

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

Sept. - Oct. - Nov.

editor
Joseph K. Doles

1995

BOARD MEETING

notes from Elli Phelps, club treasurer

At the Sept. 21 Board of Governors meeting, the main discussion centered on the fact that the RPA operates at a financial loss. Several ideas were offered and discussed. The Board passed one resolution to increase dues by \$5.00 per year. The membership will also be polled on the possibility of rotating the purchase of Scott catalogs for the library.

As with expenses in our personal lives, the clubs expenses continue to creep up bit by bit. We have continually trimmed expenses where possible, but some areas are not trim able. Ropex and the Frame Fund are the club's fund-raisers, which do offset the club's losses. However, these functions expenses also continue to rise, so we go around some more.

The fact that the club has reserve funds was brought up. These funds are to insure the continuation of the club and to protect our responsibilities. Each year, our Ropex function contracts for expensive services - hotel rental, advertising, printing, etc. If a Ropex bombed out or had to be canceled for some reason, the club would be liable for the contracts. The reserve funds would cover this liability.

RPA dues have not increased for many years. This increase will not eliminate the operating loss, but it will help, we hope the members will understand. Your RPA membership offers many benefits, twice monthly meetings, library use, programs, circuits, the Insider magazine, Hinges & Tongs, and lots of fellowship. At \$1.25 per month, the RPA is a real bargain.

The Prez Speaks

"I felt bad"

Being the one that brought up the subject of finances I felt bad, because I instituted the last dues increase many years ago because the financial picture was bleak at that time. Now the feeling is worse, since I am now a life member paying no dues. About 30 members out of 160 are now dues exempt. Joe Doles came up with a great suggestion that I will begin and hope that other life members will consider. I'm giving a \$10.00 donation in lieu of dues this year and will continue at \$15.00 next year. (editor's note: We already have a few life members making annual donations to the general fund)

Another fund-raiser, that will help keep dues from going even higher, will be a live auction from donated lots. This will be the last meeting of the season along with our annual strawberry fest. We are asking all members to donate a few lots of philatelic materials to be auctioned off. The sooner the lots reach our hands the better the write-up will be before the event. Hopefully all the lots will be published in the H&T before the auction. Late donations will also be gratefully excepted up to and including the day of the auction.

THANK YOU

Let me take this opportunity to thank all RPA members for their support of our first "Kickoff to Stamp Collecting Month" promotion held Sept. 30. It was great to see so many members helping out, especially those who rarely can attend a regular RPA meeting. At least a dozen prospects expressed an interest in becoming RPA members, and this one event certainly raised our profile in the community as a whole. Tom Fortunato

Catering to Collectors

by Tom Fortunato

With all of the complaints heard around the world about various postal administrations, it's good to read about two new developments from South Africa and Australia.

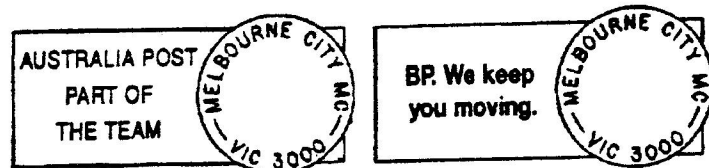
Nine South African stamp dealers serving major metropolitan areas have now become official "agents" for their country's philatelic service. They agreed to sell the full line of stamp products at face value for at least a year from their date of issue.

Quoting from the September postal bulletin making the announcement, "The convenience of visiting a friendly stamp shop instead of having to argue the odds with an unsympathetic meter maid outside one of our main post offices is, to my mind, incalculable and collectors are urged to support our agents to the fullest."

Here's some great news from the Australian Stamp Bulletin - Oct/Dec issue. Collectors have been complaining that cancel designs leave too much ink on a stamp, and Australia Post has agreed to do something about it. They're redesigning postmarks for their Culler Facer Cancellations machines, which cancel mail dropped in post boxes around the country.

