MARCH Meetings

March 13th "Six-page exhibit" dealing with the theme, The Olympic Year. All members are encouraged to present a 6-page exhibit in competition with other RPA members only. The exhibit must be concerned with the Olympics in some form. RPA will also be celebrating a 67th Birthday. 8:00pm

March 27th "Flea Market Night", Your chance to sell, swap, trade, and buy from other members. Bring in your extra stamps and philatelic supplies and turn them into CASH or stamps. 8:00pm-1981 Nominations for Officers

EDITORIAL ...... by John Kellas

At the Feb. 28th RPA meeting, the membership present voted to pass Resolution A (mandatory guidelines of future ROPEX Show finances) and Resolution B, sub-A. (ROPEX will be a National Show with grand awards winner entering Champion-of-Champions competition). Since the way for ROPEX is now clear, the ROPEX Steering committee can work on the next exhibition - ROPEX '81. If ROPEX is to continue to grow in size and reputation on the National level, YOU, the RPA Membership must help and support this philatelic endeavor. .... The RPA will be 62 years old on March 13, 1980!!! The RPA Annual Banquet & Auction will take place April 19th at the Mapledale Party House. Tickets can be purchased at any of the RPA meetings, cost $8. Auction lots, up to 10 lots per member, on official lot forms (available at the meetings) can be submitted to the auctioneers during the two March & first April meetings. A list of lots will be published and available before the banquet. Lots must be submitted before or at the April 10th meeting. NO LOTS WILL BE ALLOWED in the auction from the floor. To find out more about the Banquet & Auction attend one of the upcoming RPA meetings or wait for the next issue of the "H & T".

[Does the RPA have a correct mailing address ??]

March 6-9 INTERPEX '80, New York Coliseum, Columbus Circle, New York, NY. (annual ASDA show) Admission price $3.00 per day, Th 11-7, Fri 11-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5. First Day of Issue for 1¢ coil-March 6. Special show cancellation.

March 9 STAMPEDE '80, Hollywood Recreation Center, 2030 Polk Street, Hollywood, FLORIDA Admission Free. Hours 11-5, 30

March 7-8 NIPEX '80, Stamford Presbyterian Church, 3101 St. Paul Street, Niagara Falls, Ont., CANADA. Admission Free, Hours Fri 12-5 & Sat 10-6

I don't expect anyone to get too choked up about this, but we are in the middle of National Letter Writing Week.

I don't know about you, but I'm going to observe it by sitting right down and calling my friends whom I haven't written in three years.

My reluctance to write letters is based on several reasons: (a) I never have anything to report that is worth 15 cents; (b) when I read them over, I sound like a chukka-in and get very depressed; (c) I never remember to mail them and find myself going through them months later, changing "The baby is married," or "I am on a diet and must lose 15 pounds," to "I am on a diet and must lose 15 pounds over each knee."

I am intrigued by letter writers... What prompts them to write, how much they write, and their system for replying.

Most are merely acquaintances and I am astounded when they share intimate details of their irregularities.

The intriguing thing about the postal system is its optimism toward its future. They not only assume they will have one, but they're actually figuring out how it will work. The letter of the future will be sent electronically via satellite.

They are studying a system that will transmit a message to a post office where it will be transformed into digital data at the rate of 10 pages per second, then beamed to a domestic satellite for instant transmission to a receiving post office. There it would be recovered into printed form, automatically folded, and inserted into an addressed envelope at the speed of four to six letters per second.

I'm not sure, but I think they've just invented the telegram.

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**National letter week good time to call**

Ema bombeck

My mother runs her correspondence like a railroad. Upon receipt of a letter, she will sit right down that evening and fire one back (couldn't you scream?) being careful to note on what day it was sent.

You will hear not one word from her until you write back. You never have to worry about your letters crossing one another en route.

Another friend of mine only writes when something happens. I haven't heard from her in three years and can only assume she's serving time somewhere.

There's another kind of correspondent whom I only hear from when they are in another country. Obviously, I'm on the B list and receive communications only when they're doing something they're proud of.

**Xerox Employees plan first show**

The first stamp exhibit of the Xerox Employees Stamp Club will be held March 11, 7:30 p.m., Building 355, Caledonia, Web- ster, N.Y. Larry Manley, member of the board of governors of the Rochester Philatelic Association, will serve as chief judge and present awards to the winners.

