

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

MAY - JUNE

editor
Joseph K. Doles

1995



**FUN
STAMP
EXCHANGE**

MEETING AT SIDE ROUND TABLES
7-8 PM EACH MEETING

CALL: DON OSBORNE
381-3458

Trade stamps with fellow members. Just for fun. No money to be exchanged - just stamps

Give Don a call and tell him what your looking for and what you have to trade. He might just be able to coordinate a swap. Future needs will be printed in H&T. Let Don help you locate those hard to find items.



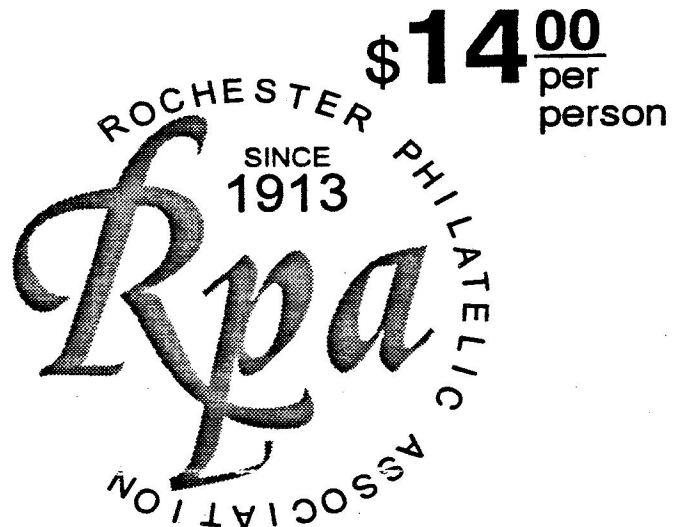
**New Cancellation Device
by Tom Fortunato**

A surprise awaited me on an April Fool's day visit to the Dewey Ave.-Britton Road post office (Greece Branch- zip 14616). One of the clerks was testing out a new canceling device at her counter.

Unlike the standard wooden handled double ring plug, this was a metal self-inking one, similar to those used for years by Canada Post. It stands about 6 inches tall on a square based frame. Pressing the handle releases the postmark from the top near the red ink pad, which travels downwards to strike the mail piece. It leaves a clear, sharp impression, a facsimile appears here. There is no zip code, although "Greece Branch" is clearly stated.

A sticker on the device detailed the manufacturer's name, address and phone number. It was made by the Sun State Marking Corporation of Largo, Florida. The company's president, Peter Jemmott, Sr., provided the following details. The firm was founded in 1986 and makes a variety of items, including pre-ink handstamps, labeling machines, positive reinforcement handstamps for schools, as well as post office devices. They regularly solicit business from individual post offices around the country through mass mailings several times a year, dealing directly with post offices for counter and special commemorative cancel needs.

Since my first visit to that post office, all three windows clerks are now using similar cancels. At my request, the Rochester GMF is checking to see if additional area post offices have applied for other non-standard canceling devices through Sun State or other officially approved nationwide suppliers.



Annual Banquet & Auction

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

The New Dutch Mill

Dewey Ave at Stone Rd

Cocktails 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Buffet Dinner at 7:00 pm

Auction to follow

Reservations:

Bob or Elli 621-5434

RPA MEMBERS EXHIBIT AT ROPEX

by Ada M. Prill

The ROPEX Awards Banquet was solid gold for the Meegan family. RPA member Bob Meegan was awarded two gold medals for his exhibits on "U.S. Domestic letter Rates, 1825 to 1890" and U.S. Ungrilled Bank Note Issues, 1870 to 1888" (which also won the George LeFebre Award). Bob's ten-year-old daughter Theresa, in her first exhibit at a national show, walked away with a gold medal for "Foxes." Theresa was also awarded the ATA Junior Gold Medal and is ROPEX's representative at the North American Youth Stamp Exhibiting Championship, which is the youth counterpart of the Champion of Champions. Good luck at NAYSEC, Theresa! Theresa is a chip off the old block: Dad is a former ROPEX Grand Award winner.

Florence Wright's exhibit "Stamping Out Tuberculosis" won a vermeil, the American Topical Association Second Place Award, and the Virginia Gubler Award. Florence has only been exhibiting a few years and is doing spectacularly well. Keep up the good (and hard) work, Florence!

