



# San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter



Whole number 189

January 2014



**9 - 11-WE WILL NEVER FORGET**

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**Visit our website at:**

**[filateliefiesta.org](http://filateliefiesta.org)**

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928  
Meets 7:00 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
Hilltop Manor in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dining room  
790 Ironwood Drive, San Jose, California  
Driving instructions on the website.

Annual dues:

Adults/families \$12 ~ Youths \$6

With hardcopy of newsletter \$20

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# Happy New Year

## Pot-Luck Dinner

Our pot-luck dinner was held jointly with the San Jose Post Card Club, on the 11th of December where, if you went away hungry—well, that was your fault.

As usual, there were very few from our stamp club—why? The food was very good, the company was very good, and we even had door prizes. It absolutely escapes me why more of you don't show up—perhaps we should discontinue this activity??? But then this may be a sign of what's wrong with stamp collecting, we're getting too old to have the energy or interest to prepare a dish and spend a part of an evening socializing with people that share our interests and, hopefully, are friends. I mean, it's not like it was a surprise—we have it every year and are informed about it a month in advance...

It's not much, but it does cost us money, most of which is paid by others and not the club. If it seems I'm beating a dead horse, perhaps I am. But it aggravates the hell out of me that we've developed an activity that's not enjoyed by most of the membership. Sort of like the ad page in the newsletter that none of you take advantage of. Most of you would be unlikely to show up if we gave away money!!!

## Program

Filatelie Fiesta Grand Award winner Behruz Nassre-Esfahani made his presentation on his exhibit "Persia 1902 Provisional Typeset Issue of Teheran" at our regular meeting on December 18th. His talk was informative, interesting and very thorough on a subject he knows very well, while describing most of the rarest material of this area which was shown in the exhibit.

It should be noted that any Persian/Iranian material sent to APEX for expertizing will very likely go through Behruz who also is an advisor to Scott on this area.

One goal is to provide more of these high quality programs—be there!

## Penpex

Always a fun show, Penpex is now behind us for another year. By all accounts it was a success, dealers were all happy, the silent auction was a winner, and the exhibits were very good. The Grand Award winner was Terri Edwards of the Reno club with a Real Photo post card exhibit of the building of Hoover Dam—really outstanding.

Your editor missed the Awards Dinner (too tired) and missed the rhubarb over the accommodations—seemed they were booked twice! Since Penpex reserved a year ago, they eventually won out but without a lot of grumbling on the part of the injured party—very unfortunate!

## Council News

The Northern California Council of Philatelic Societies held their last meeting for 2013 at Penpex and a number of changes are in store for 2014. Council president David McNamee announced that he would edit the *Council Courier*, and he would publish it quarterly as in the past. Of course much depends on member clubs reporting their news to him so that not only can he keep abreast of what's happening but can report it. To this end our newsletter will now be sent to David monthly.

An attempt will be made to resurrect Coalpex. This show was a joint effort from a number of club's in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and fell by the wayside due to the lack of participation and leadership by the member clubs. It was one of those local shows where new exhibitors could get their feet wet with dependable, quality judging.

Sopex, the Southern Oregon show will be held April 12 & 13 and their prospectus is available from your editor should you wish to exhibit there. Again, a good venue for the beginning exhibitor.

The Southern Oregon Philatelic Society and the Nevada Stamp Study Society are also members of the Nor-Cal Council.

# not-pourrie

## Northern California Trivia

Q What NBC comedy-drama series dealt with a widow and her children who relocated to Lake Tahoe?

A "Shirley."

Q In what town was the actor Tom Hanks born?

A Oakland.

From *Northern California Trivia* by Ernie & Jill Couch

### HELP WANTED:

The SJSC urgently needs volunteers to take the following leadership positions. LOTS of help and guidance is available to assist you on these positions. You're not singly responsible for the task - just to take a leadership position. Please ask for more details.

#### Membership Coordinator:

Lead efforts to grow club membership. We have a good thing going here and we need someone to lead efforts to spread the word and invite more people to visit a meeting.

