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Perforation Gauges revisited • Digital Magnifying App  
New US Issues • ROPEX 2018 theme

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By **George T. Fekete** (RNA President 2017, RPA Member)

The Rochester Numismatic Association (RNA) and Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA) have proud and storied histories, each recognized nationally. The organizations were established one year apart, the RNA in 1912 and the RPA in 1913. Each has played a prominent role promoting its specialty.

Recognizing the importance of the RNA - Branch 2 of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), the ANA held its national show in Rochester three times:

- August 1912 - at the Hotel Rochester, in the year the association was granted a federal charter signed by President William H. Taft
- August 1917 - at the Memorial Art Gallery
- August 1928 - at the Hotel Seneca

The RPA's 50th anniversary exhibition was held at Midtown Plaza in Rochester in 1963, one year after the mall opened. The event was open for 50 straight hours, from 3:00 PM on April 26 through 5:00 PM on April 28. The scope of the show prompted enthusiasts in the national philatelic community to compare the event favorably to acclaimed international level shows.



**Incoming RPA President Larry Rausch** welcomes members from both the RPA and RNA to the joint meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The first "Champion of Champions" was introduced at the 82nd annual American Philatelic Society (APS) convention - or APS-68 - in September 1968 at the Sheraton Hotel in Rochester. This competition played a key role in the decision to create the World Series of Philately (WSP), an annual competition sponsored by the APS that continues to this day. The RPA sponsors ROPEX, a WSP show, annually.

Both the RPA and the RNA were established at the Hotel Rochester. On January 4, 1912 the RNA was founded by fifteen local numismatists at the hotel. Thirteen philatelists met there on March 26, 1913 and formed the RPA. Three men were charter members of both organizations: Woolf H. Amberg, Dr. George P. French and Fred E. Merritt. Amberg became president of both organizations, Merritt served as RNA president and RPA treasurer and French was an RNA president.

Each organization celebrated its centennial, 100 years to the day after its inception, with special events and memorabilia. On January 4, 2012, the RNA held its centennial dinner at Mario's Italian Steak House to kick off a year long celebration of "100 years of friendship in Rochester through coins." A variety of mementos were created to commemorate the anniversary, including a centennial book, *Celebrating 100 Years of Friendship*, edited by Scott Fybus, and a 2.5" antique finish One Hundred Years of Friendship anniversary medal designed by Gerry Muhl. The RPA held a dinner on March 12, 2013 at Locust Hill Country Club and offered mementos, including an event

**continued on pg. 3 (see RPA/RNA meeting)**



Fellow RPA members,

Welcome to our 105<sup>th</sup> consecutive year which begins with our upcoming 2017 RPA meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared at this meeting to share your personal and Philatelic summer activities and to discuss and volunteer for our 2017-18 yearly agenda. What interesting subject would you like to see presented?

I wish to thank our members for hosting a very successful July joint meeting between RPA and RNA.

Hopefully this will foster future get-togethers. See you on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Larry Rausch, RPA President**

### Upcoming RPA Meetings

**Thurs. Sept. 14:** "What I Did Last Summer" and "A Look at The Coming Year" Discussion

- Thurs, Sept 28** TBA
- Thurs, Oct 12** TBA
- Thurs, Oct 26** TBA
- Thurs, Nov 9** TBA
- Thurs, Dec 14** TBA

Lots of fall meeting dates lack programs. We'll be looking for programs at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you would like a forum to discuss your favorite philatelic venture, come prepared to volunteer. Or if you just have an idea you might like the group to pursue, bring it to the attention of the group.

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.

### Up Coming Stamp Shows/Bourses

**Oct 8 (Sunday) Brockport** Stamp Show & Philatelic Open House sponsored by the Western Monroe Philatelic Society. Brockport Exempts Club, 248 West Avenue. Hours: 10-4. Contact: David Bombard, 585-352-6955 Email: [dbombar1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dbombar1@rochester.rr.com)

**Oct 27-28 Big Flats** STEPEX Stamp Show Sponsored by the Elmira Stamp Club. American Legion Post, 45 South Olcott Rd, I-86 at exit 49. Hours: 10-6, 10-5. Dealers, exhibits, US Postal Service, show cancel and cacheted envelopes, junior activities. Contact Al Parsons, 607-732-0181. Email: [alatholleyrd@aol.com](mailto:alatholleyrd@aol.com)

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### September Membership Offer from APS

Have you considered joining the [American Philatelic Society](#), but have simply not done so? Well, the APS has a special September offer that might be just for you.

