



# Hinges & Tongs

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC  
P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON STATION  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-0206

The RPA meets the second and fourth Thursdays, 7-9 PM, Sept.– June.  
Meeting at the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Rd.

**Nov. – Dec. 2007**

## A Request of the Membership

The *Hinges & Tongs* is YOUR club's newsletter. A newsletter is of little value if there is nothing worth reading in it. Personal stamp stories, interesting things members have done and upcoming programs are all things we like to read about. What we need for a successful newsletter is material to print.

Please consider sending your stories to Joe Doles for future newsletters. We try to print five issues of six pages during the club season. We could go to eight pages if we needed to without any increase in mailing costs.

VP Dave Bombard is program chairman and has asked many members to come forward and put together a short program with fairly good success. We still need programs for early 2008. They don't have to be long programs, just 15–20 minutes in length. We are all collectors and have something interesting to share with your fellow club members. If you need assistance with the visuals Joe Doles has offered his help in scanning or photographing your items and putting them into a PowerPoint show to be projected for your talk. A copy on CD will be given to all presenters and one for the club archives. No one has to worry about not having the right equipment to do the job. We will take care of that. All it takes is to give Joe a call at 621-3012 to get started.

## End of Year Programs

### November 8 Red Cross on Stamps by Dave Schue

This was Dave's first attempt at putting together a program. His program was well received and we hope that he will do another sometime soon. Thanks Dave.

No second meeting was held this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

### December 13 Histories on Postals by Rich Spinelli

Rich plays Sherlock Holmes with every piece of postal history he acquires. Come and listen to the stories behind the covers that Rich has researched.

The second part of the night's program will be a Christmas gift exchange. Bring a wrapped item, approximate value of \$10. If you bring a gift, you will receive one in exchange.

**No second meeting this month. Merry Christmas to all.**

## RPA OFFICERS

**2007 – 2008**

President- **Ray Stone**

Vice President- **Dave Bombard**

Treasurer- **Rich Spinelli**

Recording Secretary

**Diane Bombard**

Corresponding Secretary

**Joe Doles**

## Board of Governors

**Bob Kingston**

(term expires June 30, 2008)

**Chuck Schultz**

(term expires June 30, 2009)

Dave Robinson

(term expires June 30, 2010)

Immediate Past President

**Rick Kase**

## Appointments

Librarian - **Joe Doles**

Articles may be submitted for publication  
to: **Joe Doles, Editor**

**105 Lawson Rd.,**

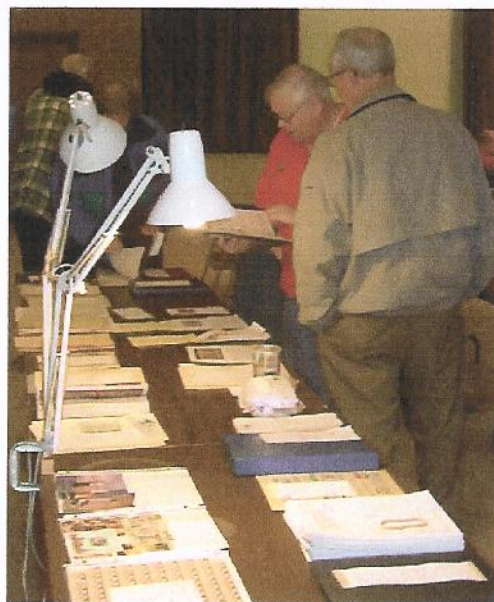
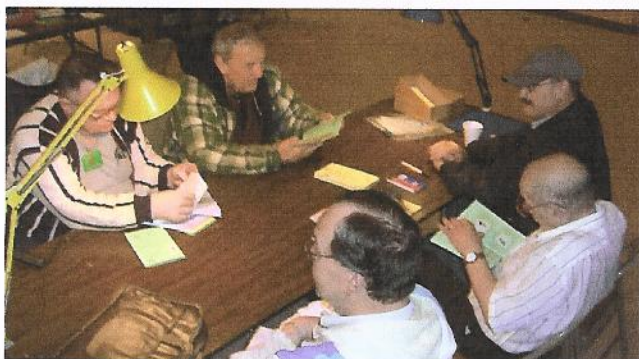
**Rochester, NY 14616-1444.**

Neatly hand-written or double  
spaced typewritten or sent electroni-  
cally to **JKD52@aol.com.**

Any originals submitted for  
scanning will be returned if re-  
quested.

