

# Hinges & Tongs

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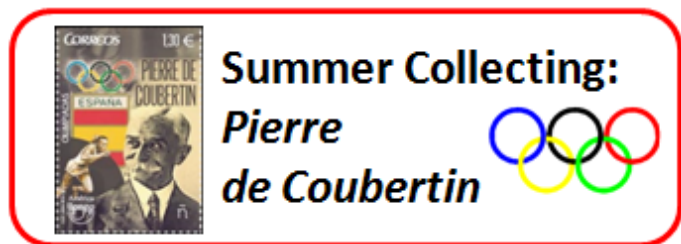
August-October, 2016



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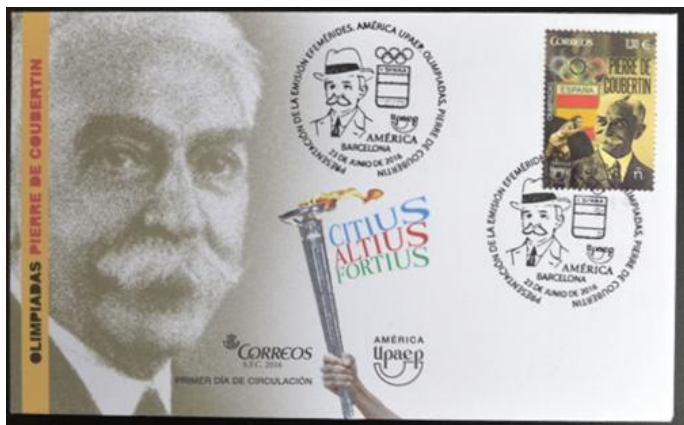
The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>



Consider this a preview (or a post-view depending on when you are reading it) of our first fall meeting on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> where members will share their philatelic (or non-philatelic) activity during the summer.

This summer was an Olympic Summer and I am sure many of you watched Michael Phelps or Simone Biles or others compete in Rio. An Olympic year also brings a plethora of new topical stamps. RPA member Carl Miller is an Olympics enthusiast, but his philatelic interest is a specialty within the overall theme of the event. Carl collects Olympic themed stamps that commemorate and depict Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics.

On June 23rd, Spain issued a commemorative stamp depicting the French founder and Carl sought the issue, including a full sheet, first-day covers, and other philatelic material related. Carl communicated and purchased material for three different Spanish stamp dealers via their internet websites.



**Pierre de Coubertin:** One of several First Day covers Carl acquired for the June 2016 Spain issue.

*continued on pg. 3 (see Summer Collecting )*



In 2016, ROPEX took a one-year hiatus from being an APS "World Series of Philately" national level show in deference to the proximity in time and location to the World Show in New York. Despite this change we had our full slate of dealers, nearly all of which expressed satisfaction with their weekend and an interest in returning in 2017. It was our second successful year at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. We sold out of cachet covers featuring our theme honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the National Park Service. Lacking competitive judging at a national level we focused on club member exhibits and were thrilled to have 13 different members display a total of eleven single-frame exhibits and nine multi-frame exhibits. The talent of our own members as well the collecting diversity within our group was clearly on display.



**The center aisle at ROPEX 2016.** 1840-1850 Mostly Stamps (Harry Tong) on the left and McCloud Stamps and Covers (John Stoltz) to the right appear to busy with customers.

**See page 4 for more ROPEX pictures**

## President's Message



Welcome, fellow members, to this our 104th consecutive Rochester Philatelic Association season. As usual, our year will be highlighted by informative meetings, academic treasures, meaningful dialog, shared events, exciting trades, bountiful giveaways, challenging contests and sweet strawberries. What, you say, is that all? No, I say. Not if YOU can help. We are always looking for new and exciting things to add to our season. Last year, through our membership, we added the cachet contest and the caption contest, and the club single frame displays at ROPEX. Give your ideas to any club officer and we'll consider them.

This year ROPEX will resume its position as a World Series of Philately show, becoming, for the first time, a two day event. You will learn more about why and when as the event approaches.

This season, too, we will be electing new RPA officers, so think about how you might help the club by running for an office. See you soon.

