

# HINGES and TONGS

an RPA newsletter

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

FOUNDED 1913

March / April 1992

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Meetings held the second and fourth Thursdays, Sept. through June at St. Pauls' Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Vick Park B. Starts at 8pm.

You are invited to  
help celebrate the

79th

Birthday

of the

RPA

At the March 12th meeting  
Ice cream and cake will be served.

The March 12th meeting will also be the judging  
of the one frame (8 page) exhibits. The winner  
will receive the club's 16 page frame to exhibit  
at ROPEX - 92. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize.

There will be no meeting at the church March 26th. That's the  
day we set up for ROPEX. Anyone interested in helping is  
welcome to come to the Holiday Inn Downtown after 12  
noon. We will be in the Ballroom on the second floor.

Remember to bring in stamps  
for packets for the kids.

# APRIL MEETINGS

April 9

APS Slide presentation

"American Revolution Bicentennial Stamps  
and Cachets on International First Day Covers

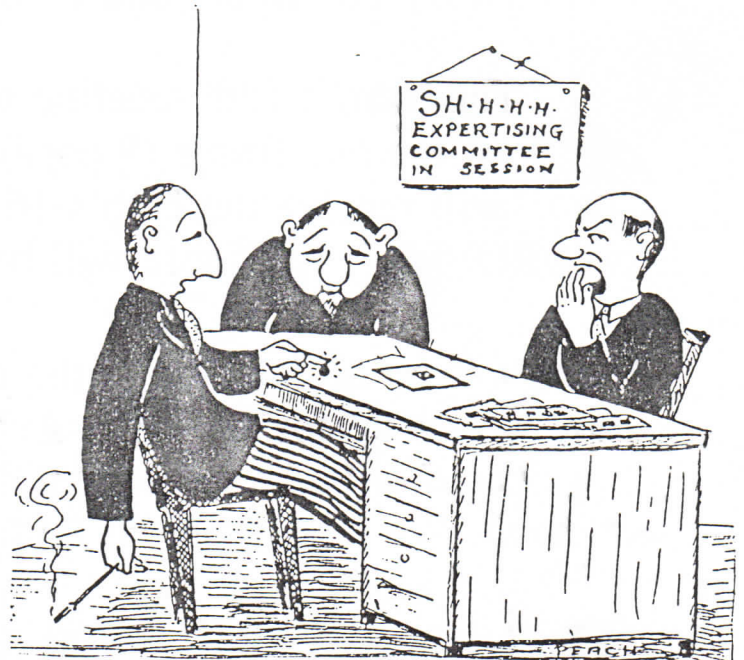
April 23

Guided Tour of the Main Post Office  
Jefferson Rd. General Mail Facility

Meet at the employee's entrance on the west  
side. Parking in the employee's lot.

## ROPEX Banquet

This year's ROPEX show banquet will be held Saturday March 28 in the Genesee Room at 7 PM. We must have our order into the hotel no later than Weds. the 25th. Please place your order with Paul Gerwitz, 119 Jamestown Terr., Rochester, N.Y. 14615 as soon as possible. The price is \$17.50 a ticket. Choices are London Broil, Stuffed Chicken, or Vegetarian Special. Send your choice of meal and your check made out to ROPEX 92 BANQUET before March 25, 1992. Any checks received without a choice will receive the stuffed chicken. You will be able to pick up your tickets at the HOSPITALITY TABLE at anytime during the show.



Courtesy Stamp Mirror

"Heads, it is undoubtedly genuine. Tails, and it is a rather clever forgery."



# Ninth Flower type goes on sale March 3

The United States 29¢ Flower stamp will appear in yet another form when it goes on sale March 3 in Rochester, N.Y. The new form, the ninth major type, will be 3,000-stamp coil rolls with normal perforations, rather than roulettes.

Previously, the Flower stamp has been produced as non-denominated sheet, coil and booklet stamps (with two types of booklets), released Jan. 22, 1991; denominated booklet and sheet (with two types of sheet perforations), released April 5; and denominated rouletted coil, released Aug. 16.

There will be no first-day ceremony. The U.S. Postal Service is giving full first-day cancellation treatment to the new variety. Although there will be no first-day ceremony, first-day cancels will be available at the Rochester, N.Y., main post office (1335 Jefferson Road) and by mail for one month.

The new stamps, like the rouletted version, were contracted through Stamp Venturers, and were produced by J.W. Fergusson and Sons.

