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Sample Page

ROPEX-76

NOVEMBER 12-14 1976



1776 - 1976

HONORING:

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ROPEX - 76

HONORING

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1776-1976
MONROE COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN 1826-1976

FEATURING MEETINGS OF:

FLAG CANCEL SOCIETY
CLUB OF CHANNEL ISLANDS COLLECTORS
PLATE NUMBER SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 12-14, 1976

AMERICANA ROCHESTER HOTEL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Post Office Box 3806
Brighton Station
Rochester, New York, 14607

November 11, 1976

Friday - November 12, 1976

- 10:00 a.m. Opening of Exhibition and Bourse
Regimental Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Reception - Cash Bar
Italian/Belgian Rooms
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Saturday - November 13, 1976

- 10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens
Regimental Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Meeting of Judges
Italian/Belgian Rooms
- 11:00 a.m. Plate Number Society Meeting
Italian/Belgian Rooms
- 2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Flag Cancel
Society - Italian/Belgian Rooms
- 7:30 p.m. ROPEX-76 Awards Banquet
Genesee/Crossroads/Corinthian/State
- 10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Sunday - November 14, 1976

- 10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens
Regimental Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Club of Channel Islands Collectors
Meeting - Italian/Belgian Rooms
- 5:00 p.m. ROPEX-76 Closes

Dear Friends:

It gives me a great deal of personal pleasure to welcome all stamp collectors, philatelists, friends, and guests to Rochester and ROPEX-76. On behalf of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the ROPEX-76 Committee, and the City of Rochester, I wish you and your families enjoyment seeing the show and the special sights of this, the "Flower" City.

The R. P. A. is particularly pleased that national and international societies such as the Flag Cancel Society, the Club of Channel Islands Collectors, and the Plate Number Society have chosen to hold meetings in conjunction with ROPEX-76. The Association, as your host, will do everything possible to make your visit a most rewarding and enjoyable one.

Because of its location on the Erie Canal, Rochester played a large role in the development of the West in the early nineteenth century. During the twentieth century, it has continued to grow and prosper into an important business and industrial city. This year, in addition to joining the rest of the nation in celebrating the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, we are also proud to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the founding of the first Volunteer Fire Company in Monroe County.

I invite you to study the exhibits and spend time with the fine selection of bourse dealers and post office representatives. I urge you to attend the various society meetings scheduled during the course of the show.

I thank you for your interest, and hope that your stay will be both entertaining and educational. I look forward to meeting and greeting you personally. If I or any other member of the R. P. A. may be of help, please ask us.

Very truly yours,

Warren C. Stevens

Warren Stevens
President, R. P. A.

R.P.A. HISTORY

The Rochester Philatelic Association is now in its 63rd year and is still going strong. It was organized on March 12, 1913. The first meeting was held at the Hotel Rochester with eleven enthusiastic men getting it off to a fine start. In a short time, they began to hold their meetings at the Municipal Museum in Rochester, but during the first World War, interest lagged and the club was only kept together through the efforts of five members who met at various homes.

Eventually, more members were added and they met in the back room of a local stamp dealer. They soon graduated to the Public Library, and after many months the club moved to the Edgerton Park Museum. When the Bausch Museum of Arts and Sciences was built, the RPA followed them to East Avenue, moving in 1976 to the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Church four blocks away.

Down through the years much has been accomplished in the effort to bring stamp collecting and its joys to the general public. A wide variety of programs have been featured at the over 1200 meetings. These activities include outside and local speakers, movies, mini-exhibits, swap nights - in fact nearly everything that was ever heard of in the hobby! Throughout this time there was always an annual banquet, followed by an exhibit, entertainment, and recently an auction.

Early exhibitions of the RPA were local affairs, but during the thirties and forties shows were held in conjunction with the Rochester Museum Hobby Council. In 1950, the RPA assisted in the formation of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs. As host to this group and subsequent combination with the Central New York Federation of Stamp Clubs, the scope of the exhibitions became international.

The year 1963 was the Golden Jubilee of the Rochester Philatelic Association, and called for a really big show in celebration. This show of over 700 frames, held in Rochester's new Midtown Plaza, was a huge success. This paved the way for subsequent large exhibitions and bourses such as TOPEX '67 and APS '68. Incidentally, it was at APS '68 that the World Series of Philately was inaugurated. The current ROPEX title was initiated in 1971 and used to designate the shows that hosted such organizations as the American Philatelic Congress, the Society of Philatelic Americans, and the American Topical Association. This background of the RPA provides as appropriate credential for hosting ROPEX-76 in celebration of the American Bicentennial.

