



Christmas Seals • Canada Map Stamp  
Postal Hand Stamp, Woodbourne, NY, • U.S. Covers #1,#2  
President's Message • Upcoming Meetings/Shows  
The Hope Diamond  
ROPEX 2015 • Alabama Precancels • New Issues and Covers

Copyright, 2015, Rochester Philatelic Association  
Editor: Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)

The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

**Christmas Seals** RPA  
Presentation by  
Florence  
Wright

popularity of Christmas seals grew exponentially when a **leading newspaper of a great American city** (Philadelphia's North American) publicized the seal and inspired other newspapers to do likewise. **A ragged little newsboy** buying a few seals in support of her sister who had contracted the disease became a poster child for the campaign.

*continued on page 3 (see Christmas Seals)*

**1898 Canada  
Map Stamp**  
A Presentation by Robert Lighthouse

Many think of the 1898 Canada Map Stamp as the first Christmas stamp, but to Robert Lighthouse it is the stamp with a thousand errors. At our November meeting Bob came to share those errors with us, carefully pointing out how just about every stamp in the 100 stamp sheet and from all four steel engraved plates had variations in the positions and numbers of red islands and borders that reflected the extent of the British empire at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His meticulous study of these stamps allows for most any to be identified for its plate number and sheet position merely by the differences in re-touches, re-entries and flawed transfers. His documented work and exhibit can be found in the meetings section of the RPA website

**Do you know what  
this blue gemstone is ?  
Perhaps you wonder  
why it is on the front  
page of the Hinges &  
Tongs. (Go to page 4  
to learn more)**

RPA member Florence Wright opened our first meeting of 2015 by asking the 28 in attendance if they knew what these five items had in common.

- A one-room cottage in the north woods.*
- A post office worker in Denmark.*
- A kindhearted lady in Wilmington, Delaware.*
- The leading newspaper of a great American city.*
- A ragged little newsboy.*

Of course, we knew the title of her talk so it was a bit of a rhetorical inquiry, but we all learned a lot in the next 40 minutes as Florence explained the 108 year history of Christmas Seals. The **one-room cottage in the North Woods** was the first true Tuberculosis Sanatorium in the United States in Saranac, NY. Dr. Edward Trudeau, who had recovered from the disease himself, opened the establishment in 1884. Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Christy Mathewson resided there before succumbing to the disease in 1925 at the age of 45.

A couple decades after Dr. Trudeau's sanatorium, a **post office worker in Denmark**, Einar Holboll, created a Christmas stamp to raise money for a TB hospital there. Emily Bissell, a **kind-hearted lady in Wilmington Delaware**, sought to do the same in the United States and in 1907 she designed the first U.S. seal. It sold out and so it began. The

## Postal Hand Stamp, Woodbourne, N.Y.



by  
Larry  
Rausch

To my delight, I recently was the high bidder on Ebay for this postal hand stamp from Woodbourne N.Y. It is 4 inches long and has four removable steel slugs for (month, day, year and hour) and is referred to as a Killer hand stamp because of the nine banded oval mark that cancelled the stamp.

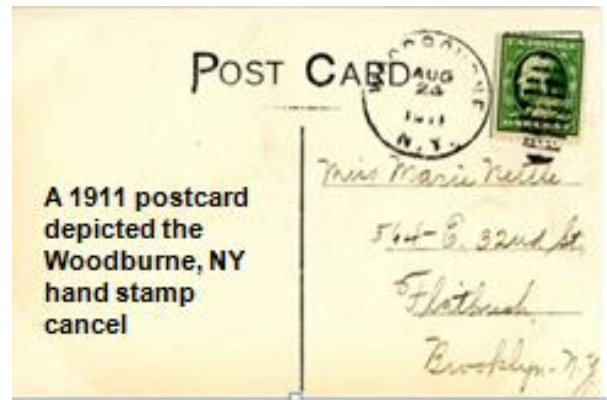


**Yes, the picture of this old postal handstamp has been "cleverly" reversed so that you can read the town and the September, 29, 1903 date.**

Since most Ebay sellers have no idea what a Postal Hand Stamp is, I scan multiple Ebay categories hoping to find these dies. The seller of this device advertised that it was used at the Woodbourne Correctional Facility to stamp all incoming prisoner documents.

Woodbourne (zip 12788), is a hamlet with a population 2100, in the town of Fallsburg in Sullivan County, N.Y., 40 miles west of Poughkeepsie off hwy. 17. It was founded in 1830 by Gabriel Ludlum (or Ludlam) when he moved his law office there and named the area Woodbourne. In 1831, the partners of Austin Strong and Medad Morss established a tannery. The tannery businesses started to decline with the depletion of the Hemlock forests of Sullivan County and the arrival of the O&W Railway in the 1870's in a nearby town.

