

Hinges & Tongs

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Editor: Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)



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



Soon the snow will end (well not today as I look out the window) and soon it will be spring and time for another ROPEX, our annual stamp show. We have a very important anniversary to commemorate this year, both nationally and locally, and we plan to do so in style. 2018 is the 100th anniversary of US Air Mail Service. And if that is not enough, the Saturday of ROPEX (May 19th) is the 80th anniversary to the day of the first air flight delivering mail from Canandaigua to Rochester. RPA is hoping to collaborate with the local historical society in Canandaigua to commemorate the anniversary.

Yes, there will also be a stamp show, a two day event on Friday and Saturday May 18-19. We'll be featuring at least 15 dealers from across the northeast who will be selling and buying stamps, covers, coins and postcards. There will be over 100 competitive exhibit frames, a USPS booth, a kids stamp fun zone, and a whole lot more.

More details online at www.rpastamps.org,



An early rendition of one of two special cancels being designed by RPA member Amy Rau.

RPA member Luis Greiff Jr. has been interested in the [Railway Post Office](#) (RPO) for a long time. Recently that interest drew him to investigate the history and philatelic material of the European passenger train services of the Orient Express. At our January 25th club meeting Luis shared what he had learned and acquired about postal history and the Orient Express. You can view Luis' full presentation on the meetings page of our website ([Link](#))

The Orient Express is arguably the most famous train service in both reality and fiction. With five separate lines running through Europe's major cities from 1883 until 2009, the Orient Express served as one of the primary transport methods for passengers, products, and, of course, mail during the 20th century. Our fascination with the trains of the Orient Express have, of course, been periodically stimulated by both literature and film, the most famous of which is Agatha Christie's 1934 thriller "Murder on the Orient Express" and the four films that followed based on that book. The most recent was just last year.



2008 marked the 125th anniversary of the Orient Express train line. Serbia was one of many countries to honor the quasiquintennial of this famous line of trains.

continued on page 3 (see Orient Express)



President's Message

Fellow RPA members,

Happy New Year! Hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful snowy Rochester weather. ☺

We have added a few exciting meeting presentation topics to our late winter and spring calendar. There are still a few openings so here's an opportunity to volunteer to present your favorite topic or recommend a subject you would like to see presented.

Just around the corner is the 2018 ROPEX Stamp Show on May 18-19. The Ropex committee is hard at work to make this a memorable event. Come share with us the 80th year anniversary of the first air mail flight from Canandaigua to Rochester.

Rush, NY will be celebrating its 200th Bicentennial year in 2018. On Saturday, June 2nd, a First Day of Issue Postmark commemorating the Rush Bicentennial can be applied by presenting covers at the Rush Town Hall. As this date approaches, we will arrange to collect covers and carry them to be postmarked. We will let you know the details closer to that time.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next RPA meeting.

Larry Rausch, RPA President

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Thurs, Feb. 22 "Modern Postal History (US Airmail)"
by K. David Steidley

Thurs, March 8 "Computers and Philately Overview"
by George Fekete

Thurs, March 22 "Blackjacks"
by John Flannery

Thurs, April 12 Everyone a Dealer Night

Thurs, April 26 "How I Got Into Cachet Making"
by Kelly Armstrong

We still have openings in May and June. If you would like a forum to discuss your favorite philatelic

venture, just tell us. 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

Feb. 18: : **Rochester** Rochester Stamps & Collectibles Show
North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Rd.
Hours: 10-4. Bourse.
Contact: John Stoltz, 585-507-3533
Email: jstoltz@rochester.rr.com

May 18-19 **ROPEX** (Canandaigua Civic Center)
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-4 (free for RPA members, else \$2)
<http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html>
contact: Tom Fortunato: stampmf@frontiernet.net

June 22-24 **St. Catharines, ONTARIO**
Royal 2018 Royale, **Canada's National Stamp Exp.**
Holiday Inn and Suites, Parkway Convention Center,
327 Ontario St. Hours: 10-6, 10-6, 10-4
Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca
Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/shows.php>

Visit our [online calendar](#) for even more area show news



On January 30th, musical performer Lena Horne was honored in the ongoing Black Heritage Stamp Series. Mister Rogers (Fred Rogers) will get his spot on a US Forever stamp on March 23rd. He shares the stamp with King Friday.