Leslie J. Roll
Historian

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GREETINGS TO ROPEX-76

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Rochester Philatelic Association and the ROPEX-76 Committee for inviting our Society to participate in and hold our Twelfth Annual Convention at ROPEX-76.

The Flag Cancel Society was organized in 1961 by a group of collectors interested in locating, identifying, and collecting flag cancels of the United States and other countries.

The Society helps its members by furnishing each member with an identification chart which enables one to properly classify the more than 6800 U. S. flag cancels. It publishes a twelve page bimonthly paper containing interesting articles on unusual flags, new finds, and special articles on foreign flags. Through a mail auction in each issue members may buy and sell flag cancels of all the states as well as some of the specialized flags, expositions, Street Car R.P.O.s, Military and Naval stations, territorials, slogans, R.F.D. and, A.E.F. flags. The Society also operates a flag cancel sales circuit.

We invite those who are looking for new thrills in the cancellation field to investigate flag cancels.

Further information about the Flag Cancel Society can be obtained by contacting the Society Secretary - David W. Prosser, 7664 State Street Rd., Watertown, New York, 13601.

F. Edgar Ruckle
President, Flag Cancel Society

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A W A R D S

GRAND AWARD

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ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

Gold, Vermeil, Silver, and Bronze Awards. All exhibitors will receive Certificates.

JACOB LEGEER AWARD

Best General exhibit by an RPA member.

VIRGINIA GUBLER AWARD

Best Topical exhibit by an RPA member.

NOVICE AWARD

Best exhibit by an RPA novice - non-winner.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARD

Best exhibit by an APS member.

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION AWARD

Best Topical exhibit.

IB OF CHANNEL ISLANDS COLLECTORS AWARD

Best Channel Islands exhibit.

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AWARDS

Best exhibit(s) of New York State Postal History.

FLAG CANCEL SOCIETY AWARD

Best Flag Cancel exhibit.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARDS

Best Roosevelt exhibit.

PLATE NUMBER SOCIETY AWARD

Best exhibit utilising Plate Numbers.

SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS RESEARCH AWARD

Exhibit demonstrating best original research.

UNITED POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY AWARD (MARCUS WHITE TROPHY)

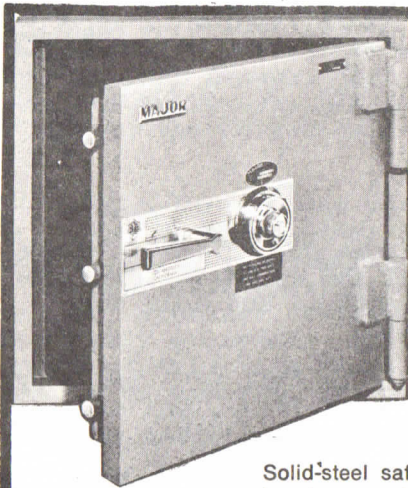
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BOOTH 9

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

<u>FRAME NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
<u>UNITED STATES</u>		
1- 6	Imperforate Issues of the United States 1847-1857	Pitschke
7- 10	A Specialized Research Study of the U. S. 24¢ 1861 Stamp	Hyzen
11- 12	Our Number One Postal Card	Stevens
13- 15	The George Washington One Cent Issue of 1939	del Solar
16- 20	Christmas in the Sixties	R. Hall
<u>U. S. POSTAL HISTORY</u>		
23- 25	New York State Postal History	Lounsbury
26- 31	A Postal Tour of United States Expositions 1876-1926	Crow
<u>FLAG AND MACHINE CANCELS</u>		
33- 44	Canadian Flag Cancels 1896-Date	Paige
45- 59	U. S. Flag Cancels of the American Postal Machines Co. in the 1894-1940 Era of Postal History	Turner
60	They Make Their Pitch With Flag Cancels	Phillips
61- 63	Baltimore Street Car Railway Post Offices, Machine and Hand Cancellations 1897-1929	Ruckle
64	Early Machine Cancels of the United States on Covers and Cards	Sharp

