Hinges and Tongs

Vol. 79 No. 11

EDITORIAL

by John Kellas

Hope you all had a good time at ROPEX'79. Mr. Goble's U.S. Parcel Post 1913 was the Grand Award winner and therefore will be invited to compete in the World Series of Philately for the "Champion of Champions" title at the A.P.S. annual convention. About $450.00 in doorprizes were awarded at the end of ROPEX'79. Total visitation for the three day show was about 2500 philatelists. Sales of both the cached covers and souvenir cards were heavy during the show and are still be ordered through the mail. Several RPA members exhibited and some won few awards! The show itself operated smoothly. The U.S.P.S. special ROPEX cancel was heavily used to cancel all sorts of items that had a stamp on them. Those that attended the ROPEX Awards Banquet not only had a great feast but a good time to boot! Larry Worlary won the "Bluenose" Rug Raffle. There will be a final news release in the philatelic media announcing all of the ROPEX'79 winners. The ROPEX'79 Committee would like to thank all the RPA members who helped and supported ROPEX'79. Hopefully the next ROPEX will be in the Spring of 1981.

Nov. 1 U.S., Olympics- Highjump 31¢ international airmail stamp
Nov. 4 U.S., Will Rogers 15¢ stamp
Nov. 11 U.S., Vietnam Veterans special/definitive 15¢ stamp
Nov. 15 CANADA, Flying Boats, two se-tenant pairs of 17¢ and 35¢ stamps, start of a new series
Nov. 20 U.S., Wiley Post airmail, se-tenant pair of 25¢ airmail stamps
Dec. 1 U.S., Olympics, 21¢ postal cards, "gymnast"
Dec. 5 U.S., Olympics, "discus thrower, 22¢ aerogram

LONDON 1980

The SECOND BULLETIN published by the organizers of LONDON 1980, the International stamp exhibition will be ready in November. The Bulletin will provide all the up to date information on the organization of (continued on 2)

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Nov. 8 - This is an important meeting! The subject is "future ROPEX shows". There will also be a discussion of ROPEX'79. Please be there!

Nov. 22 - THANKSGIVING DAY NO MEETING

NEW ISLAND IDENTITIES

The Portuguese Government has decided that the Azores and Madeira will issue postage stamps with their own identity starting January 1980. The name on the stamps will be Azores(Portugal) and Madeira (Portugal). The last time either of these territories issued postage stamps was in 1928.
the international stamp show and
about hotel/air transportation
packages. A copy of Bulletin 2 may
be obtained from the Secretariat,
LONDON 1980, Box 300, Daines Inn
House, 265 Strand, London WC2R 1AF,
England.

**BOOKS**

*How To Detect Damaged, Altered, And
Repaired Stamps* by Paul Schmid. Nov.
release date. This book examines
bogus philatelic material. hard cover,
well illustrated 105 pp., primarily
about U.S. stamps. Palm Press, Box
373, Huntington, NY 11743 Cost $14.95
plus $1 postage & NYS tax.

*Catalogue of United States Perforns.*
500 pp. ill., loose leaf Ed. Make
checks payable to Perfin Club.
Perfin Club, Treasurer, 923 N. Anita,
Gonzales, LA 70737. Cost $25.00.

*Sveriges-Katalogen 1972-80, 33rd Ed.,
431 pp. ill., catalog of Swedish
stamps. Order from Sveriges Filatelist-
Forbund, Birger Jarlsagatan 18 B, 11434
Stockholm, SWEDEN. Cost 45 Kronor.

*U.S. Parcel Post - A Postal History by
ill. Postal Publications, P.O.Box 431294
Miami, FL 33143 Cost $15.00 postpaid.*

**SHOWS**

Nov. 8-11 NATIONAL 79- ASDA, New York
Coliseum, 60th St. & Columbus
Circle, NYC, NY. Hours Th + Fr
11-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5. Special
show cancel. Admission $3/day.

Nov. 10-11 Hamilton-Buffalo Stamp Ex.,
Strathbrotton Mall, Crestwood
Restaurant, 1565 Barton St. E.,
Hamilton, Ont. CANADA. Hours
Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission
Free.

**WILL ROGERS**

Performing Arts USA 15c
Grand jury action near in FDC case

Grand jury action was expected in late October or early November in a West Coast case involving allegedly counterfeit first day covers, possibly involving tens of thousands of FDCs.

Although an in-depth report on the alleged counterfeiting is being withheld at the request of postal investigators and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, Linns believes that the name of the person being investigated should be made known—in fairness to the many cover dealers around the country who are not involved.

The investigation by U.S. postal inspectors, now complete and in the hands of U.S. attorneys in Los Angeles, involves the possible application of counterfeit first day cancels to otherwise genuine stamps and covers by Jerry P. Mather of Redondo Beach, Calif.

These covers have reportedly been offered under the company names of Fiesta and La Fiesta on both wholesale and retail levels.