Also winning a vermeil medal was an exhibit entitled "Estonia - A Glimpse From Tartu," which is the work of an RPA Life Member who chose to exhibit under the name "Margipoiss" ("Stamp Boy" in Estonian). You know who you are - good job!

Duncan Barber, from RPA's Northern Division, got a silver-bronze medal, the AAPE Creativity Award, and the LRM Award for the most popular exhibit for "Timbromanie," one of the rare "fun" exhibits which is also serious philately. Keep on stampin', Duncan.

Ray Stone's fascinating exhibit of stamps produced by prisoners in the World War II Woldenburg POW Camp won a silver-bronze and will be back next year year, Ray promises, as a silver or vermeil! You're really moving on this Ray; I'm eager to see what this looks like after its facelift!

Sarah Gerwitz also earned a silver-bronze medal for "Gymnastics." This was Sarah's first exhibit, and she earned the RPA Youth Award and the Maurice Apfelbaum Award for the best exhibit by a first-time exhibitor. Congratulations, Sarah--and thanks for all the hard work you put in making the show a success!

What are Bob and Paul doing right that the rest of us need to be doing? Most of our children have no interest in the hobby - Theresa and Sarah are splendid additions to the ranks of the next generation of philatelists!

Norman E. Wright, Sr., won the RPA one-frame contest with his "Selected Rochester (N.Y.) Rail Mail," which was awarded a bronze medal, the American Topical Association One-Frame Merit Award, and the Empire State Postal History Third Award. Very good for only 16 pages, Norm! Give it lots of water, sunlight, and MiracleGrow, and we'll look for at least 3 frames next time!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

It's spring again, so we were able to entice some out-of-towners to Rochester to speak at our May meetings.

MAY 11 -- Guest speaker will be Peter Jehrio, former APS Director of Education and one of the Big Men in philately. Guaranteed not to be boring! The first annual RPA group photograph will be taken. Posterity, here we come!

May 25 -- Another fine guest speaker, Dr. Louis Call, president of the Empire State Postal History Society. Lou hasn't told us yet what his topic will be, but he knows a lot about a lot, and he knows how to present it in an interesting way.

JUNE 8 -- RPA's annual business meeting and election of officers. Come and tell us what we're doing right and what needs improvement. (And how YOU would like to help make it happen!)

JUNE 13 -- Annual banquet and member auction. See details elsewhere in Hinges and Tongs. Congratulations to Bernice Watson, who gets a free ticket for her ingenious one-page exhibits. Also June 13: Dusty leaves for 10 weeks in England. Bon Voyage, Luv, and Happy Stamping on your home stamping grounds!

JUNE 22 -- Our last meeting until September. This will be our annual strawberries-and-kiloware night. Don't get addicted to Thursday-night TV over the summer, as our meetings resume the second Thursday of September. ROPEX committee members will have a few meetings to go to this summer; see Ada if you're interested in joining the show committee.

ONE-PAGE CONTEST FINAL RESULTS:

The 1994-95-one-page competition ended in April, with Bernice Watson garnering the most votes for the evening and for the year. Out of the six times Bernice participated in this contest, she won first place five times! (If she hadn't gone to Arizona for part of the winter, no one else would have been even close.) Final point totals:

Bernice Watson	26
Ada Prill	24
Florence Wright	13
Norman Wright	13
Ray Stone	12
Chuck Schultz	8

Five other members participated only once and earned 1-5 points.

LaVERN JOHNSON

Death has claimed another prominent Western New York stamp collector. LaVern Johnson of Brockport was not an RPA member, but he was well-known and respected in the local philatelic community. His death in March saddened his many friends in the hobby. Our sympathies to Vern's wife Peggy and the rest of his family.

History of
The Rochester Philatelic Association
1913-1971
by Thomas M. Fortunato
part III

The 1960's can clearly be called the golden era of the RPA. The membership had outgrown the Hobby Room, so subsequent meetings were held in the museum's basement, which could accommodate over 100 people. Two members who joined in 1913 were still involved in the club in 1969. No doubt that the activities planned around the RPA's 50th anniversary brought more recognition to the group from the community, bringing in further members.

George Lefebre operated the club's catalog value based stamp exchange program started in the spring of 1962. By the following year, over 50,000 stamps were in circulation and more than \$8,000 catalog value in stamps had already changed hands. A formal RPA membership photo was taken in November, 1962.