## New Lighting Update

Auxiliary lighting was supplied by Dave & Diane Bombard and Joe Doles. The lights have been placed at the APS circuits table and the silent auction tables. Everyone seems to enjoy being able to see the items they may be interested in buying.



## More on the APS Stamp Collector Survey

At the November meeting Tom Fortunato announced the availability of the *APS Stamp Collector Survey 2007 Report, Paths to membership Growth*. After reviewing the document, Tom had a few questions and contacted Ken Martin of the APS. Here is Tom's question and Ken's response.

Are current numbers available now that explain what percentage of APS members are now utilizing each of our services?

Tom and others, here's a stab at answering your question.

Stamp Insurance – A little over 6,000 current policies with slow growth

Circuit Sales as of Sept. 30 – 4003 buyers, 766 sellers (numbers include 265 who are both) trending down a little but not a lot more than the membership numbers

STAMPSHOW – Typically about 3000 members attend, no obvious trend

APS AmeriStamp Expo – Typically about 1500 members attend, no obvious trend

Philatelic Literature Review – About 2500 subscribers, 2007 is below 2006 but 2006 was better than 2005

STAMPSTORE – 9317 orders in 2006; 1500 active sellers; Approx 2500 buyers; Submissions showing large increases, sales significant increases, users increasing but at a slower rate than sales or submissions

Expertizing – About 1500 individuals submit between 6,000 and 7,000 items per year; this year is down nearly 1000 items; Overall relatively flat for the past five years

APRL – In 2006 about 1500 requests for books and photocopies were filled from approximately 900 members; This was down sharply from 2005 probably because of a steep increase in fees; 2007 is showing higher usage in line with 2005

All Star Stamp Clubs – 49 with 1200 members; At peak had over 2000 claimed members (but suspect some leaders inflated numbers)

Young Stamp Collectors of America – 200 youth and 100 adult paying members

Quick ID – For 2006 329 submissions totaling 885 items. The 329 submissions came from about 250 different individuals Stagnant

Summer Seminar – Typically about 75 students Flat (2006 was down because of Washington 2006)

Two Day seminars – To date less than 50 students annually Expect growth as more courses are added

Mentor Service – 34 requests in 2006 Stagnant

On-Line Educational Courses – Taken by 14 members in 2006 Stagnant to declining

Website – We have no info on usage

Ken Martin

Here is the link for those interested in seeing the full document: <http://www.stamps.org/Almanac/SurveyReport.pdf>

## APS Honors RPA Members Gordon and Mary Morison by Ada Prill



A standing-room-only crowd gathered on October 20, 2007, at the American Philatelic Society's headquarters in Belfonte, PA, to honor two Rochester Philatelic Association members, Gordon Morison and his late wife Mary Morison.



The new "Gordon and Mary Morison Pavilion" will house the historic Headsville, WV, post office, on long term loan to APS from the Smithsonian Institution. The post office, which was pictured on the 8¢ Scott #1468, is scheduled to open as a working contract post office in January 2008. It was a rural post office in Headsville from 1860 until 1914 and was displayed at the Smithsonian from 1971 until 2006.

Gordon Morison was present for the occasion, accompanied by his daughter Linda Morison, son and daughter-in-law Keith and Patty Morison, granddaughters Annie, Megan, and Katie Morison, and Mary's sister Ruth Kitchener.

APS Past President Janet Klug, standing in for ailing President Nick Carter, remembered the first-day ceremony for love stamps held at NORDIA, a show chaired by Gordon Morison, in Tucson in 2001. Gordon spoke of his love for

his wife, then asked her to stand and said, "Mary, I love you." At that moment, Klug commented, every woman in the audience wanted to be married to Gordon!

While living in Rochester Gordon had the idea of bringing together the grand-award winners of all the major stamp shows in the United States to choose a "Champion of Champions." The first "World Series of Philately" was held in Rochester in 1968, and it has continued as an annual event ever since.