FOREIGN

65	Grand Duchy of Finland	Gustafson
66- 68	Plating Varieties of the 1886 Barrios Issue of Guatemala	Stevens
69- 74	Norfolk Island	Stone
75- 82	First Coins, First Festivals, and First Postage Dues of the State of Israel	Cohen
<u>FOREIGN POSTAL HISTORY</u>		
83- 84	Canadian Official and Semi-Official First Flights	Maroney
85- 88	Canada-United States-Canada, Cross Border Markings of the 1851-1875 Period	Zahm
89- 91	Inward China Mail 1842-1922	Daniels
92- 96	Hodge-Podge of the Third Reich 1933 to 1945	Hope
97-100	Estonia - An Historical Glimpse Via Tartu	Gleason
101	Royal Air Force Covers of World War II	Miller
102-104	Offices in China	Tobias
105	Samoa Postal History	Pacificus
<u>TOPICALS</u>		
106-111	The Saga of Antarctica	Oesch
112-117	Universal Postal Union	Ammerman
125-128	Stamp Centenaries	P. Black
129	The Longships - Oar and Sail in the Days of the Vikings	Fleet

PANEL OF JUDGES

Melvin Garabrant

Walter J. Orton, III

George T. Guzzio

POSTAL STATIONS

United States Postal Service

United Nations Postal Administration

Royal Swedish Post Office

LOUNGE AREA

In the hallway outside the main entrance the following will have tables for the convenience of those seeking information:

Rochester Philatelic Association

Flag Cancel Society

Club of Channel Islands Collectors

Plate Number Society

Junior Philatelists of America

Security Safe Inc.

Informational brochures and promotional materials for the following may also be found in the Lounge Area:

Collectors Institute Ltd.

Lighthouse Publications Inc.

Linns Stamp News

Stamp Collector

Stamps Magazine

130	Printed and Selected Pages of Europa	Cadmus
131-140	Chess on Stamps	Steiner
141-142	Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the World	Connelly
143-144	Happy Birthday America	Pankratz
145	Music of 1776 on Stamps	Moore

MISCELLANEOUS

148-151	The Bicentennial and the Penalty Envelope	Moriarty
152	Perfins Around the World	Aska
153	Perfins	Meyering
160-162	In Celebration of These Fifty States	K. Hall
163-164	The Declaration of Independence	Dunn
165	Bicentennial Varieties	Hofer
166-168	Naismith - Basketball First Day Covers	Moriarty

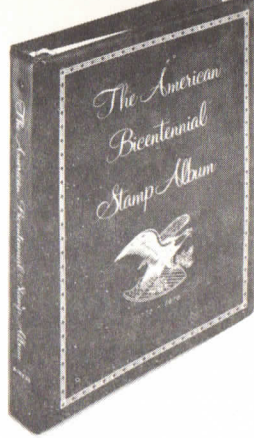
NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

118-124	Complete Matched Set Plate Block Collecting as Applied to United States Se-tenant Issues	Plate Number Society
154-159	Modern Swedish Postal Emissions	Royal Swedish Post Office

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Robert J. Gustafson Life Member, Rochester Philatelic Assn.
Director, Scandinavian Collectors Club

The postal issues of the Grand Duchy of Finland would not appear to offer much to attract the average philatelist, due to the unimaginative designs and colors; this is true, however, of many of the nations of Europe during the same period. The first issues of Finland were, putting it mildly, crudely designed, printed, and perforated. The challenge of securing copies of the Arms issues of 1860-75 with undamaged perforations is too great for most collectors, who must settle for one or two missing teeth. The "Russian" types of 1891-1917 do offer a challenge in the typography and lithography printings, as well as the ordinary and chalky papers, not to mention constant plate varieties. But these stamps did not travel the world as they could be used only within the Grand Duchy (or to Russia for a limited period).

So for a real challenge combined with a reasonable investment of funds, why not consider the Arms-type "fyrtaliga" (four-valued) types of 1875-90 (Scott 17-37, Facit 11-26)? Ordinary unspecialized catalogs dismiss this issue with about three dozen listings including the two common perforations (11 and 12-1/2) and a few variations in color.

The first and most scarce stamp is the 32 penni carmine which was printed by typography by H.H. Thiele of Copenhagen in July 1875 because printing facilities in Helsinki were not ready for this needed denomination. This stamp of which 57,500 copies were printed was perforated 14 X 13-1/2 as were the current Danish stamps; there is only one type of this issue.