#### Program Coordinator:

A key part of the success of the club is having meeting programs that grow and enhance our philatelic knowledge. You'll schedule presentations and programs for our club meetings. Contact members and others in the philatelic community for programs. This is an opportunity to be creative. Everyone in the club should expect to contribute to at least one program through the year.

Remember, you're not doing these jobs alone. Please step-up and volunteer. We have so much potential ahead of us. We'll meet it if we all contribute.

—Brian

### Ineptocracy

(i'neptäkrəsē)

A political system of government where the incompetent are elected by the unproductive in return for goods and services redistributed from the competent and productive, until the former so outnumber the latter that the system collapses.



"Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? It is feared, then, that we shall turn our arms each man against his own bosom. Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American... [T]he unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."

—Tench Coxe,  
The Pennsylvania Gazette, 1788

# The Prez Sez

As we start a new year, let's look ahead. I listed in last month's newsletter my goals for 2014 and we discussed these at the meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and I've added the two items we discussed.

Goals for the SJSC in 2014 are:

- Continued push for membership growth
- Continue to improve meeting programs & presentations
- Create more opportunities to trade/buy/sell stamps
- More help for beginners
- Improve club website, including pages for BSA merit badge
- Update club by-laws
- Start working towards getting 501c3 charitable status

All of our goals can be accomplished by a combination of growth and member involvement. Simply, we need more participation from club members. Yes, it is really that simple. You've heard this plea before and taken little or no action. 2014 is the year this is going to change. It is everyone's responsibility to serve for the betterment of our organization if we want to succeed and improve. We all want the SJSC to grow and improve so we all have a responsibility to contribute. Yes, everybody, no exceptions. There are things for all time, ability, skill, and mobility levels.

Even if you're not able to drive to meetings, I have several projects you can help with. Do you have experience with contracts or other written agreements? You can help with the by-laws and 501c3 status. Good at working with people? Your skills will be a good match to work on club growth and meeting presentations. Anyone with web page experience is urgently needed to help build a new club web presence. Experienced philatelists are needed to mentor our less experienced collectors. Looking for more opportunity to buy/sell/trade stamps? Then we can use your interest to help organize events to do this.

Club Elections: A resounding thud! Nobody expressed any interest serving in any position. Really? Nobody for anything? Members present at the November 20th meeting made a motion to keep all existing club officers in their current position. If anyone has concerns about this, speak up. I'm asking that two new positions be created for 2014: someone to lead new membership and someone to organize meeting presentations. See the adjacent story for more details about these positions.

Nathan Mitakides: I recently met Nathan over coffee and thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent together. What an incredible gentleman! Nathan joined the SJSC in the spring of 2013, but his health has prevented his joining more meetings. He was born in Greece and joined the military at near the end of WWII. Nathan began collecting stamps after the war and has a nice collection of the commemoratives since then. Previously, I had not spent any time looking at Greek stamps, so I was very pleasantly surprised to what a beautiful portfolio of issues they have published over the years. I teach my Boy Scouts that one gains a tremendous appreciation for a country's history, culture, art, politics, and sports when one studies the stamps of a country. I left with a fresh appreciation for the deep history and culture of Greece while chatting with Nathan over a café au lait. He wants to donate some of his excess stamps to youth philately and we're working on finding a suitable home for them. Nathan has agreed to present his collection at a meeting sometime soon. Watch club communications for when this is scheduled.

—Brian



## Moe Berg:

### A second-rate baseball player but a first-rate spy.

When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Morris (Moe) Berg was included.

The answer was simple: Berg was a US spy. Speaking 15 languages—including Japanese—Moe Berg had two loves: baseball and spying.

In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital—the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc.

Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.



Catcher Moe Berg and his baseball card.

Berg's father, Bernard Berg, a pharmacist in Newark, New Jersey, taught his son Hebrew and Yiddish. Moe, against his wishes, began playing baseball on the street aged four. His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton—having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian—15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects.

While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.

During World War II, he was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians.

The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year.

Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy water plant—part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy the plant.

There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war.

Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel

Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill. If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him—and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel.



Tito's partisans



The R.A.F. destruction of the Norwegian heavy water plant targeted by Moe Berg.

Werner Heisenberg—the man who blocked the Nazis from acquiring an atomic bomb.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher."

Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States.

