

# Hinges & Tongs



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## A Local Letter with a National Twist

By Rich Spinelli

For ROPEX 2016 last May, I prepared a one frame, non-competitive exhibit of postal cards, covers, letters and signatures with a connection to Rochester, New York, my home town. One of the items I included was an 1858 signed letter by the Reverend James Smith Bush.

So who is Rev. Bush and how is he connected to Rochester? Rev. James Smith Bush was born in Rochester in 1825, was an attorney, an Episcopal priest and religious writer, and an ancestor of the Bush political family. He was the father of business magnate Samuel Prescott Bush, grandfather of former US Senator Prescott Bush, great-grandfather of former US President George H. W. Bush and great-great-grandfather of former US President George W. Bush.

Rev. Bush entered Yale College in 1841 (class of 1844), the first of what would become a long family tradition, as his grandson Prescott Sheldon Bush, great-grandsons George H. W. Bush, Prescott Sheldon Bush, Jr. and William H. T. Bush, great great-grandson George W. Bush, and great-great-great-granddaughter Barbara are all Yale alumni. After Yale, he returned to Rochester and studied law, joining the bar in 1847.

Rev. Bush left Rochester in 1865, settling in California, accepting Episcopal parish responsibility in San Francisco and later in Staten Island. He published several volumes of sermons during his career. He ultimately left

the Episcopal Church over a church raffle and became a Unitarian (so the Internet says). There is much interesting about the Reverend which can be found on the Internet.

for the "Rest of the Story" (see *A Local Letter*, page 3)

## RPA meets at the JCC in Brighton, NY



At the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we shared "fancy cancels" from our collections. What followed was an invigorating discussion of star cancels, cork designs, and a whole lot more. In the picture George Fekete (seated in center) holds up material he brought to the meeting. Notice all the silent auction material in the front table waiting to be taken home by new owners.



Rich Spinelli started the evening by giving a short review on the use of "fancy cancels" such as the star, target, and pinwheel designs depicted above. This was followed by members sharing their favorite fancy cancels.

As you will note on page 2 we plan several more meetings based on philatelic themes, but with group participation with members bringing material that fits the theme rather than a central speaker. Based on the participation level and general quality of "fancy cancel" night, these will likely be entertaining meetings.

*Related story on "Fancy Cancels" on page 5*

## President's Message



Fellow RPA members,

Now that the US Presidential election is over, it is time to start thinking about the 2017 RPA election. Your Board is looking for someone to chair an election committee in selecting candidates for office and conducting the electoral process in accordance with the latest RPA bylaws. If you are interested in being chair, please notify any current Board officer. We are looking to have the Election Committee leader selected by the 2nd meeting in January.

The idea of having a joint stamp / coin meeting this season with our sister club, the RNA, has surfaced, particularly among those collectors who hold membership in both clubs. We'll be looking for your input on this idea.

### Rich Spinelli, RPA President

**Editor's Note:** At the November 10<sup>th</sup> club meeting, we discussed a joint RPA/RNA meeting and agreed to work on bringing this to reality. The two clubs have many common members and shared interests. John Kellas has agreed to represent the RPA and work with RNA member Charles Craig to pick a date, venue and program plan for such a gathering.

### Upcoming RPA Meetings

- Thurs. Dec 8** "Christmas Stamps"  
by Florence Wright
- Thurs. Jan. 12** "Identification Guides for U.S.  
1, 2 and 3 cent Stamps" by Rich Spinelli
- Thurs. Jan. 26** "Bring a Guest Night" and  
"Everyone a Dealer Night".
- Thurs. Feb 9** "Cachet Design Contest Finale"
- Thurs. Feb 23** Called Auction  
(Club and Member Items)
- Thurs. March 9** "Cyripedium Orchids" by Paul  
Brach
- Thurs. March 23** "Four Page Exhibit Competition"
- Thurs April 13** "Summer Olympics on Stamps"  
Theme and members bring items

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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.

We have a couple programs for spring, but still have openings. 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. In fact it is past that time. 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. Bring your payment to a meeting or mail to RPA, P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206.