Thirty three members and friends traveled to New York City on Friday, November 16 to visit the ASDA Stamp Show. They arrived at 12:30 AM at the Commodore Hotel near Grand Central Station, took a quick nap and spent Saturday at the show, arriving back home on Sunday.

A contest was held to replace the newsletter's title, "The RPA Bulletin". The winning entry was "Hinges & Tongs", submitted by Mary Morison, who also wrote the weekly stamp column, "Today in Stamps" seen in Saturday editions of the Times-Union. Her prize was a complete mint plate block collection of the National Parks stamp series. Her title was used for the first in January, 1963 and continues today.

The big event of 1963 was the RPA's 50th Anniversary Exhibition, held for 50 straight hours from 3 PM, April 26 through 5 PM, April 28 at the city's new hot spot, Midtown Plaza. Chaired by Gordon Morison, its scope was ambitious enough to be compared to international level shows.

- A truly international theme pervaded the event, based on the animated Clock of Nations, centerpiece of Midtown Plaza. National non-competitive stamp displays were prepared by the governments of Austria, Belgium, Dahomey, Ghana, Israel, Nigeria, Surinam, Switzerland, Togo, the USA and Venezuela, which were also represented on the clock. Some governments sent their ambassadors and foreign service personnel to the festivities. Crowds were estimated at over 15,000 during the entire show.

Competitive exhibits filled 743 six page frames entered by philatelists from the US, Canada, England, Guatamala, India and New Zealand. The more than 5,000 album pages shown had a value in excess of \$100,000 at the time. On special display was a copy of the inverted Jenny, Scott's C3a worth \$7,000 and shown courtesy of an anonymous Nebraska collector. Twelve of each gold, silver and bronze medals were presented. The grand award winner was Henry Blum of Leonia, NJ for his presentation of Swiss stamps and material from 1799-1862. He appropriately received a silver clock. Rochester was well represented by 33 local exhibitors.

The U.S. Post Office Department and the United Nations both sold current stamps and other items. Six new UN postal stationary items were given first day cancels on Friday, April 26 jointly in Rochester and New York City. The sale of UN material was so brisk that the initial shipment valued at \$5,000 face value which was supposed to last the entire show was sold out within hours after the show's opening. An additional parcel from UN headquarters was sent by train to replenish the supply, as the cost to send the trunk of stamps by airmail (\$30) was too expensive for the UN to absorb. A postmark permit commemorative cancel and a meter honoring the 10th anniversary of the American Metered Postage Society (which met during the show) were also available.

The awards dinner was also memorable, being held on Saturday, April 27 at 6:30 PM at the Manger Hotel. Two hundred guests heard the featured speaker, APS national secretary Admiral Jesse Johnson. Other dignitaries included Mayor Henry Gillette and Rochester Postmaster John Bittner. The entire weekend was lauded by onlookers and participants as an overwhelming success. Other activities and changes capped off 1963. The RPA incorporated before the show in March. In June, it

was decided to change the terms of office for RPA officers from a calendar year to a school year system, from July through June. The 1,000th RPA meeting was celebrated on October 12, 1963. Exactly how this date was calculated remains a mystery.

Hoping to capitalize on the '63 show's success, 45 RPA members took a three day bus trip to the NAPEX show in Washington, DC. While there, they lobbied successfully to name Rochester the host of the 1968 82nd APS convention.

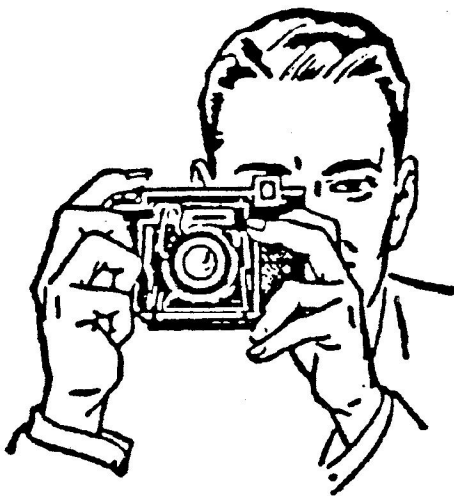
A major RPA mail auction took place on May 20, 1964. Months before, a two page ad was taken out in Linn's Stamp News listing the available lots. It is assumed that this may have been the disposition of the club collection. There were 1,129 lots with a catalog value of \$32,000. Among the items sold was a mint White Plains sheet for \$63 and a mint set of Zeppelins for \$225. The sale brought in \$7,200, averaging 26% of 1964 catalog value. As reported in a March 31 newspaper article, the auction was staged to launch a building fund for a permanent home for the club. No further references were found to substantiate this.

