

Hinges & Tongs



In this Issue:

Fall, 2025

RPA Meetings Return in September
A Smith Brothers Cough Drop Cover
Upcoming Meetings • Stamp Camp 2025
US Forever Global Stamps • New RPA Members
US Postmasters' Provisional Stamps

Copyright, 2025, Rochester Philatelic Association
Editor: Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)

The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

RPA Meetings Return in September

The calendar now reads September, the days are shorter, and sweaters have returned as a required part of the Western New York wardrobe. But even more importantly, the Rochester Philatelic Society's twice monthly meetings are set to return. We will continue to meet in the spacious Unity Village Community Center, [1477 Long Pond Road](#) in Greece. Buy/sell/trade runs from 7:00-7:30 PM, followed by the formal meeting at 7:30 PM. A silent auction concludes most evening's program.

Our first meeting will be September 11th and the program requires input from as many members as possible. We ask that you select a favorite philatelic item to show and describe in 5 minutes or less. This will be a great way to let new members know what you collect. **Please email Tom a JPG image of it beforehand to stampmf@gmail.com**, Zoom members are especially encouraged to participate.

Speaking of new members, 2025 has been a banner year for RPA. Recently, we have added 2-4 new members each calendar year. This year we have added 7 members, and it is only September! You read about three of our new members in the [previous Hinges and Tongs issue \(2025-2\)](#); three more offer short introductions in this issue (page 4). We probably won't see one of them in person at our meetings. RPA is now an international organization; we have a member from New Zealand!

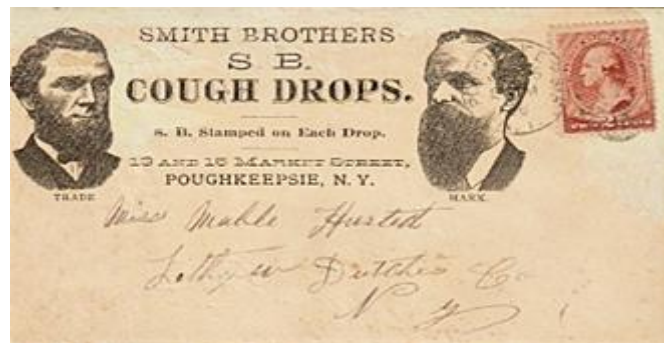
Did you know that we have officer elections at the end of the year? Now's the time to think about putting your hat in the mix! This will be the first election run under the new constitution. Check out the details here:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-constitution.html>,

specifically Articles 3 and 5. President, Vice President and Officer at Large positions run for 2 years, coming up from 2026-2027. Speak with the current office holders for details.

A Smith Brothers Cough Drop Cover

By Larry Rausch



For the past 150 years the Smith Brothers Brand have used their familiar trademark showing the two brothers' portraits as shown in this 1886 cover postmarked in Poughkeepsie, New York using a 2 cent Scott 210 stamp.

The Smith Brothers Cough Drop story begins in 1831 when founder James Smith emigrated from Scotland to Canada and later to the United States where he opened a New York City confectioner called "James Smith and Son's Sweet Shop". Moving to Poughkeepsie, NY in 1847 James opened a restaurant and ice cream shop called "James Smith and Son's".

He met a peddler in 1852 who sold him a recipe for cough formula drops which he enhanced to include candy flavors and success followed. James died in 1866 and his sons, William Wallace Smith (1830-1913) and Andrew Smith (1836-1895) took over the reins of the family business.

continued on page 3 (see Smith Brothers)

UPCOMING RPA MEETINGS

Thursday, Sept. 11...Show and Tell Night

Thursday, Sept. 25...TBA

Thursday Oct. 9.....Historical Postage History
by Tom Fortunato

Thursday, Oct. 23.....TBA

Thursday, Nov 13.....Artificial Intelligence
Creates... Stolen
Masterpieces in Philately
by Tom Fortunato

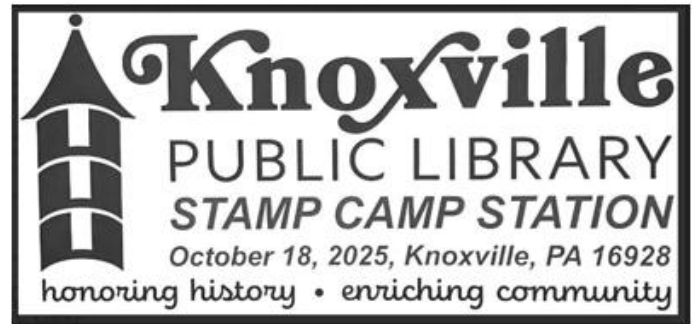
Thursday, Dec, 18....Holiday Party & Game
Night
(RSVP please, no Zoom this meeting)

If you can't attend a meeting in person, join us via a Zoom connection using the following link and login details at 7:30 PM each meeting night.