A sample of the new postmark is shown below. The minimal wording and open circle will deface the stamp in a more pleasing manner, according to postal officials. The city or town's name and mailing date will be placed to the left of the slogan, away from the stamp.

To help pay for the changeover, Australia Post is now giving major companies the opportunity to advertise their goods and services on postmark slogans. British Petroleum is the first firm to take them up on their offer.



PHILATELY and PHILANTHROPY

By FLORENCE WRIGHT

There can be little doubt that the mail plays an important part in health concerns, and in the contributions often asked to support various health and disease agencies.

The mail has carried innumerable medical and scientific papers informing doctors and others about the latest in health discoveries and new practices. The mail brings us requests for donations to help cancer, kidney, diabetes foundations (to name a few), then the mail carries back the checks from people who respond.

Letters and postcards from the late 1800s to the present often displayed little seals bought to support anti-tuberculosis societies, crippled children's needs, orphanages, and others.

Besides all this, how would we get all those get-well cards and letters delivered without the mail?

Having this feature in mind, the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, New York, has included a few philatelic items (from the collection of Florence Wright) in its current exhibit "The Wilderness Cure" which features tuberculosis and its connection to the Adirondack region. Christmas seals, issued and bought to support anti-tuberculosis causes fill a small shadow box in this exhibit. In addition, a number of post cards written by patients in the Trudeau, Raybrook, and San Gabriels' Sanatoriums are also displayed.

Some of these cards were postmarked "Trudeau, New York" - a post office no longer in existence. It was on the site of the Trudeau San, located near Saranac Lake, New York, and served the postal needs of the many patients and staff there from the 1920s into the 1940s.

As we know now, the wilderness "cure" was not really a cure at all. Tuberculosis, once repressed, has re-grouped and has returned with a vengeance. The American Lung Association still sells Christmas seals each year, and while the funds are spread to a number of respiratory problems, tuberculosis is still one of them.

Just a suggestion from someone who has been there: when your seals come this fall, use the MAIL to send in your contribution, and stick the seals on your outgoing MAIL.

USPS ANNOUNCES "CREDIT CARDS ARE COMING!"

This winter you will be able to pay for most post office services and products with a credit or debit card. Equipment to process credit card transactions is on order for all post offices with 146 as the first 3 digits of the zipcode. Larger area offices such as Webster, Pittsford, Fairport, East Rochester, Brockport, Albion, Penn Yann, Penfield, Canandaigua and Geneva will also participate in the credit or debit cards by next winter.

NOVEMBER 9th PROGRAM

Slide show and group sharing. Philatelic Highways and Byways from the APS will be viewed and then we'll have an open discussion on what you collect. So bring an item or two of your collecting interest to share with the group.

DECEMBER 14th PROGRAM

Christmas Seals in Philately with Florence Wright. Come and hear and see all about those stamp like little pieces of paper that have been seen every Christmas since 1907.

MEMBERS - WHERE ARE YOU?

The following people have not been heard from when it comes to paying their 1995 - 1996 RPA dues. Maybe it's just an oversight on their part. I sure hope that's the case! If you see any of the folks listed below, please remind them that we are looking forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

Gene T. Amburgey
Bill Boggs
Paul J Brach
H. Robert Bundy
John A. Cali
Thomas S. Clark
Charles J. Costich
Tim Dalton
Paul G Denninger
Gretchen Dinin
John B. Flannery
R. S. Frank
Bernard L. Friedman
Robert P. Hackeman
George M Hill III
Stephen Hine

Joshua Hollander
John Hynd
Peter M Jehrio
Richard G. Kase
William A. Kelsey
John T. Knight
Margaret Lewis
John P. Lobene
Marta J. Maletzke
Stephanie Masline
Robert P. Meegan
Carl R Miller Jr
John B. Newberry
David G. Nussmann
Douglas M. Penwell
John Picarella

William L. Reep
Walter Roberts
Scott Robinson
Jack E. Rosenstein
Robert Rugg
Harry C. Savage
James F. Scholl
Robert L. Searjeant
Azadeh Shahryarnejad
Paul R. Spiers
Dr. Richard E. Tobin
Leo F. Tydings
Fred Vanderlinde
Amy Vaughn
Terisa B. Walker

Please remit your \$10 dues today. You are all valuable members. We do not want to lose any of you. If you do not remit now, this will be your last issue of Hinges & Tongs you'll receive. You can send your check to: RPA Membership Chairperson, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, New York 14610.