After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Merit—America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept, as he couldn't tell people about his exploits. After his death, his sister accepted the Medal and it hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, NY.

This story's from the internet where there is much, much more regarding Moe Berg and his exploits and life story—well worth your following it up there—it's a fascinating read.—ed.

Justice will only be achieved when those who are not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are.—King Solomon 970 - 928 B.C.

## French “SPY” Stamps

Most philatelists know the part that stamps have played in making and re-making the history of the world. They have started wars and celebrated peace; they have enflamed slumbering animosities into bloody outbreaks, ridiculed political leaders, and they have played a most important part in the waging of a war.

In recent times, stamps perhaps played no more important role than they did in helping the French underground, the famed Maquis, in their life and death struggle with the Nazis during WWII. Being a spy in war-time is a hazardous enough profession, being one against the Nazis was a particularly dangerous occupation, calling for much more than patriotism and bravery.

Communication between spies is of course necessary, this being the weakest link in espionage, since it is often difficult for a spy to know if his associate is friend or foe. The counter-espionage system of the Germans was excellent, and hundreds of underground patriots were murdered as they were discovered. Not only were these brave men and women French, but many were British and Allied spies, dropped into France at night by parachute, with instructions to dynamite bridges, help Allied fliers to escape, and obtain important military information.

The Germans did not have great difficulty in trapping the enemy spies. If one were under suspicion, it was a simple task to send him a message, reading perhaps “Be under the Rhone Bridge Tuesday for dynamiting.” A Frenchman sympathetic to the Germans might ignore the message, or turn it over to the German authorities. An Allied partisan could easily walk into an ambush, and be caught.

After losses mounted to staggering proportions, the British Intelligence took up the matter, hoping to find a solution to the problem. Some operator thought of postage stamps, perhaps recalling that during WWI the British had skillfully reproduced the then current German postage stamps, to mail anti-German propaganda within Germany. At that time, the counterfeited stamps were used since any large purchase of stamps from a German Post Office would have led to suspicion to point at the British operatives.

Why not counterfeit the then current French postage stamps? If it were kept a closely guarded secret, the French and British underground could correspond with each other and have the French Post Office even deliver the letters, right under the noses of the Germans. Each stamp would differ in some tiny detail from the original; otherwise, it would be identical to the casual glance. A letter received by one of the Maquis franked by one of the British made stamps could be regarded as official instructions; with the regular French stamp on it, it would be apparent as a German trap.

Of the many secrets kept through the years of the war, this story was one of the most jealously guarded. Few indeed in Britain knew that the stamps being dropped by parachute along with weapons, supplies and information were different from the regular French stamps. The recipients in France kept the secret well, knowing that to reveal it would be the equivalent of sacrificing their lives.

Methodical and thorough as the Germans were, they never penetrated the ingenious scheme. They must have wondered why suddenly their snares and traps did not produce any victims; they must have fretted and fumed, wondering how the Maquis were communicating with each other—not knowing their own postal service was carrying the messages, and that their own censors were opening the letters themselves.

Examples of the forgeries in used condition, particularly on cover, are extremely rare, as naturally each spy would destroy by burning any message that was received using the stamps; as he would never know when the Germans would perhaps become aware of the scheme. That the Germans never even suspected, inveterate stamp collectors that many of them were, is surprising, perhaps the answer is that the solution would have been too obvious for a mind as cunning as that of the Nazi.



The genuine stamp.



The forgery stamp.

The differences that the underground soldiers soon found to be the difference between life and death are apparent in the illustrations shown here. It would indeed be difficult for the uninformed to tell the genuine French-made stamps from the British counterparts.

There were other values in the set that were similarly produced by British intelligence. The two franc is defiantly known to have been so treated and perhaps more. French philatelic students have been studying these stamps seeking others.

It was mere chance that the stamps mounted on this paper have been saved for philately. When the war ended, supplies of course remained, they should have been destroyed, but they weren't, and they found their way into philatelic hands. They are an unusual chapter in stamp collecting's checkered history, printings of another countries stamps made not to defraud the post office, not to cheat stamp collectors, but to help fight the battle for freedom against Nazi-ism. That France survived may in part be due to the very stamps that are presented herewith.

