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Store closed from March 19th thru April 16th. ... Vacation Time!

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

ROPEX 2001

MARCH 16 - 18, 2001



FEATURING CHRISTMAS PHILATELY

Diplomat Banquet Center
One Diplomat Way
Rochester, NY 14606

Presented by the Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station
Rochester, NY 14610-0206
<http://now.at/rpa>

About ROPEX 2001...

A Message from the Chairman...

Welcome to ROPEX 2001!

On behalf of the ROPEX 2001 show committee and the entire Rochester Philatelic Association membership, let me welcome *you* to this year's show.

Special greetings to our guests, including members of two visiting societies, the Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society and the Christmas Philatelic Club. Our show's theme is "Christmas" in their honor. While we can't promise snow for the show (and we hope it *will* stay away!), we can guarantee comradeship and hospitality second to none.

I'll bet that Santa didn't fill all your philatelic wishes back in December. No problem! While it's usually better to give than receive, you won't feel "Grinch-ed" here. Give money to almost any of our 35 dealers and in return you'll receive something to cross off next year's list. Don't forget the USPS is here, too.

What have all those elves been doing? Putting together award winning exhibits, of course! ROPEX 2001 features over 200 frames displaying a wide array of subjects. Take note of the seal and cinderella material shown. This fascinating and often neglected facet of our hobby is prominently featured here.

Just like the holidays, may you leave with your stockings filled!



ROPEX 2001 Committee

Tom Fortunato - Chairman
Raymond Stone - Vice Chairman

Kelly Armstrong	Paul Gerwitz	Jim Piecuch	Marge Schleinig
John Cali	Herman Gross	Ada M. Prill	Elli Steeb
Joseph K. Doles	Rick Kase	Chuck Schultz	Robert Steeb
George T. Fekete	Ed Kawasaki	Don Schleinig	Ann Triggie



RPA Officers

President - John Kellas III
Vice President - Mark Hull
Treasurer - George Fekete
Corresponding Secretary - John Cali
Recording Secretary - Jim Piecuch
Immediate RPA Past President - Ed Kawasaki
Membership Chairperson - Florence Wright
Librarian - Joe Doles



Board of Governors

Ray Stone (term expires June 30, 2001)
Norman Wright (term expires June 30, 2002)
Chuck Schultz (term expires June 30, 2003)

Schedule of Events

*Except as noted, meetings are held in the lower level of the Banquet Center.
The Hospitality Room is on the ground floor of the Diplomat Hotel.*

Thursday, March 15

8:00 am - 6:00 pm ROPEX Setup (Exhibitors Welcome 2:00 - 6:00 pm)
7:30 - 10:30 pm Hospitality Room Open

Friday, March 16

8:00 - 10:00 am Hospitality Room Open
9:30 am Diabetes Stamp First Day Ceremony
10:00 am Welcome and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch Area Available (Lower Level)
12:00 pm Exhibitors Luncheon (Lower Level - Dutch Treat)
3:00 pm ACE - Art Cover Exchange General Meeting
6:00 pm Show Closes
7:30 - 10:30 pm Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, March 17

8:00 - 10:00 am Hospitality Room Open
10:00 am Show Opens: Youth Activities Throughout the Day
10:00 am APS Town Meeting (All Welcome)
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society Open Meeting
11:00 am Empire State Postal History Society Meeting (Hospitality Room)
12:00 pm Chapter 53 Central New York First Day Cover Society Luncheon (Dutch Treat, Stoney's Restaurant)
1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch Area Available (Lower Level)
2:00 pm American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Seminar - Presented by Ann Triggie
2:00 pm Federation of Central NY Philatelic Societies Meeting (Hospitality Room)
3:00 - 4:30 pm Judges Exhibit Critique
3:00 pm Mobile Post Office Society Meeting (Hospitality Room)
5:00 pm Show Closes
6:00 pm Pre-Banquet Cocktails (Diplomat Banquet Center)
6:30 pm ROPEX 2001 Awards Banquet (Diplomat Banquet Center)
8:30 - 11:00 pm Hospitality Room Open

Sunday, March 18

8:00 - 10:00 am Hospitality Room Open
10:00 am Show Opens
10:00 am Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society Presentation
11:00 am The Marmalades "Show & Tell" (Hospitality Room)
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Christmas Philatelic Club Open Meeting
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm NY Philatelic Bandits Hootenanny & Pizza Party (Hospitality Room)
1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch Area Available (Lower Level)
4:00 pm Show Closes

Future ROPEX Dates

March 8 - 10, 2002 • March 14 - 16, 2003 • March 12 - 14, 2004

Exhibits

Open Class (except as noted)

