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2023 Linn’s Popularity Poll • Nancy Clark

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Gilbert W. Chapin, Inventor by Larry Rausch



This fancy Mansfield Centre, Conn. 1884 cover is cancelled by the use of a rubber stamp die with a Wheel of Fortune killer. This is one of 20 covers contained in my Wheel of Fortune Cancellation database from Mansfield Centre. Of these 20 covers, 19 were mailed to Gilbert W Chapin beginning in August 1884 and ending July 7, 1887. This ending year corresponds to the following Post Office Department’s rule: “The Department furnishes metal postmarking stamps. The use of rubber stamps is not authorized”. This rule brought an end to the Wheel of Fortune cancellation usage.

Gilbert Warren Chapin was born on August 1, 1847 in Springfield, Mass. He was an heir of Samuel Chapin (1598–1675)—an early settler of Springfield, Mass. Gilbert received his education in Springfield schools and worked on a farm during his boyhood. At 18 he left home and began his career as a clerk in a carpet establishment. At the end of his third year in service, he accepted a position in the office of the largest shoe jobbing concern in New York.

Later, he made a name for himself as a banker and mathematician. As an inventor between 1870 and 1900, he obtained three patents for calculating machines. His mathematical innovations led to the

evaluation of smaller, pocket-size calculators paving the way for modern-day pocket calculators. Chapin also knew many languages, wrote four grammar books, and was a teacher.

Gilbert Chapin is tied to Mansfield Centre by marrying Delia Persis Campbell (4 Feb. 1849–31 Jan. 1902) on 22 October 1874, at Mansfield Center, Conn. They had a child—Warren Storrs Chapin, born on 4 July 1885 in Brooklyn, New York (died 11 Feb. 1954). Delia passed away on 31 Jan. 1902 in Hartford, Conn. November 1909 Gilbert Chapin married Lucy Gould Stock (b. 9 Feb. 1873). Gilbert Warren Chapin died April 1, 1932, in Hartford and was buried in Mansfield Center Cemetery, Conn. near his wife Delia.

References:

- Lisha Pace-Author for History-Computer
- Lex Basa-Gilbert Warren Chapin-Biography History

Linn’s 2023 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll



At our February 8th meeting, 23 RPA members (19 in person and 4 via Zoom) voted for best (and worst) 2023 U.S. stamps in a number of categories. The high denomination Great Smoky Mountains Stamp was selected as overall Favorite 2023 Stamp. For the rest of the winners (and losers) see page 5.

President's Message

It has been a year now that we have been in our new meeting location in Unity Village. Our host has been very accommodating, and we are thankful to them. The only thing lacking is more members giving presentations. The presentation does not have to be in person since all presentations are shown via Zoom and can also be presented via Zoom.

For those with transportation problems, Regional Transit Service (RTS) has a service called RTS On Demand. While not as convenient as driving yourself, this could be a way to attend more meetings.

Jack Rosenstein

RPA Meeting News



Unity-Village Community Center in Greece

The Unity Village Community Center is at 1477 Long Pond Road in Greece. Buy/sell/trade runs from 7:00-7:30 PM, followed by the formal meeting at 7:30 PM. A silent auction concludes most evening's program.

Here's our schedule through June, 2024. You will notice that there are still multiple slots available for members to present. Let us know if you would like to volunteer for one of those presentation dates.

2024

- Feb. 22 Fun with Abbott Labs Dear Doctor Postcards *by Tom Fortunato*
- March 14 Kristallnacht – The Program, the Players, and the Pogrom
a video presentation by Gregg Philipson
- March 28 TBA
- April 11 TBA
- April 25 TBA
- May 9 1935 King George V Windsor Castle Omnibus Issue *by Tom Fortunato*
- May 23 Railroad Destination Cancellations *by Robert Lighthouse*

- June 13 1924 Paris Olympics- Milo of Croton: From Design to Use *by Tom Fortunato*
- June 27 TBA

If you can't attend a meeting in person, join us via a Zoom connection using the following link and login details at 7:30 PM each meeting night, except for Everyone a Dealer night in January

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7117955142?pwd=amR3Z1Z3L0d4bkJaNHdJUjBmbjFaQT09>,

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RPA Membership Update

We've just updated our RPA membership list for those in good standing as of February 10. As of that date we have 60 active members, of whom 20 (1/3) are RPA Life Members of 25 years or more. The average RPA member as of 2024 is 75.6 years old; the youngest member being Phillip Savka at 19 and oldest is Roger Zaenglein at 97. Our next Life Member will be Rich Spinelli in 2025!