During the month of September, the APS is offering a special membership rate of \$35 for chapter members who are not yet members of the APS. The 16 month rate covers the rest of 2017 and all of 2018 and is a significant savings over the standard \$48 annual membership rate. Here is a link to the special APS "[September and Save](#)" membership offer.

In addition, if you fill in Rochester Philatelic Association as your "commercial reference" on the membership form, RPA will receive \$5 when you membership is approved.

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### RPA Officers (Elected June 2017)

#### RPA Officers (July 2017-June 2019)

- President- Larry Rausch
- Vice President- John Flannery III
- Treasurer- Dave Robinson
- Recording Secretary- John Kellas III

#### Board of Governors

- Chuck Schultz (to June 30, 2018)
- Paul Brach (to June 30, 2019)
- Bob Kingston (to June 30, 2020)
- Rich Spinelli (Immediate Past President)



## RPA/RNA Meeting (cont. from pg. 1)

cover, to commemorate the celebration. A 100-year time capsule containing contemporary philatelic items was created for posterity.

The RPA accepted an invitation from the RNA and joined it in a banquet on January 20, 1914 at the Hotel Rochester to celebrate the second anniversary of the RNA and first anniversary of the RPA. One hundred and three years later the associations held a joint meeting on July 13, 2017 to share their common interest in philately and numismatics. After an introduction of the members in attendance a *Brief History of the RNA* presentation by RNA Historian Dennis DeYoung was made and RPA Webmaster Tom Fortunato presented a retrospective of significant RPA events. John Kellas followed with an overview of the intersection of philately with numismatics. The meeting closed with a group picture, silent stamp auction, called coin auction and cake.



The cake disappeared! But each club received a copy of the limited edition event cachet cover (below) designed by George Fekete. Others were auctioned in a spirited bidding session.



The joint meeting was also memorialized with a signed, souvenir event roster and two 37mm subscription medals produced by the North American

Mint, all using the event cover design conceived by Chip Scoppa. Images of the commemorative items can be viewed on the RNA website calendar entry of July 13th, at [rochesternumismaticassociation.org](http://rochesternumismaticassociation.org).



The obverse and reverse sides of the commemorative event medal available to those who attended the joint meeting.

Additional information about the RPA is available at [rpastamps.org](http://rpastamps.org). Sixty-one philatelists and numismatists attended the meeting; about a half-dozen were members of both clubs. A wide variety of material was offered in both auctions, a few items prompted vigorous bidding. Some items in each auction were donated for the benefit of the clubs and added to the treasuries of both organizations.

Feedback I received from attendees was uniformly positive and several people remarked that they would like this to become an annual event.

References:

**Philatelic:** RPA website [[rpastamps.org](http://rpastamps.org)], RNA *Hinges & Tongs*, & American Philatelic Society archives.

**Numismatic:** RNA website [[rochesternumismaticassociation.org](http://rochesternumismaticassociation.org)], RNA *News*, & American Numismatic Association *The Numismatist* archives.

This article was submitted to the RNA and RPA editors for publication in their respective newsletters, the *RNA News* and *Hinges & Tongs*.



[LINK to July-August STAMP INSIDER](#)  
The Sept-October issue should be available soon on the [Stamp Insider webpage](#)



## Case #599A

By Scott Martz



bold with distinct width as compared to the normal. This is a secondary marker to confirm the variety. See illustrations, and compare to the photo of the pair of stamps pictured.

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The 599A type II coil stamp is not an uncommon variety. It is highly publicized and illustrated in most catalogs, and with patience and persistence most people will find one. After seeing a few with your own eyes you will know exactly what to look for.