Charlie Peterson, secretary of the American Philatelic Research Library, spoke of Mary's contributions as a philatelist in her own right. He mentioned her hard work as a long time indexer of *First Days*, a role she filled so well that "no one else has done as well since."

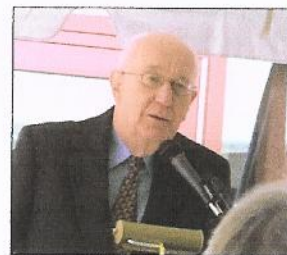
Mary Morison passed away in 2002. Gordon and Mary, who met as students at Syracuse University, were married for 48 years. During their years in Rochester, Mary wrote a stamps column for the *Rochester Times-Union*.



Keynote speaker was former Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin Bailar. Gordon worked with him after leaving Rochester in 1970 to work for the Post Office Department, serving as Assistant Postmaster General for Philately 1978-92. Bailar spoke of Gordon's creativity and competence and also of his kindness. When Bailar became Postmaster General in 1975 he had to sell his stamp collection to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. It was especially painful for him to part with a unique proof of the ½ ¢ Benjamin Franklin

stamp. After Bailar retired in 1978, he found that Gordon had secretly purchased the proof and held it for his friend.

After retiring Gordon served as chairman of NORDIA 2001 and Executive Director of the highly successful Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. He continues to be an active collector and exhibitor. The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society named Gordon as its 2006 Distinguished Philatelist, citing his "exceptional contributions to the organization and promotion of philatelic exhibitions, and his sustained and far-reaching philatelic service within the U. S. Postal Service and as a member and officer of the American Philatelic Society."



Gordon also spoke at the ceremony. He commented that when they lived in Washington, Mary would often go to the Smithsonian to get unofficial First Day cancels at the Headsville Post Office. "Finally," he said, "Mary has her own philatelic postmark."



Admiring an artist's rendering of the finished Morison Pavilion are Peter Mastrangelo, Janet Klug, Charles Peterson, Benjamin Bailar, and Gordon Morison.

RPA was represented at the ceremony by Jack Flannery and Ada Prill.

## ROPEX 2008 Press release by Tom Fortunato

The Rochester Philatelic Association welcomes the national conventions of both the American Helvetia Philatelic Society and Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) to ROPEX 2008, being held May 16-18 in Rochester, NY at the ESL Sports Centre on the campus of Monroe Community College. Admission is free. Drivers will find it conveniently located in the southern suburb of Henrietta, north of I-90 and just off I-390. The Greater Rochester International Airport, only seven minutes away, is serviced by American Airlines, Delta, United, US Air, Northwest, Jet Blue, Air Tran and a few other airlines. Amtrak will also get you to Rochester.

Hold a stamp show in an ice rink? You bet! This is our second year at the venue and the facility provides more amenities than you might imagine, including meeting rooms, free Internet access, a restaurant and snack bar. Visitors can always check out the action on the three operational hockey and figure skating rinks in the building throughout the weekend.

We're in the main arena where the ice will be melted and the room heated or air-conditioned as necessary. The exhibition layout was designed with both dealers and show-goers in mind. It features super-wide 15-20 foot aisles, allowing the 30+ dealers to drive right up to their tables for easy unloading and is completely handicapped accessible. Lighting is excellent. Swiss and Boy Scout specialty dealers are welcome to join the bourse!

ROPEX has reserved 20 non-smoking rooms (the largest number possible) at a nearby hotel, the Best Western Marketplace Inn, 940 Jefferson Road, about a mile away from the show. The facility offers a free hot breakfast, free local calls, free in-room Internet access, free parking and more. The hotel also has free shuttle service from the airport. It is within an easy walk of several restaurants next door and nearby. We are trying to arrange for transportation to and from the show at regular intervals. Adjoining rooms are available, as are special handicapped/elderly accessible rooms on request on a first-come basis. The special show price is \$99 per night (regularly \$129) not including 15% in taxes. Call the hotel directly to make reservations at 585-427-2700 and ask for the special "stamp show" rate under group reservation number 1233. Do not delay! The Rochester Lilac Festival and graduation at the Rochester Institute of Technology are that same weekend and hotel rooms will be in great demand. See Best Western details online at <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=33132>.