But today, a resurgence has occurred with a dramatically summertime increase in population where businesses cater to Orthodox Jewish residents from New York City and New Jersey arriving for summertime visits.



A 1911 postcard depicted the Woodbourne, NY hand stamp cancel



**Catharine McKie  
1847 Issue Covers  
by Mark Scheuer**

There are 69 1847 issue stamped covers addressed to Miss Catharine McKie in the Census of US #1 and #2 on cover on the USPCS website I maintain. Many are illustrated, enabling a comprehensive description of the correspondence. The covers were mailed from Troy NY to South Easton NY between Nov 1848 and May 1850. Many are docketed with the date the letters were written. Many are also numbered. The numbering indicates that 161 letters were written to Catharine, far more than the known covers in the marketplace.

But, there is a lot more to this story. A descendent of Catharine McKie of South Easton and Francis Thayer of Troy owns the complete correspondence between the Catharine and Francis, which started in Aug 1844 and continued until they were married in April 1850. Excerpts of the letters have been published in a book entitled *The Family Letters*. Working with the author, John Mudge, I was able to match all 69 known covers to letters written by Francis and also found that an additional 32 stamped covers are waiting to be rediscovered by postal historians (60 of the letters & covers were stampless and are still owned by John).

*Editor's note: Mark's RPA December presentation on the Catharine McKie covers can be accessed on the meetings page of the club website.*



**Catharine McKie Cover, docket #141, Dec. 25, 1849. This rare Christmas date for a U.S. #1 cover sold for \$12,500 in Siegel's Rarity of the World Sale in 2000.**

## President's Message



My fellow RPA Members,

Happy New Year as we kick off our 103rd consecutive year of philatelic meetings in Rochester. Since we last met, we have added three more meeting presentation topics: Two-Page Exhibition night, Stamp Quiz night, and a called auction in April.. Exhibition night is open to all members and attending guests. Fabulous prizes will be given for Best Title Presentation, Best Example of Knowledge and Research and Best Overall Exhibit. Exhibits will be judged by you, attending RPA members. So, don't be shy, put your presentations together. If you cannot attend, you may submit your presentation through an attending meeting member. Also, we are looking for our May and June meetings. Step up to the plate and volunteer to present.

It was announced last meeting that our Church meeting facility site sale closing is imminent, and that the new owners have not yet revealed their plans for the site. Our treasurer, Dave Robinson, is club contact with the new owners and will let us know their plans as soon as he receives them. If necessary, we will then discuss consequences.

See you at our next meeting,

**Your President, Rich Spinelli**

### Upcoming RPA Meetings

Meetings are held downstairs at the Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road beginning at 7 PM. The first half hour is for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program kicks off at about 7:30 PM. An elevator is available.

**Thurs., Feb. 12** "Before Photography II"

By Mario Sarra

**Thurs., Feb. 26** Everybody a Dealer Night

**Thurs., March 12** "Two-Page Exhibit Night"

*Members are invited to bring in a 2 page themed exhibit. We'll put them on the wall, and learn from each other. And then we'll all play judge and award the favorites with "valuable" prizes.*

**Thurs., March 26** "Stamp Quiz" By Fred Haynes

**Thurs., April 9** "Called Auction" with club and member lots

**Thurs., April 23** (program to be announced)

Come join us. Visit the RPA website for an updated and complete list of our programs and to view many of our past programs.

## BUFPEX in March

**Sat-Sun March 7-8 Buffalo Stamp Club**

Where: VFW Leonard Post

2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY

Show Theme: The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Civil War: Appomattox

Info: [www.buffalostampclub.org](http://www.buffalostampclub.org)

### Christmas Seals (cont. from page 1)

From there Florence took us through the various designs deployed over the years as the campaign moved from raising \$135,000 in 1908 to greater than \$36 million in 1976. In 1919 the National Tuberculosis Association, known so well by the red double barred cross, took over the Christmas seal drives from the American Red Cross. That group has now morphed into the American Lung Association and the mission has expanded to assist in the battle against all lung diseases from cancer to asthma and including pneumonia and emphysema.

It took a long while but both noted founders of the movement also have made their way onto U.S. postage stamps (see below). On May 31, 1980, a 15 cent stamp was issued to commemorate Emily Bissell. It was not until May 12, 2008 before Dr. Trudeau was honored with a 76 cent stamp in the Distinguished Americans series.

