After several months of discussion, the Board of Governors recommends the following amendment be added to the RPA by-laws, Article V, Section 3, to allow for removal from elected office any officer who does not fulfill the duties of office.

A prescribed procedure will be established as follows:

1. After absence from 3 consecutive meetings (general &/or Board) the person will be contacted by the President, who shall ask—
   a. Reason for absence.
   b. Expected return to duties.
   c. Desire to continue holding office.

2. The President shall report to the Board on the above.

3. If sufficient reason & desire to continue service exists, no further action need be taken.
   a. The matter will be tabled for 30 days and once again be brought up for discussion and general agreement that the situation is resolved.

4. If no sufficient reason for absence is given or lack of interest in serving the office is evident or continued absence persists, the Board Chairman will request in writing the resignation of the office. If not received in two weeks, the Board of Governors shall take action.
   a. A move shall be properly made, seconded and passed to remove the absent officer from office.
   b. The Board Chairman shall nominate a replacement for the office to be confirmed by the Board.
   c. Upon above election, the new officer shall fill the remaining term of the office.
ROPEX-89 A SMASHING SUCCESS!!

1989–1990
RPA Officer
Nominations Inside

1990 ROPEX CHAIRMAN
ANNOUNCED
Elly Phelps and
Ada Prill will
co-chair
ROPEX—90
They will need
all our help, so
start planning
NOW!!

** PROGRAMS **

May 11—Bob Meegan of the western branch of the RPA will give a talk entitled "Humorous Aspects of Philately."

May 25—John Kellas (III or more) will show us his slide program, "U.S. Imperialism in Paradise."

June 8—Guest speaker John Babbitt and sidekick will entertain us with "200 Years—George to George." I've been hearing great things about this man's programs for years! If you would like to have supper with the speaker before the program, speak to Brad Sterling.

June 22—Annual business meeting with strawberries and election of officers, not necessarily in that order.

June 24—Annual banquet and auction at the Barnard Exempts. Details elsewhere in H&T.
THE 1990 SCOTT CATALOGUE AND PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Scott Publishing Co. recently has announced that its 1990 Catalogue will contain retail stamp values, that is, stamp values which reflect actual dealer selling prices. Additionally, stamps will be valued in a grade of Fine- Very Fine, one grade higher than in the past.

These changes may have both a short-term and long-term effect on how members of this society take part in specific services offered by the organization.

The combined effect of the changes will render it impossible for a user of the 1990 Scott Catalogues to compare stamp values in any of these volumes with stamp values in past volumes, cautions Wayne Lawrence, Scott president and publisher.

Participants in society-sponsored auctions may need to adjust bidding habits, he adds. Bidding at large discounts from 1990 catalogue value will decrease the bidder's chances of acquiring a lot. For best results, he advises, bidders should compare catalogue values with recent auction price realizations and place bids with that information in mind. Bargains may still occur at auction sales when there is little demand for a particular lot or type of material.

While there may be a perception that the catalogue changes will affect society sales circuits, Lawrence notes that as long as sellers continue to key their asking prices to retail, there should be no noticeable change in such prices. Sellers who key their asking prices to a percentage of catalogue value should clearly indicate in the terms what catalogue year and volume is being used for valuations. In the future, sellers may want to reassess that approach.

Society sponsored trading or bartering programs which are keyed to catalogue value will have to make appropriate adjustments, until all of the volumes of the 1990 Scott Catalogue are published and the participants have had a chance to adapt to the new value structure.

Wherever possible, Lawrence says, barter terms should point out which catalogue year and volume is used.

The long-term effect of the new Scott valuing practices will be quite favorable to barter groups, Lawrence says. The reflection of retail prices throughout the Scott Catalogue will eliminate the country-to-country percentage differences between catalogue value and retail price that occurred under
the previous Scott valuing system. Under the new system, it should be possible to trade fairly among all countries and eras, using the 1990 Scott Catalogue as a basis.

Another significant change in the 1990 Scott Catalogue involves the valuing of unused stamps as never-hinged on a country-by-country basis. Where stamp values are based on a never-hinged state, notices will be placed prominently both at the beginning of the country's listing and within the text where such effect on the value begins.

