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Rpa Meetings now on Zoom
by Tom Fortunato



With our meeting facility still closed to public meetings, we continue to hold Zoom meetings on our regular schedule, the second and fourth Thursdays of the month starting at 7:30 PM Eastern. Of course, December we will hold only one on the 10th due to the holiday two weeks later. That meeting will feature a short presentation on “The 12 Days of Christmas.”

You can connect to the Zoom meetings by using a phone, tablet or PC and join by audio only or audio and video. You'll find the Zoom link to each meeting about a week beforehand on the RPA web site's meeting page. Just click on it before the meeting is set to begin. Enter the meeting ID when prompted and you'll be given access. For those using video the screen will look like the opening credits of a Brady Bunch show, with those online appearing in one of the squares along with others who joined in. This is an especially easy way for our out-of-town members and those locals who cannot attend RPA meetings regularly to participate.

Zoom is a free service for gatherings under 100 people, but is limited to a 40 minute time period per meeting. Their paid service removes that time restriction.

Online meetings with Zoom cannot fully replace an in-person meeting, but it does allow us to continue to gather and share our hobby with others until we can get back to the JCC.

for more on our meeting schedule, see page 2

PHILATELIC PANDEMIC
by Florence Wright



It was bound to happen: not long after the Covid19 virus became a global pandemic postage stamps signaling the event began to appear. Possibly the most unique are those issued by Austria – on toilet paper! Information from the Austrian postal service stated: “Austria’s postal service has united two aspects of the coronavirus pandemic in a stamp printed on toilet paper that people can also, at a push, use for social distancing.” The semi-postal stamp has made headlines worldwide in the mainstream press. The souvenir sheet’s name comes from the slogan “Distance that Brings Us Together” (Linn’s Stamp News, Nov. 23, 2020) .



The 2.75 euro “corona stamp” issued Oct. 23, 2020, comes in sheets 10 cm wide, or a tenth of the 1 meter that the government advises members of the public to keep apart from each other, a distance symbolized in official campaigns by a baby elephant.

The Austria Post also states “If you put 10 stamp sheets end to end, you get a meter’s distance in total - or the length of a baby elephant. The famous baby animal is also printed on the stamp,” The novelty item is printed on three-ply toilet paper, in reference to the hoarding that occurred earlier this year, an urge that has recently started “rearing” its head again. Stamps are sold as part of a 10 cm wide sheet (<https://www.post.at/>).

continued on page 3 (see Philatelic Pandemic)

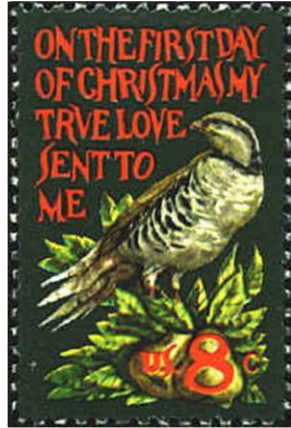
Upcoming RPA Meetings

As noted on page 1, RPA has moved its meetings online. You can now attend this winter without leaving the warmth and safety of your home. We plan to hold meetings on all of our normal dates. Given we cannot meet in-person, we are dropping the pre-meeting social half hour and our meetings now start at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting: December 10, 2020

Program: The Twelve Days of Christmas
By Tom Fortunato

We all know the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and many of you may be able to recall stamps dedicated to the 110 year old holiday song. However, some of the countries who have commemorated the song on their postage stamps may surprise you. And maybe Tom will even sing for us. Or maybe not!



The links to join this meeting are already posted on our [meetings website page](#). Hope to "see" you there.

We have no assigned programs for our 2021 dates as of mid-November. We have several topics and talks available, but are also waiting to hear from you. Anyone who wishes to present a Zoom meeting from their home and computer is welcome to contact Tom Fortunato and sign up for a date.

David Farnsworth did just that in November. His presentation on "Stamps that Show or Reflect the Details of the Artwork" can be viewed on our webpage and is [linked here](#). David illustrated five styles for display artist's work on stamps (engraving, photography, oil painting, watercolor and drawing). When used well, each can be very effective.

