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NOVEMBER 12-14 1976

1776-1976

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MONROE COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN 1826-1976

FEATURING MEETINGS OF:
FLAG CANCEL SOCIETY
CLUB OF CHANNEL ISLANDS COLLECTORS
PLATE NUMBER SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 12-14, 1976
AMERICANA ROCHESTER HOTEL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday - November 12, 1976

10:00 a.m. Opening of Exhibition and Bourse
Regimental Hall

5:00 p.m. Reception - Cash Bar
Italian/Belgian Rooms

10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Saturday - November 13, 1976

10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens
Regimental Hall

10:00 a.m. Meeting of Judges
Italian/Belgian Rooms

11:00 a.m. Plate Number Society Meeting
Italian/Belgian Rooms

2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Flag Cancel
Society - Italian/Belgian Rooms

7:30 p.m. ROPEX-76 Awards Banquet
Genesee/Crossroads/Corinthian/State

10:00 p.m. Exhibition and Bourse Closes

Sunday - November 14, 1976

10:00 a.m. Exhibition and Bourse Opens
Regimental Hall

2:00 p.m. Club of Channel Islands Collectors
Meeting - Italian/Belgian Rooms

5:00 p.m. ROPEX-76 Closes

Dear Friends:

It gives me a great deal of personal pleasure to welcome all stamp collectors, philatelists, friends, and guests to Rochester and ROPEX-76. On behalf of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the ROPEX-76 Committee, and the City of Rochester, I wish you and your families enjoyment seeing the show and the special sights of this, the "Flower" City.

The R. P. A. is particularly pleased that national and international societies such as the Flag Cancel Society, the Club of Channel Islands Collectors, and the Plate Number Society have chosen to hold meetings in conjunction with ROPEX-76. The Association, as your host, will do everything possible to make your visit a most rewarding and enjoyable one.

Because of its location on the Erie Canal, Rochester played a large role in the development of the West in the early nineteenth century. During the twentieth century, it has continued to grow and prosper into an important business and industrial city. This year, in addition to joining the rest of the nation in celebrating the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, we are also proud to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the founding of the first Volunteer Fire Company in Monroe County.

I invite you to study the exhibits and spend time with the fine selection of bourse dealers and post office representatives. I urge you to attend the various society meetings scheduled during the course of the show.

I thank you for your interest, and hope that your stay will be both entertaining and educational. I look forward to meeting and greeting you personally. If I or any other member of the R. P. A. may be of help, please ask us.

Very truly yours,

Warren Stevens
President, R. P. A.
R.P.A. HISTORY

The Rochester Philatelic Association is now in its 63rd year and is still going strong. It was organized on March 12, 1913. The first meeting was held at the Hotel Rochester with eleven enthusiastic men getting it off to a fine start. In a short time, they began to hold their meetings at the Municipal Museum in Rochester, but during the first World War, interest lagged and the club was only kept together through the efforts of five members who met at various homes.

Eventually, more members were added and they met in the back room of a local stamp dealer. They soon graduated to the Public Library, and after many months the club moved to the Edgerton Park Museum. When the Bausch Museum of Arts and Sciences was built, the RPA followed them to East Avenue, moving in 1976 to the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Church four blocks away.

Down through the years much has been accomplished in the effort to bring stamp collecting and its joys to the general public. A wide variety of programs have been featured at the over 1200 meetings. These activities include outside and local speakers, movies, mini-exhibits, swap nights - in fact nearly everything that was ever heard of in the hobby! Throughout this time there was always an annual banquet, followed by an exhibit, entertainment, and recently an auction.

Early exhibitions of the RPA were local affairs, but during the thirties and forties shows were held in conjunction with the Rochester Museum Hobby Council. In 1950, the RPA assisted in the formation of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs. As host to this group and subsequent combination with the Central New York Federation of Stamp Clubs, the scope of the exhibitions became international.