From here on in, the plot thickens and 123 varieties can be described in terms of perforation (11 or 12-1/2), the printer (Senatens Tryckeri or Karta Sigillatakotorets Tryckeri), plates (Thiele or Finland mint), colors and papers. When the uncommon compound perforations (11 X 12-1/2 and 12-1/2 X 11) are considered, there are 18 more varieties, and the unusual paper varieties augment this by 5 more. All stamps were perforated by Karta Sigillatakotorets Tryckeri. Thus it can be said that a representative collection of these 1875-90 issues would encompass at least 146 varieties, and to this can be added plate flaws, rough perforations and cancellation varieties.

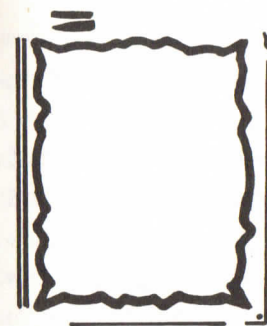
One more constant variety which is unique to these issues is due to their being printed from individual cliches locked in a frame. This feature of the stamps of 1875-90 which puzzles many collectors is the lines or blobs of color along one or more margins. These arise from the use of 'levelers'. The loose cliches in a frame were not perfectly level, so some would press harder than others. A "pull sheet" fixed on a flat

base would print lighter or not at all from depressed cliches. These lighter portions would be cut out and pasted to the base. Another pull sheet was put on top of the cliches and some cliches would then print normally, but more depressed ones still somewhat faintly. These prints were again pasted on the base and this was continued until an even impression was obtained. The surfaces of both the pull sheet and the cliches were thus both uneven.

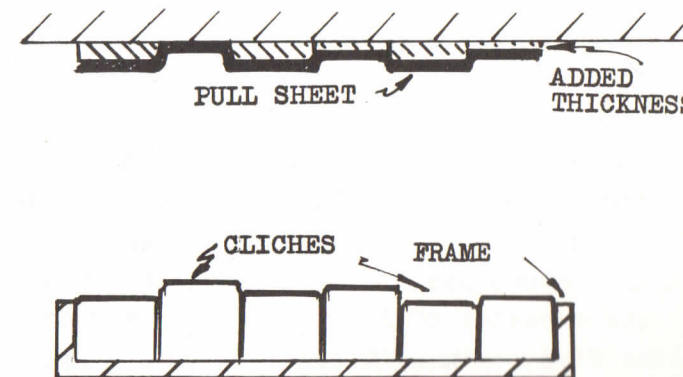
The inking roller inked the edges and/or spacers of the raised cliches and imparted a telltale leveler line on the paper, the nature of it being governed by the roughness of the cliches' edges; these lines are of great value in plating.

One may ask- why weren't the frames unlocked and the cliches all levelled so that adjustment of the pull sheet was not necessary? We can only imagine that the manpower requirements and schedules which had to be met prohibited this.

Constant flaws in the electrotype cliches are numerous, and many have been described in Finnish language catalogs and in a private publication by Ohmann. The data on leveler lines was furnished by Wade H. Beery, Mart Manager of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, who in turn had consulted the Ernest H. Wise books published by the Heine-man Group in England.



TYPICAL LEVELER LINES
FROM CLICHE EDGES



James P. Flynn Member RPA, KBJT of A, SOCCE, and XYZ Inc.

Many members of the RPA may trace their ancestry back to the days of the American Revolution. As none of them have come forward with information for publication, we draw on our imagination plus some information gathered from other sources. So we Respectfully Reveal to Ropex Readers Records of Rochesterians' Relatives in the Revolution.

* * * * *

The Boston Tea Party, commemorated on a block of 4 stamps a little over three years ago, is the scene of our first Revolutionary Revelation. The dumping of the tea was not a spur-of-the-moment idea. Secrecy and Careful Planning were the watchwords. No roster of the participants was kept, but other records were made.

Disguised as Indians, the little band met at a waterfront tavern to await the time set for their venture. (Only C_____ H_____ knows why they were disguised as indians.) Final plans were agreed upon as several bottles were consumed to ward off the chilly night air. One member did not imbibe, so the job of counting the chests of tea thrown overboard was given to him.