- 1 - 8 Christmas Celebrations from Around the World With Philately, Charles Waterstradt
A look at various Christmas celebrations from around the world from the 1800s to date.
- 9 - 16 Santa Claus: A Living Legend, Joan M. Klimchak
The Santa Claus legend beginning with his living ancestor, St. Nicholas of Myra, proceeding through the lore and practices of the modern myth.
- 17 - 20 A Multitude of Angels, Alice Johnson
A thematic look at angels, their origins, myth and legend through the millennia.
- 21 As Featured In The Red Cross Magazine 1918, (Single Frame), Joseph D. Ward, Jr.
A reconstruction of the pages of seals featured in the October 1918 Red Cross Magazine - the seals, the plates, and their story.
- 22 - 27 The Little Red: The 1934 US (and UK) Christmas Seal, John M. Hotchner
A thorough treatment of the development of the seal, its printing history, usage, and promotional material used to help sell it.
- 28 - 33 The 1938 U.S. Christmas Seal, (Display Class), Joseph D. Ward, Jr.
Specialized study of the 1938 seal utilizing essays, proofs, issued seals, usages, special and promotional items necessary to the story.
- 34 - 36 Collecting Christmas - Not Just Stamps, The Stamp Lady
This exhibit demonstrates the many ways to work a Christmas theme into a collection using more than just stamps.
- 37 - 41 The 1942 Christmas Seal, (Display Class), Thomas Richards
This exhibit shows a variety of the wide diversity of collecting areas available in the world of Christmas seals.
- 42 - 47 Christmas in Canada, (Youth - Age 16), Kelly Liusz
Assortment of Canadian Christmas issues, including the world's first commemorative, Stick-N-Tic labels, and more.
- 48 - 50 1996 Christmas at North Pole, Duane M. Heverling
The five 1996 US non-traditional Christmas issues on a variety of first day covers.
- 51 - 52 The Louisiana Anti-Tuberculosis League Seals, (Non-Competitive), Joseph D. Ward, Jr.
Review of the 18 year run of the Louisiana Anti-TB League Christmas seals including proofs, issued seals, errors, oddities and rare usages.
- 53 Automatic Christmas - Stick n' Tick Labels and Greetmore Stamps 1983-1996, (Display Class), Arlene Sullivan
One frame study of Canada's experimental bar coded Christmas labels and stamps used to facilitate machine handling of large volumes of standard letter mail.
- 54 - 61 Switzerland 1862-1883: The Perforated Sitting Helvetia, Harlan F. Stone
Used for 21 years, this traditional exhibit explores the three series of 25 stamps, Switzerland's first perforated issues.
- 62 - 69 The Foreign Mail Issue of Mexico 1879-1883, Richard Daffner
The stamps and postal history of the foreign mail issue of Mexico showing varieties and usages.
- 70 - 72 Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries - Idioms Illustrated & Explained, Thomas M. Fortunato
Fun look at commonly used English language expressions in an unusual, interactive exhibit.

Exhibits

- 73 Philatelic Reflections of the Twentieth Century, (Non-Competitive), Thomas M. Fortunato
A collection of covers from significant events of the last century.
- 74 - 80 U.S. 2c Vermilion Banknote - Issues of 1875 & 1879, Matthew W. Kewriga
A traditional showing of the 1875 and 1879 issues of the 2c Vermilion banknote.
- 81 - 88 Canada - 1897 Diamond Jubilee, Herbert L. McNaught
Traditional examination of the issue, including proofs, specimens, forgeries, and a variety of cancellations and usages.
- 89 - 92 Portuguese Christmas Postal Cards, Stephen S. Washburne
A thematic look at some of the nearly 400 different cards issued from 1936-78 including varieties and unusual uses.
- 93 - 99 The 1890 Regular Issue of the United States, Kent Wilson
Traditional study of the "Little Banknotes."
- 100 Star Cancels of Delaware County, NY, (Single Frame), Ada M. Prill
A review of star fancy cancels used by various post offices in Delaware County, NY from the 1860s to the early 20th century.
- 101 - 102 The First Bureau Regular Issue: Five Cent Value (1894-98), Kent Wilson
A review of the U.S. First Bureau regular issue with an emphasis on usages, in particular to foreign destinations.
- 103 - 108 If You Were To Collect Christmas, Suzanne Louvain Yankowski
With over 120 countries currently issuing Christmas stamps, this exhibit shows the variety of other types of materials that can be collected with a Christmas theme.
- 109 - 110 "Ya Gotta Have Balls", (Display Class), Mrs. Frances Dixon & Clyde Jennings
Relax! It's a fun look at the game of golf.
- 111 - 112 Women's Songs, Anonymous
One's first song was probably a mother's lullaby. For hundreds of years, women were barred from public performances, including in church.
- 113 - 116 A Look at Postal History Viewed Through Miniature Covers & Cards, Mrs. Frances Dixon
A display containing postal history, exclusively of small cards and covers.
- 117 - 124 First Issue of Stamped Envelopes of the United States 1853-1860, Dr. Louis T. Call, Jr.
Selected examples displaying papers, watermarks, knives, dies and inks of this interesting series of envelopes and their uses.
- 125 - 134 United States Third Class Mail: the First 100 Years 1863-1963, Stephen L. Suffet
The development of US third class mail as a class of domestic service from 1863-1963, with a brief look at 1845-1863 forerunners.
- 135 - 144 German World War I Military & Occupation Mail, Alfred F. Kugel
German postal services in the territories of other central powers and enemy occupied countries, 1914-1918.
- 145 - 152 British Military Forces in Egypt and the Sudan 1882-1900, Richard S. Wilson
A postal history exhibit of the 1882 British Occupation, 1884-1885 Gordon Relief Expedition, 1896-1898 Reconquest of the Sudan and the Army of Occupation.

