HINGES and TONGS

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

FOUNDED 1913 newsletter for Jan/Feb 1991

RPA CONSTITUTION

The latest edition of the club's Constitution is available at any meeting or by mail. If you would like a copy sent to you please send 45¢ in postage and your name and address to: Joseph K. Doles, RPA Corresponding Secretary, PO Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610.

The Constitution is printed on five pages and this represents a considerable amount of work and expense. It was for this reason the Board decided to make this offer of sending a copy to only those that requested it.

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Christmas tree has extra ornament

In addition to paper types, color and perforation differences between the sheet and booklet versions of this year's United States contemporary Christmas stamp, there also is a design difference.

The sheet version of the stamp contains a tree ornament that the booklet type doesn't have. Other differences were reported in the Nav. 5 Linn's, page 7.

As shown in the accompanying illustration, the extra ornament appears on the right side of the second tier of branches on the stylized Christmas tree. The same location on the booklet stamp is blank.

The additional ornament, blue-green in color, would appear to be an extension of the blue-green garland that is next to it.

Numerous differences between the sheet and booklet versions of the 1990 contemporary Christmas stamps, including the extra ornament shown here, caused Scott to give the issue two separate catalog numbers.

The reason for the differences between the stamps is because they were produced by different printers. The sheet version (left in the illustration) was printed by the American Bank Note Co. The paper is soft and porous. The perforations measure about 11 (10.9). The background red is bright.

The booklet stamp (right) was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The paper is hard and brittle and separates cleanly. The perforations of the booklet stamp measure about 11 3/4 (11.2). The background red is duller and grainier looking.

Scott has noted the differences and has assigned separate numbers to the stamps. The sheet version is Scott 2515; the booklet is 2516.

As the U.S. Postal Service continues to work with more outside printers, differences like these are inevitable, giving collectors more varieties to watch for.

Thanks to Linn's reader Horace Todd for noting the extra ornament.
MEMBER IN PERSIAN GULF

Leo Tydings, past RPA vice-president was called to active duty in the Persian Gulf. Leo, a City of Rochester policeman in the Maplewood Section, is a U.S. Coast Guard reservist. You can write to Leo at the following address:

P.O. LEO TYDINGS
077-46-9718
U.S.C.G. PSV 301
APO, NEW YORK
09298

I'm sure Leo will enjoy your cards and letters and I know we all send our good wishes and prayers for an early resolution in the Persian Gulf.

PROGRAMS FOR JAN/FEB 1991

JANUARY 10
APS Slide Show...Postmasters' Provisionals by J. David Baker
Uniform postal rates were established by an Act of Congress on July 1, 1845. At that time there were no postage stamps yet in circulation. Not until March 3, 1847 did an Act of Congress authorize the postmaster general to issue postage stamps.
There was, therefore, a period of uniform rates but with no stamps available, and individual postmasters created what are now known collectively as postmaster's provisionals.
The postmasters' provisionals are now among the major rarities of the world. Lockport, NY postmaster Hezekiah W. Scovill issued one in 1846 and is among the rarest, only one full copy is known.

JANUARY 24
Live auction...see auction details elsewhere in this newsletter.

FEBRUARY 14
APS Slide Show... Cats On Stamps by Betty Stevens

FEBRUARY 28
APS Slide Show... The Stamps of Guatemala by Warren Stevens

MARCH 14
Live Auction and One Frame Exhibits...watch for more information
AUCTION RULES RESTATED
IN EFFECT 1/1/91

LIVE AUCTIONS
1.) Cash only
2.) Up to 5 lots may be submitted
3.) 10% from seller to the RPA General Fund

Members are asked to submit each auction lot with a auction sheet available at the head table. Please give your lots to the auction chairman so he can enter it on the auction log and issue the lot a number.

Members will be issued auction number paddles to be used during the bidding.

Members are requested to wait for the auction chairmans' OK before taking any lots from the auction tables.

SILENT AUCTIONS
1.) Cash only direct to seller
2.) Up to 5 lots may be submitted
3.) no sellers fee is applicable for silent auctions

DONATION LOTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, THE PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE RPA GENERAL FUND.