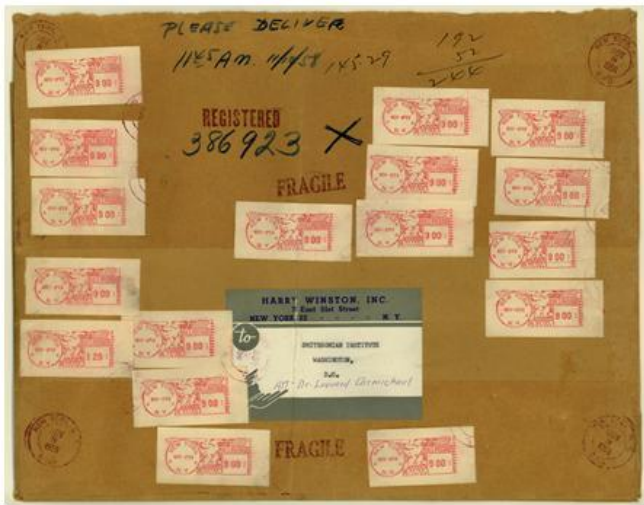
Florence's presentation can be viewed in its entirety on the meeting page of the club website.





The picture on the front page is the Hope Diamond, which was recently acquired by the Rochester Philatelic Association. OK, that second part is fiction, but there are two bits of interesting philatelic news related to this famous gem.

Did you know that the Smithsonian Institute obtained the Hope Diamond in November of 1958 when New York City jeweler Harry Winston donated the famous gem. He hoped the donation would stimulate further donations and lead to a world quality gem exhibit. It did. You knew all that? OK, but do you know how the stone was sent from New York to Washington D.C.? Turns out Mr. Winston wrapped the stone in brown paper and shipped one of the world's most famous and valuable gemstones via USPS registered mail. The shipment, with insurance, cost him \$145.29, of which only \$2.44 was for postage. The Hope Diamond was then valued at 1 million dollars. Below is the envelope used with the meters and auxiliary markings.

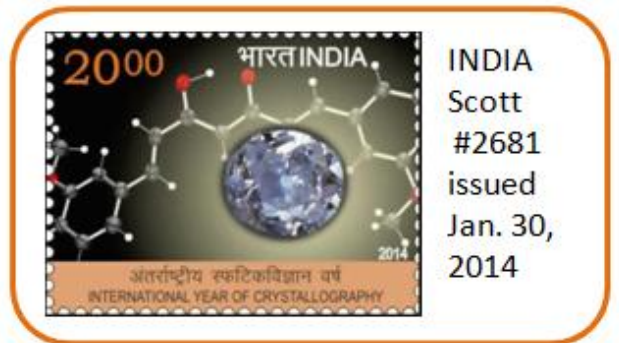


This remarkable Auxiliary Marking envelope is now on display at the National Postal Museum in DC.

The Hope Diamond is set into a necklace and surrounded by 16 diamonds which exquisitely show off the diamond's size and blue color (page 1 photo). The blue color is caused by a very small amount of boron (3-5 ppm) distributed in the crystal lattice. Yellow diamonds owe their color to equally small amounts of nitrogen. The 45.52 carat Hope diamond, now valued at 200-250 million dollars, has resided at the Smithsonian since its donation 55 years ago.

The history behind this diamond is also fascinating, complete with interesting characters, unlucky owners, and enough criminal activity that many believe the stone carries a curse. Named for a London banking family that owned the jewel in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the diamond was originally recovered from alluvial gravel sands along the Krishna River in southeast India in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Numerous kimberlite pipes that had intruded the Dharwar region of central India about 1.1 billion years ago have sourced alluvial diamonds in several downstream rivers since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. [Sorry, your editor is a geologist!]

Did you know that the United Nations had declared 2014 as the "International Year of Crystallography". It is probably not surprising that when India designed a stamp to commemorate the event, they decided to include a picture of a blue diamond that looks suspiciously similar to the Hope Diamond.



**QUOTE:**

"The best thing about stamp collecting is that the enthusiasm which it arouses in youth increases as the years pass. It dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, and enriches our lives in innumerable ways. I commend stamp collecting because I really believe it makes one a better citizen.

----- Franklin D. Roosevelt -----

# The Latest on ROPEX 2015



By Tom Fortunato (Show Chairman)

Things are running well for our first ROPEX to be held at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center May 17-19. To date we have 16 dealers lined up, with a few more potentials. We'll also have a few coin dealers with us in 2015 to broaden the appeal of the show to all collectors as many of us have several hobbies. As a national level show we must meet the minimum 125 frames of competitive exhibits to remain in the APS World series of Philately ranks. As of February 1st we have 102, quite good for this early in the year, to hopefully not only meet but exceed the target.

Just a reminder: ROPEX 2016 will be considered a super-regional rather than national level show, with our show accepting a bye because of the big international World Stamp Show-NY 2016 taking place just a week later. The 2016 show dates will be May 20-22.

