



HINGES & TONGS

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC
ASSOCIATION, INC

P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON
STATION,
ROCHESTER, N Y 14610-0206
AUG.-OCT. 2000

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The success of your club's newsletter is dependent in part on what is submitted for publication. Please, if you have something to share send it to the editor. We are always looking for positive input, so why don't you drop me a line today!



Chapter Member of the American Philatelic Society
207-19273
Chapter # 69 American First Day Cover Society

[Http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html](http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html)
Check out the RPA Home Page

PROGRAMS

September 14th
The Sun Never Sets on Mickey Mouse;
Walt Disney's Empire by Ken Lawrence
New APS Slide Program and silent
auction.

September 28th
What are Revenues? by Ronald E.
Leshner.
New Slide Program and silent auction

October 12th
TBA

October 26th
TBA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

September will start on a new philatelic season for the RPA and it will be a busy time. The big *RPA MALL EVENT* will be in October at EastView Mall marking the *Last National Stamp Collecting Month Event* to be sponsored by the USPS.

Our Vice President Mr. Hull is planning some new directions in stamp programming for this season. We will try to have a joint meeting with the Rochester Numismatic Association in the near future. We are always **LOOKING FOR MEMBERS** to give a short Slide/Talks Presentations at future RPA meetings....Please think about this and **ACT UPON THIS REQUEST....Its fun!**

ROPEX 2001 is shaping up for this March. RPA Board will be planning for a New Copier Machine to replace the current *DEAD RPA Canon Copier*. The RPA has been and will be represented this summer at various National Stamp Shows from Coast to Coast and I'm sure we will hear reports all about them at the Fall Meeting. Hope to see everyone in September!

**Give Stamps to Kids
Start a Hobby of a Lifetime**

John Kellas 3,
RPA President

Current RPA Officers 2000-2001

President -- John Kellas III
Vice -President -- Mark Hull
Treasurer -- George Fekete
Corresponding Secretary -- John Cali
Recording Secretary -- Jim Picuch
Immediate Past President -- Ed Kawasaki

Board of Governors

Ray Stone (term expires June 30, 2001)
Norm Wright (term expires June 30, 2002)
Chuck Shultz (term expires June 30, 2003)

Membership Chair -- Florence Wright



On page 70 of the July 13 *Postal Bulletin* the USPS shows this special die hub. Watch your mail between October 1 and December 11, 2000 for commercial covers canceled with it. This die hub for pictorial cancellations will be used by processing centers to promote *National Stamp Collecting Month*. The design is taken from one of the *Deep Sea Creatures* special pane of 15 commemorative stamps that will be issued October 1 as part of the National Stamp Collecting Month promotion. The USPS designed the promotion to create awareness and enhance interest in the hobby of stamp collecting.

ROPEX EXHIBITING

Here's a brief notice to any of you interesting in exhibiting at ROPEX. As you may know, the Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society is joining us at ROPEX next year. There is also a good chance that a second group will come as well, the Christmas Philatelic Club.

100 frames are reserved for CSCSS group, and I'm sure the CPC will request some as well. This is just to let you know that ROPEX members will have priority in filling the non-society frames. However, don't wait too long to make your intentions known. I'll keep frames available until October 1, after which they'll be up for grabs! We will keep the same number of frames as last year -- around 220. TMF

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

I would like to thank the membership for electing me to the office of corresponding secretary. It will be a challenge to match the quality you are used to from Joe. That is why no comparisons can be made with his tenure in this office. Each individual is different and so too the fruit of their efforts. All I can say to you is that I will get it my best shot!

Hinges and Tongs has always been a fascinating publication to read. It has many accolades attributed to it as has the ROPEX program. I can only hope that you will be pleased with my rendition of the publication.

Crucial to any publication regardless of editor or columnist, etc. is the input received from the membership. It is very difficult to read your mind. Please voice your opinion as to whether you like (or not) the appearance or content of H & T. Only then will I be able to correct any errors in the various forms the publication takes.

Thanks to the *H & T* contributors: Florence Wright, Tom Fortunato, Ada Prill, and Marge Schleining.

