how minute.

A specimen of the gummed printing of a 5 Cent Garfield (once the gum had been removed) was compared with a so-called Spe-



cial Printing using x-ray analysis and electron microscopy for chemical and physical composition of the paper and ink of both stamps. The results of those analyses have been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation for their records. The electron microscopy study reveals no difference whatever in the fiber structure or composition of the two stamps; there is no cotton fiber in either and the wood pulp matrix is identical. Both papers show included carbon particles.

A 300X magnification of the ink structure showed that neither pigments contained a red dye component, which would have been present if the "mythical" red-brown stamp of John Luff's tale were valid.

X-ray analyses of pigment particles of both a brown and gray-brown specimen of the normal stamps show no difference in element composition; tint varieties are attributable to the percent of zinc white added to the manganese pigment.

Conclusions -

- Scott #s 205 and 205C are essentially the same stamp based on chemical and physical characteristics, except for the absence of gum on the so-called Special Printing.

- Whether several batches of stamps were printed at different times, perhaps a month or so apart, is irrelevant since they are indistinguishable, one from the other, once the gum is absent.

- No member of the expert committee which issued the first certification of a "205C" had access to or referred to any analytical data on the PF work sheet.

- No spectrophotometric analysis or x-ray analysis was requested.

- Most recent "certificates are merely reconsiderations based on ones issued on prior consideration.

- Certificates for Scott 205C's which have been issued will not be revoked.

Note: X-ray data and electron microscopy data were developed by Dr. W. A. Cote, Prof. Emeritus, N. C. Brown Laboratory, State University of New York at Albany.

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