

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc

HINGES & TONGS

TRADING & TALKING 7PM FORMAL PROGRAM 8PM

JANUARY- FEBRUARY

editor
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1998

SHOW STOPPERS

RPA members were well represented at the recent "STEPEX'97" stamp show at the Arnot Mall in Horseheads, N.Y.

Among the exhibitors were Kelly Armstrong who showed his "Military Free Mail," which was awarded a silver, and "1995 U.S. Civil War Issue," winning a bronze award. Norm Wright's "Selected Rochester (NY) Rail Mail," won a gold award; "Readin', (w)Ritin' & Railroadin'" was awarded silver. Florence Wright received gold for "Puzzling Postmarks and Other Postal Peculiarities." silver for "Crusading Against Cancer," and bronze for "How Polish Babies Helped Fight Tuberculosis."

There were 21 exhibits lined up along the mall concourse, which represented several stamp clubs, including the host club from Elmira.

PLEASE WELCOME

New members to RPA are:

Debbie Sabuncu, Dr. Robert Muellen, James Bell, Jr., and George Fekete, all from Rochester, and Edwin Kawasaki of Webster.

And be sure to introduce yourself to people who appear to be strangers at a club meeting - so they won't be strangers any more.

We will miss these members who have not renewed: John Babbitt, Roy and Kay Hermann, George Jusko, Tim King, Bob Meehan, Lenard Metzger, David Remito, Walter Straight, Catharine Updegraff, and Wayne Wickland.

TOPICAL COLLECTING

The new (Nov.-Dec.) issue of Topical Time will soon be available in the RPA library; why not check it out and check out some of these interesting articles:

"The Rosetta Stone," a key to deciphering hieroglyphics; "African Hairstyles" -- a study (through stamps) of cultural or personal identity through hairstyling. Birds of the British Virgin Islands are shown and described in "Flamingos to Hummingbirds."

And then there's the "Wascally Wabbit," Bugs Bunny on stamps of other countries.

Regular features in the magazine include "Chapter Chatter," as well as columns on upcoming shows, and topics on postmarks and postal stationery.

ROPEX Patrons Sought

How would you like to see your name and a 10 word message by you featured in the upcoming ROPEX'98 show program? We're giving you the opportunity to support the RPA and ROPEX through a Patron's Page. Your donation of \$5 (or more) will assist with the financial costs of putting on upstate New York's only national stamp show. All you need to do is give us your name and contribution by January 15, 1998. You may also choose to include up to a 10 words short statement of best wishes or similar greeting. It's up to you! Send this information to our post office box address or bring it to any RPA meeting before the deadline.

LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT? GO TO A STAMP SHOW!

"SECURITY GUARD SHOT AT MALL" screamed headlines of the Elmira Star-Gazette the next morning.

The Elmira stamp show - STEPEX - takes place along the wide corridors of the Arnot Mall in Big Flats, NY. Dealers and exhibits are set up during mall hours on a Friday and Saturday in October.

Late Friday evening (at this year's STEPEX) stamp dealers and patrons heard more noise than usual, saw police and security people scurrying about, and shortly were asked to vacate the mall.

The activity was happening inside nearby Kaufman's Dept. store when a man suspected of robbery pulled out a gun and began shooting at sheriff's deputies and guards. One guard was hit in the leg, while another bullet grazed his head.

News reports said the suspect had earlier robbed a store in Elmira, had fled to the mall where the shooting happened, then escaped back to Elmira where he was later apprehended.

Fortunately, no one involved with the stamp show was affected; some didn't know what had happened until they read the headlines the next morning!

ROPEX-97 had its share of excitement last March when a dealer recognized a "customer" known to have passed bad checks at earlier shows. She managed to keep the customer at her table while she left to get our security guard, who in turn called the local police.

This action was due largely to bourse chairman Bob Steeb's foresight in previously handing each dealer an information sheet warning them of such a customer, listing his "names" and aliases.

ANY ROCHESTER POSTAL HISTORIANS?

Does anyone out there collect Rochester postal history? The "Flower City" offers philatelists many challenges. Did you know that a famous punch cancel was used here for a short term trial test back in the mid-1800's?

At least one RPA member knows all about trolley street car cancels here around the turn of the century. There's plenty more out there to explore.

The visit of the Postal History Society during ROPEX'98 in March allows us the opportunity to show off a sampler of our city's philatelic treasures. If you have one or many interesting covers from Rochester, why don't we put together a one frame exhibit? If you have items to loan for this project, contact Tom Fortunato at (716)621-1670 or by e-mail at stampmf@frontier.net anytime.