First-day and technical information appears in the box

# How big a block?

**QUESTION:** Collecting plate blocks of the Great Americans has given me a few problems because of the use of floating plate numbers for some of the stamps in the

Although some collectors preserve them as such, these vertical 20-stamp strips are expensive, ungainly and difficult to mount or store. To the best of our knowledge, no

## Question Corner

series. I have seen some blocks of four, but I have also seen blocks of six in which the selvage with the plate number is between two blank sections of selvage.

If the six-stamp block is the accepted method of collecting these stamps, what does one do when the sheet has the plate number on the upper or lower selvage?

**ANSWER:** In a lengthy footnote preceding its listings for the 1980 Great Americans, the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* indicates that plate blocks of four are standard for most issues. However, for A-press printed Great Americans stamps that have floating plate numbers "a plate block will be identical to the old flat plate format where there is one stamp with blank selvage at either side of the plate number. This is a block of SIX."

Many dealers sell Great Americans with floating plate numbers in left or right margin strips of 20. That's probably because the biggest dealer of all — the United States Postal Service — refuses to sell them any other way.



A plate block of six of the 1¢ Dorothea Dix definitive, printed with a floating plate number on the A press.

album maker provides plate block pages for these strips.

Blocks of six, such as the right-margin block of the 1¢ Dorothea Dix shown here, are much easier to incorporate into a collection.

When the floating plate number falls on the selvage at the top or bottom corner of the sheet (thereby making such a block of six impossible to obtain), we'd suggest you seek out another specimen of the stamp that lends itself to the six-stamp block format.

Any margin strip of 20 should include at least one such complete block of six. Incomplete blocks can be broken down to yield a plate number single — yet another of the many ways to collect these stamps. ■

## PLEWACKI STAMP SOCIETY ALPEX '92 PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

THEME: "Columbus Discovers America"

Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall

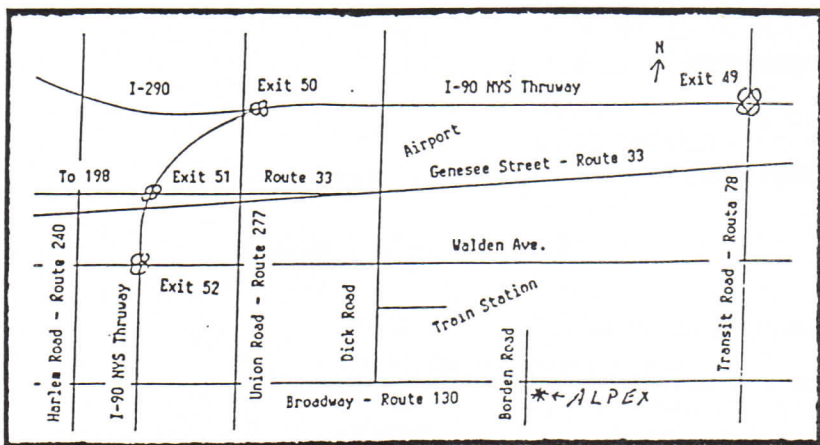
4569 Broadway & Borden, Depew, NY

SHOW HOURS - Fri. Noon-6pm \* Sat. 10am-6pm \* Sun. 10am-5pm

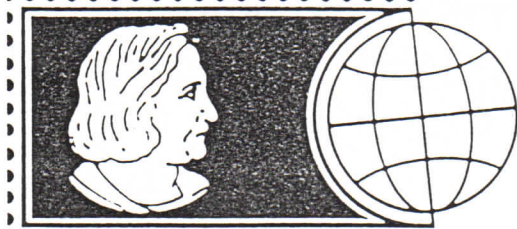
STAMP AUCTION - Sat. 1:30pm

Free Admission

Free Parking



## WORLD COLUMBIAN



STAMP EXPO '92  
MAY 22-31, 1992 - CHICAGO

## Flower stamp data

### 29¢ Flower coil stamp

FIRST DAY: March 3, 1992; city—Rochester, N.Y.

DESIGN: designer—Wallace Marosek, Boston, Mass.; typographer and art director—Bradbury Thompson (CSAC); project manager—Jack Williams (USPS); modeler—Richard Sennett, Stamp Venturers.

PRINTING: process—photogravure (Stamp Venturers, contractor, J.W. Fergusson and Sons, printer); colors—magenta, yellow, cyan and black; size—.72 by .81 inches (image area), .87 by .965 inches (overall); plate number—one group of four gravure cylinder numbers, preceded by the letter S.