RPA Exhibit Frames

We have had a request from the Boston 2026 World Expo to borrow our exhibit frames for the show taking place May 2024. There are some 8,000 exhibit frames held by stamp shows and clubs around the US and about 1,500 in Canada. We have around 100 or so, now stored in Larry Rausch's garage, purchased after the NY2016 show for around \$10,000 to replace legacy aluminum and plexiglass frames used since the early 1990s. We have not used our current ones for four years.

Boston 2026 is offering to pay transportation costs both ways, examine all frames and make repairs as needed at their expense, store them in advance of the show and return them afterwards. Full details are pending. Is this something we should consider? What say you? Let's discuss it at an upcoming meeting.

For information on two upcoming stamp shows in our area see page 6 or visit on show listings on our webpage:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-stampshowcalendar.html>

Earlier this winter, RPA member Paul Brach was reading Norman King's book entitled "*The Almanac of Fascinating Beginnings*" that was written in 1994. He found this piece particularly interesting and shared it with me. I think you may find it interesting also. It is simply entitled:

"Adhesive Postage Stamp"

"Early postage stamps had to be affixed using the home glue pot, a messy and time-consuming process. The first adhesive postage stamp that could simply be licked and slapped onto an envelope⁴ was created in America, but it should come as no surprise that it was not introduced by the United States Postal Service. Rather, it was the brain-child of a private mail company in New York City, which began supplying its customers with such stamps in 1842. Despite the unappealing taste of the glue, the idea caught on and we have been enduring sticky tongues ever since.

The U.S. Postal Service tried using a less sticky glue in the 1980s, but stamps fell off envelopes at an alarming rate, and the old formula was brought back. Peel-and-stick stamps were introduced a few years ago, but because they are not available as commemorative stamps, and cost a few pennies more, they have not caught on in a big way".

Do you want to hazard a guess what the next four entries were in the 1994 *Almanac of Fascinating Beginnings*? There were:

- The Air Brake
- The Academy Awards
- À la Carte Menu
- Air Conditioning



Actually, the first United States stamp with a self-adhesive backing was the Peace on Earth Christmas stamp issued on November 15, 1974. But production of the stamp was deemed to be too expensive and they were not popular with the public. Collectors did not like the brown stains the glue produced.

The USPS did not try again until 1989 with a 25 cent eagle and flag stamp and Norman King was correct when he wrote his summary that there had been no commemorative issues by 1994. The first commemorative self-adhesive issue was the 1996 Tennessee Statehood issue (Scott #3070).

Self-Adhesive Stamps in 2024 and an RPA Member's Personal Perfin

By Fred Haynes

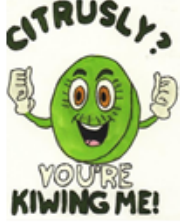
Earlier this month, I received a piece of mail from our treasurer Larry Rausch. The stamp Larry used was immediately recognizable. It was Dobby from the 2013 Harry Potter set and Larry had added his personal perfin to the stamp before adhering it to the envelope. I managed (barely) to soak it off the envelope so I could photograph both sides.



The [fourth Hinges and Tongs issue of 2017](#) highlighted Larry's perfin, but Larry has provided a few more details about his personal perfin. The design is fully registered with the US Perfin Club as R130.5. The letters L, R, S (Susan is Larry's wife) are overlain in a manner to be unique from any other registered perfin. They are set into a square area less than 1/2" on a side (a post office rule) and the holes are 0.028" in diameter so that the amount of stamp removed by the perfin tool does not exceed the legal limit.