RPA MEMBER WINS AT MILCOPEX

Congratulations to Ann Trigg. Her exhibit of "British Guiana Postal Stationery" received a show vermeil and AAPE Medal.

MILCOPEX 97, is a World Series of Philatelic Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The dates of the show were September 19 and 20, 1997.

WATSON - SMITH

September 20, 1997 at the North Ontario United Methodist Church, RPA member and past-president Bernice R. Watson married Rev. Dr. Victor L. Smith. Iva Austin, Dusty Miller, Audrey Pankratz, and Ada Prill from the RPA attended the ceremony and reception.

**The RPA meets the second and fourth Thursdays
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Corner of East Ave. and Vick Park B**

STAMP COLLECTING AT VICTOR CENTRAL

by Bill Guiffre

I just wanted to let people in the association know what is happening at Victor Central Intermediate school. For the past four years, I have been running between 6 and 9 junior clubs each quarter. Last year alone I had over 300 different kids in my stamp clubs. Kids are ravenous for this stuff. It should give us all some faith in the kids of this generation. Given the chance to dive into stamps, they do. They will not always choose Nintendo over stamps. I can almost guarantee that a handful of the kids will go on to be experts in some field of philately.

I want to publicly thank people like Dave Engdahl, Don Schurr, Dave Phillips, Joe Doles, Tom Fortunato, Andy Hale, and John, and a few whose names I can't remember (two of them were among the ladies in the club). You have all helped to make our clubs very productive and enjoyable.

The future of philately in Victor and maybe even Rochester is very bright. Thanks to everyone.

RPA AT THE ROCHESTER MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

The RPA has been invited to spend the weekend at the RMSC and discuss our hobby with museum goers. Our table will be in a special display honoring Rochester's past 75 years or so, when the Rochester Museum was founded. The RPA held meetings at the museum from the mid-1940's to about 1976, as did several other hobby clubs at the time. In fact, a monthly bulletin kept all hobby societies informed of each other's activities at the museum.

ROPEX'98 TO FEATURE A LIVE AUCTION

Why come to ROPEX'98? Well, of course to check out all of the wonderful exhibits and the 35 or so dealers from around the country. You knew about that. We have a special treat for early Show goers on Saturday, March 7. Our first (annual?) ROPEX auction will begin at 9 AM in the lower level of the Diplomat Banquet Center, site of the show. Viewing will begin around 8:20. We anticipate around 50 lots of assorted philatelic material. Come early and get a good look around. Full details and list of available lots will be made available at the door.

ROPEX'98 "FLYING" HIGH!

Come to ROPEX'98, March 6-8 at the Diplomat Banquet Center, 1 Diplomat Way, conveniently located on the north-east intersection of I-390 and Lyell Avenue. The show hours are Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, and Sunday 10-4. There is free admission and plenty of free parking.

The show's theme honors science fiction anniversaries with a "flight" sub-theme. We're honoring: the 90th anniversary of L. Frank Baum's book, *Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz* (flying houses and broomsticks!); the 60th anniversary of the radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds (flying saucers); and the 30th anniversary of the movie, "2001- A Space Odyssey" (flying spacecraft). All three cancels are depicted below.

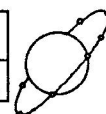
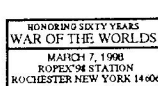
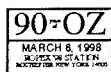
As of the time of this writing, nearly all 250 frames have been assigned to their respective exhibitors. This year's exhibits display an eclectic mix of philatelic material, sure to please everyone. A special feature will be a new Disney display by Ken Lawrence on Disney meter mail. We are also welcoming the 1998 national meeting of the Postal History Society.

("Flying High" continued)

A variety of other philatelic groups will be meeting at ROPEX'98. These include the Empire State Postal History Society, the Chapter 53- American First Day Cover Society, a regional meeting of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, and a special postal history seminar. All meetings will be held on Saturday.

All 35 dealer tables have been booked. There will be several new dealers attending, as well as your usual favorites. Be sure to attend the auction scheduled for 9 AM on Saturday, March 7. Over 50 lots are scheduled to be up for grabs at this, our first live show auction. Viewing begins at 8:15. It should end before doors open at 10 AM.

Plan to attend ROPEX'98!



PROGRAMS

JANUARY 22, 1998

Alan Singer, co-designer of the 1982 Birds and Flowers sheet

February 12

Computers and Philately display or possible live auction- TBA.

February 21-22

RPA at the Rochester Museum & Science Center (10-3, 12-4)

February 26

ROPEX'98 Preparation Night

March 6-8

ROPEX'98
Diplomat Banquet Center

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