### Rochester Stamps and Collectibles Show

Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> (9:30 – 4:00 PM)

North Greece Fireman's Field,

3666 Latta Rd. (Rte 18)

Contact: John Stoltz, 585-507-3533

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

### RPA DESIGN A CACHET CONTEST

Given the success of last year's contest, RPA announces the second annual cachet design contest among members. We ask members to design a cachet and submit via mail. This is an excellent opportunity for our out of town members to participate in a club event. The rules are simple:

- 1) Pick a US stamp of any denomination/vintage.  
It can be mint or used (see #4)
- 2) Place it on a regular letter envelope No. 6 ¾
- 3) Create a cachet design for your chosen stamp.  
Any method (pencil, ink, paint, blood, computer graphics, etc.) is acceptable.
- 4) Add sufficient postage for mailing if your chosen stamp is either used or less than 47 cents.
- 5) Mail to: RPA President – Rich Spinelli  
295 Raspberry Patch Drive  
Rochester, NY 14612-2875

**Deadline: Postmarked before Jan. 10, 2017.**

Each club member is allowed two entries.

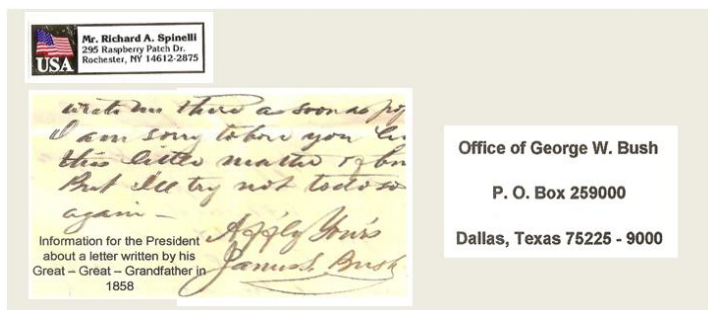
Return address on envelope is optional, but do remember to put your name inside!

We will view all the results and award wonderful prizes at our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

page 2

## A Local Letter (cont. from page 1)

So, here is the kicker to my story. About three weeks ago, I decided I would offer my prized Rev. Bush letter to his great, great grandson, former President George W. Bush. I found the President's Texas address, wrote a short letter explaining what I had and that it was available to the President free of charge, should he want it. I explained that I did not include the letter in my note for fear that it would never reach his desk, or somehow become lost. I asked only that I be informed that the President wanted the letter. (A nice signed letter by the President to me would be nice, although I wasn't that blunt).



I created this cacheted envelope including the corner of the letter and Rev. Bush's signature, enclosed my note, and sent it to Texas.

What do you think? Will I ever hear from the President or his representative? Or will the Rev. Bush letter remain quietly in a cardboard box as it has for the last 150 + years? In the scheme of a President's life, my note must lie somewhere near the bottom of the pile. But, oh, boy, wouldn't it be nice if the President actually read and responded to my note? Stay tuned, I'll keep you posted.



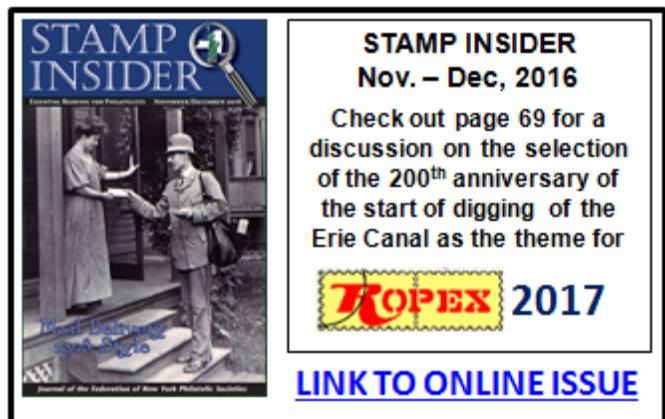
Do you have your Holiday Stamps yet?



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Russia issued two new stamps in their lighthouse series. So what is the significance of these stamps? Both the Tarkhankut and Chersonesus lighthouses are on the Crimean Peninsula, in territory annexed by Russia in March of 2014.



Remember Paul Brach's presentation of "[Mushrooms on Stamps](#)" from March, 2016? Well, your editor attended a Burroughs Audubon Nature Club mushroom hike that Paul led to Zurich Bog in September. Among the 72 species identified that day was an *Entoloma murraini*. Paul took this picture and noted that it would give him another match for his stamp and local mushroom collection. Paul went home and located the matching stamp. Note that Paul will return to the club stage in March when he moves from mycology to botany and discusses the philatelic aspects of *Cypripedium* orchids.