### First-day cancel ordering information

Standard ordering instructions apply. Collectors are encouraged to purchase their own stamps and affix them to envelopes. Envelopes should be addressed for return and placed in a larger envelope addressed using all capital letters and no punctuation, except the hyphen in the ZIP+4 code. First-day cover requests should be sent to Customer-Affixed Envelopes, Flower 3000 Coil Stamp, Postmaster, 1335 Jefferson RD, Rochester, NY 14692-9991.

For Postal Service-provided stamps, collectors should send addressed envelopes (maximum of 50), along with 29¢ for each cover ordered and check or money order payment. Requests should be sent to Flower 3000 Coil Stamp, Postmaster, 1335 Jefferson RD, Rochester, NY 14692-9992.

All requests for first-day cancels must be postmarked by April 2.



## ROPEX-92 DEALERS LIST

1. RICHARD B LEWIS 222 S EASTON RD GLENSIDE PA 19038
2. FRANK BUONO PO BOX 1535 BINGHAMTON NY 13902
3. RICHARD MICCHELLI PO BOX 248 MOUNTAIN LAKES NJ 07046
4. W J HARRIS PO BOX 135430 BALTIMORE MD 21203
5. THOMAS S SIVAK 138 N DUFFY RD BUTLER PA 16001
6. W R NAVARRE PO BOX 38 WILDWOOD PA 15091
7. R S STAMP CO 112 BEVERLY HGTS ROCHESTER NY 14616
8. WORLD OF STAMPS SAM GOOSAY 721 COURT ST SCRANTON PA 18508
9. MADDY'S PHILATELIC SERVICE RRI NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ONTARIO CANADA L0S 1J0
10. HERBERT W SASS RD 1 BOX 18 ROCK STREAM NY 14878
11. GARY KUNZER PO BOX 814 WEBSTER NY 14580
12. RICHARD FRIEDBERG 310 CHESTNUT ST MEADVILLE PA 16335
13. BOB BALDRIDGE POSTAL HISTORY 8590 DORNICH CT DUBLIN OH 43017
14. MICHAEL DONOFRIO 110 CHESTNUT DR ROCHESTER NY 14624
15. WESLEY A CROZIER POSTAL HISTORY PO BOX 241 FAIRHAVEN NJ 07701
16. DISCOVERY STAMPS PO BOX 2502 SYRACUSE NY 13220
17. ED BAILEY PHILATELIST PO BOX 2338 SYRACUSE NY 13220
18. MR STAMPMAN PO BOX 147 WATKINS GLEN NY 14891
19. WM E BARKER 3675 W 130TH ST CLEVELAND OH 44111
20. JAMES E LEE PO DRAWER 250 WHEELING IL 60090-0250
21. ADVENTURE STAMPS WM A KELSEY 32 CONGRESS AVE ROCHESTER NY 14611
22. McLEOD STAMP CO 2423 MONROE AVE ROCHESTER NY 14610
23. DAN E REISS 646 GARNETTE RD AKRON OH 44313-5777
24. AMBERMAN STAMP CO PO BOX 975 MIDDLEBURGH NY 12122
25. DAVID ALLEGO PO BOX 13 AMBRIDGE PA 15003
26. MARK SZUBA PO BOX 3532 SYRACUSE NY 13220
27. MARTIN TOLY PO BOX 2111 LIVERPOOL NY 13089
28. PHILATELICS INTERNATIONAL PO BOX 189 ITHACA NY 14850
29. WM POWERS 9 WEST DR CASTLETON NY 12033
30. PACK-RAT COVERS JAMES E SMITH PO BOX 336 GOBLES MI
31. VILLAGE STAMPS 22 ORISKANY BLVD YORKVILLE PLAZA YORKVILL NY 13495
32. LAKEWOOD STAMP CO PO BOX 302 ERIE PA 16512
33. CAROL BROOKS PO BOX 467 NEW WOODSTOCK NY 13122
34. STAMPS & STARS PO BOX 232 ELYRIA OH 44036
35. RIGA STAMPS PO BOX 326 EATON OH 45320

## ROPEX-92 Calendar of Events

Friday - March 27, 1992

8-10 am Coffee in Hospitality suite - Room 1200  
10:00 am ROPEX 92 Opens  
11:00 am Stamp videos shown during the show:  
APS "Around the World in 80...Stamps"  
"Great Americans on Stamps" Smith Center Stamp Club, Skokie,  
IL.  
NOON Exhibitors' Luncheon  
7:00 pm Show Closes  
7-midnight Hospitality in Room 1200