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7117955142?pwd=amR3Z1Z3L0d4bkJaNHdJUUBmbjFaQT09>

Meeting ID: 711 795 5142, Passcode: 9W3Mkg

As you can see, our fall schedule needs programs. Also, all 12 meetings in 2026 from January through June lack programs. Please consider sharing your philatelic journey with others at an upcoming meeting.



By Cheryl Edgecomb Stamp Camp USA Founder

Hello philatelic friends! It's been some time since I sat down at the PC and wrote an article for a philatelic publication, but this news was too good not to share! After several life developments, I felt it was time to bring out the stamps and tongs and resurrect a day of Stamp Camp! Stamp Camp USA officially closed its doors on February 6, 2017. Those were bittersweet memories, but the timing was such as it had to be. Since the passing of my husband, Brian, this past April, I have been going through closets and tucked in the corners were many of those fond memories, including many stamps, covers, and training items that really were calling me to a "Just once more for old time's sake" resurrection. So, with that said, I contacted a few old friends who are still in the business, along with Ken Martin, Tom Fortunato, and Ada Prill and decided to come out of retirement for a one-day Stamp Camp.

For the past couple of years, the Knoxville Public Library (KPL) (in north-central PA) has been under a major renovation and expansion. This beautifully renovated facility now has a wonderful kid's room, train room, ballroom, training room, and historical museum. In honor of this lovely building, we decided to host another "Stamp Camp" during National Stamp Collecting Month at the Library! **This event will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and will include a postal station, pictorial postmark, and a youth-designed cachet cover during the camp. Camper registrations will begin shortly and can be obtained by calling the KPL at 814-326-4448.

For those who were not around back in the day, Stamp Camp USA was a collaborative educational program that would boost children's skills and knowledge through the use of worldwide stamps, envelopes and other philatelic components. Campers—age 8 and up—would learn collecting basics, including the proper care of a stamp collection and the use of cool stamp tools. After learning the basics, campers would select a topic and then hunt

for related stamps, envelopes, and postmarks in received donations. These materials would then become part of their personal collections, to be used in their projects, such as creative three-dimensional exhibits, or competitive stamp exhibits ready for competition.

Some of the familiar Stamp Camp USA crew members will be on hand to assist for the day, and some of our former campers are planning to be there as well—this time with their own children being in the camper seats! Stamp collecting is certainly a hobby that can be passed down from generation to generation, and it appears so can Stamp Camp! The possibilities are as endless as the stamps these kids sort through, generating excitement for subjects they are being introduced to, while learning in a way that seems to be more “fun” than the typical styles of learning.

Rochester is only two hours north of Knoxville, PA, just over the NY state line off NY Route 36/PA 249 and is certainly within range for a day trip. We'd welcome one and all from western New York State to come down and join us. Who knows, with the encouragement of those present and the thousands upon thousands of stamps kids will have the opportunity to peruse, perhaps some will be encouraged to continue on with their newly discovered knowledge and will develop “a hobby of a lifetime”. It has certainly worked for me!

Smith Brothers (continued from page 1)

With good foresight in 1872 the brothers began packaging the drops in branded boxes with a logo featuring their bearded portraits. When trademarked in 1877, the word “Trade” appeared under the picture of William and the word “Mark” under Andrew’s (as seen in the postally stamped cover. It followed that the brothers’ nicknames became Trade and Mark. Over the years many additional cough products were added, such as Wild Cherry drops, that were introduced in 1948.



In 2016, after many changes in ownership, Lanes Brand's acquired Smith Brothers and revitalized the brand with the classic Wild Cherry.

Of course, since then they added Honey Lemon and Warm Apple Pie. The brand is emphasizing its history as America's first cough drop and its legacy of quality.

Does anyone else have a philatelic cover featuring this popular brand of New York cough drops and the bearded brothers that brought them to prominence?



United States Forever Global Stamps

Are you looking for something simple to collect (perhaps with a finite number of varieties or options)? Did you know that the US has now issued ten Global stamps for mailing a one ounce, letter-sized envelope to any international location? All have the same circular format. Collecting covers with these stamps would involve US stamps on letters directed outside the United States.