The alleged counterfeits reportedly involve FDCs from the 1850s through the 1970s, and are mostly common grade U.S. material. Identification of the covers is complicated because they do not include any identification of source, and by the fact that genuine first day cancels may exist on similar covers.

Full details concerning identification of the suspected covers will be reported following court action and detailed disclosures from authoritative sources.

Reprint Linn's 11/5/79.

An Introduction to Postmark Collecting

by Curtis Brown, RPA

Have you ever thought about collecting postmarks? Probably not. Most people don't realize that there is a fascinating world within postmarks, as there is with stamps. Many philatelists might enjoy a small collection of postmarks along with their stamps. The postmarking world prefers not to be referred to as philately, but as commately.

The type of postmark collection to have is up to the individual collector. The most common is general United States. This collector would try to obtain one postmark from each post office in the country. This is an ambitious project with over thirty thousand post offices presently open.

Topicals are also popular. As in stamps, they are extremely varied and numerous. Subjects may include animals, names, countries, etc. One would then try to obtain all the postmarks within that subject area. For instance, if your topic was the country of Jordan, the states of Arkansas, Minnesota, Montana, New York and West Virginia have post offices with that name. Also there are Jordan Valley, Oregon, and Jordan Mines, Virginia. You would want to obtain these postmarks by one of the methods listed later on in this article. Obviously, Jordan wouldn't give you much of a collection but countries would. Probably one of the most popular topicals is Presidents because there are so many towns named after these noteworthy officials. For example, twenty-eight states have towns named after President Lincoln.

Two other subjects similar to topicals are dates and personality covers. The first is for collectors who like a certain date—often their own birthday. The collector tries to collect postmarks canceled on that date. Personality covers are those postmarked with a name, such as Bill, Wyoming, sometimes with the autobiography of a celebrity, like Bill Bixby or Billy Joel added to it.

Many other choices are also possible.
Including the collecting of railroad postmarks, APOs, flag cancels, slogan cancels, postal meters, etc. something for everyone!

One of the first decisions to make when you decide to collect postmarks is what size you will collect. The most common are tubulars (2" x 4"), 3" x 5" and round (cut without the killer bars). Three by five cards are the easiest to file, or you might wish to use an album of some sort. Personally, I have mine arranged first by state, then alphabetically by town name. I store them in small boxes.

There are quite a few sources for postmarks. The mail of your own family is a good place to start. Friends and relatives are always willing to save envelopes for you and many take an interest in the unusual hobby you have. Make sure they slit open the mail on the end with the return address so as not to ruin the postmark.

Always ask your own correspondents to try to mail their letters from smaller post offices, in the slot marked "for local cancel only" or, if there isn't one, in the "local" slot. Otherwise, depending on where they live, it will be cancelled at the sectional mail facility. Most collectors don't like sectional center postmarks because they are of large cities and are usually of a very poor quality.

Another way to get postmarks is to ask the secretary at a public utility to save the envelopes that come in when the bills are being paid.

You can also write to a postmaster and enclose a SASE or SA postal card and he will cancel it with the local postmark and send it along in the mailstream. I personally prefer postal cards because they are more economical.

Like everyone else, commutelists are organized. The major group, comparable to the APS, is the Postmark Collectors Club (PMCC). The group's President is Jay Lounsbury of Forestville, Maryland. Each year the club holds an exhibition (postmarks, covers, etc.) and convention. The 18th annual meeting will be this August 9-12 at the Don @esar Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida. Information on the group is available from 3487 Firstenberg Way, Marion, OH 43302. A less active group is the American Postmark Society, PO Box 193, Port Huron, MI 48060. The Junior Philatelists of American (JPA) also has a postmark study group.

For those RFA members who were unable to visit the ROPEX '79, there are a limited number of cacheted show covers featuring the "Bluenose" and a souvenir "Bluenose" card still left. If you would like a set of covers, one for each day of the show - 19, 20, 21, the cost is $1.25 plus an addressed stamped #10 envelope. The souvenir card costs $1.25 mint or $1.50 with the show cancel on it, these prices include postage. Or you can make your purchases at the RFA's Nov. 8th Meeting. There is a limited number left, so act soon!

ROPEX - 79

The BLUENOSE, often referred to as the "most beautiful stamp ever made", was issued by Canada on January 7, 1929. The design was from a photograph taken during the International Fishermen's Race off Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1926. The ship represented are the Canadian schooner "Bluenose" and the U.S. schooner Columbia. The Rochester Philatelic Association is proud to salute the 50th Anniversary of the issuance of the "Bluenose".

ROPEX is a presentation of the Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

Please Note: 🌟🌟🌟🌟

The RFA library is slowly being reorganized. Any RFA member who taken out a book, please return them by the next RFA Meeting. Books have been taken out to long a period of time. Also if you have suggestions for additional books to be included in the library, let an RFA Officer know about it.