Saturday - March 28, 1992

8-10 am Coffee in Hospitality suite - Room 1200  
10:00 am Show Opens  
11:00 am APS Judging seminar (thematics) - Exchange Room  
Mary Ann Owens and George Guzzio  
NOON Chapter 53 Central New York First Day Cover Society Luncheon  
Fairfax Room for all activities  
1:30 pm Chapter 53 - Seminar on Covers  
2:00 pm Winner of Youth Stamp Design contest announced  
2:00 pm A.A.P.E. Seminar - Exchange Room  
2:30 pm Chapter 53 CNYFDCS Business meeting in Fairfax Room  
4:00 pm Judges critique for the public and exhibitors - Genesee Room  
6:00 pm Show closes  
6:30 pm Cash bar before Banquet  
7:00 pm ROPEX 92 Banquet - Genesee Room - No Smoking in Banquet  
Room  
Guest Speaker - Thomas Corette  
End of Banquet until Midnight - Hospitality in Room 1200

Sunday - March 29, 1992

8-10 am Coffee in Hospitality suite 1200  
10:00 am Show Opens  
11-ish The Marmalades - Show and Tell - Fairfax Room  
NOON Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies and  
Stamp Insider staff meeting in the Genesee Room  
1:00 pm Empire State Postal History Society - Exchange Room  
2:00 pm Thematic Exhibiting - George Guzzio and Mary Ann Owens -  
Genesee Room  
5:00 pm ROPEX 92 Closes - Take down starts  
Only Dealers and ROPEX personnel allowed in Exhibition Hall



## Using fractional coils

Can I postally use my leftover Transportation coils that are denominated in fractions of cents?

I have considerable quantities of the 3.4¢ School Bus, the 4.9¢ Buckboard, the 8.3¢ Ambulance, the 10.1¢ Oil Wagon (with the red "Bulk Rate Carrier Route Sort" Bureau precancel), the 24.1¢ Tandem Bicycle (with the red "ZIP+4" Bureau precancel) and many others.

Can these stamps be used on regular first-class mail?

Warren Knowles  
23376 Calle Arino  
Valencia, CA 91355

*Unprecanceled, fractionally denominated U.S. stamps can be used the same way you'd use any others on any kind of mail.*

The rules for using the precanceled versions of these stamps (such as your 10.1¢ and 24.1¢ stamps) are slightly different, but not too difficult.

To use precanceled U.S. stamps, go to your local post office and request Form 3620, "Application For Permit To Use Precanceled Stamps Or Government Precanceled Stamped Envelopes." It's a simple, short form that will enable you to request permission to use precanceled stamps on first-class mail.

Shortly after you complete and submit your application, you should receive your precancel permit number. There's no charge to process your application or for the permit. Once you receive the permit, you're ready to use precanceled stamps.

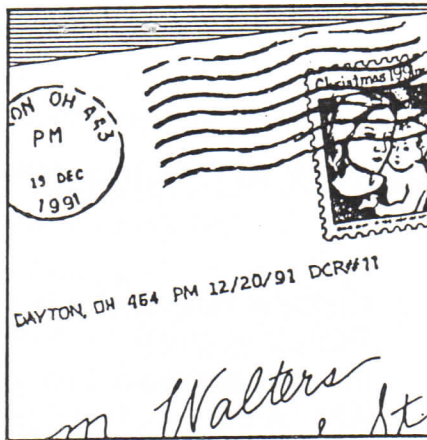
Mail with precanceled stamps should be endorsed "First Class Mail" directly below the postage on the front of the letter or card, and must be presented to and canceled by a window clerk at a post office. First-class mail with precancels should not be deposited in mailboxes.

Some collectors have made up handstamps that state their Precancel Use Permit number; or write it on the envelope as well. That's not really necessary provided that you can show the clerk that you have the permit.

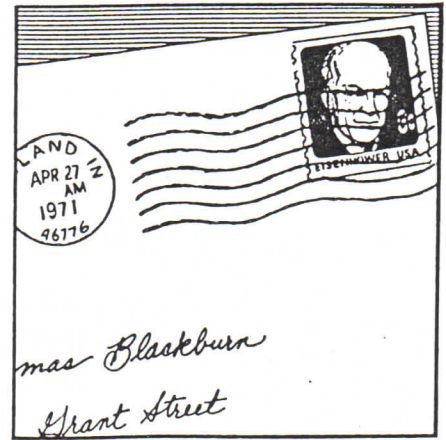
If your local clerk or postmaster seems skeptical of any of this, refer their questions to "Precancel Clarification," which appeared on page 2 of the July 6, 1988, Postal Bulletin.