Our 2021 meeting dates remain the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:30 PM)

January 7 and January 21
February 11 and February 25
March 11 and March 25
April 8 and April 15
May 13 and May 27



2021

Plans continue for ROPEX 2021, scheduled to take place May 21-22 next year at the Canandaigua Civic Center. We've booked the facility with full Covid precautions expected, been in contact with dealers, exhibitors and judges, selected a theme (400th anniversary of the Pilgrim's first "Thanksgiving"), etc., but one big question looms: will it take place?

A number of factors come into play. We must get a "yes" to these and several more points before we can proceed:

- Is the RPA membership willing and available to support all of the work involved with putting on a show as in past years?
- Are the show's financials from dealers, exhibitors, admission and club sales going to produce a positive cash flow?
- Will attendance by the public be viable?
- Will the purchases made by show attendees support our participating dealers?

The ROPEX Committee members need to hear **your** answer to the first question above. Without the volunteer efforts of so many of you ROPEX could never take place. So what do you say? Certainly much can happen between now and May beyond our control, but before we proceed we require your input and comments. Are you available to help out? We need to hear from you either way.

Send your thoughts before the end of December to Tom Fortunato at stampmf@frontiernet.net. Tom will pass them on to the other committee members for their consideration.

Message from John Stoltz

It is with mixed emotions that I must say good-bye to many of my RPA friends and customers. We will be spending our winter in Florida then moving to Raleigh when our new home is completed in April. It was a very hard decision for me to make. I have great memories while living here most of my life. It will be hard to leave long-time friends, favorite golf courses, and of course, RPA and ROPEX have also been an important and enjoyable part of my life. But I will still be in business in Raleigh and anyone who would like to talk stamps or play a round of golf can contact me at 585-507-3533.

Philatelic Pandemic (continued from page 1)

There are several other noteworthy and creative approaches to pandemic philately. Several African countries have focused on “the mask” by placing it on some unusual places.



Central African Republic, for example, placed a mask on Queen Elizabeth on the original Penny Black design, probably bringing smiles to people in otherwise serious conditions. These are also available in versions from Chad, Djibouti, and Niger. The different countries use the same setup, but the stamps come with different face masks. It is now 180 years since the original Penny Black was issued in 1840, but now collectors of the stamp have new designs to acquire.



Chad (left) had its own idea of who should wear a mask including the statue of David by Michelangelo, the Statue of Liberty, the four presidents of Mt. Rushmore, and one of the gargoyles of the Notre-Dame Cathedral

Several countries have issued stamps depicting the “helpers”. They picture doctors and nurses, Police and Firefighters, postal workers, drivers of all modes of public transportation, and farmers and shop clerks. The issues really highlight the importance of the workers in a situation like this. Most of the workers on the stamps are wearing face masks.

Here are a few of the new designs featuring the true heroes of the pandemic:



If anyone doubts the global nature of the 2020 pandemic, the geographic spread of these nations (China, Morocco, Spain, Viet Nam and Isle of Man) issuing COVID19 stamps should provide dissuasion. One can only wonder when the United States will join the Pandemic Philatelic Parade and what design the stamp(s) will have.

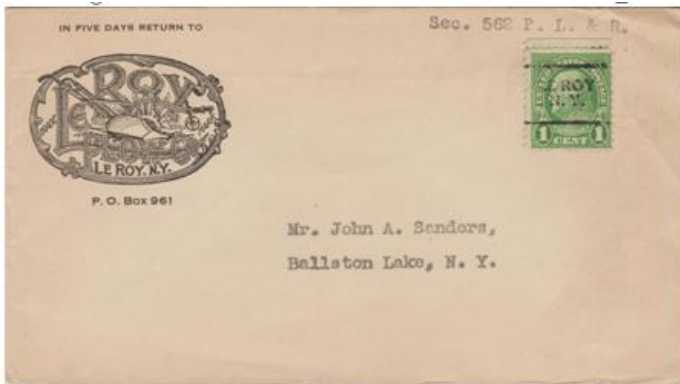


And for all the FDC collectors in the club, the Austrian Post has this fine offering on their online shopping site. <https://www.post.at/>

Le Roy Plow Co. by Larry Rausch



One of my favorite memories of stamp collecting occurred in 1957 when I was a young boy. My father gave me my first precancel stamp from Storm Lake, Iowa, the town where he was born. Ever since then I have been intrigued by interesting philately involving pre-cancels, particularly those of local historic interest.



