Hinges & Tongs
ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC
P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON STATION
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-0206

Jan. – Feb. 2007
See the calendar on the back page for the January – February programs

RPA Hosts First Day

If you’ve been keeping up with philatelic news, you’re already aware that this year is special when it comes to the release of first days. If you haven’t, that headline may shock you.

You see, all US stamps are receiving nationwide releases. There will still be an official “First Day of Issue” city designated for each issue, but everywhere else can be designated a “First Day of Sale” just by requesting it.

This opens up a wealth of possibilities for stamp clubs across the US looking to tie in a local “person, place or thing” with newly released stamps. That includes us in the RPA. Have you taken a look at what is coming out to see if there is anything we could work on?

First day events are fun and accomplish another task—raising awareness of our club in the community. Bring your ideas to the next RPA meeting so we can brainstorm them together!

ROPEX wasn’t held last year because of Washington 2006, and during that time the ROPEX committee started looking for a new facility. We found it at the ESL Sports Centre on the campus of Monroe Community College on Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road. With the change of site came a change of dates, to May 18-20, 2007.

We’re the “main event” in the large ice arena (without the ice!), the same place where the Amerks hold practice when hockey is in season. The facility can easily hold our expected 30+ dealers and up to 240 frames of competitive exhibits while providing guests with free parking, an on-site restaurant, and a great location off of I-390 with nearby Marketplace Mall, eateries and hotels galore.

Our themes commemorate three subjects:
50th Anniversary of Sputnik (Friday, May 18)
Ice Hockey (Saturday, May 19)
100th Anniversary of Scout Camp (Sunday, May 20)

Do you know of local organizations dealing with these topics that might join us these days? If you know of any possibilities, call Tom Fortunato at 585-225-6822. One of our newest RPA members is active in youth hockey. If you know who he is, contact Tom as well!

Now more than ever, we can use your help, especially during setup and take-down on Thursday, May 17 (between 9 AM-3 PM) and Sunday, May 20 (between 3-6 PM). Exhibit frames and dealer tables need to be taken care of during those times, as do an assortment of other tasks.

Please mark these dates and times on your calendar and plan to lend a hand (or two)!
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ROPEX Update

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See Stamp Exhibits Online

There is a growing trend of stamp exhibitors out there using the web as a way of demonstrating their craft and showing off their philatelic interests.

If you have Internet access, take a look at some of these sites:

http://www.japhila.cz/hof/exponet_menu.htm
Make EXPONET your number one reference for online exhibits. As of this writing the site contains 178 exhibits from 27 countries around the world on a vast array of subjects from postal history to thematics.

http://www.stamps.org/cac/cac_exhi.htm
This growing list gives links to about 60 assorted exhibits.

15 exhibits by Tom Fortunato and RPA friends are online here.

RE: Auctions

It has been suggested that we try weekly mini-called-auctions at each meeting. This would be done in an attempt to draw more members to our meetings. The details have not been worked out yet, but come to the next meeting and let us know your opinion on the subject of mini-auctions.

Library New Arrivals

We now have a complete 2006 set of Scott Catalogs to be used at meetings thanks to Bob Searjeant. Older editions can be borrowed. The two books illustrated above are new additions to the club library. If you are thinking of specializing in Kansas - Nebraska overprints or errors on U.S. stamps you should take a look at these new items. Books are loaned for two intervals and can be renewed if no one is waiting for that book. See Joe Doles to borrow a book or check out the library.

Health Watch

Club president Rick Kase has been hospitalized since before Christmas. He has had major surgery to his foot. Gangrene had developed and the amputation of toes were required. At the time of this report Rick was doing well but more operations may be in the picture. I know he would be glad to hear from you. He is at the Strong Memorial Hospital.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>January 11</th>
<th>January 25</th>
<th>February 8</th>
<th>February 22</th>
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| Tom Fortunato  
History of the Mail and Postage Stamps | Jim Bell  
Collecting Autographed First Day Covers | Member's Social Night  
Sell, Trade & Swap | Ray Stone  
Stamp Quiz |

Meetings are held at the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Winton Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14618. Regular meeting times are 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Programs start at 7:30 pm sharp.