This story was taken from a leaflet copyrighted and distributed by Herman Herst, Jr., of Scrub Oak, New York. © 1951 Herst is, without a doubt, one of the stamp collecting's most prolific writers and that he embellished most of his writings somewhat, does not detract from the truths that lay within all his writings. He was last seen in the Bay Area at Pacific '97, I believe—at least that's where I last saw him. He was arrayed on a short couch, not far from the show's entrance and pontificating, I'm certain, on who knows what aspect of this great hobby. His audience was attentive and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.—ed.



## Gettysburg

On the second day of fighting at Gettysburg, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee listened to scouting reports, scanned the battlefield and ordered his second-in-command, James Longstreet, to attack the Union Army's left flank.

It was a fateful decision, one that led to one of the most desperate clashes of the entire Civil War—the fight for a piece of ground called Little Round Top. The Union's defense of the boulder-strewn promontory helped send Lee to defeat at Gettysburg, and he never again ventured into Northern territory.

Why did the shrewd and canny Lee choose to attack, especially in the face of the Union's superior numbers?

While historians have long wrestled with that question, geographers and cartographers have come up with an explanation, by way of sophisticated mapping software that shows the rolling terrain exactly as it would have appeared to Lee: From his vantage point, he simply couldn't see throngs of Union soldiers amid the hills and valleys.



Gettysburg, Scott 4788, issued May 23, 2013

"Our analysis shows that he had a very poor understanding of how many forces he was up against, which made him bolder," said Middlebury College professor Anne Knowles, whose team produced the most faithful re-creation of the Gettysburg battlefield to date, using software called GIS, or geographic information systems.

Developed for the Smithsonian Institution to mark Gettysburg's 150th anniversary, the panoramic map is on the Smithsonian website, giving history buffs a new way to look at the Civil War's pivotal battle, which took place July 1-3, 1863.

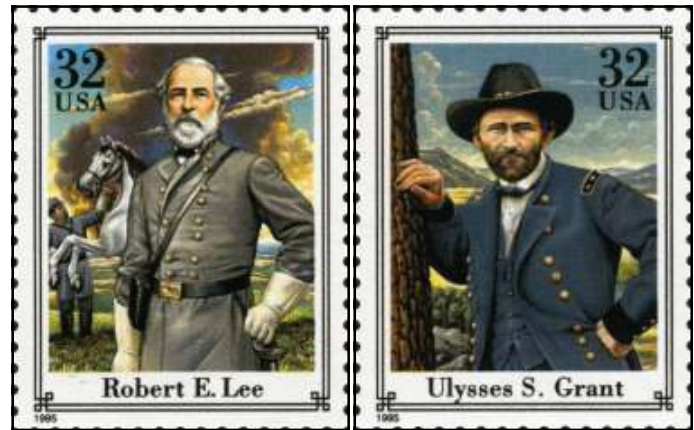
"Our goal is to help people understand how and why field commanders made their decisions at key moments of a battle, and a key element that's been excluded, or just not considered in historical studies before, is sight," Knowles said.

Long before the advent of reconnaissance aircraft and spy satellites, a general's own sense of sight—his ability to read the terrain and assess the enemy's position and numbers—was one of his most important tools. Especially so at Gettysburg, where Lee was hampered by faulty intelligence.

"We know that Lee had really poor information going into the battle and must have relied to some extent on what he could actually see," Knowles said. The geographer applied GIS to find out what Lee could see and what he couldn't.

To reconstruct the battlefield as it existed in 1863, researchers used historical maps, texts and photos to note the location of fences, stone walls, orchards, forests, fields, barns and houses, as well as the movement of army units. High-resolution aerial photos of the landscape yielded an accurate elevation model. All of it was fed into a computer program that can map data.

Lee is believed to have surveyed the battlefield from a pair of cupolas, one at a Lutheran seminary and the other at Gettysburg College, both of which yielded generally excellent views. But a GIS-generated map, with illuminated areas showing what Lee could see and shaded areas denoting what was hidden from his view, indicates the terrain concealed large numbers of Union soldiers.



Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant  
from the Civil War mini-sheet, Scott 2975b.-d. issued June 29, 1995.

