

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc
HINGES & TONGS

MEETINGS ARE HELD 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS SEPT.-JUNE AT ST. PAULS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TRADING & TALKING 7PM FORMAL PROGRAM 8PM

MARCH - APRIL

editor
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1997

WHY COLLECT STAMPS ?

A short essay by George M. Hill, III

There has to be a reason for doing anything and collecting stamps provides many of the answers. Every stamp that is issued has a purpose; to recognize someone, to proclaim an event, and always to document. In short, it is the best way to get a lesson in history while satisfying a desire to know the "facts".

Just how curious are you about your surroundings, important people, past events and the importance of our influence internationally. It takes intelligence to care and stamp collectors are intelligent birds of a feather that flock together regardless of "what" they collect. They care, as can be seen in the quality of collections and the pride in showing and sharing.

That is one of the attributes of collecting and sharing. You get much more from contact with others than you can possibly get from being a hermit. You can collect "your way" but coming together in a "show and tell", even if you are reticent about presenting anything to a group, builds strength and conviction. Your collection is important to you and your effort, shared with others, provides satisfaction and appreciation to you and those with whom you share.

Maybe lacking opportunities to share and receive appreciation for one's effort is one of the reasons stamp collecting appears to have diminished in importance in the minds of many. If you have to face the "crowd" your pride springs forth and you produce something worthy of your time and energy.



Our club is the center for caring and sharing. Although we all collect in our unique way, we appreciate what others are doing and want to know about other collections. What an excellent way to make friends with others that think like we do and have a common interest. Coming to a club meeting means instant friendship. Just show a little interest in what your associate is collecting and conversation will begin.

Many wonder how you begin to share. A good way is to contribute to the one-page display and contest. Every one looks at the rules for participation differently even if the "topic" appears difficult, it can be accomplished "your way". When the winner is declared the conversation begins.

When you come to a meeting, it is important to bring something to share. The business that is discussed is of minor importance compared to great conversations and sights to behold. If all of us want more, we have to do more to share. The more each of us does the more we all will want to return for the next meeting.

It's up to you to determine, "Why Collect Stamps." I see it as making friends and satisfying a desire for learning.

George can be E-mailed at:
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From the desk of the RPA President Paul R. Gerwitz

As we proposed at the December and January meetings and stated at the February meetings it is now time to take care of the issue of changes to the constitution.

Article III, Section 2 of the current constitution says "Any other (not the annual Business and Election meeting) business meetings may be authorized by the RPA President or the Board of Governors provided the membership has been notified by mail of the subject and text under consideration at least 30 days before the date of the said meeting." The Hinges and Tongs Jan-Feb issue detailed the subject and text of the proposed changes to the constitution. At the Dec 1996, and Jan-Feb 1997 meetings time was spent in discussion on the proposals. With this issue of Hinges and Tongs is a ballot which we would like returned by **April 5, 1997**. The results of the ballot counts will be announced at the April 10 meeting.

There are 3 issues to be voted on:

1. is the change in the term of the president. Choice 1a is the Board of Governors recommendation. You can vote yes to 1a OR yes to 1b OR no to both. If you vote yes to both it will be taken as a yes to 1a. A no to both means do not make any change about the term of the president.
2. is yes or no to have the change to apply first to the next president so that I as the current president cannot benefit from the change. I urge you to vote no so that it does not become part of the constitution. I HEREBY DECLARE that I am not now nor will I be a candidate for the office of the president of the RPA for 1997-8.
3. is a yes or no vote to change the word "audit" to "do an internal audit of" in Article 5 Section 5. The Board of Governors urges a yes for this change.

Please use your ballot and vote. We want this result to be, whether yes or no, a reflection of the wishes of a large majority of the membership.

Thank you for your attention.
A ballot is enclosed. Please mail it by April 5. (ed.)

NEW MEMBERS JOIN DURING ROPEX

R.P.A welcomes three new members who signed up during the ROPEX show. Donald and Marge Schleining of Buffalo are faithful attendees at most ROPEX shows, and other stamp shows in Rochester and Buffalo.

Marge has exhibited several times, including this year. Her four-frame "Drugs are Dangerous" recieved a silver-bronze award. Her philatelic interests include pharmacy and music.

Don lists Scouts and the world as his stamp interests, and he is also active in Scouting in his area.

They were referred by Ada Prill, who will have her next year's dues free as a result of referring two new members.

Also joining R.P.A is Alan Parsons of Elmira, referred by Rick Kase. Alan is usually in charge of exhibits at STEPEX in Horseheads in October, and frequently visits ROPEX and the Rochester area. He lists the U.S. and U.N. as his philatelic favorites.

MARCH 27th PROGRAM "The Black Jack"

This APS slide program was prepared by Paul J. Wolf, who also photographed the stamps which were from his own collection.