## A DIGITALLY RECONSTRUCTED PENNY BLACK SHEET

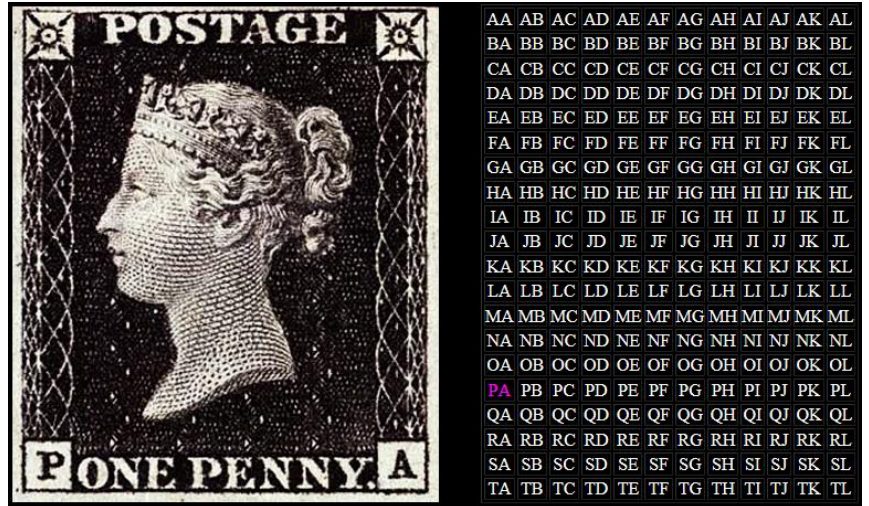
At our first fall meeting in September, we all reviewed our summer activity. While many spoke of travel, gardens, or new acquisitions at the World Show in June, Tom Fortunato presented a webpage he spent his summer building. The page, entitled "[Reconstructed Penny Black Sheet](#)", is linked from the meeting page of the club website, or can be entered using the link in the blue title in this sentence.

As most know, the world's first stamp was plated with combinations of letters in the lower two corners that marked the position of that stamp within a printed sheet of 240 stamps. Put another way, there are actually 240 different stamps to collect if one considers the paired letters in the corner as collectible variations.



The uppermost left 4 stamps (AA-AD) of a Penny Black plate.

Tom searched the internet for images of the Penny Black stamp and worked to generate an image of the full sheet. Whenever he found one he incorporated the image into a digital sheet. When he found a duplicate, he chose the better image. It was a challenge to find acceptable images of all 240 different letter pairings, but diligence was rewarded and the result is a most interesting compilation. With a catalog value of \$320 each, a full sheet of used Penny Black stamps would catalog \$76,800. Tom's digital compilation, on the other hand, is priceless!



After entering the site, one can also select a stamp of interest using the letter paired spreadsheet to bring up a larger image of the stamp in question. Tom notes that some of the observed color and sharpness variations in the images may be real, but much is likely to reflect different scanning processes as the images literally come from 240 different digital sources.

## Railroading in Philately

An RPA Presentation by  
Florence Wright & Whitney McMahon



New Brunswick #6



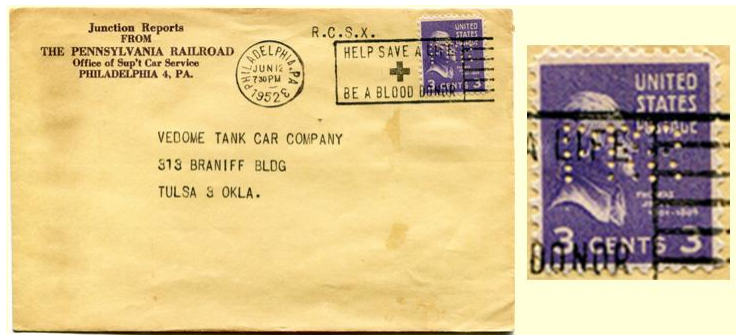
Peru #19

Do you know the significance of these two stamps? You do if you attended the two part RPA program on Railroading led by Florence Wright and Whitney McMahon (Part 1 in April, Part 2 in Sept.). The 1860 stamp from New Brunswick is recognized as the first government issued stamp depicting a train while the 1871 stamp from Peru is considered the world's first

commemorative train issue. The Peru stamp commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first railway in South America. But we learned a lot more than that in the two presentations.

Florence and Whitney shared their passion for railroad philately. They shared pictures and stories about single stamps, souvenir sheets, and interesting covers honoring railway events or used by railroad companies. We saw stamps with train signals, streetcars, train tracks, train stations, and railroad bridges. Even the irony of small island countries like Tuvalu, which has no rail service, issuing Famous Train stamps was discussed.

Topical collecting is more than just stamps with a theme and this presentation clearly showed us all how this is so.



There was even something for the perfin collectors among us.

