RGPEX '81

RGPEX '81 is now reality!
RGPEX '81, sponsored by the RPA, will be held at the Americana Rochester Hotel the weekend of March 13, 14, & 15 in downtown Rochester, NY. RGPEX'81 will use the entire convention facilities at the Americana Rochester. The Theme for the show will be announced in the near future. There will be a special show cancel, cacheted covers, and souvenir card. News articles will begin to appear in the national philatelic press sometime in September. More committees, dealing with the planning, will also be formed and announced shortly. RGPEX'81 will need the help of the membership in order to produce a successful national stamp exhibition March 13-15, 1981. More RGPEX'81 information next month.

RPA 1980 PICNIC

The RPA Summer Picnic will be held Sunday, AUGUST 17th at John Kalbfus' summer house, Seneca Pt., Canandaigua Lake. Seneca Pt. can best be reached by driving down the West Shore Road from the City of Canandaigua. This road follows the west shoreline of Canandaigua Lake. Seneca Pt. is just south of the YWCA summer girl's camp. Please do not park on the lawn or block traffic on the driveway into Seneca Pt. The Picnic will prove the grills, but you must bring your OWN Picnic Food & Beverages. The Picnic will Start around 1:00pm. A map is included in this month's "H&T". See you there!!!
USPS again selling Summer Olympic items

By JAMES H. BRUNS

The U.S. Postal Service has resumed the sale of Summer Olympic stamps, postal stationery, and philatelic products.

The items, which were withdrawn from sale March 11 as a show of support for President Carter's position that no U.S. athletes would participate in the games unless Soviet troops were pulled out of Afghanistan, were returned to sale June 17. — one day after the close of the summer Games in Moscow.

Timing was an important factor in the decision to return the items to sale, in announcing the resumption of sales, Postmaster General William F. Bolger noted, "With the Olympics ending Sunday (Aug. 3), the items will not serve to promote the event."

Not only was the sale timed to coincide with the end of the Summer Games, but the announcement of the sales offered came only about an hour before about 450 members of the U.S. Olympic team received gold-plated "Olympic" medals from the president as tokens of appreciation for not going to the games.

Symbolic gesture

Three reasons were given for returning the items to sale. Postal officials attributed the move, in part, to a symbolic gesture of support for the Olympic movement.

Originally, the items were withdrawn from sale as an expression of support for the president's announcement of a boycott of the Moscow Games, not as a sign of weakened support for the international Olympic movement. By resuming the sale, postal officials hope to drive that point home. Regarding this, Bolger noted, "It is also uniquely fitting that we use this occasion to honor the Olympic movement."

Bolger also said that the items were returned to sale in honor of America's preparation to support U.S. foreign policy, and as a tribute to one of America's greatest Olympic athletes — John C. Owens.

Because Postal Service policy prohibits the issuance of commemorative stamps for persons under ten years after their death (this does not include memorial postal issues), Owens will not be eligible for commemoration on a stamp until May 1, 1980 at the earliest.

Earlier threat

With this in mind, Bolger noted however, "There is nothing to deter us from honoring his memory in concert with the honor given to the members of our 1980 Summer Olympic team." Despite an earlier threat by Bolger that he would not hesitate "flooding" the market with the remaining stocks of Summer Olympic items if some dealers don't stop taking advantage of the situation by overcharging collectors for the withdrawn items, that reportedly did not figure into the decision to resume selling the items.

Sale of the Summer Olympic items is being restricted to the Philatelic Sales Division in Washington, D.C. The items will not be available from local post offices. Over-the-counter and mail orders of the Olympic items are being limited to the sales division so that the collectors served by post offices where supplies of the items may have been limited will have ample opportunity to buy what they want.

To make things easier, the Postal Service has waived the normal $5 minimum purchase requirement and the 50-cent handling fee which apply to mail orders. To be eligible for this type of special treatment, collectors are required to order only the Summer Olympic items. Orders which call for Summer Olympic issues and other postal items or issues must meet the $5 minimum and include the necessary handling fee.

Sales will be conducted on a first-come-first-served basis, notes the USPS. Requests should be addressed to: Summer Olympic Items, Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, D.C. 20260.

To expedite processing, collectors should include the correct item number for each Summer Olympic item they order. The item numbers are as follows:

- 0074 for the block of four Summer Olympic 10-cent stamps.
- 0074 for the 10-cent Decathlon stamp.
- 0076 for the 31-cent High Jumper airmail stamp.
- 0064 for the number 64 Soccer envelope (these are 18 cents each).
- 0164 for the size 10 Soccer envelope (purchased 18 cents each).
- 0022 for the 22-cent Discus Thrower airmail stamp.
- 0210 for the 10-cent Sprinter postal card.
- 0241 for the 21-cent Gymnast postal card.
- 0043 for the Summer Olympic art reprints (priced at $2.50).
- 0048 for the Summer Olympic poster (this item is $2).
- 0045 for the Olympic mint set (these are 18 cents each).