The Scott Catalogue is an annual publication, which reflects market activity as closely as possible. Catalogue users should recognize that currency fluctuations and general market movement may affect individual retail stamp prices during the period following the release of the 1990 Catalogue and preceding the publication of the 1991 edition.

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ROPEX '89 SHOW COVERS & CARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW MANY</th>
<th>UNITED NATIONS &quot;World Weather Watch&quot; First Day Covers:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(U.N. First Day Ceremony at ROPEX '89, Friday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cached FDC with 25¢ World Weather Watch stamp............ $1.75 plus S.A.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Cached FDC with 36¢ World Weather Watch stamp............ $2.00 plus S.A.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cached FDC with 25¢ &amp; 36¢ World Weather Watch stamps.... $2.50 plus S.A.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>All three of the above World Weather Watch FDCs, set of three covers............... $6.00 plus S.A.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ROPEX '89 Carousel Souvenir Card with graphics, unserviced............................ $2.50 plus 50¢ postage and addressed label.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ROPEX '86 Carousel Souvenir Card with graphics tied with a U.S. carousel issue and special show carousel cancel.......................... $2.75 plus 50¢ postage and addressed label</td>
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ROPEX '89 cacheted CAROUSEL SHOW cover offers:

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<tr>
<td>1. Single Carousel show cover tied with a U.S. Carousel stamp and special show carousel cancel.......................... $1.50 plus S.A.E.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Single cover tied with a Block of 4 Carousel stamps and special carousel cancel........................................ $2.25 plus S.A.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Four covers, each tied with a different Carousel stamp and special show carousel cancel.............................. $4.00 per set of four (4) plus S.A.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Set of three (3) show cover, one for each show date tied with a Carousel stamp and special show carousel cancel................ $3.50 per set of three (3) plus S.A.E.</td>
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</table>

Please make check or money orders payable to ROPEX, NO CASH.

Name: ____________________________  
Address: ____________________________

TOTAL enclosed $__________
Collectors' Workshop

Precancels offer inexpensive alternative

The March 6 Refresher Course discussed postmarks. It was noted that column 1 of a postmark is any official postal marking that bears the name of the post office and mailing date. The second column is the postmark by postal officials to ensure that stamps are not used more than once.

This week's Refresher Course subject deals with collecting precancels. The collecting area I'm referring to is precancels. Precancels are those that have been preprinted with cancellations before their sale to the public. They were designed to speed the processing of mail by avoiding the canceling process.

Precancels have always been used primarily by large companies and bulk mailers. Today, precancels are still purchased by bulk mailers, but collectors may purchase them as well. When used by large companies, precancels are usually applied by machine. The mail pieces are then usually sorted by ZIP code, and sometimes even sorted by the various routes within each ZIP code (called Carrier Route Sort). Bulk mail is delivered, sorted, and bundled for immediate distribution to other post offices without the need for further cancellation. Bulk mail customers are rewarded for this labor by paying a piece postage rate that is lower than the standard first-class rate.

The March 6 Refresher Course column also described how some postmarks are many times more valuable than the stamp they cancel. The same is true for precancels.

One of the main focuses of the stamp is secondary. Precancels offer the collector a relatively low-cost collecting area. Since many precancels were prepared in huge quantities on stamps that have relatively low value, shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Precancels tend themselves to many other fun topics as well. Shown in Figure 4 are examples from a precancel collection that features only those towns and cities with people's names. Note that the 3¢ Lincoln stamp bears a Lincoln, Neb., precancel. This is a fun challenge for collectors to find precancel town and city names that are related to the subject depicted on the stamp.

As you can see, virtually any topic can be used for a challenging precancel collection. There are basically two types of United States precancels. They have been classified as local and Bureau precancels. Locals are those precancels that have a postmaster requisition, the need for precancels from Washington, D.C. These precancels, known as Bureau, are produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are applied on press that make them much more uniform in size and shape than their local counterparts.

Precancel study is an aspect of stamp collecting that offers thousands and thousands of stamps at minimal cost. But there is a need to acquire a good knowledge base about the stamps you are collecting.