"What really came through as a new discovery for us in this project was seeing how few federal forces Lee could see, particularly on Day 2, when he decides to send Longstreet," Knowles said.

Historian Allen Guelzo, who wasn't involved in the project, agreed that Lee's view probably misled him. Guelzo, director of Civil War-era studies at Gettysburg College, took a visitor up to the school's cupola and motioned toward the peak of Little Round Top, just visible in the distance.

"You can see a lot from up here, and Robert E. Lee might have thought on July 2 that he had seen everything," said Guelzo, who has written a new book on the Battle of Gettysburg. "But, in fact, the dips and folds of the ground, the foliage as it was on the ground in various groves and woods, all of that concealed what turned out to be the deadly truth."

Conversely, the Union Army occupied higher ground, and used it to great advantage.

Union Gen. Gouverneur Warren spied Longstreet's troops just as they were about to launch their attack on an undefended Little Round Top. Frantic, Warren dispatched an officer to round up reinforcements. They got there just in time, and withstood the Confederates.

In Warren's case, GIS confirmed what historians have long known.

For Knowles, the mapping project and the mysteries it revealed helped Gettysburg come alive.

"Commanders always had to make decisions with really limited information ... committing men's lives to scraps of information or intuition, or what you can see at a certain day or a certain time," she said. "This analysis, for me, is making the battle more human."



Knowledge is like a garden, if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.—African Proverb

## A Letter from the Post Office

We don't know who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter office who understands LOVE...

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her.

I told her that I thought that we could, so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? Abbey died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much.

I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls.

I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey & Meredith, addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.'

Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope.

On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog.

Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me.

What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.

By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love,  
God

This has been around a few years, but always refreshing to read once again.-ed.



## What Really Died in Auschwitz

Here's an interesting viewpoint. The following is a copy of an article written by Spanish writer Sebastian Vilar Rodriguez and published in a Spanish newspaper on Jan. 15, 2011. It doesn't take much imagination to extrapolate the message to the rest of Europe—and possibly to the rest of the world.

This was in a Spanish newspaper:

### "EUROPEAN LIFE DIED IN AUSCHWITZ "

by Sebastian Vilar Rodriguez

I walked down the street in Barcelona and suddenly discovered a terrible truth—Europe died in Auschwitz... We killed six million Jews and replaced them with 20 million Muslims. In Auschwitz we burned a culture, thought, creativity, and talent. We destroyed the chosen people, truly chosen, because they produced great and wonderful people who changed the world. The contribution of this people is felt in all areas of life: art, science, international trade, and above all, as the conscience of the world.

These are the people we burned.

And under the pretense of tolerance, and because we wanted to prove to ourselves that we were cured of the disease of racism, we opened our gates to 20 million Muslims, who brought us stupidity and ignorance, religious extremism and lack of tolerance, crime and poverty, due to an unwillingness to work and support their families with pride.

They have blown up our trains and turned our beautiful Spanish cities into the third world, drowning in filth and crime. Shut up in the apartments they receive free from the government, they plan the murder and destruction of their naive hosts. And thus, in our misery, we have exchanged culture for fanatical hatred, creative skill for destructive skill, intelligence for backwardness and superstition. We have exchanged the pursuit of peace of the Jews of Europe and their talent for a better future for their children, their determined clinging to life because life is holy, for those who pursue death, for people consumed by the desire for death for themselves and others, for our children and theirs.

What a terrible mistake was made by miserable Europe. A lot of Americans have become so insulated from reality that they imagine America can suffer defeat without any inconvenience to themselves. Recently, the UK debated whether to remove The Holocaust from its school curriculum because it 'offends' the Muslim population which claims it never occurred. It is not removed as yet. However, this is a frightening portent of the fear that is gripping the world and how easily each country is giving in to it.

It is now more than sixty years after the Second World War in Europe ended. This e-mail is being sent as a memorial chain, in memory of the six million Jews, twenty million Russians, ten million Christians, and nineteen-hundred Catholic priests who were 'murdered, raped, burned, starved, and beaten, experimented on and humiliated.' Now, more than ever, with Iran, among others, claiming the Holocaust to be 'a myth,' it is imperative to make sure the world never forgets.