The first domestic Forever stamp was the Liberty Bell definitive on April 12, 2007, but it was not until January 28, 2013 that the United States issued an international rate Forever stamp. At that time the rate for sending a one-ounce letter globally was \$1.10 and the non-denominated stamp in the upper left depicting a globe was issued.

Since then, the rate has changed multiple times and numerous new issues have been offered. The most recent “1794 compass rose” stamp in the lower right (Scott #5956) was issued this year on January 24 at a value of \$1.65 and now costs \$1.70 as of the July 13 rate increase.

Newest RPA Members

Tod Eagle

Every comic book and most magazines I read as a kid had an ad or two about stamps and collecting. At some point, like many kids, I sent for the "approvals." I didn't have much money, so bought very little. But got interested enough and learned I could prepare envelopes for first day covers (though I did overdo my "art" on some of the envelopes) and eventually earned the Boy Scout Merit Badge for Stamp Collecting. Though high school and college demands, both time and money, limited my active evolution, I still had a positive perspective about the hobby.

My first job after college was as the Executive Director of the March of Dimes in Syracuse. One day in the attic of the offices, I came across a packet of letters sent to FDR with donations done by various newspaper artists and cartoonists throughout the country whose envelopes were "addressed" with their artwork, typically animated dimes "marching" to the President. They were artistic manifestations on letters that vitalized the contributions they contained. An early visual lesson in the continuing vitality of mail communication.

Then, the priest that married my wife and I that year became our friend. He was a stamp collector and invited me to join the Syracuse Stamp Club in 1972. It was the time and companionship in that club, with well over 50 active members, that expanded my interests and improved my understanding. Steve Malack was a member, and about my age. My wife actually bought me a nice US C3 airmail stamp from him for my Christmas present. From that point forward the hobby was an expanding part of my life.

My focus was on US stamps. When my initial interest in Kansas-Nebraska issues began in the early 70's one of the stamp club members gave me a photocopy of a "confirmation" letter from Southgate "confirming" the Colby April 16 "FDCs". (Which I have since lost!). In this time I learned how most collectors were willing to share discover and knowledge as it vastly benefits the growth and interest in the hobby.

I went to graduate schools to become an educator and school administrator, a career path that I loved. After time as a principal, I was a superintendent in three school districts and then Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.



An interesting cover in my collection with three Kansas overprint issues on a special delivery letter

For a few years after from full time work, I taught graduate school part time and did some consulting. Now my wife and I spend winters in the south, travel a bit, read a lot, golf weekly and spend some time on our hobbies.

My primary interest has always been US stamps and like many I intended to build a complete US collection. I became very interested in US #10 and #11 and had an extensive collection of them. Completeness began to diminish as a goal, when certain printings began to really capture interest. The depth of detail that some stamps can generate can keep them fascinating and compelling. When I was actually making some money, I did start bidding in auctions to expand my early US collection. I sold much of it in Siegel auctions a few years ago, I had owned what I desired for a while and presumed that my managing the sale of the items with some value would make more sense than entrusting that to my daughters who knew little about stamps when I was gone.

Interestingly, I still enjoy the hobby but my focus is narrower and there is less motivation to grow its dollar value and more to grow it as a source of interest and satisfaction. I've belonged to the APS over 55 years and The U.S. Philatelic Classic Society for about as long. I hope that I can get a single frame Kansas-Nebraska exhibit together at some point. It's like a personal test of commitment and knowledge about some dimension of this fascinating hobby and the many paths to research and discovery it provides.



Scott US #10

Scott US #11

Marty Bowne

My interest in philately began in the 1980's when my dad gave me two collections given to him by his step-mother. The first collection starts in 1870, and she documented her acquisitions in World-Wide STAMPOST: Complete stamp inventory. I have it with her notations. The second collection was one my parents started in the 1930's continuing through 1949 and beyond. This includes, roughly sorted by Scott number both used and mint, plate blocks and singles. US airmails are separate from others (no upside down Jenny, sorry), per fins, cancels, US postal cards and envelopes and even other ephemera. One album complete is the Famous Americans series. Although I belong to APS none have been expertized. I do believe there may be some to expertise.



My primary interest in joining the RPA is to meet other collectors, learn more about properties of stamps: paper, printing, engraving, colors, watermarks and other aspects of identification. Over the last 35 years I educated myself with the Scott catalogs: one from 2007 and now the 2025 Specialized Catalog, publications books, including Micarelli Identification Guide to US Stamps, and price catalog of The Robert Zoellner Collection, October 1998. This I purchased for the excellent color photograph of each stamp. Subsequently, I inaccurately input into an EZ Stamp for Windows digital database over 7000 stamps from these collections and other US stamps I had acquired.