Larry also shared with me that the Harry Potter set is his favorite US stamp set of all time and he bought 100 booklets (20 stamps each) when they were issued. He paid 46 cents for stamps worth 68 cents just 11 years later. Smart, Larry!

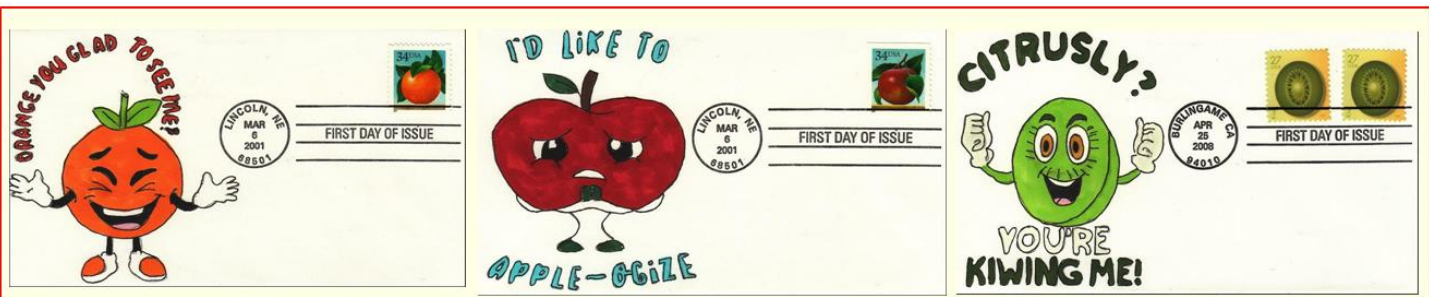
Punny Covers
by Kelly
Armstrong



I suspect everyone knows that I like to buy uncacheted First Day Covers and test my creative juices by placing cachets on them. Not too long ago, I bought a nice FDC cover estate from John Stoltz. John has a good eye for quality items and is very fair with his prices. Many of my repeat cachet customers

are topical collectors. The three fruit covers below were created for a customer who collects food on stamps.

When contemplating cachet ideas for some fruit and animal stamp issues, I somehow gravitate to puns. Now puns are the type of humor that makes us "cringe", but it is the type of humor that can be enjoyed by all and is not offensive. Making cachets requires a good imagination, keen eye, steady hand, and a study of the stamp subject. I have fun making cachets and like to share with others. I hope you get at least a little giggle out of seeing these.



Local Polish Stamps
by Paul Brach

Due to my Polish heritage, I have always had an affinity to stamps and coins that mark important historical events or times in the history of the homeland of my ancestors. I was perusing my collection this winter and thought that perhaps a couple of my stamps might have interest to others.

The stamp on the left, dated 1918, is from Prezdbrz, a town in Radomska County, Poland situated on the Pilica River in the northwestern corner of the province of Lesser Poland. It is the historic former capital of the Kingdom of Poland with a documented history that goes back to 1145 and the Trzemeszno Monastery. King Kazimierz Wielki granted Prezdbrz status as a city in 1370.

The stamp on the right is an overprint of Russian stamp used in occupied Poland immediately after World War I. The Polish

Corps was formed in 1918 in Belorussia near Bobruick by General Jozef Dowbor-Musnicki. Its goal was to defend Poles inhabiting parts of Poland under Russian rule and to support the formation of independent Poland. In the chaotic period of the end of World War I on the Eastern Front, the Polish Corps fought against the Bolshevik Red Army and cooperated with the German Ober Ost forces in taking Minsk.

Both stamps and the history that brought about their use are now over 100 years old.



Above: 1918 Prezdbrz – Local town stamp
Right: 1918 Polish Corps in Russia stamp

2023 Linn's United States Stamps Popularity Poll

The Rochester Philatelic Association's annual election of favorite (and not so favorite) U.S. stamps was held as part of the club's February 8th meeting. Nineteen members braved the darkness to vote at the polling location on Long Pond Rd. in Rochester while four other members took advantage of our stay-at-home Zoom meeting policy. President Jack Rosenstein took the reins and led the voting through all 8 important categories. Although some votes were close, there were no requests for recounts and the winners (and losers) listed below are final. The number of votes each winner received are in parenthesis.

