

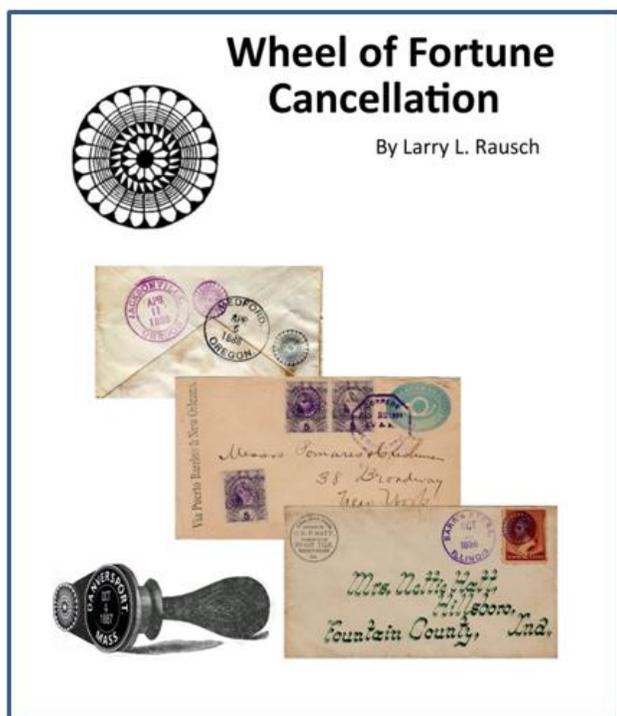


Wheel of Fortune Cancel • John Lighthouse
Presidential Message • Upcoming Meetings/Shows
Baseball Covers • 1898 Canada Map Stamp
US Joint Issues • Rosewell Farnham
Europa 2019 • Star Wars

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RPA Past President Larry Rausch reached a milestone with his study and collection of Wheel of Fortune cancellations and covers this fall. He has published a new book on the topic. The full book is [available online](#) on the club webpage.



Larry notes that his interest in Wheel of Fortune cancellations began from articles written by postal historian Roger Curran. Collector Arthur Beane intended to write a book on the subject but never did. Larry adds that his engineering background drew him to their fascinating design and he wanted to learn more about them. Larry hopes his book sparks interest and collaboration among other collectors of this cancellation. Updates will be made available as new information comes forward.

In addition to the free [downloadable pdf eBook](#) on the RPA webpage, a hard copy can be purchased for \$21, postpaid to US addresses. Inquiries can be sent to Larry Rausch, 1403 Rivers Run, Rochester, NY 14623 or to stonycwoods840@gmail.com

see page 5 for more on the Wheel of Fortune cancellation

RPA Exhibitor Wins Large Gold

John Lighthouse took his ten frame exhibit entitled "Using Documents to Fund the Civil War 1862-1872" to the Civil War Postal Exhibition in Bellafonte, PA in October and was awarded Large Gold. He was also the recipient of the APS Award for "Excellence for pre-1900 Material" and the American Revenue Association selected his exhibit for their "Best Revenue Exhibit".



John Lighthouse and his Large Gold award winning display at the Civil War Postal Exhibition.

Photo by John Kellas

The following is from [Larry's Press Release](#):

"Wheel of Fortune Cancellation" is a 136 page work in full color that documents and illustrates over 1,050 town dater and canceller postmarks in state and town name order. Many markings were painstakingly redrawn to clearly and accurately reproduce their intricacy. Almost 300 covers are also shown to augment the listing.

The introduction discusses the seller of the handstamp devices, the F. P. Hammond Company of Chicago, IL and later Aurora, IL that sold them to post offices. Covers from 1880 to 1917 have been found with the common petal wedge design.



President's Message

Greeting to RPA Members:

Although the calendar reminds us it is still fall, looking outside it sure seems like winter. Our snowbirds have left or are leaving. With colder temperatures, it is a good time to expand and enjoy your collection. Perhaps as you are doing so, you might consider preparing an exhibit for ROPEX? Or, perhaps you'd like to discuss your interests in our shared hobby with the group at one of our winter or spring meetings. As you can see from our calendar there are open dates available.

Hope to see many of you at our December meeting,

RPA President, *Jack Rosenstein*

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Thurs. Dec. 12th - Christmas Meeting

Thurs. Jan 9th, An Evening with Ebay
with Charlie Adrion

Thurs. Jan 23rd TBA

Thurs. Feb 13th Number One *by Steve Eisinger*

Thurs. Feb. 27th TBA

March 12th and March 26th -- TBA

If you have a program that you can present, we will seeking to fill the upcoming spots at our December meeting. Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/trade among members, and general member interaction. The evening program begins at 7:30 PM.