This issue is really a double issue. It combines content that would normally have appeared in a July-August issue. Some innovations will be attempted but for the most part you will continue to read the publication as it has appeared under Joe's most able tutelage. Thanks again for your support! JAC



R S STAMP SHOW

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2000

Eagles Club, # 52
1200 Buffalo Rd. (Rt. 33)
Rochester, NY 14624

10 AM - 4 PM
Door Prizes
Free Parking
19 Dealers

From I-490 East, Exit 10 or 10B.
Go South on Mt. Read Blvd. to Rt. 33
(at circle, first right) which is Buffalo Rd.
Continue under RR bridge, over canal
and over I-390. Eagles Club is a short
distance on right approx. 1.7 mi.

From I-490 E. after exiting Thruway
1-90 at LeRoy exit 47, take exit 7A,
Rt. 33 (Buffalo Rd) East. Proceed
approx. 1.7 mi. Eagles Club will
be on left

FDC Exhibiting --
A Diary of an Apprentice Judge
By Allison W. Cusick

AMERICOVER is on the road to acceptance as a nationally accredited World Series of Philately show by the American Philatelic Society. Beginning in 2000 the exhibits will be judged according to the standard APS rules and by accredited APS judges. Naturally, this change has caused some trepidation among the AFDCSers. Any novelty may induce anxiety. Such nervousness in my opinion is unwarranted. In fact, the change should elevate the status and quality of FDC exhibits both at AMERICOVER and nationwide.

The AFDCS needs more judges qualified to serve at AMERICOVER and other nationally recognized exhibitions. Therefore, I began an apprenticeship to become an accredited APS judge. Perhaps this brief account of my first experiences as an apprentice will encourage others to join this valuable program.

I began my apprenticeship at ROPEX in Rochester, NY, March 17 to 19, 2000. ROPEX featured 48 competitive exhibits in 216 frames. A frame is 16 standard pages. Jeanette Knoll Adams of Indiana chaired the ROPEX jury. The other judges were Robert Meegan and Thomas Fortunato of New York, Paul Tyler of New Mexico, and W. Danforth Walker of Maryland. The apprentices were me and Thomas Allen of Ohio.

A judge's work actually begins weeks prior to the show opening. The show chairman sends the judges the synopses of exhibits supplied by the exhibitors. Each judge then can prepare himself for the task ahead. I was daunted at first by the variety of topics to be displayed and by my own lack of knowledge on some subjects. What did I know of 19th century Danish and Portuguese classics, the railroads of Luxembourg and Canadian surcharges? obviously, I had some serious boning up ahead of me. The advance time allowed me to search my personal library as well as look through selected books from the

American Philatelic Library. I packed a few reference works in my luggage, just in case.

Thursday, 3/16 --

The evening before the ROPEX opening, the judges gathered informally for a casual walk-through of the exhibits. Although not a requirement, the walk-through allows the judges to meet each other and exchange thoughts on the scope of the task ahead.

Friday, 3/17 --

The chair organizes the judges into two teams. An apprentice is assigned to each team. The judging sheets are distributed and we get to work, starting on the show floor before the 10 AM opening. The teams slowly circulate through the frames. We read and discuss each frame occasionally each page, make notes.

The expertise of the team here comes into play. The sum knowledge of the team evens out the varying strengths and weaknesses of individuals. I was pleased to be able to contribute to the overall assessment of some exhibits. I also was glad to learn details of topics on which I knew relatively little. Even with unfamiliar subjects, I was able to comprehend how the exhibitor assembled his display. Indeed, the best exhibits teach the viewer--and the judge!--about its subject. I learned a great deal from the exhibits themselves, as well as from other team members.

The judges gather for a working lunch, the teams comparing notes and impressions. Afterwards, selected frames are revisited if necessary to recheck facts. Then the serious discussions begin. Jury deliberations are confidential. Freedom of thought is encouraged by the strict rule that comments within the jury room do not travel beyond its walls. This is essential.

The judges go through the exhibits one by one. The apprentices take turns presenting their opinions on the appropriate medal level. Then the accredited judges weigh in with their opinions. The chair is arbiter in case of disagreements. Finally, the accredited judges vote. The apprentices prepare the list of medal levels and special awards for the ROPEX show chairman.