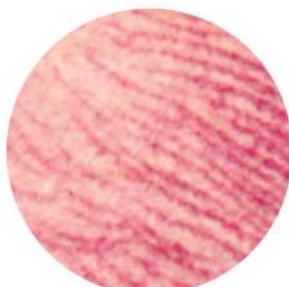
I have a great story to tell of when I really truly learned to hunt for #599A. A dealer friend in NY, John Kellas III, gave me an opportunity to search a box of these about 10 years ago. But, this was no ordinary box, it was HUGE. The box was the size of 3 large pillows piled on top of each other. Mostly off paper! We figured over 200,000 stamps. I spent 2 months searching it, and actually found over 250 of the 599A and 634A Type II stamps in that box. I became very good at finding them at a glance. I was able to keep 20 of those stamps after searching it for John. The 599A and 634A are scarce as that box was 100% unsearched and only about 1 in a 1000 stamps were Type II. The pair of stamps below was not found in this box, but in a collection many years later. I have the many hours of hunting this box to credit helping me find this in a collection at a Florida show.

But let us discuss what the 599A (and 634A) Type II is. In the photo below the type 1 #599 is on the left, and the 599A is on the right. The 599A has three very bold hairlines. They have significant width to those three hairlines. Many mistake a heavily struck or over inked stamp as the actual variety. The trick is to look for true width in those hairlines. Also a line in the right scrolling is

Because this is a plate variety, all stamps on the same plate do have the variety, why is the stamps picture a pair with one stamp showing the variety and one without? The answer is, that this stamp was printed by the rotary press method, and more than one plate is placed on the drum that does the printing. Where the plates come together, that forms the line that you see. So when 2 different type plates were put on the rotary drum, this very rare variety was born. So this is a variety of a variety. Kind of corny I know, but what can I say, that is who I am.

In terms of value, this is fun as prices multiply quickly from the plain #599 price. #599 used is a 5 cent stamp, the 599A used is \$17. A nice premium for sure, but if you can find a line pair with one #599 and #599A the price jumps to \$1000 for a used pair. If these were in MH condition, the #599 is 35 cents, the 599A is \$100, and the line pair with one 599 and one 599A is \$650. Never hinged jumps to \$1250. But this is an excellent example of the normal mint stamp being worth less than the same stamp in used condition. My example has a few short perforations on one stamp, which hurts the value quite a bit, but it is still an extremely difficult piece to find.

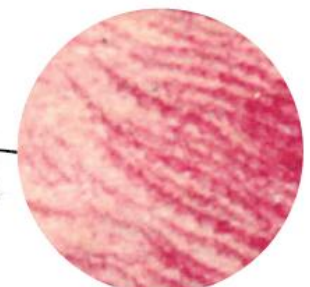
**Editor's Note:** *Scott Martz was an active RPA member until moving to South Carolina in the spring of 2014. Scott can be reached at [smartz9284@gmail.com](mailto:smartz9284@gmail.com)*



Scott #599

Type I

Normal width hairlines

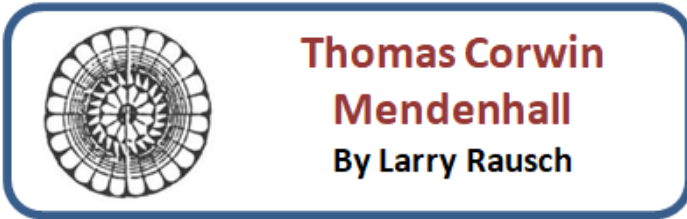


Scott #599A

Type II

Strengthened hairlines





This cover caught my attention because of its fancy cancellation --a **Wheel of Fortune post mark** (see inset in title above). An added benefit is that a prominent American is the addressee.



Thomas Corwin Mendenhall was an American self-taught physicist. He was born on October 4, 1841, in Hanoverton Ohio and raised in rural Ohio. While Mendenhall was a gifted teacher, he is most remembered for his contributions to science. He specialized in physics and lived an exciting, adventurous life that took him across the globe. In 1873, he became the first professor hired to work at the new Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, the predecessor of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Mendenhall traveled to Japan from 1878-1881 to teach physics at The University of Tokyo. There he helped spread modern science and developed the Japanese government's meteorological system and returned to Ohio in 1881. Although he had retired