NEW BOOK IN CLUB LIBRARY

A new soft covered book from the APS is now available for loan to RPA club members in good standing. See Mrs. Bernice Watson, Club Librarian, to borrow this new book. The Manual of Philatelic Judging, Third Edition, copyright 1990 is 120 4"x9" pages. Some of the chapters are: Conduct of the Jury, Judging an Exhibit of Traditional Philately, Judging Postal History and Postmark Exhibits, Thematic, Aerophilately and Postal Stationery, First Day Covers, Revenues and Special Studies are all covered. Requirements for Judges and Rules for Shows in the World Series of Philately are also covered. 18 chapters in all covers everything the person who wants to start exhibiting needs to know.

Speaking of exhibiting, remember that the month before ROPEX has always been the one time each year that members can show off what they collect by putting together a one frame (16 pages) exhibit. The winner gets one frame free at that years ROPEX Stamp Show. This March 14th is competition night.
Sandy cancelers don’t work

A popular pastime of service members stationed in Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield is to mail Saudi sand back home. This practice is causing problems for the military postal system, according to an article in the Nov. 21 Stars and Stripes.

According to the article, letters, laden with sand, are leaking, causing the sand to seep into the canceling equipment and bogging it down.

Sgt. Michael Bragg told Stars and Stripes that sand-filled letters have broken down canceling equipment several times, causing postal workers to sort and cancel outgoing military mail manually.

“Theres nothing wrong with sending sand, but they’ve got to put it in boxes and mark it because that’s merchandise and it needs a customs tag,” said Sgt. Thomas Brown. “You can’t just seal it in an envelope and send it through a canceling machine.”

Some servicemen are saving tiny empty bottles of Tabasco sauce from their rations in order to mail sand.

Bragg said, “They say the sand here in Saudi Arabia is holy sand. I guess that’s one of the reasons why a lot of people want to send the sand home.”

At any rate, the practice of mailing sand seems to continue, unabated.
Area: 830,000 sq. miles
Population: 10,794,000 (1984)
Capital: Ar Riyad
Currency: Riyal (100 halalas)

Occupying about 80% of the Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia is the focal point of the Moslem world, because the holy cities of Mecca and Medina are located within its borders.

From a range of mountains running along the Red Sea coast, the land slopes to the east and the Persian Gulf. It is mostly desert and in the south is the famous Empty Quarter, a great area of sand too arid for any life to exist.

There are no rivers in the country and rainfall does not exceed four inches a year except in the southwest mountains bordering on the Red Sea, where up to 30 inches can fall annually. This is the location of the country's highest mountains, rising to more than 9,000 feet.

Temperatures often go above 120 degrees F and humidity along the coast can be high. In winter, freezing temperatures can occur in the central and northern areas.

The country's modern history begins with the conquest by Nejd of the Kingdom of Hejaz, which had become independent in 1916. Both had been part of the Ottoman Empire until World War I.

Hejaz comprised the area bordering on the Red Sea and included the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, while Nejd consisted of the larger eastern part of what is now Saudi Arabia.

In 1926, both areas were incorporated into the Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd, which in 1932 became the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Oil is the basis of the economy and the country is estimated to possess one quarter of the known world oil reserves. Crops include dates, and grains. There are deposits of gold, silver, and iron.

The 1979 per capita income was $11,500, although this is believed to have dropped considerably as a result of the reduction in oil prices. The 1978 literacy rate was 15%.

Stamp issues have not been excessive. Beginning in 1975, their inscription was changed from "Saudi Arabia" to "K.S.A."

Philatelic Bureau: Division of Posts and Telegraphs, Philatelic Station, Ar Riyad, Saudi Arabia.
ROPEX-91

The theme for this year’s show is lighthouses. We will be honoring the three area lighthouses. Braddock Point, at Lighthouse Beach, Hilton, NY, Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse, at Rochester and the Old Sodus Lighthouse at Sodus Point. Three cachets will be done, one for each lighthouse, a different cachet each day of the show. Also a souvenir card will be available at the show. The cancels and cachet covers will be done by Joe Doles. The souvenir card by Kelly Armstrong. The lighthouse booklet will be used to service all items.

The cancel has been applied for and we have been assured that we will be able to have three separate date cancels. The cancel depicts the Charlotte lighthouse. Illustrated here.

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Typed articles may be submitted by the 25th to the editor: Joseph K. Doles 34 Carlisle Street Rochester, NY 14615-2043

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