Saturday, 3/18 --

The ribbons are posted by the show committee. The apprentices fill out evaluations of youth and one-frame exhibits to be given to the exhibits to be given to the exhibitors.

The judges' critique is one of the most important aspects of competitive exhibiting. Here an exhibitor can learn the reasons behind the awarded medal level and get suggestions for improvement. Each judge, including the apprentices, has been assigned responsibility to answer questions from the audience. If an exhibitor prefers a private discussion, that can always be arranged, of course. The judges always are willing to talk with an exhibitor.

In my opinion, exhibitors always should attend the critique. Why grouse over medals? Don't assume the judges are ignorant or biased. Go learn from the critique. Constructive criticism always should be welcomed.

Sunday, 3/19 --

The pressure's off. Now's the time to socialize, look through dealers' boxes and enjoy the show. This also is a good time to speak privately with an exhibitor.

My first apprenticeship was serious work, of course, but also a pleasant experience. The members of the jury listened to my opinions with respect. There was no bias for or against First Day Covers or any other aspect of philately. I'm looking forward to continuing along the road to accreditation.

AFDCSers interested in pursuing this subject should obtain the Manual of Philatelic Judging, How Exhibits are Judged, 4th edition, 1999, which is available from the American Philatelic Society, P. O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803. Write for a free copy of "So you want to become an APS accredited national stamp show judge?" 1995 edition, from Peter P. McCann, 1669 Chinford Trail, Annapolis, MD 21401.

First Day Cover collecting is on its way to broader recognition and acceptance in competitive exhibiting. Do your bit to spread the word! AWC reprinted from *First Days*.

This article originally appeared in the July 15th, 2000 issue of *FIRST DAYS*, the official journal of the American First Day Cover Society. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor (and columnist) of *FIRST DAYS*.

The AFDCS is offering a special **FDC collecting Starter Kit** to each new member who signs up this year. The package is valued at over \$39.00 including four free publications (with a retail value of \$13.95), five free FDCs (while supplies last) and the return of the very popular AFDCS Coupon book.

The four free publications include *The Mini-Adventures in FDC Collecting* by Monte Eiserman, the latest edition of *The AFDCS Cachetmakers Directory* by Betty Hundley, *The AFDCS New Member's Handbook*, which includes a complete guide to AFDCS services and the "AFDCS Glossary of Terms" plus the *Scott 1999 US FDC Catalogue* and *Checklist* by Mike Mellone.

This year the coupon book has 83 coupons from 68 participants with a value of over \$850, including the entire spectrum of FDC collecting, such as books publications, auction services, supplies, catalogues and, of course, lots of FDCs!

WE APOLOGIZE for omissions and errors in the last issue of H&T.

Karen Barber's exhibit called "How Did That Happen?" received a silver in the one frame class at ROPEX this year. She describes her exhibit as an interactive exhibit featuring errors on the first issue of Czechoslovakia. It attempted to get viewers to answer questions about the stamps shown. A pen and answer sheets were provided; however, no one answered the questions and deposited the slips in the box. Karen said, "The material is part of my ongoing fascination with the 1918-1922 Hradcany issue."

At BUFPEX this past March, Norm Wright's exhibit, "Selected Rochester (NY) Rail Mail" received a silver, an AAPE medal and the Ernie Schuster Transportation Award. His other exhibit, "Readin', (w)Ritin' & Railroadin' " received a bronze.

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SPECIAL AWARDS GIVEN

At the RPA banquet in June, certain members were honored with engraved plaques.

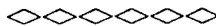
The Warren Stephens Award is given to members who have served the RPA in some significant fashion, and the awardees are selected by the Board of Governors.

This year Dave Roehrig was presented a Warren Stevens plaque for his service to RPA as treasurer for the past several years. He has used his knowledge to streamline the accounting procedure and to upgrade the bookkeeping methods. His careful handling of the RPA funds has ensured continued "in the black" financial condition.

Also, the board voted to acknowledge Ada Prill for her service to RPA as ROPEX exhibits chairman for nearly 11 years. In addition she has served as chairman and co-chairman of the ROPEX show on other occasions. She promotes ROPEX, the RPA and stamp exhibiting wherever she goes.