**Rich Spinelli, RPA President**

### Upcoming RPA Meetings

- Thurs. Sept. 8** "What I did this summer"  
*All members, so come prepared*
- Thurs. Sept 22** Annual Business Meeting &  
"Trains on Stamps – Part 2" *by Florence Wright*
- Thurs. Oct 13** "Far Away Place with Strange  
Names" - *by Paul Brach*
- Thurs. Oct 27** "Switzerland" *by David Durham*
- Thurs. Nov 10:** TBA
- Thurs. Dec 8** "Christmas Stamps"  
*by Florence Wright*

Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/ trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

In addition to the November 10<sup>th</sup> open date, we are fully open for programs from January through May. Please plan to talk to us about your favorite philatelic pastime. Any topic, any open date, just inform Ray Stone (585-266-2524).

## More RPA News

**DUES:** Yup, it is that time again. Our calendar year runs from September, so everyone who is not a lifetime member is subject to our \$20 annual membership fee for the 2016-2017 calendar year. Make it easy for membership chair Florence Wright and RPA by bringing payment to a September meeting or mailing it to RPA, P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206.

**Board of Governor position filled:** In May, RPA elected Paul Brach to a 3 year position as a board of Governor. All other positions are multi-year and carry through 2016-2017. Your RPA officers are:

President – Rich Spinelli  
Vice President – Ray Stone  
Treasurer – Dave Robinson  
Recording Secretary – Fred Haynes  
Board of Governor (to June, 2017) – Bob Kingston  
Board of Governor (to June, 2018) – Chuck Schultz  
Board of Governor (to June, 2019) – Paul Brach  
Past President – Thomas Fortunato

### Rochester Stamps and Collectibles Show

Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> (9:30 – 4:00 PM)

North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Rd. (Rte 18)

Contact: Bob Steeb, 585-621-5019

[rsstamp@frontiernet.net](mailto:rsstamp@frontiernet.net)

Contact: John Stoltz, 585-507-3533

[jstoltz@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jstoltz@rochester.rr.com)

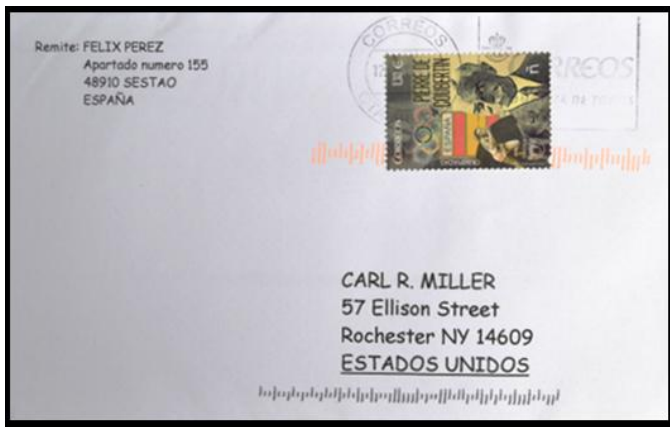
**By Bob and Elli Steeb:** We have been a stamp dealer and show host for over 30 years. We have enjoyed our association with the stamp collecting public and considered all of you as both friends and customers. However, we no longer have the wear-with-all to manage the set-up, take down and long periods of time required to manage a show. We take this step down with great sadness. As October's show will be the last for us, we will be discounting supplies and other material.

**By John Stoltz:** Bob Steeb has supported the area's stamp shows for many years as a dealer and show chairman. Without his organization and supervision we may not have had any shows in Rochester area other than ROPEX. Recently Bob and I sat down to discuss the future of the RS Stamp show. He has decided to step down. After a long discussion, he talked me into running the show with few changes from the excellent show Bob has already in place.

## Summer Collecting: Pierre de Coubertin

cont. from page 1

Pierre de Coubertin was born in 1863 in Paris, France. The historian and educator championed the rebirth of Olympic competition at an 1894 "Congress on Sports" held June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Paris. The result was the first modern Olympic Games held two years later in Athens, Greece. As head of the Olympic Committee (IOC), De Coubertin grew the Olympics, reviving such events as the pentathlon, until retiring from the IOC in 1924. 122 years to the day after that initial planning session championed by de Coubertin, Spain honored the meeting in Paris, with a single commemorative stamp and a first day ceremony in Barcelona.