Before my first real introduction to the excitement of stamps I moved from Syracuse to Seattle to live with my dad. From there to Northern Idaho to live in a house my son built for me. In 2021 I moved to Rochester to be near my three daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

During and while raising my children and since then I have had varied careers: working and then owning my own fabric shop: co-editing an international quilting magazine, owning and producing for 20 years two international quilting conferences. Now that I am no longer working, I can focus and continue to learn more about stamps.

Michael Butterfield

I am delighted to join RPA as a remote New Zealand member. of your US Rochester club. Thank you. I learned of your club when visiting friends in Fairport. By being a member, I hope your members can an active source of information and knowledge about US stamps.

Having accumulated a sizeable amount of material over the last ten years of retirement it's time the material was better organized into country collections in albums rather than accumulations in boxes, envelopes and the odd album.

My US interest spans an accumulation of 30 or so separate US albums gathered over time, plus a couple of 'boxes', all to be aggregated into one collection. This is a work-in-progress.



Another work in progress involves Penny Red plate reconstruction of my collection of the Great Britain stamp first issued in 1841.

*Editor's note:
RPA Treasurer Larry Rausch may have found a colleague on the other side of the planet.*

I also have a great deal of Canada, especially the territories and early postal flight Cinderella's of the 1920's and 30's, Australia and their early States, and the Cook Islands, one of my favorite Pacific Islands. The rest of the world is still waiting in boxes and half completed albums including Europe, Africa, South America and Asia each having their own specific attractions.

Being a generalist of sorts provides plenty of scope for change when and if I tire of the interest I'm working on and there's always another quite interesting subject to address in the meantime. Completed accumulations into albums include: Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand (well almost).

Back to USA collecting. Besides all issues up to 1980's. And those prior to 1900 that will forever elude me, the current subjects of particular interest are: USA precancels, oh the variety seems endless, Revenues, both Federal and State are also very interesting to me. The state ones seem particularly endless.

In 2015 I was fortunate enough to visit Washington, DC, and spend time in its museums, including your Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Very impressive and the only reason I left the museum that day was the approaching closing time.

I'm happy to share any information, what little I have, or surpluses that surface in my accumulations from time to time that may be useful to Rochester's stamp club members.

U.S. Postmasters' Provisional Stamps by Robert Lighthouse



I thought it would be interesting to visit the United States Postmasters' Provisional stamps, spaces that are generally empty in most collectors' album pages. The stamps were issued from 1845-1846 at 11 municipalities across the country. The rate was 5 cents for a normal-weight letter transported up to 300 miles and 10 cents for a letter transported from 300 to 3000 miles. Here are a few examples that you won't likely see at the next stamp show you attend.

New York and Baltimore were the first to issue these stamps. They were printed in sheets from steel engraving plates. NY Post Office printer, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edison, is believed to have issued 143,00 stamps featuring George Washington (below), while Baltimore's offering was hand-stamped by the Postmaster James Madison Buchanan (not the future President James M. Buchanan).



above – Baltimore, MD
left – New York City, NY

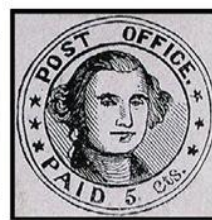
One of the most unique Postmasters' provisionals is the Alexandria, Virginia stamp shown in the title box. It is the only known example of this stamp printed on blue paper and for that honor this rarest of rare stamps is known as the "Blue Boy". The white variety is rather rare also. According to Siegel Auctions, only six copies of those are known!



In St. Louis, a total of 9,000 of these stamps were issued in two separate printings. Each of the stamps on the plates was engraved individually with the result being that no two are identical.



Lockport, NY



Millbury, MA



Brattleboro, VT

There is a local stamp included in this compilation of rare mid 19th-century philatelic history, just as rare as the Blue Boy. Only a single copy of the 5-cent hand stamped Lockport, NY stamp is known. You have a slightly better chance of finding (or at least seeing) a copy of either the Millbury, MA provisional (19 known) or the Brattleboro Vermont issue, as 500 were produced (52 copies known).



Providence, Rhode Island, used a copper plate that printed eleven 5 cent provisionals and a single 10c denomination version. They did this 500 times, so there are a few more of them floating around to be found.



Vance Auction (July 9, 2025, lot #3995) offered a reprint of this New Haven Postmaster Provisional carmine on hard white paper. Only 30 were produced. On rare occasions you will find provisional stamps in an auction catalog!