Ada received her plaque at a subsequent RPA meeting, and she told the group she was especially grateful for the award, since she had known Warren Stevens well. "He was my mentor for stamp collecting," she said.

In addition Life Member plaques were presented to Dusty Miller, John Kellas III, and Jack Rosenstein. Life members are those persons who maintain continuous paid membership in RPA for 25 consecutive years.



SEND IN THOSE DUES

If you don't have a membership card that says "For the Year 2000-2001" then you haven't paid your RPA dues for this year. Please send your check or Money Order for \$15.00 adult or \$5.00 junior to:

Florence Wright, Membership Chr.
33 Northumberland Rd.
Rochester NY 14618-2405

Members Receive Awards

Member Ann Triggles received a gold for "CYMRU (Wales)" as well as the Garfield-Perry best postal history award at March Party in Cleveland, sponsored by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club.

Michael Ollies, one of our junior members, received a youth vermeil for "Out of this World: Exploring our Solar System" at OKPEX in Oklahoma City in May. He was also awarded the AAPE Youth Grand Award.

If there are other members who have exhibited in other shows, please let your editor know so that we can publish these exhibits and their awards.

Back In Time

Some things turn up in the most unusual places. Some time ago, member Florence Wright (a seal collector) was given boxes of old seals and seals promotional material from the local ALA. At the bottom of one of the boxes was a program from the Rochester Philatelic Association annual banquet and show – from 1959 – 41 years ago!

The show consisted of a "Members' exhibit" held in the "Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences," (now called the Museum and Science Center), where RPA then held its meetings. The show took place April 24, 25, and 26, 1959. A Juniors' exhibit located in the museum mezzanine ran for nearly the entire month of May.

The banquet was in the Chatterbox Club on April 25, with Walter O. Wilson, toastmaster. (Not sure if he was a member). William N. Posner, County Democratic Chairman, was speaker for the event. His talk was "The Rapid Growth of Topical Collecting," illustrated with slides. (We wonder if he was a member; he must have been a stamp collector.)

Anton Zahm of Syracuse, chairman of the judges, presented awards. The little program lists the awards this way: "Trophies – Grand Award, best in show; First Prize in each section. Certificates – Second prize in each section and honorable mention; and a Plaque from the American Topical Association for the best topical exhibit." (Unfortunately, there was no listing of the prize winners).

The program lists the exhibits categorized in three sections: I -United States; II - Topicals,Perfins and TB Seals; III – Foreign. It's interesting to note that this was a MEMBERS' show – 29 RPA members filled 84 frames with 32 exhibits. There was also a Court of Honor by four members.

The "exhibition committee" consisted of nine members with Gordon Morison as chairman (Gordon is one of our Life Members and lives in Virginia).

[We have come a long way from a members' show 41 years ago to ROPEX, a World Series of Philately stamp show, with more than 200 frames and a bourse. However, if we were ever able again to have exhibits by 29 members, our exhibit chairman would probably faint!]

RICHARD FEYNMAN STAMP

In 1977 Nobel laureate (Physics) and raconteur Richard Feynman asked "What ever happened to Tannu Tuva?" Thus, giving rise to the slogan on Ada Prill's lovely tee shirt. One of his friends, Ralph Leighton, helped Feynman turn their search for information on this country into a real adventure, as explained in Leighton's book "Tuva or Bust." With stamps on the cover and one stamp in the heading of each chapter, the book is a journal of the barriers scientists, photographers and ethnologists had to hurdle in the 1991 if they wanted to visit Russian Republics.

Now The Friends of Tuva members in the United States are trying to get a stamp issued in honor of Feynman. They would like you to write a letter or sign their petition on

<http://www.scs-intl.com/online/stamp.htm>

The petition for a Feynman stamp cites "that Feynman is arguably the most illustrious and inspiring scientist born and educated in the USA. Our nation needs more people enthusiastic about science. Putting Feynman's image on a stamp will effectively serve that end."

Feynman collected stamps as a child, and as many others, he remembered the diamonds and triangles and wanted to see the scenes in real life. However, he died in 1988, before it was possible to tour freely in Russian Republics.