Exhibits

- 153 - 159 Crisis in the Gulf, L. Kelly Armstrong, Jr.
Displaying stamps and covers pertaining to the Persian Gulf War, spanning from pre-war (1987) to the present day, as 2001 marks Kuwait's 10th liberation anniversary.
- 160 - 162 Christmas Angels, Mary Turner
Angel activities from before and during Christ's birth through today's times and the way they have been viewed by society over time.
- 163 The U.S. 5.2 Cent Sleigh Transportation Coil on FDCs, (Single Frame), Raymond Stone
A one frame look at the U.S. 5.2 cent authorized nonprofit organization definitive issue of March 21, 1983 on a variety of first day cachets and souvenirs.
- 164 American Women on U.S. Stamps, (Single Frame), Florence H. Wright
Presenting a few U.S. women who can be found on United States stamps. Women depicted in an artistic and symbolic way are also represented within two sections of the exhibit.
- 165 - 168 Something Fishy Is Going On Here!, Scott Duffey
Philatelic collection exhibiting fish used on correspondences to unusual destinations.
- 169 - 172 Olympic Machine Cancels 1912-2004, Glenn A. Estus
Exhibit of slogan machine cancels mentioning the Olympics from Stockholm (1912) through the 1996 bid by Athens, Greece for the 2004 summer Olympics.
- 173 - 180 Lithuania 1916-1941: A Philatelic Study of an Unconquerable Spirit, Ronald W. Yankowski
Lithuania through the millennium has been occupied many times but remained unconquerable. Displays Lithuanian culture from WWI German occupation to pre-WWII.
- 181 - 189 A Salute to America's Wildlife Artists (As Shown on Revenue Stamps), June E. Berwald
Winning artists of the US Federal Duck Stamp competition and their works. Includes local, state, US and non-US stamps, and usages, especially on permits and licenses.
- 190 - 196 1901 Pan-American Exposition, Mark K. Hoff
Pre-event through expo slogan advertising machine and station cancels, with publicity covers. It includes postal cards and covers of the McKinley assassination.
- 197 When U.S. Presidents Die, (Single Frame), Mary Ann Owens
The USPOD/USPS tributes to each President after he died, arranged by the swiftness of the remembrance.
- 198 Mail to the Stars, (Single Frame), Thomas Richards
A philatelic examination of the public's fascination with movie stars and a sampling of mail to the stars.
- 199 - 208 The Half-A Collection, Clyde & Jay Jennings
A showing of the eleven U.S. one-half cent stamps in a traditional format.
- 209 Postmark Collecting, (Display Class), Anonymous
An exhibit displaying a variety of postmarks to show the fun aspects of this facet of the hobby.
- 210 The Urchin's Tale, (Display Class), Laurie Ryan
The biology, folklore and endearment of the hedgehog.
- 211 - 216 The Aspinwall Connection, (Display Class), Mary Ann Aspinwall Owens
A genealogy study of my ancestors from the 1200s to date plus communities named for them or founded by them.

Jury Panel

The ROPEX 2001 jury is not only experienced in many disciplines but its members also complement each other to give a well-balanced team. Four of the jury are accredited Jury Chairmen in their own right.

