

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc
HINGES & TONGS

MEETINGS ARE HELD 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS SEPT.-JUNE AT ST. PAULS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRADING & TALKING 7PM FORMAL PROGRAM 8PM

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

editor
 Joseph K. Doles

1993

Questionnaire Results

Thanks to everyone who mailed in the recent banquet questionnaire. Here are the results.

Ballots received:

27

Consider joint RPA/Kodak banquet?

Yes = 18 No = 5 No response = 4

Price:

\$8-\$10 = 2, \$10-\$12 = 8, \$12-\$14 = 14, NR=3

Day of banquet:

Mon-Thur = 8, Fri-Sat = 11, NR = 8

Type :

Sit down = 10, Buffet = 12, NR = 5

Action will be taken based on these results.

Unfortunately, there was not enough interest to issue a member roster outlining collecting specialties.

Tom Fortunato

**ATTENTION
 RPA BOARD MEMBERS**

An RPA Board Meeting is being called for 7:30 pm on the night of our December 9th meeting. Come early that evening to discuss a few matters as necessary.

Thank You

On behalf of the Steeb Family, I would like to thank everyone for the courtesies extended in the death of my father last August.

R. Steeb

*Happy
 Holidays*

December 9th will be the only meeting this month. A Christmas party will be the evenings program. Bring a wrapped gift (not more than \$5 value) and receive one in exchange.

Bring a one page exhibit for the monthly competition. "Christmas" is this month's topic.

**ONE PAGE EXHIBIT COMPETITION
 POINT STANDINGS**

Tim King	13 pts	Any member attending an RPA meeting is welcome to participate in the monthly contest. Points are awarded for 1st through 4th place (for 5,4,3 or 2 points), while everyone else receives 1 point. The member with the most points after the May contest will receive a free banquet ticket
Ada Prill	7 "	
Joe Doles	6 "	
Tom Fortunato	6 "	
Ann Triggie	4 "	
Florene Wright	4 "	
Norm Wright	4 "	
Bernice Watson	4 "	
Ray Stone	3 "	
Bert Kiener	1.5 "	
Stan & Dot Scheer	1.5 "	
Audry Pankratz	1 "	
Ellie Phelps	1 "	
Chuck Schultz	1 "	
Erma Whitbeck	1 "	

1993 -1994 RPA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....NORMAN E. WRIGHT, SR.
 VICE PRESIDENTTHOMAS FORTUNATO
 TREASURER.....ELEANOR A. PHELPS
 RECORDING SEC.....MICHAEL H. FADER
 CORRESPONDING SEC.....JOSEPH K. DOLES
 BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 PAUL GERWITZ RICHARD A. KASE DUSTY MILLER
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT BERNICE R. WATSON

Membership Chairperson Florence H. Wright

INCOME

Ropex Dealer Table Fees	11,025.00
Ropex Exhibit Frame Rental [6]	1,393.17
Ropex Cachet Covers & Show Card	1,211.72
Ropex other sources	575.53
Membership Dues	975.00
Interest: Ropex Checking	51.15 [1]
RPA General Operation	92.64
Certificate of Deposit	
Donations	143.79
Auctions	320.12
Exhibition Frame Maintenance Fund [3]	85.00
Cachet Cover Projects	73.70
Penny Stamps (kilo ware)	4,308.90
Copies for others on club copier	8.15
	+ 34.00
	<u>20,154.08</u>
	[6] Total \$

DISBURSEMENTS

Ropex show expenses [6] 14,280.76

Exhibition frame fund expenses	
Postage to service FDC's	2,002.06
FDC's production costs	461.80
Service fees to USPS	86.90
Frame storage (9 months)	450.00
Frame insurance 6 months	238.00
Frame repairs and shipping boxes and return trucking	780.44
miscellaneous	+ 365.33
	<u>\$4384.53</u>
Total	4,384.34
Copier service contract and parts	598.13
Office supplies	124.81
Copies and other postage	\$921.15 [8]
Hinges and Tongs (postage)	1,032.10
Awards and prizes	237.05
Rent - meeting room [4]	75.13
Rent - safe deposit box	560.00
Rent - post office box	42.46
Insurance [5]	35.00
Sunshine fund and memorials	375.00
Library books	102.34
Programs for meetings	147.00
Refreshments \$185.35 [7]	88.14
Membership fees to other organizations	347.24
Telephone calls	80.00
Representatives fees to federation meetings	41.55
APS circuits - postage & insurance	27.90
Bank service charges and supplies	59.73
Junior programs (1990 -1992 years)	42.80
Miscellaneous	443.20
	+ 40.35
	<u>23,165.22</u> [6]

Total disbursements

Financial Status 6-30-93	
\$13,343.79	total 6-30-92
+ 920.48	transfers
<u>14,264.27</u>	total 12-23-92
+20,154.08	total income 1992-1993
<u>34,418.35</u>	total
- 23,165.22	total expenses 1992-1993
<u>\$ 11,253.13</u>	total

Financial Status 6-30-93	
\$ 0.00	Cash on hand
751.81	Ropex 93 profit
500.00	Ropex checkbook balance [2]
4,370.29	RPA checkbook balance
+ 5,607.03	CD value plus interest 6-30-93
<u>11,253.13</u>	total

[1] Certificate of deposit and checking account interest reflect the lower rates in the market place.