There can be no doubt that many RPA members were active topical exhibitors. Among them were Mrs. James Fordham with two on "Biblical Botany" and "Religion on Stamps", and Ruth Gordon with her "Towards a United Europe". This may have influenced the American Topical Association to hold their 16th annual convention in Rochester in 1967. The RPA was ready, for in fact the club had purchased frames from the 1966 SIPEX show held in Washington, DC the year earlier. Three members made the trip up and back by truck to get them and had some tall tales on their return.

Another stamp show took center stage in 1968, as the RPA played host to the APS convention as earlier mentioned. Once again, Gordon Morison was the chairman and innovation was the hallmark. Besides sponsoring the usual exhibits, it was decided to invite the grand award winners from previous major shows to compete for the title, "Champion of Champions". This award continues to this day at every annual APS STAmPsHow. Another first for the show held September 19-22 was a national literature competition.

The only glitch occurred well before the show's start when the original site, the Hotel Manger, closed and the Sheraton was chosen in its place. The UN once again held a first day ceremony, this time honoring the World Weather Watch stamps. Of special note was a special night out featuring a buffet dinner arranged at Batavia Downs Raceway followed by an evening of horse racing. The Champion of Champion winner received a Steuben crystal bowl valued at \$100. He was Robert H. Cunliffe for his exhibit of 18th-19th century U.S. revenues.

The term "ROPEX"- ROchester Philatelic EXhibition- was first used for the 1971 stamp show, held September 24-6. Three weeks later another attempt was made to gather young collectors. They met on October 14 at the Rochester Museum, still the home of the RPA. Five youngsters attended.



YOU CAN BECOME PART OF CLUB HISTORY!

PHOTO NIGHT

MAY 11, 7:30PM SHARP

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Ave at Vick Park B

If you only attend one RPA meeting in 1995, make it this one. You, too, are a part of history! If you need a ride to any RPA meeting, just call 621-1670 or 621-3012 and arrangements can be made.

Extra prints will be made available, details later.

Postal FACTS

As of January 1995

The following are some interesting facts released by the USPS.

■ Mail volume - Fiscal Year 1994 9/30/93 - 9/30/94

<u>Mail Class</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
First-Class	94.3 billion	53.3%
Second-Class	10.2 billion	5.7%
Third-Class	69.4 billion	39.2%
Fourth-Class	870 million	0.5%
International	860 million	0.5%
All other	1.3 billion	0.7%
Total	<u>177.07 billion</u>	

■ Post Offices, Stations, and Branches

Post Offices	28,657
Classified Stations and Branches	5,682
Contract Stations and branches	3,424
Community Post Offices	1,609
Total	<u>39,372</u>

- USPS handles 40 percent of the world's mail volume. Japan, the second largest carrier of cards and letters, handles 8 percent.
- USPS delivers more mail in one day than FedEx does in a year and more mail in three days than UPS does in a year.
- In 1994, USPS processed 177 billion pieces of mail, about 580 million pieces a day. The national delivery network now reaches 125 million addresses.
- The USPS owns 6,865 buildings with 168 million square feet and leases 27,437 buildings with 89 million square feet. If relocated all into one place, it would fill all of Chicago's office and industrial space.
- Since 1982, USPS has depended exclusively on postage and fees rather than taxpayer revenue for their operations.
- About one out of every 170 working Americans is employed by the United States Postal Service.
- USPS employs more workers on American soil than General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler - combined.
- With an annual budget of \$49 billion, roughly one percent of the U.S. economy, the USPS is bigger than Coca-Cola, Xerox, and Eastman Kodak - combined.

Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse Stamp Celebration

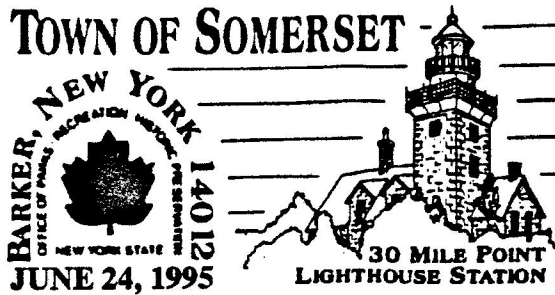
Sat. June 24th
10am - 4pm

Golden Hill State Park
Lower Lake Road
Town of Somerset
Barker, NY 14012

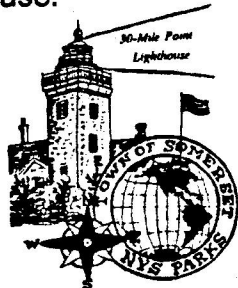
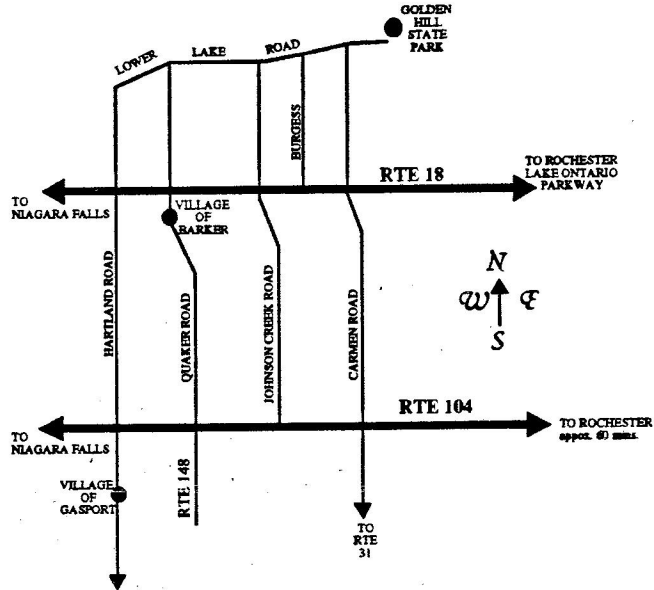
Serviced covers will be available at the stamp celebration for \$1.00 each.

The Town of Somerset sponsored a contest to design a pictorial cancel. Also later a contest for cachets. The winning designs are illustrated here with the artists names. The judges also liked an additional design which will be used to make a post card which will be available at the event.

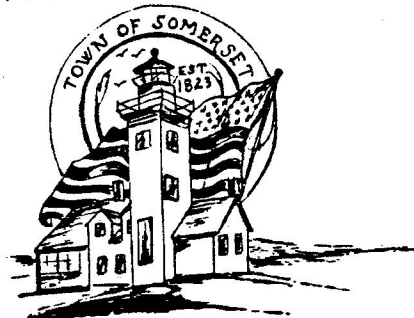
Proceeds will go to the National Heritage Trust and will be earmarked for the restoration of the Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse.



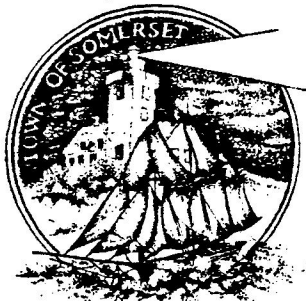
PICTORIAL CANCEL DESIGNER:
Andrew Wolf of Barker, NY



CACHET ARTIST:
Penny Liddell, Appleton, NY



CACHET ARTIST:
Sheila Flint, Barker, NY



CACHET ARTIST:
Sherri Michalski, Barker, NY
used on #10 envelope



POST CARD ARTIST:
C. Gordon Porter, Barker, NY

1995 Ballot of Officers

FOR PRESIDENT:
Raymond M. Stone

FOR VICE PRESIDENT:
Paul R. Gerwitz

FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Joseph K. Doles

FOR RECORDING SECRETARY:
Florence H. Wright

FOR TREASURER:
Eleanor A. Phelps

FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR
(1 director for three year term):

Betty "Dusty" Miller

John P. Kellas III



Your 1995 ballot has been enclosed with this issue of H&T. Please do not send it in until after the May 11 meeting. You can mail it in or bring it to the June 8 RPA annual business meeting.

RPA NOMINATIONS

HINGES & TONGS

A PUBLICATION OF

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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