The year 1963 was the Golden Jubilee of the Rochester Philatelic Association, and called for a really big show in celebration. This show of over 700 frames, held in Rochester's new Midtown Plaza, was a huge success. This paved the way for subsequent large exhibitions and bourses such as ROPEX'67 and APS'68. Incidentally, it was at APS'68 that the World Series of Philately was inaugurated. The current ROPEX title was initiated in 1971 and used to designate the shows that hosted such organizations as the American Philatelic Congress, the Society of Philatelic Americans, and the American Topical Association. This background of the RPA provides as appropriate credential for hosting ROPEX-76 in celebration of the American Bicentennial.

Leslie J. Roll
Historian

GREETINGS TO ROPEX-76

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Rochester Philatelic Association and the ROPEX-76 Committee for inviting our Society to participate in and hold our Twelfth Annual Convention at ROPEX-76.

The Flag Cancel Society was organized in 1961 by a group of collectors interested in locating, identifying, and collecting flag cancels of the United States and other countries.

The Society helps its members by furnishing each member with an identification chart which enables one to properly classify the more than 6500 U.S. flag cancels. It publishes a twelve page bimonthly paper containing interesting articles on unusual flags, new finds, and special articles on foreign flags. Through a mail auction in each issue members may buy and sell flag cancels of all the states as well as some of the specialized flags, expositions, Street Car R.P.O.s, Military and Naval stations, territories, slogans, R.F.D. and A.E.F. flags.

The Society also operates a flag cancel sales circuit.

We invite those who are looking for new thrills in the cancellation field to investigate flag cancels.

Further information about the Flag Cancel Society can be obtained by contacting the Society Secretary - David W. Froesser, 7664 State Street Rd., Watertown, New York, 13601.
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Best exhibit by an RPA novice - non-winner.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARD
Best exhibit by an APS member.

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION AWARD
Best Topical exhibit.

JB OF CHANNEL ISLANDS COLLECTORS AWARD
Best Channel Islands exhibit.

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AWARDS
Best exhibit(s) of New York State Postal History.

FLAG CANCEL SOCIETY AWARD
Best Flag Cancel exhibit.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARDS
Best Roosevelt exhibit.

PLATE NUMBER SOCIETY AWARD
Best exhibit utilising Plate Numbers.

SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS RESEARCH AWARD
Exhibit demonstrating best original research.

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**POSTAL STATIONS**

- United States Postal Service
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**LOUNGE AREA**

In the hallway outside the main entrance the following will have tables for the convenience of those seeking information:

- Rochester Philatelic Association
- Flag Cancel Society
- Club of Channel Islands Collectors
- Plate Number Society
- Junior Philatelists of America
- Security Safe Inc.

**NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS**

- Complete Matched Set Plate Block Collecting as Applied to United States Se-tenant Issues
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Informational brochures and promotional materials for the following may also be found in the Lounge Area:

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The postal issues of the Grand Duchy of Finland would not appear to offer much to attract the average philatelist, due to the unimaginative designs and colors; this is true, however, of many of the nations of Europe during the same period. The first issues of Finland were, putting it mildly, crudely designed, printed, and perforated. The challenge of securing copies of the Arms issues of 1860-75 with undamaged perforations is too great for most collectors, who must settle for one or two missing teeth. The "Russian" types of 1891-1917 do offer a challenge in the typography and lithography printings, as well as the ordinary and chalky papers, not to mention constant plate varieties. But these stamps did not travel the world as they could be used only within the Grand Duchy (or to Russia for a limited period).

So for a real challenge combined with a reasonable investment of funds, why not consider the Arms-type "fyrtaliga" (four-valued) types of 1875-90 (Scott 17-37, Facit 11-26)? Ordinary unspecialized catalogs dismiss this issue with about three dozen listings including the two common perforations (11 and 12-1/2) and a few variations in color.

The first and most scarce stamp is the 32 penni carmine which was printed by typography by H.H. Thiele of Copenhagen in July 1875 because printing facilities in Helsinki were not ready for this needed denomination. This stamp of which 57,500 copies were printed was perforated 14 X 13-1/2 as were the current Danish stamps; there is only one type of this issue.