As many as 250 frames are available for competitive exhibits. Single frames cost \$20 each, with multi-frame exhibits costing \$10 per frame. Up to 80 frames have been reserved for your society and are available on a first-come basis. An online entry form is on the ROPEX web site or may be mailed to you on request. We typically sell out of frames by early February. Society frames will be held through January 31 after which they will be opened to all exhibitors.

Henrietta offers a wealth of nearby restaurants and stores. Marketplace Mall with some 120 stores is less than two miles away. Non-collecting guests may want to visit some of Rochester's attractions, including the George Eastman House, Susan B. Anthony House and Museum, the Strong Museum of Play, Memorial Art Gallery, and once-a-year Lilac Festival on that weekend in Highland Park.

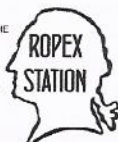
ROPEX 2008 has a number of meetings planned throughout the three days.

We invite you to attend the ROPEX Awards Banquet buffet on Saturday at the ESL restaurant. Tickets are available for \$30 each. Cash bar and seating 6-6:30, dinner at 6:30. The menu features chef salad, macaroni salad, rolls and butter, prime rib, pasta, rissole potatoes, honey carrots, and more. Reservations are only available through advance purchase and must be made by Monday, May 14. Make checks payable to ROPEX and send it to: ROPEX Banquet, Ray Stone, 228 Giles Ave, Rochester, NY 14609.

Full details about ROPEX 2008 may be found on our web site at <http://www.rpastamps.org>. Questions? Email [stamptrmf@frontiernet.net](mailto:stamptrmf@frontiernet.net) or call Tom Fortunato 585-225-6822 evenings and weekends. Leave a message on the answering machine if unavailable.

Proposed cancels have been submitted for USPS approval.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WASHINGTON & FRANKLIN  
DEFINITIVES  
**MAY 16, 2008**  
ROCHESTER, N.Y.  
14623



**ROPEX STATION**  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14623  
**MAY 17, 2008**

ROPEX Welcomes the American  
Helvetia Philatelic Society

HONORING WORLD WIDE SCOUTING



**MAY 18 2008**  
ROPEX STATION ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14623

# ROPEX 2008 Rochester National Stamp Exhibition

An APS "World Series of Philately" Event

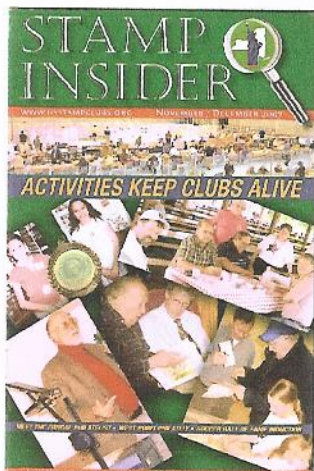
**Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18**



Featuring national conventions of the  
**American Helvetia Philatelic Society**  
 (<http://www.swiss-stamps.org/>)  
 and the  
**Scouts on Stamps Society International**  
 (<http://www.sossi.org/index.shtml>)



## Recent Stamp Images Released for 2008 by USPS.



The Stamp Insider™ is published six times per year by the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies for the Federation of Central New York Societies, Inc., a non-profit organization, at P.O. Box 401, Fulton, NY 13069-0401. RPA member subscriptions: \$4.50 per year. RPA members attending meetings can pick up their free copy at the front table.

If you would like to have the Stamp Insider™ delivered to your home address for the above fee, send inquires to 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308-2805. Make sure you mention that you are an RPA member.

The 5½ x 8½ inch full color, 72 page publication represents over 25 New York State stamp societies.

## Scheduled RPA Meeting Programs

NOV. 8	DEC. 13	JAN. 10	JAN. 24
<b>Dave Schue</b> Red Cross on Stamps	<b>Rich Spinelli</b> Histories on Postals	<b>Ada Prill</b> U.S. Inverts	<b>Terry Blum</b> Zep Covers

### *Hinges & Tongs*

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610-0206

**2007 – 2008**

#### **Are your dues paid?**

Please send your \$20.00 annual dues  
to the Club's PO Box  
Attention

**Rich Spinelli – Treasurer**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**