Mr. Wolf was a long-time life member of the APS, and resident of Missoula, Montana. He was a member of the APS Expert Committee, and author of a number of articles which appeared in The American Philatelist and other journals.

The 2¢ black stamp of 1863 to 1867 that features a portrait of our seventh President, Major General Andrew JACKSON, victor in the battle of New Orleans, is fondly known as the Black Jack. This name apparently was bestowed by the late H.P. Atherton, an early enthusiast for this stamp. Over 333 million copies were issued, so it is not a rare, or even a scarce stamp. But it is a popular one, so there is plenty of competition for good examples.

RPA EXHIBITORS AT ROPEX

Members exhibiting at ROPEX-97 and their awards:

In the regular competitive class were:

- Al Guenzburger**, "One Man's Mail," silver bronze.
Ray Stone, "Woldenburg POW Camp," silver.
Kelly Armstrong, "Free Mail," silver bronze.
Alice Johnson, "A Multitude of Angels," silver bronze; "Figure Skating," silver and A.T.A Third Place medal.
Tom Fortunato, "Diversity of Ceramics," vermeil. Also, American Topical Association First Place Medal, and the Virginia Gubler Award for best thematic by an RPA member.
Steve Suffet, "Woody Guthrie," vermeil and the RPA LeFebre award for best non-thematic by an RPA member and AAPE award of honor.
Karen Barber, "Christian Beginnings," silver bronze.
Florence Wright, "Stamping Out Tuberculosis," silver, and A.T.A second place medal.

In the One-Frame exhibits:

- Mark Piterman**, "U.S. and Russia," bronze.
Duncan Barber, "Development of Dreadnoughts," silver bronze.

Display Class:

- Alice Johnson**, Jamestown, VA," a third award
Don Schurr, "Vacation in Spain," a third award, also voted Most Popular exhibit.

Congratulations to all!

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This years ROPEX was in a new location. The suburbs. By all first impressions it was a good move. Attendance was way up. Many new faces and many young families. The youth area was full to overflowing most of the time, thanks to Don Schurr who was great with the kids. The biggest problem was the lighting, especially for the exhibits. This, as well as all the small problems, can be solved. Ideas are running through my head already.

The turn out on set-up day was astounding. We have a club with active members that anyone can be proud of being a part of. The club table was manned by different folks all week end. Thanks to Don Osborn with his telephone calls. I think we now know what it takes to get people involved. A personal one on one seems to do the trick.

A great bit of concern was had over the early date for ROPEX. Rochester weather can be a problem all the way through April. This year we were having such a mild winter until, wouldn't you know it, set-up day. Even though the frames were an hour or so late, they were set up and ready for exhibits before noon. Everything was finished by 6:30 PM. Saturday afternoon, when the snow was at its worst, we were the busiest, especially with the youth.

The management of the Diplomat Banquet Center had no idea what we were all about at the beginning. With personal tours and explanations and sometimes long discussions, they have a better idea what a national stamp show is all about. They are really excited about having us back next year and working with us to solve problems such as lighting, handicapped parking, refreshments and /or food, and anything else that's brought to there attention. If you attended ROPEX '97 and have any comments, good or bad, we would like to hear from you. Tom Fortunato is ROPEX '98 chairman and Tom would like to hear from you. His E- mail address is :
tom_fortunato@suth.com.

Thanks to all for a great ROPEX '97.

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSN., INC.
 Silent Auction Lot
 7 lots maximum

DESCRIPTION: _____

CATALOG VALUE: _____ MINIMUM BID: _____

submitted by _____

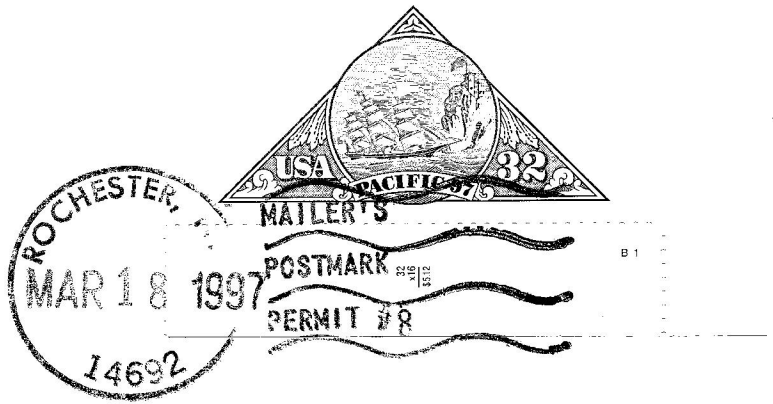
BIDDER'S NAME	BID	BIDDER'S NAME	BID

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