The man given this assignment performed his duty well. He is remembered and emulated well by his descendant A_____ H_____ who claims that his ancestor was the first Tea Totaler in American History.

* * * * *

Following the Boston Tea Party, tensions grew in the Boston area. Friends and neighbors split in their loyalty to the British Crown. One farmer was raided several times because of his strong Separatist talk. The harassment kept up until he trained his chickens to cackle loudly when strangers came near the coop. This helped him to catch and identify many British sympathizers. This ancestor of J_____ K_____ was thus given credit for being the first to make Chicken Catch a Tory.

* * * * *

Though some people may claim a relationship, there are no known descendants of this young man whose mother warned him many times, "Nathan, please don't hang around with the British". He

died a bachelor; and a bachelor is a man who has no children to speak of, or has been awarded a college degree. We believe Natha had both.

* * * * *

Few people know that it was R_____ S. H_____ 's ancestor who sold the Liberty Bell to the Colonists. Thus began a long line of Crack Salesmen.

* * * * *

Many have heard Washington's famous words to his officers enjoining them to, "Let none but Americans be on guard tonight", However, many do not finish the saying which continued, "and let the Irish sleep, for there's going to be a great deal of fighting in the morning". Thanks to L_____ M_____, whose ancestor was there to hear these famous words.

* * * * *

During the Revolutionary War, many foreign mercenary soldiers sought asylum in this country. They feared that they would be sent to other wars if they returned to their native Hesse. One such sickly Hessian soldier married and settled in a Pennsylvania town. Too sickly for the robust work of farming, he opened a small store. He made sausages and his wife made salads and baked goods for him to sell. The people liked his store and admired his pluck, despite his delicate health. They frequently told their friends to go over to the Delicate Hessian's Store and buy some of his good food.

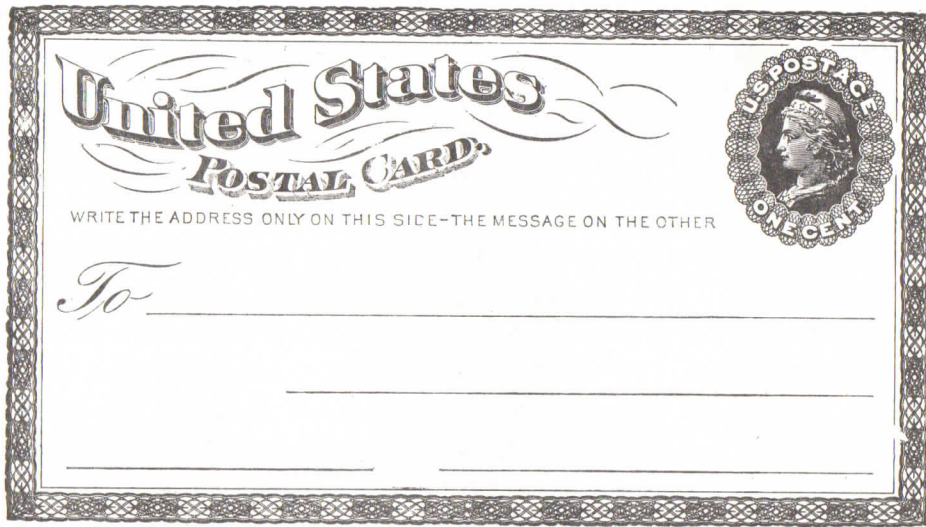
One day, while his wife was out on an errand, the Hessian waited on a man who wanted some sausage. Having no money, the customer offered the storekeeper a fine bird that he had shot and the deal was concluded. Later when the Hessian's wife returned he related the transaction. Looking at the bird, his wife said, "It looks like you have taken a Tern for the Wurst". Thanks to J_____ H. K_____ for relating this bit of family history.

* * * * *

Whether you are a collector, philatelist, investor, dealer, accumulator or something more or less esoteric, we hope that these few tales may serve as gentle reminders that Philately is Phor Phun.

OUR FIRST POSTAL CARD

Warren C. Stevens Member: RPA, APS, SPA, Guatemala Society
Life Member: United Postal Stationery Society



Austria issued the world's first Postal Card in 1869. This led to a great deal of concern that the general public would be able to "see everything" from the open back. However, its inexpensive postage rate made it extremely well received.