Regional Stamp Shows/Bourses

December 1 **Rochester Stamps and Coins Show**,
North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Rd.

Hrs: 9:30 – 4:30, 8 dealers

Contact: J. Stoltz, 585-507-3533

E-mail: jstoltz@rochester.rr.com

December 21 **St. Catharines, Ontario**
Best Western Stamp Show, Best Western Hotel,
2 North Service Road, QEW at Lake St.
Hours: 10-4, Bourse
Contact Roy Houtby, 905-934-8377
E-mail: roystamp@niagara.com

Visit our [online calendar](#) for even more information on area stamp shows.



Just another silent auction at a Rochester Philatelic Association meeting attracting a crowd of stamp collectors: like they say at Ollie's "Good Stuff Cheap".



Lifetime member Ray Stone was showing off his new post office toys in September, gifts from his family.

RPA meeting programs are as diverse as our membership. Two of our more recent presentations by long time members Luis Greiff and Robert Lighthouse highlight the variety of the interests and collection of our members. Both these presentations can be viewed in their entirety on the [meetings page of our website](#).

Baseball Covers - Luis Greiff, Jr.

It was October 24th and the World Series had started. Houston and Washington had played twice in what would become the first 7-game World Series where the visiting team won all seven games. It seemed appropriate that our second meeting of the month feature the National Pastime. Luis Greiff had purchased a large collection of Worldwide covers featuring baseball. Tom Fortunato helped him put together a Powerpoint file featuring his new collection and Luis shared it with us.

Did you know that the first US stamp featuring sports was the 1939 Baseball Centennial Issue? The stamp featuring a sand-lot game was first issued at Cooperstown on June 12th of that year and Luis had acquired a First Day cover.



The collection had commemorative covers of Jackie Robinson (1982), Lou Gehrig (1989) and even “Mighty Casey” (1996). The collection included covers from Olympic baseball, women’s softball, and all six of the stamps from the “Celebrate the Century” issues that had a baseball theme. Do you remember the ballbark series of 2001? They were there also there.

Although baseball is America’s pastime, the sport is clearly international and many countries have commemorated the sport. Canada, of course, lays claim to being the birthplace of baseball; in Beachville, Ontario in 1838. Other countries from Nicaragua to Gambia to Grenada, and from across the Pacific in Japan have all featured baseball stamps. Luis’ new collection has covers from these locations and more.

Seeing them all in such a fine RPA presentation was a great way to get ready for the next World Series game.

1898 Canada Map Stamp– Robert Lighthouse

If the stores can all start selling Christmas “stuff” before Thanksgiving then RPA can highlight a Christmas stamp at its November 14th meeting. Robert Lighthouse did just that, returning for an encore presentation on some of the details of the 1898 Canada Map Christmas Stamp. His earlier presentation had been on November 13th, 2014, five years and one day before this more recent program.

At his [previous presentation](#), Bob had focused the subtle variations that had permitted him to identify the precise sheet location of each of the 100 stamps on each of four successful printings. This time, his focus turned to the unique printing process that had led to these inherent flaws. His talk worked through these variations for each of the four plates that were used during the two year run of almost 20 million stamps.

The most obvious difference that can be observed is in the color of the seas which ranged from lavender to blue to blue-green and, in some unique cases, gray. Printing a tri-color stamp was a challenge for the technology of the time and the resulting variations are not unique to this stamp.



Two examples illustrating the variation in sea color

The variations in the stamps extend to the red typographic printing used to illustrate the extent of the British territories. Literally dozens of anomalies exist including enlarged islands, over-sized territories and color variations. All of which helps Bob position each stamp by plate number and position.

At the conclusion of his talk, Bob shared some of unique usages of the famous late 19th century stamp including First Day Covers, perfins, add-on cancels, and bisects.



Joint Issues by Fred Haynes



I don't think I need another idea for a new collection, but if I did I believe I might look at the idea of Joint Issues. I do have a few set aside just in case I change my mind. I'm sure that looking for more might be an interesting thing to do at ROPEX.

One aspect of Joint Issues is the pure variety in the reason countries come together to commemorate events, accomplishments, or cultural topics. Some involve recurring relationships, such as EUROPA, but most are one time commemorations with a singular and unique purpose. A collector could seek global issues, but it is also possible to build quite a collection with United States issues only.