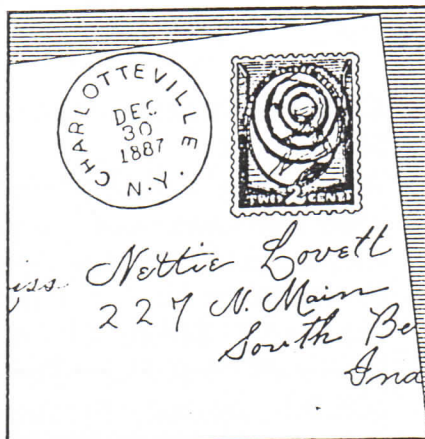
Courtesy of The Stamp Wholesaler.  
"Just identify them, please—never mind the watermarks."



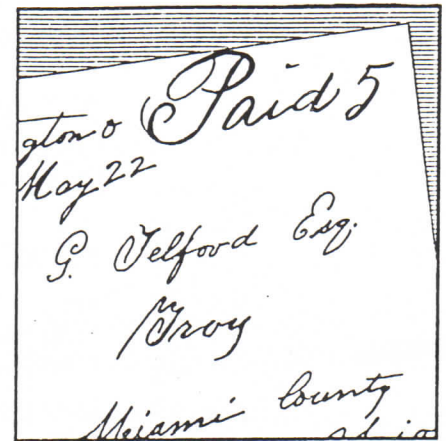
Sprayed-on postmarks first appeared on United States mail in 1989. Usually on metered mail, they can appear on envelopes with a stamp and a normal cancel.



Machine postmarks were first used in the late 19th century. The date/town and wavy killer machine postmark pictured here has been in use for many decades.



Handstamp postmarks first were used in the United States in the early 19th century. Often they include a target or other decorative killer to cancel the stamp.



Manuscript postmarks were used in the early days of mail. On the cover here, the postmaster wrote the town name, the date and the amount of postage prepaid.

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## Linn's guide to philatelic symbols & abbreviations

To help the philatelic newcomer, Linn's presents this list of most frequently used symbols and abbreviations:

★ or * — Mint	FDC — First-Day Cover	P — Poor
⊙ — Used	FFC — First Flight Cover	PB — Plate Block
⊕ — Block	FPO — Fleet Post Office	PCL — Precancel
□ — Piece	G — Good	Perf — Perforated or Perforation
⊗ — Cover	GD — Gum Disturbance	PM — Postmaster or postmark
ABNC — American Bank Note Co.	GPO — General Post Office	Pmk. — Postmark
APO — Army Post Office	HH — Heavily Hinged	PNC — Plate Number Coil
APS — American Philatelic Society	HPO — Highway Post Office	PS3 — Plate Strip of 3
ASDA — American Stamp Dealers Association	IC — Iron Curtain	PS5 — Plate Strip of 5
Av. or Avg. — Average	Impert. — Imperforate	RG — Regummed
BEP — Bureau of Engraving and Printing	IRC — International Reply Coupon	RPO — Railway Post Office
BNA — British North America	LH — Lightly Hinged	S or Sup. — Superb
BOB — Back-of-the-book	LP — Line Pair	SAE — Stamped, Addressed Envelope
BPO — British Post Office	MB — Minimum Bid	SASE — Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope
Canc. or Ccl. — Canceled or Cancellation	MC — Maltese Cross	Sc. — Scott catalog
CDS — Circular Datestamp	MD — Minor Defect(s)	SE — Straight Edge
CMS — Complete Matched Set	ME — Mail Early	SG — Stanley Gibbons catalog
Comm. — Commemorative	MI — Michel catalog	S/S or SS — Souvenir Sheet
Cpl. — Complete	MJ — Marginal Inscription	UNPA — U.N. Postal Administration
CTO — Canceled to Order	Mk. or Mink. — Minkus catalog	USPS — U.S. Postal Service
CV — Catalog Value	MNH — Mint, Never Hinged	UPU — Universal Postal Union
Def. — Definitive	MPO — Mobile Post Office	VF — Very Fine
DPO — Discontinued Post Office	MPP — Mailer's Precancel Postmark	VG — Very Good
EFOs — Errors, Freaks and Oddities	M/S — Miniature Sheet	VLH — Very Lightly Hinged
Est. — Estimated	MS — Matched Set	w/o — Without
F — Fine	NG — No Gum	W/mk — Watermark
	NH — Never Hinged	XF — Extra Fine
	OG — Original Gum	Yv. — Yvert et Tellier catalog
	Opt. or Ovpt. — Overprint	



# U.S. Postal Service cuts back on sale of T-shirts and trinkets

The United States Postal Service has set for itself a deadline date of Feb. 1, 1992, to get rid of its non-stamp-related gift items, including T-shirts and coffee cups.