Author Ralph Leighton's brother also was a junior stamp collector, but it was Ralph who coordinated the great task of contacting scientists and ethnologists in Russia and Tuva for tour information. Much of the mail going in both directions was never delivered.

So far the only postal recognition of Feynman has been a event cancel by the USPS on May 11, 1988 at Lakeworth FL. The Feynman diagram used for the postal cancel is known as a "bubble process." It is on the web site:

<http://www.scs-intl.com/trader/cancel.htm>
submitted by Marge Schleining

If you want to see letters to Feynman about the quest for Tuva take out:

"No Ordinary Genius" The Illustrated Richard Feynman by Christopher Sykes. Published by Norton Company, New York in 1994. ISBN 0-393-03621-9

TWO RPA MEMBERS IN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

This year's AAPE Youth Grand Champion of Champions competition, featuring nineteen Youth Grand Award winners from nationally-accredited stamp shows in the U.S. and Canada, was held in conjunction with INDYPEX 2000 in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 21-23.

An exhibit of *Indiana 4-Bars, Types and Usages*, by sixteen year old John Ryle of Bloomington, Indiana, was declared the best youth exhibit of 1999-2000. John had won a Youth Grand Award at the 2000 March Party in Cleveland.

Among the participants were two RPA members, both of which won special awards at the Championship. Michael C. Ollies, age 10, participated with an exhibit called *Out of This World: Exploring Our Solar System*, which had won the Youth Grand at OKPEX. That exhibit won the Gertrude Fitch Horton Award for an outstanding exhibit by an exhibitor under the age of eleven. His sister, twelve-year-old Kristen E. Ollies, represented ROPEX with an exhibit called *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*. That exhibit won the NAPEX Topical Award, a prize for outstanding philatelic knowledge and use of philatelic elements in a topical exhibit. The same exhibit won a year's membership in the Junior Philatelists of America as the best exhibit by someone who was not already a member of that organization. Kristen also had a second exhibit in the Championship, *Love Through My Eyes*, which won the Youth Grand at APS Stampshow 99. *Love* was the winner of the NAPEX Creativity Award at the Championship.

RPA salutes Kristen and Michael for their outstanding exhibits!

The Youth Champion of Champions competition is sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and is directed by RPA member Ada M. Prill. AMP

**Rochester Philatelic Association
X 2001 WELCOMES
TWO SOCIETIES**

ROPEX 2001 has the pleasure of announcing two societies will be meeting with us. The Christmas Seal & Charity Society as well as the Christmas Philatelic Society are planning their national conventions here in Rochester, March 16-18.

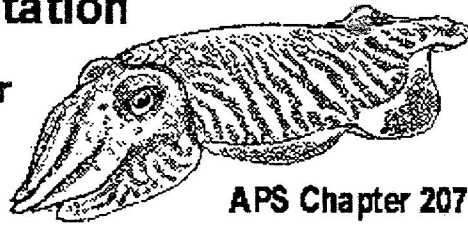
Exhibits from both groups have been coming in throughout the summer, and upwards of 150 of 220 frames will be filled with rarely seen material. We anticipate at least 10 highly specialized exhibits of Christmas Seals from 1908 through 1942, along with others displaying TB, wildlife, and poster stamps. Several dealers catering to these interests will be invited to participate in the bourse.

The ROPEX Committee is already hard at work making preliminary arrangements for the show. The show theme will be finalized in early September, but it's expected to combine Christmas and the movies!

It takes, you the RPA membership to make ROPEX a reality. Won't you get involved? You may not realize it, but upwards of 30 RPAers actively help out each year. ROPEX meetings are held on the first Thursday of most months from September through March. The first one will be held at Jim Pecuch's house, with subsequent ones scheduled at Ray Stone's. Both are in Irondequoit, and everyone is invited! Contact chairman Tom Fortunato by phone weekdays at 586-5757 x6832 for details.

Celebrating Stamp Collecting Month Station

October
7,
2000



APS Chapter 207

Rochester Philatelic Association
Rochester, NY 14610



Hinges & Tongs

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