From here on in, the plot thickens and 123 varieties can be described in terms of perforation (11 or 12-1/2), the printer "Kartta Sigillatarkontorets Trykkeri" or "Karta Sigillatarkontorets Trykkeri," plates (Thiele or Finland mint), colors and papers. When the uncommon compound perforations (11 X 12-1/2 and 12-1/2 X 11) are considered, there are 18 more varieties, and the unusual paper varieties augment this by 5 more. All stamps were perforated by Karta Sigillatarkontorets Trykkeri. Thus it can be said that a representative collection of this issue would encompass at least 146 varieties, and to this can be added plate flaws, rough perforations and cancellation varieties.

One more constant variety which is unique to these issues is due to their being printed from individual cliche locked in a frame. This feature of the stamps of 1875-90 which puzzles many collectors is the lines or blobs of color along one or more margins. These arise from the use of 'levelers'. The loose cliche in a frame were not perfectly level, so some would press harder than others. A "pull sheet" fixed on a flat base would print lighter or not at all from depressed cliche. These lighter portions would be cut out and pasted to the base. Another pull sheet was put on top of the cliche and some cliche would then print normally, but more depressed ones still somewhat faintly. These prints were again pasted on the base and this was continued until an even impression was obtained. The surfaces of both the pull sheet and the cliche were thuse both uneven.

The inking roller inked the edges and/or spacers of the raised cliche and imparted a telltale leveler line on the paper, the nature of it being governed by the roughness of the cliche's edges; these lines are of great value in plating.

One may ask- why weren't the frames unlocked and the cliche all levelled so that adjustment of the pull sheet was not necessary? We can only imagine that the manpower requirements and schedules which had to be met prohibited this.

Constant flaws in the electrotype cliche are numerous, and many have been described in Finnish language catalogs and in a private publication by Ollmann. The data on leveler lines was furnished by Wade H. Beery, Manager of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, who in turn had consulted the Ernest H. Wise books published by the Heine-man Group in England.
REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY
James P. Flynn Member RPA, KBJT of A, SOC G, and XYZ Inc.

Many members of the RPA may trace their ancestry back to the
days of the American Revolution. As none of them have come
forward with information for publication, we draw on our imagi-
nation plus some information gathered from other sources. So
we respectfully reveal to RepeX Readers Records of Rochester-
ians' Relatives in the Revolution.

The Boston Tea Party, commemorated on a block of 4 stamps
a little over three years ago, is the scene of our first Rev-
olutionary Revelation. The dumping of the tea was not a spur-
of-the-moment idea. Secrecy and careful planning were the watch-
words. No roster of the participants was kept, but other records
were made.

Disguised as Indians, the little band met at a water-
front tavern to await the time set for their venture. (Only
C H knows why they were disguised as Indians.) Final
plans were agreed upon as several bottles were consumed to ward
off the chilly night air. One member did not imbibe, so the job
of counting the chests of tea thrown overboard was given to him.

The man given this assignment performed his duty well. He
is remembered and emulated well by his descendant A H who claims that his ancestor was the first Tea Tottaler in Amer-
ican History.

Following the Boston Tea Party, tensions grew in the Bos-
ton area. Friends and neighbors split in their loyalty to the
British Crown. One farmer was raided several times because of his
strong Separatist talk. The harassment kept up until he trained
his chickens to cackle loudly when strangers came near the coop.
This helped him to catch and identify many British sympathizers.
This ancestor of J K was thus given credit for being
the first to make Chicken Catch a Tory.

Though some people may claim a relationship, there are no
known descendants of this young man whose mother warned him many
times, "Nathan, please don't hang around with the British." He
died a bachelor, and a bachelor is a man who has no children to
speak of, or has been awarded a college degree. We believe Nathan
had both.

Few people know that it was R S H's ancestor
who sold the Liberty Bell to the Colonists. Thus began a long
line of Crack Salesmen.