According to a memo sent to field division managers by Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank, postal-related merchandise is being discontinued because of increasing customer criticism that led to congressional criticism of the practice, as well as poor media relations.

Even independent USPS marketing research, according to Frank, confirmed that customers do not like to see apparel and merchandise sold at the same counter as core products and services.

Frank also made the point that some feel that sales of trinkets are a major source of USPS revenue, an amount he says is "negligible compared to our gross revenues."

Frank feels the policy change will result in getting back to basics and concentrating on primary revenue-generating programs and

fast, accurate and attentive service.

To achieve the goals he set, Frank outlined a four-point program to be implemented in the coming weeks.

First, post offices are instructed not to buy new non-stamp-related merchandise items for sale in lobbies.

Post offices are authorized to place such existing material on sale at reduced prices (so long as the base cost is recovered).

All non-stamp merchandise is to be moved to less prominent positions within the post office, to a window or area where the items will not interfere with normal business.

Finally, after the Feb. 1, 1992, deadline for removing such material from sale, such merchandise may only be sold at first-day sites, and at other special locations, such

as conventions (stamp shows), state fairs, Olympic-related events or other special events as approved by marketing division directors.

Frank's memo stated that these exceptions are allowable to support new stamp issues and leverage to local events or celebrations lasting less than 30 days.

All post offices and philatelic centers may continue to sell any merchandise that contains actual postage stamps, and stamp pins. This still allows for a lot of merchandise. Post offices are, however, instructed to place their merchandising emphasis on philatelic products.

The use of T-shirts, coffee mugs and other items for employee and customer recognition and other USPS programs is not affected by the change. ■



"... and then when I was 15, I bought my first stamp packet. I haven't been the same since."

## ROPEX Friend Honored in Linn,s

John M. Hotchner's Jan. 13, 1992 U.S. Notes column.

### Cheryl B. Edgcomb

From time to time I feature in this space some of the largely unsung heroes who make stamp collecting in this country what it is.

Today's honoree is Cheryl B. Edgcomb, currently postmaster in Knoxville, Pa. It is a special pleasure to recognize Cheryl, who is shown in Figure 5, because in doing so we recognize the thousands of U.S. Postal Service people who quietly work to assure the success of the nationwide Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club program for grade school and junior high school kids.

The BFSC program takes its lumps because local Postal Service management does not support it uniformly in every corner of the country. But where they do, it is the best vehicle we have to get kids interested and involved in the hobby.

Cheryl is one who has done an excellent job in going to schools, setting up new clubs, supporting the teachers, providing the lead-

leagues to pass along her most successful methods.

Cheryl began her Postal Service career in 1979 as a subrural carrier at the same Eastern Pennsylvania office she now heads as postmaster.

In between, she served in various positions at six other post offices, getting more involved in promoting philately at each step.

In addition to her BFSC work, she also heads the Advisory Council of the Junior Philatelists of America, chairs the Youth Exhibiting Committee of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and lectures to philatelic and non-philatelic audiences on the benefits of stamp collecting to young people and how to involve them in the hobby.

Cheryl's fondest collecting area is rainbows on stamps, and she has gotten together an exhibit on the subject as a means of teaching herself so she can more effectively teach the youngsters.

I asked Cheryl how she would sum up what she has gotten out of her work. She said:



Figure 5. U.S. Postal Service activist Cheryl B. Edgcomb is honored for her excellent work in getting young people involved in philately.

"I personally find the pleasure of the children I introduce into the hobby as the most satisfying to me. It is what never leaves me — that sense of knowing I have made a difference — no matter how small it may appear. I have seen the children's smiles, and know their enjoyment first-hand. Everyone should have a child to learn from! I feel luckier than

## Cheryl will be at this year's show as she has for the past few years.



"This'll finish the Punistan order. Tomorrow we can run off the errors."

The RPA is a chapter member of the APS and the AFDCS.

# March 27, 28, 29

STAMP SHOW

# ROPEX-92

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station  
Rochester, New York 14610-0206



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

29¢ Flower Coil with Standard Perforations.



ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.