In the commemorative category

- Best Design – Endangered Species (7)
- Worst Design – Women's Soccer (3)
- Most Important – Endangered Species (8)
- Least Important – Art of the Skateboard (6)

In the definitive and special stamp category

- Best Design – Great Smoky Mountains (6)
- Worst Design – Winter Woodland Animals (5)
- Most Important – Florida Everglades (8)
- Least Important – Pinatas (5)

Then we voted for our favorite stamp. Eight different stamps received at least one and Great Smoky Mountains and Train Stations ended up in a tie requiring a second ballot with only those two entries. The Great Smoky Mountains stamp won in the overtime ballot count. The winners and losers are depicted below or on page 1.

			<p>Worst Commemorative Design</p>
		<p>Least Important Commemorative (1 of 4 stamps)</p>	
<p>Best Commemorative Design & Most Important (4 of 20 stamps in set)</p>			
<p>Most Important Special Stamp</p>	<p>Worst Design Definitive</p>	<p>Least Important Definitive</p>	

Nancy Clark

December 11, 1946

- January 28, 2024



Nancy B. Clark, lifetime member of the Rochester Philatelic Association passed away on January 28th of respiratory failure at the age of 77. Nancy joined RPA in 1978 and became a lifetime member 25 years later in 2003. Although she left western New York in the early 1980s, she was a regular visitor during many ROPEX stamp shows leaving her mark on all who met her here and across the philatelic world.



Nancy taught music during her short stay in Rochester in the late 70s and early 80s, but her passion was to organize stamp shows and to develop youth stamp programs in the area's schools. She once said, "When my kids were kids, that's when I first began working with beginning collectors". It was not long before her talents in these areas became known to national philatelic leaders and she was tapped to lead youth activities at the 1986 Ameripex International Exhibition in Chicago.

She and her husband Doug moved to Georgia in the early 80s where they were the driving force behind the creation of the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs in 1990. An even bigger assignment and honor awaited her as she was chosen to head the Olympilex 1996 international exhibition taking place in conjunction with the 100th Summer Olympic

Games in Atlanta. The Clarks founded the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs in the 90s.

Nancy was closely involved with the American Philatelic Society also, heading various committees and serving as the APS treasurer from 1999-2003. All this time she remained connected with the Rochester Philatelic Society through ROPEX and the Hinges and Tongs.

The Clarks moved to the Boston Area where Nancy became involved with the *Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History* in Weston, MA. In 2012 she became the president of the corporation of the museum. For more than 17 years she conducted an online radio show "APS Stamp Talk with Nancy Clark" where she welcomed philatelists with all sorts of varied interests and backgrounds to talk about philately and what it meant to them.

In recent years, Nancy became the driving force behind the upcoming Boston 2026 World Expo. She served as President of Boston 2026 from its inception in 2010 until July 2022 when she became President Emerita due to health concerns.

In 2022, Nancy was one of 76 collectors profiled in Linn's Stamp News Most Influential Philatelists. In that autobiographical account she wrote "I want to share the word about this wonderful hobby. It has given me great joy and I want to share that with folks". And sharing is exactly what Nancy did.

by Fred Haynes with input from Boston 2026 news release by Tom Fortunato and Linn's Stamp News note by Charles Snee

Two Upcoming Stamp Shows

March 23-24 BUFPEX, Cheektowaga,
Hours 10-4, 10-3, Knights Justin Hall
2735 Union Road, 12 dealers, exhibits,
silent auction youth area, and more

April 7 Hilton Stamp and Coin
Hilton Exempts Club, 137 South Ave.
Hours 10-4, 8 dealer bourse
contact dbombar1@rochester.rr.com

for additional stamps show information, visit:
<http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-stampshowcalendar.html>