

RPA DUES PAYABLE NOW

The RPA MEETS SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Vict B4, East A.



P.O. BOX 3806, BRIGHTON STATION, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14610

Vol. 81 No. 2 "VALENTINE'S DAY"

NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

For the past several years the annual dues collected from the RPA membership have fallen far short of covering RPA operating expenses. An example, the 1979-80 dues covered only about 22% of the capital required annually to just break even.

Dues have not kept pace with inflation and no longer even cover rising postage costs. The last dues increase was in 1964!

Rather than making an arbitrary decision as to the amount of the dues increase, the Board of Governors is debating many possibilities. While ruling out a dues increase that would totally cover current operating costs (a prohibitive \$12.50 per year), the Board is considering options which may reduce expenses without loss of benefits to members.

In this vein, the Board seeks input from the membership. Do you have any ideas as to how to make ends meet? The Finance Committee has made some suggestion in its report to the Board last December.

Progress is being made in securing state and federal Not-For-Profit status which will result in some operation savings. It will not solve the problem RPA dues income.

Now it's your turn, write down your suggestions and mail them to the RPA, P.O. Box 3806, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610.

The Board of Governors expects to make a decision on this issue by mid-February.



FEBRUARY '81 MEETINGS

- Feb. 12 "Zeppelin Mail", a slide presentation given by Warren Stevens. The talk and slides will cover postal history of those famed Airships the Zepps. 8:00pm.
- Feb. 26 "Famous American", a talk given by Dr. Joel about famous Americans with a philatelic connection. Plus the RPA's annual balloting contest in Linn's stamp derby. 8:00pm.

COMING UP IN MARCH; The RPA's Birthday Party & One-page Exhibit for members only..... AND ... ROPEX '81, MARCH 13-15 at the Americana Hotel in downtown Rochester. Save March 12th which will be ROPEX '81 setup & meeting program at the Americana Rochester Hotel starting at 6:00pm. Ropex will need your help that evening in setting up as well as on Sunday the 15th for take down.....



There are no U.S. or CANADA stamp issues scheduled for release in February at this time.

March 4 CANADA, Feminists, 4 stamps se-tenant, 17¢ stamps.

NOTE: U.S. First class mail will increase from 15¢ to 19¢ or 20¢ March 15th. Other class rates will also increase. International airmail rate were increased to 40¢/oz. as of Jan.1.

Rochester P.O.

The Philatelic Windows at the Rochester Post Office, GMF on Jefferson Road in Henrietta is open additional Hours every Second & Fourth Wednesdays from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in the evenings. This is a special time period for the stamp collector.....



1981 DUES

RPA 1981 DUES are now payable. Please use the form and return/envelope. Send your '81 RPA DUES to the club as soon as possible. Members will be dropped from the rolls after February '81. DON'T DELAY.....





NEWS

New Plate No. System

part -2.

Gravure stamps also are printed on the eight-color gravure-intaglio press, which produces "floating" plate numbers — numbers which move up or down the selvage progressively on a pane-to-pane basis with each revolution of the printing cylinder.

This press is capable of applying five gravure colors and three intaglio colors. When used to produce a gravure issue, as many as five numbers with five digits each move as a group along the selvage. Some panes, therefore, feature all five numbers in the proper sequence, and some do not.

Under the new system, a single-digit number will replace each of the five-digit numbers; and, as with the six-color gravure press already described, all the single-digit numbers will be grouped in a multicolor combination and will be printed adjacent to a single stamp.

This change, while it will guarantee four-stamp plate blocks except when more than four designs appear on a pane, will not affect the "floating" nature of the press; single-digit plate number groups will move as did five-digit plate numbers.

Four kinds of intaglio presses are utilized for stamps by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Single-color intaglio stamps in sheets, booklets and coils are printed by the web monochrome intaglio presses.

Printing plates are fitted to these presses in pairs, and a different number is assigned to each of the two plates. A single press revolution thus prints both plate numbers.

The Dirksen commemorative will be the first issue with plate numbers under this new system. Printing is being accomplished in gray ink on white paper stock.

Using the hypothetical plate numbers for the first pair, each revolution of the press would produce plate blocks numbered 50001 and 50002, if the old system were being used.

Plates making up the second pair would produce plate blocks numbered 50103 and 50104 under the old system. The new system, however, will assign single-digit numbers to intaglio plates.

Therefore, the first pair of Dirksen plates will be numbered simply "1" and "2," with each revolution of the press producing plate blocks so numbered. The second pair will be numbered "3" and "4," with each press revolution producing plate blocks as illustrated.

The new system also will guarantee that all plate blocks for a given issue, regular or commemorative, will have consecutive numbers. The hypothetical numbers assigned to the five-digit Dirksen plate numbers were intentionally nonconsecutive (the two pairs did not represent four consecutive numbers).