POUGHKEEPSIE.											
No.	NAME.	ADDRESS.	Busi-ness	Societies.	Adv. page	Refer-ence	SPECIALTY.	Number of varieties	Appr. value	Speci-ally	Desi. of Coll'r
1247	ACKER, W. D.	144 Montgomery st	21	Stationery & Ins.	S. A. 29	10	U. S.	800	No	Yes	Yes
1248	KEECH, J. R.	Law Building	22	Ar.&Coun.-at-L'w	S.	152	U. S.	950	No	Yes	Yes
RED CREEK. Population, 492.											
1249	HALL, L. P.		18	Druggist	S.	122	U. S. C. A.	1000	Yes	Yes	No
1250	VAN VLECK, E. A.		17	Student	S.		N., S. & C. A.	600	No	Yes	Yes
RICHFIELD SPRINGS. Population, 1,623.											
1251	IBBOTSON, E. D.		20	Publisher	P. S.	74	Amer., Chili	2600	Yes	Yes	Yes
1252	IBBOTSON, JR., J. D.		13		S.	6 161	S. America	1000	No	Yes	No
1253	McKEE, J.				S.	225	U. S. & N. A.	1000	Yes	Yes	Yes
ROCHESTER. Population, 135,302.											
1254	BENNETT, B. G.	55 Trust Bdg.	28	Cashier		3 5	General	3000	No	No	No
1255	CHAPIN F. L.	8 College ave	15	Student			N. & S. A.	1000	Yes	Yes	Yes
1256	CROUCH, C. E.	16 Fulton ave	34	Bookkeeper		2 9		5300	Yes	Yes	Yes
1257	FERGUSON, G. A.	59 Ambrose st	14			6 3	General	800	Yes	Yes	No
1258	FORD, G. G.	48 & 50 N. St. Paul st	20	Bookkeeper			General	300	No	Yes	No
1259	GARDNER, G. B.	P. O. Box 97	32	Com. Traveler		3	General	1500	Yes	Yes	Yes
1260	GERLING, W. V.	276 Brown st	13	Student		134	General		No	Yes	Yes
1261	GORDON, C.	713 E. Main st	13			2 3	General	1500	Yes	Yes	Yes
1262	GNARDINGER, J.	87 Concord ave	25	Bookkeeper	M.	6	General	4500	Yes	Yes	Yes
1263	LANSING, H. T.	48 Grug st	21	Salesman	S.	5		2500	Yes	No	Yes
1264	LYDDON, C. R.	8 Lamberton Park	16			3	General	1600	Yes	Yes	Yes
1265	POND, F.	20 College ave	10	Student					Yes	Yes	Yes
1266	REITZ, C. G.	37 S. Goodman st	13					1550	Yes	No	Yes
1267	STRONG, H. G.	129 Lake ave	19		S.	143	U. S.		No	Yes	Yes
1268	TOWNSEND F. K.	13 Lamberton Park				3 5	General	2500	Yes	No	Yes
1269	WARD, ALICE M.	16 College ave				3	General	1800	No	Yes	No
1270	WILLIAMS, C. S.	53 Park ave	15			158	General	1100	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Some Rochester Philatelic History:** Tom Fortunato stumbled on this while downloading some postal history material onto our club computer. Dated 1893, this Rogers American Philatelic "Blue Book" lists the names and addresses of over 2000 stamp collectors across the USA along with info on clubs. This is the page that includes Rochester and the names of 17 collectors and their addresses. Note the columns including the size of their collections and each collector's specialization. Does anyone recognize any names or addresses?

# Fancy Cancel Postal Star Die by Larry Rausch

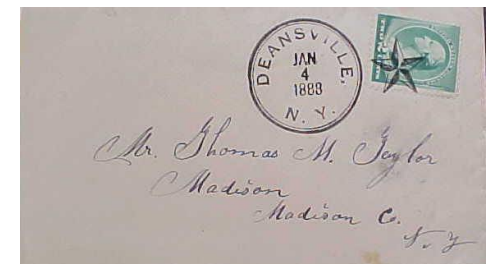


At the 2015 APS National Stamp Show in Grand Rapids Michigan, I purchased this Star Postal Hand Die. The three dimensional looking star measures one inch point-to-point and the die is 2 1/2 inches long. Most of the Star cancels were used during 1870-1880's coming in many different ink colors.


The following 18 locations in New York State have the Star Postmarks identified as number 9.