The Postal Service expects to have these items on sale until Dec. 31, 1980, unless stocks are depleted first.

Stamp Shows

Aug. 16-17 Leatherstocking & Oneonta Stamp Clubs' Exhibition & Bourse, Elks Club, Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY Admission Free. Hours Sat. 10-7 Sun. 10-6 Special show cancel.

Sept. 6-7 OLEPEX IV, Holiday Inn, 2715 W. State St., Elmira, NY. Hours Sat. 10-9 & Sun. 10-5 Admission Free. Special show cancel. Cacheted cover available. Previews from: William P. Kinley, P.O. Box 78, Glen, NY 14706. Entry form deadline is Aug. 27th.
The exhibition logo has been chosen for AMERIPEX '86, the next international philatelic exhibition to be held in the United States. The logo design is in two parts. First, there is simulated postage stamp with the words "AMERIPEX '86" accompanied by stars. This portion will be blue. Next to this is a simulated cancellation line, name, location and date of the exhibition. This portion will be red.

AMERIPEX '86 will be held in Chicago, Ill., May 21-June 1, 1986. It will mark the combined centennials of the American Philatelic Society and the Chicago Philatelic Society.

The AMERIPEX '86 logo.

Planning for the exhibition is now 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.

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 1840 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, 1976, 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 requirements to make a single piece third-class rate."

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 to the subject. If the customer will take time to write to the following:


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

Bulk-rate stamps usable as postage

United States Postage Stamps: Transmittal Letter 6, A supplement to the basic manual of United States postage stamps. For information on the basic manual and other supplements, request a free copy of Subject Bibliography 11 from the Superintendent of Documents, Wash DC 20402.


SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20402

New HCC chapter cover honors Francis Scott Key

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 1984.

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

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 Malrose 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.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1980
Mail order facility receives new status

The U.S. Postal Service reports that its philatelic mail order facility in Washington, D.C., has been given a new status and a new reporting relationship within the Custom Services Department at USPS headquarters.

On June 26, the Philatelic Sales Branch became the Philatelic Wholesale Division, assuming the same status as the Stamps Division, the Philatelic Marketing Division and the Special Events Division.

Those four divisions make up the Office of Consumer Marketing which, along with the Office of Consumer Marketing and the Office of Consumer Affairs, make up the Custom Services Department.

Prior to June 26, the Philatelic Sales Branch was one of the three branches making up the Stamps Division. Elevation of the mail order facility to divisional status reflects the broader responsibilities given it during the last two years as a computerized fulfillment system was installed and made operational.

The current Philatelic Catalog listing currently available philatelic items, may be requested from the Philatelic Sales Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C. 20260.

New British group forms

A new British collectors society has been formed by a group of philatelists who specialize in the stamps of Great Britain’s commonwealth nations. Called “Commonwealth International” since it does not restrict itself to any part of the commonwealth group, the society goals are to disseminate knowledge concerning commonwealth philately.

A publication to be called Commonwealth Philately is due for its first release in September of this year.

Charter memberships are open and interested parties should contact Commonwealth International, Box 195, Minetto, N.Y. 13115.

Copper City plans cover noting Fort Stanwix Days

The Copper City Stamp Club of Rome, N.Y., will sponsor a multicolor cacheted cover for Fort Stanwix Day, Aug. 3, in conjunction with the annual Fort Stanwix Days celebration to be held Aug. 1-10.

Fort Stanwix is the only fort that never surrendered in the American Revolution and where the Stars and Stripes were first flown in the face of an enemy.

The cachet will feature the drum captured from the British after the 21-day siege of Fort Stanwix in August 1777.

The Rome Post Office will use a machine slogan cancel reading, “Fort Stanwix Day/August 3rd/Rome, New York.” and there will be a private “cancel” with a drum.

Stamps to be used on the covers are the 5-cent Fort McHenry Flag, a pair of the 7¢ Drum coil stamp, a strip of three Spirit of ’76, or the 13¢ Flag and Independence Hall. Covers are $1.50 each or three for $3.00 with a 13¢ Flag or 1¢ pair of the 7¢ Drum coil. A strip of three Spirit of ’76 or a block of four of either the 13¢ Flag or 1¢ pair of the 7¢ Drum coil stamps are $1.60 each.

In addition, a colored post card of the British drum with a 1¢ Crossed Flags stamp with special cancel is 50¢ or three for $1.50. Other colored post card subjects include “Garri

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Rochester P.O.

The Philatelic Windows at the Rochester Post Office, GNP on Jefferson Road in Henrietta is open additional hours every second and fourth Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the evenings. This is a special time period for the stamp collector. .

Sun 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Aug 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Sun 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Sun 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
Sun 28 29 30