Orient Express (cont. from pg. 1)

It was, of course, the postal service and the worldwide stamps issued to honoring the train that interested Luis. Countries for A (Austria) to Z (Zambia) have issued stamps commemorating events, places, or people associated with the Orient Express. Train enthusiasts can focus on the various styles and vintages of engines or cars depicted on the stamps. Maps of the train route interest cartophilatelists. A wide swath of European history is covered and famous people from all walks of life who travelled on the train are depicted on stamps. Yes, even Disney characters got their turn on stamps from Uganda. Below are a few of the issues that Luis has acquired and that he shared with us.



The list of characters that have ridden on the Orient Express is pretty long also. This set of ten Uganda stamps from 1996 is likely designed to attract several groups of topical collectors.



Many countries, like Dominica (in 1987) and Hungary (in 1979) chose to depict older engines in their stamps. Our club's train enthusiasts can likely tell us more about these early train engines.



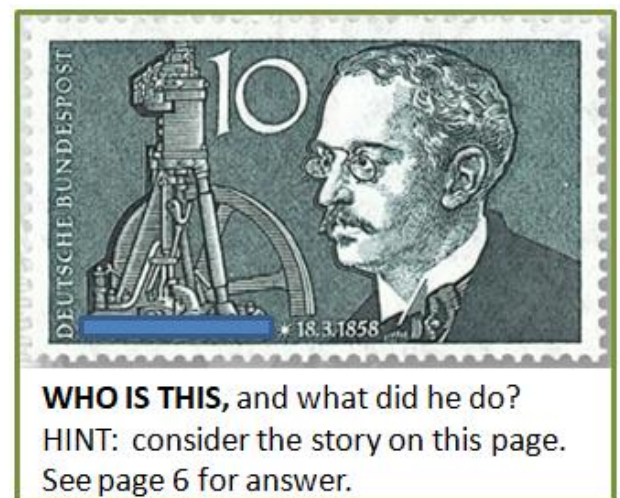
The Orient Express even had its own postage, with a half pence for an additional fee. This letter was cancelled by the British Post Office in Constantinople on Nov. 20, 1889 and sent to Tilsit (in East Prussia). Envelopes with this additional stamp are rare and valuable. Luis regretted that he did not own this piece of Orient Express postal history.



Much more recent trains are shown in these Orient Express renditions by Chad in 1972 and Grenada in 1982. Wonder how many folks in Grenada know what that white stuff is?



Of course, Agatha Christie and her epic murder novel gets honored in many stamps also (Great Britain 2016, one of six)



WHO IS THIS, and what did he do?
HINT: consider the story on this page.
See page 6 for answer.



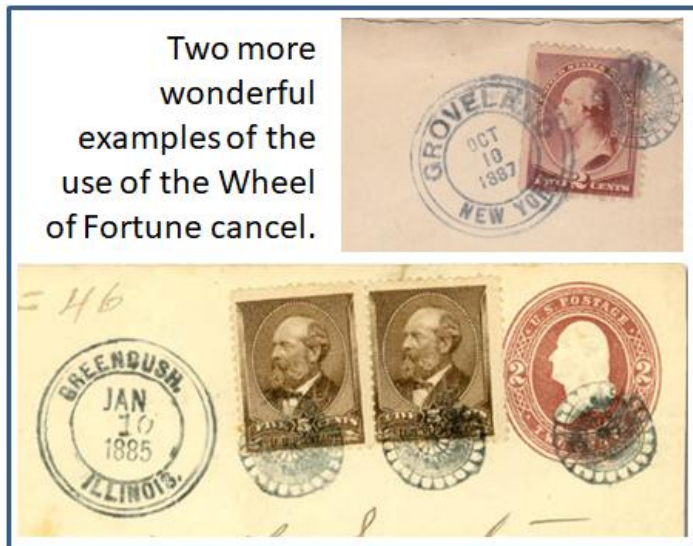
In 1880 the F.P. Hammond Co. of Aurora, Illinois, introduced a new canceller. Today this fancy rubber canceller is called the **Wheel of Fortune (WOF)**. The detailed stamper was made possible with the invention of vulcanized rubber. The Peerless Vulcanizer shown on the 1898 cover below may have been the type of machine to make the Wheel of Fortune cancelling device.



The first advertisement for the WOF appeared in the **January 1881 U.S. Official Postal Guide** (see lower right). Although this ad depicts postmarks dating in the 1870's, the earliest WOF postmark found to date is February 26, 1880 from New Lisbon, Wisconsin.