"A CAPITAL IDEA!"

USPS Optical Character Readers can more easily interpret delivery addresses printed with a all upper case characters .

Upper case characters have more distinctive features than lower case characters. In lower case the "e" and "o" are both circles with minor variations, and the "i" and "l" are very similar. The upper case "E" and "O" and "I" and "L" are much more easily differentiated by Optical Scanning equipment.

So a suggestion from the USPS is to address all your mail using all upper case letters.

LIBRARY NOTES

The RPA has a very good lending library for the use of all RPA members in good standing. A current listing of the library contents is kept with the library materials in the storage closet at the club meeting place. If you have a specific need and your not sure we may have anything for you just ask Joe Doles or Tom Fortunato for help. Items loaned from the library must be signed for and can be kept for two week periods. Longer times can be arranged for special situations. The most recent edition of the Scott's Catalogs do not circulate.

RPA MEMBERS EXHIBIT

Several RPA members have done well exhibiting this fall. In September Alice Johnson got a vermeil at HOUPEX in Houston, Texas. She was also awarded the AAPE silver medal for presentation. In October she received a silver medal at VAPEX in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Earlier this year Alice got a national-level vermeil at the show in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

October was a big month for local shows in upstate New York. SYRAPEX was held in Syracuse October 7-8, and Bernice Watson's exhibit of the U.S. Two-Cent Red got first Place (=Gold). It also received a First Place at CINCOPEX in Sherrill, NY two weeks later, as did Tom Fortunato's "Diversity of Ceramics." Tom also received the American Topical Association medal for best topical exhibit at CINCOPEX.

ONE-PAGE COMPETITION

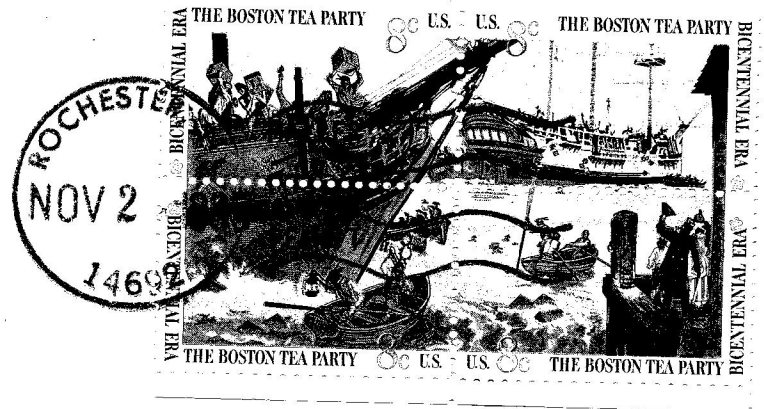
Tom Fortunato took first place in the balloting for both September and October in the one-page exhibits, giving him a total of ten points so far. Ray Stone and Chuck Schultz are close behind, tied at seven points each. Last year's one-page champion, Bernice Watson trails with only two points so far.

But there are six more chances for other one-page exhibitors to earn points, so it's still early enough for anyone to win the free ticket to the club banquet that goes to the top point-winner for the year. Your next chances are:

November 9: Topic is "Something I'm Thankful For." Count your blessings in one page!

December 14: Anything goes! Choose any stamp(s) or cover(s) and tell us in one page why they're interesting

ONLY ONE MEETING EACH MONTH, NOVEMBER 9 & DECEMBER 14



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A PUBLICATION OF

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