[2] All moneys left in the Ropex checking account, with the exception of \$500, to eliminate bank charges.

[3] Moneys in the fund are separate from the annual Ropex fund. Moneys in the fund are used for cachet cover projects, and any expenses associated with the exhibit frames. Cachet sales are the primary source for moneys in this fund.

[4] Meeting room at the church was \$35.00 a night for 16 nights.

[5] This covers only the RPA liability and compensation insurance. Frame insurance is a separate policy under the frame fund.

[6] Does not include funds held in custodial accounts to pay for individual banquet meals and return postage for exhibitors.

[7] Additional expenses 1991-1992 years for ground coffee, and refreshment supplies.

[8] Some expenses for additional Ropex-92 & Ropex-93 post card mailings, 1993-1994 financial year for Hinges and Tongs postage and membership dues notices, Ropex-94 design-a-stamp contest mailings to schools. Some postage will be used for Hinges and Tongs in the 1993-1994 financial year.

Postal Service to Combat Meter Fraud

Know you nudibranchs

NEW YORK, NY Instead of paying for postage, Marcello Boccia would photocopy a postage meter stamp, alter the date, stick it on an envelope, and put it in the mailbox. Today, paying a 29 cent stamp doesn't look that expensive to Boccia, who faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines after pleading guilty to defrauding the Postal Service.

It is this type of postage meter fraud that is growing and costing the Postal Service millions in revenue, said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon.

"The Postal Inspection Service is stepping up enforcement and offering rewards up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who defrauds the Postal Service," Runyon said, in announcing an initiative to counter the problem.

According to Runyon, the Inspection Service is in the early stages of investigating postage meter fraud, but studies already indicate that the Postal Service could be losing millions of dollars annually through fraudulent meter schemes.

"With this in mind, I have ordered our Inspection Service to aggressively go after the crooks. I want to put the thieves on notice that we will increase our enforcement efforts and go after those who set out to defraud the nation's mail and cheat the millions of honest postal customers who must pick up the tab," said Runyon.

Runyon was joined at the press conference by executives from Pitney Bowes, Ascom Hasler, Friden Neopost, and Postalia. These four meter manufacturers lease 1.4 million meter machines, which accounted for \$18 billion in postage revenue during fiscal year 1992. "The postage meter industry is also working with us to achieve a long-term solution. Among other things, the industry and postal management will strengthen administrative procedures designed to eliminate meter fraud," said Runyon.

As for Boccia's scheme, Postal authorities were alerted when 400 pieces of suspect mail turned up bearing the return address of his home. A "silent partner" in Sommerville, New Jersey video store, Boccia obtained copies of real postage meter stamps from the video store and made color photocopies.

"I don't want the Postal Service to have to pass on the costs of the unscrupulous to America's rate payers," said Runyon. "I encourage anyone with information on meter fraud to call our toll-free number --1-800-654-8896."

They are colorful carnivorous creatures found in the ocean and its estuaries, commonly called sea slugs. Both Fiji and Norfolk Island have issued stamps in 1993 depicting these fascinating creatures without shells.

Their size can range from 5 to 250mm, depending on the species. While they must mate, all nudibranchs are hermaphroditic - both male and female. Diets include sponges, corals, and other nudibranchs!

Fiji's stamps were issued on July 27 with six stamps designed by Gordon Drummond and printed by Leigh-Mardon Printing Ltd. Norfolk Island set of six debuted on July 7 were designed by Philatelic Studios, Melbourne, and printed also by Leigh-Mardon.

Tom Fortunato



JANUARY MEETING

Jan. 13 Dr. Louis Call will be our guest speaker and will identify your unknowns and postal history items. His talk "He Who Knows All Tells All" will be enjoyed by all. Mark your calendars now and save the date. Be ready with some question.

Kodak Christmas meeting

The Kodak Stamp Club will meet December 21 at 7:00 pm in the employees recreation building on Ridge Road West at the corner of Palm Street. The night's program will be kilo ware and gift exchange. All RPA members are invited to attend. Please bring a wrapped philatelic item of no greater value than \$5.00 to exchange. Those that bring shall receive...Hope to see you there!

from: MAIL: The Journal of Communication Distribution
October / November 1993