The stamp was issued for the foreign postal rate and Carl was able to obtain some of his philatelic treasures in envelopes addressed to him which employ the stamps as postage from two of the dealers.



**It's not just stamps!** In addition to philatelic material depicting de Coubertin, Carl collects other commemorative items of the French visionary. Recent additions include this Chinese gold coin and a Hungarian match book cover.



A few other Pierre de Coubertin commemoratives



**A printing oddity:** Sometimes one does not need to leave the house to discover a neat stamp. RPA member Paul Brach discovered this philatelic oddity while just perusing his own collection. It is just a moderately off center 1947 Northeast China IL62 issue depicting Mao Tse-tung. But the backside appears to show a full printing of the reverse image of the stamp. Likely just bleeding through, but the backside image is so complete and uniform that it is tempting to think of some other phenomena?

This issue of Hinges and Tongs is a bit late because your editor was off hunting minerals in western Ontario for much of August. Fifteen of us from two clubs made the trek; we called it "All the way to Thunder Bay" or "2800 miles in 10 days". Thunder Bay, Ontario is just 75 klics (that is Canada-speak for kilometers) from the northeast tip of Minnesota and a metropolis called Grand Portage. For mineral enthusiasts Thunder Bay is the North American mecca for amethyst and I now have a couple buckets full of self-collected purple stuff to go with my amethyst on stamps. They need cleaning though, the minerals ... not the stamps!



## ROPEX 2016 in Pictures



**A portion of the dealer side of the ROPEX floor:** With 15 dealers, a USPS booth, several club tables, a youth area, and over 40 exhibits, we use much of the Canandaigua Civic Center converted hockey rink.



**Two of our six "Design-a-Stamp winners attended ROPEX,** Connor Mellin on left, Amy Ruan second from right. Frank Tritto is the benefactor of the monetary awards to the six winners. Mary Iman runs the program and the Youth Table at ROPEX.



**Four ROPEX committee members sort stamps at the RPA "ten cent a stamp table".** From left to right, Ray Stone, Tom Fortunato, Chuck Schultz, and Carl Miller

ROPEX will return to being a National Level, fully judged WSP event next year, but ROPEX 2017 will become a two-day, rather than three-day event. We will be in the same venue, Friday and Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> with hours from 10 AM to 6 PM each day.

Attendance has remained strong on Friday and Saturday but has been dropping on Sundays the past several years. Dealers and committee members alike agreed that condensing the show to two days made sense. More details about the show in the upcoming months.

## RPA Meeting Pictures



**Florence Wright brought this oversized poster to a May RPA meeting on "What I found at ROPEX".** She had found the poster of a 1936 Christmas Seal and one other at ROPEX in 2015. Ada Marie Prill and Whitney McMahon are clearly enjoying the moment. You never know what you will miss when you skip an RPA meeting.



**Our July called auction at the JCC was well attended.** It was our first July event in many years. Rich Spinelli and John Kellas are calling an item here.

## Researching a Penny Red Cover By Larry Rausch



Knowing my love for Penny Red covers, club member and dealer John Stoltz of McCloud Stamps, sold me a great cover a couple of years ago. An internet search has provided the following detail about the cover's addressee.

### Brigadier General Collett Leventhorpe, Confederate States Army

Collett Leventhorpe's military career started when he purchased the rank of Ensign in 1832 in the army of King William IV and was stationed in Ireland. In 1835 he purchased a Lieutenancy and was stationed in the British West Indies. In 1842 he moved to Canada and was promoted to Captain.

When he traveled to North Carolina on business, he met his future wife and married in 1849. He applied for and was granted United States Citizenship.

When North Carolina seceded, Leventhorpe offered his military services becoming colonel of the 34<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, and led troops at the Battle of White Hall. In January 1863, his brigade joined Robert E Lee's Army of Northern Virginia for the Gettysburg Campaign. He was wounded and captured by the Union cavalry.