How many years will it be before the attack on the World Trade Center 'NEVER HAPPENED' because it offends some Muslim in the United States? If our Judeo-Christian heritage is offensive to Muslims, they should pack up and move to Iran, Iraq or some other Muslim country.

We know not all Muslims fall into this category and their road will be very difficult ahead—how will the world react to them? Your reaction...?



# Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.

## Independent Postal System of America

In 1968, Thomas M. Murray (1927 - 2003) founded the Independent Postal System of America (IPSA) as a nation-wide commercial carrier of Third and Fourth Class Mail, in direct competition with the United States Post Office (USPO), now the United States Postal Service (USPS). But in 1971, when the company entered the First Class delivery business, they endured a number of lawsuits brought against them, which finally led to the company's collapse in the mid 1970's. The company issued a number of stamps during the years of its operation, including commemoratives for Lyndon B. Johnson, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Charles Lindbergh before the USPS did.

Roger Koerber of Southfield, Michigan, was the person behind the design, printing, promotion and sale of the IPSA stamps. Roger designed the IPSA stamps and then had them printed at the De LaRue Company in England.

After the stamps were delivered to Southfield, Roger embarked in an extensive marketing campaign in Linn's, Western Stamp Collector, and other stamp papers of the time, offering stamps and First Day Covers. Some parcels and mail bearing IPSA stamps were "philatelically" used (travelled) between Southfield, Michigan and Salt Lake City, Utah IPSA offices; these were illustrated in Linn's and/or Western Stamp Collector in news releases—they never officially carried mail in the US postal system. The "IPSA First Day Covers" and stamps that exist today were all conveyed by one stamp dealer—Roger Koerber.

IPSA attempted to fight the USPS monopoly on Mail Service in the courts on the same grounds that Federal Express and United Parcel had won its cases on the 4th Class Parcel Post, however, IPSA lost their case and was shut-down by the USPS.

Coverage of IPSA can be found in back issues of Linn's and Western Stamp Collector (and probably other stamp papers) during the period; from the start-up, press releases, lawsuit, and the eventual demise. Roger Koerber attempted to dispose of the stock IPSA stamps and First Day Covers for several years afterwards.

Independent Postal System of America, Inc. filed as a Foreign for Profit Corporation in the State of Florida and is no longer active. This corporate entity was filed Wednesday, November 24, 1971 according to public records filed with Florida Dept. of State. It is important to note that this is a foreign filing. A foreign filing is when an existing corporate entity files in a state other than the one they originally filed in. This does not necessarily mean that they are from outside the United States. There are no known officers associated with Independent Postal System of America, Inc.

The registered agent for the company is C T Corporation System. Also known as a statutory or resident agent, the registered agent is responsible for receiving legal notifications regarding court summons, lawsuits, and other legal actions involving the corporate entity.

The following site gives a brief of the lawsuit filed against IPSA:

<http://openjurist.org/470/f2d/265/national-association-of-letter-carriers-v-independent-postal-system-of-america-incorporated>



First issue of IPSA with four values in above design plus the five cent at right. Subsequent issues include issues for Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin L. King, Jr., Elihu Burritt, Paul Reuter, Galileo, Susan B. Anthony, Charles Lindbergh, and for himself IPSA founder Thomas Murray.



While waiting for your ship to come in—contemplate as to whether or not you sent any out.—Unknown

**JANUARY MEETING IS ON THE 15TH  
FEBRUARY MEETINGS ARE ON THE 5TH & 19TH**



## Show Calendar

**Vintage Paper Fair**  
August 4 - 5  
Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park  
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Sat 10 - 6, Sun 11 - 5  
Free Admission

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January 11 - 12  
Napredak Hall  
770 Montague Expressway, San Jose  
Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4  
Free Parking - Free Admission

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January 25-26  
La Quinta Inn  
11131 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova  
Sat 10:15 - 6:15, Sun 10:15 - 3:15  
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**The San Jose Post Card Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excepting July & August)  
in the Hilltop Manor dining room at 7 pm.  
Visit the SJSC website at: [filateliefiesta.org](http://filateliefiesta.org)**

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