Robert G. Zeigler, Chairman

Bob specializes in many areas but his prime expertise is in Switzerland, postal history and censored mail. His excellent reputation as a Chairman is well-known. This will be Bob's first visit to ROPEX.

James R. Adams

It has been 15 years since Jim brought his keen knowledge of postal history, military mail and aerophilately to ROPEX and we welcome his return.

Nancy B. Z. Clark

Nancy is no stranger to ROPEX. She has been a member of RPA for many years and has even acted as Show Chairman when she was an area resident. She brings her extensive knowledge of US postal history and youth exhibiting to the jury.

David L. Herendeen

British Commonwealth and the French Empire are but two of David's specialties. His journey to Rochester is the longest as he comes to us from southern California for his first visit.

Thomas C. Mazza

Tom's areas of expertise include a very broad knowledge of US postal history. He also has a great ability to assess the structure of an exhibit to bring it to its full potential. This is also Tom's first experience as a ROPEX judge.

Ken Martin

Ken will serve his first apprenticeship at ROPEX 2001. His experiences in thematics and youth philately are well established. As the APS Director of Shows and Exhibitions, Ken is well-versed in many aspects of exhibiting. We welcome him and wish him well.



Awards

ROPEX Medals, Ribbons and Certificates

- National Open Class Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze medals, Certificate of Participation
- Single Frame Class Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze medals
- Display Class 1st, 2nd and 3rd Award Ribbons
- All exhibitors receive appropriate certificates and ribbons

Grand Award - winner represents ROPEX at STAMPSHOW 2002 in Chicago, IL (Coca-Cola Porcelain Polar Bear Collectible)

Reserve Grand - second best in show (Harley-Davidson Porcelain Collectible)

Rochester Philatelic Association Awards

- Larry R. Moriarty Sr. Memorial Award - Excellence in a Christmas Theme Related Exhibit Not Winning the Grand or Reserve Grand (Ceramic Snow Village Express Parcels Delivery Truck)
- Andy Hale Award - Excellence in a General Exhibit by an RPA Member (perpetual plaque)
- Virginia Gubler Award - Best Thematic Exhibit by an RPA Member (perpetual pewter tray)
- ROPEX Youth Award (monetary gift)
- LRM Popularity Award - Most Popular As Voted by ROPEX Attendees (plaque)

Christmas Philatelic Club Award

- Excellence in Presentation and Creativity in a Christmas-Related Exhibit (certificate and ribbon)

Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society Awards

- First Place Award for Excellence in Seal Exhibiting (gold medal and ribbon)
- Second Place Award for Excellence in Seal Exhibiting (silver medal and ribbon)
- Third Place Award for Excellence in Seal Exhibiting (bronze medal and ribbon)

American First Day Cover Society Awards

- Best Exhibit of First Day Covers (medal paperweight and certificate)
- Second Place Award (certificate)

American Philatelic Congress Award

- Excellence in Written Text in an Exhibit (Congress Book)

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Awards

- Award of Honor - Excellence in Presentation Not Earning a National Gold (cloisonné pin)
- Award of Honor - Excellence in Presentation Not Earning a National Gold (cloisonné pin)
- Creativity in Philatelic Exhibiting Award (gold medal)
- AAPE Youth Grand - winner enters AAPE's Youth "Champion of Champions" (certificate and ribbon)

Awards

American Philatelic Society Awards

- Medal and Ribbon of Excellence - Pre-1900 Material
- Medal and Ribbon of Excellence - 1900-1940 Material
- Medal and Ribbon of Excellence - 1940-1980 Material
- Medal and Ribbon of Excellence - Post-1980 Material
- Medal and Ribbon for Research Excellence

American Topical Association Awards

- First Place Award Earning a National Bronze or Higher (medal and ribbon)
- Second Place Award (medal and ribbon)
- Third Place Award (medal and ribbon)
- One Frame Merit Award (ribbon)

British North America Philatelic Society Award

- Best BNA Exhibit (ribbon)

Empire State Postal History Society Awards

- Best Exhibit of New York State Postal History Earning a National Vermeil or Gold (Waterford bowl)
- Certificate of Participation

Postal History Society Award

- Best Exhibit of Postal History Earning a National Vermeil or Gold (medal)

United Postal Stationery Society Awards

- Marcus White Award - Best Postal Stationery Exhibit Earning a National Vermeil or Gold and Not Previously Winning a UPSS Showcase Award (medal)

United States Philatelic Classics Society Award

- Best U.S. Exhibit up to the First Bureau Issue of 1894 Earning a National Vermeil or Gold and Not Winning this Award in a 24 Month Period (gold medal)