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**Books**


Cost: $5.50+ 50c post

The "world's most valuable stamp," the British Guiana 1856 1c magenta, will be offered in the Robert A. Siegel auction of April 5. Other highlights of the auction include the U.S. 1918 24¢ invert and the Canada St. Lawrence Seaway invert. (The illustrations of the U.S. and Canada inverts are not necessarily the same specimens being offered in the sale.) * Linn's 2/24/80.
The Abraham Lincoln Chapter of the Historical Cover Collectors released a cacheted cover marking Aug. 1, the 201st birthday of Francis Scott Key, lawyer and author of the U.S. national anthem. The cover was printed in red, white and blue and was postmarked in Baltimore, Md., the location of Fort McHenry, the inspiration for Key that September night in 1814 when "the rockets red glare and the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

The original shell-torn Star Spangled Banner is now on display in Washington's Smithsonian Institution. A reproduction of that flag is basis for the cover's cachet, along with Key's portrait and his credo which appeared on the American Credo stamps of 1964-61.

HCC used the Credo stamp (Scott 1142) and the current

The AMERIPEX '86 logo.
Planning for the exhibition is under way. A working committee of over 40 people has been established, and various subcommittees are working on the preliminary planning for this international event.

Bulky-rate stamps usable as postage
Some post office employees continue to insist that bulk-rate postage stamps cannot be used by private individuals as postage for first and third-class mail.

Section 143.3 (page 142) of the Domestic Mail Manual states "All postage stamps issued by the United States since 1980 are good for postage from any point in the United States.

Postal employees still in doubt can refer to U.S. Postal Service Philatelic Release No. 9, dated Feb. 28, 1978, which advises, regarding bulk-rate stamps: "Whenever used for other than bulk rate third-class mail, sufficient additional postage must be added to meet the first-class requirement and to make a single piece third-class mail."

What is happening is that the postal employee, when he refuses the bulk-rate stamp, is confusing the postage rate with the stamp. When used in the proper amount, bulk-rate stamps are acceptable on first-class and single piece third-class mail.

The U.S. Postal Service advises that it will be pleased to contact the offending post offices and send them clarifying data on the subject, if the customer will take time to write to the following:


The USPS is just as anxious as are collectors to clear this matter, so readers having difficulty using bulk-rate stamps, are asked to take the suggested action.

A cacheted cover marking the 201st birthday of Francis Scott Key was released Aug. 1 by the Abraham Lincoln Chapter of the Historical Cover Collectors.

Fort McHenry Flag stamp as franking for the cover.

Covers are available for $2 each plus a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope from HCC Key Cover, 2212 Waukegan Ave., Waukegan, Ill. 60085.

HCC periodically issues covers commemorating historical persons and events using postage stamps and postmarks that tie in with the person or event. Information concerning past issues still available will be included with orders.
STAMP SHOWS...continued
Feb. 23-24 Collector's Show, Monroe County Dome Arena, Henrietta, NEW YORK. Hour 10-6 Sat & Sun. Admission $1.75.

ROPEX thoughts
ITEMS TO CONSIDER
Caliber of dealers
Participation by Post Offices
Caliber of exhibits
Membership recruiting possibilities
Reputation of the Rochester Philatelic Association
Presence of National Societies

To acquire a permit to postmark your own mail, first go to your local postmaster and ask for Form 3620, fill it out, (there is no fee) and your local postmaster will forward it to the Main Postmaster.

Most offices (Rochester included) require a sample of your postmark with your application.

I applied for my MFP in July 1979 and was issued Permit #1 for Geneseo, N.Y. on August 1, 1979.

My first day of usage was August 6, 1979.

Rules and regulations governing usage of permits are included in the Postal Bulletin #21156, September 21, 1978.

There is also a nationwide club (over 100 members already) for information write to: MFP Club c/o R. E. Johnston, P.O. Box 3833, Central Station, Hartford, Ct., 06103.

Also, if any members would like more information about MFP's or would like me to cancel their covers write to me at: P.O. Box 401, Geneseo, N.Y., 14454.

Mallor's Postmark Permits
By: Rudy J. Zink, Jr. #277

Feb. 1 U.S., Winter Olympics, 10-cent block of 4-15¢ stamps, speed skater, slalom skier, ski jumper, hockey goaltender

Feb. 7 U.S., Windmills, $3 booklet with 5-15¢ different types of windmills, new diminutive size

Feb. 15 U.S., Benjamin Banneker, 15¢ stamp

Feb. 25 U.S., National Letter Writing Week, 3 pairs of 15¢ stamps

* notes
* Please return borrowed RPA library books by the next meeting.
  Several Scott Catalog have been borrowed and need returning!!!
* DEADLINE for lots in the RPA's Annual Banquet (Mapledale Party House) Auction will be the last March Meeting. More in the next "H&T".

BLACK HERITAGE USA 15

FEBRUARY planner

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The Hinges & Tongues is published monthly by the Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 3806, Brighton Sta., Rochester, NY 14610. Typed articles must be submitted by the 25th. Editor: John Reiss III.