The Wheel of Fortune cancel was widely used. The 1995 book "Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894" by James M. Cole listed a total of 353 US towns that deployed the WOF cancel. Also the Kelleher Auction of the 2011 Arthur Beane sale listed 770 WOF covers. To date, 983 different WOF towns have been identified. Some of these Wheel of Fortune Postmark covers follow this article.



In the November 2005 U.S. Cancellation Club News issue, Arthur Beane announced a project to produce a monograph on the Wheel of Fortune cancels. I've taken up the task to complete this monograph.

Here is where you can help... Please provide any covers that you have (or know of) and forward photo scans of these covers to me at stonywoods840@gmail.com. All state towns and duplicates would also be appreciated.

References:

- 1.) Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894 James M Cole
- 2.) US Cancellation Club News
- 3.) Kelleher Auctions sale #623 January 14, 2011, Arthur Beane



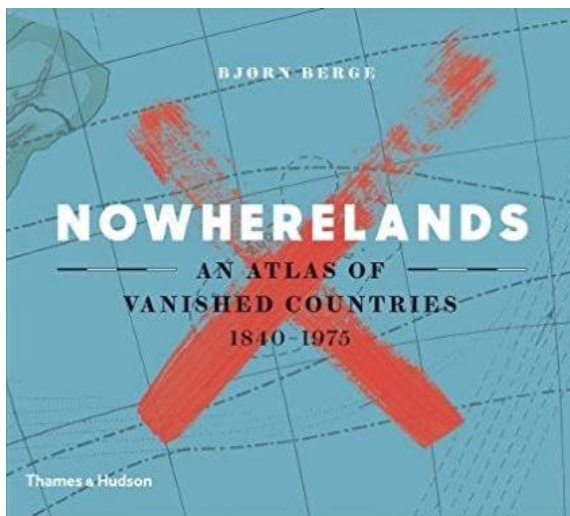
The Wheel of Fortune cancel gracefully placed atop a couple of 1 cent Ben Franklins in McCoy, Oregon the day before Christmas in 1886.

Nowherelands

A Book Review:
by Fred Haynes



In October of 2015, Steve Eisinger entertained us with his presentation entitled [“Confusing, Obscure, Bizarre and Defunct Countries – Their Coins and Stamps”](#): fascinating stories about forgotten places. For those who enjoyed Steve’s presentation, there is now a philatelic book with the same theme. **“Nowherelands- An Atlas of Vanished Countries 1840-1975”** reviews the history and geography of some 50 vanquished countries through the eyes of the country/kingdom’s stamp issues. The author, Bjorn Berge, is a Norwegian philatelist with a keen interest in history, a tireless commitment to research, and a ability to craft a relevant and enjoyable story.



Berge notes in his introduction, “The stamps serve as the core evidence, providing concrete proof that the countries did in fact exist.” Countries such as Karelia (now part of Russia) that existed only for 17 days in 1922. Not much time to form much of a government, but apparently enough time to issue a postage stamp (heck 15 of them!), thereby insuring its immortality, at least to philatelists. Or the Kingdom of Two Sicilies which united the Kingdoms of Sicily and Naples from 1815-1860 and issued a set of stamps depicting the kingdom’s coat of arms stamps in 1858. And then there is Inini, Biafra, Nandgaon, Obock, Upper Yafa, and

this list goes on. Each entry includes a map, a bit of history, and the story behind the designs of the stamps.



On the left: Scott #4 from Karelia (one of 15 stamps issued in early 1922). The raging bear breaking free of its chains depicts a republic willing to defy the Russians in establishing an autonomous country. Starvation and a frostbite cut the rebellion short. Those scribbles above the bear’s head: those are the northern lights!

On the right: Scott #3 issued in 1858 by the independent kingdom of Two Sicilies.

The book received a positive review by Phillip Coop in the January 2018 issue of *The New CartoPhilatelist*, the journal of the ATA Study Unit of Maps on Stamps, and by Angela Riechers in the [online October issue of Print Magazine](#). The 200 page book can be obtained from [Amazon online](#) for less than \$20.