The United States has participated in 45 joint stamps issues. You can find a full list with a Google search. The first was in 1959 when the US and Canada honored the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway with single stamps depicting the maple leaf and an eagle atop a map of the Great Lakes. Of course, this stamp (the Canada version) is best known for the rare error where the entire inset is printed upside down. The correct US version and the Canada error stamp are depicted in the header of this note.



The most recent US joint issue was with Canada and commemorates the history of hockey. Each country issued two stamps, one with a hockey player wearing modern equipment, another with the "equipment" of 100 years ago.

Typically, the issues commemorate a mutual interest or an event shared by the United States and one other country. However, several countries can be involved. The largest number of countries joining the United States in a single joint issue is six. In 2007, all of the Scandinavian countries joined the US in commemorating the Fourth International Polar Week. The designs are not identical, the two US 41¢ stamps depict aurora, but all countries issued their stamps on February 21st.



For those who prefer covers, the joint issue stamps can often be found together on First Day Covers.

The most common partner for US joint interests is Sweden. The two countries have issued stamps together on 7 occasions. The first commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Amity and Commerce Treaty signed between the countries in 1783. The most recent stamps commemorated Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman, in 2015. The US stamp was part of the ongoing Legends of Hollywood series.



I'm not sure I have a favorite among the US joint issues, but the 1992 joint issue with Russia honoring the two countries "Space Accomplishments" may be the most interesting. After decades of competition some may have been surprised to see such an issue even though the countries had begun to cooperate on the Space Shuttle by this time.

**Vermont 38th Governor
Roswell Farnham
by Larry Rausch**



The attractive Washington DC cancellations and the addressee, Roswell Farnham, who was the 38th Governor of the state of Vermont, attracted me to this cover.

Roswell Farnham was born in Boston, MA. on July 23, 1827. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1852. He entered the Civil War as a second lieutenant with the 1st Regiment Vermont Volunteers. After the war Farnham practiced law until being elected governor in 1880, He served only one two year term focusing his legislative efforts on education and prison reform. Farnham died on January 5, 1903 at the age of 75 and is interred at Bradford Town Cemetery, Bradford, Vermont.

Vermont is one of only two states which holds elections every two years. There are no term limits that the Governor can serve but he/she must receive 50% plus one of the vote. If not, they are elected by the state legislature.



Shown above are three Washington DC cancellations from a series of numbers from 1-6. Cancellations are found on Banknote stamps Scott 210 and later date 3c greens.

Wheel of Fortune Cancellations
continued from page 1

The best two Wheel of Fortune cancelled covers found to date are from Welcome, WV dated August 8, 1885 and from Barr's Store, IL dated October 20, 1886. These two covers were probably cancelled early on in the life of the handstamp as very little ink has accumulated into the die and the circles are nearly perfect.



F.P. Hammond manufactured a handstamp he called the Eureka Dater. The image is reversed to enable you to read the town of Danversport, Mass. dated Oct 4, 1887



The circular date stamps used with the Wheel of Fortune cancellation were varied and often detailed.

2019: A year for the birds

Topical stamp collectors love the EUROPA stamp program where member countries issue thematic stamps annually. In 2019 it was a banner year for collectors of birds on stamps as all [65 member nations](#) issued stamps with the theme “National Birds”. Some issued single stamps, but many issued small sets of stamps featuring their favorite national birds..

Each year different organizations hold contests to honor the “best” stamp among the 100 or more stamps issued by the EUROPA nations. Two contests have been completed. Stamps from Slovenia and Armenia were the winners for 2019.



Slovenia's depiction of the Brkata sinica: *Panurus sinica* (or bearded reedling) won the “Jury Prize”, awarded by a selected group of philatelic experts. PostEuropa's award went to **Armenia** and this artistic rendition of a *Hirundo rustica* (barn swallow).

The Collector's Choice Award, sponsored by [PostEurop](#) has yet to be announced as voting continues into December. You can see the stamps in the current round of voting and make your selection [here](#).



Here is a small selection of the 2019 EUROPA bird stamps. *excerpted from [Postcrossing.com webpage](#)* It is easy to see why folks like to collect birds on stamps. Of course, [technically these are also dinosaurs](#) and thus another group of topical collectors should also be interested!

The 2020 EUROPA theme could lead to some interesting issues of a totally different nature that will interest a completely different set of thematic collectors. The 2020 theme is “**Ancient Postal Routes**”.



Yup, you guessed it, more Star War stamps. On November 26th, Britain will issue this ten stamp set featuring characters from the trilogy. The stamps will pre-date the upcoming release of the third movie of the Sequel Trilogy, “The Rise of Skywalker” which is due for release in Britain on December 19th and the United States on December 20th.