I bought this simple cover because of its postal history of a local town and its use of a precancel stamp. A precancel one cent Franklin stamp, circa 1922, adorns the cover from the local Le Roy Plow Co. This stamp represents one of seven different precancel stamps used at the Le Roy, New York post office. A well designed and attractive logo adorns the obverse of this cover.



The cover's reverse advertises a list of products sold by Le Roy Plow Co.

The Le Roy Plow Co. was established in 1899 after purchasing the Miller Manufacturing Co. One of the original partners was Orator Woodward (later of Jell-o fame).

Le Roy's product line included walking plows, tractor plows, sulky plows, land rollers, manure spreaders, garden cultivators and many other farm machines. The company was located on the west side of Lake Street, behind the train station. Five different railroads serviced the factory during its history of operation. It is unfortunate that Le Roy Plow Co. ceased production shortly after World War II.

Buy-Sell-Trade-Wanted Option to RPA Members

So how have you been filling your collecting need to buy, sell and trade material? It's been online for several years, but very few members have taken the opportunity to post a free ad on our web site. There is only one [on the site](#) now, offering an example of what can be done:

Available: Assorted US and worldwide philatelic catalogues and literature. Make offer for single items or the lot. Contact Florence Wright at fwright2@rochester.rr.com to learn what is available.

It's that simple. Explain what you have or want, and include your name and an email address for members or viewers to get a hold of you. Send your details via e-mail to Tom Fortunato at stampmf@frontiernet.net, who will post it online. It will remain online for at least 3 months or until he hears from you that the item has sold.



An interesting oddity: On October 20th, Mike Walker posted this cover to the [Facebook Page of the American First Day Cover Society](#). The Connecticut Tercentenary stamp was issued on April 26, 1935, about seven months after the post mark date of Sep 11, 1934 that appears on the envelope. Most likely explanation: the postal clerk was a year behind when setting the date of the postal stamp that morning!



The COVID19 world has forced most of us to develop new hobbies or otherwise alter how we practice some of our current ones. For me, travel restrictions limited my mineral collecting trips during the summer and fall and I sought out some more local replacements. Fortunately I know RPA member Paul Brach and I have hooked up with Paul to visit local sites known for their diverse fungi. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting places like Zurich Bog north of Newark, Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA south of Honeoye Lake, Gosnell Woods in Webster, and several other local parks in Monroe County with Paul. I have seen, and with Paul's help identified, almost 300 species of fungi, many of which I have photographed and built into picture collages.

Of course this also opens up a new philatelic topical collection option and I plan to use the winter months to pursue that new thematic topic. Below is one example of my idea to combine the two hobbies.



I photographed the colorful wood blewit on the right and then found the 1988 Norwegian stamp depicting the same species.

Of course, some people are sticklers for detail, and as it turns out both Paul and I fall into that category. The wood blewit was re-classified and some mycologists now place this edible mushroom in the *Clitocybe* genus with the full name *Clitocybe nuda*. However, some resist this change and so the name is often written as *Clitocybe (Lepista) nuda* for full clarity. Old stamps, naturally, will never have their names changed.



Cambodia Scott #2068 (issued in 2001) and brick tops spotted in western New York State earlier this month.

Another mushroom that Paul and I encountered on that same trip to Gosnell Woods and in several other locations this fall is commonly known as brick tops or brick caps and it too has undergone reclassification. When Cambodia issued its colorful stamp in 2001, most folks assigned this mushroom to the *Hypholoma* genus, Cambodia spelled it *Hipholoma* on the stamp. However, it is now best called *Naematoloma sublateritium* according to some "official" fungi lists and books. As if one long multi-syllable genus name is not enough, now many of the common mushrooms in our region have (or have had) two or even three names!