Full reference:

Berge, Bjorn, 2017, *Nowherelands – An Atlas of Vanished Countries, 1840-1975*, Thames and Hudson, 200 p. (originally published in Norwegian in 2016)



May 19th, 2018 will mark the 80th anniversary of the first air mail delivery from Canandaigua to Rochester. We will celebrate the event Saturday May 19th at ROPEX. This first day cover from the original event is part of RPA member Dave Roehrig’s air mail cover collection. We’ll generate new cachet covers (and cancels) to recognize this important anniversary.

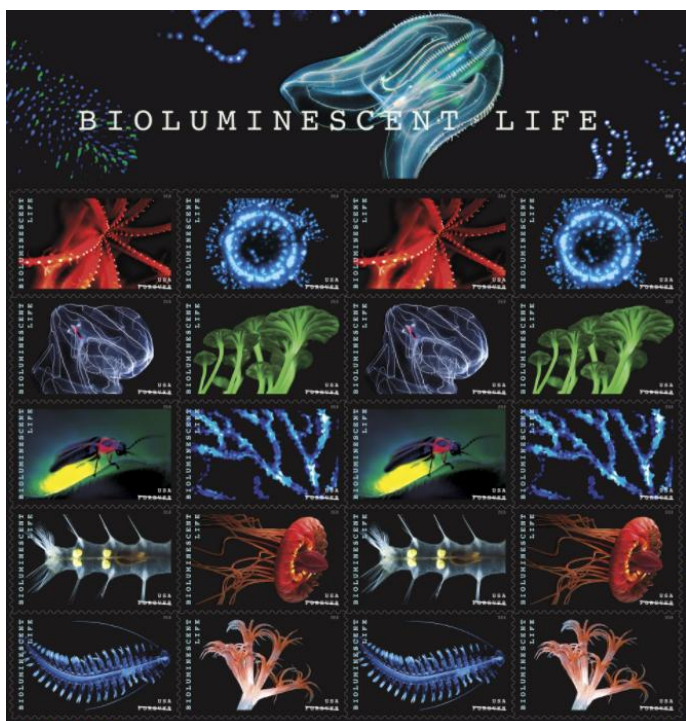


The Rochester Philatelic Association has lost another long time member. On January 18th, Don Osborne passed away suddenly and quietly at the age of 92. Don was a WWII veteran, a woodshop teacher, an avid golfer and member of the Penfield Country Club, and a Mason. It was this latter association that directed his primary interest in stamp collecting. Don collected Masonic stamps and covers and proudly showed his collection to any of us with an interest. He last shared his collection at an RPA meeting back in May of 2012 with a presentation entitled "Masonic Stamps and Envelopes".

In addition to his stamps, Don was a consummate woodworker and had a full shop in his basement. He prided in making wooden toys (trains were a specialty) and giving them to his 3 grandchildren and later to his two great grandchildren. In addition to them, Don is survived by his wife Norma and his son Paul.

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US New Issue – Coming February 22nd



Visit <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/uspsnewissues.html> to learn more about this upcoming set of 10 Forever stamps and the bioluminescent animals (and one plant) so colorfully depicted.

Linn's 2017 US Stamp Popularity Poll

At our January 11th meeting, we reviewed the US stamp issues of 2017 and made our decisions on the best and worst of the bunch. All 32 people present had one vote each in all of the categories. Here is what we ended up selecting and sending in to Linn's as the selections for the Rochester Philatelic Society.

- Among the 17 Commemorative Issues or Sets**
- BEST DESIGN: Total Lunar Eclipse (with 9 votes)
 - MOST IMPORTANT Protect Pollinators (with 9 votes)
 - WORST DESIGN: Year of the Rooster (with 8 votes)
 - LEAST IMPORTANT: Disney Villains (with 12 votes)

- Among the 17 Definitive and Special Stamps**
- BEST DESIGN: Seashells (with 7 votes)
 - MOST IMPORTANT: Alzheimer's (with 9 votes)
 - WORST DESIGN: USA Star (with 8 votes)
 - LEAST IMPORTANT: Delizioso (with 12 votes)

You can view all the issues with [this link](#) from the meetings page of the RPA website and follow the instructions to enter you personal favorites for these categories. But you have to do it in February. The deadline for a postmarked entry is March 1, 2018.



Answer from page 3: – Germany Scott #783 Mechanical Engineer Rudolf Diesel is credited with developing a new form of internal combustion engine that carried his name and was deployed into many late 19th century European trains. Issued on the 100th anniversary of his birth.