from teaching at Ohio State University, he remained active in teaching and in scientific pursuits. He served as president of Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana, from 1886 to 1889, and as president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts from 1894 to 1901. Mendenhall was elected president of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science in 1889. At various points in his life, Mendenhall also served as chairman of the Massachusetts Highway Commission, superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, superintendent of United States Weights and Measures, a member of the United States Lighthouse Board, and as a member of the United States and Great Britain Boundary Line Survey Commission. He also received numerous awards and other recognitions for his contributions to science. While living in Columbus Ohio, he married Susan Allan Marple in 1870. The couple had one child, Charles Elwood Mendenhall, (1872-1935), teacher and chairman of the Physics Department at University of Wisconsin at Madison for 34 years. Mendenhall died on March 23, 1924.

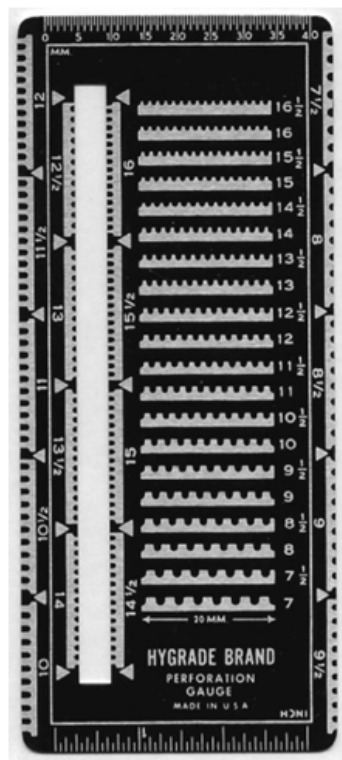
University officials named a building on The Ohio State campus in Mendenhall's honor. And now 95 years later in November, 2016 author Sybil Drew Published "Self Styled Genius: The Life of Thomas Corwin Mendenhall".

## Perforation gauges revisited

In the [May-July issue of Hinges and Tongs](#), Tom Fortunato noted several variations in simple perforation gauges that we all rely on. Well, here is another RPA member with another variation to report.

By David Farnsworth

I have a perforation gauge to add to those from the May-July 2017 Hinges and Tongs. It looks almost identical, but it says "HYGRADE BRAND, PERFORATION GAUGE, MADE IN USA". According to a sticker on the back of the gauge, I paid 79 cents for it, probably in about 1970, but I do not remember the source.



## USPS New Issues this Summer

This summer the USPS featured nature with three separate sets of stamps. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the color of the day was blue and the featured creatures were sharks. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, a set of five brilliantly colored stamps paid tribute to the beauty and importance of pollinators, both butterflies and bees and the flowers that benefit from their activity.



And if you have trouble growing great flowers in your garden, on August 16<sup>th</sup> you could have gotten a supply at your favorite post office with this release simply entitled "Flowers from the Garden".

## DIGITAL MAGNIFYING APP

Did you know that if you have an iPad or an iPhone that there is a magnifying app that allows you to magnify a stamp or cover, or anything else for that matter? Larry Rausch reports that he uses it at shows. When he sees something interesting, but perhaps not worthy of purchase, he will magnify it and take its picture. Once home the image can be uploaded to a computer for study. Apparently there is a "pro" version for purchase, but the basic app is free from iTunes. Here is a link where you can learn more:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/magnifying...light...magnifier-flashlight/id406048120>



The RPA ROPEX committee for 2018 met for the first time in early September. Next year's ROPEX will again be a two-day event returning to the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center for a fourth consecutive year. The event will be held Friday and Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The first decision to be made revolved around the selection of a theme for the event. This year that was an easy and unanimous decision. 2018 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scheduled Air Service in the United States. The first US air mail stamp (#C3) was issued on May 13<sup>th</sup> of 1918. Air mail service was initiated two days later on May 15<sup>th</sup>, one hundred years and 3 days prior to ROPEX 2018.

And if that is not enough the first air mail flight from Canandaigua occurred on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1938, or exactly 80 years to the day before the second day of ROPEX 2018 right there in Canandaigua. Everyone has lots of time to design a special cover cachet.



For more news on ROPEX 2018, visit our show webpage at: <http://www.rpastamps.org/rope.html>