The colorful and aesthetic cluster of scarlet waxy caps in the title box was found and photographed at Zurich Bog in Newark, New York on September 25th and later I discovered it to be included in the 2015 set of Sweden mushroom stamps. At least this small and colorful species has not been encumbered with name changes at the genus level. The scientific genus name remains *Hygrophorus*. However, the stamp label reads *Hygrophorus puniceus*. Most North American books describe that as a variant and name the same mushroom *Hygrophorus coccineus*. Such fun!



How many of these winter scenes can you relate to? Are you ready for some of them to come your way? The USPS issued this attractive set of domestic Forever stamps featuring winter scenes from northern states on October 16th.

Buoy Beer Cover

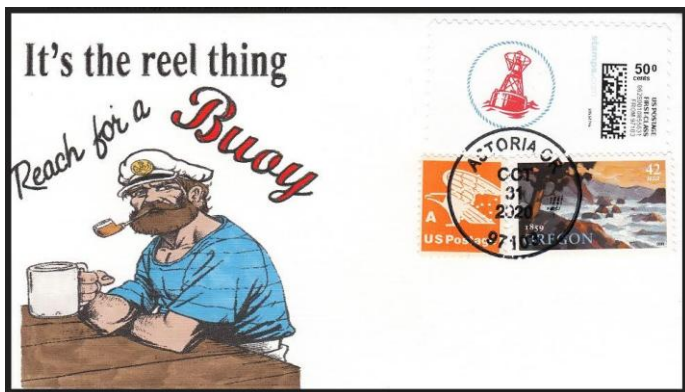
by

Kelly Armstrong



In the last edition of Hinges and Tongs, I shared an image of stamps for the Buoy Beer Co. in Astoria, Oregon. Our youngest son is the President and a son-in-law is the CEO. My wife and I are part owners. They have been in business going on six years and in non-covid times, employ around 100 people for the brewery and full line restaurant. David sent me a sheet of 24 of these stamps that were printed by stamps.com. I thought I would like to do something nice for the employees and investors. I made up a cachet and sent it to our son.

I wanted to make covers that he could hand out to an employee of the month and investors. He approved the cachet and was happy with the idea. I had stamps and a cachet, but no cancel. I wrote to the postmaster of Astoria and never received any reply. As a registered cachet maker with the USPS philatelic dept in Kansas City, I often exchange emails with them. So, I mentioned my project and asked if they had any suggestions about a cancel. It turns out that they can make a circle cancel with the city name, state, and zip code for a nominal fee of \$25. I also learned that when the Buoy stamp is considered "used" in a philatelic application current rate postage is also required. Since I was making 24 covers and donating them to the brewery, I thought this was quite reasonable.



I was happy with the product and so was my son. I hope the recipients appreciate them as well.

I cannot say enough nice things about this USPS philatelic department. They were very helpful during the process and the cancels all looked great.

APS Honors Ann Triggler

The American Philatelic Society has bestowed former RPA lifetime member Ann Triggler with one of its highest honors. They have elected Ann to the APS Hall of Fame, which honors distinguished deceased philatelists. In making the announcement, the APS wrote of her:

"Ann M. Triggler (1935- 2018) was the 2005 Luff Award winner for Outstanding Service to the American Philatelic Society. Ann was a professor at the University of Buffalo where she created and ran a pharmacy museum before retiring and moving to Florida. Ann served on the APS Board of Vice Presidents from 2001-2003 and as an APS Director at Large from 1997-2001. Ann served on the board for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, served on the committees of the Rochester, NY, and Sarasota, FL, national exhibitions, chaired the APS Awards Committee and while on the board served as the liaison to all APS committees.

However, Ann was probably best known as a national and internationally accredited judge who chaired the Committee for Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ). She wrote chapters for two editions of The Manual of Philatelic Judging and helped broaden exhibiting to allow display, illustrated and cinderella exhibits. Ann recruited many new judges and her preparedness and attention to detail was legendary. While she represented the APS on the International Federation of Philately Thematic Commission, her prostitute tax stamp exhibit may have attracted more attention than any of her other exhibits".



Ann Triggler attended ROPEX and served as Head of the Exhibit Judging Committee for many years.