While many commemoratives may have enjoyed consecutive plate numbering on occasion, consecutive numbering for regular issues — with plates manufactured months or years apart — was virtually impossible.

The consecutive numbering feature of the new system is expected to be popular with collectors, according to the USPS. The existence of a single-color intaglio plate block bearing the number "3" will tell collectors at a glance that at least two sets of plates were used, and that the numbers for the first set had to have been "1" and "2," while plate "4" would automatically be the companion for plate "3."

Consecutive numbers are also expected to contribute to the attractive display of plate blocks, the USPS notes.

The single-color intaglio presses have been used extensively in coil and booklet stamp production. Plates for coils and booklet panes have been assigned five-digit numbers in the same manner as described for sheet stamps.

The numbers, however, have been printed on selvage subsequently trimmed and discarded as the printed web was divided to form coils or booklets.

Multicolor coil and booklet stamps, such as the Fort McHenry Flag (15¢) issue, are printed on the three-color intaglio web-fed press. Instead of multiple printing plates, this newer press utilizes a single cylindrical plate called a "sleeve."

Each sleeve in the past has been assigned a five-digit number and it, too, has been printed on selvage that has been trimmed and discarded.

Under the new system, single-digit numbers will be printed at 24-stamp intervals on single-color coils, and at 52-stamp intervals on multicolor coils. The position of the plate number on coiled stamps is shown by the accompanying illustration.

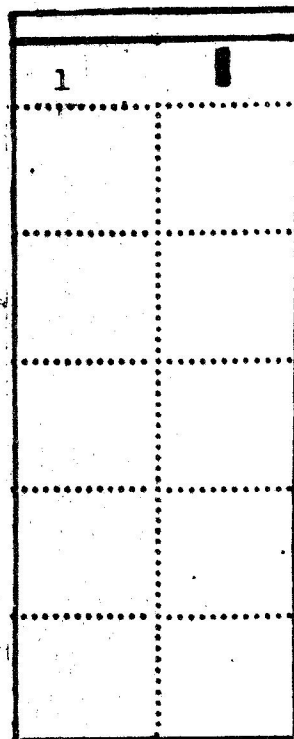
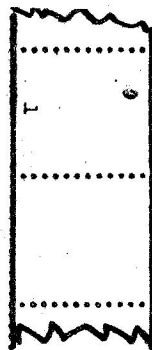
Plate numbers will be printed on the top panes of stamps in booklets. The numbers will be printed on the "tab" by which panes are affixed to booklet covers. The position of plate numbers will be the same for all booklet panes, as shown by the booklet illustration (with stamps in the smaller, Windmills booklet format).

Two plate numbers will be printed per revolution of the single-color press, but the number "2" will not appear on multicolor booklets until the first sleeve is replaced by the second.

The eight-color gravure-intaglio press, whose operation was described previously, is used to produce multicolor intaglio sheet stamps such as the Fort McHenry Flag issue. As with gravure plate numbers under the new system, intaglio numbers will "float."

The three-color intaglio sheet-fed press is the fourth type of intaglio press in use at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It has been used to produce numerous sheet-stamp issues, ranging from the Dolley Madison intaglio-only stamps to combination intaglio-offset commemoratives such as the recent issue honoring Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan.

The Hinges & Tongs 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 Kellas III.



to be continued in March

BOOKS

Protect Yourself: The Complete Guide to Safeguarding Your Life and Home, by N.H. and S.K. Mager. Dell/Benjamin Company; available by mail from Sanger & Son, Inc. (Security Consultants), P.O. Box 19395, Oklahoma City, OK 73144. 189 pages, softbound. \$1.95 (by mail from Sanger, add fifty-five cents shipping.)

Coils: A Worldwide Catalog, by Hans Jaffe and R.E. Kuntz. Published by the authors, P.O. Box 38416, Cincinnati, OH 45238, or P.O. Box 531, Portland, OR 97207. 84 pages, softbound. \$3.50 (postpaid worldwide, third class mail; add thirty cents for U.S. first class, or one dollar for air mail delivery abroad)

The Postage Stamps of Siam to 1940, by Richard C. Frajola. Postilion Publications, Roger Koerber, Inc., 605 Northland Towers West, Southfield, MI 48075. 111 pages, hardbound \$18.

Editing Stamp Club Journals, by George Hentzell. Hentzell Publications, P.O. Box 33467, San Diego, CA 92103. 30 pages, softcover \$3

United States Grills, by William L. Stevenson, and *Notes on the Grilled Issues of the United States*, by Lester G. Brookman. Urral Publications, 30 Drabington Way, Weston, MA 02193. 72 pages, softbound \$13.95.