Many have heard Washington's famous words to his officers
enjoining them to, "Let no one be on guard tonight". How-
ever, many do not finish the saying which continued, "and let
the Irish sleep, for there's going to be a great deal of fighting
in the morning". Thanks to L M, whose ancestor
was there to hear these famous words.

During the Revolutionary War, many foreign mercenary
soldiers sought asylum in this country. They feared that they
would be sent to other wars if they returned to their native
Hesse. One such sickly Hessian soldier married and settled in
a Pennsylvania town. Too sickly for the robust work of farming,
he opened a small store. He made sausages and his wife made sal-
ads and baked goods for him to sell. The people liked his store
and admired his pluck, despite his delicate health. They fre-
cently told their friends to go over to the Delicate Hessian's
Store and buy some of his good food.

One day, while his wife was out on an errand, the Hessian
waited on a man who wanted some sausage. Having no money, the
customer offered the storekeeper a fine bird that he had shot
and the deal was concluded. Later when the Hessian's wife re-
turned he related the transaction. Looking at the bird, his
wife said, "It looks like you have taken a Tern for the Wurst".
Thanks to J H K for relating this bit of family
history.

Whether you are a collector, philatelist, investor, dealer, accumulator or something more or less esoteric, we
hope that these few tales may serve as gentle reminders that
Philately is Phor Phun.
printing was made 36 "up" in sheets of 72. The individual cards measured 5 1/8 X 3 inches (130 X 76mm). Both inverted and inverted reversed watermarks are known to exist.

Difficulty in the manufacture of the large watermark cards led to the discontinuance of printing on May 29, 1873. Starting in July, cards were again produced but with a change in paper stock and the introduction of the small watermark. The earliest reported postmark on these new cards was July 6, 1873. The new card stock was manufactured by the Hudson and Cheney Paper Company of North Manchester, Connecticut. There were 207,851,700 of these cards printed.

The unwatermarked cards are rare. These were from a trial run in July, 1873. The vast majority of "unwatermarked" cards are from very late impressions of the worn wire monograms used to apply the watermarks to the cards.

One major variety on these cards is the so-called "big-hole" defect. There are many plate flaws that can be collected and many enjoyable hours can be spent searching for them.

As these cards were issued before machine cancels came into general use, the same hand cancels used on early stampless covers were also often used on these cards. Large collections of fancy cancels can be assembled. Early RPO, Steamboat, Street-car, and Territorial cancels can be collected. Advertisers found that Postal Cards were a fine source of promotion, creating still another classification for collectors. Happy Hunting!
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Four Bicentennial Albums

Royal Swedish Post Office
Phillip F. Robbins,
Marketing Representative
147 West 42nd Street
New York, New York, 10036

Banquet Gifts
Cachet: The printed show cachet consists of a 13 star flag and drum of freedom to the left of the cover. The entire lower portion of the cover is a reproduction of an early political cartoon featuring a disjointed snake (the Colonies) facing a Griffin (England) accompanied by the slogan "JOIN OR DIE". A different color cover will be used each day of the show.

Cancel: The Flag style USFS cancel is based on a "version" of the flag of 1777, which had no official arrangement for the stars in the field. The ROPEX-76 flag cancel has 12 stars arranged around the 13th. The dates 1776 and 1976 are placed beneath the stripes of the flag. Below the flag appear the words "AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL". The left side of the flag is partially "wrapped around" the date hub which identifies the "ROPEX STATION/ROCHESTER, N.Y.".

Card: The ROPEX-76 Souvenir Card commemorates the sesquicentennial of the founding of the first Volunteer Fire Company in Monroe County, New York. It features an enlarged reproduction of Scott # 971, issued by the United States in 1948 to honor Volunteer Firemen. A picture of an early "pumper" taken from an old steel engraving and appropriate text also appear on the card which was printed in two colors (Rose Carmine and Black) in a limited edition of 750 copies.

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