- 1 Amsterdam
- 2 Bethlehem Center
- 3 Coeymans
- 4 Cold Springs Harbor
- 5 Crown Point
- 6 Deansville
- 7 Hoosick
- 8 Hotel Champlain
- 9 Livonia Station
- 10 McLean
- 11 Phoenicia
- 12 Rexford Flats
- 13 Rockland
- 14 Southfields
- 15 Stony Ford
- 16 Stuyvesant
- 17 Tiashoke
- 18 Webb Mills

**Proux, D. (1987),** Star Cancels of New York State, Empire State Postal History Society (ESPHS)



**Here is an example of one of the New York star postmarks.** Deansville (1830-1894) is in Oneida County and in the town of Marshall, approximately 14 miles southwest of Utica, NY. In 1894 its name was changed to Deansboro. The post office was established in 1833 with Thomas Dean as postmaster.




**A-B "COUNTRIES"**

Paul Brach

Alwar

**SWITZERLAND**

David Durham



We were treated to geographical themes in our October programs. On October 13<sup>th</sup> Paul Brach reviewed all (well, many) of the world's locales that begin with either the letter A or B and issued postage stamps. He showed us their stamps, briefly reviewed their reason for existence, and showed a location map. Places like Alexandretta, Alexandria, Alwar, Amoy, Angra, Antioquia, Arequipa, Barma, Barwani, Benadir, Bergedoff, and Boyaca to name a few. Paul's presentation is available on our website [\(link\)](#).



The location was a bit more familiar to us all when David Durham presented Helvetia (Switzerland) philately to us on October 27<sup>th</sup>. As a country known for neutrality and peace, David selected this land locked European country as a focus for his collecting and has used the nation's stamps to learn its history. He brought the American Philatelic Society's 2010 DVD entitled "Switzerland: A Panorama of Its Stamps" and used the program to guide a discussion of his favorite Swiss issues and the wonderful selection of philatelic material the country offers. From its rare early Zurich issue of 1843, through its wonderful definitives highlighting the nation's natural beauty, and, of course, the rich history of its annual semi-postal sets, Switzerland has plenty to offer any country collector.

## RPA Member Jim Trenton



By Ada Marie Prill

RPA Life Member Jim Trenton passed away on September 11, 2016. He was 70 years old, and his death was unexpected.

Jim joined RPA in 1976 and served as club treasurer from 1981 until 1993. His service was honored with the Warren Stevens Award "For Outstanding Contributions to the Rochester Philatelic Association."

Jim was a gardener, a pilot, a clarinet player (New Horizons Band), and he was an avid fan of short wave radio, listening to broadcasts from all parts of the globe. He exhibited his topical collection devoted to communications.

Jim was a kind man. He offered rides to elderly members who could not otherwise get to meetings. I knew him for about 30 years and never heard him say anything bad about anyone. He loved philately, and he loved the friendships he developed during his years as an RPA member. His sense of humor

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was quiet but often evident. For example, when we had the First Day ceremony for United Nations stamps honoring World Weather Watch in 1989, Jim brought in an electric fan to blow the flag so it would look like it was out in the weather.

RPA members will miss him greatly.



**Jim Trenton** and John Kellas III at the RPA Annual Picnic in 1980.

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## RPA Member Bill Arthur

RPA Life member William E. Arthur (Bill) passed away on September 21, 2013, the result of injuries incurred on June 21, 2016 in an automobile accident. Bill was 89 years old and remained active in all aspects of his life until the accident.



**Bill Arthur addresses members and friends at the RPA Centennial Dinner Celebration in March of 2013.** Photo from RPA Archives

*November, 2016 – January, 2017*

In sharing the sad news of Bill's passing with his RPA friends, his son, Bill Arthur Jr. writes:

*"To the best of my recollection, my dad joined RPA in early 1961, as we were in the process of relocating from Utica to Rochester -- and he enjoyed every year of his membership. He and my mother moved to Herkimer in the mid-80s but he continued to attend meetings from time to time -- he would always make note of attending the annual June strawberry shortcake social.*

*Stamp collecting for him was nearly life long -- he got his start as a youngster in the '30s (a couple of years ago he put together his memories of stamp collecting for items in Stamp Insider -- from which I learned a lot about his start). And true to his love of stamp collecting and spreading the word about it, he was actually on his way to give a talk on collecting at a small town library in the Utica area when he had the accident."*

Bill's memory was correct. Bill joined RPA in 1961 and as a member of 55 years he was the longest standing member at the time of his passing. Although he left the Rochester area soon after his retirement from Kodak in 1985, Bill remained loyal to RPA with his membership, his attendance at ROPEX, and his occasional trip west to a club meeting. RPA members will miss those visits.