Figure 4. Ciphers that bear people's names, such as those shown here, can add interest to a collection. Note that the 2¢ Lincoln stamp bears a Lincoln, Neb., precancel.

Figure 5. The cost is usually not a major factor.

You need much more patience than money to achieve a large precancel collection. Precancels do offer a chance for the collector to acquire varieties and issues that are difficult to locate and are expensive. But for the beginner, the geography buff, or the collector who simply wants to acquire a large collection for a small amount of money, precancel collecting is the answer.

There are a number of ways to sort precancels. Your own interests and desires will dictate your choices in this matter.

There are some collectors who collect precancels from a single state.

For example, a number of Illinois precancels are shown in Figure 1. An Illinois collector's interest is getting as many examples of precancels from different towns and cities in that state as possible.

You might want to collect a single stamp's precancels. That is, all precancels occurring on a single stamp or series of stamps. Examples of this type of collecting are several examples of Bureau. A relatively new entry into the field of bulk mail use stamps are service-incribed and service-imprinted stamps. Service-incribed stamps have the service they are intended to pay inscribed on the printing plate. Precancel overprints have been applied to some of these stamps as well. Current bulk-rate (precanceled) stamps have the service inscription printed in a different color than the central design. Examples of service-imprinted stamps are shown in Figure 6.

Service-imprinted stamps are those that bear a precancel type overprint that states their intended purpose. These stamps are often confused with service-imprinted stamps. Examples of service-imprinted stamps are shown in Figure 7. Precancel collectors considering

There is an organization that is devoted to precancel collecting. It is called the Precancel Stamp Society. This organization publishes the monthly Precancel Forum and has a number of other services for members.

Through the PSS, you will learn about the different catalogs, bulletin and resources available for learning about precancels.

You may obtain more information about the PSS from Arthur Damm, 1756 Skipper Park, No. 1603, Center Square Pa. 18423. Please include the postage to help defray costs.

In addition, you may want to read Linn's regular columns on precancels which appears in the fourth issue of each month. It is written by precancel specialist Dilan Postelwait.
ROPEX A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Thanks to lots of hard work by dozens of club members, ROPEX '89 was a success in all ways! We had excellent sales at the hospitality table; we got the show set up and taken down in near-record time; the UN First Day Ceremony was attended by just enough people to fill the room without awkward overflow — perhaps half a dozen people were standing.

And, most important, we had a lot of fun, especially those who did the most work. If you didn’t join in, you missed out on a lot of comraderie and feeling of accomplishment — be sure to become part of the team for next year.

A few favorite moments:
watching the Seabreeze carousel horse ride the escalator.
Having “Old Glory” make a belated entrance at the World Weather Watch ceremony, complete with its own weather system.
Hearing Rick blush over the PA system when HE won the TV set. Buying the cover I’d been wanting for a year from Gary Kunzer, who was with us courtesy of Eastern Airlines’ financial problems, which canceled the meeting he was supposed to attend. And, last but not least, hearing Larry dredge up that old story about Ameripex and realising that he really was talking about me. (Thank you, Larry!) amp

1989–90 RPA OFFICER NOMINATIONS

President
John P. Kellas,III
Vice-President
Brandon L. Sterling
Treasurer
James M. Trenton
Corresponding Secretary
Joseph K. Doles
Recording Secretary
Eleanor A. Phelps
Board of Governor (1 seat)
Richard A. Kase
Betty (Dusty) Miller
RPA ANNUAL BANQUET
JUNE 24, 1989
HAPPY HOUR
6–7PM
DINNER AT 7PM
BARNARD EXEMPT
RESTAURANT & PARTY HOUSE
360 MAIDEN LANE
BUFFET
Roast Beef
Fried Chicken
Baked Macaroni with Meat sauce
Chef Salad
Oven Brown Potatoes
Hot Vegetable
Baked Beans
Spiced Beets
Jello Mold
Rolls and Butter
Coffee, Tea or Milk
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS NEEDED
$10.00 per person

THE ROCHESTER PHILATELIC
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IN OUR 76TH YEAR

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