The United States was slow to get on the bandwagon waiting until December 1872 when Congress appropriated the money for printing these cards. The Morgan Envelope Company finally released the first penny postal on May 12, 1873 at Springfield, Massachusetts.

The first (large watermark) card was printed in a quantity of 31,094,000. The cards were printed from steel plates manufactured by the American Bank Note Company. The

printing was made 36 "up" in sheets of 72. The individual cards measured 5 1/8 X 3 inches (130 X 76mm). Both inverted and inverted reversed watermarks are known to exist.

Difficulty in the manufacture of the large watermark cards led to the discontinuance of printing on May 29, 1873. Starting in July, cards were again produced but with a change in paper stock and the introduction of the small watermark. The earliest reported postmark on these new cards was July 6, 1873. The new card stock was manufactured by the Hudson and Cheney Paper Company of North Manchester, Connecticut. There were 207,851,700 of these cards printed.

The unwatermarked cards are rare. These were from a trial run in July, 1873. The vast majority of "unwatermarked" cards are from very late impressions of the worn wire monograms used to apply the watermarks to the cards.

One major variety on these cards is the so-called "big-hole" defect. There are many plate flaws that can be collected and many enjoyable hours can be spent searching for them.

As these cards were issued before machine cancels came into general use, the same hand cancels used on early stampless covers were also often used on these cards. Large collections of fancy cancels can be assembled. Early RPO, Steamboat, Street-car, and Territorial cancels can be collected. Advertisers found that Postal Cards were a fine source of promotion, creating still another classification for collectors. Happy Hunting!

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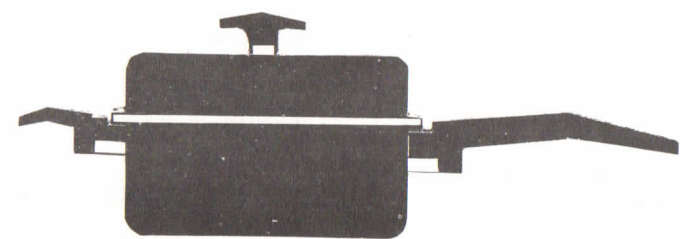
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Cachet: The printed show cachet consists of a 13 star flag and drum of freedom to the left of the cover. The entire lower portion of the cover is a reproduction of an early political cartoon featuring a disjointed snake (the Colonies) facing a Griffin (England) accompanied by the slogan "JOIN OR DIE". A different color cover will be used each day of the show.

Cancel: The Flag style USPS cancel is based on a "version" of the flag of 1777, which had no official arrangement for the stars in the field. The ROPEX-76 flag cancel has 12 stars arranged around the 13th. The dates 1776 and 1976 are placed between the stripes of the flag. Below the flag appear the words "AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL". The left side of the flag is partially "wrapped around" the date hub which identifies the "ROPEX STATION/ROCHESTER, N.Y.".

Card: The ROPEX-76 Souvenir Card commemorates the sesquicentennial of the founding of the first Volunteer Fire Company in Monroe County, New York. It features an enlarged reproduction of Scott # 971, issued by the United States in 1948 to honor Volunteer Firemen. A picture of an early "pumper" taken from an old steel engraving and appropriate text also appear on the card which was printed in two colors (Rose Carmine and Black) in a limited edition of 750 copies.

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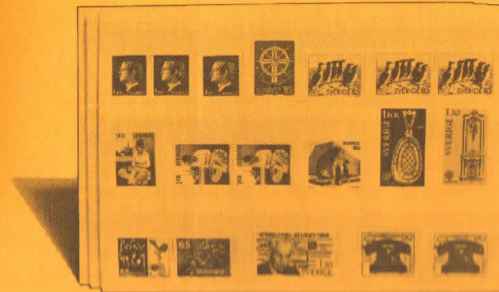
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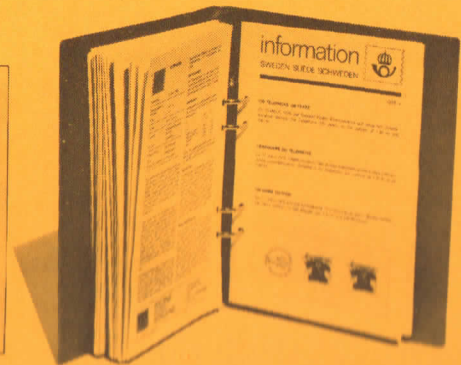
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