United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Award

- Best U.S. Exhibit from 1847 Onwards (medal)

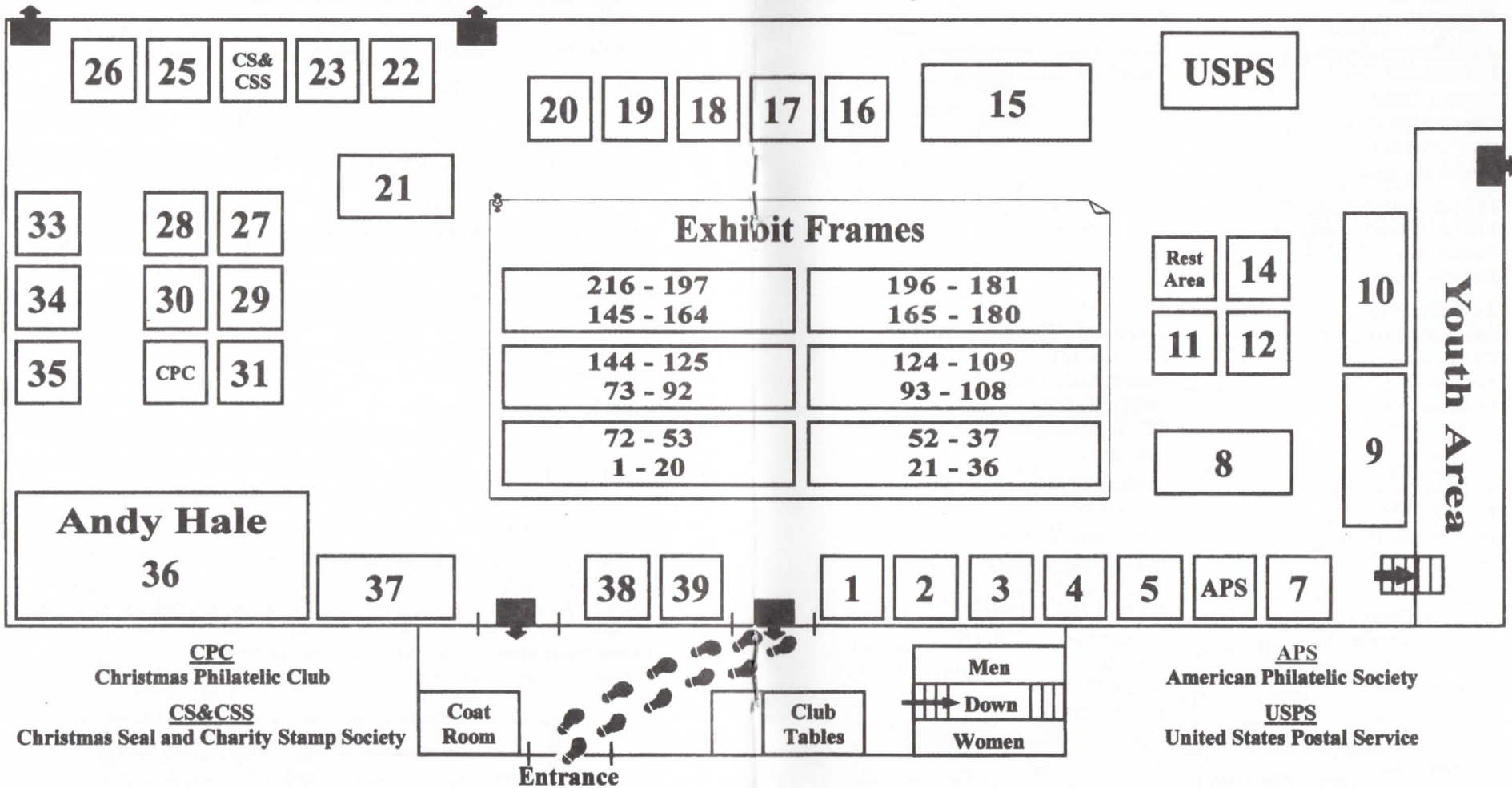
Judges may elect not to give certain awards if no entries qualify. Other awards not listed may be awarded at the discretion of the judges with the consent of the ROPEX Committee.