The ROPEX awards banquet will be held at on Saturday evening, May 16, at Schooner's Restaurant, 407 Lakeshore Drive. It's a short walk from our recommended hotels. Cash bar at 6 PM, buffet dinner at 6:30 PM.

The menu includes mixed greens salad, baked ziti with meatballs, sliced prime rib au jus, marinated chicken, salt potatoes, green bean almondine, bread and butter, ice cream, coffee, tea, cash bar. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Reservations must be received by May 9. Make checks payable to "ROPEX." Send payment to Ray Stone, c/o RPA, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206. Questions? Call Ray at 585-266-2524.

Visit our show website for details <http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html>

**ROPEX'15 Welcomes  
the Auxiliary Markings  
Club to Canandaigua**

ROPEX 2015 Station May 15, 2015  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
Rochester Philatelic Assn. Day

ROPEX 2015 Station May 16, 2015  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
Auxiliary Markings Club Day

ROPEX 2015 Station May 17, 2015  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
Stamp Collectors' Day



## ALABAMA PRECANCELS

Catalog & Guidebook



In December, RPA club member Charles Adrian released another update to his extensive catalog of Alabama precancels. The book catalogs all known Alabama precancels and can be used as a guidebook to assist collectors with the varieties listed in the Precancel Stamp Society (PSS) catalogs. Pictures are shown for all varieties. There are 341 towns and 548 different precancel types recognized by the PSS. This edition now lists over 35,000 items on 188 pages. The full manuscript can be downloaded for free from the PSS website:



<http://www.precancels.com/literature/Alabama5.pdf>

## For Valentine's Day



Do you need to send someone flowers on Valentine's Day? The U.S. Postal service will release two choices on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The forever stamp on the left depicts a Vintage rose. If you can afford to splurge for your flower, the Vintage tulip on the right will set you back 70 cents. Both will debut in Riverside, CA and both will be sold in panes of 20.

## TWO RECENT CACHET COVERS

### Fred Collins Harry Potter Cachet Cover



Hand painted cachet cover by Fred Collins of one of the 20 November, 2014 Harry Potter stamps. Fred Collins will be back for ROPEX 2015.

### Another A.C.E. Cover



RPA Club member Dave Bombard cooked up this cachet cover for the October 11, 2014 issue commemorating the original inverted Jenny sheet. It is his 475<sup>th</sup> cover.



**Issued  
Jan. 8, 2015  
in Chalmette,  
LA (pane of 20)**

This stamp commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Jan. 8, 1815 war ending Battle of New Orleans will complete the U.S.P.S. series depicting the War of 1812.

John, a retired stamp dealer, sold his collection and moved to a farm with a pond in Florida. He converted the pond into a natural swimming hole. He set up picnic tables and horseshoe courts, and planted fruit trees around the pond.

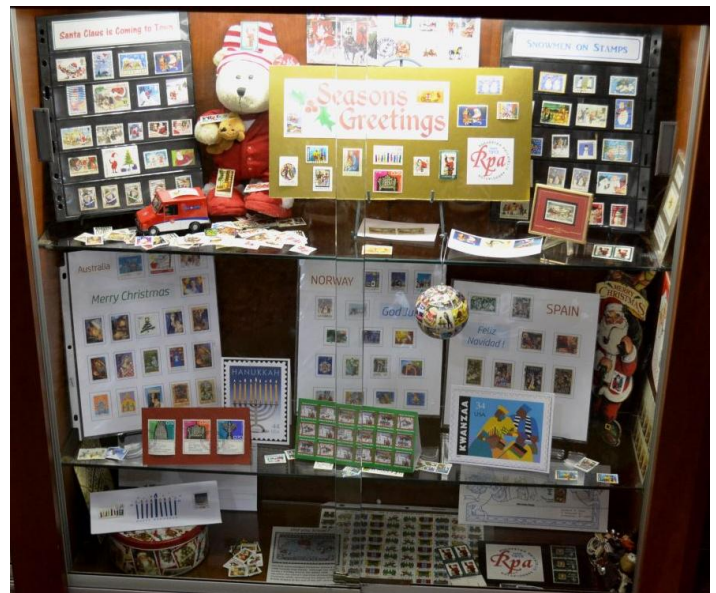
One evening Ron grabbed a 5-gallon bucket and headed to the pond area to pick some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices and shouting and laughing with apparent glee. As he came close he saw it was a group of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He politely made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted out to him "We're not coming out until you leave!"

Ron frowned, "I did not come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked."

Walking close and holding the bucket up high Ron said, "I'm here to feed the alligator."

The moral, you ask: Stamp dealers can think fast.



**The RPA put together a special Christmas and Holiday Exhibit in the Brighton Public Library in December:** We were in the Henrietta Library in January, moved to the Mendon Library in February and will be in the Pittsford Library in April.