The Union surgeon tending to him detected that gangrene had set into the wound and suggested amputation but Leventhorpe refused. The surgeon

cauterized the wound and Leventhorpe also refused anesthesia saying he "would have died rather than let an enemy see that a Confederate Officer could not endure anything without a complaint". He spent eight months as a prisoner of war until he was exchanged.

In February 1865, he was promoted to Brigadier General. His troops retreated to Greensboro where he surrendered on April 26, 1865.



**The Mourning cover was mailed on August 31, 1872 from Bath in England to the home of C. Leventhorpe located in Patterson, North Carolina.** The postage rate was established at 6 cents in 1870. The exchange rate of a 1 Penny Red was two cents thus the cover has the correct postage.



Leventhorpe was born at Exmouth, Denon, England May 1, 1815 and died December 1, 1889 at the age of 74. He is buried in Lenoir, North Carolina.

## World Stamp Show 2016

### By Tom Fortunato

At least half-a-dozen RPA members took the opportunity to get down to the Javits Center in New York City to attend the US international during its eight day run. These once a-decade events are true extravaganzas and it was probably not possible to see and do everything one hoped. Dealers queried were all pleased with the turnout and overall sales activity on the show floor, as were the

more than fifty postal administrations from around the world that were in attendance.

Multiple Jennies stole the show — from a real Jenny plane in the lobby to at least nine inverts that made an appearance at the show: the unique arrow block of four and Position 69 owned by Bill Gross; Position 58 graded 95 by PSE and auctioned by Siegel's for \$1.351 million (including the buyer's premium) during the show; Position 8 auctioned by

Schuyler Rumsey for \$190,000; Position 36 on display by the Columbian Stamp Company with a price tag of \$450,000 (no takers, we think); and Position 76 found by a young man in Northern Ireland and returned to the APS/APRL having been confirmed as a reperfed single from a block of four stolen in 1955.

First published in [Stamp Insider July/August issue](#), page 68

## RPA Member Lisa Doiron

By Ada Marie Prill

Longtime RPA member Lisa Doiron passed away peacefully at her home in Ludlow, Massachusetts, on May 14, with her family at her side. She had battled breast cancer for nine years. Lisa was 54 years old.

Lisa joined RPA in 1995. She left Rochester in 1997 but retained her RPA membership except for 2010-14. She usually attended ROPEX and assisted at the club table.

Her passion was going to First Day ceremonies all over the country and obtaining unofficial cancels on the day a stamp was issued, often in the company of Rick Kase and/or former RPA president Brad Sterling. She had been enthusiastically looking forward to the many First Day ceremonies to be held at World Stamp Show in New York City. She collected first day covers from the ceremonies she attended, with a special interest in covers of the AIDS Awareness stamp.

A nurse by profession, Lisa was a kind person, very calm and caring. She loved the Red Sox, ham radio, and Star Trek. Lisa was a true friend to many RPA folks and will be very much missed.

Those who wish to send condolences should address them to Lynda Wyatt-Doiron, 84 Fuller St, #9, Ludlow MA 01056.



**Lisa Doiron at ROPEX in 2008.** On the right is past RPA President Brad Sterling, currently living in Canandaigua.



*Son X. Nguyen*  
1938-2016

Son Nguyen passed away with his family by his side on May 11, 2016. Son was an active member of RPA from 1991 to 2008. In addition to stamp collecting Son enjoyed photography and was often found carrying his camera to club events.

Son wrote often for the Vietnamese community in town and worked as a Supervisor at the Community Development Services. In retirement, Son and his wife Dzung traveled the world taking a smile wherever he went. In addition to his wife of 45 years, Son is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

## New US Issues in September



Star Trek: Sept. 2 (New York, NY)  
Jack-o'-lanterns: Sept. 29  
Anoka, MN)

In June we were treated to planets. In September we will be treated to intergalactic travel, Star Trek style. Hard to believe, but it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the television premier. Where were you in September of 1966?

Halloween gets recognized this year with four jack-o'-lantern stamps in a 20 stamp booklet. USPS refers to the issue as a set of "delightfully eerie stamps". I just wonder why all four are carved with smiles. Are all jack-o'-lanterns happy?