



P. O. BOX 3806, BRIGHTON STATION, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14610

Vol. 78 No. 1

***** EDITORIAL ***** by John Kellas

We're starting the new year with a FOUR page edition of the "H & T". After begging for the whole year for RPA membership participation in writing news articles, an article about Capt. Cook was submitted and appears in this issue. It is hoped that this represents the first of many articles contributed by RPA members. -- Be sure to take time and read the notice concerning RPA 1978 DUES. --- ROPEX is shaping up and looks to be better than ever! More ROPEX-78 news to follow. ---- Next month the RPA will feature a supprize guest speaker, someone not many people in Rochester have seen or met since he moved to the city this past fall.... More about the mystery person in the next "H & T" -----

***** JANUARY MEETINGS *****

Jan. 12th - "How to Exhibit your collection and maybe win an award!", a talk about planning and constructing a stamp exhibit. Also Dr. Joel's famous Stamp Derby 1978, the RPA answer to O.T.B., will be available to those at this meeting.

Jan. 26th - First "AUCTION" in the new year! Regular rules. Offical Lot Forms will be available at the meeting. The more lots submitted the better the auction!!

***** JANUARY STAMP ISSUES *****

U.S.: Jan. 2 - two new postage due stamps, 11¢ & 13¢ postage due, NO first day service!

Jan. 11 - 13¢ Indian Head Cent (experimental)

Jan. 20 - two 13¢ designs of Capt. James Cook, Hawaii & Alaska FDC sites

CANADA: Jan. 18 - Peregrine Falcon and CAPEX'78 issues, both 12¢

***** WHAT'S COOKING WITH THE COOK STAMPS *****by Jack Rosenstein

On January 20, the Postal Service will issue two stamps in honor of Captain James Cook's first landing in the Hawaiian Islands and his visit to Alaska in 1778. One stamp is vertical showing a portrait of Captain Cook in blue and the other stamp will be horizontal showing his ships HMS Resolution & HMS Endeavor anchored at Hawaii in green. The stamps will be printed on the three-color intaglio press.

What makes this issue unusual is that both stamps will appear on the same sheet of fifty. The stamps on one side of the sheet form a pane of 25 Cook portraits, the other half of the sheet form a pane of 25 featuring the two ships in Hawaii. This means there will be only five joined-pairs displaying both designs down the center of each sheet!

The Postal Service usually averages a printing of 150 to 160 million stamps per commemorative issue. If 160 million stamps are sold, a total of only 16 million joined-pairs will be sold. Even if collectors were to buy one tenth of the 16 million pairs, this would probably not be enough to satisfy philatelic demands. In addition, if there is a postal rate increase the demand for 13¢ stamps would drastic drop. This would tend to lower the total quantity printed.

Captain Cook is a world wide topical that is of special interest to collectors in the South Pacific area. Because of the large number of stamps the USPS prints compared to other nation's commemorative printings, individual commemoratives have no special scarcity. The figure of 16 million Cook joined-pairs I quoted is closer to the actual number printed by other countries per commemorative issue. A check of the catalog reveals some idea of the appreciation Capt. Cook stamps. Australia #177-81 catalogs at 28¢ @ stamp with each stamp having a face value of 5¢. Another Australian Cook issues with 5¢ or 6¢ face catalog average from 18¢ to 25¢. U.S. 6¢ commemoratives from 1970 mostly catalog 18¢. New Zealand #431-4 shows an average catalog value of six times the face value.

With the exception of the Bicentennial Souvenir Sheets and the State Flags, the U.S. has not printed any other stamp in such a small quantity. I feel the Cook pairs would be a good issue to stash away. The only problem would be in getting the postal clerks to sell alot of paired strips. One modest prediction that I would like to make is that two years after the Cook stamps go off sale, the pair will catalog \$2.00 !!!

***** RPA DUES *****

With Christmas and the New Year weekend over, it is time for business. DUES become payable each January for the current year. Since 1961 dues have been \$3.50 per year, which is probably the lowest in the country for a club our size. The RPA plans on continuing dues at \$3.50, although they do not cover current expenses for 1978. The R.P.A. is a non-profit organization and the club has been meeting excess of expenses above dues by drawing from the savings account built up by previous ROPEX shows' profits. Therefore, it is important DUES be PAID PROMPTLY and that you support ROPEX-78 to the best of your ability. Kindly send dues to Treasurer William D. Erwin, P.O.Box 3806, Brighton Station, Rochester, N.Y. 14610. (CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION) You may use the handy form below if you mail in your 1978 dues. *****

Send to: William D. Erwin
P.O. Box 3806
Brighton Station
Rochester, NY 14610

RPA No. _____

Dear Sir,

Here my \$3.50 for 1978 dues payable to the
Rochester Philatelic Association.

Sincerely,

***** "CAPEX '78 TRIP ??" *****

CAPEX '78, the Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition, will be held June 9-18 in Toronto, Ont., Canada. CAPEX will be located in the Automotive Bldg. at the Toronto fairgrounds. There will be 32 foreign postal stations and 105 commercial dealers bourse. An exhibit featuring 3500 frames from all over the world will compete for awards.

The RPA will sponsor a package bus trip to Toronto, two nights at the Royal York Hotel, set for June 9-11. Round trip bus transportation, two night at the hotel- double occupancy, tips, tax, all for the low cost of \$66.00. Better yet, a deposit and installment plan can be worked out in order to confirm your reservation. The bus and hotel capacity is limited. So come to our next meeting to learn further details about the trip and SIGN UP!!

***** "ROPEX '78" *****

The ROPEX '78 prospectus is out!! Bill Erwin reports that demand for bourse tables is high and that many late comings may have to be turned away. Some awards are already on hand and more will soon be announced. The Judges have been selected and certified by the A.P.S. as required. Boost ROPEX '78 and get your exhibit ready for April, three months away!!!