Floor Plan
ROPEX 2001

A World Series of Philately Show

 = FIRE EXITS



Booth Assignments (See pp. 12 - 13 for dealer information; non-dealers are in *Italics*)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. East-West Philatelics | 8. John Nunes | 15. Al Greco Stamps | 24. CS&CSS | 31. Tom's Stamps |
| 2. Mark Szuba | 9. Whit's Covers | 16. Nickel City Stamps | 25. William Royer | 32. CPC |
| 3. Ed Bailey, Philatelist | 10. William Hatton | 17/8. Discovery Stamps | 26. Tom Baron Stamp Co. | 33/4. Judaica Sales Reg'd. |
| 4. Steve Malack | 11. Long Island Philatelics | 19. Pack-Rat Covers | 27. Amis Stamps | 35. Lakewood Stamp Co. |
| 5. Finger Lakes International | 12. Hampshire Stamps | 20. John Azarkevich | 28. Reid Stamps | 36. McLeod Stamp Co. |
| 6. <i>American Philatelic Society</i> | 13. Rest Area | 21. David & Joni Allego | 29. Donofrio Philatelics | 37. Les Rosen & Raymond Stummer |
| 7. Mickelson Philatelics | 14. Lawrence L. Winum | 22/3. Betsy & Chuck | 30. John Rudnicki | 38/9. R. S. Stamp Co. |

Dealers

- David & Joni Allego** (Booth 21)
648 Merchant St.
Ambridge, PA 15003
(724)266-4237
Worldwide covers
- Amis Stamps** (Booth 27)
159 Glendale Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6R 2T4
(416)533-5363
Worldwide stamps
- John Azarkevich** (Booth 20)
1400 A Altamont Ave. Ste 111
Schenectady, NY 12303
Worldwide covers
- Ed Bailey, Philatelist**
Suburban Stamps & Coins
(Booth 3)
PO Box 2338
Syracuse, NY 13220
(315)452-0593
US stamps, first day covers
- Tom Baron Stamp Co.** (Booth 26)
PO Box 1339
Long Beach, NY 11561
(516)763-9205
Covers
- Betsy & Chuck** (Booth 22 - 23)
3606 S. Atherton St.
State College, PA 16801
(814)466-3469
Christmas seals
- Discovery Stamps** (Booth 17 - 18)
PO Box 2502
Syracuse, NY 13220-2502
(315)652-5517
US stamps & booklets
- Donofrio Philatelics** (Booth 29)
110 Chestnut Dr.
Rochester, NY 14624
(716)247-8975
US & worldwide stamps
- East-West Philatelics** (Booth 1)
P.O. Box 961
Pelham, NY 10803
(914)668-6623
Worldwide stamps, topicals
- Finger Lakes International,**
Tony Van Hanja (Booth 5)
PO Box 5
Shortsville, NY 14548
(716)289-6395
Worldwide stamps
- Al Greco Stamps** (Booth 15)
1190 Nolan Rd.
Macedon, NY 14502
(315)986-7948
Worldwide stamps
- Hampshire Stamps** (Booth 12)
P.O. Box 423
Medford NH 03055
(603)673-7180
US, British Empire & worldwide stamps
- William Hatton** (Booth 10)
Piqua, OH
US stamps, US & worldwide covers
- Judaica Sales Reg'd.**
(Booth 33 - 34)
PO Box 55 - St. Martin
Laval, Quebec, H7V 3P4
Canada
(450)687-0632
Israel, topicals
- Lakewood Stamp Co.** (Booth 35)
1656 W. 40th St.
Erie, PA 16509
(814)866-0352
US & British colonies stamps, topicals, Disney
- Long Island Philatelics** (Booth 11)
P.O. Box 631
Smithtown, NY 11787
US, Canada, Newfoundland stamps

Dealers

- Steve Malack Stamps** (Booth 4)
PO Box 5628
Endicott, NY 13763
(607)862-9441
US stamps
- McLeod Stamp Co.** (Booth 36)
2423 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14618
(716)244-0240
US, worldwide stamps & supplies
- Mickelson Philatelics** (Booth 7)
105 Oakridge Drive
Syracuse, NY 13209-1719
(315)488-7066
Ireland, Great Britain
- Nickel City Stamps** (Booth 16)
P.O. Box 1051
Cheektowaga, NY
(716)634-6871
US & worldwide stamps, topicals, worldwide covers
- John Nunes** (Booth 8)
80 Fredericks Rd.
Scotia, NY 12302
(518)399-8395
Worldwide covers, ephemera
- Pack-Rat Covers** (Booth 19)
PO Box 369
Gobles, MI 49055
(616)521-6023
Worldwide covers
- Reid Stamps** (Booth 28)
216 Robish Hill Rd.
Callicoon, NY 12723
(914)887-5448
Worldwide stamps, topicals
- Les Rosen** (Booth 37)
7724 Matchwood Ln.
Liverpool, NY 13090
(315)652-9635
E-Mail: fdcsrcfun@aol.com
First day covers
- R. S. Stamp Co.** (Booth 38 - 39)
112 Beverly Hgts.
Rochester, NY 14616
(716)621-5019
US, worldwide, supplies
- John Rudnicki** (Booth 30)
29 Marmaduke St.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6R 1T1
(416)532-2781
Worldwide stamps, topicals
- Raymond Stummer** (Booth 37)
7237 Rosewood Cir. W.
N. Syracuse, NY 13212-3307
(315)458-5910
US stamps & covers
- William Royer** (Booth 25)
10165 Robert Bast Rd.
Midland, NC 28107
(704)888-2907
Classic stamps
- Tom's Stamps, Thomas S. Sivak**
(Booth 31)
556A Hansen Ave.
Lyndora, PA 16045
(724)287-1931
US & foreign stamps
- Mark Szuba** (Booth 2)
PO Box 3532
Syracuse, NY 13220
(315)699-3948
US stamps
- Whit's Covers** (Booth 9)
34 Red Cedar Lane
Shelburne VT 05482
(802)985-8519
Worldwide covers
- Laurence L. Winum** (Booth 14)
PO Box 247
Walden, NY 12586
(800)914-8090 / (914)778-7350
E-Mail: winum@frontiernet.net
US stamps & revenues, Germany

Christmas and Philately



Christmas, probably the most widely celebrated holiday in the world, has lent itself easily to postage stamps and seals. The birth of Jesus Christ is the central theme, but some designs pick up traditions that are centuries old, such as trees, holly, mistletoe and a bearded saint.

The first **Christmas postage stamp** was issued by Canada in 1898 and came about almost by accident. A stamp for the new Imperial Penny Postage of Canada was scheduled for November 9 that year, the Prince of Wales' birthday. A postal official describing the new stamp to Queen Victoria mentioned that it could also serve as a tribute to the prince. The jealous queen demanded "Which prince?", whereupon the official replied, "Why Madam, the Prince of Peace." The distribution date was changed to December 7 and "XMAS 1898" was inscribed on the stamp. The new rate became effective on Christmas Day and thus was the world's first Christmas stamp!

It wasn't until the 1950s that countries began issuing Christmas postage stamps. The first such United States stamp was issued in 1962, showing a wreath and candles. Canada's next Christmas stamp, showing a family and the star of Bethlehem, wasn't issued until 1964. Now, nearly 160 countries issue stamps commemorating the holiday. Many of these are copies of famous paintings of the nativity; others show Disney characters in Christmas settings or Santa Claus or local scenes and customs.

Whatever the design, Christmas stamps provided the inspiration to form a collecting group, the **Christmas Philatelic Club**. Founded in Harmony, Minnesota in 1969 by the late Kenneth Mackenzie, it now includes 225 members, worldwide. *The Yule Log* is the club's newsletter (mailed six times a year) which features articles and news about various Christmas stamps, as well as worldwide Christmas customs.

Christmas seals started in 1904 when Einar Holboll, a Danish postal clerk thought that a special seal placed on Christmas

Christmas and Philately

mail could represent a gift to a philanthropic agency.

The donations from the sale of the small decorative stickers could be used to build a hospital for the many Danish children sick with tuberculosis. The king and postal authorities approved, and so the first Christmas seals for the prevention of TB were sold.

In the United States, Emily Bissell was trying to raise funds for a small TB hospital (barely a shack). She read of Holboll's project and decided to launch a similar campaign. She sketched the design for the seal - a half-wreath of holly around a red cross, crowned with the words "Merry Christmas." The Wilmington Post Office allowed her to set up a booth in the lobby and sell the seals there; the idea was to paste them on each Christmas letter or card (in addition to the postage). It was such a success that the promotion continued yearly. In 1920, the National Tuberculosis Association took the project over from the Red Cross and, under different names (now the American Lung Association), has sold Christmas seals ever since.

Christmas / Tuberculosis seals caught on, and now nearly 100 countries around the world issue national and local seals. Pulmonary and respiratory diseases benefit from Seal sales.

The **Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society** was organized in 1931 and today has about 400 members worldwide. It focuses on TB and other charity seals from the many countries that issue them, and publishes a quarterly journal, *The Seal News*, which is sent to each member. The Society also publishes and sells *Green's Tuberculosis Seal Catalog*, which lists and describes U.S. and worldwide TB seals and related TB items.

Other organizations use seals during the Christmas season to benefit their causes. The NAACP, for example, issued seals at Christmas for many years; one is depicted on a ROPEX 2001 cachet.

- Florence Wright

Participating Organizations

The Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society

The major purpose of the Society is to promote and improve the hobby of collecting anti-tuberculosis seals, charity seals, fund seals and cinderellas of the world. Through its publications it gathers and disseminates information on this material.

Membership is open to anyone interested in collecting seals, labels, cinderellas or stamps related to the primary purpose of the Society. Applications for membership should be sent to the Society's Secretary-Treasurer, Florence H. Wright, 33 Northumberland Road, Rochester NY 14618.

Names of new members are published, along with their philatelic interests, in the Society's quarterly journal, the *Seal News*. *Seal News* also includes articles on a variety of subjects, auctions and current seal reports (U.S. and foreign).

<http://members.aol.com/betsychuck/cscss.htm>



The Christmas Philatelic Club

If you love both Christmas and stamp collecting, combine the two interests by joining the Christmas Philatelic Club! We specialize in all Christmas-related philatelic material, and seek to share the spirit of Christmas all year long.

CPC membership includes a subscription to our bimonthly publication, *Yule Log*, which includes feature articles, a mail auction and buy/sell/trade ads. Annual dues are \$15 for North American residents and \$22 elsewhere. For more information, please contact Linda Lawrence, 312 Northwood Drive, Lexington KY 40505-2104.

Our ROPEX 2001 meeting will include show & tell, door prizes and speaker Mary Ann Owens.

<http://www.hwcen.org/link/cpc>

Diabetes Awareness Stamp



The Rochester Philatelic Association is pleased to present a first day ceremony for the nationwide release of the "Know More About Diabetes" stamp on Friday, March 16 at 9:30 am, just before ROPEX opens. The official ceremony will begin at 11:00 am at Boston's Joslin Diabetes Center.

The stamp draws attention to the disease suffered by millions of Americans of all ages. One in four Medicare dollars is spent on healthcare for people with diabetes. There is no cure, but through insulin, dietary regimens and exercise, those afflicted try to cope while research continues. It kills one American every three minutes.

Our program features several notable speakers and guests:

- Beverly J. Gaines is District Director of the American Diabetes Association. Her presentation will explain the disease and role that the ADA plays in focusing attention on it.
- Lynda Campbell is a registered nurse and certified diabetes educator at the ViaHealth Diabetes Center of Genesee Hospital. She plans to talk about the many services available to local diabetics in the greater Rochester area.
- Geoffrey Bond is a 6th grade student at the Allendale-Columbia school. He was diagnosed with diabetes as a six-year-old, and will speak about his experiences then and now.
- John Montague, Rochester Postmaster, is no stranger to ROPEX and the RPA. He continues to support philately throughout the region along with Bob Scherzi, USPS Customer Relations Coordinator.

The RPA is giving away a special collectible souvenir program, while supplies last, to anyone attending our ceremony. Speakers will be available afterwards to sign autographs.

In addition, a commemorative cacheted envelope is available at the ROPEX hospitality table at the entrance to the show for purchase for those interested.

Show Cachets

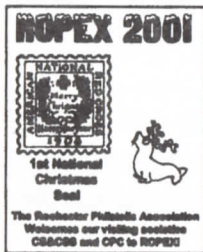
ROPEX 2001

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station
Rochester, NY 14610-0206

<http://now.at/rpa>

Order Form

ROPEX 2001 Christmas Cachet Covers



First US
Christmas Seal



First US
Christmas Stamp



First NAACP
Christmas Seal

Serviced Cachets

\$2.00 Each • Set of Three for \$5.00

Please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope
or send 50 cents per cover to pay for
postage and handling.

_____ First US Christmas Seal Cachet(s) @ \$2.00.... \$ _____

_____ First US Christmas Stamp Cachet(s) @ \$2.00 . \$ _____

_____ First NAACP Seal Cachet(s) @ \$2.00 \$ _____

_____ Set of 3 Cachets @ \$5.00 \$ _____

Make checks payable to **ROPEX 2001**
and include your name and address.

RPA Membership Application

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

Name: _____
 Adult Junior

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Referred By: _____

APS# _____ ATS# _____ Other _____

Philatelic Interests: _____

Annual Dues

Adult \$15 • Junior \$5

Please enclose your dues and mail to:
RPA Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 10206
Rochester, NY 14610-0206

<http://now.at/rpa>

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
is a not-for-profit organization, established in 1913.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays during the
months of September through June. No meetings are held
during July and August. Regular meeting times are 7:00 pm
to 9:30 pm. Programs start at 7:45 pm sharp. We meet at
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of East Avenue and
Vick Park B. Entrance is on Vick Park B.